

## 2020/2021 GCSE Choices

**Student Name:** ..... **Current Year Group:** .....

**Signed** .....

**Parent**

Unlike previous years, GCSE's will now only be sat in Year 10 and 11. An alternative Creative Curriculum model will be followed in Year 9 allowing students to gain experience in many of the following GCSEs prior to making their final option choices. The GCSE option groups could be smaller than previous years although this is something that we are happy to support to keep the breadth of curriculum we offer. We may need to reconsider an option should the class size make it unviable. Please show us your top two choices in each of the two blocks by numbering them 1 and 2 to show your first and second choices.

**Please note:**

→ Students considering A Levels and perhaps then university really need to have taken French and/or German with either History and/or Geography by the end of their Year 11. Other than in exceptional circumstances, all students should have taken at least one of these subjects by the end of their Year 11.

<b><u>Block 1</u></b>		<b><u>Block 2</u></b>	
<b><i>History</i></b>		<b><i>Business Studies</i></b>	
<b><i>German</i></b>		<b><i>Design Tech</i></b>	
<b><i>Art and Design</i></b>		<b><i>Animal Care</i></b>	
<b><i>Performing Arts (Drama)</i></b>		<b><i>Food Prep. &amp; Nutrition</i></b>	
<b><i>Additional</i></b>		<b><i>Statistics</i></b>	



## 2020-2021 GCSE Choices

It is time for students in the current Years 9 and 10 to make their two GCSE choices for the coming academic year which kicks off during the summer term. The subjects on offer have been based on expressions of interest from students. We have tried, as best we can, to tailor the subjects on offer to best fit our students' needs.

Nationally students are encouraged to take at least one of the following subjects by the end of Year 11: History; Geography; French; & German. However, if you are thinking about university, it is advisable to take French and/or German with either History and/or Geography. For some student's, this EBacc route is appropriate, although not for all. Please discuss your choices with Miss Timmons or Mrs Chapman if you are unsure what route to take.

<b><u>Choices for 2020/21</u></b>		<b><u>Year 9/10 Information</u></b>
<b><u>BLOCK 1</u></b> <i>History</i>  <i>German</i>  <i>Art &amp; Design</i>  <i>Performing Arts(Drama)</i>  <i>Additional</i>	<b><u>BLOCK 2</u></b> <i>Business St.</i>  <i>Design Tech</i>  <i>Animal Care</i>  <i>Food prep. &amp; Nutrition</i>  <i>Statistics</i>	<p>If you are considering A Levels and then University, it's well worth having something called the 'English Baccalaureate' under your belt.</p> <p>The E Bacc consists of English, Maths, Science, a language (French/German) and a humanities subject (History/Geography).</p> <p>Choose your subjects accordingly.</p>

### BLOCK 1



#### History

Following on from two successful years of History results, we are once again looking at four specific areas. We will be studying Conflict in Asia, dealing with the Korean and Vietnam wars and their impact. We then move on to Opportunity and Equality in America, from the 1920's – the time of flappers, Al Capone and Prohibition – through to the 1970's and dealing with Martin Luther King, the KKK and The Great Depression along the way. Paper 2 deals with Medieval life in England during the reign of Edward I, including his wars with Scotland and Wales. Finally, we will be studying Medicine through the Ages, from circa 1,000 to Present Day. There is no coursework, simply two papers of two hours each. Attendance is a crucial factor in undertaking this subject as we cannot afford missed lessons due to the quantity of knowledge we have to deal with.

Students who have studied a language say it is both challenging and rewarding at the same time. Gaining a language qualification can open doors to more international careers and businesses but is also considered an indication of a student's effort and motivation by colleges and employers alike. The skills gained when learning a language are highly transferable in many roles even when a language itself may not be needed - such as communication skills, listening skills, persistence, memory skills and awareness of different cultures etc. The course itself is exam based, students sit an exam in each of the four skill areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. As with KS3 languages at SKS homework comprises of learning key words/phrases, meaning that in lessons students can maximise the time spent on skills-based tasks and exam techniques.



