

Ashton Community Science College



Curriculum Options Booklet

**for students starting Year 10 in
September 2020**



Ashton
Community
Science
College

'a school to be proud of'

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Dear Students, Parents and Carers

The decision about which subjects to study during Key Stage 4 is one of the crucial moments in any student's secondary education. We aim to make sure that the information and guidance provided will support our students through this options process and ensure that their informed choices prepare them fully for life after Ashton.

At Ashton, we follow a two-year Key Stage 4 starting in Year 10. We firmly believe that the curriculum should be ambitious but accessible for all our students, whatever their strengths and abilities. We therefore offer a wide range of subjects which allow students to choose courses which meet their interests and also their needs and aspirations for future progression.

It is important to maintain a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum throughout Key Stage 4. All students will study the following subjects as part of their core study: GCSE English, GCSE English literature, GCSE mathematics, GCSE statistics and GCSE science (trilogy). Students will also continue to study PE, RE, Careers and PSHE. In addition to this, they are able to choose a further three subjects from the options blocks. The information in this booklet will provide information about the courses available in Key Stage 4 including their content, how they are assessed and their relevance and importance in the world of work. In school, students' awareness of employability skills and future careers is a constant focus and I would urge you to look at the information and the many links which are available on the school website in order to support your child with their decision making.

I look forward to seeing you at the options' evening on Thursday 30 January at 6pm when there will be the opportunity to hear more about the Key Stage 4 curriculum and talk to staff about the courses available.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Hoyle
Deputy Headteacher

Introduction

Welcome to the Key Stage 4 Curriculum Options Booklet. It is an exciting time for Year 9 students; making the decision about which courses to take during Key Stage 4 is very important. Your choice will depend on your interests and career aspirations as well as your ability in different subjects. It is essential that you think carefully about which courses to follow.

In recent years there have been many changes to the content and structure of GCSE exams. Some of the key features of these new style GCSEs are:

- All GCSEs are now linear and are examined at the end of the course (for current year 9 this will be summer 2022)
- All GCSEs have been designed to be more rigorous, demanding and challenging.
- There will not be any tiered exam papers except in mathematics, science and French. This means that students of all abilities sit the same exam.
- There is a greater emphasis on spelling, punctuation and grammar. (SPaG)
- The grade scale for these new GCSEs now ranges from 9-1 with 9 being the highest.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is not a qualification in itself but rather a particular group of subjects which are looked on favourably by Universities and are considered essential to many degrees; this is the reason why it is the Government's ambition that 75% of students study the full suite of EBacc subjects by 2022 and 90% of students study a foreign language. The EBacc ensures that students have a strong academic education and is made up of the following subjects:

- English,
- English literature,
- mathematics,
- the sciences (including computer science),
- history or geography,
- a foreign language.

You do not need to take all of these subjects to be able to go to University but studying this group of subjects will help you keep your options open for further study and future careers.

Science

All students follow the GCSE combined science (trilogy) course which covers all three sciences and is equivalent to two GCSEs. However, some students may wish to study the science subjects in more detail and follow the triple science course which will allow students to gain separate qualifications in GCSE biology, GCSE chemistry and GCSE physics. If this is the case, then students must choose the triple science option from the option blocks.

How to choose

Within this booklet you will find information to help you choose which options to study throughout Years 10 and 11. Please read the booklet carefully and discuss your ideas with your parents and teachers. It is important that you understand the demands of each subject and what you will be expected to do. Ask your teachers for advice on your level of achievement and future potential in each subject.

You should choose subjects:

- which you like and which excite, motivate and interest you.
- which might help you in the general career area that you are interested in, such as 'working with people' or 'using practical skills'.

You should not choose subjects:

- just because your friends want to do them.
- just because you like the teacher.

Ensuring you have a balance of subjects is essential. Remember, you will follow compulsory courses in GCSE English, GCSE English literature, GCSE mathematics, GCSE statistics and GCSE combined science (trilogy). You will be asked to choose **one** subject from **each** option block in the grid below. To ensure that your curriculum remains broad and balanced we also ask that you choose a minimum of one of the following courses: GCSE computer science, GCSE French, GCSE history or GCSE geography. These courses are highlighted in bold text.

OPTION BLOCK A	OPTION BLOCK B	OPTION BLOCK C
triple science	French	RE
computer science	history	history
performing arts: dance	food and nutrition	child development
performing arts: drama	DT	geography
geography	creative imedia	computer science
art	sport science	Literacy/ numeracy**
textiles		

Literacy/ numeracy** - this course is by invitation only and is designed to meet the specific needs of some identified students.

