

KS4 COURSE CHOICES 2018





The Next Steps... Options 2018

At Brinsworth Academy we want all our students to achieve excellence. We recognise the importance of the decisions that students need to make in their transition from Year 8 into Key Stage 4 (Y9-Y11). In this important phase of students' education, it is crucial that we give you clear guidance as to the choices available and how these are matched to individual needs, interests and abilities.

This options booklet contains information about the outstanding curriculum and courses we offer to help students and parents make important decisions about the subjects that are available to study. It is clearly important that all of us - parents, subject teachers, form tutor, head of year and, most importantly, students - work together to make informed choices. This booklet is only the beginning of the decision making process. Please read it carefully, talk about your thoughts at home and ask questions.

We also see this as a time to reinforce the partnership that exists between the school, parents and students. We value this relationship as we feel that it is instrumental in ensuring that students commit themselves to the hard work that will enable them to successfully meet the challenges of new GCSE courses and therefore to achieve excellence.

The next three years will be challenging and enjoyable but much depends on students' commitment, hard work and sensible choices now. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students every success on their journey to "achieving excellence".

A Birch
Vice Principal

CURRICULUM INFORMATION

The Core Curriculum	English Language & English Literature	5 periods per week	2 GCSEs
	Mathematics	5 periods per week	1 GCSE
	Combined Science *	5 periods per week	2 GCSEs
	Physical Education	1 period per week	Not Examined
	Ethics	1 period per week	Not Examined

* Combined Science GCSE will comprise all 3 Science subjects with all examinations to be taken at the end of Year 11 and is worth 2 GCSE grades. If students wish to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics to achieve 3 GCSEs they need to opt for Triple Science in the options block.

The Options

In addition to studying the core subjects, you will also be able to select 4 option subjects.

You should choose options which will be most appropriate for you and enable you to achieve the best possible grades. The additional options occupy 8 out of 25 lessons of your timetable in Year 9 through to Year 11.

Option subjects are arranged into 'blocks'.

It is vital that when selecting courses that you refer to the option blocks on the Course Choices Form. This will determine your choices. These subjects cannot be moved to different option blocks as this structure is used to create the timetable.

Please see the KS4 Course Choices Form to find out which option block each subject is in	<i>Four from</i> Art & Design, Business, Child Development, Construction, Digital iMedia, Drama, French, Geography, Health & Social Care, History, ICT, Music, PE, Photography, Product Design: 3D Design, Religious Studies, Sport Studies, Triple Science.	2 period per week for each subject
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NB * students can NOT take BOTH PE and Sport Studies

Making the Right Choice

There are many wrong reasons for choosing a subject. Because friends have chosen it is one, liking the teacher is another. Friends change and your teacher this year may not be next year's.

Do choose courses because

- You enjoy the subject.
- You are good at the subject.
- It will help you with your future when you leave Brinsworth.
- It will give you a good balance of subjects so you keep your options open for post-16 choices.

Do not choose courses because

- Your friends have chosen it.
- You like the teacher—you may have a different teacher next year.
- You don't like the teacher who is teaching you at the moment—you may have a different teacher next year.
- You have never studied it before and it sounds exciting and different.

You should attend the Options Fair to speak to subject teachers of the courses you may be interested in choosing. The date of this evening is **1st February 2018**.

You will be given an ***optional*** opportunity to meet with a senior member of staff to discuss your choices. The dates for these meetings are **Tuesday 6th February & Wednesday 21st February**.

You will be asked to choose your four option subjects, as well as reserve subjects. Whilst we always aim to provide you with your preferred choices it is not always possible to do so (e.g. a teacher may leave, or not enough people may select the course to make it viable to run).

All choices should be made by the deadline of **Friday 9th March**.

Finally, when all students have been interviewed and staffing established, your course choices will be confirmed towards the end of the summer term.

Useful Information

English and Maths

The expectation that all students achieve good grades in both Mathematics and English will underpin students' success after Year 11. Achieving 8 good GCSE passes including both English and Mathematics is widely regarded as providing a secure foundation for future study and progression.

All students who do not achieve at least a 'standard' GCSE Grade (grade 4) in English and Maths have to carry on studying the subjects beyond the age of 16 up to age 18, regardless of their pathway after Year 11.

The 'EBacc'

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) was introduced in 2010. It is not a qualification in itself, but it recognises pupils who have secured a 'good' GCSE grade across a core of academic subjects – English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the Sciences and a Language. This is part of the Government's emphasis on an academic curriculum. The subjects included in the EBacc are designed to ensure that all pupils have the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed to them for future progression.

GCSE Assessment and Grading

Many GCSE subjects have been reformed by the Government. The major difference is the removal of coursework from most GCSE subjects, other than some practical based subjects. Please refer to the subject pages to see how much coursework or 'controlled assessment' there is for each course. This aspect has to be completed in school under controlled conditions.

