

2023

KS4

**Options
Booklet**

The Bridge  Trust
Fen Rivers



Message from the Head Teacher

Dear Year 9 Student,

Welcome to the options process for Year 9 students, parents and carers. Choosing your options for GCSE is an important stage in your education. This process allows you to think about your future goals and supports you to choose some of the subjects that you will study over the next two years. We know that it can be a difficult time and can cause anxiety because there are a lot of questions that you might have: Which subject is right for me? What if I don't know what I want to do at all? At Fen Rivers Academy we are all here to help you to make choices about your future learning that are right for you.

This booklet and the options process are designed to make this time less worrying for you and your parents/carers. They will help you to start making decisions about your learning and to choose subjects that suit your goals, skills and needs. One bit of advice I can give you through this process is to explore all the support that is available to you. Speaking to teachers will be a key part of the process, making sure you understand the course you are signing up for. Make sure you ask all the questions you want to before starting on the next two years of education. Your parents/carers will know you and may be able to provide you some extra guidance in making your decision. Talk to people who already have gone through their Key Stage 4 options process who may also be able to provide you with extra information. Wherever possible, we will do our best to ensure you are able to study your first choice in each of the option subjects. You can select options using the 'Options Form', which is part of this document. The completed form should be given to Mrs. Fewkes or Mrs. Leggett. Your options will be used to shape the curriculum next year and to help staff advise you about your choices. Please talk to the subject teachers, your class teacher, Mrs. Fewkes or Mr. Thompson.

Due to the size of our school, in some cases it may not be possible for you to access your first choice subject, so make sure that all your choices are equally something you will want to engage in. Occasionally, an option course is not for you. We understand that, however, once we are four weeks into the courses you will not be able to change a subject selected as the KS4 exam boards will have been informed of candidates.

I am sure you will be excited about planning your options and look forward to working with you over the next two years, as you achieve your goals.

Mrs. Fewkes,

Head Teacher at The Fen Rivers Academy.



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Making the right choices

Students should aim to choose a range of subjects across the different curriculum areas. This will help keep your future options and aspirations open. The following points may help your decision making:

DO choose the course because:

- It will give you a well-rounded access to the curriculum
- You enjoy the subject
- You feel you are good at the subject and you try hard in it
- It is possibly a career route that you would like to follow
- You know what is going to be happening in the subject and are ready for the whole process
- You have spoken with the teacher that is leading the subject
- You want to achieve and excel in this subject

DO NOT choose courses because:

- Your friends are choosing them – they may not be right for you
- You like a particular teacher- you may have a different teacher next year

We are always here to discuss the options process and want to help you make the best choices you can for your future. It is important to note that the information in this booklet may change when we start to deliver the courses so that the level is appropriate for the students involved.



Understanding the jargon

In 2018 the traditional grading scale (A-U) was replaced with a numerical system. In addition to this we also run a series of different qualifications based on the needs of the young people in the classroom. Some of this language will be different and has changed over the years so we have created a table that hopefully will help better explain the options that we have on offer.

The old and new GCSE grading scales do not directly compare but there are three points where they align, as the diagram shows:

- The bottom of grade 7 is aligned with the bottom of grade A
- The bottom of grade 4 is aligned with the bottom of grade C
- The bottom of grade 1 is aligned with the bottom of grade G

The Department for education recognises a grade 4 as a standard pass.

OLD GCSE	NEW GCSE	BTEC	NCFE vocational awards/certs
A*	9		
	8	Level 2 Distinction	
A	7		
B	6		
	5	Level 2 Merit	Level 2
C	4	Level 2 Pass	
D			
	3		
E			
	2		
F			
	1	Level 1	Level 1
G			
U	U		Entry 3 Entry 2 Entry 1

The KS4 Curriculum

In Year 10, lessons will be similar to the way they are in Year 9. There are still some courses that are considered 'core', that all students will be doing, for example our core PE lessons. Each subject area will have more information about what it contains later on in this booklet.

Core offer

These subjects are compulsory, and they are studied by all students. The core curriculum will be able to offer you GCSE qualifications that many Post-16 colleges will desire. These are English, Maths and Science. PSHE and Citizenship will continue to give you transferable skills that you can use in other subjects. Career studies, RE and The Duke of Edinburgh Award are also qualifications that are on all students' timetables, giving additional qualifications. PE and physical activity will continue to be delivered as core, due to statutory guidance from the Department for Education (DfE).

