

2025-2026



Wednesfield Academy

YEAR 9

GUIDED PATHWAYS BOOKLET



Matrix
Academy Trust

CHANGING LIVES SHAPING FUTURES

CONTENTS

- 1.** GCSE English Language/Literature
- 2.** GCSE Mathematics
- 3.** GCSE Science
- 4.** GCSE French
- 5.** GCSE Geography
- 6.** GCSE History
- 7.** GCSE Art & Design
- 8.** GCSE Business
- 9.** BTEC Childcare
- 10.** GCSE Computer Science
- 11.** GCSE Design and Technology
- 12.** BTEC Drama Pathway
- 13.** BTEC Health and Social Care
- 14.** WJEC Hospitality and Catering
- 15.** BTEC Digital Information Technology
- 16.** BTEC Media
- 17.** BTEC Music
- 18.** GCSE Psychology
- 19.** GCSE Religious Education
- 20.** GCSE Sociology
- 21.** BTEC Sport

INTRODUCTION

We know that success in Year 10 and 11 will help to build the foundations you need to continue your journey towards a fulfilling career in the years ahead. Your studies in Year 10 and 11 at Wednesfield Academy will provide you with a suite of qualifications that will facilitate further study and access to a wide range of career pathways.



To help you make the best choices, you and your parents/carers need to have high quality information about the choices on offer to you. The information in this options booklet will hopefully provide the answers to any questions you may have.

We provide a high level of support for our pupils and believe that a three-way partnership between pupils, parents/carers and the school is key to achieving excellence. Our aim is to give you help and guidance in the coming weeks so that in September 2026 you can start your new courses with confidence.

We will make every effort to provide you with your subject choices. However, sometimes it may not be possible to run courses as advertised due to low take up.

Please also note that exam boards indicated may change. Please remember that your choices are only part of the decision about what you will study. Your teachers will also comment on your suitability for each course. Your choices are not guaranteed.

Exam Specifications

wednesfieldacademy.com/exam-specifications

Year 9 Options: Frequently asked questions



What is the difference between a GCSE and a Vocational/BTEC course?

The grades awarded are 9 to 1 for GCSE and Distinction* to Pass for a vocational/BTEC course. GCSE courses are normally 100% exam; although some of these exams are practical exams completed under strict supervision (controlled assessment). Written GCSE exams are taken at the end of the course and there are no re-sit options during Year 11.

BTEC/Vocational courses are unit based with pupils completing controlled assessments (Pearson Set Assignments) alongside external examinations. Pupils will have one opportunity to re-sit the examination; pupils do need to be aware that if the school does enter them for the resit examination, it will be this second result that will count towards the final grade.

BTEC grades are roughly equivalent to the following GCSE Grades:

- Level 2 Distinction* = Grade 8/9
- Level 2 Distinction = Grade 7
- Level 2 Merit = Grade 5/6
- Level 2 Pass = Grade 4
- Level 1 Distinction= Grade 3
- Level 1 Merit= Grade 2
- Level 1 Pass= Grade 1

Why should pupils study a language?

Learning a language is a skill that pupils will carry with them for life. Languages have always been highly regarded by universities and employers. The UK's lack of language skills costs the economy billions every year. We encourage pupils to study a language at GCSE to keep their future options open and enable them to develop a skill which is highly valued that they will take with them beyond Wednesfield Academy.

<https://bit.ly/choosinggcse>

Why do all pupils have to choose to study either French, Geography or History?

All these subjects are classed as facilitating subjects in that they facilitate a wide variety of career pathways. By studying one of these subjects, pupils are keeping their options open and placing themselves in a stronger position for study beyond 16. Facilitating subjects are the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a range of degree courses.

EBacc subjects

If your child wishes to study the EBacc suite of subjects, which have been identified by the government as subjects which will keep pupils' options open for further study and future careers, they will need to study the following subjects:

English, Maths, Science, French and Geography or History

What are the opportunities for pupils to study Triple Science as an option subject?

Triple Science allows you to specialise in the three areas of Science and would be useful if you are considering taking a Science at A-Level. Please note that currently there is a pre-requisite of a grade 6 in Sciences to study Sciences at post-16. This is also achievable on the Combined Science route.

Pupils who wish to study Triple Science will complete a suitability test to ensure that their current academic ability in Science will support them to be successful in each of the three separate GCSE Sciences that they will study: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



I still have questions, whom can I contact?

