



FURZE PLATT SENIOR SCHOOL

YEAR 10 CURRICULUM GUIDE 2011

A SUPPORT BOOKLET FOR PARENTS

Dear Parents

Welcome to the upper school. As students embark upon their Key Stage 4 courses they will meet new stresses and demands upon their time. In order to meet expectations and to support them we hope that you will find this booklet useful. Contained within it you will find information on the syllabus covered in each of the subjects and an outline of the assessment deadlines.

One of the major differences in Key Stage 4 is the emphasis placed upon students completing controlled assessments or assignments, in school time, to the best of their ability. Often a really good piece of classwork can result in a higher grade. It is therefore important that students organise their time effectively to meet deadlines and ensure that they keep on top of their work.

Students at Key Stage 4 should be spending approximately 10 hours per week on home study. If it appears that no specific subject work has been set, it is an expectation that they will be spending time reading through their notes to check understanding or doing extra research around the topic that they are studying. There are also many good revision guides and websites which they may begin to use to familiarise themselves with the course material.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress at any point, or need clarification regarding information within this booklet, then please do not hesitate to contact me or your son/daughter's tutor.

Yours sincerely
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GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

AQA 4705

Overview:

- English Language at GCSE helps students practise, improve and develop their reading and writing skills as well as their speaking and listening skills. All these are important in the development of students as confident individuals who are ready to take their place in the world. English will play an important role in preparing students for their chosen careers, and further and higher education establishments.
- Through class discussion, group work and individual written assignments students will learn about the media, spoken language, Shakespeare, poetry, modern and pre-19th century fiction.
- Students will improve their general skills across a range of writing styles.

Assessment:

The final GCSE grade consists of:-

Controlled conditions assignments 60%:	Written examination 40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• extended reading 15%• creative writing 15%• spoken language study 10%• speaking and listening controlled conditions 20%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• reading 20%• writing 20%

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

AQA 4710

Overview:

GCSE English Literature:

English Literature is an important subject. As well as the sheer joy of enjoying texts, it teaches reading, analytical, evaluative and critical skills. It also widens the range and experiences of young minds. In literature:-

- Students will develop skills in writing about the things they read in a way that can help them in many other subjects.
- Students will increase their ability to form an argument, think for themselves and show that they have the skill to understand a range of writing and to communicate their understanding to others. Many employers and higher education establishments see English Literature as an important subject.
- Students will read, discuss and write about ideas in novels, plays and poetry. They will also improve their skills in building an argument and finding supporting evidence for their ideas.

Assessment:

GCSE Literature will consist of:-

Controlled conditions assignments	Written examination
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The significance of Shakespeare and the English Literary Heritage 25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exploring modern texts 40%• Poetry across time 35%

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Edexcel 1380
Edexcel 1MA0 (from June 2012)

Overview:

- Mathematics, in addition to providing numeracy skills for everyday life, is the key to careers in computing, engineering, science (including medicine) and finance.
- Maths provides students with skills in logic and analytical thought. It develops the recognition of pattern and the ability to produce systematic and rigorous argument.
- Students will study number, algebra, proof, shape & space, measures, probability and data handling.

Assessment:

- There are two exam papers (50% each), one with a calculator and one without.
- Students are entered for either the Higher tier or the Foundation tier.
- On the Foundation tier a C grade is the highest achievable grade.
- From June 2012 onwards students of all abilities will be expected to answer questions which involve functional (everyday) mathematics, multi-step problems and good communication skills.

Most students will sit their examination early in the November or March of Year 11. There are then opportunities to retake GCSE Mathematics, take GCSE Statistics or in the case of set 1 students, Additional Mathematics (level 3 qualification) or iGCSE in Further Mathematics (level 2 qualification). Some students may additionally sit a half GCSE in Functional Skills.

GCSE BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS

All students study either this or BTEC Applied Science depending on their suitability for the courses which started after Christmas in Year 9.

Overview:

- Students will increase their knowledge of scientific ideas and develop new practical skills. Studying Science helps students to understand and make their own judgements about technological advances, the environment, living organisms, current affairs and the world around them.
- Through Science, students will:-
 - Observe demonstrations
 - Carry out practical experiments
 - Research information
 - Use ICT to handle data
 - Learn how to apply their knowledge in new areas
 - Communicate scientific ideas
 - Use calculations to predict what will happen

Assessment:

The following table shows the exams students will take and when. Please note the first GCSE exams (worth 25%) are this coming January. Students need to be working now for these exams. Individual class teachers will advise on what needs to be done.

