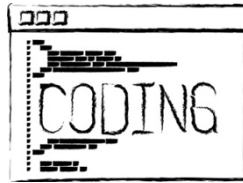


**OPTION BOOKLET 2026**



# LETTER TO STUDENTS



February 2026

Dear Student,

This is an exciting and very important stage in your education. As you move into Key Stage 4, you have the opportunity to make decisions regarding some aspects of your learning, and follow programmes of study which are of particular interest to you.

Along with English Language, English Literature, Maths, and Science, you can make choices as to which other 4 subjects you wish to study. It is essential that you take the time to think about the choices you make.

There are lots of ways you can gain information, advice and guidance to support you in making these choices. Talk to your teachers, tutor, relatives and Year 10 and 11 students; they can all help. Make an appointment with our Careers Advisors (Mrs Larkin) before, during or after school (careers office is located in the middle of the school street opposite B Cluster). Also, use the recommended careers programmes 'Careers Pilot' ([www.careerpivot.org.uk](http://www.careerpivot.org.uk)) to gather more information.

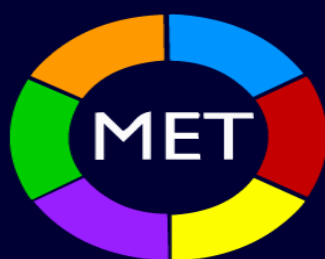
Ultimately, you should make the final decision. The most important thing is that you choose the subjects you think you will enjoy most, have strengths in, and are relevant to the career path you might follow.

Lastly, read this booklet! The information provided will certainly help you in making the first big decision towards your future.

All the best in whatever you decide to study.

Yours sincerely,

E. Ball  
Associate Assistant Principal  
Bristol Metropolitan Academy



**BRISTOL  
METROPOLITAN  
ACADEMY**

## IMPORTANT DATES



<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Year 9 Options Launch Assembly
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February 4pm-7pm</b>	Year 9 Option Evening – This will be held on site in the academy and will feature stalls with information for each option subject where you can speak with subject specialists. There will also be a talk in the assembly hall with Mrs Ball at 4pm, 5pm and 6pm, which will further explain the options process.
<b>During lessons between Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Subject teachers will speak to you about their subject(s) in one of your lessons that week and give you the opportunity to ask any subject-specific questions you may have.
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>OPTION SUBMISSION DEADLINE:</b> Following Options Evening, you will be sent a link to our online Options form. Alternatively, you can request a paper copy from student reception. It must be completed or returned by the submission deadline.

## YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

### **What is meant by guided choices?**

The Academy gives you a selection of subjects from which you can state your preferences. While we offer a range of subjects, you will need to study one of the following in your four: German, Spanish, Geography, History or Triple Science. While we want you to make your own choices as far as possible, there may be some choices you make which we feel are not appropriate for you. In cases such as this, we will meet with you and possibly your parents or carer to discuss your choice and 'guide' you towards a more appropriate selection. In this way we will try to maximise your chances of attaining your full potential across a good range of qualifications recognised by colleges, universities and employers.

### **Will my choices affect my career?**

No. Everyone in the country does a core curriculum which includes all the subjects you need to go on to higher education or employment. Universities, colleges and employers want to know what grade you achieved in your GCSEs, rather than what GCSEs you did. English and Maths GCSEs are the exceptions to this. You need a minimum of a Grade 5 (the old grade C) in both English and Maths in order to make progress in many careers, and especially if you aim to go to university.

Apart from your core subjects (English, Maths, Science) you do not have to choose a subject in Year 9 in order to study it (or a related subject) at university. The exception might be Languages, where unless you are a native speaker of the language, it is advisable to continue studying the language otherwise you may forget what you have already learnt. If you intend to study Art in the future, it may also be advisable to choose that subject so that you can start to build your portfolio. Most other subjects you can start from scratch at A Level. To study music at A Level you would have to play two instruments at grade level; sometimes this can be as high as Grade 3 – 5.

### **Is any one subject more important than another?**

As mentioned, English and Maths are the two subjects that employers, colleges and universities want to know about in terms of grades attained. Your choices all have equal importance.

### **What is the English Baccalaureate?**

The English Baccalaureate is a Government measure of achievement for a certain combination of GCSEs. The measure is made up of English, Maths, Science (including Computer Science), either History or Geography and one Language. At present it is unclear to what extent colleges, universities and employers will recognise this measure of achievement, but it is advisable to choose the Baccalaureate subjects if you intend to go on to do A Levels and then go to University.



