



Course Choice
Booklet
2016
EBacc Pathway

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Introduction

This booklet is intended for parents whose children are in Year 9 and about to commence Key Stage 4.

It is at this time that we must make vital decisions concerning your child's future education: namely to decide which course of study is most suited to your child during their final two years at the Academy.

Upon reading this booklet you will learn that besides those courses which your child **must** follow during Years 10 and 11, there are options courses in which there is an element of choice.

Our joint objective is to ensure that your child is guided towards following courses that:

- a) will help him/her to pursue the future career of his/her choice;
- b) he/she will be able to do well in.

The booklet contains information about all of the courses which are available to your child.

If, having read through this booklet, you require any further information regarding the courses in terms of content or how they are assessed, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy and ask to speak to the subject leaders or to Mrs Peacock who is in charge of the options process. You can also email Mrs Peacock at peacock.l@redhouseacademy.co.uk

If you would like more information on the most appropriate course choices for specific careers or college courses, please contact our Connexions advisor, Martin MacNamara at martin.macnamara@sunderland.gov.uk who can give you and your child impartial advice. Martin will also be available during Year 9 Parents' Evening on April 28th 2016.

Thérèse Quincey
Principal

To the Parent

Each year at this time, we invite our year 9 students to choose from a selection of option subjects to complement the compulsory subjects of English, maths, science, ICT and PE and the EBacc subjects of French, history and/or geography.

Students must choose whether to study history or geography then an additional two subjects from the options choices.

For your son/daughter, the GCSE system will be in the middle of it's biggest changes since being introduced in 1988.

English and maths GCSE will become more challenging and all subjects will be changing to the new grading system of 9-1 (replacing the current system of A*-G). This means that your child will leave school in 2018 with numbers 9-1 reflecting their GCSE grades.

In addition, students will need to choose a subject from Option O and a subject from Option X. Both these option blocks have a combination of GCSEs and Vocational qualifications that are nationally recognised, are equivalent to GCSEs and have a direct progression route into local colleges and universities. These option choices, together with the compulsory subjects and EBacc subjects will provide your son/daughter with a broad and balanced curriculum, giving them the essential knowledge and skills for life beyond the Academy.

Obviously, we will adapt our Academy data systems to reflect the new grading methods and will keep parents and students up to date with the changes through letters and meetings.

In addition to this, the Government has made it clear to all secondary schools in England that it expects students to follow at least three 'English Baccalaureate' subjects. These 'EBacc' subjects are Geography, History, Science, Computer Science and languages and we are ensuring that your son/daughter meets this expectation by asking them to choose either history or geography as compulsory subjects with the addition of French.

OPTION O

Subject	Qualification	Priority Number
Music	GCSE	
Performing Arts	BTEC	
Media Studies	GCSE	
Computer Science	GCSE	
RE	GCSE	
Health and Social Care	BTEC	
Travel and Tourism	BTEC	

OPTION X

Subject	Qualification	Priority Number
Photography	GCSE	
Sport	BTEC	
Hair and Beauty	VCTC	
Triple Science	GCSE	
History	GCSE	
Geography	GCSE	
ICT Cambridge Nationals	GCSE	

As there are numerous options to choose from, many of which have not been studied before, the lead staff in each subject area have given presentations in assemblies to inform students what their courses have to offer, and what they can expect when following them.

The options process and the national changes to GCSE can be a daunting process for your child so, should you wish to gain more information and ask questions, please contact me to arrange an appointment at a mutually convenient time.

Louise Peacock

Senior Assistant Vice Principal



A reminder to the Student

As a result of the grave problem of finding suitable employment for young people leaving school, the demand for school leavers with a reasonable number of external examination passes has increased.

You should also be aware that when looking at applicants for jobs the employer asks the school for the following information:

Did they work to their full ability at all times?

How dependable are the applicants?

What was their punctuality/attendance like at school?

Did they mix well with students and staff?

What was their attitude to study and homework?

And many other questions which the school tries to answer honestly.

So remember, it is not only how well you do in your examinations that counts, but also your whole attitude to school life that is being examined over the next two years.

