

Year 9

Options 2026



Make the right choice for you



Contents



	Page
Message from the Headteacher	3
Helping you to make the right decision	4
Core Curriculum	9
English Literature	10
English Language	11
Maths	12
Science	13
Core PE	14
Core RE	15
PSHE	16
GCSE option subjects	17
Art & Design	18
Computer Science	19
Design Technology	20
French	21
Geography	22
History	23
Music	25
Religious Studies	27
Triple Science	28
Vocational option subjects	29
Digital Information Technology	30
Health & Social Care	31
Hospitality & Catering	33
Performing Arts	34
Sport	36
Option form	37



Message from the Headteacher



Choosing your Key Stage 4 options is an exciting milestone in your journey through Brownhills Ormiston Academy. The next two-and-a-half years will shape not only your GCSE results, but the skills and personal qualities that will stay with you long after you leave school.

You know that I am clear that you have one chance at your education and you have a duty to make it count. The decisions you make now must help you to leave school with the skills, attributes and academic qualifications to enjoy a life of choice and opportunity.

This booklet sets out the rich and wide-ranging curriculum we are proud to offer. Within it, you will find courses that open doors to the future. These subjects will challenge you, inspire you, and prepare you for the next stages of your life. As you read through each course, think carefully about where you achieve most highly, where you feel most motivated, and which courses will best support your ambitions.

It is important to be honest from the start: GCSE examinations are rigorous and challenging. Success will require hard work, consistent home learning and regular revision from the very first day of Year 10. Your teachers will expect to see, right now, that you are working hard and excelling in the subjects you hope to choose. Your effort in Year 9 matters.

While we offer a broad and exciting range of courses, please be aware that some subjects may not run if there is insufficient demand. Our responsibility is to ensure that every student studies a curriculum that is both appropriate and ambitious. You will be highly supported throughout this process. We will guide you, advise you, and ensure you have a combination of subjects that will give you the strongest foundation for your future.

This moment is the next step towards that future. Key Stage 4 opens the doors to new opportunities, and this year group has enormous potential to achieve exceptionally well. We are excited to support you as you begin this journey and look forward to seeing what you will accomplish.

Mr R T Doodson
Headteacher



Helping you make the right decision





Helping you make the right decision



Why do I need this booklet?

You are about to make some very important decisions, and these will influence your future. This booklet is designed to support and guide you through the process of choosing some of the subjects you will take for the next two years. Some subjects are compulsory which means everyone must study them. However, some subjects are optional, and you can choose which ones you want to take.

We give students lots of advice and guidance about which subjects they might choose. This booklet is just one of the things to help you with the decisions you will make.

Please read this booklet carefully. It contains a lot of useful information about courses, the process of choosing your optional subjects and careers guidance.

What are the different types of qualifications?

GCSEs

GCSE stands for 'General Certificate of Secondary Education'. These are academic qualifications that are recognised and valued by schools, colleges, and employers, so they will be useful for whatever you are planning to do in the future.

GCSEs involve studying the theory of a subject and usually include some investigation work. Some may also involve practical work. All GCSEs have examinations although some might also have a non-examined element (coursework).

When you take your final exams in 2028, the GCSEs will be graded 9-1. Some qualifications have different examination papers for students working at different ability levels. These are called 'tiers': Higher and Foundation.

Vocational & Technical Qualifications

BTEC (Business & Technology Education Council) and other technical qualifications are work-related courses suitable for a wide range of learners. Like GCSEs these are nationally recognised have been designed to meet the needs of employers and allow progression to further study. They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning.

These courses are assessed through both examined and/or non-examined elements depending on the chosen course. These courses are suitable for students who might not show their full potential in courses assessed only through examinations.

Due to the strict time frames for the completion of non-examined elements it is vitally important that your attendance meets our school expectations to ensure you can complete this element of your course successfully.

The grades for these courses can be awarded at a level 1 or a level 2, this depends on the standard reached in the assessed elements. Each level can be either a Pass, Merit or Distinction at level 2 you can also achieve a distinction star.

What choices do I have?