### **What about Triple Science?**

All students will study combined Science as part of their core curriculum. This is worth 2 GCSEs but will cover all three elements – Biology, Chemistry and Physics. However, we also offer Triple Science, where you will learn additional content and depth. For this reason, we would guide you to apply only if you are both passionate about Science and currently achieving at or above age-related expectations in the subject, otherwise it is unlikely you will be allocated to it. If you choose this, it will take up one of your three option choices and you will achieve three separate GCSEs in each individual science. More information can be found on page 23. Regardless of whether you do triple or combined, you will still be able to study science at A Level.

### **How are vocational qualifications such as BTECs different to GCSEs?**

Although the structure and assessment of the course can vary, in reality they are broadly similar. The vocational courses we offer in the academy are equivalent to one GCSE.

### **If I choose a vocational qualification, does this mean I will end up having to follow a career in this area?**

No, not if you don't want to. Remember it is the equivalent to a GCSE; employers, colleges and universities want to know the grades you achieve before knowing what courses you did. With this in mind, BTECs and the impressive grades that BMA students achieve in them year on year make BTEC courses an attractive option. Indeed, a number of BMA teachers studied BTECs at college before progressing to university.

### **How will you know if a particular choice of subjects is not appropriate for me?**

All of your teachers will be asked to comment on how appropriate a particular subject would be for you based on your past performance in exams, tests and on classwork. The Senior Leadership Team collect this information together and discuss each student individually, before agreeing whether the choices you have made are appropriate. This is based on your past performance and measured against what people with similar grades to you have achieved in the past, across the country.

### **How can I decide what subjects are best for me?**

'What do you enjoy most?' is your first question. 'What am I best at?' is your next question.

'What do I wish to pursue a career in?' is your next question.

### **Who can help me decide what to choose?**

Listen to and consider the advice and guidance from your parents/guardians, teachers, tutor, Careers Advisors, older brothers and sisters, but at the end of the day you should make the final decision.

Don't pick a subject just because . . .

- ... your friend is doing it. You may not be in the same group and they are very likely to have different passions, aspirations and strengths to you.
- ... you like a teacher. You may not get the same teacher!
- ... your parents or guardians tell you to. Sorry parents/guardians, but it is important that a course is picked because the student enjoys the subject. If they are interested in the subject they will be motivated. Motivation is the key to success.

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### **IMPORTANT**

### **Am I guaranteed to get the subjects that I choose?**

Unfortunately, if there are not enough students choosing a course, we cannot run it; therefore, you may not get your first choice, but this is rare. We could limit the number of subjects we offer and make sure they all run, but then we would limit your choice.

It may be the case that two of the subjects you choose have to run on the timetable at the same time and this will mean you will have to choose between them. That's why we ask you to rank order subjects on the option form - it's important that you give this careful consideration.

## ART: FINE ART

**Qualification:** GCSE  
**Examination board:** AQA  
**Duration:** 2 years



### What will I study?

You will produce a range of work which develops skills in art and design. Two projects are delivered to cover the coursework assessment objectives. These projects will include learning new skills and techniques as well as building on prior knowledge from lessons at Key Stage 3. The projects include "Environment" and "Journey" allowing students to study a wide subject matter and tailor projects to their specific interests under these broad project titles.

Students work with an extensive range of media and techniques including watercolour, acrylic, pastel, collage, ink and printmaking.

Further opportunities with this course include trips and exhibitions. During the course there will be trips such as: trips to exhibitions & galleries, Slimbridge Wetlands Centre, Longleat's Festival of Lights and many more.

Exhibitions take place at BBA's Frame Gallery, DAC Beachcroft and Bristol Cathedral as well as here at BMA on our "Wall of Frames."

### How will I be assessed?

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% exam

The coursework will consist of two projects produced in sketchbooks with a final piece for each. This work is produced in lessons as well as homework.

Students will carry out a mock exam project and mock exam in year 10 to allow them to prepare fully and know the expectations of the final exam in term 5 of year 11. This exam concludes the course.

The art exam is ten hours long and carried out under usual exam conditions. This consists of two days in the art room producing a final piece to accompany an AQA externally set project released twelve weeks prior.





# COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

This course expands on the knowledge base built in KS3. Topics are taught in greater detail and students advance upon the skills that are needed to program different products and gain a deeper understanding of the topics taught.

**Topics studied in unit 1** are: Systems Architecture, Memory & Storage, Computer Networks, Connections & Protocols, Network Security, Systems Software and Ethical, Legal, Cultural & Environmental Impacts of Digital Technology.

**Topics taught in unit 2** are: Algorithms, Programming Fundamentals, Producing Robust Programs, Boolean Logic and Programming Languages & Integrated Development Environments.

Students will be taught to develop their capability and creativity in computer science and be able to apply their problem solving, analytical and computational thinking skills.

