

Community - Ambition - Respect



Options Booklet  
Curriculum choices for  
**2025-2026**

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## A MESSAGE TO PARENTS/CARERS

March 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

It is our job as a school to ensure that all pupils receive a broad and balanced curriculum. We hope to equip pupils with a wide experience of skills and knowledge to help them progress and grow into mature, well-educated people.

We are confident that the curriculum provided here is of the highest standard; all courses are chosen for the benefit of pupils, helping them to maximise their future options, while allowing them to learn varied and interesting subjects. We do not introduce courses to increase positions in league tables; each course is a qualification respected by employers and Further Education establishments. However, as pupils mature and become more aware of their interests, we feel it is important for pupils to have some input into what they study.

This booklet introduces these choices and explains how the options process works. Please take your time to read this booklet carefully with your child and do not hesitate to contact me or other staff at the school if you need further assistance.

Yours faithfully,



Mr P Beale

Headteacher

## SELECTING YOUR OPTIONS

Although selecting subjects to study in Year 10 can be an exciting and liberating experience, it can be a very stressful time as well. We urge you and your son/daughter to think carefully about the choices to be made, to discuss the possibilities and to consult as widely as possible. It is difficult, if not impossible, to change courses once we get into Year 10. Pupils can feel very empowered by choosing some of the courses they study, but if it is not possible to study a certain subject, it can feel like that is a disaster.

**We do everything we can to give every pupil the subjects they select, but this is not always possible.**

This can happen for two reasons:

1. **Insufficient numbers opt for a subject and it is not viable to run it.**
2. **Too many pupils opt for a subject and we have to ask some to reconsider.**

If too many pupils opt for a subject, we consider which pupils to put into their reserve choice by taking the following into account:

1. **Late applications: if the subject choice is full or oversubscribed when the form is received, then the pupil will be referred to their reserve choice. It is very important, therefore, that pupils meet the deadline given.**
2. **Volunteers: pupils are asked to volunteer to move to another subject.**
3. **Response grades: those with the highest response grades on their reports will be given priority (effort, homework, behaviour - but not achievement in the subject). The Head of Department will be consulted where reports do not give sufficient information.**

In case of referral to a reserve choice, a waiting list will be formed in case a space becomes available.

**For these reasons, it is very important to read the information and instructions in this booklet thoroughly and complete the options forms carefully and accurately.**

## **COMBINED OR TRIPLE SCIENCE**

Alongside making your option choices, you will need to decide about Science. It is compulsory to study Science at GCSE but there is a choice between studying **Combined Science** or **Triple Science**.

Triple Science awards pupils with three GCSEs, one in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, while Combined Science covers all three disciplines but awards two GCSEs. Both courses are taught in exactly the same amount of time, but Triple Science has a larger amount of content to cover.

- Both courses are available to any pupil but Triple Science will move at a quicker pace to cover the additional content for a third GCSE.
- A choice of triple or combined science must be selected on the options form.

An overview of each course is below:

	<b>GCSE's awarded</b>	<b>How GCSE's are awarded</b>	<b>Access to A-level Science</b>	<b>Exams</b>
<b>Combined Science</b>	2	All three subject's results are used to form two grades	Suitable, pupils will need two grade 6's to continue any science at A-level	Six x 1 hour 15 minutes
<b>Triple Science</b>	3	Separate GCSE grades in each subject	Better foundation, pupils will need grade 6's in the subject(s) they will continue at A-level	Six x 1 hour 45 minutes

**Please note that all pupils must study ONE of these Science courses**

*If you would like further guidance on which course would be most suitable, please discuss the option is your class teacher or contact Miss Lee, Science Curriculum Leader.*

## **THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE (EBacc)**

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a performance measure introduced by the government in 2010. It is not a qualification, but rather a way of measuring the number of pupils studying a core set of academic subjects at GCSE level. The measure is used to calculate the average attainment scores of students in these subjects.

To achieve the EBacc at Old Buckenham High School, you need to select the following subjects:

- **English** (compulsory)
- **Mathematics** (compulsory)
- **At least two sciences** (which may include Computer Science) (compulsory)
- **A Modern Foreign Language** (French or German) (highly recommended)
- **History or Geography** (highly recommended)

The government introduced the EBacc because it believes that these subjects provide a well-rounded academic foundation. They are also valued by top universities, particularly the **Russell Group** universities, which are considered among the best in the UK. Although the EBacc is not currently a formal entry requirement for any university, many universities consider it as part of their selection process, particularly for competitive courses.

Most universities require GCSEs in **English** and **Mathematics**, and a few may also require a modern foreign language. Most successful applicants will have achieved good grades across a broad range of subjects, and meet any specific course requirements. As a result, the EBacc can help strengthen your overall application for higher education, and may become more important in the future as universities and employers continue to focus on broad academic achievements.

### **Why is studying a language and a humanity subject important?**

For students aiming to achieve the EBacc, it is **highly recommended** that you study **either Geography or History**, and a **Modern Foreign Language** such as French or German. These subjects are not only essential for meeting the EBacc criteria but also offer valuable skills and knowledge that are important for future career prospects.

- **Geography and History** help develop critical thinking, research skills, and an understanding of the world, all of which are highly regarded by universities and employers.
- **A Modern Foreign Language** is increasingly important in the global job market. Learning languages such as French or German opens up opportunities for international study, work, and travel. It also demonstrates strong communication and cognitive skills, which are useful in many fields.

## **Should I study the EBacc?**

If your **target grades** are **3 or above** in Year 9, we strongly encourage you to consider selecting a language and either History or Geography. These subjects will help you fulfil the EBacc and provide you with essential skills for further education or employment. However, if you have a clear career path in mind that requires different subjects, please do check the specific entry requirements for your chosen career and discuss your options with the school. If you need further advice or assistance in making your choices, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to help you make the best decision for your future success.