GCSE	Unit 1 Exam	Unit 2 Exam	Unit 3 Exam	Unit 4 Controlled Assessment
What each unit is worth	25%	25%	25%	25%
Biology	January 2012	June 2012	June 2013	Sometime in year 11.
Chemistry	January 2012	June 2012	June 2013	Sometime in year 11.
Physics	January 2012	June 2012	June 2013	Sometime in Year 11.

All the examinations are written (i.e. not multiple choice as previously) and contain structured and closed questions. At least one question on each paper will assess 'quality of written communication'. This year is the first year to follow the new science specification (this applies to the all Year 10 students across the country). So there are no past papers available, only specimen papers which we will show to students nearer to the examinations to help them prepare. However, if you wish to find out more about the new GCSEs please follow this link:-

<http://www.sciencelab.org.uk/>

Text Books & Revision Guides:

Students are asked to purchase the three revision guides for the subjects available from the Science Prep Room before school, after school or during tutorial time. We sell them at cost price, which is £3 each, so students will need £9. If students are unable to afford this please see Mrs Heales (Head of Science) during any recess 1.

Text books are also available online via the Kerboodle site. [http:// science context. live.kerboodle.com/secondary/common/Login.aspx](http://sciencecontext.live.kerboodle.com/secondary/common/Login.aspx). To access this type “Kerboodle” into Google and it will be the top hit. To login students need their old First Class usernames & passwords, and the organisation code which is 2906. Students should know how to access text books once they are logged in. If they have problems seeing the text books at home it is probably because your pop-up blocker is on (the text books open in a new window) so you need to ensure this is turned off. If you have any other problems please inform your classroom teacher.

BTEC APPLIED SCIENCE

All students study either this or GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics depending on their suitability for the courses which started after Christmas in Year 9.

Overview:

- BTEC science is a hands-on approach to science. Students will learn the core material studied in the GCSE, but also look at forensics, science and the world of work and current scientific developments and issues. It will help Students to make sense of the world around them and help them to develop skills which future employers will highly value.
- Through Applied Science students will:-
 - Carry out experiments and investigations as assignments
 - Listen to guest speakers who will come and talk about their work in research or industry. The subject matter will reflect the assignments being carried out
 - Visit scientific places of work
 - Research scientific discoveries and theories
 - Complete assignments as reports, presentations, PowerPoint, posters, videos, podcasts, sound recordings and leaflets

Assessment:

BTEC Applied Science can be awarded at Certificate, Advanced Certificate or Diploma level which are the equivalent of 1, 2 or 4 GCSEs respectively. The awards are graded as pass, merit, distinction and distinction* which equate to levels C, B, A and A* respectively.

In Year 9 and part of Year 10 students learn about Biology, Chemistry and Physics and complete assignments based on what they have learned. These assignments will be marked by the teacher. On completion students should have reached the standard of either a pass, merit, distinction or distinction* at Certificate or Advanced Certificate level (1 or 2 GCSE equivalents).

Students will then use their time at the end of Year 10 and throughout Year 11 to achieve Advanced Certificate or Diploma level (2 or 4 GCSE equivalents). In exceptional cases a student may need to use Year 11 time to complete their Certificate level (achieving the equivalent of just one 1 GCSE).

If students move on to Diploma work they will learn about science and the world of work, forensic science and some further scientific principles. They will complete assignments over the year, based on what they have learned. Again students will be awarded either a pass, merit, distinction or distinction* .

There are no exams in BTEC science, only assignments to complete.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

OCR Nationals Level 2

Overview:

This qualification specifically aims to:-

- Develop learners' knowledge and understanding of the Information and Communication Technology sector.
- Develop learners' skills, knowledge and understanding in contexts that are directly relevant to employment situations, thereby enhancing their employability within the Information and Communication Technology sector.
- Develop learners' ability to work autonomously and effectively in an Information and Communication Technology context.
- Enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding in specialist areas of Information and Communication Technology, and demonstrate the skills needed to participate in the operation and development of ICT specific or ICT non-specific business organisations.
- Encourage progression by assisting in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that learners will need to access further or higher education programmes or occupational training on a full-time or part-time basis.
- Encourage progression by assisting in the development of skills, knowledge and understanding that learners will need to enter employment.