Everyone will study 10 subjects; these are made up of the core examined subjects and the core non-examined subjects and the option subjects. Everyone will have the choice of 3 option subjects. Details of these can be found from page 17 onwards.

What is the Core Curriculum?

Everyone will study core National Curriculum subjects. These include some 'non-qualification subjects' that do not have any exams and do not lead to a certificate. However, it is important that you study these courses as they will help develop you as a person and prepare you for your future.

The core subjects are:

- English Literature
- English language
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core PE
- PSHE
- RE

You will find information on the core curriculum from page 9.

Where do I start?

It is important to have a selection of subjects which will keep all career paths open and will also provide variety. Universities and employers are looking to recruit people with a broad and balanced education. Brownhills Ormiston Academy's aim is to ensure that you engage in subjects in which you can achieve. Therefore, you should seek advice from your parents/carers, subject teachers, your form tutor, Head of Year and the Careers Department. They can help you by giving impartial and specific careers advice.

Things to think about when making your choices

- Which subjects do you enjoy?
- What are your learning strengths and skills and which subjects do these go well with?
- Which qualifications might you need for a career or courses in higher education that will interest you?
- Does the content and style of learning interest you?
- Does the balance between coursework and examinations suit you?

Do not choose a subject because

- You like the teacher – they may not be teaching your class next year.
- Your friend is choosing it or wants you to choose it – you may end up in a different class to your friend.

Choosing your Option Subjects

- Learn about the subjects you could choose at GCSE level.
- Use the option assembly sessions to find out more about each of the courses.
- Read the subject profiles in this booklet. Subjects at GCSE can be very different to what you have been used to in Year 9. Make sure that you know how they differ.
- Discuss your ideas with your subject teachers and with your personal tutor.

Important things that you need to know:

- Choices are not allocated to people who submit their choices first so please take your time to consider the options available. However, if you do not complete your submission by the deadline then it may be difficult to accommodate your preferences.
- Please consider your choices carefully it is not possible to change courses later.
- Sometimes it is not possible to allocate all first choices. This is usually because courses are timetabled at the same time. Every effort will be made to try to give you your first choices; however, if this is not possible, we will look at your reserve choices.

PLEASE NOTE:

The subjects being offered, and the course descriptors are correct at the time of publishing; however, they are subject to change because of the ongoing government review of the curriculum. Please be aware that if there are insufficient numbers of students choosing a course, it may not run. In this case, the reserve subject(s) will be used.

Careers information, advice and guidance

Your weekly careers sessions and assembly from Mrs Adams have been designed to support you in your option choices. Please speak to one of the careers team if you want personalised guidance, you can find them in the library on a Monday lunchtime, you can speak to Mrs Adams, Mrs Murphy or you can email careers@brownhillsoa.co.uk

Students should use the online careers platform Unifrog to support their option and career decisions, here they will find a wealth of information and guidance on how to choose their level 2 qualification. You can access the website at www.unifrog.org Parents can have their own Unifrog account should they wish, please contact jadams@brownhillsoa.co.uk to request an account.

The websites below may also be helpful:

[Home - CareersBox](#)

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/>

<https://amazingapprenticeships.com/>

<https://barclayslifefskills.com/>

<https://icould.com/explore>

Options Timeline:

- Launch assembly: Friday 10th January
- Option assemblies: 13th January – 30th January
- Option evening: **26th February 2026** This will take place on the **4pm – 6pm**.
It is essential that you attend this evening as your option requests will be submitted on this evening.

The evening will be as follows.

- 4 pm: Option presentation
- 4.20pm: Option presentations with teaching staff
- 5.35pm: Option form submission

Mrs Adams will be available all evening to discuss careers.

Core Curriculum





English Language

Exam board: AQA

Course Leader: Mrs A Baker

- GCSE
- Core curriculum
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

This is a core subject, all students' study English language.

What does the qualification cover?

English Language GCSE provides students with the opportunity to show their viewpoints and opinions on a variety of different topics and events from history and today. Students also get to be creative in writing forms of texts such as descriptions of images, stories, speeches, articles and letters. Another element of the GCSE is a spoken language exam, which gets students to write and deliver a speech on a topic of their choice. This provides an opportunity to really showcase something that you are passionate about!