## How will I be assessed?

### Paper 1: Computer Systems

(Exam, 50% of final grade)

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing a student's knowledge of computer systems, networks and the impact of technology.

### Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming

(Exam, 50% of final grade)

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

A mix of short answer and medium answer questions assessing a student's understanding of computer science and application of practical programming skills.

## Is this the right course for me?

The course allows you to gain sufficient experience and practice to take this subject for A Levels, vocational courses, apprenticeships and beyond. Computer Science links well to several careers such as programming and engineering as well as work within the digital and IT industry.

Please note that you will need to opt for 'Computing/IT' on your options form. Following this, staff will match students to the course that best matches their strengths and will give them the greatest opportunity for academic success.

# DANCE: PERFORMING ARTS

**Qualification:** BTEC

**Examination board:** Pearson - Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

During the course, you will learn a range of dance styles including contemporary, street, ballet, jazz and many more. You will also have the opportunity to work collaboratively with other students and external companies during this course.

This course is a highly practical course ideal for students who have a passion for dance and music. If you gain this qualification you could go on to study a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic dance course or performing arts course.

## How will I be assessed?

Component One – Students will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance. They will explore 3 different styles of dance both practically and academically, creating a journal of your research findings. Students will be involved in workshops, recreating and developing their dance skills.

Component Two - For this second unit, Learners will develop their performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of dance repertoire as performers or designers. At the end of this unit, students perform one group piece that forms their assessment.

Component Three - This is the final unit students will take. After two years of developing your dance skills and developing your confidence as a dancer, you will prepare a group dance and record them. You will also prepare a set of logs that will support your dance. This will then be externally assessed by Edexcel.

## Is this the right course for me?

This is a vocational performing arts course with a focus on dance, designed to encourage you to consider careers in dance Professional Dancer, Choreographer, Costume and Set Designer, Dance Journalist, Dance Teacher and Youth Workers.

During the course there will be plenty of opportunities to work collaboratively, both with peers and with outside agencies. Students will be expected to perform at winter and spring concerts and there will be trips to see professional repertoire.

# DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY

**Qualification:** GCSE  
**Examination board:** Eduqas  
**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

Design and technology is part of everyday life and is constantly evolving. This course involves a focus on developing practical skills within a particular material area, allowing students to manufacture high quality outcomes. Students learn about commercial processes and careers in related industries, as well as developing core transferrable skills, such as collaboration and communication.

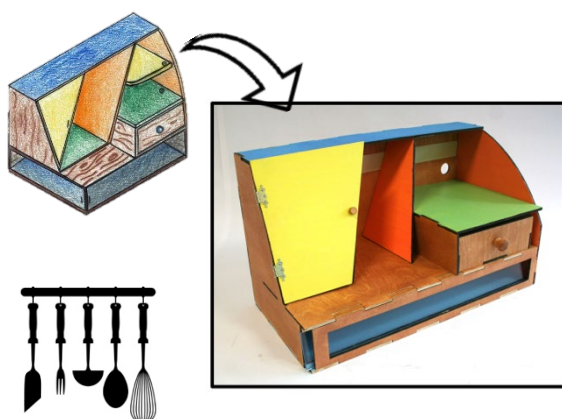
This GCSE places greater emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

This qualification is ideally suited to students who enjoy practical designing and making activities. Design and Technology encourages all students to be innovative, creative, problem solvers, team players and individual in their designing and making. Students will also get to use a range of technologies including CAD/CAM.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

The coursework makes up 50% of the overall mark. Students are given a range of projects to choose from. Their chosen project will need to be analysed, researched, designed, planned and made. After finishing the project, students are then required to evaluate their product, and suggest any modifications. A written examination makes up the other 50%.



# DRAMA

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

Drama provides excellent key skills for future employment (confidence, communication skills and creativity). Students will create, perform and respond to drama informed by their theoretical knowledge of drama and theatre. The subject content details the knowledge, understanding and skills that students are expected to develop throughout the course of study. This course is suited to students with a passion for acting and writing about theatre.

## How will I be assessed?

### Component One - Understanding Drama (40%)

1hr 45-minute exam written paper. Candidates must answer 4 mark multiple choice questions from section A. Section B is 4 exam questions on Blood Brothers (44 marks) on design, character, performance space and the whole play. Section C is a 32-mark question based on Live Theatre using describe, analyse and evaluate writing techniques.

### Component 2 – Devising Drama (40%)

Candidates required to create a script and perform devised practical work and a written 2500 word devised log (40%)

### Component 3 – Texts in practice (20%)

Candidates to perform two extracts from one play (without script) live in front of visiting moderator.

## Is this the right course for me?

The AQA specification has clear progress into AS and A Level drama and other courses in the performing arts. The course will allow you to develop transferable skills in further studies and the work place.