In 2015 the Government introduced a different grading structure for GCSEs. These subjects will instead be graded from 9-1, with 9 being the highest and 1 the lowest grade. GCSE equivalent qualifications are graded differently using Distinction* to Pass grades.

All GCSE courses have external exams which have to be taken at the end of Year 11. This means that there will be no re-sits of any qualification.

KS4 Course Choices Form

Name		Form	
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You must choose one subject from each box and a reserve choice

Box A	Box B
Triple Science French Geography History	Art Construction Health & Social Care History ICT PE * 3D Product Design
1st choice from this box:	1st choice from this box
Reserve choice from this box:	Reserve choice from this box:

Box C	Box D
Business Studies Child Development French Music Photography Sport Studies * Triple Science	Business Studies Construction Digital i-Media Drama Geography Religious Studies
1st choice from this box:	1st choice from this box
Reserve choice from this box:	Reserve choice from this box:

NB *You can NOT take both PE and Sport Studies

Whilst we will try to give you your first choice of options, this depends on staffing and group sizes and so it may be necessary to allocate you a reserve choice. Please consider your choices carefully.

It is highly unlikely that you will be able to change choices in September 2018 so choose wisely!

At the Options Fair return this form to the staff at reception, or bring it to Data Office (C block) before the deadline Friday 9th March 2018

Signed _____ Date _____

The Core Curriculum

- **English Language & Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Combined Science**
- **Physical Education**
- **Ethics**

English

English Language GCSE: AQA
English Literature GCSE: AQA

GCSE English is the study of the three key elements of English: reading, writing, and speaking & listening.

Students will study both GCSE courses and will be awarded two GCSE qualifications at the end of year 11.

There will be no controlled assessment tasks in either GCSE course. The final grade is solely based on the performance in the final examination.

English Language: Written Examination (2 exams each 1hr 45mins long)

Paper 1 – Explorations in Creative Reading & Writing. You will answer questions based on reading a literature fiction text. You will write an extended piece of descriptive or narrative writing.

Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives. You will answer questions after reading two non-fiction texts. You will write an extended piece of non-fiction writing to present a viewpoint.

Speaking & Listening – does not contribute to the final English GCSE grade but you will receive a grade for this at the end of the course.

- Giving an individual presentation in the form of a talk or speech.

English Literature: Written Examination (2 exams)

Paper 1 (1hr 45mins long) – questions linked to a Shakespeare play (Macbeth) and a 19th century novel (A Christmas Carol)

Paper 2 (2hr 15mins long) – questions about a modern text (An Inspector Calls) and poetry from an anthology as well as Unseen poetry.

Mathematics

GCSE: AQA

Mathematics is the study of measurement, relationships and properties of quantities using numbers and symbols. You will carry out work involving number, algebra, shape and space, handling data and using and applying mathematics.

There will be no controlled assessment tasks in this GCSE course. The final grade is based solely on the performance in the final examination.

In order to achieve the best grade you are capable of, you need to show an understanding of the methods you are using and also to be able to apply your knowledge to contexts relating to everyday life.

You will follow a GCSE course at one of two levels:

Foundation - the grades you can achieve are 5 – 1;
Higher - the grades you can achieve are 9 – 4.

You will sit three GCSE exams, each lasting 1 hour 30 minutes.

Paper 1 – Non-calculator questions

Paper 2 – Calculator questions

Paper 3 – Calculator questions

All employers will look upon you favourably if you have a Mathematics qualification. There are endless opportunities for those who are successful in the subject. Some university courses will ask for students to have at least a grade 5, with science based subjects, teaching and engineering courses increasingly asking for higher grades in Mathematics.

Combined Science: Trilogy

GCSE: AQA

All Year 9 students who do not choose Triple Science will have 5 Science lessons per week during which they will complete a 'Trilogy Science' course worth 2 GCSEs.

- The course is a 'balanced science' course. Topics in Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be covered.
- The final grades will be based entirely on the examinations that students will complete at the end of Y11. These assessments will produce a double grade (E.g. 3,3), making the course the equivalent of 2 GCSEs.
- Practical and problem solving skills will be assessed in these examinations, but there will be no separate testing of practical skills contributing to a student's final grade. However, all students will complete a range of practical activities that will ensure they develop competence in key experimental techniques.

Across the 2 GCSEs students will cover a broad range of topics in the different scientific disciplines. These include:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Classification• Cells• Body systems• Inheritance• Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic structure• Periodic table• Rates of reaction• Atmosphere• Chemical analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces• Energy• Electricity• Magnetism• Waves

To assist students with the transition to Science at GCSE the beginning of Y9 will involve students completing a number of 'bridging' topics, each comprising about 4 weeks of teaching time. The aim of this initial work is to ensure students are fully prepared for the demands of the GCSE material they will begin towards the end of Y9.

