

Dear Year Eight,

Welcome to your booklet. The aim of this booklet is to help you choose the correct subject to study in Year 9 that will build a path for success and provide a platform for further achievement in following years. Our aim is that every young person will achieve a GCSE or equivalent qualification by the end of Year 9. This will give you the confidence as a learner to go on and enjoy further success in Years 10 and 11.

Your lessons in Year 9 will be made up of the 'Core' which everybody takes. For most of you this will be: English, Maths, Science, ICT, RE, French and PE. The rest of your timetable will be made up of your option choice, and what you do will depend on what you choose. During Year 9 you will choose three different subjects to take in Years 10 and 11. This will allow you to put back into your timetable any favourite subjects you might miss in Year 9.

The range of choice on offer in Year 9 recognises that each of you is different; with, for example, different skills, qualities, ambitions and preferred learning styles. You will find a whole variety of subjects, those that are very practical, some assessed without exams, some only assessed by exams, and others assessed by various mixes of all of these.

Our hope is that each of you can choose a course that will meet your ability, preferred assessment style and ambitions. Your first task is to seek advice as to which subjects would be good choices for you. Then choose subjects that you are good at, find enjoyable and which are recommended for you by your teachers. Be sensible, and never choose a subject because your friend does. We will ask you to choose **three** and aim to give you the opportunity to study **one** of these. Please note that each subject can only offer a certain number of places, and all subjects need a minimum number of students in order to run.

We are holding an important **Information Evening** for parents and carers to further explain the Choices programme at **7.00pm on Thursday 19th January** in the main hall. We will be short of space during this evening, so the evening is aimed at your parent or carers. You will have a separate briefing in assembly; however please encourage your folks to attend, and ask them to bring this booklet with them.

Your final preferences must be handed in on **Friday 10th February**, giving you time to discuss your choices at Review Day on **Tuesday 7th February**.

This can be an uncertain time for young people. In identifying which subjects to choose, take all the advice that is available by talking to your Form Tutor, subject teachers or Ms Horgan.

Wishing you every success,

Christopher Walsh
Headteacher

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THE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How do I use this booklet?

- Don't use it alone
- Take advice from the people at home
- Talk to your Form Tutor and subject teachers
- Use the Parents' Information Evening
- Talk to Mrs Green in the Careers Team
- Talk to Ms Horgan

How do I make right choices?

Your choice will be influenced by a number of things including your:

- ambitions and hopes
- interests
- levels of achievement
- target grades
- preferred styles of learning
- preferred means of assessment

What courses should I choose?

Choose subjects and courses that:

- are assessed in a way that helps you achieve at the highest levels
- you know you can do well in
- are ones that you like
- reflect your interests, ambitions and personal qualities
- help you learn in the best way for you
- will help you keep your options open in the future
- will provide progression towards higher level courses, such as those in our Sixth Form

What do all the different qualifications mean?

Please see page 16 near the end of the booklet where there is a description of the National Qualifications Framework and some of the different qualifications on offer.

Can I drop subjects?

Yes, that is one purpose of this whole exercise. Remember that you cannot give up those subjects that are 'Core', English, Maths, Science, MFL, ICT, RE and PE. These are taken by everyone.

Otherwise remember:

- Quite a few jobs which are not directly related to a subject may make use of it, for example, art and music are very useful in primary school teaching.
- You may do well at a new course in a subject you have not liked in the past, because you may be learning and be assessed in a different way. Check out the learning style and assessment method as well as the course content.
- It may be dangerous to specialise too soon. Keep a broad range of subjects and skills.
- It can be required, or be useful, to have a language qualification in a number of degree courses and jobs.

What do you mean by preferred learning styles?

We are all different and learn in different ways, so it pays to find out which style of learning suits you best. Vocational qualifications such as BTECs and NVQs combine practical, "hands-on" learning with classroom learning, and can sometimes include industry visits.

