

Eckington School



Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

Name:

Tutor Group:

20

23

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Introduction



A broad and balanced curriculum

Year 9 is an exciting time for our students. You have reached an important stage in your school career, when you will begin working towards the qualifications that will impact upon future opportunities and your career goals. In September 2023 you will begin Key Stage 4. In Key Stage 4 you will follow a curriculum that has core subjects (those studied by all students) and options subjects. Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to choose your options subjects. This will allow you to personalise your learning so that you can begin planning for your future after you leave Eckington School.

At Eckington School we believe that it is important for students to follow a broad and balanced curriculum. This means that students should make options choices that will allow them to follow a range of subjects in a variety of different areas. From September 2023, you will get the opportunity to choose four option subjects. We are encouraging you to choose a range of subjects: from the Humanities, Modern Languages, Performing and Expressive Arts and Technology.

As part of the Government's emphasis on an academic curriculum, we do ask all students to choose at least one subject from Geography, History, French or German. These subjects form part of the English Baccalaureate or EBacc. The English Baccalaureate is not a qualification in itself, but it recognises students who have secured a 'good' GCSE grade across a core of academic subjects - English, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography, and a Modern Language. The subjects included in the EBacc are designed to provide all students with the opportunity to study a broad core of subjects, ensuring that doors are not closed to them for future progression.

If you are already interested in a particular career, going on to study at our Sixth Form or university, or have an apprenticeship in mind, you should check that your options choices help you to progress towards these goals. Our Careers Adviser will be available at the Options Information Evening, or at drop-in sessions every Tuesday lunchtime.

You should not make any choices until you have spoken to your parents/carers, subject teachers, form tutor and anyone else you think can help you make a decision. There will be an opportunity to do this at the Key Stage 4 Options Evening on Tuesday 21st March 2023.

Your options form is due in on Friday 21st April 2023.

C. Horsfield - Assistant Headteacher

An Overview

The Core: Everyone must study these subjects

- English Language - (GCSE)
- English Literature - (GCSE)
- Mathematics - (GCSE)
- Science - (GCSE)
- Character Education - (non-examination)
- Physical Education - (non-examination)

The Options: You must choose **ONE** subject **AND ONE RESERVE** from each of the mixed blocks.
All courses are GCSE unless otherwise stated.

REMEMBER: One of your options **MUST** be Geography, History, French or German.

BLOCK A

Art & Design: Fine Art
Business
Creative iMedia (Cambridge National Certificate)
Drama
French
Health & Fitness (NCFE Tech Award)
History
Hospitality & Catering (L1/2 Award)
Physical Education

BLOCK B

Art & Design: Fine Art
Business
Creative iMedia (Cambridge National Certificate)
Design & Technology
French
Geography
Hospitality & Catering (L1/2 Award)
Media Studies
Music

BLOCK C

Art & Design: Photography
Geography
German
Health & Fitness (NCFE Tech Award)
Health & Social Care (BTEC)
Media Studies
Physical Education
Separate Sciences
Travel & Tourism

BLOCK D

Art & Design: Photography
Business
Design & Technology
German
Health & social Care (BTEC)
History
Media Studies
Music (BTEC)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Students cannot pick the following combinations:

GCSE Music and BTEC Music, Physical Education and Health & Fitness.

Eckington Sixth Form Course Entry Requirements

The information provide below is the course entry requirements for A Level and Level 3 BTEC courses.

We have provided this information to help you choose your option subjects and prepare for study in Y12 and 13.

SUBJECT	COURSE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS
Art, Craft & Design	Grade 5 in GCSE Art & Design
Photography & Lens-based Media	Grade 5 in GCSE Photography. Students with a grade 6 Art & Design may only take up the course with the agreement of the Expressive Arts Leadership Team and will need to complete a two week induction programme before final approval.
Drama & Theatre Studies	Grade 5 in GCSE Drama or Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and / or Literature. Students who have not studied Drama at GCSE can still take A Level Drama..
Music	Grade 5 in GCSE Music or Level 2 Merit in BTEC Music.
Digital Film & Video Production	5 GCSEs at Grade 4 or above, including GCSE English and Mathematics.
Product Design	Product Design Grade 5 in GCSE Design & Technology. Any student not having studied Design Technology at GCSE may only take up the course with the agreement of the Design Technology / ICT Leadership Team and will need to complete a two week induction programme before final approval.
English Language	Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.
English Literature	Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature.
Film Studies	Grade 6 in either GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature or a Grade 6 in Media Studies.
Mathematics	A strong Grade 6 or Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
Further Mathematics	Grade 7 in GCSE Mathematics.
French	Grade 5 in GCSE French.
German	Grade 5 in GCSE German.
Physical Education	Grade 5 in GCSE Physical Education and a Grade 5 in GCSE English Language and GCSE Science. Students must play one sport regularly at a high level.
Sport & Physical Activity	Grade 5 in GCSE Physical Education or equivalent and a Grade 4 in GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics.
Applied Science	Grade 4/5 in GCSE Science, a Grade 4 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.
Biology	Grade 6/5 in GCSE Science or a Grade 6 in Biology GCSE and a grade 5 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.
Chemistry	Grade 6/5 in GCSE Science or a Grade 6 in Chemistry GCSE and a grade 5 in GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics.
Physics	Grade 6/5 in GCSE Science or a Grade 6 in Physics GCSE and a grade 5 in GCSE English and Grade 6 in GCSE Mathematics.
Business	Grade 5 in GCSE Business and GCSE Mathematics. You do not need to have studied Business Studies at GCSE but will need a Grade 5 in English and a Grade 6 in Mathematics if this is the case.
Geography	Grade 5 in GCSE Geography, as well as Grade 5 in GCSE English, Mathematics and Science.
Health & Social Care	5 GCSEs Grade 4 or above including English and Mathematics.
History	Grade 5 in GCSE History. Students that have not studied GCSE History will be considered if they have a range of Grade 5 in similar academic subjects.
Criminology	Grade 4 in English and Mathematics.
Psychology	Grad 5 in GCSE Mathematics and Science.
Sociology	Grade 5 in English Language.