Please contact postbox@wednesfieldacademy if you have any further questions you wish to ask.

You might find another link useful for further impartial advice:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zrjh92p>



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE / LITERATURE

Studying English is essential as you will have opportunities to develop confidence and creativity in both reading and writing through your study of a wide range of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries as well as non-fictional texts. You will have the opportunity to study a range of interesting and challenging texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts to help you improve both your critical reading and your imaginative writing skills.

Overall, English will help you to:

- Work independently
- Be creative
- Think critically
- Communicate your ideas with confidence
- Think logically



What will I study?

English Language:

Throughout the two-year course, you will undertake preparation for completion of the following units;

- Paper 1 - Explorations in creative reading and writing: you will be assessed on your responses to one literature fiction text as well as the completion of a descriptive or narrative piece of writing.
 - Paper 2 - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives: you will be assessed on your response to two non-fiction texts as well as the completion of a functional writing task.
 - Non-examination assessment- Spoken Language: although this assessment does not count directly towards your GCSE grade, you will still undertake a variety of speaking and listening activities, including presentations and speeches.
- English Literature:
- As part of this two-year course, you will study:
- Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th century novel: you will be assessed on a whole Shakespeare play and a 19th Century novel.
 - Paper 2 - Modern texts and poetry: you will be assessed on a whole drama text as well as pre-studied and unseen poetry.

Assessment

The skills and knowledge taught throughout the courses will be assessed at the end of Year 11 and will be 100% exam based.

What can this subject lead to?

English is invaluable for your future no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day. English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life! GCSE English could help you achieve the following jobs (and many more): sports journalist, lawyer, film director, politician, author, newsreader, actor, architect, scriptwriter, teacher.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is much more than just a subject learned in school—it's a vital skill that shapes how we understand and interact with the world. From budgeting and problem-solving to careers in engineering, technology, and science, maths plays a crucial role in everyday life. By developing your mathematical skills, you not only open doors to a wide range of exciting careers but also gain the ability to think critically, make informed decisions, and approach challenges with confidence. As you consider your options, remember that maths provides a strong foundation for both your future studies and your future success.



What will I study?

The aims and objectives of GCSE Mathematics are to enable you to:

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

Assessment

The assessments will cover the following content:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Two tiers are available: Foundation and Higher (content is defined for each tier).

Throughout the course, you will complete units of work. Each half term you will complete assessments to track your progress and to highlight your areas of strength and areas for development.

What can this subject lead to?

Career opportunities are unlimited for mathematics pupils. You may pursue graduate education, career paths in business, science or technical fields or disciplines such as social services, education and government.

Some of the occupations that mathematics pupils enter include: accountancy, actuary, computer programming, doctor, engineering, investment management, lawyer, government research and laboratories, theoretical mathematician, mathematician, numerical analyst, statistician, teacher, market researcher, systems analyst, banking, government, space/aircraft industry.

GCSE SCIENCE

Type of Qualification:
Double Award: 2 GCSEs Combined Science
Triple Award: 3 GCSEs - Biology, Chemistry & Physics

There are two routes in which to achieve GCSEs in Science:

- 1: Double Award: Combined Science Trilogy
2. Triple Award: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

The Double Award is a programme of study in which you will attain two separate GCSE Science qualifications made up of all three Biology, Chemistry and Physics disciplines. This provides a firm foundation for progression to our Post-16 Science courses.

The Triple Award is a programme of study in which you will attain three separate GCSEs in Chemistry, Biology and Physics. You will learn more content than the Double Award. This provides in-depth preparation for further study into any area of Post-16 Science. This route is a popular choice for those wanting to study courses such as Engineering, Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.

Assessment

For the double award, you will take six examinations in the summer of Year 11.

For the triple award, you will take six examinations in the summer of Year 11.

What can this subject lead to?

Science enables entry into a wide range of career paths and will offer you a large bank of transferable key skills. Employers, colleges and universities actively encourage and seek people with Science qualifications.

Possible career pathways include: medicine, veterinary science, dentistry, nursing, engineering, physiotherapy, environmental work, optometry, pharmaceutical science, pathology, forensic science, research science, law, journalism, beauty therapy, health and safety, psychology, electrician, building trade, architecture, genetics, zoology, marine biology, geologist, astrophysics, epidemiology, social sciences, politics, fire service, robotics and computer science.