You have every opportunity at this stage to make a success of your life. The subjects available can prepare you for almost any University or College degree course, job or vacation of your choice, so make the most of it, stick in and do well.

Your future depends on it.

GCSE English

Students in year 9 will follow the AQA GCSE courses in English Language and in English Literature. This means that they will achieve two GCSE qualifications in English. The courses consists of two written papers in English Language and two written papers in English Literature; all sat at the end of year 11. This means that all the work done in year 10 and year 11 will be for the final exams. Students will study a Shakespeare play, a modern play, a 19th Century novel and some poetry for their English Literature exam. For English Language students will look at how writers craft texts as well as writing their own texts.

Texts studied:

- Macbeth - William Shakespeare
- Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde- Robert Louis Stevenson
- An Inspector Calls - J.B. Priestley
- A selection of 15 poems linked by the themes of power and conflict.

Students are encouraged to read other texts in addition to the set texts in order to improve their grades in English

Mathematics

WHO MUST DO MATHEMATICS?

All students must follow a Mathematics Course in Years 10 and 11.

WHAT HAS TO BE DONE?

All students will work towards a GCSE in Mathematics.

The GCSE specification we follow at Red House Academy is a linear course, taken through the AQA examination board.

This course aims to develop student's mathematical ability so that they can:

- improve their understanding of mathematics
- develop confidence in their use of mathematics to tackle problems in the work place and everyday life
- realise the application of mathematics in the world around them
- use ICT appropriately
- develop a firm foundation for appropriate further study

The course is available for examination at 2 levels; Foundation and Higher. The level each student will be entered for is determined by the teacher taking into account their starting level from their KS2 Maths results and the progress they have made in years 7 to 9. Careful consideration of the performance of individual students will take place throughout the duration of the course.

The linear nature of the course means that there are two GCSE examinations sat at the end of Year 11. Therefore excellent attendance, a consistently high work-rate and application is essential if students are to obtain the best possible grade.

WHAT DO I GET AT THE END?

Students will receive a certificate showing the level of achievement. For the Mathematics courses studied from this September, for examination in 2017, this will be different from previous years and will be graded from number 1 to 9, rather than G to A*.

Students who pass the Higher Tier can earn a grade 3 to 9.

Those who sit the Foundation Tier can achieve a grade 1 to 5.

Science

To support a revised Key Stage 4 (14-16) programme of study, new GCSE Science courses and qualifications started in September 2006. These placed more emphasis on 'How Science Works', which means not just learning theory but understanding the practical side of science and its relation to the world in which we live.

The course structure is: Core Science in Year 10 followed by Additional Science in Year 11.

CORE SCIENCE: SINGLE AWARD (Year 10)

The framework of this course follows a modular approach in which the course content is taught as three modules, one from each area of Science. Most of these modules are taught in Year 10 and are externally assessed at the end of year 10. The time allocation is four lessons per week and, as this forms part of the core curriculum, it does not affect the students option choice.

The scheme of assessment is as follows:

Module Tests (worth 75% of final grade)

Three module tests taken at the end of Year 10.

Internal Assessment (worth 25% of final grade)

The coursework in AQA's science qualifications have changed. New arrangements allow practical and investigative work to be more stimulating, absorbing and creative. These will be assessed by classroom tests set by AQA.

Additional Science**ADDITIONAL SCIENCE: SINGLE AWARD (Year 11)**

This award has four assessment units, each worth 25% of the final grade:

Biology 2 (Written paper: 45 minutes)

Chemistry 2 (Written paper: 45 minutes)

Physics 2 (Written paper: 45 minutes)

Internal Assessment (Similar to Core Science in Year 10)

For more information visit the AQA Web site at www.aqa.org.uk and click on the *New GCSE Science Curriculum* link.

Information and Communication Technology

The European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) is a computer literacy certification programme that is a globally recognised information and communication technology (ICT) and digital literacy qualification. Many UK companies, such as the National Health Service, set ECDL as the mandatory requirement for anyone working within the company.