Will I get what I choose?

We try our best to ensure students are able to study the options they have chosen. However, our final offer of subjects depends upon numbers; classes need to be of a certain minimum size to run.

Compulsory courses

GCSE English language	page 7
GCSE English literature	page 8
GCSE Mathematics	page 9
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Science courses

GCSE Combined science: Trilogy	page 11
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Option courses

GCSE Art and Design	page 13
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GCSE Design and Technology	page 15
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition	page 16
GCSE French	page 17
GCSE Geography	page 18
GCSE History	page 19
GCSE Religious Studies	page 20
GCSE Textiles	page 21
BTEC Performing Arts: Acting	page 22
BTEC Performing Arts: Dance	page 23
BTEC Tech Award in Child Development	page 24
Cambridge National: Creative iMedia	page 25
Cambridge National: Sport Science	page 26

GCSE English Language

Course followed: AQA GCSE English (8700)

Head of Department: Mrs N. Courtney

What will you learn?

You will continue to build on the reading, writing and spoken language skills you have already been taught from year 7, following the same set of assessment objectives. You will also read a selection of texts from the 19th - 21st centuries to explore the different language styles, forms and techniques that writers use to produce creative texts and to present their views about a particular topic or idea. You will learn how to apply these skills to successfully produce your own written and spoken responses.

What do we want from you?

In order to gain entry to most colleges, universities, apprenticeships, or for most forms of employment, you will be expected to achieve a GCSE grade 4 or above in English language and mathematics. You will be taught English language, alongside English literature and you will be expected to:

- read a range of texts independently
- respond orally and in writing to exam style questions
- share your ideas with your peers during whole class and smaller group discussions
- work independently and in groups to prepare presentations about a range of topics
- complete homework within set time limits to the best of your ability.

Additional costs associated with the course:

To support your learning of this subject, you will be given the opportunity to purchase revision guides, which many students find extremely helpful in the run up to their mock and final exams. They cost around £3.75 each.

Assessment:

In English Language, there is only a single tier entry, meaning that all students will sit the same final exams. You will sit two final exams: Paper 1 - "Explorations in creative reading and writing" and Paper 2 - "Writers' viewpoints and perspectives". Each paper is equally weighted and you will be graded according to the overall mark. You will also be tested in "Spoken Language". Your presentation will be recorded and you will then be awarded a mark, which will equate to a Pass, Merit, or Distinction. This mark, however, will not count towards your final GCSE grade.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

A GCSE in English Language is useful for many different careers, including: Digital copywriter; Editorial assistant; Lexicographer; Journalist; Publishing copy-editor; Web content manager; Writer; Marketing executive; PPC specialist; Public relations officer; Records manager; School teacher; Social media manager.

GCSE English Literature

Course followed: AQA English Literature (8702)

Head of Department: Mrs N. Courtney

What will you learn?

The aim of the Literature course is that you will study texts which develop reading, enjoyment and understanding of poetry, prose and drama (including Shakespeare, modern prose/plays and a 19th century novel). You will be encouraged to develop your awareness of personal, social and cultural differences and significances and to reflect on the linguistic and cultural diversity of society in the range of texts chosen for study. It opens up greater opportunities for you to study English Literature, or combined Language and Literature, at A-Level.

What do we want from you?

Starting in year 10, you will read each of the texts in class and much of your homework will be generated from your study of the texts. You will be expected to read the texts independently, from time to time, and to respond to GCSE type questions throughout the course, in order to prepare you for your final exams. In lessons, you will be called upon to work independently and in groups. Your group work will often involve producing shared responses to GCSE style questions related to the text you are studying. Be prepared to take an active role in these activities.

Additional costs associated with the course:

In order to aid your independent study of the various texts, we would encourage you to buy your own copies of the books. These do not need to be new and can be purchased quite cheaply, second hand. You will also be given the opportunity to purchase revision guides, which many students find extremely helpful in the run up to their mock and final exams, at a cost of around £3.75 each.

Assessment:

In English Literature, there is only a single tier entry, meaning that all students will sit the same final exams. GCSE Grades 1-9 are available (9 being the best grade).