General academic learning such as GCSEs mainly involves studying the theory of a subject,

combined with some investigative work. Some subjects also involve practical work. In these you are assessed mainly on written exams, plus some coursework that you complete throughout the course. Coursework can include projects, fieldwork, artwork, experiments or investigations.

There are different types of courses to suit different learning styles. Whatever your style, there are courses to suit you. Ask for advice and help about choosing.

What else should I think about?

Don't panic! Remember that next year you will have a further three choices and a much broader range of subjects will be available to you.

Do you:

Q: Have a clear idea about doing particular work-based training or a specific job?

A: Find out the most appropriate courses for it.

Q: Have a general idea of the broad area of work you'd like to go into?

A: Find out courses which would start you on your way without stopping you from doing other things if you change your mind.

Q: Want to continue studying after Year 11?

A: Find out what subjects you could do and whether you need to take certain courses to help you achieve your aim. Talk to your teachers not just about these choices but how you might progress into the Sixth Form too.

Q: Currently have no clear idea about careers?

A: It doesn't matter, just choose a balanced range of courses that does not close any doors, and check them with your tutor or a member of the careers team.

How do I make my choices?

After choosing your subjects, you need to look at the "Making My Choices" form at the back of this booklet. In conversation with your Form Tutor and your parent or carer you should complete the one section of this form that relates to your chosen subjects, making sure that your choices reflect your skills, talents and ambitions.

What should not influence my choices?

- What your friends are choosing. Your friends are different; they have different strengths, interests, and ambitions. Even if you choose the same courses you could easily be in a different group.
- Who your favourite teachers are. Do not expect the teacher who teaches you now to still be your teacher next year.

When will I make my choices?

Your completed form has to be given to your Form Tutor by 10th February 2012, signed by a parent or carer, and by you. You will be able to discuss your choices further on Review Day, which is on Tuesday 7th February 2012.

Will I get one of my choices?

We do our best, but we can never guarantee that all courses will run, as this process offers a genuine choice for all. We have to have a minimum number on each course before it can run, and some, like the practical courses, have maximum numbers too. Courses will only run if sufficient numbers express an interest but if there is a problem, a senior member of staff will talk to you about it.

What happens when I get into Year 10?

The course you choose to add to your curriculum in Year 9 will be completed at the end of Year 9. When you come to Year 10 you will drop the one you chose for Year 9 and choose three more subjects. The subjects currently on offer in Year 10 are:

College / Vocational choices: Beauty (BTEC)
College / Vocational choices: Construction (BTEC)
College / Vocational choices: Hospitality & Catering
Art and Design (BTEC)
Art & Design (GCSE)
Fine Art (GCSE)
Business Studies (BTEC)
Business Studies (GCSE)
Children's' Care and Development (BTEC)
Child Development (GCSE)
Dance (GCSE)
Drama (GCSE)
Engineering (BTEC)
Engineering (GCSE)
Fashion (BTEC)
Food and Nutrition (GCSE)
French (GCSE)
Geography (GCSE)
German (GCSE)
History (GCSE)
ICT - IT Systems (Level 2 National Certificate)
ICT - Multi Media (Level 2 National Certificate)
Leisure & Tourism (GCSE)
Media Studies (GCSE)
Music (GCSE)
PE and Sports Studies (GCSE)
Product Design (Graphics and Resistant Materials)
RE Philosophy and Ethics (GCSE)
Spanish (GCSE)
Triple Sciences (GCSE)

This list is subject to review on an annual basis.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

Your lessons in Year 9 will be made up of the core subjects; English, Maths, Science, ICT, MFL, RE and PE, which everybody takes and the rest of your timetable will be made up of your option choice. Below are details of the core subjects.

ENGLISH

In Year 9 you will study four hours of English per week, covering a variety of topics to improve speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and techniques.

What Will You Study?

- The Crime-Fiction Genre
- War Poetry
- Media Forms and Products
- A Contemporary Novel
- Autobiographical Writing
- Play Scripts
- Poetry with links to Madness and Mayhem

How Will You Be Assessed?

