

YEAR 9

KEY STAGE 4 PATHWAYS BOOKLET 2026 – 2028



Bishop Challoner
Catholic School

WELCOME

Dear Year 9 Parents,

You and your child will shortly be making important decisions about the courses they will study through to the end of Year 11. For many families, this will be a straightforward process; however, it is vital to understand how the choices made now may affect future academic study and/or employment opportunities.

At Bishop Challoner, we have maintained a broad range of subjects, including both academic GCSE courses and vocational alternatives. Students are guided towards specific pathways based on their prior attainment and progress.

The academic programme for pupils entering Year 10 includes a compulsory core curriculum leading to six GCSE qualifications:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Education
- Combined Science (worth two GCSEs)

In addition, students will make three further subject choices. Subjects are organised into three option blocks, and students will be asked to rank their preferences within each block. While we will make every effort to allocate students their first-choice subjects, this cannot be guaranteed. In some cases, decisions may be informed by students' current attainment and examination performance.

This booklet outlines all available subjects, including the main content covered and how each course is assessed. Students' current attainment will influence the subjects they are advised to select. Some subjects - for example, those requiring high levels of numeracy - may not be suitable for all students. In some cases, it may be more appropriate for students to take a small number of vocational courses rather than GCSEs, as these are assessed in different ways.

The curriculum booklet is available in the Parents section of the school website. **Parents/carers and students should submit their options by 8th May.**

I hope you find the information in this booklet helpful. If you require any assistance or guidance during the options process, please contact your child's Head of Year, Miss Awofeso.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Fernando
Deputy Headteacher

THE KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

All students will study the core subjects listed and will then choose options to ensure they take at least one subject from each of Blocks A, B and C.

CORE SUBJECTS	BLOCK A	BLOCK B	BLOCK C
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	GEOGRAPHY	BUISNESS STUDIES	ART
ENGLISH LITERATURE	SOCIOLOGY	HSC	BUISNESS STUDIES
MATHEMATICS	HISTORY	MEDIA	COMPUTING
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	SPANISH	SOCIOLOGY	DRAMA
SCIENCE (DOUBLE AWARD AT A MINIMUM)	FRENCH	HISTORY	HISTORY
	CITIZENSHIP	GEOGRAPHY	SPORT
			TEXTILES

GRADING SYSTEMS

The Government introduced a new system of grading at GCSE and these changes came into effect in August 2017. Letter grades have been replaced by a number scale. There is no exact match between the letters and numbers. The approximate link between numbers and letters is shown in the chart below, which also shows the relationship between GCSE grades and the equivalent grades for BTEC courses.

PREVIOUS GCSE GRADES	CURRENT BTEC GRADES	NEW GCSE GRADES
A*	DISTINCTION* LEVEL 2	9 8
A	DISTINCTION LEVEL 2	7
B	MERIT LEVEL 2	6 5
C	PASS LEVEL 2	4
D	DISTINCTION LEVEL 1	3
E F	MERIT LEVEL 1	2
G	PASS LEVEL 1	1

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SUBJECT LEADER: MS SKINNER

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Year 10 and the autumn term of Year 11, students complete Component 1 (coursework). They explore the theme of identity, focusing on portraiture and personal objects, influenced by a range of artistic styles and movements.

Students respond to the four assessment objectives by creating mixed media work based on artists they research, using personal photographs:

AO1 - Develop ideas through investigation and critical understanding

AO2 - Refine work by exploring and experimenting with media, materials and techniques

AO3 - Record ideas and observations as work progresses

AO4 - Present a personal and meaningful final response

This unit culminates in a final piece, such as a portrait, and is worth 60% of the GCSE.