You will sit two exam papers at the end of year 11:

- Paper 1: 1 hr 45 min – Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel, which is worth 40% of the grade
- Paper 2: 2 hr 15 min – Modern Texts and Poetry, which is worth 60% of the grade

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

A GCSE in English Literature is useful for careers in: law, journalism, the media, business, publishing, marketing and teaching/lecturing.

GCSE Maths

Course followed: Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Maths (1MA1)

Head of Department: Mr D. Woodcock

What will you learn?

You will learn a wide range of skills based on the main strands of GCSE Maths which are:

- Algebra
- Number
- Geometry and Measures
- Ratio and Proportion
- Probability and Statistics

What do we want from you?

You must be prepared to learn the skills necessary for each topic and then show resilience in applying these skills in problem solving questions. You must show your working out clearly and take the time to learn key formulae and rules.

Additional costs associated with the course:

A set of Corbettmaths revision cards are a recommended resource, these are available from your teacher for £5.

Assessment:

You will be entered for either Foundation Tier (with grades 5-1 available) or Higher Tier (with grades 9-4 available). The course is assessed based on 3 exams at the end of year 11 each lasting 1hr 30mins. Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper and papers 2 & 3 are calculator papers.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for further study in a wide range of subjects including Maths, Sciences, Accounting, Engineering and Computing.

A GCSE in Maths is useful for careers in EVERYTHING!! A pass in Maths is a minimum requirement for most college courses and apprenticeships.

GCSE Statistics

Course followed: Edexcel GCSE (9-1) in Statistics

Head of Department: Mr D. Woodcock

What will you learn?

You will learn a wide range of skills based on the three main strands of GCSE Statistics which are:

- Collecting data.
- Processing, analysing and representing data.
- Probability.

What do we want from you?

You must be prepared to learn the skills necessary for each topic and then show resilience in applying these skills in real world based questions. You must show a combination of mathematical ability alongside an understanding of how statistics are used in the wider world.

Additional costs associated with the course:

A revision guide is recommended, these are available from your teacher for £3.

Assessment:

The course is assessed based on 2 exams at the end of year 10 each lasting 1 hr 30mins. Both papers permit the use of a calculator.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for further study in a wide range of subjects including maths, sciences, accounting, advertising, marketing and design.

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

Course followed: AQA GCSE in Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)

Head of Department: Miss K Chelton

What will you learn?

Combined science provides you with the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and you will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. You will be helped to appreciate how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas. These key ideas include:

- the use of models and theories to make sense of the observed diversity of the natural world
- the assumption that every effect has one or more cause
- that science progresses through a cycle of hypothesis, practical experimentation, observation, theory development and review
- that mathematical analysis is an important part of many theories and of scientific methods of inquiry.

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at all learners and we expect you to want to learn. Your teachers have high expectations of you and we will expect you to have equally high expectations for yourself. The best way to succeed is to work hard, attempt everything you do to the best of your ability and never worry about making mistakes. Resilience, determination and "can do" attitude will help ensure your success on this course.

Assessment:

You may be entered for either foundation or higher tier. You will sit two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics examinations.

Biology: Paper 1 (16.7%), 1h 15min

Paper 2 (16.7%), 1h 15min

Chemistry: Paper 1 (16.7%), 1h 15min

Paper 2 (16.7%), 1h 15min

Physics: Paper 1 (16.7%), 1h 15min

Paper 2 (16.7%), 1h 15min

All exams take place during the summer term of Year 11.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for studying A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Level 3 BTECs in Applied Science or Health and Social Care, Engineering or Technical Apprenticeships and many of the future higher skilled jobs.

A GCSE in Combined Science: Trilogy is useful for careers in Science Laboratories, Forensic Science, Physiotherapy and many other professions where an ability to follow a scientific method is an advantage. It will also be very useful for those of you considering a technical trade such as electrician or plumber.

GCSE Triple Science

Courses followed: AQA GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, Physics (8461, 8462, 8463)

Head of Department: Miss K Chelton

What will you learn?

In Triple Science you will learn in depth about the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world. This prepares you very well for A Levels in science.

In Biology this will be covered in topics such as Cell biology, Infection and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution.

In Chemistry you will learn about Atomic Structure, Chemical bonding, Organic chemistry and Chemical changes, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical analysis and Chemistry of the atmosphere.

In Physics main topics include Particle Model of Matter, Electricity, Magnetism and Electromagnets, Energy, Waves, Forces and Space.

What do we want from you?

