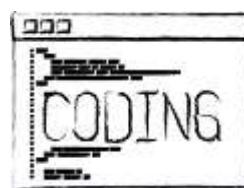


## OPTION BOOKLET 2022



## LETTER TO STUDENTS



March 2022

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, Science and a Modern Foreign Language (French, Spanish or German), you can make choices as to which other 3 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 (Mr Holmes/Mrs Shambrook/Mr Hayes) 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.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.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.

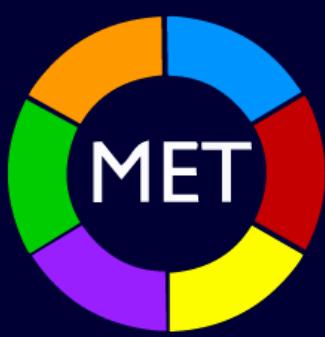
Lastly, read this booklet! The information provided will certainly help you in making the first big decision towards your future.

All the best in whatever you decide to study.

Yours sincerely,

N. Williams  
Assistant Principal  
Bristol Metropolitan Academy

E. Ball  
Associate Assistant Principal  
Bristol Metropolitan Academy



**BRISTOL  
METROPOLITAN  
ACADEMY**



## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 9 Options Launch Assembly
<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Subject presentations will be available to view online through our website to talk you through the courses and offer some more information.
<b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March</b>	Year 9 Option Evening – There will be an online presentation by Mrs Ball at 5pm, accessed through our academy website. This will further explain the option subject process. It will also be recorded for later access, if you are unable to view it live.
<b>During lessons between Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Friday 25<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>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April</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 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. 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 22. 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 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.

# OPTION SUBJECT CHOICES



## 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.



# ART: TEXTILES DESIGN

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



## What will I study?

You will produce a range of work which develops skills in Textiles. 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 'Identity' and 'Cakes and Sweets', 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 within a Textiles format. Often starting from the basis of drawing or photography, students will then determine the processes which they will use to further develop their work and make garments. Processes include screen printing, Sublimation printing and heat transfer, laser cutting, dyeing and resist printing as well as exploring many techniques using the sewing and embroidery machines.

Further opportunities with this course include trips and exhibitions. During the course there will be trips such as: 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 - 60% coursework, 40% exam project (there is no written exam for this GCSE)

The coursework will consist of two projects with a final piece for each. This work is produced in lessons as well as for 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 project in term 5 of year 11. This exam concludes the course. The exam is ten hours long and carried out under usual exam conditions. This consists of two days in the Textiles room producing a final piece to accompany an AQA externally set project released twelve weeks prior.



Textiles Design work by Rosemarie Shaw, Sharon Liu, Awa Kuluc and Justina Taiwo.

# BUSINESS STUDIES

**Qualification:** Cambridge National Enterprise and Marketing

**Examination board:** OCR

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

### Unit 1: Design a Business Proposal (Coursework)

Students will design a business proposal to meet a specific business challenge. You will need to identify a customer profile, complete market research by asking friends and family members, this will help to generate product design ideas that you will produce. You will finally work out the cost of the product then to propose a pricing strategy and determine the viability of their product proposal.

### Unit 2: Pitching your Product (Coursework)

Students will carry on working on their business challenge, then finally pitch their design idea to an external audience. During this unit, students will develop the skills needed to create a brand identity and promotional plan for their specific business product proposal developed in the previous unit.

### Unit 3: Enterprise and marketing concepts (Examination)

Students will use all of the knowledge that they have gained from the previous 2 units and will sit a 1½ hour examination. Students will learn about marketing, promotion, branding, finance, business ownership.

## How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Coursework 30%

Unit 2: Coursework 30%

Unit 3: Examination 1hour 30mins paper worth 40%. Part A has 16 multiple choice questions and Part B has both short written answer questions and extended written response questions.

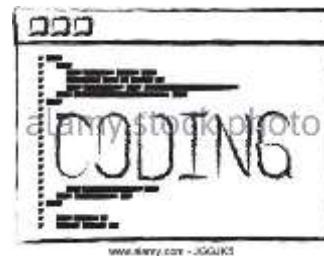
## Is this the right course for me?