Students work towards achieving a national curriculum level for the subject of English. The English Department uses APP (Assessing Pupil Progress) to assess, monitor and track performance and progress of students. APP allows students to improve their speaking, listening, reading and writing skills and techniques by targeting specific areas needed for improvement.

MATHEMATICS GCSE

In Year 9 you will start to follow the GCSE course for mathematics. Most of you will follow a program of study which will span the three years of school in Year 9, 10 and 11. The course covers the four key strands of mathematics; Number, Data and Statistics, Algebra and Shape, Space and Measures. These different strands are visited regularly over the three years and each year's work builds on the previous year's knowledge and understanding.

Throughout the GCSE course you will be assessed half termly using graded exam style questions. These assessments will be marked and a current working grade awarded. This will tell you what grade you are currently working at. After each round of assessment individual feedback will be given and follow up work provided where appropriate which ensures students continue to make progress.

There will be no external exams in Years 9 and 10 with the external exam being completed in Year 11. The final exam is two papers: Paper 1 (Calculator NOT Allowed) and Paper 2 (Calculator Allowed). The GCSE examination follows a new specification with no coursework element. The new format contains a greater number of questions relating to real life scenarios which assess problem solving techniques. The quality of written communication in answers is now also assessed.

We follow the Edexcel Linear specification for GCSE Mathematics - please see www.edexcel.com for further details of the GCSE course.

Please contact Mrs Jespers or Miss McKenzie for further information.

GATEWAY SCIENCE GCSE

All Year 9 students will complete the KS3 Exploring Science course before starting the OCR Gateway Science course.

What will you study?

Students will cover skills for GCSE Controlled Assessment linking them to content from the three Unit 1 modules (B1 C1 and P1) during the year. We will cover subjects like; the human body, food, genetics, oil, polymers, insulation, communication with waves, and volcanoes.

How will you be assessed?

There will be assessments on each of these units where students will be given a GCSE equivalent grade. Towards the end of the year there will be an exam covering the taught content. The marks from this exam will be used to help with setting in Year 10.

We are required to report using traditional assessment and APP levels at Key Stage 3. To ensure that all students are given sufficient opportunities to achieve their Key Stage 3 target level there will be opportunities to complete APP tasks throughout the year. These tasks will complement the GCSE material covered.

Students will also sit an additional SATs paper at the end of the January half term. The marks for this will be used for setting purposes.

Please contact Mr Coombes for more information.

ICT OCR LEVEL 2 NATIONAL AWARD IN ICT

In Year 9 pupils will continue to work on the qualification begun in Year 8, studying the following units; ICT for Business, Creating Computer Graphics and Desktop Publishing. This will be the equivalent of a Level 2 First National Award for 1 GCSE at grades A-C. In Year 10 and Year 11 pupils will have the opportunity to extend their portfolio to learn about Digital Imaging and Technological innovation and ecommerce, and consolidate their work on previous topics. Those students who successfully complete all core units will achieve the Level 2 National Award which is equivalent to 2 GCSEs at grades A*-C.

There are two option routes available in Year 10, which are: Systems - equivalent to 3 GCSEs when combined with the core units. The units that will be studied are Installation of applications, System testing and maintenance, Repair and decommission of IT. The other option is the multimedia option which is also equivalent to 3 GCSEs combined with the core units. The units that will be studied are Webpage creation, Interactive Multimedia products and Creating Video.

Please contact Mr Hunt or Miss Holland for further information.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

All students will study RE for one hour a week during Year 9. RE encourages students to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions and to develop their sense of identity and belonging. It enables students to flourish individually within their communities and as citizens in a diverse society and global community. RE enables students to develop respect for and sensitivity to others, in particular those whose faiths and beliefs are different to their own.

For further information please contact Miss Sanghera.