You will be expected to have a strong work ethic and an enquiring mind, interested in the world and wider universe. You will have developed an understanding of the scientific method of investigation and be prepared to offer your own conclusions to ideas and concepts you may never have seen before. Overall a willingness to listen, learn and take a full and active part in all you are asked to do will go a long way to ensuring you can be successful on this course.

Assessment:

You will gain three separate GCSEs.

You may be entered for either foundation or higher tier. There are two examinations in each subject at the end of Y11.

GCSE Biology: Paper 1 (50%), 1hr 45min

Paper 2 (50%), 1h 45min

GCSE Chemistry: Paper 1 (50%), 1hr 45min

Paper 2 (50%), 1h 45min

GCSE Physics: Paper 1 (50%), 1hr 45min

Paper 2 (50%), 1h 45min

All exams take place during the summer term of Year 11.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will put you in a strong position for studying A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, Engineering or Technical Apprenticeships and many of the future higher skilled jobs.

GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are useful for careers in Scientific Research, Medicine, Engineering, Physiotherapy, Sports Science and Forensic Science.

GCSE Art and Design

Course followed: AQA GCSE in Art and Design (Art, Craft and Design) (8201)

Head of Department: Mrs S Bithell

What will you learn?

You will develop knowledge, understanding and skills relevant to the chosen theme. You will be encouraged to engage in critical and contextual study. You will learn through practical experience and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of sources that inform your creative intentions. You must develop and apply relevant subject-specific skills in order to use visual language to communicate personal ideas, meanings and responses. You must, over time, reflect critically upon your creative journey and its effectiveness to your personal response.

What do we want from you?

This course is aimed at learners who would like to continue to develop further skills in art and design. Successful art and design students are, committed, enthusiastic and have a certain amount of creative flair. They are able to pick new skills quickly, then practice using them and confident in their ability to draw.

You must be prepared to continue your learning at home.

Additional costs associated with the course:

Basic drawing equipment pencil, rubber, sharpener and ruler. There will opportunity to purchase specific equipment once on the course, all at reasonable prices. For example: Folders, 2B, 4B pencils, putty rubbers, fine liners etc.

Assessment:

There is a 4 grade criteria against which the coursework and exam are set:

A01 Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

A02 Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

A03 Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.

A04 Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

Course work 60%

Exam 40%

The exam consists of preparation time and a 10-hour exam.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

A GCSE in Art and Design is useful for many careers such as: fashion photographer, special effects makeup artist, advertising, high school teacher, art therapist, iPhone designer, art director, video game design, fashion designer/consultant, architect, tattoo artist, set and stage design, graphic illustrator, book illustrator, television producer.

GCSE Computer Science

Course followed: OCR Computer Science (J187)

Head of Department: Mr J. Murray

What will you learn?

GCSE in Computer Science is engaging and practical, encouraging creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

- Computer Science Theory
- Programming

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at all learners who wish to develop their understanding of Computer Science and gain programming skills. The course is also aimed at those students who may wish to take this qualification into higher education but successful completion will also benefit all students with problem solving skills. Students should be:

- effective communicators
- able to take the initiative
- organised and confident

You must be prepared to study computer science theory and develop your programming skills in a range of different languages.

Assessment:

You will complete two written exams each worth 50%.

- Computer Systems: 1hr 30 minutes
- Computational thinking, algorithms and programming: 1hr 30 minutes
- Programming Project (20 hours)

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

Computer Science is a well sought after GCSE. Successful completion of this course will provide students with a platform to continue studying computer related courses after year 11 but also instills skills which can be used in a wide range of areas.

Computer Science is very much in demand with our ever changing technological world. A GCSE in Computer Science is useful for careers such as; programmers, game/app developers, technicians, networkers, web designers and anything which requires problem solving and computers.

GCSE Design Technology

Course followed: WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Design & Technology

Head of Department: Mr R. Jones

What will you learn?

You will learn to develop core knowledge and understanding of five clear and distinct topic areas:

- design and technology and our world
- smart materials
- electronic systems and programmable components
- mechanical components and devices
- materials

You will also develop in-depth knowledge and understanding of natural and manufactured materials to support your design and make activities.

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at all learners who wish to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise, in order to:

- develop design proposals for users' needs, wants and values,
- use imagination, experimentation and combine ideas when designing
- communicate design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques,
- develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources.
- demonstrate safe working practices in design and technology

Additional costs associated with the course:

The Design and Make task is issued in the summer term when the students will be in year 10. The students will select a task for the list and they will have 35 hours to manufacture an outcome and to produce a portfolio of work. Costs may be associated with the manufacture of your final GCSE project.