The ECDL course offers three separate courses depending on student ability:

Base Level

This consists of four units:

- Computer Essentials, where students learn the basics of setting up a computer system
- Online Essentials, which deals with topics such as online security
- Word Processing, where students learn how to use a word processor correctly including how to set up a mail merge system
- Spreadsheets, which deals with formulas and functions and how to create graphs.

Standard Level

This consists of the above units and:

- Creating presentations using a variety of software packages (typically Microsoft Powerpoint and Adobe Photoshop)
- Using Databases, where students create a working database system
- IT Security, where students study how to keep a computer and its contents safe from theft and viruses.

Advanced Level

Students studying at advanced level will study the above units but to a greater depth.

Physical Education

During years 10 and 11 all students will develop their practical skills and improve their knowledge and understanding in two or more different activities chosen by them. You will be involved in physical activity which is helpful in developing a healthy lifestyle as well as encouraging you to make best use of your own leisure time.

You will be taught how to:

- i) select activities which suit you best
- ii) improve your skill levels in these activities
- iii) improve your knowledge of these activities by playing, coaching and refereeing
- iv) plan a safe health and fitness programme and follow it yourself
- v) make fair judgements about your own and others' work and suggest improvements
- vi) improve your ability to work with others effectively as a leader or as a member of a team
- vii) improve your understanding of fair play, co-operation and competition

Where possible the opportunity will be given to gain National Governing Body awards for performing, coaching or umpiring. You may also get the opportunity to visit local sports centres to take part in your chosen activity.

You may also get the opportunity to take part in the Sports Leaders Award Scheme. This will give you an opportunity to assist in the coaching of younger students at KS3 and/or KS2.

There will be opportunities to help plan tournaments/sports days/ cross country races etc. and to officiate at these festivals (judge/ referee/umpire etc)

GCSE French

The GCSE French course allows students to develop their language skills in a variety of contexts, including:

- Personal Information
- Sport and Leisure
- Out and About – where you live and the surrounding area
- Travel and Tourism- How to organise a journey, book a hotel
- Customer Services – Buying food /ordering in cafes and restaurants
- Education and Future plans

Students will develop their skills in reading, writing, listening and speaking French over the two years of the course.

The four areas of assessment are weighted at 25%. Students take either Higher or Foundation in all four skills, and cannot choose a mix of assessment tiers. All four skills are assessed externally at the end of year 11 during the exam period.

Why should you choose French ?

By taking French at GCSE you'll have amazing skills and a valuable talent that's applicable to almost everything you do - so, it's quite a handy subject really. GCSE French builds on what you've already learnt in years 7, 8 and 9 and you probably know more than you think. Plus by taking a language GCSE you don't just learn the language, you get to find out about other people, countries and cultures so it really is an interesting and varied subject.

History

It's all change for History GCSE this year! All exam boards have come up with new syllabuses and from the range available the Academy will be following AQA's course.

	Time	Content	% of total
Paper 1 - Understanding The Modern World	1hr 45min	Section A– Period study: Germany 1890—1945	25%
		Section B - Wider World Depth Study- Conflict and Tension in Asia 1950 - 1975	25%
Paper 2 - Shaping the Nation	1hr 45min	Section A - Power and the people c1170 - present	25%
		Section B - Elizabeth England c1568 - 1603	25%

This is a very different to the previous course, mainly because it covers a much wider time period and there's no Controlled Assessment/coursework.

In a nutshell, here are some of the topics you'll be studying:

- Nazi Germany and Hitler's dictatorship
- The Korean War
- The Vietnam War
- Protest movements such as the Chartists and the Suffragettes
- The court of Elizabeth 1st and life in Elizabethan times.

You'll know something about some of these topics from Key Stage 3, but some will be new - a good balance, hopefully.

So why choose History?

- You liked History at Key Stage 3.
- You don't find the work too difficult.
- You like understanding what happened in the past.
- You've heard good things from people who've done History GCSE.
- History is a good qualification if you want to study a literacy-based subject in the future.
- You think learning about the past helps you understand the present.

Geography

If you are enjoying studying geography and are good at it – carry on studying it! You are more likely to obtain your best results in a subject you enjoy and are good at.