Assessment:

The course is composed of units which are centre-assessed and **externally moderated** by OCR. **There are no timetabled exams for this qualification.**

The full award and units from this qualification are graded as;

Pass (grade C) Merit (grade B) Distinction (grade A/A*).

The number of units completed will lead to:

OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT -	equivalent to 1 GCSE
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT -	equivalent to 2 GCSEs
OCR Level 2 National First Certificate in ICT-	equivalent to 3 GCSEs
OCR Level 2 National Certificate in ICT-	equivalent to 4 GCSEs

GCSE RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Full Course: 3481

Overview:

- A qualification in RE (Philosophy and Ethics) is not only a measure of academic ability, it shows that a student has an understanding of people's deepest beliefs and values which makes it particularly useful for all jobs which involve dealing with the general public.
- Students will scrutinise the truth claims made by religions and use logic and reasoning to see whether these claims really are true. They will develop their skills of investigation, interpretation, evaluation and analysis. These are central to any work in RE.
- Students will also be encouraged to reflect on and express their own feelings, ideas and views on issues dealt with. Attitudes such as respect, care and concern (for yourself and others) are promoted through the study of RE. These important values will help students in all areas of their life.

Assessment:

- Students begin studying the GCSE course at the end of Year 9, with the intention of taking the first exam at the end of Year 10, so they have half a GCSE by the time they begin Year 11. The course is Religious Philosophy and Ultimate Questions, which contains the following units of study:-
 - The Existence of God
 - Miracles
 - Evil and Suffering
 - Science and Religion
 - Immortality

This module is assessed through an exam paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes.
- In Year 11, students will study the second module of the course which is concerned with Religion and Morality. Students will be examined on this at the end of Year 11, again through an exam paper of 1 hour and 30 minutes. In Year 11, we will be looking at the following 4 units:-
 - Religious attitudes to matters of life and death (medical ethics)
 - Religious attitudes to the elderly and death
 - Religious attitudes to crime and punishment
 - Religious attitudes to world poverty.

PSHEE & CITIZENSHIP

Overview:

- This course includes PSHEE (personal, social, health and economic education) Citizenship, and Careers Education.
- Students will increase their knowledge and understanding about a variety of important and topical issues. These include personal, local, national and global issues.
- Examples of topics covered include drug education, sex education, the media, the law and criminal justice system, local and national government, global issues, financial awareness and capability, careers education.
- The knowledge gained and skills developed in these lessons will help students make informed choices about important issues in their own lives.
- Participation in the lessons will help students gain experience in discussion and listening skills and develop an enquiring mind. It will help students understand the views and opinions of others.
- The careers education component will help prepare students for the decisions they need to make during Year 11 and for the world of work.

Assessment:

- There is no formal assessment or examination in this subject, but students' work, and their participation in lessons, will be assessed regularly and students' progress reports will include a grade for their attitude for learning in this subject. The various skills that students develop through this course of study are considered very important by future employers and higher education tutors.

BTEC FIRST IN ART & DESIGN

Overview:

This vocational course gives an insight into lots of different areas of art and design, including:-

- 2D and 3D Design
- Fine Art
- Digital media and photography
- Fine Art Textiles and Constructed Textiles
- Fashion Design
- Graphic Design

Students will have the opportunity to visit galleries and exhibitions, work on 'live' project briefs as well as taking a trip to major art cities such as New York, Paris, Barcelona and Venice!

Structure:

BTEC First Diploma in Art and Design (Double Option)	BTEC First Extended Certificate in Art and Design (Single Option)
Five core units	Three core units
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2D Visual Communication • 3D Visual Communication • Contextual References in Art and Design • Portfolio & Industry • Using Ideas to Explore, Develop & Produce Art & Design 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2D Visual Communication • 3D Visual Communication • Contextual References in Art and Design
Two specialist units	One specialist unit
<p>Students will choose either Fashion And Textiles or Art and Design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Fashion Design Briefs • Working with Textiles' Briefs <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Interactive Media Briefs • Working with Visual Arts' Briefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with Visual Arts' Briefs • Working with Fashion Design Briefs • Working with Fashion Design Briefs

BTEC FIRST IN ART & DESIGN

Unit Combinations:

For the **BTEC First Extended Certificate** the learner is required to complete three core units and one specialist unit from the list.

Assessment:

It is continual assessment throughout the two years, with no exam. You will be assessed at the end of each unit of work and will be awarded a Pass, Merit or distinction grade.