Please note that pupils who wish to study Triple Science will be required to take a suitability test in the summer term to ensure that their current academic ability in science will support them to be successful in each of the three separate GCSE Sciences.



GCSE FRENCH

GCSE French is an exciting opportunity for you to build on the language skills they have developed throughout Key Stage 3. It is designed to encourage you to be able to communicate confidently both in written and spoken French in a range of different scenarios.

The GCSE course blends cultural knowledge about French-speaking countries alongside extending your grammar and vocabulary abilities to create proficient and confident linguists. The specification is designed with a significant focus on developing spontaneous speech to ensure that you can apply their language skills in real life scenarios.



Taking GCSE French will offer you the chance to develop a wide variety of skills that are much sought after in a variety of different disciplines. The course develops outward-looking, self-regulating, independent and confident learners. It will encourage you to develop their communication and presentation skills as well as develop an empathetic and understanding worldview. A language qualification will often set applicants apart at interviews, as employers know they will have excellent attention to detail and be self-motivated.

What will I study?

The GCSE French course consists of four units based on the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. The course covers key themes of:

- Family, friends, relationships and equality
- Mental and physical wellbeing (including food and drink, sports and hobbies)
- Town, the natural world and local environmental issues
- Social media and gaming
- Future plans for work and study
- Holidays

Assessment

All questions on written papers are asked in English.

Assessment tasks include:

- Reading aloud in the foreign language, a role play and responding to short questions
- Listening and reading passages in the foreign language and answering questions in English
- Responding to bullet points in English in written form

What can this subject lead to?

Some areas where a language is highly sought after are: Teaching, translator, interpreter, tour guide, tourism and hospitality, airline pilot, flight attendant, journalist, government employee, working for the embassy/foreign office, politics, university researcher, law, business and trade.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

"There is no Planet B."

With the world changing rapidly, there's never been a more important time to study Geography. Climate change, urbanisation, and resource shortages are urgent global issues, and Geography gives you the tools to understand and tackle them. It helps you make sense of why cities are growing, how natural disasters happen, and how we can build a sustainable future. By studying Geography, you'll think like a global citizen, learning not just what's happening now, but how we can shape a better tomorrow. If you're curious about the world and want to make a real difference, Geography is the subject for you.



What will I study?

The course includes the following topics:

- Natural hazards – including tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change.
- The living world – including ecosystems, tropical rainforests, hot deserts.
- UK physical landscapes – including coasts and rivers.
- Urban issues and challenges.
- The changing economic world.
- Resource management – including water.
- Two fieldwork studies – 1 human, 1 physical.
- Geographical skills.

Assessment.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment:

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- Geographical skills

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment:

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management
- Geographical skills

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3: Geographical applications:

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical skills

How it's assessed:

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

What can this subject lead to?

Geographers are very employable and valued highly in the workplace for their ability to solve problems, consider a variety of approaches and for the range of data analysis used. Geography is multidisciplinary with a focus on the study of nature, the physical sciences, mathematics alongside sociology, economics and politics. Geography specialists work for many different employers and sectors, including Engineering, Education, the Legal Sector, Architecture, Sustainability and the Environment, Town Planning, Disaster Management, GIS, Travel, National Parks and many more.

Geography is part of the academic group of English Baccalaureate GCSE subjects, and the Russell Group of universities has recognised geography as one of their preferred 'facilitating subjects' - supporting an application into a wide range of undergraduate courses.

GCSE HISTORY

History is the study of important and fascinating events that have shaped the world. Since these events can't be experienced firsthand, they must be understood through the evidence left behind. This means asking questions, thinking carefully about different viewpoints, and not believing everything at face value. It also involves developing empathy, understanding people's actions, and using evidence to form opinions and make decisions. These skills are valuable in many careers, especially those that involve making important choices. Studying History isn't just about the past—it helps make sense of the present and prepares for the future by showing how the world has changed over time.



What will I study?

Paper 1: Germany - Democracy and Dictatorship - 1890-1945 (Period Study)

Paper 1: Conflict and Tension in Asia 1950-1975 (World Depth Study)

Paper 2: Health and People c100 to present day (Thematic study)

Paper 2: Elizabethan England 1568-1603 (British Depth Study)

Assessment

Assessment is by examination only.

Paper 1:

How it's assessed:

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

Paper 2:

How it's assessed:

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

What can this subject lead to?

GCSE History helps develop useful skills for many different careers. It does not just lead to teaching or museum work—unless that is your chosen path.