### Students opting for this course:

Should be fully aware that a large content of this course is writing based (more writing than acting). Must have a passion for drama, theatre and good / strong acting skills. Must have the confidence to perform by yourself in front of an audience & also work in a group (members allocated by teacher not friendship groups). Must be willing to commit to extra work, additional rehearsals and theatre visits outside of lesson time when working on performances (i.e. early morning, after school / lunchtimes). Must be comfortable with deep, emotional, serious and mature texts. Must attend theatre visits to be able to complete section C.

# FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

**Qualification:** GCSE  
**Examination board:** OCR  
**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

This GCSE course will help you make connections between theory and practice, so you are able to apply your understanding of food and nutrition, food science and healthy eating to practical cooking. This qualification will enable you to cook and make informed decisions about food and nutrition, in order to feed yourself and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

### Areas of Content

**Section A:** Nutrition

**Section B:** Food (Food Provenance and Food Choice)

**Section C:** Cooking and Food Preparation

**Section D:** Skills Requirements (Preparation and Cooking Techniques)

## How will I be assessed?

### ***Food investigation task 1- 10 hours of work - 15%***

In this task you are required to research and investigate the chemical and functional properties of a food and to carry out investigations into the foods that have been identified in the task.

### ***Food preparation task 2- 20 hours of work - 35%***

In this task you will be required to research and investigate the influence of lifestyle, age and culinary traditions where you develop menus and complete dishes for your task.

### ***Food preparation and nutrition exam- 1hour 30minutes - 50%***

This written exam will have questions from the four areas of the specification. There will be a variety of styles of question. Some of these will be short-answer questions and other will require a longer response.

## Is this the right course for me?

This qualification will allow you to go on and study in areas such as childcare, healthcare, food science and technology, food industry, sports and physiotherapy, food industry nutritionist and product development.



# GEOGRAPHY

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

The new GCSE Specification is divided into 3 topics:

### Paper 1 Living with the physical environment (1hr 30mins)

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK

### Paper 2 Challenges in the human environment (1hr 30mins)

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

### Paper 3 Geographical applications (1hr 30mins)

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork

You will undertake 2 fieldwork enquiries in both physical and human landscapes.

You will find out about the world through a series of case studies from local, national and international perspectives, covering a range of geographical issues. Case study examples could include the favelas of Rio de Janeiro, Hurricane Ian and the Amazon Rainforest.

## How will I be assessed?

The Geography course will be assessed through 3 separate examinations that will be taken at the end of Year 11. The assessments are outlined above.

Paper 3 will assess fieldwork undertaken during the course and includes a decision-making exercise based on a pre-release resources booklet, made available 12 weeks before the Paper 3 exam.

## Is this the right course for me?

The specification will look more closely at how the human and physical worlds are interlinked, and will give you the opportunity to look at how the physical environment affects our lives as well as understanding how we adapt to these environments to suit our needs. You will also gain a wide range of transferable skills such as data analysis, critical thinking and argument writing. This course requires dedication and will suit those of you who are not afraid of a challenge but who want to better understand the world we live in.





# HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

**Qualification:** BTEC

**Examination board:** Pearson Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## **What will I study?**

During the course, you will learn about human lifespan development, health and social care services and values, and health and wellbeing.

Component One – Students will explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. They will explore the different events that can impact on individuals' physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development and how individuals cope with and are supported through changes caused by life events.

Component Two - For this second unit, students will explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. They will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

Component Three - This is the final unit students will explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person-centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

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

Component One – Coursework that is Internal assessed and is worth 30% of final grade, usually completed in Year 10.

Component Two - Coursework that is Internal assessed and is worth 30% of final grade, usually completed in Year 11.

Component Three – Externally set exam taken in the June of Year 11.

## **Is this the right course for me?**

The skills, knowledge and understanding you develop through this qualification are very relevant to both work and further study. This course is ideal for you if you would like to find out more about health and social care. This course offers a practical introduction to life and work in the health and social care sector.

During the course there will be plenty of opportunities to work collaboratively, both with peers and with outside agencies.

# HISTORY



**Qualification:** GCSE  
**Examination board:** Edexcel  
**Duration:** 2 years

## What will I study?

The new GCSE specification is divided into 3 separate papers which are designed to give a broad and balanced coverage of all periods of history.