Features:

EDEXCEL BTEC First Extended Certificate equivalent to 2 GCSEs grades A*-C

GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

AQA 4133

Overview:

- Students will gain skills that will be useful in a wide range of jobs, in the further study of Business Studies and in their personal life.
- Students will learn:-
 - How to analyse business problems and issues
 - How to evaluate evidence and communicate their arguments clearly
 - How to make business decisions
 - How to use business vocabulary
 - To work on their own and as part of a team

Assessment:

- A one hour written examination at the end of Year 10 on setting up a business, which accounts for 40% of the final marks. A further one hour written examination at the end of Year 11 on growing a business, which accounts for 35% of the final marks.
- 25% of the final grade marks are awarded for the controlled assessment. The research for this will be carried out before the Year 10 examination and the report completed at the end of Year 10.
- There is one tier of entry (A*-G).

GCSE CHILD DEVELOPMENT

OCR J441

Overview:

- This 2 year GCSE course involves all aspects of the development of children between the ages of 0 and 5 years.
- Students will learn about how children develop socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically.
- Students also learn in detail about pregnancy and childbirth, feeding of babies, toddlers and young children, and aspects of health and welfare including first aid and care of a sick child.
- Social aspects of a child's care are also covered – such as the nature of family life, and the contribution of professionals and others concerned with the child's welfare and development.
- The work in Child Development provides opportunities to develop student research and investigational skills, to use ICT and to observe young children.
- In addition to developing the parenting skills required in later life, this subject would be very useful to those who want a career in child care, social work, teaching or nursing.

Assessment:

- The Year 10 resource tasks are each worth 10% of the final mark. Students complete 3 tasks chosen from a list provided by the exam board.
- The Year 11 individual task, which involves the study of a child, is worth 30% of the final mark.
- A written examination (at the end of Year 11) is worth 40% of the final mark.

-

GCSE DANCE

AQA 4230

Overview:

- This course enables students to study Dance in depth. It is especially useful for anyone interested in a career in Performing Arts/Drama.
- It will give students the opportunity to gain a full GCSE in something that they have probably been involved in for several years. Students will definitely improve their choreographic and personal skill level, and their understanding of dance.

Assessment:

- 20% personal performance in a duo/group directly linked to a professional work.
- 40% composing both a solo and group dance.
- 20% learning a Set Dance composed by the Examination Board.
- 20% theory examination about dance appreciation.
- Performance and Composition marks are moderated by a visiting examiner. The Set Study is an examination piece recorded on DVD and then sent to an AQA Examiner for marking.

GCSE DRAMA

AQA 4240

Overview:

- During the Drama GCSE course, students will practically explore theatre styles and techniques, a variety of scripts, characters from different genre and different themes for performance.
- During the course, students will see professional theatre locally and further afield.
- Other than helping to build confidence, drama gives students all kinds of communications and group work skills. Whether they see themselves on the stage, in films, designing sets, costumes or lighting, or just enjoying watching theatre, this course will give them a good, solid grounding and can lead to a variety of different careers and opportunities.
- A Drama GCSE says to an employer that the student is a confident, disciplined and cultured team player!

Assessment:

- 60% of the GCSE grade is made up of two performances to a live audience (one scripted performance and one devised performance). Some students may opt for the design and technical elements rather than performing (stage make-up, set design, costume, lighting, sound).
- A written exam is worth 40% of the grade. Students will write about a live performance seen and practical work completed during the course.

GCSE FOOD TECHNOLOGY

AQA 4545

Overview:

The Specification:

- This GCSE course builds on work introduced in Years 7, 8 and 9. The course involves using food as a material to explore, investigate and develop existing and new products.
- Students will investigate food production for the home and for industry and will learn the functions and properties of food, nutrition, safety and hygiene, food production and product development amongst other topics.
- Work in Food Technology provides opportunities to develop research, ICT, analytical, design and learn practical skills. Practical work plays an integral part in class work, where it is linked to key modules, and in the controlled assessment.

Assessment:

- Unit 1 - The written paper which is worth 40% of the marks, this covers materials and components, design and marketing influences and processes and manufacture.
- Unit 2 - Design and Making Practice which is worth 60% of the marks. This is an extended controlled assessment, which results in the project design folder. Practical work is the most important element and the folder will also include: Investigating the design opportunity, development of design proposals, making, testing and evaluation.