Skills such as research, critical thinking, and analysis are valued in jobs like law, medicine, business, finance, tourism, town planning, politics, journalism, and the military.

GCSE ART AND DESIGN



One of the main aims of this course is to help you to improve your creative thought processes and your powers of imagination. Alongside this, you will develop your practical skills to enable you to communicate your ideas and express your feelings successfully through your own art and design.

You will be expected to:

- Record images in relevant materials
- Investigate the work of artists, designers and crafts people
- Experiment with materials and develop ideas
- Make some individual artwork

What will I study?

You will be expected to produce artwork in one or more areas including drawing and painting, mixed media, printmaking, sculpture, film and light-based media, photography, film, video and animation. You will be introduced to a variety of experiences and a range of materials, processes and techniques. You will develop your understanding of art and design through experimenting with art materials and techniques, the development of your ideas, and research into the work of artists, designers and crafts people. You will be expected to work independently and make choices about how your work develops and which materials you specialise in.

Assessment

You will produce a portfolio of work based on a centre set theme with is 60% of the course and then an externally set task with makes up the other 40% of the course.

What can this subject lead to?

- A Level Art and Design
- Further Education courses

Possible degree choices:

Fashion and textiles, interior design, architecture, illustration, photography, art and design, crafts, visual culture, media, glass, theatre design, applied arts, graphics, silver smithing.

Types of jobs that you could progress to include:

Animator, art therapist, arts administrator, ceramicist, community arts worker, exhibition designer, fashion designer, fine artist, furniture designer, glass blower/designer, graphic designer, illustrator, industrial/product designer, interior and spatial designer, jeweller, makeup artist, medical illustrator, museum/gallery exhibitions officer, photographer, printmaker, production designer, theatre/ television/film, textile designer, web designer.

GCSE BUSINESS

Studying GCSE Business will give you the opportunity to explore real business issues and how businesses work in the real-world. You will learn about how the world of business works and its relevance to almost every aspect of modern society. Amongst other topics, you will learn about planning, finance, marketing and economics, as well as discovering some of the methods and techniques used to analyse an organisation's performance.

Studying GCSE Business will allow you to gain an insight into the demands of a truly modern and evolving business environment – this is a qualification that enables you to develop as a commercially minded and enterprising individual which will help you to succeed in your chosen pathway.



What will I study?

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business

Topic 1.1: Enterprise and Entrepreneurship

Topic 1.2: Spotting a Business Opportunity

Topic 1.3: Putting a Business Idea into Practice

Topic 1.4: Making the Business Effective

Topic 1.5: Understanding the External Influences on Business

Theme 2: Building a Business

Topic 2.1: Growing the Business

Topic 2.2: Making Marketing Decisions

Topic 2.3: Making Operational Decisions

Topic 2.4: Making Financial Decisions

Topic 2.5: Making Human Resource Decisions

Assessment

Theme 1 Written Examination (Investigating Small Business)

1 hour and 45 minutes, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE Business Qualification

Section A: 35 marks, Section B: 30 marks, Section C: 25 marks

Theme 2 Written Examination (Building a Business)

1 hour and 45 minutes, 90 marks, 50% of GCSE Business Qualification

Section A: 35 marks, Section B: 30 marks, Section C: 25 marks

Both papers will consist of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended-writing questions. Questions in Sections B and C will be based on business contexts given in the papers.

What can this subject lead to?

The knowledge and skills gained from GCSE Business support pupils' entry into employment or other training in specific aspects of business, such as apprenticeships and vocational qualifications which focus on more specialised business areas.

GCSE Business provides a strong foundation for employment, with students progressing, with further training, to a wide range of careers training such as banking, sales, product management and general management.

BTEC CHILDCARE

The BTEC Tech Award in Children's Play, Learning and Development is an interactive course that gives a great insight into the world of work, particularly in relation to the childcare sector. You will be able to apply what you learn to real life and understand your own behaviour and the behaviour of others in more detail.



What will I study?

Component 1: Children's growth and development

Component 2: Learning through play

Component 3: Supporting children to play

Assessment

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified.

Component 3 is externally assessed

What can this subject lead to?

You can study level 3 qualifications in Children's Play Learning and Development, which will enable you to pursue further study at university or to enter the world of work directly.

Studying this subject can help you to pursue the following careers:

teacher, social worker, police officer, midwife, nurse, nursery nurse, child minder, foster carer, play worker, early years practitioner, nanny, carer.