There are no entry requirements for any of the GCSE or equivalent courses you can study in Years 10 and 11. You can choose any of the ones on offer.

Courses

The Core

English Language

Brief Outline

GCSE English Language is a vital qualification.

During this course you will:

- Read a range of fiction and non-fiction texts critically to develop an understanding of the author's craft and the effect of language and structure.
- Write for different audiences and purposes, including a creative response to an image and a persuasive, opinion piece.
- Engage in discussion and an individual spoken presentation based on themes and ideas suggested by your teacher, but made personal to yourself or your group.

Course Content

- Reading a variety of challenging fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Different writing styles to suit different audiences and purposes.
- A variety of different speaking and listening tasks including group tasks and individual presentations.

How will I be assessed?

External exam - 100%

Why study English?

- A grade 5 in English is the essential qualification for further and higher education as well as the key requirement of major employers, a significant number of training schemes or apprenticeships.
- It is a fascinating study of how society and individuals are influenced by language and how they use it.
- You will practice speaking and listening skills which are very important in further education, employment and life.

Heads of Subject

L. Little and H. Burton

English Literature

Brief Outline

You will read more challenging texts for enjoyment but also for critical evaluation. An important part of the course is developing your own essay writing skills and considering writer's methods and intentions. The syllabus covers texts from the 1600s to the present day.

Course Content

- Reading prose.
- Reading plays.
- Reading poetry.
- Learning how to identify, explain and even evaluate writers' methods.
- Learning how to explore how a writer was influenced by their own life and time and of writing.
- Learning how to make sophisticated comparisons between texts of similar and different genres.

How will I be assessed?

External exam - 100%

Why study English?

- Reading texts helps you improve your literacy skills.
- Reading texts develops your understanding of the world we live in and improves your ability to empathise with others.
- They provide you with a key skill required for most employment and further and higher education. Many university courses value English Literature as an indicator of academic excellence and a highly valued companion subject to the Humanities.

Heads of Subject

L. Little and H. Burton

Mathematics

Brief Outline

The GCSE mathematics course will allow students to develop their understanding of mathematics by working individually in pairs or in groups. Many different teaching and learning styles support the learning, including discussion, thinking time and questioning for deeper understanding. Staff use interactive whiteboards with a range of programs and presentations to model work for students. In lessons, students will be pushed towards 'Extra Challenge' activities to develop perseverance, thinking and problem solving skills.

Course Content

The syllabus code for the qualification is Edexcel 1MA1.

GCSE mathematics has two tiers of entry.

Students sit either the **higher** papers (grades 4 to 9, grades 3 allowed in exceptional cases) or the **foundation** papers (grades 1 to 5).

The content of the papers will focus on the following areas: numbers, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics, and there is an emphasis on applying the mathematics, particularly in the higher tier.

Students will sit three terminal papers in May/June of year 11. The first paper will be non-calculator. A calculator is used in the following two papers. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long.

How will I be assessed

Final examination - 100%

Why study Mathematics?

- Mathematics is an essential life skill.
- Studying GCSE mathematics develops a student's analytical, problem solving, research and logic skill as well as number ability and confidence; all desired by many employees.
- Students will use the skills they develop in mathematics in all other lessons and everyday life.
- Whether it is the planning of what to do at the weekend, using a computer or phone, watching the television, checking the weather, traveling, going shopping or going to the bank, mathematics plays a part.
- You may not use all the mathematics you learn. You may not use algebra when you go shopping, but the architects who designed the shop did, and the shop assistants who served you!
- Resilience is a key characteristic, developed by the study of mathematics and this is a highly desirable quality in the modern work place.

Head of Subject

A. Burton

Combined Science

Brief Outline

Science is a compulsory part of the national curriculum for all students up to the end of year 11 and does not need to be chosen as an option.

Science helps us to develop an understanding of ourselves and the world around us, as well as developing skills such as investigating, analysing and critically evaluating evidence. Science also develops many transferable skills including literacy, numeracy and ICT. During year 9 all students complete a foundation year in Science, at the end of year 9 the pathway each student follows is decided on - combined science or separate science.

Course Content

We follow the AQA Combined Sciences Trilogy specification (code 8464), - found at:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>.

This is a course which gives students experience in the main themes of Biology, Chemistry and Physics, along with developing skills needed to 'work scientifically'. The AQA specification says, "We have included all the parts of what good science is at GCSE Level: Whether it be investigating, observing, experimenting or testing out ideas and thinking about them. The way scientific ideas flow through the specification will support you in building a deep understanding of science".

How will I be assessed?

100% exam at the end of Y11

- A minimum of 15% of the final grade will come from practical assessment questions, based on 21 required practical activities.
- A further minimum of 20% of the marks will come from questions that test applications of mathematics in science.
- Assessment consists of six 1 hour and 15 minutes exams, 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 physics papers.
- The papers are tiered; foundation grades 1 to 5 and higher grades 4 to 9. This leads to two grades known as a linked grade.

Why study Science?

- GCSEs in science demonstrate a wide range of skills to employers/colleges. It would be an expected qualification for all young people, including those wishing to become an electrician, or beautician, and is also essential for any student who wishes to study Science A Levels, or to have a career in areas such as teaching, nursing, engineering, laboratory analysis, physiotherapy, medicine and veterinary science.
- Grade 66 or above in GCSE Combined Science is required for further study at Eckington in Science A Level. Grade 5's would be acceptable onto most BTEC Level 3 courses.

Head of Subject

H. Streets

(Non-examination)

Character Development

Brief Outline

In Key Stage 4 you will develop and strengthen your personal character during Character Development lessons once per week, key areas include:

- Health education.
- Relationships and Sex education.
- Careers education.
- Religious education.
- Financial and Citizenship education.