### **What is a Russell Group University?**

The Russell Group represents 24 leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and strong links with business and the public sector. More information can be found at [www.russellgroup.ac.uk](http://www.russellgroup.ac.uk)

### **If the EBacc is not a qualification, does it matter?**

The EBacc will not directly make a difference to your progression from High School; however we feel it is important to make all pupils and their parents aware of any government aims within education and anything which may potentially become important.

## **OPTIONS AND HOURS OF STUDY**

In Years 10 and 11 pupils will study a combination of compulsory and optional subjects.

All pupils will need to study the same core subjects:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science (either combined or triple Science)
- Core Physical Education (this is a non-examined subject)
- Personal, Social and Health Education (this is a non-examined subject)

The rest of the lessons studied are subject to a certain amount of choice. We are obliged and believe it right to ensure that pupils continue to have a broad and balanced curriculum.

Although we welcome choice and do our utmost to accommodate pupils' preferences, Old Buckenham High School reserves the right to decide a pupil's suitability for a course.

Option subjects being offered for September 2025 include:

### **Humanities and Sciences:**

Computer Science  
French  
Geography  
German  
Health and Social Care  
History  
Statistics

### **Creative and Technical Skills:**

Art, Craft and Design  
Design Technology  
Creative Media  
Music  
Food and Nutrition  
Drama  
Physical Education

A pupil studies for 30 one-hundred-minute lessons per fortnight and lessons are likely to be distributed in the following way:

	<b>English</b>	<b>Maths</b>	<b>Science</b>	<b>Core PE</b>	<b>Option 1</b>	<b>Option 2</b>	<b>Option 3</b>	<b>Option 4</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>



## **CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS**

The process is an exciting time for you, as you are given some independence to make informed choices and decisions, with guidance from your parents, carers and teachers. However, there are a couple of considerations that will need to be thought about when making your subject choices:

- Firstly, think about which subjects you enjoy – if you are engaged and invested in a subject, you are likely to achieve well.
- Secondly, think about which subjects will support your potential future plans. You might not be thinking as far ahead as college and further education at this stage, but it is always wise to consider the subjects that may be of benefit.

There is a temptation to choose a subject because your friend has chosen it, because you like the teacher or because you think the subject will be easy. Whilst they may initially seem like good reasons, once the course starts and groups have been put together, it will not always be possible to change subjects.

Subjects come in four blocks.

- You must choose a subject from each block
- You must give a reserve choice for each block. The reserve must include a new subject not mentioned in any of your *first* choices.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
French	Art, Craft and Design	Design Technology	Computer Science
German	Drama	Food	Creative Media
Geography	History	Physical Education	Food
Health and Social Care	Physical Education	Geography	History
History	Statistics	History	Music

- You must select either COMBINED or TRIPLE Science
- If you have target grades of 3 or above OBHS **strongly recommends** that you take either Geography or History at GCSE.
- If you have target grades of 3 or above OBHS **strongly recommends** that you take a modern foreign language at GCSE if you expect to take an academic route in the future. It shows a high level of skill and some university courses (which are not language based) require this.

**Please look through the subject descriptions and the selection guidance at the end of the booklet. Then complete the online form by clicking [Y9 Options Form 2025](#) or by accessing the link through the email which has been sent out.**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Why do I need to make my choices from each block?**

All of the classes that take place in the school must fit within the timetable. This ensures that there are enough teachers and rooms available for every lesson. Unfortunately, these factors limit the options available, so we ask you to choose from the subjects in each block to ensure the timetable works efficiently for everyone.

### **Do I have to take English Language and Literature?**

Yes, English Language and English Literature are compulsory for all pupils and will be taught within the same English lessons. Both are key subjects that contribute significantly to your overall education.

### **Can I take Geography and History?**

Yes, you can choose to take both Geography and History. Many students choose to study both subjects, and they complement each other well.

### **Is the EBacc an extra qualification?**

No, the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not an additional qualification. It is a measure of performance used by the school. While there is no formal acknowledgment for studying the EBacc, the subjects it includes may be useful depending on your future education or career plans.

### **Why can't I take Enterprise and Marketing?**

We only offer courses that we are confident we can deliver with high-quality teaching and support. Unfortunately, we no longer have the capacity to offer the Enterprise and Marketing course at this time.

### **My target grades are above a 3, should I study Geography or History?**

Yes, if your target grades are above a 3, studying either Geography or History is highly recommended. These subjects are valuable in their own right and help to consolidate important skills, such as critical thinking, analysis, and writing, which are applicable to other subjects as well.

### **My target grades are above a 3, should I study French or German?**

Yes, while we do not require pupils to study a language, we encourage all pupils to take the opportunity to study French or German. Both languages open doors to wider educational and career opportunities and provide essential skills for the future.

### **Do any subjects have smaller numbers?**

Due to health and safety regulations, as well as the need for specialist equipment, the number of pupils in Design and Technology (DT) and Food groups must be smaller. This ensures that each student has access to the necessary resources and that safety guidelines can be properly followed during practical lessons.

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## CORE SUBJECTS

**English Language**

**English Literature**

**Mathematics**

**Combined Science**

**Triple Science**

## Course name: English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

All students will study AQA's English Language (8700) and English Literature (8702) syllabuses.

### What are the reasons for studying this?

As part of their Literature GCSE, students will study a range of texts from the Literary Heritage: Macbeth by William Shakespeare, An Inspector Calls by J. B. Priestley, a selection of poems dating from the nineteenth century, and Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The study of these texts will involve exploration of plot, characterisation and theme, along with the way the Writer's time, culture and intentions have shaped the text.