Assessment:

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

- Written examination: 2 hours
- 50% of qualification
- A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge

Component 2: Design and make task

- Non-exam assessment: 35 hours
- 50% of qualification
- A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for 'A' level Design & Technology, BA, BEng and BSc degree courses, Technical and applied vocational courses and design, manufacturing or engineering apprenticeships. A GCSE in Design and Technology is useful for careers in Design, Manufacturing or Engineering which require the practical and problem solving skills that D&T provides and the demand for people in these areas of work is growing fast.

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Course followed: AQA GCSE Food preparation and Nutrition

Head of Department: Mr R Jones

What will you learn?

This exciting course will teach you all about food in its widest sense and help you to learn and develop a wide range of food preparation skills.

You will understand:

- what food is composed of, why we need it and its effect on health.
- how food can be prepared and cooked skillfully and safely.
- what happens to the ingredients when they are prepared and cooked.
- where food comes from.
- which foods different cultures eat throughout the world.
- how food choices affect the health of the individual, families and the global environment.

What do we want from you?

You need to be interested in food, its production, preparation and consumption. You need to be prepared to try new dishes and preparation techniques.

You need to be a student who is prepared to work hard, there is a lot of food science and nutritional analysis in the course.

You need to always provide ingredients when asked to do so.

Additional costs associated with the course:

The purchasing of food for practical lessons, there will be approximately one practical every two weeks. Occasionally you will be asked to provide a specific item e.g. a loose bottomed flan tin. All students will need to purchase a revision guide.

Assessment:

1. Food Investigation Task (15%)
2. Food Preparation Task (35%)
3. Written Examination (50%)

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for study in Biology or Chemistry at A level, any Hotel and Catering course

A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition is useful for careers in Dietetics, Food science and the Catering and hospitality industry.

GCSE French

Course followed: AQA GCSE in French (8658)
Head of Department: Mrs C Joassard (Mrs J Hoyle)

What will you learn?

The course will help you develop the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing and builds on the vocabulary and grammar that you learned during Years 7, 8 and 9. The emphasis of the course is on being able to communicate effectively across a wide range of themes including:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at all learners who wish to continue with their study of a language and who have enjoyed and valued their language learning to date. Successful language learners are:

- effective communicators
- able to take the initiative
- organised and confident

You must be prepared to learn vocabulary and grammar weekly as well as practise developing the skills of translation and working from memory.

Assessment:

You will be entered for either the Foundation tier, or the Higher tier across all four skills. All exams will take place during the summer term of Year 11.

Listening (25%)

Speaking (25%)

Reading (25%)

Writing (25%)

Additional costs associated with the course:

Purchasing revision guides to support with the acquisition of skills during the course.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

In today's world, the ability to speak another language is becoming increasingly important. The skills you will acquire will be useful for travelling and discovering more about other cultures. It will also help you with interviews, writing essays, expressing opinions and improving your literacy skills. Having a second language makes you much more employable and can be used to complement almost all other careers. Increasingly, companies are advertising for employees who can use their language skills in the global market. A GCSE in French is useful for careers therefore in teaching, interpreting, translation, business, accounting and many, many more.

GCSE Geography

Course followed: AQA Spec A 8035
Head of Department: Miss J Williamson

What will you learn?

You will learn about the physical landscape around you and the processes that have created it, including tectonic hazards, rivers, extreme weather and climate change. You will develop a deep understanding of global ecosystems such as tropical rainforests and hot deserts and study examples of how we try to manage them sustainably. In addition, you will study cities and their characteristics and look at the challenges and opportunities that urban areas create including Bristol and Rio de Janeiro.

What do we want from you?

You will need to learn large amounts of factual content and you must be prepared to spend a large amount of time revising.

You must be prepared to respond to questions with extended written answers.

You will need to keep up to date with topical issues in the news.

Additional costs associated with the course:

Purchase of revision guide.

Contribution towards fieldwork activities.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG)= 35 % of GCSE

Paper 2: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG) = 35 % of GCSE

Paper 3: Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG = 30 % of GCSE (Pre-release resources booklet made available 12 weeks before exam for students to discuss with teacher)

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for further education courses and jobs where you need to collate, analyse and interpret data from a wide range of sources.