Option subjects

In addition to these core subjects each student will study three option subjects. You are therefore required to rank option subjects that will make up the remainder of the curriculum. Each student must indicate where they rank all the subjects (see on page 7). We will do our best to make sure each student gets their preferred choices, however, due to the size of the school it is unlikely to be all the highest ranked preferences. But we will do our best!

Core offer

English

Maths

Science

Core PE

Career studies

CPSHE

ASDAN

Duke of Edinburgh Award

RE

Personal development, behaviours and attitudes (PDBA)

Option subjects

History

Geography

Photography

English Literature

Sports Studies

Media Studies

Health and Fitness Studies

Food and Cookery

Art

Health and Social Care

Drama

Child Development & Care in Early Years

Selecting Options

Each student must rank the following subjects available. Please can you order your subject preferences as it shows below by indicating a number in the box next to the subject:

First choice subject = 1

Second choice subject = 2

Third choice subject = 3

Forth choice subject = 4

Fifth choice subject = 5

Sixth choice subject = 6

Seventh choice subject = 7

Eighth choice subject = 8

Ninth choice subject = 9

Tenth choice subject = 10

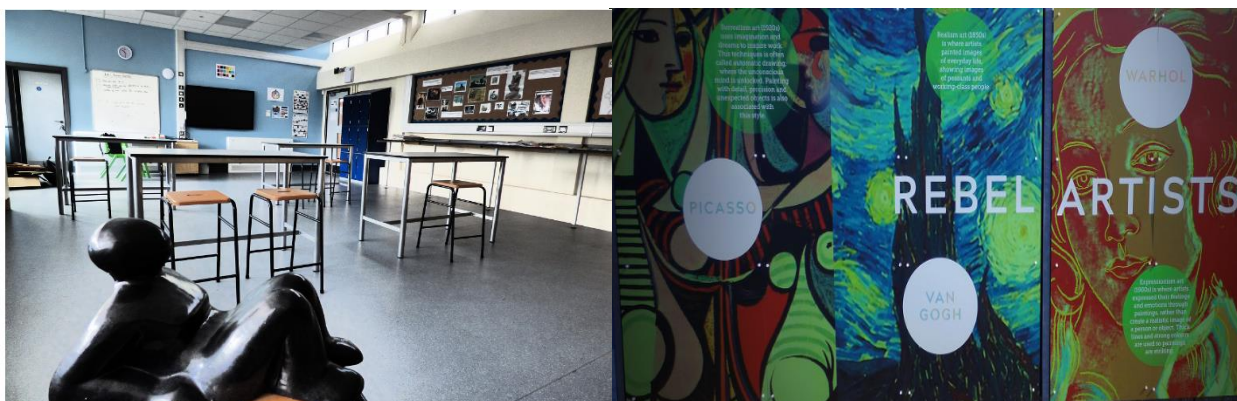
Eleventh choice subject = 11

Twelfth choice subject = 12

Subjects	Preference Number
Creative Media	
Art and Design	
Photography	
Food and Cookery	
Drama	
Media Studies	
Enrichment	
Health and Fitness Studies	
Sports Studies	
Health and Social Care	
Child Development & Care in Early Years	
Humanities and Literature	
History	
Geography	
English Literature	

Example Timetable

	Lesson 1	Lesson 2		Lesson 3	Lesson 4		Lesson 5	Lesson 6
MONDAY	English	Maths	BREAK	Option 1	Option 1	LUNCH	Science	Science
TUESDAY	Option 2	Option 2		English	Maths		Option 3	Option 3
WEDNESDAY	English	Maths		Option 1	Option 1		PE	PE
THURSDAY	Option 2	Option 2		English	Maths		Science	Careers/ RE
FRIDAY	English	Maths		Option 3	Option 3		ASDAN / Duke of Edinburgh	CPSHE



Art and Design

What will I study?

GCSE Art and Design (AQA)

During the course you will learn about lots of different ways of working in pencil, paint, print, sculpture, photography and textiles. You will investigate a huge range of Artists, Crafts people and cultures and societies to learn about how others make Art.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn how to develop a project and use a sketchbook (this could be digital) to record your creative journey. You will learn how to present a personal response, perhaps a canvas painting, a clay sculpture or digital animation.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework 60% - Exam Project 40% (Don't worry about this – it's not like a real exam!)