Component 2 (externally set assignment) begins in January of Year 11 and is worth 40%. Students develop ideas through sketchbook work, experimenting with materials and researching artists in response to a theme set by Edexcel.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Coursework Unit Theme	2 Years	60%
2	Externally set assignment - Begins in January of year 11	5 Months	40%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Homework is set once every week and is predominantly based on analysing artist's work that links to the topic that students are learning within class at that time.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Encourage your child to research the subject using some of the following websites:

[Tate](#) | [Whitechapel Gallery](#) | [Chisenhale](#)



CITIZENSHIP

SUBJECT LEADER: MS CHOWDHURY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

GCSE Citizenship Studies gives students the knowledge and confidence to understand how society, democracy and the law work in the United Kingdom and beyond. The course encourages students to explore real-world political, legal and social issues and to consider how they can actively participate in making positive change.

Students will study:

- Theme A: Living together in the UK
- Theme B: Democracy at work in the UK
- Theme C: Law and justice
- Theme D: Power and influence
- Theme E: Taking citizenship action

The course develops students' ability to debate contemporary issues, evaluate viewpoints, and build reasoned arguments using evidence. Students will also complete a citizenship action project, identifying a societal issue and taking meaningful action to address it.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: PEARSONS EDEXCEL

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Citizenship Paper 1 - 80 marks	105 mins	50%
2	Citizenship Paper 2 - 80 marks	105 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Homework will be set weekly and may include:

- Researching current political and social issues
- BBC News article analysis
- Structured debate preparation
- Practice exam questions
- Case study research
- Revision of key vocabulary and concepts

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Encourage your child to:

- Watch or read the news regularly
- Discuss current affairs at home
- Explore debates around democracy, justice and equality
- Keep up with homework and revision tasks
- Take an active interest in community and social issues

Useful websites: [BBC News Politics](#) | [Pearson Edexcel GCSE Citizenship](#) | [Seneca Learning](#)



COMPUTER SCIENCE

SUBJECT LEADER: MISS AHMED

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Computing, you will learn and apply key computer science principles, such as abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. You will analyse problems through practical programming, including designing, writing, and debugging code. The course develops creative, analytical, logical, and critical thinking skills while covering topics like how digital systems function, cybersecurity, and privacy. A Grade 6 in Maths is required to apply relevant mathematical skills.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: PEARSONS

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Written exam - 5 topics - 75 marks	90 mins	50%
2	On Screen Programming Exam - Python 3.0 coding - 75 marks	120 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

- Problem-Solving Activities
- Online coding practice (Code Academy, W3Schools)
- Research and investigative tasks
- Online assignments (GCSE Pod, SMHW)
- Answering exam questions
- Independent learning and revision

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

[Code Academy](#) | [W3Schools](#) | [BromCom](#) | [BBC Bitesize Computing](#)
[GCSE Pod](#) | Python for Kids (ISBN: 978-1-59327-407-8) | Python Next Steps (ISBN: 978-1-107-65855-4)



DRAMA

SUBJECT LEADER: MS FERRY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Students can explore performance or design in this course. Students will study set texts and evaluate live theatre performances. It is a subject that enables students to be creative and understand texts at a deeper level. Students will develop skills in communication, leadership, creativity and build their confidence.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

Component	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Coursework	n/a	20%
2	Written Exam	105 mins	40%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Homework is set once a week and is an extension of classwork and independent research.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Students are encouraged to engage with theatre by attending performances, reading plays, and using online resources. They have access to National Theatre Online and can join the KS4 Drama Club.

[BBC Bitesize Drama](#) offers study support, while the [Old Vic Hub](#) provides research and inspiration. The [Meet Eric](#) app connects students to arts opportunities and free courses. [National Theatre Schools](#) is a great resource for research, and [Go Live Theatre](#) offers affordable tickets for young people. We promote independent study and encourage students to explore London's rich arts culture while developing transferable skills.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

SUBJECT LEADER: MRS ALI

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In English Language, you will study modern fiction and non-fiction texts, as well as descriptive or narrative writing. You will also develop skills in extended writing to argue. The course is assessed through two exam papers, each worth 50% of the GCSE. More details can be found on the [AQA website](#).