**Paper 1:** Thematic study and the Historic Environment (30% of the qualification)  
*Crime and Punishment, c1000 – present*  
*Historic environment will focus on Whitechapel*  
**Exam:** (1 hour 20 min)

**Paper 2:** Period Study and the British Depth Study (40% of the qualification)  
*Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941 - 91*  
*Tudor depth option: Early Elizabethan England, 1558 - 88*  
**Exam:** (1 hour 50 min)

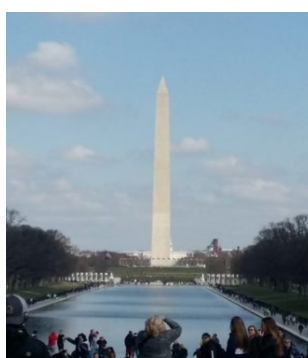
**Paper 3:** Modern Depth Study (30% of the qualification)  
*The USA, 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad*  
**Exam:** (1 hour 20 min)

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment will comprise of 3 separate examinations that will be taken at the end of Year 11.

## Is this the right course for me?

Studying GCSE History is an opportunity to learn more about how past events and people have influenced the world around us today. This subject will develop your ability to think critically, asking why and how the world around us has changed. You will develop many skills including, analysis, communication, problem solving and writing which are transferable skills essential in many careers. There are many career paths that History would prepare you for including; law, politics, business, journalism, archaeology and tourism.





# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT)

**Qualification:** Cambridge Nationals Information Technologies

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

This qualification will inspire and equip students with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the IT sector and more widely. It covers the use of IT in the digital world, Internet of Everything, data manipulation, human-computer interface (HCI) and augmented reality.

You will learn real and relevant skills for the future such as planning and designing IT solutions and products for a given purpose. You will also learn how to select the best tools and techniques to solve a problem and explore different software applications to enable you to complete the task.

## How will I be assessed?

### Examination

(External Exam, 40% of final grade)

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing a student's knowledge of IT in the digital world.

### Internally marked and moderated by OCR

(2 x Internal Assessment, 60% of final grade)

Assessment 1 involves solving a set of problems using spreadsheets

Assessment 2 involves presenting information using augmented reality.

## Is this the right course for me?

The skills, knowledge and understanding you develop through this qualification are very relevant to both work and further study. The legal, ethical and moral issues will be considered when using technology to collect, store and present data and information. The importance behind learning the risks of preventing cyber-attacks will also be taught. The skills learnt in this course are transferable and could benefit other computer-based subjects.

Please note that you will need to opt for 'Computing/IT' on your options form. Following this, staff will match students to the course that best matches their strengths and will give them the greatest opportunity for academic success.

# MEDIA STUDIES

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

The broad and balanced nature of the course means that learning is relevant, engaging, creative and accessible but challenging. It offers: extensive and meaningful coverage of media theory and concepts. The chance to study media products across a range of media platforms include: film, television, video games, music videos, radio, newspapers, magazines, advertising and marketing and online, social and participatory media.

Controlled assessment/practical work explores contemporary subject matters through short film making, magazine and advertisement design, article writing, photography and graphic design.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment: 70% examination, 30% controlled assessment

Examination:

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes (84 marks = 35%)

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes (84 marks = 35%)

Controlled assessment:

Application of knowledge and understanding of the theoretical framework (Media language, representation, audience and industry) will be assessed through ability to create a media product. A choice of one of five annually changing briefs will be set by AQA; assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA.

## Is this the right course for me?

Media Studies offers you the opportunity to gain an academic qualification in an area of key importance in the 21st century. You will learn about various media industries and have opportunities of external talks from industry professionals (Previous years include talks from ITV news, BBC social media and local university courses).

Students opting for this course:

Must be able to communicate clearly, concisely and accurately in writing due to the extended writing required in exams.

Should have the ability to analyse a range of text in detail and apply knowledge to demonstrate understanding.



# MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE (GERMAN OR SPANISH)

**Qualification:** GCSE  
**Examination board:** AQA  
**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

**Students will study the three themes of:**

1. People and Lifestyle
2. Popular Culture
3. Communication and the World around us.

**German** is one of the 2 main languages studied at BMA with a number of experienced specialists. German is a respected qualification for those who wish to pursue a career in engineering and Germany is the UK's biggest trading partner in Europe. German grammar is logical and easy to spell, so we recommend it to students who find spelling challenging. As a subject, it is well established with its own foreign language assistant and sharing of departmental multi-media resources, as well as offering pupils opportunities for contact with native speakers via the Rhineland Trip for which there are still spaces on the reserves list.

**Spanish** is the second most popular second language, after English. With some 400 million speakers, Spanish is the fourth most spoken language in the world. There are also other reasons why study Spanish. For example: to enhance your travel experiences and improve your employment potential. We aim to take a trip to Barcelona next year for students to practice in a local setting.

## How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE is an exam subject and will be assessed equally across the following 4 skills:

1. 25% Speaking (with your teacher)
2. 25% Reading
3. 25% Writing
4. 25% Listening

Students will carry out mock exams in each skill so that they are confident to do the final exam. They will stay with the same specialist teacher for consistency throughout the AQA course.