There are four assessment objectives and we have to show evidence that you have looked at the work of others, experimented with lots of ways of working, recorded and refined your ideas as the projects progress and presented personal responses. Coursework is all the work we do in Years 10 and 11. There is an exam project that will be completed in Year 11, usually between Christmas and Easter. There is a 10-hour exam period. This is a period of time in the art room when you make the final piece of your exam project- nothing to be worried about. It is not all at once.

What career can this lead to?

Artist, Craftsperson, Teacher, Architect, Graphic Designer, Digital artwork careers, Interior Designer, Gallery or Museum Curator.

Pick this subject if you....

are interested in being creative, like making things, enjoy looking at and learning about how other people make things, are open to new ways of doing things or like to reflect on how to improve your own work as it progresses.



Food and Cookery

What will I study?

Food and Cookery (GCSE/ NCFE)

What skills will I develop?

Independence, budgeting, meal design and planning and a wide range of cooking skills and techniques. You will also be going out on trips to buy the ingredients you need yourselves.

How will I be assessed?

Each week you will evaluate your cooking skills. At the end of each course you will complete a work pack including a cooking diary, ingredients lists, nutritional information and budgeting. You will then be assessed on one (level 1) or two courses (level 2) that need to be prepared independently with safety and with skill. These dishes will also need to be presented attractively. There is will also be a requirement to give a short presentation on the skills you have learnt.

What career can this lead to?

One of the many careers in the catering industry.

Pick this subject if you....

continue enjoying cooking or if you want to help yourself become more independent. Too many people are reliant on premade food and takeaways. You will learn to produce meals safely and nutritiously. It will also be a stepping stone onto further catering qualifications in college.



Photography

What will I study?

GCSE Photography (AQA)

During the course you will learn about how to use a digital camera and photographic editing tools as well as other photographic techniques such as cyanotypes and photograms. You will learn about a huge range of different photographers and imitate their style to progress your own.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop practical skills both in terms of taking and editing photographs. The course also aims to allow you to explore a range of ideas and approaches. You are asked to look at examples of the work of other photographers to gain an insight into genres and photographic history. You will use this to inform and influence your work and it will enable you to reflect on the process thoroughly.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Portfolio – 60%

Unit 2: Externally set task – 40% Exam mark

What career can this lead to?

Photographer, Filmmaker, Animator, Graphic Designer, Digital art worker.

Pick this subject if you....

enjoy taking photographs, are interested in being creative, like using technology, enjoy looking at and learning about how other people make photographic imagery or are open to new ways of doing things.

Drama



What will I study?

GCSE Art and Design (AQA)

AQA has built in as much opportunity as possible for students to do what they like best – participate in performance. You will explore texts practically and work on two text-based performances. You must choose to develop as a:

- performer
- designer (lighting, sound, set, costume, puppets)
- performer and designer.

Whichever option chosen, you will gather many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand your horizons.

What skills will I develop?

You will learn to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively, gain the confidence to pursue your own ideas, reflect and refine your efforts. Whatever the future holds, GCSE Drama equips you with a toolkit of transferable skills, applicable both in further studies and in the workplace.

This specification ensures continuity for students progressing from GCSE Drama to AS and A-level Drama and Theatre all college post-16 studies. You will have built solid foundations in reviewing a live theatre production and in interpreting key extracts, including writing styles.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Understanding Drama (40% Exam)

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre
- Study of one set play from a choice of nine
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Component 2: Process of creating devised drama log (40% Practical)

- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)
- Analysis and evaluation of own work

Component 3: Texts in practice (20% Practical)

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer)

What career can this lead to?

Actor, arts administrator, digital marketer, entertainer, events manager, lighting technician, live sound engineer, musician, set designer, jobs in media, social media manager, TV presenter, film producer, performing artist.

Health and Fitness Studies

What will I study?

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness. This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to Health and Fitness that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the Health and Fitness sector or progress onto further study.

What skills will I develop?

The Health and Fitness Vocational Certificate provides core knowledge to pupils who are passionate about fitness and performance – from the structure and function of body systems and the effects of health and fitness activities on the body, through to the principles of training and how to structure a health and fitness programme.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification has 2 assessments externally-set by NCFE: one **non-exam assessment** and one **written examined assessment**.