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	105 mins	50%
2	Writers' Viewpoints and Perspective	105 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Homework will be set covering the following areas:

- Analysing texts and key quotations
- Writing essays
- Researching historical context
- Writing skills practice
- Making inferences on seen and unseen extracts

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary (and Bromcom) to ensure all work is completed. Encourage your child to research the subject using [Gcse Bitesize](#). Consider purchasing a study guide (Collins or CGP) for the new English AQA exam. Stay in regular contact with staff to track and support your child's progress.



ENGLISH LITERATURE

SUBJECT LEADER: MRS ALI

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In English Literature, you will study Macbeth and either Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde or A Christmas Carol, which make up 40% of the GCSE. You will also study An Inspector Calls and a selection of poetry, contributing to the remaining 60%. Further information is available on the [AOA website](#).

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	105 mins	40%
2	Modern texts and poetry	135 mins	60%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Homework will be set covering the following areas:

- Analysing texts and key quotations
- Writing essays
- Researching historical context
- Writing skills practice
- Making inferences on seen and unseen extracts

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary (and Bromcom) to ensure all work is completed. Encourage your child to research the subject using [Cecse Bitesize](#). Consider purchasing a study guide (Collins or CGP) for the new English AQA exam. Stay in regular contact with staff to track and support your child's progress.



FRENCH

SUBJECT LEADER: MRS CUINO

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The GCSE French course develops communication skills and cultural awareness of French-speaking countries. It covers listening, speaking, reading, and writing on topics like Identity and Culture, Global Issues, and Study & Employment. Students will practice speaking, use authentic resources (films, music, literature), and access digital tools (Quizlet, ActiveHub), with potential trips or exchanges. More details can be found at [Edexcel GCSE French](#).

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Listening - Understanding and responding to spoken French	60 mins	25%
2	Speaking - A conversation including role-play and a photo-based discussion	10/12 mins	25%
3	Reading - Comprehension of texts, translation from French to English	60 mins	25%
4	Writing - Writing tasks, including translation from English to French	80 mins	25%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Homework will cover vocabulary and grammar practice, as well as listening, writing, reading, and speaking tasks. It will include interactive digital learning through language apps and ActiveHub from Pearson, along with exam-style questions and past paper practice to build confidence in exam techniques.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Encourage regular practice - vocabulary or grammar revision, speaking and writing practice and listening to French through films, music, etc. Use tools such as language apps or online resources (a list of MFL websites will be provided) check if your child completes homework regularly following the school's homework calendar, create a supportive environment where your child can build confidence and feel motivated to learn.



GEOGRAPHY

SUBJECT LEADER: MS ABIDI

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is engaging, interactive and varied, helping you build both knowledge and confidence about the world. You will learn through a mix of group and individual activities, giving you the chance to collaborate with others as well as develop your independent thinking. Lessons include debates and discussions, along with exam practice to help you feel fully prepared.

You will explore real-world case studies, watch film clips and documentaries, and work with textbooks to deepen your understanding. Our students also develop valuable skills by interpreting sources such as photographs, maps and data, undertaking fieldwork to experience geography first-hand. More details: www.edexcel.org.uk

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL B

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Global Geographical Issues	90 mins	37.5%
2	UK Geographical Issues	105 mins	37.5%
3	People and Environment Issues – Making Geographical Decisions	90 mins	25%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Homework will be set weekly and will be made up of a variety of tasks that help develop your independent study skills and exam technique e.g. tasks usually focus on key words, past paper questions and extra reading for each topic

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Ensure weekly homework is completed.
Encourage independence through:
Practical revision: BBC Bitesize GCSE Geography [Bitesize](#)
Excellent videos: [Time for Geography](#)
Essential viewing/reading: [Gap minder](#)
Excellent overall content revision: [Physics and Maths Tutor](#)