## Is this the right course for me?

A GCSE in an MFL is suitable and recommended for all students. Classes are mixed ability and students will be both supported and challenged to their personal level.

During the course there will be plenty of opportunities to work collaboratively in pairs or groups. Please note that you may only select the language you currently study.

# MUSIC

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

This exciting music course is assessed in three strands - listening, performing and composing.

Students have the opportunity to work as a soloist and as part of an ensemble (group) to learn and perform pieces of music of their choosing and a selection by the teacher. You learn about how to create your own music through studying the techniques composers use to create the music we currently listen to and we look back to see where it all came from and how music has developed and influenced the modern music of today. We look at the development of chords and melodies and we learn about various musical structures and contrasts.

All styles of music are studied from popular music to world music, classical to music for film and we look at the techniques used which makes these styles distinctive.

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Listening to and Appraising Music  
Examination – 96 marks – 40% (1.5 hours)

Component 2: Performing Music  
Two performances (one solo and one ensemble)  
Controlled Assessment – 72 marks – 30%

Component 3: Composing Music  
Two compositions (one in any style, one to fit a brief)  
Controlled Assessment – 72 marks – 30%

## Is this the right course for me?

Students who choose this course must be creative and have a passion for music. Students must commit to having additional lessons on their chosen instrument either in school or out of school arranged by student and parents/carers.

Being able to play an instrument to an intermediate level is essential on this course. Your playing ability makes up 30% of your overall grade and is also a very useful tool when you are composing music.

GCSE Music is suited to students who want to understand the inner workings of music as well as performing and composing.

This course could lead on to Music A level and university, working as a performer or in Music Education.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

**Qualification:** GCSE  
**Examination board:** AQA  
**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

The GCSE PE course is divided into two sections (1 *practical* and 2 *theory lessons per week*).

Developing Knowledge in Physical Education – areas covered include:

Applied Anatomy and Physiology	Physical Training
Socio Cultural Influences	Sport Psychology
Health, Fitness and Well-being	

Practical Performance and Developing Fitness – includes 3 practical performances, which must be a mix of team and individual sports.

## How will I be assessed?

Physical Education, key concepts and processes:

2 external exams (1 hour each) - 60% of the final grade.

Practical Performance and Developing Fitness

Controlled assessment - 30% of the final grade.

At the end of Year 11, you will be assessed in one of the following sports:

Boxing	Athletics	Badminton	Dance
Golf	Gymnastics	Rock Climbing	Skiing
Snowboarding	Swimming	Table Tennis	Trampolining

Coursework Content

You will also be required to create and complete a 6-week personal exercise programme (PEP), designed to meet your specific sport related fitness needs - 10% of your final grade.

## Is this the right course for me?

The GCSE PE course encourages you to develop and maintain an active and healthy lifestyle, which can help you with your creativity and decision-making skills in PE and your future. Both GCSE PE and BTEC Sport courses are only suitable to those who attend regular sports clubs outside school and are heavily involved in multiple extra-curricular activities within the PE department. There is a minimum expectation that pupils who choose these courses are involved in competitive school activities.

Please note that you will need to opt for 'PE/Sport' on your options form. If allocated, you will then complete a generic 4-week course in September which will include written coursework, written exam, practical assessments and independent study. Following this, staff will advise students of the course which best matches their strengths and will give them the greatest opportunity for academic success.

# PHOTOGRAPHY

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination board:** AQA

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

You will produce a range of work which develops your skills in photography. Projects are delivered to fully cover the coursework assessment objectives. These projects will include learning new skills and techniques. The projects include "Identity" and "Places" allowing students to study a wide subject matter and tailor projects to their specific interests under these broad project titles.

Students learn digital methods with our professional quality Nikon SLR cameras. These methods include exposure, aperture, lighting and composition.

A significant part of the course is learning about photographers and analysing their work and methods in order to inspire students and help generate their own ideas.

Adobe Photoshop is another aspect of the course and students will be shown how to use the program effectively and efficiently to enhance their work.

Further opportunities include trips and exhibitions. During year 10 students visit the Arnolfini where they take part in a workshop delivered by an exhibiting artist/photographer. Trips for year 10 and 11 are yet to be confirmed. However students in the past have visited Lacock Abbey (used for filming Harry Potter) and Bath City. Exhibitions take place at BBA's Frame Gallery, DAC Beachcroft and Bristol Cathedral, as well as here at BMA.