Reasons to choose geography:

- It helps you to understand major world events
- You learn through case studies
- Exciting fieldwork
- A range of exam questions
- A great teacher
- Opportunities for visits
- You learn about people in different countries
- Current students enjoy the course
- You won't get lost!

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

This unit involves one exam and carries 35% of the final mark.

3 units are covered:

1. Challenge of natural hazards: focusing on earthquakes, volcanoes and tropical storms.
2. Living World: focusing on tropical rainforests and hot deserts.
3. Physical Landscapes: focusing on coastal and glacial landscapes.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

This unit involves one exam and carries 35% of the final mark.

3 units are covered:

1. Urban issues and challenges: focusing on cities and the rich and poor.
2. The changing economic world: focusing on the UK and development.
3. Challenge of resource management: focusing on the UK and food, water and energy.

Paper 3: Geographical applications

This unit carries 30% of the final mark.

Students will receive a booklet of pre-release resources 12 weeks before the exam takes place.

Fieldwork must take place on at least two occasions.

Computer Science

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy, and the role of Computer Science as a discipline itself and as an ‘underpinning’ subject across science and engineering is growing rapidly.

Computer technology continues to advance rapidly and the way that technology is consumed has also been changing at a fast pace over recent years. The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees. Businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals. This is even more so in the gaming, mobile and web related industries and the AQA GCSE Computer Science specification has been designed with this in mind.

Students studying this subject will:

- Create applications to run on mobile devices which operate in a web enabled environment.
- Learn how to create simple computer games.
- Gain an understanding of the fundamental concepts around creating software applications.
- Gain an understanding of the fundamentals of computer systems such as: The internal workings of a computer (the Central Processing Unit, memory and hardware) and networking concepts (network design, network hardware and client/server architecture).
- Study the concepts of algorithms, data representation and the software development lifecycle.

GCSE Computer Science is assessed in the following way:

Component 1 – Practical Programming: Two 25 hour controlled assessment tasks making up 60% of the overall mark.

Component 2 – Computing Fundamentals: A 1 ½ hour exam making up 40% of the overall mark.

The course will provide excellent progression to ‘A’ level Computer Science, vocational courses and on to degree level courses in the areas of computing, engineering and science and provide a foundation understanding of the concepts required for careers such as:

Computer Programmer, Software Engineer, Computer Games Developer, Network Engineer/Manager, Web/Web Applications Developer, Database System Developer.

The AQA GCSE Computer Science course is supported by Microsoft and is part of the Microsoft Premier Qualifications Partner scheme.

Certificate in Hairdressing & Beauty Therapy

The VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy is the equivalent to a GCSE qualification and uses a grading model of Not Yet Achieved, Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction.

Statement of Purpose

This qualification has been developed for learners aged 14-16 with an interest in hairdressing and/or beauty therapy. It aims to support young people to:

- develop a broad understanding of the hair and beauty sector
- develop significant knowledge which spans the entire vocational sector and related industries
- develop academic and study skills that will support progression within the hair and beauty sector and more broadly, across the range of sectors.

Learners will gain an understanding of the hair and beauty sector and undertake a research project. They will also have the opportunity to study business enterprise, marketing and promotions in hair and beauty, to look at the science of hair and beauty and to respond to a hair and beauty design brief.

As well as developing knowledge and skills in researching, science, business, marketing and design, learners will develop further skills which will support them into further study, including:

- Critical thinking and being reflective on self-performance and work produced
- Use of initiative, planning and researching skills, self-management, self-motivation and the ability to work independently
- Innovation and creativity
- Application of knowledge and understanding to real life examples and businesses
- Problem solving
- Communication skills - verbal, written and visual.

***BTec First in
Health & Social Care
Level 2***

This course is designed for those students who are interested in a career in the Health and Social Care Sectors.

The course is made up of 4 units, 3 are coursework based and 1 is an externally set written exam.

Unit 1: Human lifespan development (exam)

Unit 2: health and social care values (coursework)

Unit 5: promoting health and well being

Unit 6: Impact of nutrition on health and well being

This course will help develop the skills you need to work in the health and social care profession, from working in the care homes with the elderly, to working as a nursery nurse in day care centres or nursery's.