Students can progress to study and be successful at Science A Levels with a 'Trilogy Science' qualification. The study of Triple Science is not essential to study A Level Sciences, but is highly recommended.

Physical Education (Core)

NON - EXAMINED

Students will have one lesson of PE which builds on skills developed in Y7 & Y8.

You will take part in a range of sporting and healthy activities from the following options:

- Football
- Basketball
- Netball
- Badminton
- Hockey
- Tennis
- Cricket
- Rugby
- Trampolining
- Rounders
- Weight training
- Dance
- Circuit training
- Fitness Suite
- Athletics

Ethics

NON - EXAMINED

The course will try to help you make informed decisions and cope in a positive way with the changes that affect you as you enter adulthood. Its aim is to help you prepare for the demands, responsibilities and opportunities of adult life in modern Britain.

You will cover aspects related to careers education, health and relationship education and personal finance. You will look at your rights, responsibilities and what it means to be an active citizen in this country and the world. You will consider viewpoints from a number of religions and understand how society develops.

As well as listening to information and to each other, you will take part in role plays, meet visiting speakers, watch presentations and be encouraged to discuss your ideas thoughtfully with others. You must be prepared to work with others and your opinion will always count.

Of course, all of this means that you will need to be able to listen carefully to others; to take part sensibly in discussion; to think about the issues involved and evaluate them – to decide how important these issues really are.

The Options

- **Art & Design**
- **Business**
- **Child Development**
- **Construction**
- **Digital i-Media**
- **Drama**
- **French**
- **Geography**
- **Health & Social Care**
- **History**
- **ICT**
- **Music**
- **Photography**
- **Product Design: 3D Design**
- **Physical Education**
- **Religious Studies**
- **Sport Studies**
- **Triple Science**

Art & Design

GCSE: Edexcel

Choosing Art and Design gives you the opportunity to express your ideas and feelings. You can do this by making pictures, images and three-dimensional works. You will use a wide variety of materials and techniques. If you are a creative person and like to develop your own ideas, this could be the start of your journey towards a career in the creative sector.

GCSE Art and Design requires you to be enthusiastic, imaginative, and keen to learn as well as giving you an opportunity to express your individuality. Developing your own ideas and doing what you want to do is a major part of the course.

You will begin the course in Y9 and as the course progresses into Y10 you will be given an increasing choice in assignments and the kind of work you would like to do. You will be expected to show how your ideas have developed through your preparation studies as well as in producing finished pieces. You will be taken on a number of visits (for example Yorkshire Sculpture Park, London and Liverpool Galleries) during the course where you will have the opportunity to view original works of art. On these visits you will gather information that will help you develop your own work.

Assignments are assessed by your teacher during the course and then checked by the exam board. At the end of the course you will complete a personal exhibition of two assignments. This exhibition is worth 60% of your total mark. The other 40% of your marks are awarded for your examination. You are given eight weeks to plan and prepare your examination piece and ten hours, over three weeks, to complete it.

At least 1 in 5 jobs is in the creative sector – leisure media, graphics, video, galleries, and education. Everything we buy is designed by an artist, e.g. packaging, cars, textiles, fashion, ceramics, computer games and websites. All professions have artists, e.g. court/law artist; medical artists etc. An art qualification is desirable in many careers and creative people are highly sort after by any professions and employers.

Business

Within the department both GCSE Business and a Level1/2 certificate in Retail are offered. Staff will use all available assessment data to decide the best route for each student.

GCSE Business will provide you with a variety of skills that are easily transferable into many professional careers. During the course you will study the following

- Marketing, including advertising, development of products, setting the best price
- Recruitment, including how businesses get the right staff and keep them working well
- Business structures, including the different ways to set up a business
- Finance, including how businesses get the money to set up and operate and how they make a profit
- Business operations – including how businesses produce the things we buy
- Influences on businesses, including the environment and how many businesses are operating around the world

You will be assessed through two exams, each 90 minutes long. Some questions will be multiple choice, others will be extended writing. There is no controlled assessment.

The course will give you the knowledge to help you set up a business of your own or it can lead on to many A-level and university courses, especially in Economics, Accountancy and Business.

Retail is a practical course comparable to a GCSE and is recognised by employers and colleges as such. Students will have the opportunity to explore various aspects of retail business and investigate retailers.

The course consists of three units

1. Customer Experience (controlled assessment)

Learn about the principles of customer service and how retailers use these. You will complete a piece of controlled assessment investigating the quality of the customer experience across different retailers, analysing and presenting your findings.