FRENCH

Students will continue their current Key Stage 3 French course in Year 9. The course follows the Expo scheme of work and progresses from where they finished in Year 8. There are a number of broad themes (modules) in the Year 9 course for French, Leisure, Food & Drink, Holidays and New Technologies/Future Plans.

The themes ensure a progression of the skills already covered in Years 7 and 8 namely; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. We also strongly encourage students to enhance their cultural awareness and to develop their personal learning and thinking skills (PLTS)

Students are assessed throughout each module in each of the four skills. There are summative assessments in reading, listening and writing at the end of each module.

Please contact Miss Hibbert for further information.

SPORTS STUDIES BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2

In Year 9 you will study three hours of Physical Education per week. In these lessons you will be undertaking a L2 BTEC Sport qualification which is the equivalent of two GCSE grades between A*-C. During Year 9 you will undertake the 2 mandatory units and 2 optional specialist units and the remaining 4 units will be completed during Year 10 and 11.

What will you study in Year 9?

Health fitness for sport and exercise

Practical sports performance

Training for personal fitness

Leading sports activities

How will you be assessed?

You will be working towards achieving a national curriculum level for the subject of Physical Education and towards your L2 BTEC in Sport grade. This is built into each unit in the form of coursework which accounts for 50% of the final grade. The remaining 50% will be externally assessed both in the form of controlled assessment and external exam.

Please contact Mrs Walsh or Mr Colley for further information.

OPTION SUBJECTS

ART & DESIGN BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2

The qualification is a BTEC Extended Certificate Level 2 which is equivalent to **two** GCSEs at grades A* to C. The BTEC Art and Design course is designed to provide specialist artistic training for those of you interested in the art and design industry. The qualification aims to provide a broad and exciting approach in developing your experience of art through a variety of ways.

The course consists of three different sections over the year, and the work is delivered in projects or units. You will undertake a general unit that consists of drawing, painting, printing and sculpture. During each project, you will be encouraged to develop mark making skills along with slightly more sophisticated analysis of artists and their work. You will be able to develop more specialist skills which may include Graphic Design, Photography, and Sculpture.

All the units will be in your workbook of preparatory studies, experiments and a final piece. Work must be annotated and you will be taught and encouraged to use specialist vocabulary. Art clubs will be available from the start of the course specifically designed to help you to achieve more. These clubs are run on a voluntary basis, but where appropriate you may be asked to attend.

You will be assessed throughout Year 9. Each of the units undertaken is marked and awarded a Pass, a Merit, or a Distinction depending on how the level of art skills in evidence. This will of course contribute to a final assessment at the end of the year. If you attain a Distinction in this course you will be able to progress to AS Art in the Sixth Form. All assessment is based on the Edexcel Specification.

Please contact Mr. Lee for further information.

CONSTRUCTION BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2

The qualification is BTEC Extended Certificate Level 2 which is equivalent to **two** GCSEs at grades A* to C.

The course is a mix of practical work using traditional and modern machinery and theoretical work activities which relate to construction. You will be expected to do some independent research, reporting and construction drawing. You need to enjoy learning new skills and developing techniques. All the units are assessed by both practical and written assignments, set and marked by your teachers and sent to the exam board for moderation.

The units studied include:

- Working Practices in Construction
- Health and Safety in Construction
- Carpentry and Joinery skill
- Painting and Decorating
- Wall and Floor Tiling

This course will enable you to move into a choice of employment with further training (an apprenticeship), Further Education with either BTEC Level 3 or the Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) in Construction.

Please contact Mrs Frow for further information

CHILD DEVELOPMENT GCSE

This course aims to develop your awareness of pregnancy, babies and young children. It increases your understanding of the intellectual, social, emotional and physical development of children from birth to the age of five. The course content includes parenthood and pregnancy, physical development, nutrition and health, the intellectual, social, and emotional development of children and the family and the community. In addition you will be offered the opportunity to take an infant simulator home to experience caring for a baby.