HISTORY

SUBJECT LEADER: MISS HAYWARD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In History, you will study AQA History GCSE, which is divided into two papers. Paper One: Understanding the Modern World covers Germany (1890-1945), focusing on democracy and dictatorship, as well as Conflict and Tension in Asia (1950-1975). Paper Two: Shaping the Nation includes a thematic study on Empire and Migration and a British depth study on Elizabethan England (c.1568-1603), including the historical environment.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Understanding the modern world - 84 marks	120 mins	50%
2	Shaping the nation - 84 marks	120 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Mostly exam questions as well as research tasks. We are able to purchase revision guides for students to use at home as well.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework or Go 4 Schools to ensure work is completed. Ask about their learning and encourage research and revision using:

- [BBC Bitesize](#)
- [Spartacus Educational](#)
- [GCSE Pod](#)
- [Seneca Learning](#)
- [Save My Exams](#)



MATHEMATICS

SUBJECT LEADER: MS HEGARTY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Mathematics, you will study data handling, shape and space, algebra, and number, with functional mathematics applied across these areas. The course follows the [OCR GCSE Mathematics specification](#). A calculator is required for the first and third exam papers. We recommend the Casio FX-85GTX, or the Casio FX-991EX for those planning to study A-Level Maths, as it offers advantages for both learning and exams.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: OCR

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Written paper - 100 marks - Calculator permitted	90 mins	33.3%
2	Written paper - 100 marks - Calculator not permitted	90 mins	33.3%
3	Written paper - 100 marks - Calculator permitted	90 mins	33.3%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

One assessed homework every 2 weeks with exam questions based on the last two weeks' content. Additionally, one weekly Sparx Maths homework tailored to your needs, covering recent topics and consolidation questions.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary and Go4Schools to ensure all work is completed. For additional support or consolidation, useful websites include Sparx Maths, Corbett Maths and Maths Genie. All pupils have their own Sparx Maths login, which includes online lessons, homework tasks and booster packs. Students can use Numeracy Booster Clubs (KS3), Count on Us Secondary Maths Challenge, UKMT.

[Corbett Maths](#) | [Sparxmath](#) | [Maths Genie](#)
[GCSE Bitesize](#)



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SUBJECT LEADER: MS ENGLEFIELD

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Religious Education is divided into three main areas: Catholic Christianity (50%), Judaism (25%), and Religion and Ethics (25%).

In Catholic Christianity, students study beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression, including topics such as Creation, the Incarnation, the Trinity, Redemption and Salvation, the Church and the Kingdom of God, and beliefs about life and death.

In Judaism, students explore key beliefs and teachings, including God, life and death, the Messiah and covenants, as well as practices such as the synagogue, worship, family life and festivals.

In Religion and Ethics, students consider how religion influences the modern world, focusing on areas such as peace and conflict (including forgiveness, reconciliation, war, pacifism and terrorism) and religion, relationships and family life.

The course is delivered through reading, writing, discussion and debate, with opportunities to present arguments and use sources such as the Bible and Catechism for evaluation. The course is examined by AQA (www.aqa.org.uk).

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Written exam - 96 marks	105 mins	50%
2	Written exam - 96 marks	105 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Each student is given further reading, a revision guide and revision materials throughout the course, so revision activities are common homework tasks, such as learning key words and practicing past exam questions. Research activities are also common.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary and 'Bromcom' to ensure that your child completes all work set. For extra support or consolidation of knowledge you may find the following websites useful:

[RE Online](#) | [Request](#) | [Gcse Bitesize](#)



COMBINED SCIENCE

SUBJECT LEADER: MR LARKIN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

AQA Trilogy (Combined Science) covers Biology, Chemistry, and Physics, combining practical skills with theoretical knowledge. The course prepares students for further study and science careers by exploring key scientific concepts. Students studying Combined Science will receive two GCSE grades. The assessment includes six written exams, two for each Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Depending on their ability, students will either sit the Foundation tier (maximum grade 5-5) or the Higher tier (up to grade 9-9). For more information check out the specifications at <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects>