2. Retail Business (exam)

Learn about the issues faced by retailers in today's highly competitive market. This unit is externally assessed through a 75 minute exam.

3. Retail Operations (controlled assessment)

Explore the functional areas of business, and the roles of departments as well as the use of technology. This unit is assessed through one piece of controlled assessment.

This course prepares students for further study of business, as well as for employment in a wide range of business fields, particularly retailing, customer service, finance, human resources, local government and many others.

Child Development

Level 2 Award in Child Development and Care

Child Development is a vocational course that provides you with an introduction to working within the Early Years Sector. This course will help you to gain an understanding of how children develop which is necessary for the well-being of the child.

Our course is a knowledge only qualification that provides you with knowledge of children's development between 0 – 5 years and provides an introduction for working with children in different care settings.

You must have a genuine interest of working with children in an education or care setting. You must be kind, caring and understanding with good communication skills.

A knowledge of children and development is desirable but not essential.

You will cover 3 units. 1 in each year of the course.

Unit	Title	Assessment method
Unit 1	An introduction to working with children aged 0 – 5 years.	Coursework
Unit 2	Development and Well-being 0 – 5 years.	Coursework
Unit 3	Childcare and development 0 – 5 years.	Multiple Choice examination

Coursework is completed in lessons but is not controlled assessment. This means that research can be done at home and brought into the lessons. This may be useful if friends/family members are familiar with early years.

We offer Level 3 courses in our sixth form which is a course that combines knowledge and practical work on placements. These courses offer the opportunity to gain a 'licence to practice' after completion of a work placement with children. This confirms your competence for working with children and demonstrates that you have gained the relevant skills/qualities which are required for a career in childcare.

Relevant careers from the level 2 course include: Practitioners such as teaching assistants in day nurseries, nursery schools or primary schools.

Relevant careers from the level 3 sixth form course include, but are not exclusive to: Practitioners in day nurseries, nursery schools or primary schools, home based child carer or pre-school worker.

Construction: Planning and Maintaining the Built Environment

GCSE equivalent: WJEC Level 1/2 Certificate

This course is for students who want to learn about the construction industry. It is designed to support learners in developing an awareness of the key issues surrounding successful planning and maintenance to ensure sustainable, safe, comfortable and less costly built environments. In addition to introducing students to a wide variety of practical skills such as bricklaying, tiling, painting, plumbing, joinery and electrical work, it provides a broad introduction to how the built environment is maintained and the types of career opportunities available.

The course is assessed through two portfolios and a controlled assessment completed in exam conditions. It is not all practical work and if you choose this course you should realise that written work is an essential part of the qualification.

The award is made up of three units, each having an applied purpose. Students will have on practical and on theory lesson each week.

1. Adding value to the built environment: This unit is a theory unit that looks at what makes up the built environments and how it can be improved. It is worth 25% of the final mark and assessed by a controlled assessment taken under exam conditions. The controlled assessment will be based around a real work example.
2. Maintaining the built environment: This unit is worth 50% of the final mark and covers the practical skills required to maintain the built environment. Students will conduct a survey of a real example, produce a report on their findings and carry out a series of practical construction activities that relate to this. This practical work will ongoing throughout the course and will be assessed.
3. Sustainable environments: This unit worth 25% of the final mark. Using a local example as a basis, students produce a piece of controlled assessment that looks at how building projects can be sustainable.

This course is specifically designed to give students the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of and develop skills in the construction industry. It is mainly suitable as a foundation for further study.

Given the level of written work and the need for excellent standards of Health & Safety within the qualification, students will be expected to be working at an age appropriate level in English, have a good engagement with learning and have good attendance. Places on the course are limited. Priority will be given to those students with excellent behaviour and engagement with their learning.

Digital iMedia

GCSE Equivalent: OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National

Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia are media sector-focused, including interactive media, app design, web development and digital design. This course will provide you with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve your learning. The course prepares you for the digital world we live in and will enhance your employability when you leave education, contributing to your personal development and future economic well-being.

The course is made up of 4 sections:

- Pre-production skills: On completion of this unit, learners will understand the purpose and uses of a range of pre-production techniques. They will be able to **plan pre-production of a creative digital media product** to a client brief, and will understand how to review pre-production documents. This unit will be assessed by an external examination.
- Creating Digital Graphics: On completion of this unit, learners will understand the purpose and properties of digital graphics, and know where and how they are used. They will be able to **plan the creation of digital graphics, create new digital graphics** using a range of editing techniques and review a completed graphic against a specific brief. This unit will be assessed by centre assessed coursework tasks.
- Creating a Multipage Website: On completion of this unit, learners will be able to explore and understand the different properties, purposes and features of multipage websites, **plan and create a multipage website** and review the final website against a specific brief. This unit will be assessed by centre assessed coursework tasks.
- Creating Interactive Multimedia On completion of this unit, learners will understand the purpose and properties of interactive multimedia products, be able to plan and **create an interactive multimedia product** to a client's requirements and review it, identifying areas for improvement. This unit will be assessed by centre assessed coursework tasks.