GCSE GRAPHIC PRODUCTS

AQA 4550

Overview:

The Specification:

- This subject is based in the Graphics suite with some workshop time when required. The design procedure will be studied through research, planning, drawing (including computer aided design), making (including computer aided manufacture) and evaluation. The focus will be on exploration, using visual impact and communication.
- Students taking Graphic Products are entered for a full GCSE which builds upon previous knowledge of the subject in Key Stage 3.
- Graphic Products is about developing drawing skills and modelling solutions with a range of drawing techniques.
- Following the syllabus for Graphic Products through AQA examinations, students will develop drawing and making skills related to graphics.
- Projects will be made using modelling materials. Minor projects that are done in Year 10 follow a format that is preparation for Year 11. In Year 11 students will be spending most of their time on designing and making a major coursework project.

Assessment:

- Unit 1 - The written paper which is worth 40% of the marks, this covers materials and components, design and marketing influences and processes and manufacture. The examination is no longer tiered
- Unit 2 - Design and Making Practice which is worth 60% of the marks. This is an extended controlled assessment, which results in the project design folder. Practical work is the most important element and the folder will also include: Investigating the design opportunity, development of design proposals, making, testing and evaluation.

GCSE RESISTANT MATERIALS

AQA 4560

Overview:

The Specification:

- This Design & Technology – Resistant Materials GCSE will develop and improve students' practical skills. It can lead to further studies in design & technology or directly into a job.
- Resistant Materials is a design and make subject so students will be designing through drawing and modelling. We also have the facility to use computer-aided design within the department which must be used in the final project in Year 11.
- Students will follow the syllabus for Resistant Materials through AQA examinations, and will have two minor projects to complete in Year 10. In Year 11 students will design and make a major coursework project, developing their skills using a variety of tools, equipment and materials.

Assessment:

- Unit 1 - The written paper which is worth 40% of the marks, this covers materials and components, design and marketing influences and processes and manufacture.
- Unit 2 - Design and Making Practice which is worth 60% of the marks. This is an extended controlled assessment, which results in the project design folder. Practical work is the most important element and the folder will also include: Investigating the design opportunity, development of design proposals, making, testing and evaluation.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Edexcel Specification B

Overview:

- Geography raises student awareness of both natural and built environments and explores important ideas and debates in today's world. It links and supports the learning in many other subjects such as arts, other humanities and sciences, and provides a valuable qualification to support entry to many careers and college courses.
- Geography students will gain an understanding of PEOPLE and PLACE as well as some of the main problems facing mankind in the 21st Century and how they are being tackled in different parts of the world - so it is directly relevant to all students.
- Students will gain transferable skills, these include:-
 - presenting figures, graphs and other graphical devices
 - Interpreting maps, photographs, statistics and other data sources
 - ICT - both for research purposes and for producing assignments
 - fieldwork, research and data collection
 - the ability to create a well-structured and balanced argument
- Students will learn about:-
 - The relationships between natural events and processes and human activities, in particular plate tectonics, climate change, ecosystem destruction, water use, coping with extreme climates and managing coasts.
 - The conflicts and pressures that have arisen from the world population's rapid growth and development, in particular migration, sustainable use of resources, changing living environments, changing working environments and the dilemmas caused by development.

Assessment:

- There are 4 units in the course, each with an equal weighting of 25%. There are two one hour written exam papers based on the subject content taught throughout the two years, a one hour written decision making exercise based on the skills taught and pre released materials, and one controlled assessment based around fieldwork and research in the local area (to be completed at the end of Year 10 and start of Year 11).

CITY AND GUILDS LEVEL 2 DIPLOMA WOMEN'S HAIRDRESSING

Overview:

- This course is run in conjunction with Berkshire College of Agriculture and other Maidenhead schools. All of the lessons will be held at the college site at Burchetts Green.
- Hairdressing is a practical vocational course, in which students gain knowledge and skills in Colouring, Perming, Cutting and Styling, Customer Care and Customer Services.

Assessment:

- Students will complete projects and assignments throughout the two years and an on-line test at the end of Year 11.

GCSE HISTORY

OCR

Overview:

- Students study key events, changes and issues in history. They study the key features of particular periods and the things that influenced the way people and societies behaved.
- There is a focus on British history between 1945 and 1975. There are also sections which look at international relations and in particular a study of the history of Germany.
- A whole range of historical perspectives are explored including political, social, economic and cultural aspects.
- Students are given the opportunity to study and explore different sorts of historical sources including:- written and visual sources, artefacts, music, oral accounts, and buildings and sites.