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Biology Paper 1 - 70 marks	75 mins	16.7%
2	Biology Paper 2 - 70 marks	75 mins	16.7%
3	Chemistry Paper 1 - 70 marks	75 mins	16.7%
4	Chemistry Paper 2 - 70 marks	75 mins	16.7%
5	Physics Paper 1 - 70 marks	75 mins	16.7%
6	Physics Paper 2 - 70 marks	75 mins	16.7%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

One assessed homework every two weeks, consisting of exam-style questions (ranging from low to high demand) based on recently studied content.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary and the 'Bromcom' website. For content revision, questions, video explanations and exam questions, you can use the KS4 AQA Revision Guide, Seneca, Free Science Lessons and Physics and Maths Tutor.



TRIPLE SCIENCE

SUBJECT LEADER: MR LARKIN

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Triple science offers an in-depth study of scientific principles and applications. Designed for students with a strong interest in science, it develops investigative, analytical, and critical thinking skills for further education and science-related careers. Students studying Separate Science will achieve three individual GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Each subject is assessed through two written exams. Students will be entered for either the Foundation tier (maximum grade 5) or the Higher tier (maximum grade 9), depending on their ability. For more information check out the specifications at <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects>

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Biology Paper 1 - 100 marks	105 mins	50%
2	Biology Paper 2 - 100 marks	105 mins	50%
3	Chemistry Paper 1 - 100 marks	105 mins	50%
4	Chemistry Paper 2 - 100 marks	105 mins	50%
5	Physics Paper 1 - 100 marks	105 mins	50%
6	Physics Paper 2 - 100 marks	105 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

One assessed homework every two weeks, consisting of exam-style questions (ranging from low to high demand) based on recently studied content.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary and the 'Bromcom' website. For content revision, questions, video explanations and exam questions, you can use the KS4 AQA Revision Guide, Seneca, Free Science Lessons and Physics and Maths Tutor.



SOCIOLOGY

SUBJECT LEADER: MISS CHOWDHURY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In Sociology, you will study AQA Sociology GCSE, which is divided into two main papers. Paper One: The Sociology of Families and Education (50%) explores the functions of the family and education system, as well as how these institutions contribute to inequality in society. Paper Two: The Sociology of Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification (50%) examines how social stratification impacts the life chances of individuals and why some people commit crime, questioning whether crime is a social construction. Throughout the course, you will also learn about the methods sociologists use to conduct research, the strengths and weaknesses of these methods, and key sociological theories, including functionalism, Marxism, and feminism.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	The sociology of families and education - 100 marks	105 mins	50%
2	The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification - 100 marks	105 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Mostly exam questions as well as research tasks. We are able to purchase revision guides for students to use at home as well.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary or the Bromcom website to check work is completed. Encourage your child to research the subject using some of the following websites: [BBC Education](#) | [Gojimo](#)



SPANISH

SUBJECT LEADER: MRS CUINO

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The GCSE Spanish course improves communication skills and cultural understanding. It covers listening, speaking, reading, and writing on topics like Identity and Culture, Global Issues, and Study & Employment. Learning includes speaking practice, authentic resources (films, music, literature), grammar development, digital tools (Quizlet, ActiveHub), and potential trips. More details can be found at [Edexcel GCSE Spanish](#).

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Listening - Understanding and responding to spoken Spanish	60 mins	25%
2	Speaking - A conversation including role-play and a photo-based discussion	10/12 mins	25%
3	Reading - Comprehension of texts, translation from Spanish to English	60 mins	25%
4	Writing - Writing tasks, including translation from English to Spanish	80 mins	25%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Listening, reading and writing tasks.
Research and group work.
Vocabulary and grammar practice online

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Encourage regular practice - vocabulary or grammar revision, speaking and writing practice and listening to Spanish through films, music, etc. Use tools such as language apps or online resources (a list of MFL websites will be provided) check if your child completes homework regularly following the school's homework calendar, create a supportive environment where your child can build confidence and feel motivated to learn.