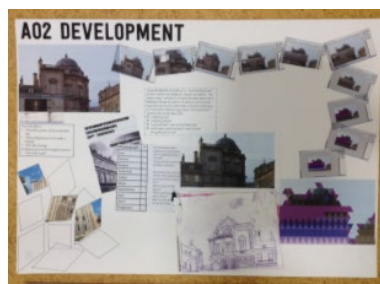
## How will I be assessed?

Assessment: 60% coursework, 40% examination

The coursework will consist of two projects with a final piece for each. This work is produced in lessons as well as homework.

Students will carry out a mock exam project and mock exam in year 10 to allow them to prepare fully and know the expectations for the final exam in term 5 of year 11. This exam concludes the course.

The photography exam is ten hours long and carried out under usual exam conditions. This consists of two days in the photography room producing a final piece to accompany an AQA externally set project released twelve weeks prior.



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES (RS)

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination board:** Eduqas

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

Students must study the following three components:

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

Candidates 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 Two: Study of Christianity

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

This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focussing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the subject content.

Component Three: Study of a World Faith

Candidates will study the beliefs, teachings and practices of one World Faith from the following list:

Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism.

This component will be assessed by compulsory questions focussing on knowledge, understanding and evaluation of the subject content.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment: 100% examination

Component One: 2-hour exam (50%)

Component Two: 1-hour (25%)

Component Three: 1-hour (25%)

## Is this the right course for me?

This course is suitable for students who are interested in the world around them. The GCSE Religious Studies qualification offers the chance to explore a variety of relevant and contemporary themes. You will learn how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that will help prepare you for further study. The best advocates for the course are the students presently studying it. Speak to them and they will tell you how engaging and thought provoking it is for students of all abilities.

# SPORT

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award in Sport

**Examination board:** Pearson - Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and skills in the following areas:

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

Learners will have 3 lessons per week (two theory lessons and one practical).

Difference - The major differences between the BTEC Tech Award in Sport and GCSE PE are the content and methods of assessment. The BTEC Tech Award in Sport has less exam weighting and more written assignments than GCSE PE. The practical elements also differ; students of GCSE PE are assessed on their performance in three sports, whereas BTEC Tech Award in Sport students are assessed in one sport and their leadership of a sports session.

## How will I be assessed?

**Component 1:** Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity (Pearson Set Assignment - 30%)

**Component 2:** Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance (Pearson Set Assignment - 30%)

**Component 3:** Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (1.5-hour Exam - 40%)

## Is this the right course for me?

Both BTEC Sport and GCSE PE courses are only suitable for those who attend regular sports clubs outside school and are heavily involved in multiple extra curricular activities within the PE department.

There is a minimum expectation that pupils who choose these courses are involved in competitive school activities.

Please note that you will need to opt for 'PE/Sport' on your options form. If allocated, you will then complete a generic 4-week course in September which will include written coursework, written exam, practical assessments and independent study. Following this, staff will advise students of the course which best matches their strengths and will give them the greatest opportunity for academic success.

# STATISTICS

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

You will study the statistical enquiry cycle, looking at how data is collected, used and presented/represented. The course includes practical investigations and you will look at how ICT can be used to help at each stage of the process. It will also show how statistical conclusions are developed through an ongoing process of testing and refinement, not a one-off event.

You will see how it is necessary to be careful in every step, from the importance of initial planning so you collect appropriate data, to the need to have clear and concise communication so that you communicate your findings clearly.

You will learn new mathematical techniques and formulae that can be used as well as building on GCSE Maths knowledge.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment - 100% exam, no coursework.

This exam can be sat at both foundation and higher tier. There are two exam papers at the end of the course which both cover the entire content. Both are:

- 1hr and 30mins
- 50% of the qualification
- Out of 80 marks
- Calculator allowed
- Containing short, medium and extended responses.

## Is this the right course for me?

In today's world we are surrounded by (sometimes conflicting) information. We see polls, averages and other numbers in news stories and other sources of information. This qualification will allow students to look at the relevance of each of these numbers and what they mean with a greater degree of clarity and understanding. It will allow them to choose which numbers to use when supporting their arguments in all areas of the curriculum and in real life.

As it has two tiers of entry, this qualification will also support students in their main GCSE Maths exams whichever level they're working at.

# TEXTILES

**Qualification:** GCSE  
**Examination board:** Eduqas  
**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

This creative and thought-provoking qualification gives students the practical skills, theoretical knowledge and confidence to succeed in a number of careers, especially those in the creative industries. Students will study a wide range of media, techniques and processes, in both traditional and new technologies including embroidery techniques and digital printing. Students will get the opportunity to create their own designs as part of their coursework, which will have been informed by a deeper understanding of textiles and the different functions and roles of textile design.

This qualification is ideally suited to students who enjoy practical designing and making activities. DT: Textiles encourages all students to be innovative, creative, problem solvers, team players and individual in their designing and making.