Assessment:

There are 3 parts to the examination:

Paper 1: (45%) 2 hours

Aspects of International Relations between 1919-1945 and one Depth Study of Germany. Examined through source based questions and structured essays.

Paper 2: (30%) 1 hour 30 minutes

How has British Society changed from 1945-1975

Examined through source based questions.

Paper 3: (25%)

Controlled Assessment:

Cold War in Europe

There are no tiered papers. The questions will be designed to cover the full ability range A*-G.

GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

French

AQA 4655

Overview:

Having already studied French for three years, students will have achieved an excellent foundation to further develop their knowledge and language learning skills with confidence at GCSE level.

A qualification in a language is highly regarded in terms of communication skills and cultural awareness; an invaluable asset in many employment situations. Many universities offer a foreign language option in degree courses as diverse as Media Studies, Engineering and Business Studies, but even if students have no plans to go to university, many careers value a second language. French is spoken in many countries and by many people around the World. Think of a job **with** French rather than a career in French; there is great career choice both in this country and abroad.

Students will be well prepared and confident to use French for practical communication. Studying French will not only enable them to communicate with French speakers; it will also widen their understanding of language structures, which will help them improve their English. Students will further develop cultural awareness and an appreciation of the French speaking world.

Students will develop their knowledge of French vocabulary and language structure and their ability in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. ICT will also be used to support these activities. The GCSE course is great fun; they will study a range of topics including leisure time and holidays, media, food and drink, the environment, career plans and work related issues.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Speaking and Writing count 30% each towards their final mark – these assessments are conducted during the two year course and the best two pieces of work from each skill are selected from their portfolio. Reading and Listening count 20% each towards their final mark – papers are sat at the end of the course and students can be entered for Foundation or Higher papers in any combination. Students are well supported and prepared throughout the course for each of these assessments.

GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

German

AQA 4665

Overview:

Having already accomplished a foundation year in German, during which students have not only achieved a proficient level of German but also completed the first year of a three year course, they are now prepared and able to progress with confidence to GCSE level.

German is the most widely spoken language in Europe. It is the official language in Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg and Liechtenstein. It is also spoken in significant parts of northern Italy, eastern Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and eastern France – as well as other parts of Europe and the World. A GCSE qualification in German could provide them with endless opportunities to work in the UK as well as to travel and work abroad.

Learning German not only provides students with key language skills (e.g. the ability to take in and manipulate information, to further strengthen their proficiency in English and to heighten their communication skills) it also makes them a very marketable employee. German is an international language of business, scientific research, publishing, hospitality and tourism. A GCSE qualification in German will provide them with endless opportunities when making future decisions about which career path they choose to follow. Think of a career **with** German rather than a career in German.

Students will develop their knowledge of vocabulary and language structure and their ability in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. ICT will also be used to support these activities. During the course students will study a range of topics including leisure time and holidays, media, food and drink, the environment, career plans and work related issues. The GCSE course is great fun and whilst developing their language skills, students will also learn about the culture of German speaking countries – including festivals, food and music.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Speaking and Writing count 30% each towards their final mark – these assessments are conducted during the two year course and the best two pieces of work from each skill are selected from their portfolio. Reading and Listening count 20% each towards their final mark – papers are sat at the end of the course and students can be entered for Foundation or Higher papers in any combination. Students are well supported and prepared throughout the course for each of these assessments.

GCSE MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Spanish

AQA 4695

Overview:

Having already studied Spanish for three years, students will have achieved an excellent foundation to further develop their knowledge and language learning skills with confidence at GCSE level.

Spanish is spoken in many countries and by many people around the world. A qualification in a language is highly regarded in terms of communication skills and cultural awareness; an invaluable asset for employment opportunities. Many universities also offer a foreign language option in degree courses, but even if they have no plans to go to university, many careers value a second language. If they think of a job **with** Spanish rather a job in Spanish, there is great career choice both in this country and abroad.

Students will be well prepared and confident to use Spanish for practical communication. Studying Spanish will not only enable them to communicate with Spanish speakers; it will also widen their understanding of language structures, which will help them improve their English. Students will also further develop cultural awareness and an appreciation of the Spanish speaking world.