Drama

GCSE: WJEC Eduqas

GCSE Drama is a collaborative subject that allows you to be creative, develop essential skills and gain confidence. If you have enjoyed performing and creating, analysing script work and exploring drama skills in years 7 and 8, GCSE drama could be a course you would excel in.

The course will provide you with a variety of skills that are easily transferable into many professional careers. Past successful students have progressed on to our A level drama course and have gone on to become primary and secondary teachers, leaders within successful businesses, paramedics and lawyers to name but a few. The skills gained on this challenging course provide you with a solid platform from which you can succeed.

There are three assessment areas within GCSE Drama:

Component 1: Devising Theatre – Internally assessed, externally moderated - Performance based. Worth 40% of your final grade.

You can be assessed on either acting or design.

You will create, develop and perform a piece of devised theatre using the techniques of a practitioner or a genre of theatre in response to a stimulus given by the exam board. As part of this component you will perform your devised piece, submit a portfolio of evidence showing the process you went through and also a written evaluation of your final piece or design.

Component 2: Performing from a Text – externally marked by a visiting examiner. Worth 20% of your final grade. You can be assessed on either acting or design.

You will study two extracts from the same text. You will perform in a performance using sections of text from both extracts studied.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre - Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.

Worth 40% of your final mark.

This exam includes 2 sections:

Section A: Questions based on a set text. Example texts are DNA, The Tempest and Hard to Swallow.

Section B: Live Theatre Review – One question from a choice of two. For this review you have to see live theatre and evaluate and analyse a given aspect of the live performance.

Drama is a subject worth studying in its own right and can lead to successful careers within both Performing Arts and professional careers. The skills developed throughout the three year course allow you to develop not only your creativity but also a range of transferable skills suitable for a variety of work places and higher education.

Geography

GCSE: Edexcel A

Geography is the study of the world and the way in which we live. It involves asking and answering questions about the world around us.

Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, rivers and coasts, ecosystems and biodiversity, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use.

The aims of this qualification are to enable students to

- develop and extend knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes, and of different scales, including global.
- gain understanding of the interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time (think like a geographer)
- develop and extend their competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, in using maps and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and in researching secondary evidence
- apply geographical knowledge, understanding, skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts and to contemporary situations and issues.

Unit 1: The Physical Environment (Exam 1hour 30min) 37.5%

Section A- The changing landscape of the UK

Section B- Weather hazards and climate change

Section C- Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

Unit 2: The Human Environment (Exam 1hour 30min) 37.5%

Section A- Changing cities

Section B- Global development

Section C- Resource management

Unit 3: Geographical Investigations (Exam 1hour 30min) 25%

Section A- Geographical investigations in human and physical geography

Section B- UK Challenges

The course includes **two fieldwork visits**. One of which will be based around the human environment, the other will be based around the physical environment and will include a river study. These skills will then be assessed in examination conditions **Attendance on the fieldtrips is compulsory.**

French

GCSE: AQA

Learning a Modern Foreign Language is a wonderful opportunity and very important in today's world of work. 75% of the world's population does not speak English and learning a foreign language puts you a step ahead in the competitive business world.

The Languages Department at Brinsworth is very successful at GCSE; our students achieve excellent exam results. The staff are committed and approachable and work hard with students to achieve their goals.

You will build upon what you have learnt in years 7 and 8 and will cover the following themes: identity and culture, where you live, studies and employment.

You will be examined in 4 skills: listening, reading, speaking and writing. There are two levels of examination - foundation and higher.

With a foreign language qualification you are more attractive to employers and have access to a wider choice of jobs and universities. A language is beneficial in the following areas:

- Business
- Manufacturing
- Teaching (primary and secondary)
- Retail/Sales
- Banking
- And many more!

Health and Social Care

BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care

Components

Learners are required to complete and achieve all the components included in the qualification

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care				
Component number	Component title	GLH	Level	How assessed
1	Human Lifespan Development	36	1/2	Internal
2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	36	1/2	Internal
3	Health and Wellbeing	48	1/2	Synoptic External

Internal assessment

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to relate to achievement of application of the conceptual underpinning for the sector through realistic tasks and activities. This style of assessment promotes focus on:

- Knowledge and understanding of human growth and development
- Knowledge and understanding of how people deal with major life events
- Knowledge and understanding of health and social care services
- Practical demonstration of care values, together with the ability to reflect on own performance

Internal assessment is through assignments that are subject to external standards verification. For setting assignments, we provide authorised assignment briefs and guidance in each component. This means that you can adapt materials to your local contexts and assess assignments that provide the valid and rigorous final summative assessment for each component.