A GCSE in Geography is useful for careers in urban planning and land use, environmental monitoring and impact, local and central government, leisure and tourism, policing and the armed forces, sustainable energies, resource management flood risk and river management.

GCSE History

Course followed: AQA GCSE History (8145)

Head of Department: Mr J Pugh

What will you learn?

You will study four different periods of History:

- America 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality – This unit involves studying the boom of the 1920s; the Wall Street Crash and the Great Depression; the impact of the Second World War on the USA; post war America, including the civil rights movement and the roles of Martin Luther King and Malcolm X.
- Conflict and Tension: 1918-1939 – You will study the work of the peacemakers at the end of the First World War; the reasons for the failure of the League of Nations, the causes of the Second World War.
- Britain: Health and the People C1000 to present day – A breadth study covering a thousand years of history focused on developments in medicine and health across this period including improvements in treatment, surgery and public health.
- Norman England 1066-1100 – The unit focuses on the Norman Conquest including the events of 1066 leading to the Battle of Hastings; the consolidation of Norman rule including the feudal system and Domesday Book; the Norman reform of religion in England.

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at all pupils who enjoy studying History and want to further their knowledge and understanding of some of the most important people and events that have shaped the world we live in today. We expect all pupils on the course to work hard in lessons, to complete all homework and to revise thoroughly for all assessments/exams, as well as fully engaging with the programme of revision lessons that will be provided in year 11.

You must be prepared to develop both your reading and writing skills.

Additional costs associated with the course:

There are no additional costs as revision materials/guides will be provided by the department.

Assessment:

Paper 1: Written exam: 2 hours (84 marks, including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) = 50 % of GCSE

Paper 2: Written exam: 2 hours (84 marks, including 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) = 50 % of GCSE

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for college and university courses, History is identified as one of the key facilitating subjects by the Russell Group Universities. The range of analytical skills that History will give you are also useful for careers in:

Journalism, Law, Business, Teaching, Marketing, Policing, Civil Service, Politics and also careers in the Military.

GCSE Religious Studies

Course followed: AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (8062)

Head of Department: Mr A Barrow

What will you learn?

The course will help you develop an understanding of the beliefs and practices of Christians and Muslims as well as the views of non-religious people. It should also help you to be able to discover and defend your own beliefs. As well as this you will study four themes. These are:

- Relationships and Families – looking at the nature and status of relationships including marriage, divorce and sexuality.
- Religion and Life – looking at the origins of the universe and of human life. This topic includes the study of abortion and euthanasia.
- The Existence of God – looking at philosophical arguments for the existence of God.
- Crime and punishment – looking at the causes of crime and attitudes towards it including corporal and capital punishment.

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at all learners who wish to continue a deeper, academic study of a RE. This course is for you if you like learning about other cultures and belief systems and arguing different points of view. It is for you if you like discussion, however, there is still a lot of written work to prepare for longer evaluative answers.

You must be prepared to support your learning outside the classroom as homework is regularly set.

Assessment:

You will be entered for a 9-1 GCSE. There are no tiers. There are two exam papers. One on beliefs and practices and one on the four themes. All exams take place during the summer term of Year 11.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for any further area of study that requires thinking and applying knowledge. It is particularly useful in jobs where you may work with people from different religious or cultural backgrounds. The evaluative skills developed in this area help you to become good at arguing a point whilst remaining sensitive to others. This is a valuable skill in all walks of life.

A GCSE in Religious Studies useful for all careers, but especially professions such as the police, retail, teaching, the law, the caring professions and the armed forces, in fact any profession that brings you into contact with other people.

GCSE Textiles

Course followed: AQA GCSE Art & Design Textile design 8204

Head of Department: Mrs S Bithell

What will you learn?

The course will help you develop skills in:

- AO1 - Looking at artists, craftspeople, designers and/or cultures to help inspire your work.
- AO2 - Using different materials and skills for example sewing, both hand and machine, free machine embroidery, appliqué, weaving, felting, block printing, sublimation printing and dyeing of fabrics. Experimenting and improving your work as it progresses.
- AO3 - Drawing and recording your ideas, taking photographs – making these link to your research from AO1. Drawings from objects in front of you.
- AO4 - Presentation of the work and final piece. This should be linked to your inspirations (AO1), your experiments (AO2) and your drawings and finished ideas (AO3).
- You are required to work in one or more area(s) of textile design: art textiles, fashion design and illustration, costume design, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles, surface pattern, stitched and/or embellished textiles, soft furnishings and/or textiles for interiors
You may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at all learners who enjoy and value their Textiles learning to date. Successful Textile learners are:

- creative
- someone who enjoys practical work
- an ability to draw is an advantage but not essential

You must be prepared to work independently in sketchpads or on design sheets, completing at least two hours of independent work at home per week.