It is a very theory based course, but has been developed with the health and social care industry to provide you with the best possible knowledge and experience to get work in this industry.

Media Studies

What is GCSE Media Studies?

All day, every day we are bombarded by a plethora of media texts: adverts, music videos, magazines and graphic novels, films, tv programmes, computer games... the list is endless. Media Studies is all about unpicking the key ingredients of a wide variety of media texts and thinking about how the professionals make sure that their work will be loved by audiences.

What will I have to do?

You will need to complete 3 coursework assignments, in which you study a particular aspect of the media (such as how films are promoted, or how musicians market themselves) and then create a product of your own. These coursework tasks change every year, depending on the interests of the class, so you should find them genuinely enjoyable. You will also sit a final exam on the topic of 'TV Drama', which you will be thoroughly prepared for across the course.

Who would be suited to this course?

The good news is that Media Studies does not require you to write essays. In fact, media professionals simply don't work that way. You do, however, need to have an analytical mind which enjoys pulling apart a text and thinking about how it works. You also need to be creative, as there will be many design tasks to undertake. Being good at art will be an advantage, but I teach many A* students who don't think they can draw, so please don't let that put you off. The best students are those who are independent, can manage their own workload, and who are prepared to put the time in to ensure their own success.

GCSE Music

There are four units in GCSE Music and students must complete them all. They learn about musical language and explore the elements underlying the organisation of sound, through listening to music, performing individually and in a group, composing and appraising music.

This specification encourages students to:

- develop their own musical interests and skills including the ability to make music individually and in groups and to use music technology
- evaluate their own and others' music
- understand and appreciate a range of different kinds of music
- actively engage in the process of music study in order to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 - Listening to and Appraising Music is assessed via a written paper worth 40% of the final grade

Unit 2 - Composing and Appraising Music is externally assessed and is worth 15% of the final grade

Unit 3 - Performing Music is assessed via a controlled assessment and is worth 30% of the final grade

Unit 4 - Composing Music is assessed via a controlled assessment and is worth 15% of the final grade

Who is this course suitable for?

Students who can already play and are receiving lessons in voice or a musical instrument.

BTEC Performing Arts / Musical Theatre

The BTEC Performing Arts course is a highly practical course, where you will take part in singing, dancing and acting lessons and workshops. Throughout the course you will develop your skills in these three areas of the Performing Arts. You will demonstrate them through a range of performances and recordings, as well as writing about your development and progression.

Year 10

Musical Theatre Skills

Musical theatre is a tough performance genre to master as it requires acting, singing and dancing skills. This highly practical unit will give you a taste of the world of the musical. You will take part in activities designed to improve your technical and interpretive skills in each discipline. You will then bring these skills together to work on an extract from a musical that you will rehearse and perform in a workshop situation.

This unit may help you to appreciate and develop skills in a performance style that is different from your main discipline and is, therefore, useful in expanding your repertoire of skills. You will need to demonstrate your technical ability in each discipline and will have opportunities to perform each skill equally.

Assessment: Live performance and written coursework.

Year 11

Individual Showcase

Securing work and training opportunities in the performing arts will require you to be able to promote yourself effectively in a range of situations. First impressions matter, so it is crucial that you are able to recognise and promote your skills with confidence and clarity.

This unit covers what to include in a letter of application and how to prepare audition pieces or presentations that demonstrate your relevant skills and knowledge.

Assessment: Recorded performance and a written letter

Year 11

Preparation, Performance and Production

Have you ever thought about all of the things that need to happen before a performance is seen by an audience?

In this unit you will learn how to develop a performance piece as a member of a fictional performance company. You will take on a specific performing or production role and will prepare for, and produce, a performance by carrying out tasks that are appropriate to your role. No matter what role you undertake, you will also need to explore the performance piece you are working on.

Assessment - Final performance and coursework

Who is this course suitable for: Those with performance experience, for example in school musicals, and those who have skills across the Performing Arts.

GCSE Photography

Photography is a full GCSE course.

Students will work in several areas of lens-based and light-based media such as:

- Portraiture, Landscape and Still Life photography.
- Surrealist concepts using photography and Photoshop.
- Photoshop post production editing.
- Graphic Design layouts.