Students will further develop their knowledge of Spanish vocabulary and language structure as well as their ability in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. ICT will also be used to support these activities. The GCSE course is great fun; students will study a range of topics including food and drink, media, leisure time, the environment, career plans and work related issues. Students will also gain a greater understanding of the diverse culture of the Spanish speaking world.

Assessment:

Students will be assessed in the four language skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Speaking and Writing count 30% each towards their final mark – these assessments are conducted during the two year course and the best two pieces of work from each skill are selected from their portfolio. Reading and Listening count 20% each towards their final mark – papers are sat at the end of the course and students can be entered for Foundation or Higher papers in any combination. Students are well supported and prepared throughout the course for each of these assessments.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA IN MOTOR VEHICLE STUDIES (Level 2)

Edexcel

Overview:

- This course is run in conjunction with Berkshire College of Agriculture and other Maidenhead schools. All of the lessons will be held at the college site at Burchetts Green.
- Motor Vehicle Studies is a Level 2 course which helps students to develop greater independence and prepare for employment in the motor vehicle industry.
- This course gives students the opportunity to acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of vehicles eg. horticultural, domestic and light commercial vehicles, and Health and Safety and skills for work.
- Students will study 3 units for First Certificate in Year 10:-
 - Essential working practices in vehicle technology
 - Vehicle electrical and electronic principles
 - Engineering skills for vehicle repair

Possibly 3 further units can be studied in Year 11 to achieve the First Diploma.

Assessment:

All units are assessed through assignments. There is no written examination.

GCSE MUSIC

AQA

Overview:

- Students will acquire a deeper understanding of music, essential for careers in the music industry, but also useful for showing future employers/higher education bodies that they can succeed in a broad range of subject disciplines.
- 40% of the marks go towards the 'performing' unit and students can use their instrument to help them compose their own music.
- Students will study a number of styles of music which include classical, pop and jazz and world music. For each one they will listen to examples and learn about their main features, play music of this type and undertake composing projects based on them.
- Composing work is carried out using Sibelius notation software.

The course is ideal for students who play instruments who can then gain some credit at GCSE for their performing skills.

Assessment:

The teacher carries out most of the assessment in performing and composing (total of 80%). There is also a listening component in which students hear extracts of music and answer questions about them in a written examination (20%). The paper is marked by external examiners

PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

Overview:

In order for students to be able to go on and lead a healthy, active lifestyle, it is important that they understand how physical activity and exercise contributes to the growth and development of body systems and structures. GCSE PE enables students to gain knowledge and understanding of the impact of a healthy, active lifestyle on their cardiovascular, respiratory, muscular and skeletal systems and general wellbeing. Students will learn that, although they can be looked at separately, body systems do not work in isolation and that good physical and mental health depends on each component working in harmony with each other. Students will develop an understanding of the relationship between exercise, diet, work and rest, and how, together, they contribute to a balanced healthy lifestyle. They will also develop their practical performance in a number of activities through participation, officiating and the leading of activities.

This is delivered through 2 units split into the following components:-

UNIT ONE through a theory based setting.

Section 1.1: Healthy, active lifestyles

- Healthy, active lifestyles and how they could benefit you
- Influences on your healthy, active lifestyle
- Exercise and fitness as part of your healthy, active lifestyle
- Physical activity as part of your healthy, active lifestyle
- Your personal health and wellbeing

Section 1.2: Your healthy, active body.

- Physical activity and your healthy mind and body
- A healthy, active lifestyle and your cardiovascular system
- A healthy, active lifestyle and your respiratory system
- A healthy, active lifestyle and your muscular system
- A healthy, active lifestyle and your skeletal system

UNIT TWO through practical performance

Section 2.1: Practical performance

Section 2.2: Analysis of performance.

Students will undertake practical performances in different contexts, within selected physical activities, in the role of either player/participant, official or leader within FOUR sports. Alongside this, students will undertake an analysis of performance in a selected physical activity.

Assessment:

Written Examination

The examination is 1 hour and 30 minutes, and includes multiple-choice, short-answer, and longer answer questions.

The total raw mark available is 80.

Practical Performance and Verbal Analysis (with written reinforcement)

This unit is externally moderated. The total raw mark available is 50.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE/DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC SERVICES (Level 2)

Edexcel

Overview:

- This course is run in conjunction with Berkshire College of Agriculture and other Maidenhead schools. All of the lessons will be held at the college site at Burchetts Green.
- Public Services is a practical vocational course, which will prepare students for future work in a wide range of Public Service occupations, such as Local Government, Social Care, Armed Forces, Police, Fire, Ambulance, Prison Services and Private Security Firms.
- Students will learn about the employment areas available within the Public Sector and develop the skills needed for a career in a Public Service.
- Students will study 3 units in Year 10 for First Certificate:-
 - Uniformed Public Services Employment
 - Public Service Skills
 - Uniformed Public Services
 - Fitness

With the possibility of 3 further units in Year 11 to achieve the First Diploma.