Further opportunities with this course include trips and exhibitions. Previous trips include: Ken Stradling Collection, Bristol Museum, The Victoria and Albert Museum in London and The University of the West of England's degree show.

## How will I be assessed?

### Assessment: 50% coursework, 50% examination

The coursework makes up 50% of the overall mark. Students are given a range of contexts to choose from. Their chosen project will need to be analysed, researched, designed, planned and made. After finishing the project, students are then required to evaluate their product, and suggest any modifications. A written examination focusing on the theory behind all materials makes up the other 50%.



# TRIPLE SCIENCE

**Qualification:** GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics

**Examination board:** Edexcel

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

Students will study the following topics to depth:

### Biology:

Paper 1: Topic 1 Key concepts in biology; Topic 2 Cells and control; Topic 3 Genetics; Topic 4 Natural selection and genetic modification; Topic 5 Health, disease and the development of medicines. Paper 2: Topic 1 Key concepts in biology; Topic 6 Plant structures and their functions; Topic 7 Animal coordination control and homeostasis; Topic 8 Exchange and transport in animals; Topic 9 Ecosystems and material cycles.

### Chemistry:

Paper 1: Topic 1 Key concepts in chemistry; Topic 2 States of matter and mixtures; Topic 3 Chemical changes; Topic 4 Extracting metals and equilibria; Topic 5 Separate chemistry1  
Paper 2 Topic 1 Key concepts in chemistry; Topic 6 Groups in the periodic table; Topic 7 Rates of reaction and energy changes; Topic 8 Fuels and Earth science; Topic 9 Separate chemistry2

### Physics:

Paper 1: Topic 1 Key concepts of physics; Topic 2 Motion and forces; Topic 3 Conservation of energy; Topic 4 Waves; Topic 5 Light and the electromagnetic spectrum; Topic 6 Radioactivity; Topic 7 Astronomy. Paper 2 Topic 1 Key concepts of physics; Topic 8 Energy Forces doing work; Topic 9 Forces and their effects; Topic 10 Electricity and circuits; Topic 11 Static electricity; Topic 12 Magnetism and the motor effect; Topic 13 Electromagnetic induction; Topic 14 Particle model; Topic 15 Forces and matter.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment - 100% exam, no coursework.

The exams can be sat at both foundation and higher tier. There are six exam papers at the end of the course which cover the entire content. Each exam paper is:

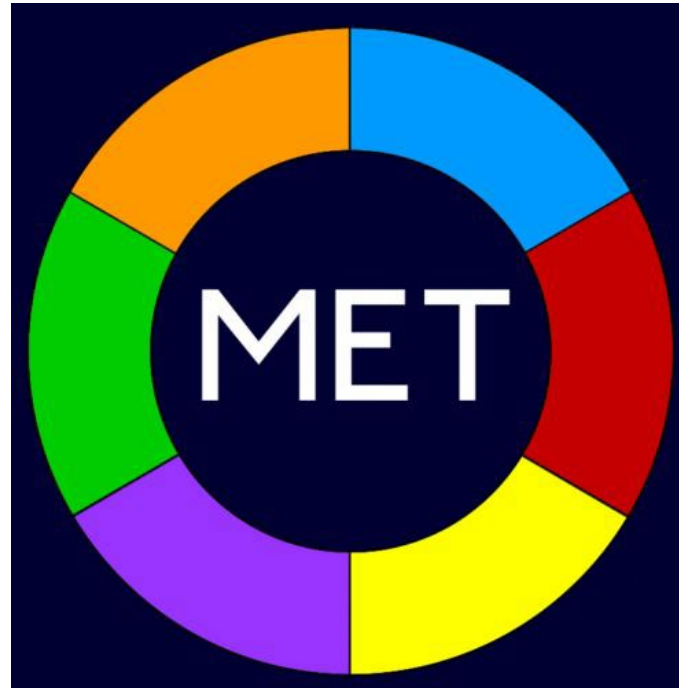
- 1hr and 45mins long.
- Out of 100 marks
- Calculator allowed
- Containing short, medium and extended responses.

## Is this the right course for me?

This course is designed to meet the diverse aims and ambitions of students – from those who simply want to understand the world around them, to those who want to progress into further in-depth science study.

Students that are at or above age-related expectations in science in Year 9 will have the opportunity to opt to study GCSE Triple Science course. This is a 2-year course leading to three GCSE 9-1 qualifications including Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

**Please note that triple science is not a requirement for acceptance onto A level courses.**



**PLEASE KEEP THIS BOOKLET IN A SAFE PLACE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

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The information contained in this booklet was correct at the time of publication but may be subject to change at any time.

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