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

The most important aspect of computer science is problem solving, an essential skill for life. You will study the design, development and analysis of software and hardware used to solve problems in a variety of business, scientific and social contexts. Because computers solve problems to serve people, there is a significant human side to computer science as well.

Computer Science will enable you to:

- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems.
- Understand the impacts of digital technology upon the individual and to wider society.
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.



What will I study?

Computer systems

- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, Legal, Cultural and environmental concerns
- Systems architecture

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation.

Assessment

There are two external written exams:

Computer systems - 50% of the final grade

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 50% of the final grade

What can this subject lead to?

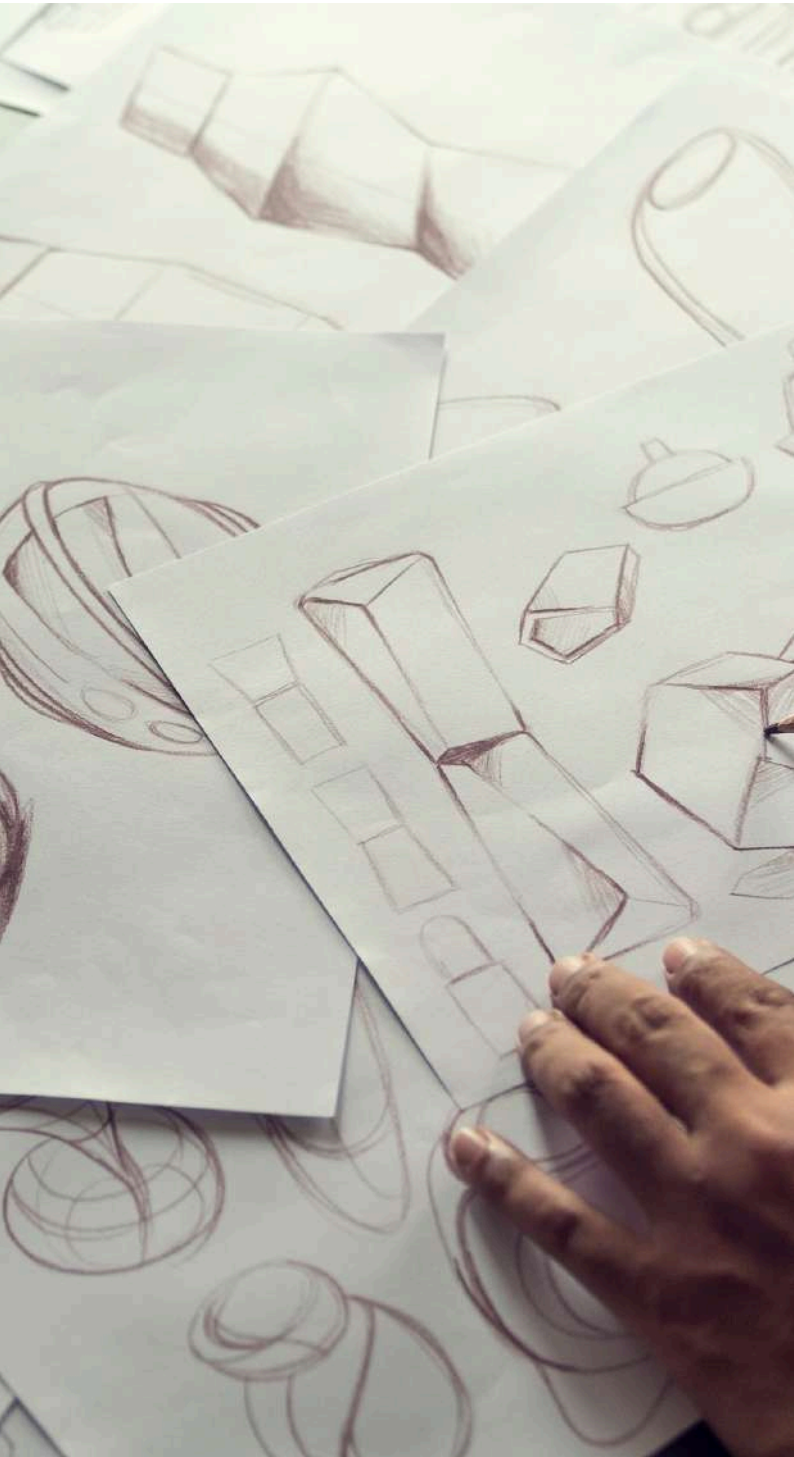
It will prepare you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education.