Assessment:

Component 1: Portfolio

- Work produced from Years 9, 10 & 11
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Component 2: Externally set assignment

- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of GCSE

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

Having creative design experience and knowledge can open doors in the search for a career. While many positions do not require actual sewing on the job, a basic knowledge of textiles can be an invaluable asset within the sewing, fashion, home décor, and textile industries.

A GCSE in Textiles is useful for careers in any design based jobs, merchandise manager, textile sales, display designer, fashion Stylist, theatrical costuming, clothing/textile technologist, sewing machine operator, interior and spatial designer, fashion designer, textile designer and teaching.

BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Acting)

Course followed: Pearson BTEC L1/L2 Technical Award in Performing Arts
(Acting)

Head of Department: Miss K McClelland (Mrs Barnes) Course Tutor: Mrs Barnes

What will you learn?

You will develop your understanding of acting by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.

You will develop your performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of professional dramatic repertoire.

You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop acting performance in response to a given brief and stimulus from the exam board.

This course will provide opportunities for you to be aware of and to develop personal qualities of leadership, responsibility, appearance, commitment and teamwork in a range of practical and academic situations.

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at all learners who have a passion for drama. It will be expected that students taking this course are the following;

- o Enthusiastic.
- o Committed to work hard in practical lessons and complete detailed written assessments.
- o Can work independently and as an ensemble.
- o Have a willingness to try new ideas.
- o Show confidence to perform in front of others.

Assessment:

Exploring the Performing Arts (Acting) – Internal written assessment, based on theoretical and practical work –worth 30%.

Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (Acting) – Internal written assessment, based on skills workshops, audition performance of professional repertoire and written notes/ self-evaluation targets - worth 30 %.

Performing to a Brief - (Acting) External assessment, set by the exam board – practical and written evidence portfolio – worth 40%.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The course should provide a sound and sufficiently broad educational base to enable each student to progress either to a Level 3 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts (Acting), and/or A Level Theatre Studies or Drama. A BTEC in Acting is useful for careers in the Performing Arts industry as a performer, producer or director.

BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)

Course followed: Pearson BTEC L1/L2 Technical Award in Performing Arts
Head of Department: Miss K McClelland (Mrs Barnes)

What will you learn?

The course will help you develop the practical performance skills in Dance. You will learn how to choreograph, rehearse, develop and perform your dance skills to the highest level. You will work as an individual as well as in an ensemble using your imagination and creativity. Throughout the course you will research in depth professional works of the dance profession. The emphasis of the course is on being able to;

- Learn techniques
- Develop techniques
- Perform
- Analyse and review your work.
- Create targets for further improvement.

What do we want from you?

The course is aimed at enthusiastic all learners who have a passion for Performing Arts. It will be expected that students taking this course are the following;

- Enthusiastic.
- Committed to lessons and after school rehearsals.
- Can work independently and as an ensemble.
- Have a willingness to try new ideas.
- Show confidence to perform in front of others.

After school rehearsals and participation in shows is compulsory.

Assessment:

Written 50%- You will be assessed continually through written coursework and practical workshops. Your written coursework will include weekly log book diary entries, specific and detailed research on professional Performing Arts works target making, evaluation and reflection.

Practical 50% - You will be assessed on technique classes, development of themes, rehearsals and performances.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will help you with confidence, independence and team skills.

A BTEC in Dance is useful for careers in the Performing Arts industry as a performer, director and choreographer. Other careers include teaching, performing on cruise ships, television, radio and theatre.

BTEC Tech Award Child Development

Course followed: Pearson BTEC L1/L2 Technical Award
in Child Development
Course Leader: Mrs S Barnes

What will you learn?

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed knowledge and understanding of child development, answering such questions as: How can our growth and development from birth to five go on to shape the rest of our lives? What factors can affect the growth and development of babies? What factors can influence a child's wellbeing? How and why do children play? How does play contribute to emotional development of children? How is children's learning supported through play? You can be awarded marks from a Level 1 Pass, through to a Level 2 Distinction*. The course will also help you to develop specific skills, such as planning and reviewing.