German



Art and Design

The art and design GCSE is 60% coursework and 40% exam. Students will complete 2 coursework projects that demonstrate their ability to explore a range of materials and processes. Students will investigate a range of artists/craftspeople, be encouraged to improve their drawing skills and their ability to take creative risks when using a wide range of techniques. The coursework projects will be teacher led. Students exam work will also include a whole project where pupils select a theme from the AQA exam board accumulating in a 10-hour exam period where a final piece/s and evaluations will be completed.

We have had considerable success with the Drama and Dance GCSE and BTEC courses in recent years. This year Miss Alison is delivering the BTEC Level 2 Performing Arts Tech Award DRAMA Pathway. There is no exam for this course with everything being very practically based. Be prepared for plenty of written work as well, with your portfolio of ideas, investigations into practitioners and evaluations into your scripted and improvised drama work being a core part of your assessment alongside your performances. Film will likely be brought into your work as well as opportunities to go out to see live work elsewhere.



Performing Arts (Drama)



Additional

The GCSE additional option is aimed at students who we feel would hinder their overall progress by overloading their GCSE curriculum. There is no GCSE achieved with this option but for some it will help them to achieve their full potential in their other subjects by taking this. This option is not open to all students and must be discussed with Miss Timmons or Mrs Chapman prior to selecting it. Each of the four allocated lessons will be led by a teacher. Maths, English, and Science lessons will be aimed at supporting students to address current issues and any misconceptions that may impact on their current progress. The fourth lesson will be a chance for students to catch-up on work from their other GCSE's with some teacher support and input.

### BLOCK 2



Business Studies

We haven't taught Business Studies for a couple of years now, but with a number of students expressing an interest this time around Mr Fletcher will be teaching it again. There are two main parts to the course, both examined next summer. The first part looks at the influence of operations and human resources on a business. The second exam is on the influence of marketing and finance. The course will provide students with the opportunity to explore real businesses and some of the issues they face. We will study theoretical concepts using real world examples. Taking this course will serve as a good introduction to how different sorts of companies organise themselves and give you an idea of the opportunities that are out there in the real world.

The DT GCSE consists of 50% exam and 50% coursework. Students are to complete a sustained project set by AQA exam board for their coursework. During this time students will focus on research, analysis, designing, design development, making and evaluating equally as each section carries the same weight towards the final grade. Students will have the opportunity to explore materials and their properties, model making, problem solve in order to develop a final prototype. Pupils will cover a wide range of topics linking to our constant changing dynamic world of design and manufacturing.



Design Technology



We are delivering the extremely popular BTEC Animal Care course once again this year, taught by Ms Johnson. It has links with Biology and gives a good grounding for students thinking about a career working with animals, perhaps in agriculture, the veterinary field or working with horses. In all there are four units. The first two in Animal Health and Animal Handling are compulsory. The group then takes two out of three units offered namely Animal Housing and Accommodation, and Principles of Animal Behaviour. While much of the work for this course is practical, students must be aware of the importance of the theory side of the course. Unit one is an externally assessed exam and the other three units are made up of a total of six internally assessed assignments, which call for students to fully describe their ideas, use a variety of ways to present information and in order to gain higher grades they must demonstrate an ability to explain and evaluate.

This is the third year of this course, offered by the AQA examination board and taught by Ms Timmons. Like the courses we have offered previously, it has a strong practical element. The two coursework assignments, for example, are investigations involving students in planning and carrying out practical tasks and then going on to evaluate how it has all gone. There is an increased emphasis upon nutrition and healthy eating and there is also more focus on the Science behind what is happening in the production and cooking of food.



Food Preparation & Nutrition



Statistics

Taking Statistics as an option subject is a great way to bolster your performance in Mathematics, as well as developing a greater understanding in one of the fastest-growing areas of industry internationally today. Delivered by Mr Hammond, we will explore how to turn otherwise meaningless data into useful information that can be used to shape our idea of the world. The skills acquired in this course have a high degree of relevance in all manner of other subjects and are particularly useful for those students looking for careers in business, ICT, engineering or further academic study. By building on the basics of averages and probability that you will have already covered in Mathematics, you will be able to critically evaluate the usefulness of data, draw more meaningful insights and inform future decision making better than ever before!