The English Language course further develops many of the skills of the Literature exams. Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing, presents students with an extract from a 21<sup>st</sup> Century prose text and asks them to analyse and evaluate choices made by the writer. They then write their own descriptive narrative. Paper 2: Writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives, presents students with two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how different viewpoints influence the reader. They write their own persuasive piece.

AQA is a well-established and highly regarded exam board nationally. All English GCSE exams are now single tier entry so all students will be prepared for the same exams. Having said this, we have selected the AQA exams because the questions are phrased clearly, along with bullet points which prompt responses, and are therefore supportive in nature for all students.

### How is the course assessed?

Both courses are 100% exam assessed.

#### Language:

1. Creative reading and Writing – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks – 50%
2. Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives – 1 hour 45 minutes – 80 marks – 50%

#### Literature:

1. Shakespeare and the 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel – 1 hour 45 minutes – 64 marks – 40%
2. Modern Texts and Poetry – 2hours 15 minutes – 96 marks – 60%

#### Spoken Language (speaking and listening) – additional qualification:

Teacher assessment of presenting skills, ability to respond to questions and use of Standard English.

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

English is very much a facilitating subject for most careers. Employers and educational establishments will use English GCSEs as a way of gauging a students' ability to communicate effectively. Beyond this, there are many specific careers which would rely on GCSE English as a starting point: journalism and media-based careers, teaching, careers in politics, acting...the list is endless!

<b>Course name: Mathematics</b>
<p><b>Which course/ syllabus will I be following?</b> AQA GCSE Mathematics (linear) course code 8300</p>
<p><b>What are the reasons for studying this?</b> Just look around. Some of civilisation's most prized and proud achievements are wholly reliant on mathematics. Planes flying seamlessly through the air, high availability of complex medicines, even the computer you are using now: all of these increasingly vital commodities rely on the use and study of numbers. At University, Mathematics is a reasonably neutral subject and so it is easily combined with other courses. Joint Honours like Mathematics &amp; History, Mathematics &amp; English, Mathematics &amp; Spanish, or Mathematics &amp; Music are but a few of the increasingly broad range of Mathematics based courses available. This rich selection of study areas shows that a Mathematics degree does not have to be purely numerical, but can involve the arts to offer literary, musical or scientific nourishment. Maths is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical, research and <a href="#">problem-solving skills</a>. Not only will studying maths help give you the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical, coding and abstract problems, but it will also help you develop logic to tackle everyday issues like planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively. "Not everything that counts can be counted. Not everything that can be counted counts."     Albert Einstein</p>
<p><b>How is the course assessed?</b> GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same exam series (summer 2021). Each paper is worth 80 marks and is 1 hour 30 minutes long. Paper 1 is non-calculator and papers 2 and 3 are calculator. <b>A brief course overview by topic:</b> Number, Algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability, and statistics.</p>
<p><b>Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?</b> Post 16 courses that are supported by GCSE Mathematics are AS/A levels in Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Business Studies and Statistics amongst many others. All college courses and apprenticeships require students to achieve a grade 4 or higher in GCSE Maths or students will be required to re-sit the GCSE alongside their chosen post 16 qualification. Being a competent mathematician could lead to a career in: <a href="#">accounting</a>, <a href="#">medicine</a>, <a href="#">engineering</a>, forensic pathology, <a href="#">finance</a>, business, consultancy, teaching, <a href="#">IT</a>, <a href="#">games development</a>, scientific research, programming, the civil service, design, <a href="#">construction</a> and astrophysics to name a few. There are a number of career paths for which the study of maths would be compulsory. These include being an actuary, a business analyst, a software engineer, a technology analyst, an information engineer, a speech technology researcher, or a maths teacher.</p>

**Course name: Combined Science GCSE (Trilogy) 2 GCSEs**

**Which course/ syllabus will I be following?**

AQA Combined Science Trilogy

**What are the reasons for studying this?**

Science has something to offer everyone. As a core subject, it offers the opportunity to explore our world and beyond, enabling us to understand our place within it and our responsibilities to it.

In your Science lessons, you will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will visit topics and themes to investigate how and why things happen, using data and observations to support your ideas. You will get the opportunity to share your ideas and listen to others, helping you to form your own ideas on topics as diverse as evolution and new super materials like graphene.

Your study will look in more depth at topics such as food nutrition and material science, which will compliment your studies in other curriculum areas, such as DT. By using and applying data, you will be practising your numeracy skills while writing and analysing news articles, letters, books and stories will support the development of your literacy skills. Science is also great at building up transferrable skills such as teamwork and communication. During your lessons, you will also get the opportunity to work with a wide variety of different people with different skills and ambitions, mirroring the world outside the school gates.

**How is the course assessed?**

Combined Science trilogy (double GCSE) is assessed at the end of year 11 in 6 exams each lasting 75 minutes. There are 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics papers, each assessing half of each subject's curriculum.

Each paper consists of 40% knowledge recall of learnt facts, 40% application of your knowledge to questions and 20% analysis of data and information.

There are 21 required practical experiments that you must undertake and comment on in exams.

**Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?**

Students completing this course often go on to study Science to a higher level post 16. 6<sup>th</sup> form Science subjects are popular choices and grades of 6+ in double Science will allow you to study A-level Science at most 6<sup>th</sup> forms.

Science is also required for many other courses, particularly vocational courses such as nursing, animal care and engineering of any type.

A good grade in GCSE Science will enable you to access a wide range of exciting post 16 courses.

**Course name: Triple Science: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics (3 GCSEs)**

**Which course/ syllabus will I be following?**

AQA GCSE

**What are the reasons for studying this?**

Studying separate Science qualifications enables you to explore topics much more deeply than with Combined Science – you will also receive 3 separate GCSEs (one in each Science) at the end of the course. By taking these courses, you will come to understand some of the fundamental principles of the universe and understand more about how these fit and work together in the world we know around us.