Careers this subject can lead to are: database administrator, games developer, information systems manager, IT consultant, multimedia programmer, systems analyst, systems developer, web designer, web developer

Please note that pupils who wish to study Computer Science will be required to take a suitability test in the summer term to ensure that their current academic ability will support them to be successful in this subject

GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

By studying Design and Technology you will develop your understanding and skills around the modern and social world, by recognising how technology, advertisement and design are used to influence design decisions. You will learn key terminology and relevant information to support your own design process, as well as demonstrate an in-depth understanding of materials, social and environmental impacts surrounding product design.



What will I study?

You will study material properties, environmental and social impacts, health and safety, 2D and 3D design software. Engineering drawing

You will also be able to create your own project focusing on an area of your choosing, which could focus on marketing of a product or advertisement with an in depth understanding of the materials used, social and environmental factors

Assessment

There are 2 components, and each component is worth 50%.

Component 1 is a written exam

Component 2 is a non-examined assessment, that requires you to focus on a theme provided and develop a project that contains 4 areas of focus:

1. Investigate
2. Design
3. Make
4. Evaluate

What can this subject lead to?

This subject can lead to any additional qualification or job that focuses on designing and construction. engineering, construction, graphic designer, exhibition designer, web designer, automotive engineer, aeronautical engineer, CAD technician and multimedia programmer

BTEC DRAMA PATHWAY



The performing arts industry is a vibrant and creative sector, offering exciting opportunities both on stage and behind the scenes. Acting develops confidence, communication and creativity, while exploring how performances engage, entertain and impact an audience. Live performance continues to be a powerful way to tell stories, explore ideas and connect with people.

What will I study?

On the Acting route, you will:

- Explore a range of acting styles and performance texts.
- Develop acting skills through practical workshops and rehearsals.
- Learn how actors use voice, movement and characterisation to communicate meaning to an audience.
- Generate and develop performance ideas in response to briefs.

The components focus on:

- Understanding acting roles, responsibilities and professional working practices.
- Developing practical acting skills through rehearsal and performance.
- Reflecting on your work and responding to feedback to improve performance.

Assessment

This qualification is made up of three components:

- Component 1 and 2: Internally assessed coursework completed in class and externally moderated.
- Component 3: An externally assessed task set by Pearson, where you respond to a brief as an actor.

What can this subject lead to?

This course can lead to further study at Level 3, such as Performing Arts or Drama, as well as A Levels. It also supports progression into apprenticeships or careers within the performing arts and creative industries, helping build transferable skills such as teamwork, confidence and communication

BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE



The BTEC Technical Award in Health and Social Care is a really interactive course that gives a great insight into the world of work, particularly in relation to the health and social care sectors. You will be able to apply what you learn to real life and understand your own behaviour and the behaviour of others in more detail.

What will I study?

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

Component 2: Health and Social Care, Services and Values

Component 3: Health and Well-Being

Assessment

You will complete two controlled assessments and one examination.

What can this subject lead to?

The next step from Level 2 Health and Social Care is further study Level 3, This is a chance to develop and hone the skills you learn and apply them more widely. Moving on, some people opt to pursue Health and Social Care at University; others use their skills and enter the world of work such as:

teacher, social worker, prison officer, police officer, midwife, nurse, nursery nurse, child minder, foster carer, play worker, early years practitioner, nanny, carer.

Vocational Hospitality & Catering

Ever wondered what it takes to work in a top hotel or restaurant? Does food and discovering new flavours in the kitchen inspire you? Maybe you're interested in developing the skills you need to work front of house? If so, it's time to find out more about this exciting qualification today!



What will I study?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering industry

Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry.

Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action

Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value.

Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively

Assessment

Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification.

In Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours.

What can this subject lead to?

Roles within the hospitality and catering industry such as:

chef de partie, commis chef, concierge, executive chef, front of house manager, head waiter, housekeeper, maître d'hôte, pastry chef, receptionist, sous chef.

BTEC DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Studying the vocational award in ICT will develop your knowledge and understanding of the ICT sector and will provide you with opportunities to develop associated practical digital skills. The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. Digital Information Technology prepares individuals to succeed in the workplace. Almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy.



What will I study?

Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques

- Understand interface design for individuals and organisations
- Be able to use project planning techniques to plan, design and develop a user interface
- Be able to review a user interface.