The assessment weighting of the course is 40% by examination and 60% by coursework. The coursework includes three controlled assessments which are small projects on different aspects of the course content and one individual task which involves you observing a child or children under the age of five. **You will need access to a suitable child for the Child Study task who will be under 5 years at the end of the course.**

Child Development is a suitable course for all students, and is especially good for those wishing to pursue a career working with children. This course helps to prepare you for employment or further training in the care and education of young children. This qualification offers progression onto levels 2 & 3 BTEC Childcare and level 3 BTEC Health and Social Care in the Sixth Form. You could also continue to add to this vocational qualification with NVQs.

Please contact Mrs Craig or Ms Hudson for further information

DANCE / DRAMA: PERFORMING ARTS BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2

This course is available to students who want to develop their skills in the Performing Arts, specialising in both drama and dance. Units studied include:

The Development of Drama: This unit explores a range of drama styles and genres. It provides an introduction to how social and historical factors have influenced and informed drama through the ages.

Musical Theatre Performance: The popular performance genre of musical theatre combines acting, dance and musical skills and use them in performance. It has a practical emphasis and seeks to enhance the three main disciplines of musical theatre performance. It will therefore appeal to a number of young people from dance, drama and music pathways.

Developing Physical Theatre Performance: Physical theatre is exciting and challenging. Performers who make and create work in this form use their bodies to develop characters, places and ideas and, in doing this, they ask their audiences to imagine and experience the journey they are all taking. Physical Theatre is very demanding and involves a lot of contact and trust work.

Acting skills and techniques: Students become familiar with the role of the actor and practise some of the essential technical and interpretative skills fundamental to the art of acting. Vocal and movement skills will be developed and responses to text and characterisation will be explored in class, in rehearsal and in performance.

This course is run by Edexcel and is equivalent to 2 GCSEs.
For more information please see Miss Heath or Miss Grainger.

ENGINEERING BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2

The qualification is BTEC Extended Certificate Level 2 which is equivalent to **two** GCSEs at grades A* to C. The course is a mix of practical work using traditional and modern machinery and theoretical work activities which relate to engineering. You will be expected to do some independent research, reporting and engineering drawing. You need to enjoy designing and making products. It also has an emphasis on electronics and CAD/CAM.

All the units are assessed by both practical and written assignments, set and marked by your teachers and sent to the exam board for moderation.

The units studied include:

- Working Practices in Engineering
- Using and Interpreting Engineering Information
- Electronic Engineering
- Using Computer Aided Drawing Techniques in Engineering.

This course will enable you to move into a choice of employment with further training (an apprenticeship), Further Education with either BTEC Level 3 or the Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) in Engineering and Technology.

Please contact Mrs Frow or Miss Taylor for further information.

FASHION & CLOTHING BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2

The BTEC qualification is designed to provide a specialist work-related qualification in fashion and clothing. This course takes a broad approach to both fashion design and textiles, and has been very carefully structured to enable students to gain knowledge, skills and confidence in this fast developing area. These include:

- Exploring materials, techniques and processes
- Developing fashion design ideas
- Developing fashion presentation techniques
- Understanding Fashion Marketing and Promotion
- Developing Sewing Skills for Fashion
- Working to fashion design briefs

All students are assessed by completion of assignments. The assignments allow the student to demonstrate that they have skills and knowledge to achieve Pass, Merit or Distinction grade. At the end of the course, the student's assignment grades together determine the overall grade for their BTEC certificate. There are NO exams within this course.

Many students go on to study this subject at a higher level, building on the knowledge and skills acquired on this course. Other students will move on to employment in the Fashion, Textiles and Design industry. This BTEC course is equivalent to 2 GCSE grades A-C.