Separate Science is right for you if like to know ‘why’ and ‘how’ systems work. If you enjoy examining the microscopic and macroscopic world around us, you will enjoy GCSE Biology. If you enjoy the wonder chemical reactions and understanding concepts such as material science, you will enjoy the depth of GCSE Chemistry. If you dream of space exploration, love making circuits or marvel at the feeling of forces, Physics is a great place to start. Whatever your interest, there is something for you in this suite of qualifications.

**How is the course assessed?**

Each GCSE is assessed at the end of year 11 in 2 exams each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes (6 papers in total across the 3 GCSEs). The two papers are called ‘paper 1’ and ‘paper 2’, each one assessing half of the subject’s curriculum.

Each paper consists of 40% knowledge recall of learnt facts, 40% application of your knowledge to questions and 20% analysis of data and information.

There are 25 required practical experiments that you must undertake and comment on in exams.

**Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?**

Students completing this course often go on to study Science to a higher level post 16. 6<sup>th</sup> form Science subjects are popular choices, and grades of 6+ at GCSE will allow you to study A-level Science at most 6<sup>th</sup> forms.

Science is also required for many other courses, particularly vocational courses such as nursing, animal care and engineering of any type.

A good grade in any GCSE Science will enable you to access a wide range of exciting post 16 courses.

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## OPTION SUBJECTS

Art, Craft and Design

Computer Science

Creative Media

Design Technology

Drama

Food and Nutrition

French

Geography

German

Health and Social Care

History

Music

Physical Education

Statistics



## Course name: Art, Craft and Design

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA GCSE Art

### What are the reasons for studying this?

The Art, Craft and Design course develops your practical and analytical skills from Year 9, allowing you to learn new techniques and produce a personal portfolio of work for assessment. Art, Craft and Design is a practical, skill-based subject – you should have developed a good range of art skills across a range of media, as well as excellent drawing ability.

Through the course, you will be able to learn more about the work and approaches of different artists from contemporary and/or historical contexts, periods, societies and cultures. It will also develop your ability to explore and explain how ideas, meanings and intentions can be communicated through artwork using formal elements including, colour, line, form, tone and texture. You will be expected to show an understanding of the effect of using different media, materials, techniques and processes through the choices you make in your own artwork. The joy of studying Art, Craft and Design at GCSE is that you get to critically interrogate and analysis sources in order to strengthen your ideas as an artist; you also get the time to develop and refine your own idea through experimentation – something which there has been little time for until this point.

### How will my work be assessed?

#### Component 1: Personal Portfolio (60%)

- From Autumn Year 10 until Autumn Year 11, you will develop an extensive portfolio of individual work, including technical studies, experimentation, artist research, media testing, and ultimately working up to a final piece.
- Your portfolio will show a 'journey' through the chosen theme, allowing you to showcase your personal development as your work progresses.

#### Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

- From January of Year 11 you will produce a smaller portfolio based on a theme set by the exam board, which will culminate in a final piece produced under exam conditions in May of Year 11.
- The exam lasts for ten hours over two days but must be supported by a thorough portfolio of preparatory work.

There is no written exam in Art, Craft and Design, although some written analysis is expected as part of the portfolio.

### Which careers/post-16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

GCSE Art is good preparation for A-level Art, vocational qualifications in design, graphics and fine art, as well as being a good contrasting subject for those following traditionally academic routes. Being creative in terms of both practical skills, but also mind-set and your view and interpretation of things is a transferable skill in many situations.

## Course name: Computer Science

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

OCR GCSE Computer Science

### What are the reasons for studying this?

Studying GCSE Computer Science offers a comprehensive introduction to the world of technology and computing. By taking this course, you will:

- **Understand how computers work:** You will learn about the internal workings of computer systems, how data is processed, and how networks and databases function.
- **Develop programming skills:** You'll gain practical experience in programming, where you'll learn how to design, write, and test code in programming languages like Python.
- **Enhance problem-solving and logical thinking:** Computer Science requires you to think analytically and solve complex problems, skills that are useful in all aspects of life and work.
- **Prepare for a future in technology:** As technology continues to play an increasing role in our daily lives, the skills learned in this course will set you up for further study or careers in a wide range of industries, such as software development, cybersecurity, data science, and more.
- **Explore the digital world:** From artificial intelligence to internet of things (IoT) and beyond, you will develop a deeper understanding of the innovations shaping our future.

### How is the course assessed?

*The GCSE Computer Science course is assessed through two components: one written exam and one practical assessment.*

- **Paper 1: Computer Systems (50%):** *This written exam assesses your understanding of computer systems, including hardware, software, networks, security, and the impacts of digital technology on society. You will be tested on your knowledge of theory and your ability to apply your understanding to practical scenarios.*
- **Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms, and Programming (50%):** *This written exam tests your knowledge of algorithms, problem-solving, and programming techniques. You will be assessed on your ability to write and debug code, as well as your understanding of the principles of computational thinking and how they apply to real-world problems.*

*In addition to the exams, students are required to complete a **Programming Project**, where you will demonstrate your ability to apply your programming skills to solve a problem. This project is internally assessed and will be submitted to the exam board.*

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

GCSE Computer Science provides you with the technical and analytical skills needed for a wide range of careers and further study in technology and related fields. Some of the potential opportunities include:

- **Careers:** Software developer, web developer, data analyst, IT support technician, cybersecurity specialist, game developer, database administrator, systems analyst, and network engineer.
- **Post-16 courses:** After completing GCSE Computer Science, you may choose to continue your studies at A-level or take a BTEC in Computer Science, IT, or Digital Media. You may also choose courses in mathematics, physics, or engineering, where the skills you develop will be highly valuable.
- **Higher education:** Many university courses in computer science, software engineering, artificial intelligence, robotics, and data science require a solid foundation in programming and computational thinking. This GCSE will set you up for success in these areas.