Character Education will be taught during:

- Ethics lessons.
- Weekly Character education lessons.
- Extra Curricular activities.
- Work experience.
- Engagement with visiting speakers and professionals.

Course Content

You will learn about:

- Different types of healthy relationships, signs of abuse and bullying consent and power.
- Manage risks and stay safe, how to lead a healthy and well-balanced lifestyle.
- Managing your own mental resilience, self-confidence and self-esteem.
- Recognise triggers and coping strategies to manage stress and anxiety.

- Issues of diversity, equality and tolerance, and your rights and responsibilities in the world, and how to tackle extremism and racism.
- Becoming an active citizen and the many ways that you can impact on the world around you; British Values and Democracy, environmental issues and financial education.
- You will learn to articulate your skills and attributes, and be fully aware of the many different career pathways open to you.

How will I be assessed?

Through the Ethics and Character programme you will actively engage in opportunities to assess your employability skills of Leadership, Organisation, Resilience, Initiative and Communication (LORIC) and wider Personal Development opportunities.

Why study Character Development?

By participating in Character Education, we hope that you will be well prepared to contribute positively to your community, and have happy, fulfilling and meaningful relationships with others.

Head of Subject

L. Moor

(Non-examination)

Physical Education

Brief Outline

Core Physical Education is designed to encourage physical activity and a healthy lifestyle and help you to develop a positive attitude to all aspects of physical activity. Although you do not get assessed in core PE we still aim to develop all learners with regards to their skills, health and personal development.

In KS4 we focus on developing key life skills; leadership, decision making, resilience, communication, respect, critical evaluation and teamwork

You will receive a single lesson each week in year 10 and 11. Throughout the key stage you will be given opportunities to participate in regular activities to help you achieve a healthy lifestyle.

Course Content

Throughout the year you will have some involvement in the decision making process of what activities you would like to do based on the facilities your class has been allocated.

There will be at least 2 occasions when you will be timetables outside.

When making your choice, you should consider the following very carefully.

- Which activities will you be most successful in?
- If you are doing GCSE Physical Education which activities do you need to practice and know more about to improve your grade?
- In which activities would you like to develop your ability and knowledge, so that you can take part in them outside of school?
- Are there any new activities you would like to try?
- Do you need to improve your fitness? Which activities will help you to do this?

Head of Subject

S. Clarke

Courses

Mixed Options

Fine Art

Brief Outline

You will develop your skills in drawing, practical experimentation, designing, research, discussion and analysis of your own and other artists' work. Each unit of coursework and the final examination will involve completing preparation work followed by a more ambitious final piece.

Course Content

- Introductory workshops in a range of media including painting, printing, design, drawing, Photo-editing and mixed-media.
- **Pop Art project:** exploring artists who have been inspired by popular culture. This will involve exploration of the visual elements.
- **Ordinary & Extraordinary:** A mixed-media project which gives you the opportunity to explore different materials to create art work which transforms the ordinary into the extraordinary.
- **Expressive portraits:** Large-scale painting project influenced by the work of artists that have used the portrait to express their emotions.
- **Identity:** Exploring imaginative ways artists communicate the theme of identity and selecting materials and techniques to communicate a personal response.
- Develop skills in writing for annotation and using key vocabulary.
- There will be an emphasis on drawing from observation to support the development of your ideas in art.

Transferable skills you will learn:

- A creative approach to problem solving.
- Consider & develop original ideas.
- Analyse critically your own and the work of others.
- Express individual thoughts and choices.
- Take risks, experiment and learn from your mistakes.

For the final examination you will be set a question paper with different themes to choose from. You may work with a material of your own choice. You will have seven weeks to prepare for this followed by ten hours to complete the final piece.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 40%

Controlled assessment - 60%

Why study Art & Design: Fine Art?

- Art and design is everywhere: from the furniture we sit on, to the video games we play and the clothes we wear. Because of its importance in the modern world, training in art and design can open up opportunities in many careers.
- The skills developed in art and design, e.g. creativity, self-expression, presentation, can be applied to all your subjects and in employment.
- You can continue to study art and design at Level 3, and the subject is widely recognised by colleges and universities.

Head of Subject

H. Partridge

Photography

Brief Outline

You will develop your photographic and digital processing skills, research and analysis of your own and other photographers' work. Each unit of coursework and the final examination will involve preparation work, followed by a more refined series of final prints.

Course Content

- Introductory workshops exploring experimental camera, Photoshop and lighting techniques.
- **Surreal project:** You will take photographs, research artists and use Photoshop to manipulate images which explore the imaginative world of dreams.
- **Red project:** You will take photographs, research artists and film makers and use Photoshop to manipulate images which explore symbolism.
- **CD project:** You will explore stop motion, long exposure and drawing with light to create CD cover designs.
- **Vintage project:** You will research the work of artists and use this influence to create your own vintage style photographs using a digital camera and Photoshop.
- **Reflections project:** You will explore how to create reflections with in camera experimentation, post-production experimentation and physical editing techniques.
- Develop skills in writing for annotation and using key vocabulary.

Transferable skills you will learn:

- A creative approach to problem solving.
- Consider & develop original ideas.

- Analyse critically your own and the work of others.
- Express individual thoughts and choices.
- Take risks, experiment and learn from your mistakes.

For the final examination you will be set a question paper with different themes to choose from.

Your work may take various forms, from studio to outdoor photography and image manipulations using computer software. You will have seven weeks to prepare and this preparation will form part of the assessment followed by ten hours to complete the final piece.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 40%

Controlled assessment - 60%

Why study Art & Design: Photography?