All students will be expected to work independently carry out research and to evidence their findings through portfolios, producing first hand photographs taken themselves and also collecting research material.

Throughout the course the work of other artists, photographers and styles of art will be explored and students will link this to their own work.

This course is suitable for those students who have shown an interest in the arts during the last three years and a particular interest in using Photoshop.

Assessment will be by a portfolio of work (60%) and an external set examination task (40%).

The examination takes the form of an exhibition of the students work completed during the course and a controlled test taken towards the end of the final year.

Religious Education

The new GCSE in Religious Education will follow the AQA syllabus which will cover two of the main world religions as well as questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth. In the course you will discover how religion, philosophy and this form the basis of our culture. You will develop thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas and research skills.

The first part of the course is a study of two of the main religions - Christianity and either Islam or Judaism. There is one written exam and is worth 50% of the GCSE grade. The exam will last for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

The second part of the course is a study of four philosophical and ethical themes from the following choices, depending on your interests:

- Relationships and Families
- Religion and Life
- The existence of God
- Religion, Peace and Conflict
- Religion, Crime and Punishment
- Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

There is one written exam and is worth 50% of the GCSE grade. The exam will last for 1 hour and 45 minutes.

If you have any questions about the GCSE course please speak to Mr Filmer or email filmer.d@redhouseacademy.co.uk.

BTEC Sport

This course is designed for those students who are interested in a career in the Health and Fitness industry.

During years 10 and 11 all students will cover 4 units, 3 coursework units and one externally assessed exam unit. Throughout all of the units you will develop your knowledge and understanding in a range of subjects, from practical sports to how we get the energy to take part in sports. There will also be opportunities to assist in the coaching of younger students at KS3.

The units you will cover are

- Fitness for sport and exercise (exam)
- Practical sports performance (coursework)
- The sports performer in action (coursework)
- Leading sports activities (coursework)

This is not a practical course, a lot of the content covered is classroom based and most of the coursework, is written assignments.

The course has been designed in line with employers, to allow learners to develop the skills necessary to get employment within the sports industry.

BTEC Travel and Tourism (Level 2)

Equivalent to a GCSE, if you complete all tasks you can be graded as a pass, merit or distinction:

Pass = C

Merit = B

Distinction = A

What you'll learn:

- BTEC in Travel and Tourism teaches the **knowledge** and **skills** you need to work
- in the industry.
- Explore the importance of **team working** to work successfully in different job
- roles.
- **Learn about** travel and tourist destinations and **investigate** the appeal of
- UK and worldwide tourist destinations.
- **Find out about** key developments over time and how they have moulded
- and influenced UK travel and tourism into the sector it is today.

How you'll be assessed:

BTEC's offer a 'real world' approach to learning and you will be assessed throughout the course on a variety of tasks. For example producing leaflets and posters, delivering face-to-face or audio-visual presentations or taking part in role plays and discussions. BTEC's let you present your work in a style that suits you and enables you to achieve the best you can. These tasks account for 75% of the final grade with the other 25% being assessed through an external assessment (exam).

Careers and further education:

The main careers linked to this qualification include: travel agents, holiday resort reps, cabin crew, cruise ship steward and tourist information representatives. There are obviously many more and there are also opportunities at Sunderland College to study a BTEC level 3 in Travel and Tourism and a level 2 Cabin Crew Certificate.

Is this course for me? Yes if....

1. You want a career in Travel and Tourism.
2. You like Geography but don't like the academic parts.
3. You want a GCSE equivalent qualification.
4. You can see yourself living and working in another part of the world.
5. You want to learn about interesting people and places.

Triple (separate) Sciences (Year 10 & 11)**BIOLOGY
CHEMISTRY
PHYSICS**

If you wish to study science at A-level or beyond then you **are advised to** follow this course (however colleges will allow you onto the A level course if you achieve two B grades at GCSE in the normal science route).

The scheme of assessment for each component of this course is as follows:

3 exams – each worth 25%

1 course work element 25% of total marks.

This extra time allows you to study all three sciences.



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