With the increasing demand for tech skills in nearly every industry, a GCSE in Computer Science opens doors to numerous career paths and equips you with skills that are highly valued by employers in the digital age.

## Course name: Creative Media Production

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 1.46 million people working in digital companies and around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. This course is a practical introduction to life and work in the media industry, with an emphasis on the use of digital technologies. You will explore different areas of the media sector whilst developing technical skills and techniques to create range of digital media products for radio, TV, film, and online sectors, including interactive products and platforms. The course offers exciting opportunities to explore potential careers in the media industry.

### How is the course assessed?

The course has two internally assessed components (30% weighting each), and one externally assessed component (40% weighting).

**Component 1 – Exploring media products.** This unit investigates a range of media products across a range of sub-sectors:

- **Audio/moving image**, including, TV programmes, films, video shorts, animations, radio broadcasts. You will study how films, TV and radio programmes are produced, including exploring the use of camerawork, lighting, sound and editing techniques.
- **Publishing**, including newspapers, magazines, books, e-magazines, and comics. You will explore layout and design, photographic and image editing techniques.
- **Interactive media**, such as websites, mobile applications, mobile games, video games, and online games. You will explore different features of these products, including user interfaces, playability, sound design, 3D and user interactivity.

**Component 2 - Developing digital media production skills.** This unit focuses on developing technical skills and techniques for the audio/moving image, publishing or interactive sector. The focus at OBHS will be on audio/moving image. You will develop skills using a range of industry standard software and equipment. You will be assessed on both units by completing a *portfolio* of evidence. This can be submitted using a variety of formats, including written reports, blogs, workshop recordings, photographs, presentations and teacher observations.

### Component 3 - Creating a media product in response to a brief.

You will create a media product in response to a brief, applying the digital skills and techniques you have learnt. The set task is completed during 9 hours of supervised classroom-based sessions in a period timetabled by the exam board (in Year 11).

*Overall results* are awarded on the following scale:

Level 2 - Distinction\* (equivalent to Grade 8.5 GCSE), Distinction (Grade 7 GCSE), Merit (Grade 5.5), Pass (Grade 4).

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

This course will prepare you for a range of post-16 qualifications, including Media and Communication, Graphic Design, Photography and Art and Design. The course also teaches essential IT skills useful in all routes of employment, including competency in using a wide range of application software, time management and efficient working practices.

## Course name: Design and Technology with timbers

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA GCSE (9-1) Design and Technology with timbers

### What are the reasons for studying this?

Design and Technology is purposeful, as well as being fun and exciting! Studying GCSE Design and Technology will build on what you learnt about designing and making in Key Stage 3. You will use your knowledge and skills to design and make new and better timber-based solutions to real problems.

The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable you to:

- **Understand users** - by looking at who products are designed for and how they will be used.
- **Learn how things work** – using mechanisms, electronics and computers to control things.
- **Learn about materials** – Including choosing the correct materials for the designs and products. You will gain an awareness of Polymers, metals, textiles, composites and smart and modern materials. You will study the use of timbers to create products in greater depth.
- **Design including computer aided design (CAD)** - Taking risks to create imaginative ideas
- **Analyse products** – by understanding how everyday products have been designed and made and learning about past and present designers.
- **Evaluate work** – in order to develop and create better solutions to real life problems.
- **Making including computer aided manufacture (CAM)** - working safely with tools and equipment including 3D printers and laser cutters to make high quality working prototypes.

### How is the course assessed?

**NEA (50%):** From June in Year 10 you will produce a portfolio that demonstrates how you have investigated, designed, manufactured, and evaluated a product that helps solve a particular problem that you have identified using a real client and a real situation.

**Exam (50%):** This exam lasts 2 hours and you are expected to answer questions on a range of materials with additional specialist questions focusing on timbers.

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

GCSE D&T can lead to post 16 courses such as A-level product design, apprenticeships, and a wide variety of vocational college courses.

GCSE D&T opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management which are highly prized by employers

## Course name: Drama

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA GCSE Drama

### What are the reasons for studying this?

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum) When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Drama, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

### How is the course assessed?

The course is made up of 3 components:

#### **Component 1 (40%) – Interpreting Theatre**

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

You will answer: Section A: 4 multiple choice questions linking to staging types and roles within theatre

Section B: Set Text - A series of questions based on the set text that you have studied.

Section C: Live Theatre Review – One question from a choice of three, analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course. *Externally assessed examination.*

#### **Component 2 (40%) - Devising Theatre**

You will participate in the creation, development, and performance of a piece of devised theatre. You will produce:

A portfolio of supporting evidence based on the rehearsal process and an evaluation of the final performance or design

A performance lasting between 5-20 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group) . *This is an internally assessed assignment.*

#### **Component 3 (20%) Performing from a Text -**

You will study two extracts from the same text chosen by you or your teacher. You will be assessed on acting or design.

You will produce: A performance lasting between 5-20minutes using sections of text from both extracts. *Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.*

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

With GCSE Drama you can continue onto further academic study either in the form of Level 3 courses or Higher Education and A-Levels, or for those who are considering an apprenticeship within the performing arts sector, the GCSE is the perfect choice for those who want to pursue performance arts as a vocation.

You can also use the skills you have learnt over the course for your future – communication, teamwork, self-reflection, problem solving; things that are part of any job you could have.