- Art and design is everywhere: from the furniture we sit on, to the video games we play and the clothes we wear. Because of its importance in the modern world, training in art and design can open up opportunities in many careers.
- The skills developed in art and design, e.g. creativity, self-expression, presentation, can be applied to all your subjects and in employment.
- You can continue to study art and design at Level 3, and the subject is widely recognised by colleges and universities.

Head of Subject

H. Partridge

Brief Outline

In Business you will learn to develop an enterprising mind. Business is an engaging and inspiring course which reflects the demands of a fast paced and dynamic business environment. You will learn about real businesses and how they compete and stay competitive by regular use of up to date case studies and video clips.

You will learn essential business terminology and theories and then apply them to solve business problems. In class Business students regularly work in teams to solve problems and present research and ideas.

Course Content

Two Key themes will be explored:

Theme 1 - Investigating small business.

Theme 2 - Building a business.

- What is involved in being an entrepreneur and how to start your own business.
- How to spot a business opportunity and how to successfully put it into operation.
- How to make your business start-up effective.
- How to manage your business through effective marketing, sound financial control, staff management and efficient production.
- How your business can be affected by events outside of your control

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 100%

Why study Business?

- Business skills are employability skills. All aspects of business will help you with the 'world of work' in the future.
- Everyone is involved in businesses, either as a customer or as an employee, or perhaps as an owner!
- If you want to set up your own business. Are you the next Lord Alan Sugar.
- GCSE Business provides an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers such as accountants, personnel work, marketing, merchandising, banking, business management, advertising or the leisure industry.
- This is a successful course. The past exam results speak for themselves.
- With GCSE Business you will easily be able to go on to study A Level Business at Eckington in the Post 16 centre.

Head of Subject

L. Moor

Cambridge National Certificate In Creative iMedia

Brief Outline

The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will equip students with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as planning and reviewing, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

The learner will have the opportunity to work with creative multi-media packages developing websites and graphics.

Course Content

- Creating digital graphics.
- Pre-production and planning skills.
- Computer systems.
- Creating interactive multimedia products.
- Fundamentals of ICT security.
- Planning, design and development of websites.
- Using action script.

How will I be assessed?

Examinations - 25%

Non-exam assessment - 75%

Why study iMedia?

- Learn about how computers work rather than just how to use them.
- Preparation for AS/A2 computing and a career in ICT.
- You will be encouraged to unlock your creativity and design skills.
- You will learn how to plan projects, analyse problems and come up with solutions.
- Create media packages for animation and stop motion.
- There is a substantial amount of independent work.

Head of Subject

C. Hendzell

Design & Technology

Brief Outline

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment.

Course Content

Practical application of:

- Core technical principles.
- Specialist technical principles (Timber based products).
- Designing and making principles.

Task(s)

Substantial design and make task. Students will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

Assessment criteria:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities.
- Producing a design brief and specification.
- Generating design ideas.
- Developing design ideas.

- Realising design ideas.
- Analysing & evaluating.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 50%

Coursework - 50%

Why study Design & Technology?

- Design and Technology will prepare you for tomorrow's rapidly changing world. You will be encouraged to think creatively and provide solutions that will improve our quality of life.
- Design and Technology builds on your ability to work successfully as an individual or as part of a team.
- Finally, the practical skills gained in Design and Technology - along with the creative element of the subject - will open up a number of vocational pathways after key stage 4.

Head of Subject

C. Hendzell

Brief Outline

You will develop performance skills through practical workshops. You will learn how to successfully devise plays and perform scripts. You will also experience a wide range of live theatre. In addition to this there is a large emphasis on written work in both exam and coursework formats. Therefore students will be required to explore their ideas practically and then learn how to write down their ideas in essay format.

Course Content

You will study:

- **Devising drama** - Students will create a piece of drama from a stimulus and complete a piece of reflective writing evaluating their practical process and final performance.
- **Scripted play** - Students will rehearse and perform a scripted piece of drama for a live audience and a visiting examiner.
- **Blood Brothers:** a scripted play explored practically and assessed in a written exam.
- Written evaluation of live performances assessed in a written exam.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 40%

(written examination)

Devised Practical Coursework - 10%

(internally marked and externally moderated).

Devised Written - 30%

(internally marked and externally moderated).

Scripted Performance - 20%

(External examiner visits school).

Why study Drama?

- There are specific jobs in the performance industry such as set designer, theatre administrator, make-up artists, as well as acting itself.
- To develop life skills, such as self-confidence, resilience and co-operation, needed in any job.
- To develop your communication skills. You will learn how to communicate your ideas - verbally and written. These are highly valued by employers, sixth forms or further education colleges.
- Improves your literacy skills.

Head of Subject

K. Needham

Geography

Brief Outline

Geography will involve you studying the processes that help form the human and physical environment around us and across the world. To do this you will learn evidence of case studies about real places where you will become aware of the decisions that affect the lives of real people, including yourself! You will have the opportunity to experience a range of teaching and learning styles and you will frequently use a variety of information sources including the internet, interactive whiteboard software, text books and working in groups to develop field work skills. The skills developed within geography are some of the broadest of any subject you could study. An important part of the course will be to undertake multiple fieldwork opportunities in contrasting environments, analyse the data and sit an exam that requires you to reflect on your findings and experiences. A small charge will be required to cover the cost of transport for the fieldwork visits during the course. A revision guide to cover the whole subject is available and will be required to complete the course. This can be purchased through school.

Course Content

Our new specification is an exciting opportunity to study geographical concepts that enhance our understanding of how the world around us works. We cover:

- Natural hazards such as tropical storms, earthquakes and climate change.
- The living world including rainforests and deserts.
- Coastal and river landscapes in the UK.
- Urban issues and challenges.
- The changing economic world, including international trade.
- The challenge of resource management, including water, food and energy.
- Geographical fieldwork in multiple environments.
- A range of scientific, mathematical and statistical techniques to analyse data.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 100%

Why study Geography?