For further information please contact Miss Rockcliffe or Ms Hudson

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

There are four key themes within the course; “The Dynamic Planet”, “People & the Planet”, “Making Geographical Decisions” and “Researching Geography”. In “The Dynamic Planet” the following core topics are studied: Restless Earth, Climate and Change, Battle for the Biosphere and Water World. In addition we will study Coastal Change and Conflict at a local scale and Extreme Climates as a large scale example of our dynamic planet. People and the Planet is the human geography unit. The topics to be studied are Population Dynamics, Consuming Resources, Living Spaces and Making a Living. At a small scale we will study one: the Changing Countryside. The large-scale People and the Planet topic is Development Dilemmas. These units are assessed by two one hour examination papers.

“Making Geographical Decisions” is a Decision Making Unit & includes the pressures & conflicts, players and options that are involved in making geographical decisions. The course also includes a fieldwork investigation and report for the unit “Researching Geography”. We will complete fieldwork on either coastal environments or rural/countryside environments. To support this work all will take part in a one-day field study.

The course will actively engage students in the process of geography, developing their knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts whilst enabling them to appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world.

Students will study Edexcel GCSE Geography, Specification B.

Please contact Mrs Jackson for further information.

GERMAN NVQ LEVEL 2

NVQ German provides an exciting, practical course which develops competence in using a foreign language in a business context. **No prior knowledge of German is needed to study for this qualification.**

What will we study?

Speaking and Listening: Telephone conversations or face to face dialogues with business colleagues.

Reading and Writing: Understanding and writing faxes, letters and emails to companies.

You will create a portfolio of work which allows for continuous assessment throughout the course with no formal examinations at the end of the year. This allows you to work towards individual elements as stepping stones to the full qualification. Units can be retaken as often as is necessary to pass and you can use your class notes to help!

- German is the most widely spoken language in Europe with over 120 million native speakers worldwide.
- A qualification in languages looks great on your CV because companies need employees with language skills.
- To trade successfully with worldwide markets, businesses need employees with languages!

Having studied a language shows that you have developed key skills, such as communication and organisation, which are vital to any employer. An NVQ in German is highly valued in the workplace and this qualification shows potential employers that you would be an asset to their firm.

Please contact Miss Hibbert for further information.

HISTORY GCSE

Modern World Study is a fascinating combination of American and British History. We study the "Cold War from 1945 to 1975" including the division of Europe after WW2, the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Vietnam War. In "Germany 1918-45" we study the impact of the First World War on Germany and the Rise of Hitler, including Nazi Germany and the outbreak of the Second World War. In "How far did British society change, 1939-75?" we study the changes in Britain caused by our involvement in World War Two. We complete the course with a piece of Controlled Assessment work on the significance of a chosen individual. This year we have studied the role of the German king in starting World War One in 1914.

Assessment is split between exams (75% of the final grade) and controlled assessment (25%).

The examination board & syllabus: OCR – History B: Modern World Study

Please contact Mr Brennan or your History teacher for further information.

HUMANITIES GCSE

The GCSE Humanities course provides opportunities for students to engage in a broad Humanities experience. The course covers topic areas in Religious Studies, Geography and History. This is a GCSE qualification examined by the WJEC Board.

The students will explore and examine issues important to humanity which include Patterns and Places, Christianity and Judaism and A Society in Change, the USA 1945-1975. The students will study earthquakes and urbanisation and the war in Vietnam as well as faith in modern Britain.

The students will complete a controlled assessment which will account for 25% of their final grade. In this assessment students will be expected to complete a planned enquiry over a number of weeks. There will be two external examinations in May 2013.

For further information please speak to Mrs Thurgood.

JAMIE OLIVER'S HOME COOKING SKILLS BTEC Level 2

This BTEC course is equivalent to half a GCSE and will be topped up to a full GCSE equivalent by studying an additional ASDAN qualification, developing life skills. The qualification is designed to develop the ability to plan and prepare a series of nutritious home-cooked meals for breakfast, snacks, lunch and dinner and how to cook economically. It focuses on giving all young people the skills to prepare delicious and nutritious foods using fresh ingredients as well as understanding the value of passing on cooking knowledge.