## Course name: Food Preparation and Nutrition

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

WJEC Eduqas GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

### What are the reasons for studying this?

This course is an introduction to food science, nutrition and healthy eating. You will learn and practise the following principles:

- effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food
- the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- understanding the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- demonstrating knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- understanding and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes

### How is the course assessed?

#### **Component 1:**

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

This component will consist of two sections both containing compulsory questions and will assess the six areas of content as listed in the specified GCSE content.

**Section A:** questions based on stimulus material.

**Section B:** structured, short and extended response questions to assess content related to food preparation and nutrition.

#### **Component 2:**

##### **Non-examination assessment**

**Assessment 1:** 8 hours 15% of qualification

The Food Investigation Assessment A scientific food investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

**Assessment 2:** 12 hours 35% of qualification

The Food Preparation Assessment Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses the learner's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Food and Nutrition can lead on to a variety of vocational courses including Catering, Food Technology, Manufacturing, Nutritionist, Dietetics, Health & Social Care and Leisure & Tourism. It has strong links with Science and can be studied to degree level.

## Course name: French

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE French

### What are the reasons for studying this?

In year 9 you are already well on your way to studying a language at GCSE as we have introduced elements of the GCSE course since the start of this year to build your confidence and understanding.

An awareness of a foreign language is a life-long skill: you don't have to be fluent to make a difference. Having even just a little of another language gives you the freedom to travel and communicate with others, whether for business or pleasure, without seeming arrogant enough to expect them to speak English.

Learning a foreign language helps you improve and understand your own language better. Moreover, once you have learnt a one foreign language, it's much easier to pick up another, so it really doesn't matter which one you learn at school.

The act of learning a foreign language reflects keen determination, outstanding communication skills and good organisational skills. In business, it's great for public relations to be able to speak to different parts of a multinational company or its suppliers in their own language regardless of whether they can speak English fluently.

A language qualification says a lot about you as a person and your outlook beyond the place you live, having a language really makes you stand out from the crowd and can give you a competitive edge in future career choices – even if you don't know what those choices may yet turn out to be!

### How is the course assessed?

GCSE French is assessed through four exam components, each focusing on a different language skill. The exams are designed to test your ability to communicate and understand French in various real-life situations.

- **Listening (25%):** You will listen to a variety of spoken French texts and respond to questions based on the material.
- **Speaking (25%):** In a speaking assessment with your teacher, you will respond to questions and take part in a conversation in French on topics such as personal details, school, and hobbies.
- **Reading (25%):** You will read different types of written material in French, such as articles, advertisements, and stories, and answer questions to demonstrate your comprehension.
- **Writing (25%):** You will complete written tasks in French, such as short essays and messages, where you will be required to express yourself clearly and accurately in writing.

All components are assessed either at Foundation or Higher level, depending on your abilities and progress during the course.

**Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?**

- A level languages and university courses with an international module
- Travel and tourism
- Business management
- Marketing and sales
- Careers requiring excellent communication skills

Being proficient in French gives you a significant edge in a wide variety of fields, allowing you to work and study both in the UK and abroad, and making you a more competitive candidate in the global job market.



## Course name: Geography AQA

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

AQA GCSE in Geography Course Code 8035

### What are the reasons for studying this?

The course was chosen as it has a good balance of human and physical geography and the topics covered are more dynamic and interesting. It also offers a lot of opportunity for you to become more critical thinkers in our ever-changing world. Examples of topics that studied are tectonics, urban issues and challenges, challenges of resource management, the changing economic world, coasts, rivers ecosystems and weather hazards.

The course is studied by a large number of schools in the Trust which is beneficial as it means that we can share ideas and resources and moderate exam papers.

### How is the course assessed?

The course is 100% exam based and includes 3 papers:

Unit 1: Living with the physical environment-1 ½ hour paper worth 35% of the GCSE

Unit 2: Challenges in the human environment-1 ½ hour paper worth 35% of the GCSE

Unit 3: Geographical application and skills-1 ¼ hour paper worth 30% of the GCSE

Throughout the two years the students are assessed termly using sample and past assessments from the exam board.

The students have to undertake two field work experiments with this specification – this is assessed within the paper in unit 3.

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Geography is a broad subject covering many topics and developing many skills which are transferable and applicable to a number of career paths including areas such as cartography, GIS, town planning, conservation, environmental planning, teaching, development studies, working with the local authority, recycling and waste management and environmental consultancy.

#### Post 16 courses:

The course links closely with elements of Sociology, Critical Thinking, Environmental Science, Environmental Technology, Ecology, Biology, Geology, Business Studies, Economics, Global Development, Government and Politics, History and Travel and Tourism.

## Course name: German

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE German

### What are the reasons for studying this?

Studying GCSE German allows you to acquire valuable skills in communication, which are essential in both personal and professional contexts. By learning German, you will:

- **Develop communication skills:** Mastering a foreign language enhances your ability to express yourself, both in speech and writing, and understand others.
- **Enhance cultural awareness:** Through language, you will gain insight into the culture, traditions, and way of life in German-speaking countries such as Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.
- **Broaden career opportunities:** Being bilingual opens up various career paths in fields such as international business, translation, diplomacy, tourism, and more.
- **Improve cognitive skills:** Learning a new language sharpens your memory, problem-solving, and critical thinking abilities, which are transferable to other subjects and future studies.
- **Enjoy future travel experiences:** Knowing German enables you to travel with confidence in German-speaking countries, enhancing your travel experiences.

### How is the course assessed?

The GCSE German course is assessed through four exam components: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Each of the skills is tested in the final exams, and are weighted equally.

- **Listening (25%):** You will listen to spoken German in different contexts and answer questions based on what you hear.
- **Speaking (25%):** You will have a conversation with your teacher, answering questions on topics such as yourself, your studies, and your interests. The speaking assessment is conducted in person.
- **Reading (25%):** You will read a range of texts in German and answer questions, testing your ability to understand written material.
- **Writing (25%):** You will write in German about various topics, demonstrating your ability to express yourself accurately and coherently in writing.