Non-exam assessment	
Assessment method	Description
Non-exam assessment Externally-set Internally marked and externally moderated	60% of the technical award 88 marks The completion time for the non-exam assessment is 22 hours. The non-exam assessment will assess the learner's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole vocational area.
Non-exam assessment availability	The learner should not undertake the non-exam assessment until all content areas have been delivered. This is to ensure learners are in a position to complete the non-exam assessment successfully. A different non-exam assessment brief will be released every September.

Examined assessment	
Assessment method	Description
Examined assessment Externally-set Written examination Externally marked	40% of technical award Written examination: 80 marks 1 hour 30 minutes a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, and extended response questions The written examined assessment is a terminal assessment and will assess the learner's knowledge and understanding of all content areas and target assessment objectives A01, A02 and A03.
Examined assessment availability	The examination date is expected to take place in May/June every year.

What opportunities can this lead to?

Further study: an A Level in Physical Education and Sport or Sports college pathway. Btec and National Certificates in coaching, sports development and officiating.

Apprenticeship: as a personal trainer or community sport and health officer.

Health and Social Care

What will I study?

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Social Care is designed for learners who want an introduction to health and social care that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the health and social care sector or progress onto further study.

What skills will I develop?

The Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Social Care will enable learners to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to the health and social care sector. The qualification will cover:

- an introduction to the health and social care sector
- professional practice and the health and social care practitioner
- human growth and development through the life stages.

How will I be assessed?

Non-exam assessment Internal synoptic project (50%)

Exam assessment: 90 minutes (50%)

The internal non-exam assessment is a formal assessment that will contribute 50% towards your overall qualification grade. It takes the form of a synoptic project that will require you to draw on your knowledge and understanding of the entire qualification, it is therefore important that you produce work to the highest standard that you can.

Career opportunities

Learners could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the health and social care sector through a variety of occupations that are available within the sector, such as lead/adult care worker or senior/healthcare support worker.

Learners who achieve at level 1 might consider progression to level 2 qualifications post-16, such as:

- GCSE in Health and Social Care
- GCSE in Childcare
- study at level 2 in a range of technical routes that have been designed for progression to employment, apprenticeships and further study

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Applied Generals
- Level 3 Technical Levels including T Level programmes (this will support progression to employment and higher education)



Media studies

What will I study?

GCSE Media Studies (AQA)

What skills will I develop?

Media is a contemporary and interactive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, analytical, research, and communication skills, through exploring a range of media forms and perspectives. On this course you will develop skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision making and analysis. Deeper knowledge of media products in relation to the four areas of the theoretical framework:

- media language
- media representation
- media industries (film)
- media audiences.

Students are required to study media products from all of the following media forms:

- television
- film
- radio
- newspapers
- magazines
- advertising and marketing
- online, social and participatory media
- video games
- music video

How will I be assessed?

30% Coursework and 70% exam – aiming to assess:

Recall of information; draw together information from different areas of media; analyse and compare how media products construct and communicate meaning and generate intended interpretations and responses; the use of specialist media subject specific terminology appropriately.

What career can this lead to?

This provides you with the foundational skills to prepare you for college or media-based work experiences such as presenter; advertising media buyer; copywriter; media researcher; broadcast journalist; Writer or film reviewer; social media manager; journalism; screen-writing.

Pick this subject if you....

are interested in how different media relates to an audience. Consider some of the careers above and how going onto specific college studies (for any of the above) will be the stepping stone into this career pathway.





Sports Studies

What will I study?

Level 1/2 Technical Award in Sports Studies

Our V Certs are designed in collaboration with employers to ensure they equip individuals with the skills the workforce needs. They empower pupils with industry-relevant skills and knowledge appropriate to a range of growing sectors. V Certs are combined Level 1 and Level 2, to recognise the achievements of pupils of all abilities. They're graded from Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, through to Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, which is the equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1.

What skills will I develop?

Focusing on a range of important and topical content areas – from ethics and technology in sport to psychology for sports performance – the qualification supports a career in sports coaching, sports management, and physiotherapy.

How will I be assessed?

Vocational Certificate Technical Awards are designed to be delivered over two years. The first year of delivery is entirely dedicated to teaching and learning, with all summative assessments taking place in the final year of study. The Sports Studies Vocational Certificate technical award is assessed by Non-Exam Assessment (60%) and Examined Assessment (40%).

What career can this lead to?