DT: TEXTILES

SUBJECT LEADER: MR FREDERICK

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Textiles is a practical, design-focused subject where students learn how to design and make products using fabrics. The course develops knowledge, skills, and understanding of textile design, with an emphasis on creativity and industry relevance.

Students work with a range of fabrics to create items inspired by the fashion industry, including costume design, trend forecasting, and styling. They also develop surface decoration skills such as embroidery, beading, and fabric painting, alongside construction techniques and knowledge of industrial processes.

In Year 10, students complete three projects focused on building skills in construction and design. Each project involves research, development, and prototyping, with an emphasis on reflective practice. Students also explore sustainability, smart materials, and new technologies. The course is examined by AQA (www.aqa.org.uk).

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: AQA

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Controlled assessment (designing and making a product)	30 - 35hrs	50%
2	Written examination paper	120 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

You will be given design tasks, product analysis, comprehension and investigative tasks. You will be expected to do case studies, sketches and visits to current exhibitions that will enrich your learning in the classroom.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's planner and ensure that your child completes all work set. Encourage your child to visit exhibitions, develop designs, investigate and study existing designers. For extra support or consolidation of knowledge you may find the following websites useful: [Design Council](#)



BUSINESS STUDIES

SUBJECT LEADER: MS JUTTLA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Qualification Aims and Objectives – the Edexcel GCSE Business qualification helps students understand business concepts, terminology, objectives, and the impact of business on individuals and society. They will explore different types and sizes of businesses in local, national, and global contexts, developing commercial awareness and problem-solving skills to make informed business decisions.

Business Contexts – this subject encourages independent thinking by applying real-world business concepts from current news. Students will use quantitative and qualitative data, develop decision-making skills, and gain practical knowledge in areas such as finance, human resources, marketing, and operations—valuable life skills that extend beyond the classroom.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: EDEXCEL

Paper	Content	Duration	Weighting
1	Investigating small business	105 mins	50%
2	Building a business	105 mins	50%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

Exam questions: To test exam skills, knowledge, application and analysis.

Mini topic test: conducted on a regular basis throughout the two years.

Research tasks: Conducted both in groups & independently.

Multiple-Choice questions: To test knowledge throughout the two years.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Business Revision Guide: ISBN 9781292190716

Pearson Revise Edexcel GCSE Business Revision Workbook: ISBN 9781292190709

Watch the news on a regular basis

Complete ALL homework tasks set

Complete tasks on Seneca Learning · Access the specification: Specification



BTEC TECH AWARD HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

SUBJECT LEADER: MS CHOWDHURY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care gives Key Stage 4 learners the opportunity to develop technical knowledge and skills through vocational contexts. It explores key areas such as growth and development, services and values, and health and wellbeing, introducing a broad range of careers. Students examine factors affecting health and learn to make person-centred recommendations. The course supports progression to A Levels or a BTEC National in Health and Social Care. Examination board website <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care-2022.html>

COURSE SPECIFICATION

The course is assessed in three parts: two internal coursework components (60%) and one two-hour external exam (40%).

EXAM BOARD: PEARSONS

Component no.	Content	GLH	Level	Weighting
1	Human Lifespan Development	36	1/2	Internal
2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	36	1/2	Internal
3	Health and Wellbeing	48	1/2	External Synoptic

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

You will be expected to do research online about each component of work. You will be given different tasks to do such as carrying out an interview, learning command verbs, answering set questions, designing tables and graphs to show data you have researched.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary and ensure that your child completes all work set. Ensure that your child is following the specification. You can purchase the textbook online - BTEC Tech Award 2022 Health and Social Care Student Book. ISBN:9781292444628



BTEC TECH AWARD CREATIVE MEDIA

SUBJECT LEADERS: MS NJENJE

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In BTEC Media, you will complete three units that involve written analysis, research, and creative productions. You'll learn to produce media by planning, filming, photographing, and editing using software like Adobe Photoshop and Final Cut Pro X. Projects may include music videos, film promotion, and magazine production.