What do we want from you?

The course is student centred. You will learn through investigation and active involvement. You will have a big responsibility for your learning. Components are taught through 'Assessment Criteria' outcomes and each assignment will concentrate on testing and extending your knowledge in one or more of the outcomes. It is vital that you use the guidance you are given by your teacher to help you prepare for assessment, as you will only get one opportunity for each Component to be assessed. All the assessed work is written/ extended project work - based on practical and theoretical ideas.

Assessment:

Component 1 - Growth and Development of Children Aged 0-5 Years – Internal Written Coursework assessment, worth 30%.

Component 2 - Supporting Children's Play and Development – Internal written coursework assessment, worth 30%.

Component 3 - Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop – Externally set and marked extended project, worth 40%.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both, providing you have passed relevant GCSEs. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the early years sector as an apprentice or a trainee. The best option for you will depend on the grades you achieve in this and in other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and any advice you can access about the further learning and training opportunities available in your area.

The qualification offers a range of progression through further study – for example, to early years educator and teaching roles, paediatric nursing, occupational therapy, child psychology, special needs support, social work and play work.

Cambridge National: Creative iMedia

Course followed: Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia (J276)

Head of Department: Mr J. Murray

What will you learn?

This OCR Level 2 course has been designed to give students an introduction to the skills, knowledge and understanding required to prepare them for work in the Creative Media sector. They have also been designed to help candidates develop their personal skills in the areas of planning and prioritising, career planning, communication and problem solving. The mandatory units you will study are;

- Unit R081 Pre-production skills (written exam)
- Unit R082 Creating Digital Graphics (coursework)

This course offers a range of 11 different units. Mandatory units are studied to help students to understand the basics of the creative and media sector. Other units are chosen to best suit Ashton students, enabling them to develop a broad range of skills and capability that will help them in the future career.

Potential units:

- Unit R089 Creating a Digital Video Sequence
- Unit R090 Digital Photography
- Unit R091 Designing a Game Concept
- Unit R092 Developing Digital Games

What do we want from you?

The aim of the qualification is to equip students with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

Desirable skills:

- independent worker
- creative flair
- able to use the initiative
- organised and confident

Assessment:

You will study a number of different units, two mandatory units and two optional units. Unit's R081 and R082 are mandatory in which R081 also includes an exam in year 11; others are taken from a combination of units to give as broad an experience as possible. Each unit is assessed by the completion of a range of assignments, which are assessed in school. These assignments are graded in the format of PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION.

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

Creative iMedia is media sector-focused, including film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and have IT at their heart. It provides the foundation for students to progress to more advanced studies and Creative iMedia-related careers.

A BTEC in Creative iMedia is useful for careers in Radio, TV, Photography, Creative Media, Web Authoring, Games Design.

Cambridge National: Sports Science

Course followed: OCR Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Science

Level 2 – J812

Head of Department: Mr T Waring

What will you learn?

Students will study OCR Sports Science which covers three internally assessed (coursework) units and one externally assessed unit in the form of an exam. All units are worth 25% of your overall grade at the end of year 11. See below for further details on which topic areas are explored.

Units you will study:

- Reducing the risk of sports injuries (*exam unit*) - learners will know how to prepare participants to take part in physical activity in a way which minimises the risk of injuries occurring.
- Applying the principles of training - learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the principles and methods of training.
- The body's response to physical activity - learners will understand key aspects of the structure and function of the musculo-skeletal and cardio-respiratory systems.
- Technology in Sport – evaluating the use of technology across different sports – From VARs introduction to football to the development of carbon fibre F1 cars.

What do we want from you?

To be playing for one or more school teams or representative level outside of school. You must participate fully in all sessions, both practical and theory.

Additional costs associated with the course:

Revision guides for the exam unit are sold within school for £3.

Assessment:

Exam (May 2020 – resit in Jan 2021)

- Reducing the risk of sports injuries – a 1hr, 60-mark exam, worth 25% of the qualification

Coursework assessments for:

- Applying the principles of training - worth 25% of the qualification
- The body's response to physical activity - worth 25% of the qualification
- Technology in Sport - worth 25% of the qualification

How does this subject fit into the world of work?

The skills you will acquire will be useful for A-Level Physical Education and Btec level 3 in Sport and can lead to careers such as PE teaching, physiotherapy, sport science, coaching and various careers within the leisure and tourism industry.