Further study: an A Level in Physical Education and Sport, or a Level 3 study programme in sports coaching at college or sixth form.

Apprenticeship: as a personal trainer or community sport and health officer



Child Development & Care in Early Years

What will I study?

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years is designed for learners who want an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the early years sector or progress onto further study.

How will I be assessed?

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 9 mandatory content areas.

The qualification has 2 assessments externally-set by NCFE: one non-exam assessment (50%) and one written examined assessment (50%).

What career can this lead to?

Learners who achieve at level 1 might consider progression to level 2 qualifications post-16, such as:

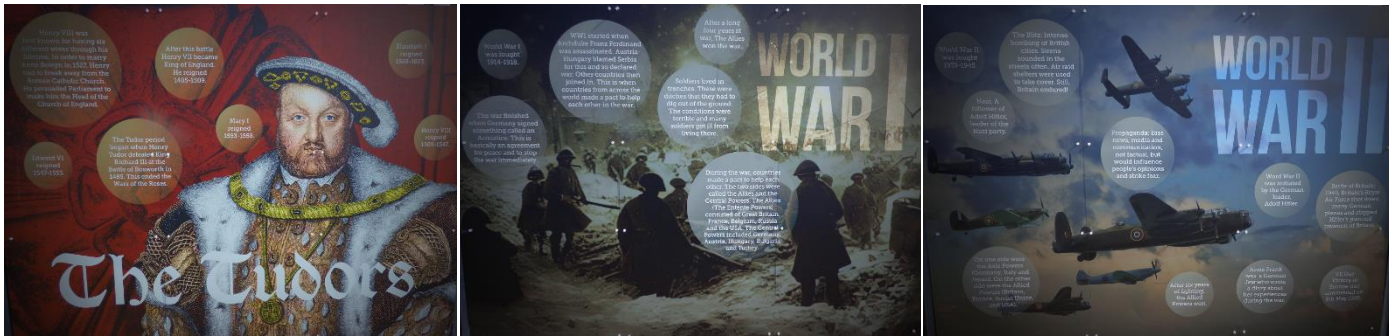
- GCSE in Childcare
- GCSE in Health and Social Care
- Study at level 2 in a range of technical routes that have been designed for progression to employment, apprenticeships and further study

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Applied Generals
- GCSE in Childcare
- Level 3 Technical Levels including T Level programmes (this will support progression to employment and higher education).

Career opportunities

Learners could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the early years sector through a variety of occupations that are available within the sector, such as early years practitioners, early years educators and teaching assistants.



History

What will I study?

GCSE History (AQA)

What skills will I develop?

Knowledge of the key issues such as historical conflicts, understanding what drives change and how the past influences the present. Be able to explain and evaluate how the world around us got to exist in its current landscape. Build on knowledge and understanding of some of the most popular topics from historic periods in time.

How will I be assessed?

All the studies from across the course will culminate in your final exam assessment papers:

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world – 50%

Paper 2: Shaping the nation – 50%

What career can this lead to?

Further studies in history at KS5 and the foundational knowledge to explore wider careers: historian; heritage museum manager; specialist tour guides; journalist; media or museum curator; archeologist; geologist; events manager.

Pick this subject if you...

have a keen interest in historic events, powerful political and warfare leaders. The enthusiasm to study the following is also really desirable: 1800s America, 1900s Germany, Russia 1894-1945, inter-war years, tensions in Asia, the Gulf and Afghanistan.



Geography

What will I study?

GCSE Geography (OCR)

What skills will I develop?

Knowledge and understanding of challenges associated with natural hazards, examining physical landscapes and preparing you with geographical skills for life. Fieldwork skills will be developed, including investigations into urban issues and challenges that exist in the world around us right now.

How will I be assessed?