Component	Description of task
Component 3: Health and Wellbeing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Task set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions– The set task will be completed in three hours within the period timetabled by Pearson– 60 marks

History

GCSE: AQA

History is about people – real people whose lives have changed the world. Whatever their lives were about, there is a story behind them, sometimes tragic, sometimes heroic, but always fascinating. You will learn how people and events from the past have shaped the world that we inhabit today, and how any understanding of the present must come from our past.

You will:

- Learn how the Cold War was ‘fought’ between the Russians and Americans (1945-1975)
- Investigate the experiences of the German people under dictatorship and democracy (1890-1945)
- Study how the Norman Conquest has shaped Britain, from 1066 to the present day
- Assess how British society has been shaped by war, religion and key individuals over a 1000 year period.

You will gain valuable skills including:

- How to interpret and evaluate pieces of information (sources)
- How to communicate and apply your knowledge
- How to describe and analyse the key features of the period studied
- Critical thinking and problem solving.

The examination papers cover the full range of grades from 9 to 1.

In order to gain a final grade in History, you will be expected to sit two examination papers, each worth 50% of your final grade.

GCSE History is a useful and often necessary subject for a lot of careers such as lawyer, accountant and journalist. Many more also require knowledge of history – marketing and PR, police, banking and social work.

Employers always recognise the variety of skills a GCSE in History demonstrates – the ability to learn information, skills in interpreting information and being able to effectively communicate your thoughts and ideas.

The collection and communication of data and information happens all around us. Technology underpins how it is collected and communicated nearly all of the time. It can be seen in all walks of life, from a wearable fitness tracker recording how many steps you have taken, your mobile phone provider recording your usage to create your bill or an online retailer being able to target you with specific promotions based on your purchase history. Knowing how and why data and information is gathered and being able to turn raw data into something meaningful is essential as you move through education and into employment. To be able to do this you will need to have the confidence to use a range of information technology that is currently available, as well as being adaptable and resilient enough to deal with the rapid advances.

This qualification is made up of four areas:

- Understanding the tools and techniques that can be used to plan solutions
- Understanding how data and information can be collected, stored and used
- Understanding the different methods of processing data and presenting information
- Understanding how to review and evaluate the development of the solution

The first unit focuses on how effectively you use your skills when developing a technological solution. You will be given a project to develop a technological solution and assessed on how effectively you have used your skills, knowledge and understanding to complete the project.

The second unit tests your knowledge and understanding of the theory taught in the first unit. The exam lasts 1 hour 45 minutes.

The skills, knowledge and understanding you would develop through this qualification are very relevant to both work and further study. They will support you in a range of subject areas such as A Levels in Business and Geography, or IT. They can also support your progression into employment through Apprenticeships in areas such as Digital Marketer or Business Administrator.

Music

RSL Level 2 Music Practitioners

RSL Level 2 Music Practitioners allows students to develop and become musicians in their own right. Performance is the core focus of this course and there are many opportunities to develop performance skills both within a group and as a solo artist. This course has **no exam**, units are assessed internally or by a visiting examiner.

You do not need to be able to play an instrument. We provide performance opportunities for those who do not play an instrument. The skills you have gained in Year 7 and 8 are the perfect starting point for this course. You will also receive a 20 minute, one to one lesson each week with one of our specialist instrumental tutors to support your instrumental or vocal development.

You do not need to be able to read music at the beginning. It will be necessary for you to learn how to read music, but this will be achieved gradually over time within lessons and also with your instrumental tutors who you will see once a week.

There are a wide variety of units that can be studied and we aim to cater to the students we have on the course, therefore units shown below are flexible and can be changed.

Units currently studied:

Live Music Performance – a performance unit that will allow you to gain a solid understanding of performance including organisation, including equipment and health and safety, stage presence and set lists. This unit is assessed externally and completed under controlled conditions within a 6 week period in Y11.

Instrumental Study – a performance unit that will allow you to develop your skills as an instrumentalist or vocalist. Assignments will focus on setting targets and evaluating progress, day to day maintenance of your instrument, health and safety, improving technical ability, stamina, dexterity and control of your instrument.

Contextualising Music - this unit allows learners to gain a greater insight in genres of music that have influenced popular music as we know it today. You will study genres such as punk and Motown analysing the key features of these styles and comparing them to your preferred genres of music. Assignments for this unit include magazine articles, presentations and podcasts.

Level 2 Music Practitioners forms a great foundation for further study of music and the Performing Arts. There are many transferable skills such as confidence, team work and cooperation that are suitable for many professional careers. Developing performance skills will give you confidence in playing to an audience - useful if you intend to pursue, for example, drama or law. Looking further still, employers like to see young people who have broad interests and a range of skills, something studying music would give you.