Component 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

- Understand how data is collected and used by organisations and its impact on individuals
- Be able to create a dashboard using data manipulation tools
- Be able draw conclusions and review data presentation methods.

Component 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices

- Modern Technologies
- Cyber Security
- The wider implications of digital systems
- Planning and communication in digital systems

Assessment

Component 1 – Controlled assessment - worth 30% of qualification.

Component 2 – Controlled assessment - worth 30% of qualification.

Component 3 – External written examination – worth 40% of qualification.

What can this subject lead to?

A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects.

Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

BTEC MEDIA

The creative media sector is a dynamic, growing and rewarding sector to work in, with new opportunities arising continually. The UK's creative industries as a whole are now worth over £84 billion per year to the UK economy. Working in the creative media industry involves a wide range of practical processes, skills and techniques - from broadcast media to increasingly interactive products and platforms.

As digital technology continues to evolve, media techniques have become more sophisticated and media products are becoming more advanced. However, what has not changed is that media products still have the power to enthrall, intrigue and effect audiences.



What will I study?

On this course, you will:

- Investigate different media products, such as audio/moving image, publishing and interactive design, considering their style, design, audience, and context.
- Explore creative media production processes and practices by generating ideas, and planning production and post-production processes.
- Develop digital media production skills and techniques.

The components focus on:

- The development of core knowledge and understanding, including the range of different types of media products, production processes and techniques.
- The development and application of skills such as research skills and stylistic and technical skills.
- Reflective practice through the refinement of learners' own media products that allows them to respond to feedback and identify areas for improvement.

Assessment

The three units in this qualification will give you the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the media sector and relevant skills such as research, planning, problem solving and communication.

Component 1 and 2 will be assessed via Controlled Assessment – work is completed in an allotted time frame during class and then internally assessed / externally verified.

Component 3 is an external assessment.

What can this subject lead to?

Upon completion of this course, you might progress to the study of A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects or the study of a Level 3 vocational qualification which will prepare you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the media sector.

BTEC MUSIC PRACTICE

The music industry is a vibrant, exciting and highly competitive industry that contributes significantly to the UK economy. The music industry is constantly evolving and offers many different and exciting new work opportunities. It supports many full-time jobs in the UK, many of which are in the music creators' sector.



What will I study?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will develop key skills, ranging from rehearsing to experimenting with technology, equipment and instruments. You will also develop an understanding of the music industry. Everyone taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas:

- Exploring Music Products and Styles - exploration of the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigation of the key features of different musical styles and genres.
- Music Skills Development - development of two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.
- Responding to a Music Brief - developing and presenting music in response to a given music brief.

Assessment

Pupils are assessed across 3 components:

Components 1 and 2 are internally assessed and externally moderated.

Component 3 is externally assessed.

What can this subject lead to?

Once you have completed the qualification, you will have developed valuable knowledge, practical skills and a wider understanding of the music industry. This qualification will allow you to develop your knowledge and skills through practical and creative application in a vocational context, and by responding creatively to a commercial brief. Since you will be developing skills across multiple disciplines – such as music creation, production and performance – you will have a better understanding of whether the music industry is for you and, if so, which part of it you might want to study further. If you decide to go on to further study of music, the best option for you will depend on the grades you have achieved in this and the other qualifications you have taken, and what you enjoy doing. You could progress to further study of this subject.

GCSE PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology - the science of mind and behaviour. Through studying this course, you will gain a more thorough understanding of the world around you, the people you interact with and the way the human mind works. It is a fascinating subject that has a lot of variety and can be a lot of fun. You will have the chance to carry out your own experiments on friends and family as well as having the opportunity to read and view widely to gain a more thorough understanding of the subject in the real world.



What will I study?

Compulsory topics (first year):

- Human development
- Memory
- Psychological problems
- The brain and neuropsychology
- Social influence
- Compulsory topic (first and second year):
- Research methods – how to carry out psychological investigations of your own.

Then a choice of two topics (selected by your teacher) from:

- Criminal psychology
- The self-perception
- Sleep and dreaming
- Language, thoughts, and communication

Assessment

Two written exam papers, at the end of Year 11

Paper 1:

1 hour 45 minutes

55% of the overall qualification

98 marks

Range of questions including multiple choice, short-open and longer-open responses.

Paper 2:

1 hour 20 minutes

45% of the overall qualification

79 marks

Range of questions including multiple choice, short-open and longer-open responses.