Assessment:

- Students will complete projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. There are no examinations.

BTEC IN WORK SKILLS

Level 2

Overview:

This course designed to increase confidence within young people and to equip them with skills to enable them to improve their life chances. Through a range of practical activities, visits and case studies the students will develop a real understanding of the world of work. The course provides opportunities for additional work experience placements.

The BTEC consists of four pathways including:-

- Personal Life Skills
- Sustainable Employability Skills
- Work Placement Skills
- Skills for Business

Assessment:

- All units are assessed by the student's portfolio of evidence. There is no written examination.
- The course also allows them to find links with other subjects they are studying so that they can see how skills are transferable.
- Part of the course is delivered and assessed on-line through Safe Learner.
- The students will complete up to 30 units to achieve their qualification.
- The most successful students can achieve up to 4 GCSE equivalents through the Work Skills suite of units.



YEAR 10 CONTROLLED ASSESSMENTS AND EXAMS 2010 - 2011

Dates	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
	5th Sept - 21st Oct	31st Oct - 16th Dec	3rd Jan - 10th Feb	20th Feb - 30th March	16th April - 1st June	11th June - 23rd July
Art/Textiles BTEC	Continuous Assessments throughout the year.					
Biology	Internal controlled assessment in line with teaching throughout the year		Exam Module 12th Jan		Exam Module 21st May	
Business Studies				Research for Controlled Assessment		Controlled Assessment
Chemistry	Internal controlled assessment in line with teaching throughout the year		Exam Module 18th Jan		Exam Module 24th May	
Child Development			Controlled Assessment			
Dance					Practical Exam	
Drama						
English	Creative writing Controlled Assessment. Speaking/Listening Contolled Assessment Controlled Assessment	Spoken language Study Controlled Assessment	Speaking/Listening Role Play	Shakespeare Heritage Comparison	Speaking/Listening Presentation	
English Literature				Shakespeare Heritage Comparison		
Food Technology						Controlled Assessment Research
French				Writing Controlled Assessment	Speaking Controlled Assessment	Mock Listening/Reading exams
Geography	-				-	Controlled assessment planning and fieldwork

German	-					Writing Controlled Assessment	Speaking Controlled Assessment	Mock Listening/Reading exams
Graphic Products			-	-	-	-		Controlled Assessment Research
History								
ICT Nationals	This current Year 10 are working on OCR National Certificates a practical based Level 2 qualification. There will be deadlines throughout Years 10 and Year 11.							
Maths								Possible exam for set 4 in June
Music	Solo and ensemble performances throughout the year, when students are ready.							Composition 1- 20 hours controlled assessment during lesson time.
PE						Controlled Assessment		
PE BTEC	Assessments continuously throughout Year 10 & Year 11							
Physics	Internal controlled assessment in line with teaching throughout the year				Exam Module 20th Jan		Exam Module 30th May	
RE								Exam Module 31st May
Resistant Materials								Controlled Assessment Research
Science BTEC	Continuous Assessments until Easter Year 11.							
Spanish						Writing Controlled Assessment	Speaking Controlled Assessment	Mock Listening/Reading exams
Sociology								
Work Experience								Week 25/06/12 - 29/06/12

Useful Websites

There are many websites that are useful for parents and students. Below we have selected a small number that we believe are very good.

1. www.parentscentre.gov.uk – provides a great deal of information on a whole range of issues on how to help with your child’s learning. It is an excellent website for most education related issues that affect parents.
2. www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize - covers most subjects and provides games, revision sheets, tests and study skills over both Key Stages at secondary school – i.e. Key Stage 3 and GCSE.
3. www.homeworkelephant.co.uk – an excellent website that will help your child with the completion of numerous homework assignments in many subjects and also provides the facility of leaving questions for teachers online.
4. www.allaboutstuff.com – contains articles, trivia and facts on a variety of subjects.
5. www.furzeplatt.com – updated daily to provide parents and students curriculum information, news and important calendar dates.

School Contacts

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