The course covers a wide range of skills these include:

- Planning nutritious meals
- Selecting and preparing ingredients for recipes
- Using a range of cooking skills to make recipes
- Demonstrate food safety and hygiene
- Making meals well presented and attractive for serving
- Explain ways to economize when cooking at home

All students are assessed by completion of assignments. The assignments allow the student to demonstrate that they have skills and knowledge to achieve a Pass. There are NO exams within this course.

Many students could go on to study Food and Nutrition at GCSE level or a BTEC Extended Certificate in Hospitality, building on the knowledge and skills acquired on this course. Other students will move on to employment in the Food and Hospitality industry.

For further information please speak to Miss McMorris.

GCSE LEISURE & TOURISM

The Edexcel GCSE in Leisure and Tourism qualification enables students to actively engage in the study of leisure and tourism to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.

Students study:

- The nature of the leisure and tourism industry
- Introduction to business operations in leisure and tourism
- Factors influencing customer choice
- Introduction to destinations, impacts and sustainability
- Sales in leisure and tourism contexts
- Promotion in leisure and tourism contexts
- Promotional techniques and materials in leisure and tourism
- Operations used in leisure and tourism organisation

50% is assessed by exam & 50% by Controlled Assessment.

For more information contact Mrs. Jackson.

MUSIC BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE LEVEL 2

In studying BTEC Extended Certificate in Music you will get a very practical and hands on experience that would prepare you for a possible career in any area of the music business. You don't have to be a performer or be able to read music. You just need to have a keen interest in music and a desire to get involved in working as a team to help make exciting music happen in your class and beyond.

During the course you will study four modules which will be centred on your interests and skills as a group. The course may have a greater emphasis on performing, composing or music technology depending on who chooses to join us.

If you want to progress from BTEC Extended Certificate you have the option of studying a BTEC Level 3 in Music in the sixth form.

Edexcel is the exam board, and the qualification is a Level 2 BTEC Extended Certificate.

Please contact Mrs Williams for further information.

SPANISH NVQ LEVEL 2

NVQ Spanish provides an exciting, practical course which develops competence in using a foreign language in a business context. **No prior knowledge of Spanish is needed to study for this qualification.**

What will we study?

Speaking and Listening: business through telephone conversations or face to face dialogues with business colleagues

Reading and Writing: understanding and writing faxes, letters and emails to companies.

You will create a portfolio of work which allows for continuous assessment throughout the course, with no formal examinations at the end of the year. This allows you to work towards individual elements as stepping stones to the full qualification. Units can be retaken as often as is necessary to pass and you can use your class notes to help!

Did you know that...?

- Spanish is the most spoken language in the world with over 400 million speakers and it is still growing thanks to the influence of Latin America!
- A qualification in languages looks great on your CV because companies need employees with language skills!
- To trade successfully with worldwide markets, businesses need employees with languages!

Having studied a language shows that you have developed key skills, such as communication and organisation, which are vital to any employer. An NVQ in Spanish is highly valued in the workplace and this qualification shows potential employers that you would be an asset to their firm.

Please contact Miss Hibbert for further information.

THE DIFFERENT QUALIFICATIONS

All qualifications fit into a national framework. The framework has levels that are often used to describe the qualifications needed for a particular job or course.

The table shows the framework and what the purpose of each level is:

<p>LEVEL 2 Equivalent to GCSE at grades A* to C</p>	<p>These qualifications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Vocational Qualifications at Level 2 • GCSEs achieved at grades A*- C • The Higher Diploma • The BTEC Level 2 qualifications • City & Guilds Intermediate Awards • Young Apprenticeships <p>They build your knowledge, understanding</p>	<p>They build your knowledge, understanding and skills in a subject, a specific work area or a broad economic sector.</p> <p>They enable you to use your learning in a wide range of tasks and also help you to prepare for other Level 2 qualifications and for qualifications at Level 3.</p> <p>Most employers use this level as their minimum entry requirement.</p>
<p>LEVEL 1 Equivalent to GCSE at grades D to G</p>	<p>These qualifications include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Vocational Qualifications at Level 1 • GCSEs achieved at grades D-G • The Foundation Diploma • BTEC Level 1 qualifications • City & Guilds Foundation Awards 	<p>They improve basic knowledge, understanding and skills in a subject, a specific work area or a broad economic sector.</p> <p>They help you to use your learning in everyday situations and tasks.</p> <p>They will also help to prepare you for other Level 1 qualifications and for qualifications at Levels 2 and 3.</p>
<p>ENTRY LEVEL Below GCSE level</p>	<p>All Entry Level qualifications are called Entry Level Certificates. They focus on a particular subject or area in which they develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic knowledge • Skills • Understanding 	<p>They build confidence and help people to prepare for further learning, work and independent living.</p>

THE DIFFERENT QUALIFICATIONS

There are a lot of qualifications and training options available. The guide below gives details of some of them:

BTEC

BTEC qualifications are available in a very wide range of subjects. Many have been designed in collaboration with industry, so they can equip you with the skills and knowledge that employers are looking for. BTECs are currently under review and will soon contain an element of external assessment. The qualifications offer a mix of theory and practice, and can also include an element of work experience.

BTEC Level 2 Certificate is equivalent to 1 GCSE grade A* to C

BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate is equivalent to 2 GCSE grades A* to C

BTEC Level 2 Diploma is equivalent to 4 GCSE grades A* to C

GCSE

General Certificate of Secondary Education. These are mostly two year qualifications usually taken in Years 9, 10 and 11 across a wide range of subjects. We are offering students the opportunity to study a subject to GCSE level in Year 9 by giving you the equivalent of two years' worth of lessons in just one year.

NATIONAL AWARDS – part of the core curriculum in ICT

OCR Nationals are an exam-free alternative to GCSEs which take a more practical approach to learning and assessment. These vocationally related qualifications suit a range of learning styles and are followed at Level 1 or Level 2 for all of you in ICT.

NVQ

National Vocational Qualifications, are gained by those in work, which can include those on a work placement or in a part-time job while studying in sixth form or at college. Trainees on an Apprenticeship are given paid time off for study in a local college or with a training provider. They are assessed in the workplace. There are five levels of NVQ from Level 1, which includes foundation skills needed in work, through to Level 5 covering the skills needed by chartered, professional, and senior management occupations. Employees can start at whichever level reflects their ability to do their job. We are offering you the chance to study an NVQ in Business German or Spanish.

HOW TO FILL IN THE 'MAKING MY CHOICES FORM

- Don't fill it in straight away. Wait until you have spoken to your teachers and tutor and had a chance to think about your choices.
- Please be aware that where you might opt for a GCSE or a BTEC in a particular subject your teachers may later advise you on whether a BTEC or GCSE course will lead to the best outcome for you this year.
- Please remember that we do our best to give you your choices, but we never guarantee that all courses will run. All courses have to have a minimum number of students before they can run, and some, like practical courses, have maximum numbers too.
- Try your hardest to consider everything carefully and aim to make the right choices now. Once arrangements are made for organising the teaching in Year 9 it will be very difficult for you to change your choices.
- There is an optional box on the form, called "Why I want this set of choices". You do not need to fill this in. However, if there is something that you want us to know about your choices please include it here.
- Before handing the completed form to your Form Tutor, make sure it is signed by both you and your parent/carer. Your tutor will check it, sign it and pass it to Ms Horgan for signing.
- Return the form to your tutor by Friday 10th February.

MAKING MY CHOICES 2012

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND RETURN IT BY FRIDAY 10th FEBRUARY

Full name: _____ Tutor Group: 8 _____

Preferred option choices	
1st Subject choice	
2nd Subject choice	
3rd Subject choice	

Why I want this set of choices

Signatures:

Student

Parent/Carer

Tutor

Ms Horgan