This qualification will allow you to get to grips with key aspects of running small businesses with a focus on enterprise and marketing. The two school assessed units offer practical task-based assessment opportunities, alongside the examined unit which contains underpinning knowledge and understanding.

The course allows student to develop skills such as being able to work collaboratively and creatively, solve problems and have awareness of businesses and customers.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

**Qualification:** GCSE  
**Examination board:** AQA  
**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 are: Fundamentals of algorithms, Programming, Fundamentals of data representation, Computer systems; Fundamentals of computer networks; Fundamentals of cyber security and Ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy.

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: Computational thinking and problem solving

(External Exam, 50% of final grade)

Written exam set in practically based scenarios: 1 hour 30 minutes

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking skills.

### Paper 2: Written assessment

(External 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 practical problem solving and computational thinking skills.

## Is this the right course for me?

The software that are used in the course to learn programming, are well known software that are used by skilled professionals in industry. This allows you to gain sufficient experience and practice to take this subject for A Levels and beyond. Computer Science links well to several careers such as programming and engineering as well as work within the digital and IT industry.

# 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.

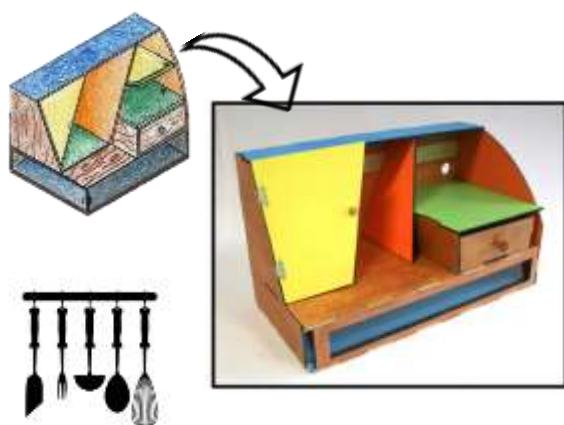
This GCSE places greater emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes. Students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

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

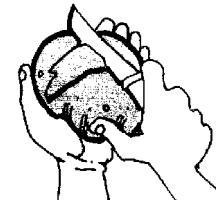
Must be willing to commit to extra work, rehearsals and theatre visits outside of lesson time when working on performances

Should have the ability to analyse texts

Must attend theatre visits to be able to complete section C

# FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

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



## What will I study?

You will gain the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook as well as learn how to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. This qualification will enable you to cook and make informed decisions about food and nutrition in order to be able to feed yourself and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

### Areas of Content

1. **Food commodities** e.g. cereals, fruit and vegetables, sugars, dairy, fats, meat/fish and vegetarian alternatives. The course will look at their value in the diet, their working characteristics, and experiments to understand changes occurring during cooking and also current recommended guidelines for a healthy diet
2. **Principles of nutrition** e.g. the role of the main nutrients in the diet, their sources, function and deficiency diseases
3. **Diet and good health**
4. **The science of food**
5. **Where food comes from**
6. **Cooking and food preparation**

## How will I be assessed?

### Component 1: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes - 50% of qualification

### Component 2: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action

Non-examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated

Assessment 1 (8 hours); Assessment 2 (12 hours) - 50% of qualification

## Is this the right course for me?

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

It is expected that students will cook every week in order to develop their practical skills and produce a wide range of high-quality dishes.



# 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 15mins)

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork

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 and flooding on the Somerset Levels.

## 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.

# 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 15 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 45 min)

**Paper 3:** Modern Depth Study (30% of the qualification)

*The USA, 1954-75: conflict at home and abroad*

**Exam:** (1 hour 20 min)

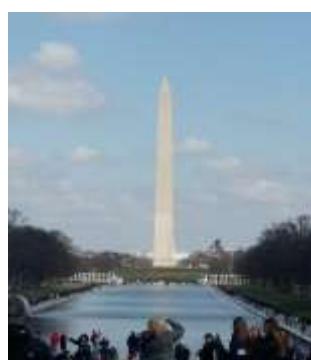
As part of our ongoing commitment to learning outside the classroom we aim to offer a range of visits, including GCSE workshops in Bristol, as well as field visits to Berlin and New York/Washington.