You will study how media appeals to audiences through primary and secondary research and analyse different media sectors. The course also covers photography, storyboarding, and editing. For more details, visit the [Pearson website](#).

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: PEARSONS

Paper	Content	Guided Learning Hours	Weighting
1	Exploring Media Products	36 hrs	30%
2	Developing Digital Media Skills	36 hrs	30%
3	Creating a Digital Media Product in Response to a Brief	48 hrs	40%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

You will conduct audience research, take photos and film footage, and analyse media products. Access to Adobe Creative Suite via RM Unify and video tutorials will support your independent development of design and editing skills.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Work will be set through Satchel ONE. Please visit our department website for further information: challonermedia.weebly.com



BTEC TECH AWARD SPORT

SUBJECT LEADER: MR WILLIAMS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport helps learners gain applied knowledge and skills in sport through vocational contexts. They explore different types of sport providers, equipment, technology, and participants' needs, while developing an understanding of how to increase participation and enhance knowledge of anatomy and physiology.

COURSE SPECIFICATION

EXAM BOARD: PEARSONS

Paper	Content	Guided Learning Hours	Weighting
1	Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity	36 hrs	30%
2	Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance	36 hrs	30%
3	Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity	48 hrs	40%

WHAT SORT OF HOMEWORK IS SET?

You will be expected to conduct research online for each component of the work. You will also be given different tasks, such as planning practical sessions and carrying out the sessions you have planned.

HOW PARENTS CAN SUPPORT LEARNING

Check your child's homework diary to ensure all work is completed. Make sure they are following the specification. The textbook, BTEC Tech Award 2022 Sport Student Book (ISBN: 1292444584), can be purchased online.

Choosing Your GCSE Options

Choosing your GCSE options is an important step in your education. The subjects you pick will shape what you study over the next two years and can influence your future choices, but don't worry, you still have plenty of flexibility later on.

What Are GCSE Options?

GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education) are qualifications you study in Years 10 and 11.

You will usually have:

Core subjects (compulsory) – such as English, Maths, and Science

Optional subjects – the ones you get to choose

Why Your Choices Matter

Your GCSE options can:

- Help you explore your interests
- Build skills for future study or careers
- Prepare you for A-levels, college courses, or apprenticeships

However, they do not lock you into one career forever – many paths stay open regardless of your choices.

How to Choose Your Subjects

Pick What You Enjoy – If you like a subject, you're more likely to stay motivated and do well.

Think About Your Strengths – Choose subjects where you feel confident or capable.

Consider Future Plans – If you already have ideas about your future, check if certain subjects are useful (for example, sciences for medicine or engineering).

Keep a Balance – Try to choose a mix of:

- Creative subjects (e.g. Art, Drama)
- Practical subjects (e.g. PE, Design Technology)
- Academic subjects (e.g. History, Geography)

Different GCSE Pathways At Bishop Challoner

Our options blocks give you the chance to tailor your curriculum to your future. Our options allow students to complete Humanities, Vocational and EBacc pathways.

Things to Think About

Workload: Some subjects involve coursework, others are exam-based

Assessment style: Do you prefer exams, practical work, or projects?

Commitment: Subjects like Drama or PE may require extra time outside lessons

Mistakes to Avoid

Choosing a subject just because your friends are taking it

Picking something because you think it sounds “easy”

Letting others choose for you without thinking about your own interests

Who Can Help?

If you're unsure, talk to:

- Your teachers
- Careers advisers
- Your parents or carers
- Older students

They can give you useful advice and help you make a confident decision.

Final Thought

There's no “perfect” set of GCSE choices. The best options are the ones that suit your interests, strengths, and future goals. Take your time, ask questions, and choose what feels right for you.



**SCAN THE QR CODE
TO PICK YOUR
SUBJECTS**



Bishop Challoner
Catholic School

352 Commercial Rd, London,
United Kingdom, E1 0LB

0207 791 9500

info@bishop.towerhamlets.sch.uk