The exams are designed to test both your understanding of German and your ability to use it in real-world situations. All assessments are conducted at either Foundation or Higher level, depending on your ability and preference.

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

Studying GCSE German opens up a wide range of career and post-16 opportunities.

Language skills are highly valued in many professions and can set you apart in an increasingly globalized world. Possible career paths and further study options include:

- **Careers:** Translator, interpreter, foreign language teacher, international relations, marketing, tourism, journalism, business, finance, logistics, and international law.
- **Post-16 courses:** You may choose to continue studying German at A-level, or combine it with subjects like business, economics, history, or politics. German is also useful for university courses in languages, international studies, and European studies.
- **Higher education:** University courses in languages, translation, linguistics, and international relations often require proficiency in a foreign language, and GCSE.

German provides a strong foundation for further study.

In a world where international communication is key, learning German can significantly enhance your future career prospects and open doors to study and work abroad.

## Course name: Health and Social Care

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

OCR Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care Level 1 or Level 2

### What are the reasons for studying this?

You should consider studying this course if you have an interest in a career in the caring profession including, health care, social care and the criminal justice system. The course will provide you with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve your learning and own personal development.

This course will introduce you to the specialist knowledge and skills needed to work in the care sector. This will particularly focus on core values, including communicating with individuals in order to maintain their dignity and sense of being valued, understanding the body and how it works, learning how to support individuals to maintain their rights, the importance of values of care and the impact of legislation and personal hygiene, safety and security measures.

The care sector is the biggest employment sector in the UK, and this course will allow you to explore the role it plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals of all ages. You will also be able to develop a range of transferable skills including the ability to empathise with others, communicate effectively with individuals, team work, making informed decisions, analysing and evaluating important information and essential life skills of First Aid.

### How is the course assessed?

This course is assessed through four units of study.

**Unit 1** covers essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings. *This is assessed through a 1 hour written paper which is worth 25% of your overall grade and is externally assessed.*

**Unit 2** covers communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years' settings. This is assessed through an assignment where you will be expected to explain communication techniques and demonstrate these in action. *This unit is worth 25% of your overall grade and is internally assessed.*

**Unit 3** covers creative activities to support individuals in health, social care and early years' settings. This is assessed through an assignment where you will be expected to learn how to plan, carry out and evaluate appropriate activities. *This unit is worth 25% of your overall grade and is internally assessed.*

**Unit 4** covers understanding the nutrients needed for good health. This is assessed through an assignment where you will be expected to create a dietary plan for individuals with specific dietary needs and prepare an appropriate meal. *This unit is worth 25% of your overall grade and is internally assessed.*

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

This course will help you to prepare for many care courses post 16, including a range of A-Levels or Vocational course. This could include courses in Health and Social Care, Adult Care and Early Years and Child Care.

Career progression routes could lead to Childcare, Nurse, Health Visitor, Counsellor, Care Worker, Social Worker, Community Support Worker, Occupational Therapist, etc.

## Course name: History

### Which course/ syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE History

### What are the reasons for studying this?

GCSE History helps students make sense of the world we live in today by focusing on the key events, issues and people that have helped shape this world.

#### Thematic study and historic environment

- Medicine in Britain, 1250 to the present day
- The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches

#### Period study and British depth study

- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991

#### Modern depth study

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

GCSE History equips students with transferable and employable skills, such as gathering and analysing data; evaluating and analysing sources and interpretations; formulating arguments; reaching judgements and communicating clearly.

Edexcel is a well-established and highly regarded exam board nationally. We have selected the Edexcel exam board due to the suitability and relevance of the syllabus it offers and how the questions are made more accessible for all students through the provision of bullet points which prompt student responses.

### How is the course assessed?

GCSE History is externally assessed in three exams at the end of Year 11:

- Exam Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment-30% of the GCSE-1 hour 15 minutes
- Exam Paper 2: Period study and British depth study-40% of the GCSE-1 hour 45 minutes
- Exam Paper 3: Modern depth study-30% of the GCSE-1 hour 20 minutes

GCSE History assesses the following in the exams in questions which range from 4 marks to 20 marks:

- Knowledge and understanding (35%)
- The ability to explain and analyse (35%)
- The ability to analyse, evaluate and make judgements about sources/interpretations (30%)

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

History is relevant to a variety of post-16 studies and careers, including Law, Journalism, TV and Radio, Politics and Local Government. Those considering a career in medicine or science may find the thematic study of medicine of particular interest.

## Course name: Tech Award in Music Practice

### Which course / syllabus will I be following?

Level 2 Technical Award in Music Practice (BTEC Pearson)

### Reason to choose music:

The music industry is a vibrant, exciting, and highly competitive industry that contributed £5.2 billion to the UK economy in 2019 and generated a further £2.7 billion in export revenue. In 2016, live music alone created £3.7 billion in direct and indirect income for the UK. The music industry is constantly evolving and offers many different and exciting new work opportunities. In 2019, the music industry supported more than 190,935 full-time jobs in the UK, 139,352 of which were in the music creators' sector.

The focus is on practical music making and project work. While music theory will be taught as part of the course, students' in-depth knowledge of music theory is not examined.