Photography (Light & lens based media)

GCSE: Edexcel

Learning through the arts develops your creative thinking, confidence and problem solving abilities – all the kinds of skills that are prized by employers and which we all need.

In following our Photography course, students will develop their abilities to work independently and to collaborate in order to problem solve. They will learn how images communicate meaning and how images are used commercially to promote products and convey messages. At present in the UK, the digital and creative industries employ 1.7 million people. This forms one of our strongest export areas and is the third largest export sector.

With this in mind, Brinsworth Academy's Photography course complements the many other creative subjects available to those students with a creative interest.

What topics are covered?

The main focus will be film-based and digital photography skills; darkroom and digital printing and manipulation skills.

The development of practical skills will be a focus, whilst also developing our students' knowledge and understanding of the place of photography in history and contemporary society. Students will develop the use of a specialist vocabulary that will equip them to interpret and convey their ideas and feelings in their photographic work. Self-expression and personal themes will be explored through investigations into a number of photographic genres such as: Portraiture, Photojournalism, Street, Macro and Fine Art.

All portfolios of work produced over the course will be internally assessed by your teachers and will be externally moderated by an external examiner. The coursework produced will represent 60% of the total mark awarded. The remaining 40% will be awarded for the externally set examination that will be conducted at the end of the course.

You could progress to A levels in Photography and Art, Craft and Design leading to careers in such diverse areas as publishing, advertising, illustration, graphic design, digital art, television/film director, creative/art director, cinematography and many many more!

Product Design (3D Design)

GCSE: AQA

Three-dimensional Design is concerned with the designing, prototyping, modelling or making of functional and attractive consumer products and interiors. You will engage with appropriate processes, materials and construction techniques, using models and working drawings to help take your initial ideas through to realisation.

Through the course you will develop an understanding of the way sources inspire the development of ideas relevant to three-dimensional design, including those related to historical, contemporary, cultural, social, environmental and creative contexts. The importance of how ideas, feelings, forms, and purposes can generate responses that address specific needs, which ultimately influence the design process, will be covered.

Within the context of three-dimensional design you will have the opportunity to demonstrate the ability to use three-dimensional techniques and processes, for example model making, constructing, assembling and modelling. During your design processes you will have the chance to experiment and design with media and materials such as wood, metal and plastics.

The emphasis will be on the generation and development of 3D design ideas for consumer products with considerations for ergonomics and functionality. You will be expected to use of a range of exhibition design materials, tools and techniques such as two-dimensional graphics and three-dimensional forms, construction techniques and presentation methods.

Your homework journal is assessed as part of the examination and the artwork set will support your coursework assignments.

Assignments are assessed by your teacher during the course and then checked by the exam board. At the end of the course you will complete a personal exhibition of two assignments. This exhibition is worth 60% of your total mark. The other 40% of your marks are awarded for your examination. You are given eight weeks to plan and prepare your examination piece and ten hours, over several days, to complete it.

Physical Education: GCSE PE

GCSE: OCR

GCSE PE extends the work carried out in Years 7 & 8 in practical PE lessons. During the course you will take part in new activities as well as further your skills in selected areas. The theory units complement the practical element in order to give you a broad base of knowledge and experience across a variety of activities. Students who choose this course **are expected to participate in all practical activities** as well as complete all theory units. Students are advised to get involved in extra-curricular sport to improve their practical grade.

In your lessons you will cover the following elements:

40% Practical Performance and Analysing Performance: This section will assess your 3 best sports - 1 Individual Sport, 1 Team Sport and 1 sport of your choice from the list below:

- Basketball
- Badminton
- Football
- Cricket
- Gymnastics
- Netball
- Individual specialist sports can be taken into consideration such as snowboarding so long as they are on the OCR GCSE list.
- Dance
- Rugby
- Rock Climbing
- Skiing
- Trampolining

An Analysing and Evaluating performance task will also be carried out in one of your chosen sports. For this you will observe a performer, identify their weaknesses and then create an action plan of how to improve their skills.

60% Theory : two exams (each worth 30%) will be sat at the end of the course based on the following:

- Learning skills
- The body (heart, lungs, muscles, joints and bones)
- Fitness (strength, stamina, flexibility, and more)
- Healthy active lifestyles
- Reasons for participation
- Training methods
- Pathways for lifelong participation

GCSE PE links straight into A level PE or a BTEC Level 3 Sport Diploma in the sixth form at Brinsworth. It provides a sound base for a variety of careers in Sport and Leisure including: Sports Technician, Sports Official, PE teacher, Physiotherapy, Coaching qualifications, Sports Management.