- Studying geography helps develop an awareness of what really matters in the world today and tomorrow. It will help you to understand what is in the news and to appreciate the causes of changes which affect us and others.
- These are skills valuable to employers, trainers and those in further and higher education. Geography has been rated as one of the top qualifications that employers are looking for. As a result the range of jobs and careers you could enter into is wide, including information technology, financial management & banking, planning, transport, retail, travel and tourism, environment and energy conservation. Your teacher will link the different topics you cover to future employment opportunities in that area.
- There has never been a better time to study geography. With growing interest in issues such as climate change, migration, environmental degradation and social cohesion, geography is one of the most relevant courses you can study. Geography students hold the key to the worlds problems.
- Geography is a very successful subject at Eckington, with growing numbers of students achieving 8 and 9 grades each year. A significant number of our GCSE students stay with us for A Level Geography which is a successful subject at A Level. With a high number that go to university to study related subjects. We have a strong track record of sending A Level students to the top Geography departments in the UK

Head of Subject

B. Jessop

Health & Fitness

Brief Outline

This course is taught both in theory lessons and through practical application. The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness is a vocational equivalent of GCSE qualifications. The course is appropriate for learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands on experiences and through content which is concrete and related directly to those experiences. The NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness is a level 2 equivalent of GCSE qualifications.

Course Content

Unit 1 - introduction to body systems and the principles of training.

This unit provides learners with the underpinning knowledge and understanding required for health and fitness. Learners will develop their knowledge and understanding of the structure and function of key body systems. Learners will know and understand the short - and long-term effects that health and fitness activities can have on the body. Learners will know and understand the components of fitness and the principles of training.

Unit 2 - Preparing and planning for Health and Fitness.

This unit provides learners with the knowledge and understanding to be able to prepare and plan for health and fitness. Learners will know and understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness and be able to apply health and fitness analyses to set goals. Learners will know and understand how to test and develop components of fitness. Learners will know and understand how to structure a health and fitness programme and how to prepare safely for health and fitness activities.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 01 - 40% weighting - Externally assessed: written examination (externally marked).

Unit 02 - 60% weighting - Internally assessed: synoptic project (externally quality assured).

Please note:

Students can choose a preferred course from GCSE Physical Education and NCFE Health & Fitness. A final decision about which course individual students follow will be decided by the Head of Subject and will be based upon assessments to determine the most appropriate course to achieve greater success for the individual. Students may also be transferred onto NCFE Health & Fitness after the first assessment window.

Head of Subject

S. Clarke

Health & Social Care

Brief Outline

If you are interested in working in the health and social care sector; or want to care for and help others, this may be the course for you. This course gives you the background knowledge and skills needed by anyone considering a career working with people.

The BTEC Tech Award is an introduction to vocational learning. This qualification gives you the opportunity to build skills which show an aptitude for further learning both in the health and social care sector and more widely.

Course Content

You will:

- Gain an understanding of growth and development across the life stages.
- Explore the events that can impact on an individual's physical, intellectual, emotional and social development.
- Understand how individuals cope and are supported through a range of life events.
- Assess the types of health and social care services and their barriers to access.
- Understand the skills, attributes and values required to provide good care.
- Assess what good health looks like for a range of different people and backgrounds.
- Interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators of health.
- Design plans to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

How will I be assessed?

Components 1 and 2 - assessed through non-exam (internal assessment).

Component 3 - assessed through a synoptic (external exam).

Why study Health & Social Care?

- Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK.
- Good progression routes for sixth form and college.
- Mix of assessment methods.
- It provides an opportunity to apply learning to a vocational sector.

Head of Subject

J. Trueman

Brief Outline

Sometimes working in teams, in pairs or individually, history will involve a range of learning methods to help you learn information about the past. You will develop important skills such as making sense of lots of information and structuring extended answers and evaluating historical sources. This will allow you to understand historical arguments and form your own opinions supported with evidence. This course will be of interest to those wishing to study history either because they find history interesting, or because they wish to build a portfolio of academic subjects at examination level. It is **important** for **ALL** potential GCSE students to realise that they must be ready and willing to do **a lot of reading and writing**. If you positively do enjoy this kind of work, then you will find GCSE History to be a rewarding experience. If you **do** not, then you are likely to find History quite challenging. History is, at the end of the day, a **written** subject.

Course Content

This course is diverse and, therefore, there should be something for everyone. It builds upon both the skills and content of our KS3 course. Around 50% is on British History: a thematic study of Britain over time from the medieval period to the modern day and a depth study on the Restoration Period. One part of this will include a site study - a castle or stately home or something similar. Another element is international history in the 20th century: the causes of World War II. In addition, there will be a study of American History in the 20th century. Students who have enjoyed the content of their history lessons in KS3 will probably enjoy this course.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 100%

Why study History?

- History has been a very successful subject here at Eckington. In 2022, almost a quarter of students achieved a grade 7 or higher.
- History is taught by subject specialists who are completely reliable in terms of expertise and commitment. The entire curriculum from Y7 to Y13 works as a whole and, thus, students begin working towards their GCSE grade on day 1 of Y7. As a result, we have a 100% pass rate for students who take History further than GCSE and continue to a full A level.
- A BBC survey suggested that history develops the exact skills employers are looking for: communication in writing and speech; team work; analyse and make sense of different information.
- These qualities are highly valued and will open doors for careers in law, journalism, the media, the civil service, business management, social work and public services.
- It is highly valued by further and higher education institutions because it develops a strong academic foundation to build upon.

Head of Subject

E. Bell

Hospitality and Catering

Brief Outline

This exciting and creative course focuses heavily on the practical aspect of food. The students will be taught a wide range of skills including all the cake making methods, range of pastries including choux, rice and pasta based dishes, filleting fish and cutting chicken for sauté. They will study all aspects of the hospitality and catering industry including businesses that provide food, beverages and accommodation. They will get to run a restaurant at school and be involved in catering events.