## 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:** OCR

**Examination board:** Cambridge Nationals

**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

This qualification will teach you what different technologies could be used, why you should use them and how to make best use of them, to gather, store, manipulate and present data; this is known as data management.

You will learn about tools and techniques for use in different digital hardware and software technologies, and how these can be integrated to create digital solutions to manage and communicate data and information. You will also learn to follow a project life cycle of initiation, planning, execution and evaluation to complete a data management task and use their skills, knowledge and understanding of technology to complete each of the phases of the project life cycle.

## How will I be assessed?

### Examination

(External Exam, 50% of final grade)

Written exam set in practically based scenarios: 1 hour 45 minutes

A mix of multiple choice, short answer and longer answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking skills.

### Internally marked and moderated by OCR

(Internal Assessment, 50% of final grade)

Report: totalling 20 hours of work

Students will produce an original report outlining this development of a computer system

## 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. A project life cycle will be followed to complete a data management task, which involves the use of spreadsheets and databases as part of a project. 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.

# 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 to attend exciting educational trips such as visits to Warner Bros Studios and the ITV Newsroom.

Students opting for this course:

Must be able to communicate clearly, concisely and accurately in writing

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



# 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. Students must attend at least 1 extra curricular music club, either in school or outside if approved by Head of Music.



# PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: OCR

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  
**Examination board:** PEARSONS  
**Duration:** 2 years



## What will I study?

Similar to the GCSE you would study areas such as:

- \* Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- \* Physical Training
- \* Fitness Components

There will also be a major focus on Sports Leadership where you will be assessed not only on your own practical performance but how well you can lead a sports session.

Difference - The major difference between the BTEC Sport and GCSE PE is the amount of coursework and exam content. The BTEC has far less exam weighting and more written coursework, but also has a higher weighting of practical performances/leadership.

## How will I be assessed?

- Unit 1: 1 hour 15 minute online exam (25%)
- Unit 2: Practical performance in two sports & coursework (25%)
- Unit 3: Internal synoptic assessment (25%)
- Unit 6: Lead a sports activity session & coursework (25%)

## 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.



# 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.

This exam 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:

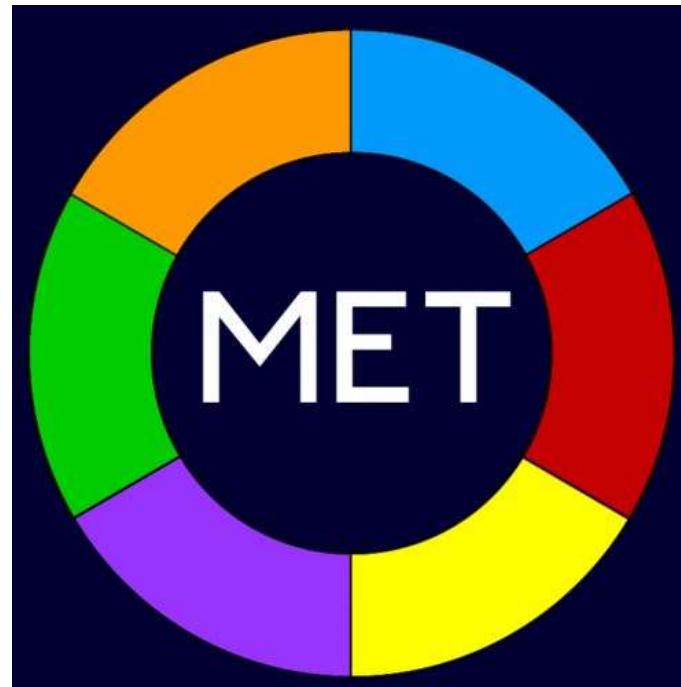
- 1hr and 45mins long.
- Out of 100 marks
- Calculator allowed
- Containing short, medium and extended responses.

## 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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