Physical Education: Sport Studies

GCSE Equivalent: Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies

OCR Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies will extend the work carried out in Years 7 & 8 in practical PE lessons. During the course you will take part in a range of activities as well as further your skills in selected areas. The theory units complement the practical element in order to give you a broad base of knowledge and experience across a variety of activities. Students who choose this course **are expected to participate in all practical activities** as well as complete all theory units. Students are advised to get involved in extra-curricular sport to improve their practical grade.

In your lessons you will cover the following **theory** topics:

- Contemporary issues in Sport (1 hour external written exam.)
- Sport and the Media (internal coursework assessed.)

These will involve classroom lessons that aim to develop your knowledge in specific areas of sport and PE. Each topic will involve continuous assessment as well as a final assessment in the form of either a written exam or a written piece of course work.

You will also study 2 practical topics:

- Developing sports skills (Practical Participation is compulsory)
- Sports Leadership (Practical Participation is compulsory)

The practical topics will include taking part in a range of sports shown below, with a final assessment made up of 1 Individual Sport and 1 Team Sport.

- | | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| • Basketball | • Dance |
| • Badminton | • Rugby |
| • Football | • Rock Climbing |
| • Cricket | • Skiing |
| • Gymnastics | • Trampolining |
| • Netball | |

OCR Cambridge National Sports Studies level 2 links straight into a vocational Level 3 course in Sport. It provides a sound base for a variety of careers in Sport and Leisure including: Sports Technician, Sports Official, Coaching qualifications, Sports Management.

Religious Studies

GCSE: WJEC Eduqas

In Year 9 you will begin studying an exciting curriculum where you will cover Religion, Philosophy and Ethics. The subject will help you in many ways. It is all about understanding the views of other people and being able to explain why they hold these views. It is not just for people who are religious! As you go out into the world you will see that understanding why people do things is very important.

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World

Written examination: 2 hours

50% of qualification

You will study the following four themes. All questions are compulsory.

Theme 1: Issues of Relationships

Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death

Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil

Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights

Component 2: Study of Christianity

Written examination: 1 hour

25% of qualification

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity.

Component 3: Study of a World Faith

Written examination: 1 hour

25% of qualification

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of Judaism.

Your Religious Studies lessons will contain many different learning activities. However, the focus will be on discussion work. You will be expected to work as a group and contribute your ideas and arguments to the discussion. You will also take part in written tasks, debate and watching and analysing media. You will cover all of the topics listed above. If you enjoy debating and have good writing skills then this is an excellent choice of GCSE for you!

Many employers will be pleased to see you have a qualification in Religious Studies because it shows that you are good at understanding the views of others and that you have excellent literacy skills. Also, throughout the course, you are expected to improve several everyday skills such as selecting and sorting information, presenting ideas, analysing information, and giving a reasoned argument, evaluating issues and problem solving. This is always helpful. Specific careers relevant to Religious Studies would be in the caring sector for instance, Social Work. In addition to this Religious Studies is highly regarded when applying for Law, Medicine or Teaching.

Triple Science

GCSE: AQA

BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY AND PHYSICS

Choosing to take Triple Science gives you the opportunity to study and understand in greater detail the ways in which Science and technology have shaped and are changing our world. It will help you to become a better critical thinker and problem solver; key skills for any employer. If you are thinking of a career in engineering, health care or of studying any area of Science after GCSE, it is highly recommended that you take this course.

This course results in students obtaining **three GCSE qualifications in Science**, one in each separate Science – Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each subject will be taught independently and therefore you will be able to identify the areas in which you have most interest and aptitude. If you choose Triple Science as one of your option choices you will have **seven science lessons per week**.

It is suitable for all students who are placed with the 'Upper' or 'Intermediate' ability bands and therefore would be expected to achieve a Grade 5 or above in Science at the end of KS4. The Science department will make the final decision on the suitability of students for this course.

Across the 3 GCSEs you will cover a broad range of topics. These include:

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cellular Biology• Genetics• Infection• Bioenergetics• Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic structure• Bonding• Quantitative Chemistry• Organic Chemistry• Chemical analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forces• Energy• Waves• Particle model of matter• Space Physics

The final grades will be based entirely on the examinations students will complete at the end of Y11, in each subject. The grades obtained in each individual Science subject are completely independent of each other.

Practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills will be assessed in these examinations, but there will be no separate testing of practical skills contributing to a student's final grade in either Biology, Chemistry or Physics. However, in each discipline all students will complete a wide range of practical activities that will ensure they develop into competent and innovative experimental scientists.

To assist students with the transition to Science at GCSE the beginning of Y9 will involve students completing a number of 'bridging' topics, each comprising about 4 weeks of teaching time. The aim of this initial work is to ensure students are fully prepared for the demands of the GCSE material they will begin towards the end of Y9.