Course Content

You will learn:

- The skills necessary to enable you to prepare, cook and store a range of different foods using a variety of methods.
- Principles of nutrition.
- Diet and good health.
- The structure of the hospitality and catering industry.
- How hospitality and catering businesses operate.
- Health and safety including food bacteria.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 40%

Controlled assessment - 60%

The controlled assessment is based around a brief provided by the examination board. The student will suggest dishes appropriate for the brief and research the nutritional value of the foods. They will select two dishes with accompaniments and produce a time plan and cook the foods in a 3 hour session.

Why study Hospitality and Catering?

- It encourages creative thinking and is ideal for young people with a passion for creating food of all different types.
- It provides a strong foundation for a career in either catering or the food technology industry.
- It teaches and gives students opportunities to learn essential life skills.

According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with the majority of new roles falling with the 18 - 24 age groups.

Important To Note

Please note with this course students are required to bring in the ingredients for practical lessons that will be carried out on a regular basis. As the course develops and they become more experienced they may be making more than one product. **When considering this subject parents/careers must take into account that we need your support in providing these ingredients.** Students cannot achieve unless they carry out the necessary practical tasks.

Head of Subject

C. Hendzell

Media Studies

Brief Outline

The current AQA GCSE Media Studies course attracts a large number of students every year because it makes learning interesting, challenging and creative. This subject has a close link to English and will help you develop your writing and analysis skills during each topic. A practical element also features heavily in media and here we hope to develop your design skills and your ability to use Photoshop. You will also be expected to take your own photographs as part of your design work.

Course Content

Across the two-year course, you will study a range of Close Study Products to prepare you for the two exam papers you will sit at the end of the course.:

In Y10 you will study topics such as:

- Advertising (print, online and broadcast).
- Magazines and newspapers.
- Video games.
- Online, social and participatory media.
- Television serial dramas.

In Y11 you will study topics such as:

- Music videos.
- Film marketing and promotion.
- Radio.

How will I be assessed?

External examination - 70%

Controlled assessment - 30%

Why study Media Studies?

- It helps to develop an appreciation and critical understanding of the role of the media in daily life.
- It combines practical and theoretical knowledge and skills through opportunities for personal engagement and creativity.
- It encourages an understanding of how to use key media concepts to analyse media products and their various contexts.
- It prepares students to study other media-related subjects at Level 3.

Heads of Subject

B. Lewis and R. Mabbs

French or German

Brief Outline

In GCSE French or German, you will continue to develop your skills in speaking and writing and also in understanding both written and spoken language. Similar to Key Stage 3, lessons will include lots of practice of these skills in the foreign language but as you become more confident, you will learn to speak and write more accurately, with greater spontaneity and at greater length. In addition, you will become more confident with dealing with foreign language texts and conversations which are longer and more complex.

Course Content

Theme 1: Identity and culture.

Theme 2: Local area, holiday and travel.

Theme 3: School.

Theme 4: Future aspirations, study and work.

Theme 5: International and global dimensions.

How will I be assessed?

There are four externally assessed examinations at the end of the two-year course.

Listening - 25%

Understand and respond to spoken language.

Speaking - 25%

Communicate and interact in speech.

Reading - 25% Understand and respond to different types of written language and translate to English.

Writing - 25%

Communicate in writing and translate to French or German.

Why study a Modern Language?

- Learning a language can help you develop a variety of skills such as communication and presentation skills, problem solving, organisational skills, resilience and independence.
- You will discover so much! Not only will you be more open to a whole new culture, you'll be able to meet thousands of other people thanks to your extra language. No one knows where life will take us, and knowing an extra language might just make your life completely different.
- Speaking an additional language could improve your future job prospects. There are countless opportunities in an almost limitless range of jobs for people with language skills at all levels.

Heads of Subject

D. Close (French) and L. Staley (German)

Brief Outline

You will learn about basic musical composition and be expected to create and write your own music. You will study music notation and use this or tab to notate your work. You will be expected to complete 2 full compositions, one of which you will have to evaluate under exam conditions, and will need to be able to read and write music. You will also be required to submit one solo performance and one ensemble performance and perform in concerts or assemblies. You must be up to grade 2 standard instrumentally due to these performance requirements. As well as the practical aspects of the course you will study the history of music and different genres around the world in preparation for the listening exam.

Course Content

You will study:

- Ensemble and solo performance skills
- Composition techniques.
- Music theory, The Western Classical Tradition, Popular Music of the 20th and 21st Century and World Music.
- A written appraisal based on a set work (Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910 Mozart Clarinet Concerto in A major, 3rd movement, Rondo, and Little Shop of Horrors, specifically looking at the following tracks: Prologue, Mushnik and Son and Feed Me).

You will record 1 solo piece and 1 ensemble piece for assessment, and you must write 2 pieces of music. This is why students must be up to grade 2 standard and be able to read and write music.

How will I be assessed?

Examination - 40%

Performance - 30%

Composition - 30%

Why study Music?

- Music allows you to develop skills such as self-confidence and creativity. You will demonstrate that you can work independently as well as a member of a group.
- It is an excellent way to further your instrumental ability and creative skills.
- A qualification in music is essential if you wish to study music technology or music at A Level.

Important information

Students can choose a preferred course from GCSE Music and BTEC Music. For GCSE Music, students **MUST** be able to read and write music and be a minimum of grade 2 standard with an instrument due to the way in which GCSE Music is assessed. Students not at this standard **WILL NOT** be allowed to study GCSE Music. Please see a Music teacher if unsure.

Heads of Subject

K. Needham and J. Marriott

Music Practice

Brief Outline

BTEC focuses on developing students' skills as a musician in line with what is relevant to the music industry. It allows students to develop their own style and skills in a way which is personalised to their own goals as a musician. Students will study a range of skills that are relevant to gaining employment in the current music industry through practical modules that mirror industry standard practice.