This paper will require the use of a calculator.

What can this subject lead to?

This qualification is perfect preparation for A-Level Psychology. Many students who study Psychology progress onto a degree at university that uses Psychology, too. Some recent examples include Psychology, Education Studies, Counselling and Mental Health Nursing, Forensic Psychology, Criminology.

Careers using this subject includes teaching, policing, social work, nursing, midwifery, criminology, prison officers, counsellors, careers advisor, customer service roles and human resources.

GCSE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GCSE Religious Education aims to develop your understanding of the world around us, drawing on other people's religious beliefs as well as reflecting on your own personal beliefs and values.

GCSE Religious Education will help you to gain knowledge of a range of religious beliefs and practices, helping you to understand religion around us. You will also apply this knowledge to a range of social and ethical themes such as relationships and families and crime and punishment. This allows you to apply your learning to today's modern-day society.

You will develop strong skills of critical thinking, evaluation and communication as you compare religious perspectives and communicate reasoned arguments with justified conclusions.

By studying GCSE Religious Education, you will also develop many other transferrable skills such as interpretation, extended writing, ethical reasoning as well as empathy and cultural understanding.



What will I study?

Paper 1: Beliefs and practices (Christianity and Sikhism)

- The nature of God, Christian creation and the afterlife.
- Jesus Christ and salvation.
- Christian worship and festivals
- The nature of God for Sikhs
- The life of Guru Nanak
- The nature of human life
- Sikh worship and festivals

Paper 2: Thematic studies

- Theme A: Relationships and families: sex, marriage, divorce and the role of the family
- Theme B: Religion and life: origins of the universe, the value of human life (ethical dilemmas such as abortion and euthanasia)
- Theme C: The existence of God and revelation: arguments for the existence of God, miracles, evil.
- Theme D: Religion, crime and punishment: the cause of crime, religious attitudes to punishment

Assessment

Paper 1 Beliefs and practices:

- 1 hour 45 mins
- Worth 50% of GCSE

Paper 2 Thematic Studies:

- 1 hour 45 mins
- Worth 50% of GCSE

What can this subject lead to?

Studying GCSE RE will leave you with a range of skills that higher education institutions value. These include social understanding, debating and applying a range of different perspectives to real world issues.

GCSE RE can also help to support alternative fields in education such as studying Philosophy and Ethics, Sociology, International Relations, Criminology, Human Rights and Media and Communications.

Careers following studying Religious Education often include social work, human rights work, teaching, youth work, civil service and journalism.

GCSE SOCIOLOGY

GCSE Sociology aims to broaden your mind, helping you to see your world from different perspectives and in new and thought-provoking ways.

GCSE Sociology will help you gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

You will develop your analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, you will develop transferable skills including how to investigate facts and make deductions, develop opinions and new ideas on social issues and analyse and better understand the social world.



What will I study?

Paper 1 - The sociology of families and education

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

You will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Paper 2 - The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology
- You will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Assessment

Paper 1

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE
- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

Paper 2

- Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE
- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

What can this subject lead to?

Sociology will provide you with an array of skills which many institutions of further and higher education will seek. These include appreciating the complexity and diversity of social situations, applying sociological theory to society's organisations, judging and evaluating complex information making reasoned arguments, developing knowledge and understanding of research methods, analysis and statistical techniques and the ability to understand, scrutinise and re-assess common perceptions of the social world.

Career prospects post university are vast but to mention a few please see below:

advice worker, community development worker, family support worker, further education teacher, international aid/development worker, social researcher, social worker, youth worker, community education, counselling, information management, law, social work, teaching.

BTEC SPORT

This course will support you to acquire knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by exploring the different types of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available. You will also explore the different types of people who participate in sport and their needs to gain an understanding of how to increase participation for others in sport and physical activity. You will develop your knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology.

Through participation in practical activities you will learn how to plan and deliver sports activity sessions to others. This course will enable you to develop sector-specific skills, such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using realistic vocational contexts. You will also develop your personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.



What will I study?

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

Assessment

Component 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

- Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.

Component 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance

- Non-exam internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity

- External assessment set and marked by Pearson, completed under supervised conditions.

What can this subject lead to?

This subject will prepare you for further study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Sport or a BTEC National in Sport and Exercise Science. The study of a sports related subject at level 3 will then prepare you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the Sport Sciences or teaching sectors.



Wednesfield Academy