All the studies from across the course will culminate in your final exam assessment papers on the following topics:

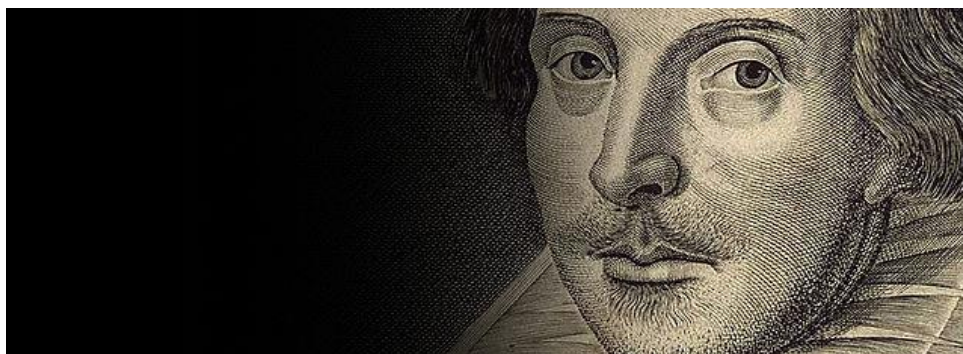
- Living with the physical environment
- Challenges in the human environment
- Geographical applications

What career can this lead to?

Environmentalist job routes, geology, climatologist, weather broadcaster, national park tour guide or management, conservationist, geography teacher, working with wildlife.

Pick this subject if you want to...

develop your communication and teamwork skills, as you'll often work on group projects. You'll also develop your research and analysis skills including in IT, lab and fieldwork, which means you will be able to collect and look for patterns in data.



English literature

What will I study?

GCSE English Literature (AQA)

What skills will I develop?

Reading comprehension and reading critically

- *literal and inferential comprehension*: understanding a word, phrase or sentence in context; exploring aspects of plot, characterisation, events and settings; distinguishing between what is stated explicitly and what is implied; explaining motivation, sequence of events, and the relationship between actions or events
- *critical reading*: identifying the theme and distinguishing between themes; supporting a point of view by referring to evidence in the text; recognising the possibility of and evaluating different responses to a text; using understanding of writers' social, historical and cultural contexts to inform evaluation; making an informed personal response that derives from analysis and evaluation of the text
- *evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features*: analysing and evaluating how language, structure, form and presentation contribute to quality and impact; using linguistic and literary terminology for such evaluation
- *comparing texts*: comparing and contrasting texts studied, referring where relevant to theme, characterisation, context (where known), style and literary quality; comparing two texts critically with respect to the above

Writing

- *producing clear and coherent text: writing effectively about literature for a range of purposes such as*: to describe, explain, summarise, argue, analyse and evaluate; discussing and maintaining a point of view; selecting and emphasising key points; using relevant quotation and using detailed textual references
- *accurate Standard English*: accurate spelling, punctuation and grammar.

How will I be assessed?

All the studies from across the course will culminate in your final exam assessment papers:

- Paper 1 (40%) - Shakespeare and a 19th Century Novel
- Paper 2 (60%) - Modern texts and poetry

What career can this lead to?

Further studies in KS5 English



Citizenship

What will I study?

GCSE Citizenship (AQA)

What skills will I develop?

Deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society. Skills in debate and recognizing modern rights as a British citizen.

How will I be assessed?

All the studies from across the course will culminate in your final exam assessment papers:

Paper 1 (50%):

Section A: Active citizenship

Section B: Politics and participation

Paper 2 (50%):

Section A: Life in modern Britain

Section B: Rights and responsibilities

What career can this lead to?

GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable young people to become thoughtful, active citizens. Gain knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society.

You will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.



ASDAN

What will I study?

ASDAN (or Award Scheme Development and Accreditation Network)

ASDAN Short Courses are flexible, portfolio-based programmes designed to accredit up to 60 hours of activity and skills development across a range of topics and curriculum areas. You will study the ASDAN Personal Development Programme (PDP) that feature twelve modules. You will work through your own student book and compile a portfolio of evidence to show what you have achieved toward the final award.

How I will be assessed?

ASDAN (Short Course) consists of 60 hours building a portfolio, required to successfully achieve Bronze Award.

Students are required to plan and review their work at key points, explaining how they have developed their skills in six areas: Ability to learn; Teamwork; Problem solving, IT skills; Literacy; and Numeracy.

These are useful resources to support my whole-school 'Personal Development' journey

The student book contains the following modules: Communication; My Community; Sport and Leisure; Independent Living; My Environment; Number Handling; Health and Wellbeing; World of Work; Science and Technology; The Wider World; Expressive Arts; Beliefs and Values; and Combined Studies.

Why do ASDAN?

Lifelong skills and technical skills are developed and recorded as evidence towards your Bronze award, including resilience, self-reflection and independent lifestyle decision-making choices. ASDAN aims to equip you with executive functioning skills that prepare you for the next part of your life

beyond school.