Course Content

You will study:

- Performance skills.
- Instrumental and vocal skills.
- Composition techniques.
- Developing and improving musicianship.
- Exploring and undertaking tasks in line with industry standard practice.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework - 100%

The course consists of six coursework modules that focus on different aspects of music performance and music technology. These will be assessed through live performance, submission of recorded work and written evidence to support their practice.

Why study Music?

- Music allows you to develop skills such as self-confidence and creativity. You will demonstrate that you can work independently as well as a member of a group.
- It is an excellent way to further your instrumental ability and creative skills.
- A qualification in music is essential if you wish to study music technology or music at A Level.

Important information

Students can choose a preferred course from GCSE Music and BTEC Music. A final decision about which course individual students follow will be decided by the Leader to Teaching and Learning. This decision will be based upon the most appropriate course to achieve greater success for the individual. For BTEC Music, students **MUST** be actively playing an instrument. The modules for the course will be finalised in relation to the cohort to ensure that the course best reflects their interests..

Heads of Subject

K. Needham and J. Marriott

Physical Education

Brief Outline

The course is taught through both practical and theory lessons. A wide range of teaching and learning methods will be used such as presentations, videos, worksheets, and internet sources. During the course you will also develop your understanding and ability in a range of sports; you will be assessed performing practically in these activities.

Course Content

Component 1

Physical Factors Affecting Performance - Examined unit

You will look at the way in which the parts of the human body work and function during physical activity and the long and short term effects of training and diet on these systems.

You will also study the principles of training, why we train in different ways and how training plans can be made to optimise results.

You will need to collect and use data.

Component 2

Socio-cultural Issues and Sports Psychology - Examined Unit

Socio-cultural issues to include: how sport is organised, how and what factors affect participation, strategies to improve participation, commercialisation of sport, drugs in sport, violence in sport, and ethics in sport.

Sports Psychology factors to include: Classification of skill, what is skill, goal setting, mental preparation, guidance and feedback.

Health, fitness and well being to include: What is meant by health, fitness and well being, diet and nutrition.

Component 4

Performance within Physical Education

Practical performance of **three** sports or activities; one team, one individual and one free choice from either list.

IMPORTANT - Students **MUST** be regularly competing/performing in at least 1 sport outside of school.

This component is assessed by class teacher but externally moderated.

Component 5

Analysis and Evaluation of Performance

This component draws upon knowledge, understanding and skills learnt on course. You will need to look at your strengths and weaknesses in one sport and produce an action plan to improve performance. This does not have to be the same sport or activity that was undertaken in part one, although it can be.

This component is assessed by class teacher but externally moderated. .

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 Examination - 30%, 1 hour exam (60 marks)

Component 2 Examination - 30%, 1 hour exam (60 marks)

Component 4 Practical Performance - 30%, (60 marks)

Component 5 Analysis % Evaluation of Performance - 10%, (20 marks)

Physical Education cont...

Why study GCSE Physical Education?

- The course will benefit you if you are considering careers in teaching, coaching, the armed forces or uniformed services, physiotherapy, personal training or sports technology.
- The course gives you the opportunity to develop physically and academically.
- The practical lessons serve as a stress release and the opportunity to develop personal fitness levels.

Important information

Students can choose a preferred course from GCSE Physical Education and NCFE Health & Fitness. A final decision about which course individual students follow will be decided by the Head of Subject and will be based upon assessments to determine the most appropriate course to achieve greater success for the individual. Student may also be transferred onto NCFE Health & Fitness after the first assessment window.

Head of Subject

S. Clarke

Separate Sciences

Brief Outline

Students with a passion for science can choose to study for three separate GCSEs: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students who choose this option will combine the time allocated for Combined Science, with three additional options subject lessons. This additional time will allow for the subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics to be taught in greater depth and lead to three separate qualifications: One for each subject. It is suited to students who are self-motivated, willing to work at pace in lessons and have a record of completing homework and lesson prep work to the best of their ability, in a timely manner.

Course Content

We follow the AQA Separate Sciences in Biology (code 8461), Chemistry (code 8462) and Physics (code 8463) - found at <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse>. Please follow the link to the AQA website for further details.

How will I be assessed?

100% exam at the end of Y11

- A minimum of 15% of the final grade will come from practical assessment questions in the final exams; there are 10 required practical activities for Biology, 8 for Chemistry and 10 for Physics.
- A further minimum of 10% of the marks will be based on questions that test applications of Mathematics in Biology, 20% in Chemistry and 30% in Physics.

- For the Separate Sciences GCSEs students will have two 1 hour and 45 minute exams per subject.
- This leads to one separate grade for each subject.

Why study GCSE Separate Sciences?

- The Separate Sciences GCSEs go into a deeper understanding of science and its application than in Combined Science.
- It would be recommended for any student who wishes to study Science A Level. However, it is not essential to study Separate Sciences in order to study Science A Level.
- Two GCSEs in Separate Sciences at grade 6 or above are required for further study in Science at A Level, although all students who opt for Separate Sciences will of course study three separate subjects.

Head of Subject

H. Streets

Travel & Tourism

Brief Outline

Do you love travel? Did you know that you could make a career out of it in the dynamic, diverse and expanding Travel & Tourism industry? The course is designed for students who want to acquire knowledge and skills through work-place contexts; by exploring the aims of different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer requirements, and the influences on global travel and tourism. If you enjoy learning through practical, work-related activities and completing assignments based on realistic workplace situations, then the BTEC Travel and Tourism course is for you.

Course Content

You will gain:

- Knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as the appeal of different tourist destinations to different types of customer, and the factors that influence travel and tourism.
- Skills such as researching different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, and the products and services available to meet the needs of different customers.
- Attitudes that are considered to be very important in the travel and tourism sector, including how to develop tourism while respecting the environment and local communities.