### This course has 3 Components.

**Component 1:** Exploring Music Products and Styles (30%)

**Component 2:** Music Skills Development (30%)

*Both components 1 and 2 are both internally assessed assignments and moderated by the exam board.*

Through focused listening and music-making activities, you will explore a variety of musical styles and understand the key stylistic features of different genres of music. The main focus is on popular music styles from the 1960s to the present day, but you will also explore other styles such as Jazz, Blues, Film music, Classical music and music from other cultures. You will apply these stylistic features to performance, composition, and music production activities. Through a combination of practical and taught sessions you will investigate how music from a variety of genres is performed, created, and produced. In addition, you will explore personal and professional techniques for musicians and how musicians share their music with others. You will learn to use a variety of methods of evidencing processes and outcomes and communicating skills development. You will participate in workshops and sessions to identify and develop musical skills and techniques in music performance both when creating original music, and in music production.

**Component 3:** Responding to a Commercial Brief (40%) – external assessment of a set task under supervised conditions.

You will learn how to respond to a commercial music brief, by selecting and applying musical skills in response to a brief, presenting a final musical product, and commenting on the creative process and outcome.

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

The BTEC Music Qualification allows you to progress to: Level 3 RSL and BTEC courses; A Level Music and Music Technology courses and higher education courses such as degrees in Music, Popular Music, Music Technology and Music Business.

Potential careers include performance, recording, music production, sound engineer, music business, band management, music journalism, music therapy, teaching in addition to many more.

## Course name: Sports GCSE PE

### Which course / syllabus will I be following?

Edexcel GCSE Physical Education

This course offers the opportunity for students to study the world of PE, Sport and Sport Science, by developing an understanding of how the mind and body works in relation to performance in physical activity. This will include units exploring Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Training, Health, Fitness and Well-being, Sports Psychology and Socio-Cultural Influences.

As well as a focus on PE theory, students will have the opportunity to develop their practical skills through opportunities to develop their skills in both isolation and also within competitive situations. Students will be required to perform one team sport, one individual sport and then a sport of their choice.

Students will also have the opportunity to plan and take part in a 6-week personal exercise programme, where they will set an aim to achieve, collect data and analyse results with a focus on improving performance in their chosen sport.

### How is the course assessed?

#### Two written papers:

- Paper 1 Fitness and Body Systems, 1 hour 45 minutes (90 marks, 36%)
- Paper 2 Health and Performance, 1 hour 15 minutes (70 marks, 24%)

**Practical Exam:** 3 sports (1 individual, 1 team, 1 free choice) (105 marks, 30%)

**Written Coursework:** Personal Exercise Programme (20 marks, 10%)

### Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?

There is a natural progression through to A Level PE or other higher level Technical Awards.

There is a wide range of job roles to progress into such as Personal Trainer, Sports Coach, Physiotherapist. This course will prepare students well to pursue a career in the Sport and Fitness industry.

## Course name: Statistics

**Which course/ syllabus will I be following?** For GCSE Statistics, you will be following the AQA GCSE Statistics specification. The course provides you with the opportunity to study statistical concepts and techniques, enabling you to collect, analyse, and interpret data. It encourages the development of mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, and decision-making skills, which are valuable in a wide range of subjects and careers.

### **What are the reasons for studying this?**

GCSE Statistics provides an in-depth understanding of data analysis, which is essential in the modern world, where data drives decision-making across industries. By studying statistics, you will:

- Develop a clear understanding of how data is collected, processed, and interpreted.
- Learn how to make informed decisions based on statistical evidence, which is a skill used in everyday life, business, and science.
- Enhance your ability to think critically about data presented in the media, research, and various reports.
- Understand how statistical models can be used to solve real-life problems in areas such as health, economics, sports, and social sciences.

The course is particularly valuable if you have an interest in understanding patterns and trends in the world around you and wish to pursue further studies or careers that require analytical skills.

### **How is the course assessed?**

*The GCSE Statistics course is assessed through two written exams at the end of the course. Both exams focus on your ability to apply statistical methods, interpret data, and draw conclusions.*

- **Paper 1:** *A written exam that assesses your knowledge and application of statistical techniques and methods.*
- **Paper 2:** *Another written exam that focuses on problem-solving and reasoning using statistics, involving both theory and practical questions.*

*Both exams are weighted equally and contribute to your final grade.*

### **Which careers/ post 16 courses will this course help me to prepare for?**

Studying GCSE Statistics opens up a range of career and further study opportunities. The skills you develop in data analysis, problem-solving, and critical thinking are in high demand across many fields, including:

- **Careers:** Data analyst, market researcher, statistician, business analyst, sports analyst, health researcher, economist, and social scientist.
- **Post-16 courses:** You may choose to further study mathematics, economics, psychology, business studies, or other subjects where statistical methods are important.
- **Higher education:** Many university courses in science, engineering, business, economics, and social sciences will require knowledge of statistics, and this GCSE provides a solid foundation for further study.

By taking GCSE Statistics, you will be developing essential skills that are valued by employers and universities alike, especially in today's data-driven world.

## **CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS**

### **1 Select a subject from each block:**

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>
French	Art, Craft and Design	Design Technology	Computer Science
German	Drama	Food	Creative Media
Geography	History	Physical Education	Food
Health and Social Care	Physical Education	Geography	History
History	Statistics	History	Music

### **2 Select a reserve choice from each block:**

You must give a reserve for your choice. The reserve must include a new subject not mentioned in any of your first choices.

### **3 Select either COMBINED or TRIPLE Science**

## **Y9 Options Form 2025**

### **Important considerations:**

**Although we welcome choice and do our utmost to accommodate pupils' preferences, Old Buckenham High School reserves the right to decide a pupil's suitability for a course.**

- If you have target grades of 3 or above OBHS **strongly recommends** that you take either Geography or History at GCSE.
- If you have target grades of 3 or above OBHS **strongly recommends** that you take a modern foreign language at GCSE if you expect to take an academic route in the future. It shows a high level of skill and some university courses (which are not language based) require this.

**If reserves have not been completed, your application will not be accepted.**