Taught Unit

Component 1

Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations.

Component 2

Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism.

Component 3

Influences on Global Travel and Tourism

How will I be assessed?

Internal assignments - 60%, Unit 1 and 2

External assessment - 40%, Unit 3 (Completed in Y11)

Why study Travel & Tourism?

- There are a wide range of tourism and management related Level 3 courses available, as well as Marketing, Event Management and Hospitality courses.
- You could progress to an apprenticeship in the travel and tourism industry.
- The leisure industry is expanding rapidly. There are employment opportunities with a variety of UK and worldwide employers.
- Travel and Tourism also teaches you a range of transferable skills, including teamwork, research and organisation skills.

What

Happens

When?

Key dates for your diary

Options Programme 2023

Tuesday 21st March 2023

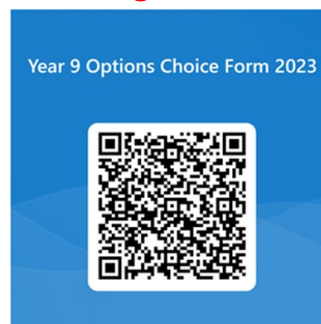
- Year 9 Options Assembly.
- Key Stage 4 Options Booklet Issued.
- Options Information Evening

Tutor Group	Presentation in Upper School Hall
9SM, 9KL, 9BL, 9OA	Please attend the presentation at 5:00pm. Between 5:30pm and 7:00pm, please visit our subject stalls in Main School Hall and Foundation Year Hall.
9RW, 9MW, 9CB, 9CP	Please attend the presentation at 6:30pm. Between 5:00pm and 6:30pm, please visit our subject stalls in Main School Hall and Foundation Year Hall.

Friday 21st April 2023

- Deadline for the completion of the online Options Choice Form.
- Paper copies are available for any families without internet access.

Please complete the online Options Choice Form using the QR code:



Friday 12th May 2023 (Target date)

- Students and parents to be informed of final option allocations.

Y9 Options Choice Sheet - Example

Name: *A. Learner* Form: *9AA*

Step One: Choose a first and reserve choice from each option block.

At least one of your first choices must be Geography, History, French or German.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Photography
Business	Business	Geography	Business
Creative iMedia	Creative iMedia	German	Design & Technology
Drama	Design & Technology	Health & Fitness	German
French	French	Health & Social Care	Health & Social Care
Health & Fitness	Geography	Media Studies	History
History	Hospitality & Catering	Physical Education	Media Studies
Hospitality & Catering	Media Studies	Separate Science	Music (BTEC)
Physical Education	Music (GCSE)	Travel & Tourism	
Block A - first choice <i>French</i>	Block B - first choice <i>Music</i>	Block C - first choice <i>Separate Science</i>	Block D - first choice <i>History</i>
Block A - reserve choice <i>iMedia</i>	Block B - reserve choice <i>Geography</i>	Block C - reserve choice <i>Media Studies</i>	Block D - reserve choice <i>Business</i>

Please note: Students cannot pick the following combinations:

Physical Education (GCSE) and Health & Fitness (NCFE Tech Award), or Music (GCSE) and Music (BTEC).

Step Two: Confirm which subject you have chosen as part of the English Baccalaureate and which option block it is in.

EBacc subject	Geography	History	French	German
Option Block		<i>D</i>		

Please hand this completed sheet into your Head of Year by registration on **Friday 21st April 2023**

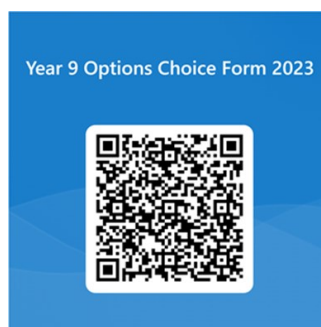
Signature of student: *A. Learner*

Signature of Parent / Carer *B. Parent*

Date: *21st April 2023*

Please complete the online Options Choice Form using the QR code:

If you do not have internet access, please complete the form on the final page and return to your Head of Year by the deadline.



Y9 Options Choice Sheet 2023

Please complete the online Options Choice Form using the QR code:

If you do not have internet access, please complete this form and return to your Head of Year by the deadline.

Name: Form: 9

Step One: Choose a first and reserve choice from each option block.

At least one of your first choices must be Geography, History, French or German.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Fine Art	Art & Design: Photography	Art & Design: Photography
Business	Business	Geography	Business
Creative iMedia	Creative iMedia	German	Design & Technology
Drama	Design & Technology	Health & Fitness	German
French	French	Health & Social Care	Health & Social Care
Health & Fitness	Geography	Media Studies	History
History	Hospitality & Catering	Physical Education	Media Studies
Hospitality & Catering	Media Studies	Separate Science	Music (BTEC)
Physical Education	Music (GCSE)	Travel & Tourism	
Block A - first choice	Block B - first choice	Block C - first choice	Block D - first choice
Block A - reserve choice	Block B - reserve choice	Block C - reserve choice	Block D - reserve choice

Please note: Students cannot pick the following combinations:

Physical Education (GCSE) and Health & Fitness (NCFE Tech Award), or Music (GCSE) and Music (BTEC)

Step Two: Confirm which subject you have chosen as part of the English Baccalaureate and which option block it is in.

EBacc subject	Geography	History	French	German
Option Block				

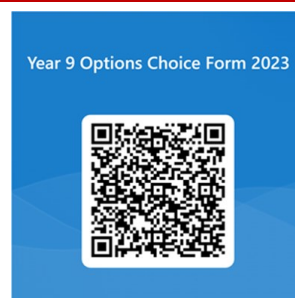
Please hand this completed sheet into your Head of Year by registration on **Friday 21st April 2023**.

Any late returns might mean that you do not get your first choice.

Signature of student:

Signature of Parent / Carer:

Date:





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