What can the qualification lead to?

Further study:

- Studying A Level English Language
- Studying English Language at University

Careers:

Teaching, Lecturer, Tutoring, Journalism, Writer, Translator, Social Media Manager, Editorial Assistant, Publisher, Administrator, Advertising, Marketing

Components

Paper 1 50% of GCSE Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks	Section A: Reading, one literature fiction text Section B: Writing, descriptive or narrative writing
Paper 2 50% of GCSE Writers' viewpoints and Perspectives Written Exam – 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks	Section A: Reading, fiction and non-fiction Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint
Spoken Language Graded: Pass, Merit, Distinction	Presenting, responding to questions and feedback and use of standard English are assessed

Key Skills

- Read fluently, and with good understanding, a wide range of texts from different time periods, including literature and literary non-fiction
- Read and evaluate texts critically and make comparisons between texts
- Summarise and synthesise information or ideas from texts
- Use knowledge gained from wide reading to inform and improve their own writing
- Write effectively and coherently using Standard English appropriately
- Use grammar correctly and punctuate and spell accurately
- Acquire and apply a wide vocabulary, a knowledge and understanding of grammatical terminology, and linguistic conventions for reading, writing and spoken language



English Literature

Exam board: AQA

Course Leader: Mrs A Baker

- GCSE
- Core curriculum
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

This is a core subject, all students study English Literature.

What does the qualification cover?

English Literature GCSE explores texts over different time periods and in different forms.

First, we study the well-known story A Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens. We then move on to Shakespeare's Macbeth. The last text is An Inspector Calls, a modern play by J B Priestley.

Finally, we study poems all about relationships: romantic relationships, family relationships, friendships, and how all relationships are different. We also explore how the same relationship can be seen differently from the person's involved points of view.

What can the qualification lead to?

Further study:

- Studying A Level English Literature
- Studying English Literature at University

Careers:

Teaching, Lecturer, Tutoring, Journalism, Writer, Translator, Social Media Manager
Editorial Assistant, Publisher, Administrator, Academic Librarian

Components

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19 th Century Novel Texts: Macbeth and A Christmas Carol	Paper 2: 19 th Century Novel and Poetry since 1789 Texts: An Inspector Calls, Relationships Poetry Anthology and Unseen Poetry
Written Exam – 1 hour and 45 minutes 64 marks – 40% of GCSE	Written Exam – 2 hours and 15 minutes 96 marks – 60% of GCSE

Key Skills

- Read a wide range of classic literature fluently and with good understanding, and make connections across their reading
- Read in depth, critically and evaluatively, so that they are able to discuss and explain their understanding and ideas
- Develop the habit of reading widely and often
- Appreciate the depth and power of the English literary heritage
- Write accurately, effectively and analytically about their reading, using Standard English
- Acquire and use a wide vocabulary, including grammatical terminology, and other literary and linguistic terms they need to criticise and analyse what they read.



Maths

Exam board: Edexcel

Course Leader: Miss A Gilbert

- GCSE
- Core curriculum
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

This is a core subject, all students will study maths.

What does the qualification cover?

All students study the Edexcel Maths GCSE course. Over the two-year course the aims are that students:

- 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.

What can the qualification lead to?

The Maths qualification is the foundation of many career choices and post-16 pathways. A number of institutions require a pass at GCSE Maths to access courses without a specific maths focus. Post-16 study options include A level Mathematics or a level 3 Core Maths qualification.

Careers with a heavy maths focus include Actuary, Accounting, Statistician, Data analyst, Risk management, Economist, Business development manager, STEM careers (Science, technology, engineering and Maths) and many, many more.

Components

The course has two tiers of entry, foundation and higher. All students study the same 6 components.

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change
4. Geometry and measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

Key Skills

The Maths GCSE not only provides students with mathematical knowledge but also supports the development of a wider skill set. These include: - Non routing problem solving, critical thinking, communication, adaptability, self-management and self-development.



Science

Exam board: AQA

Course Leader: Mrs R McGowan

- GCSE
- Core curriculum
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

This is a core subject, all students will study science

Students have the option to specialise in triple science, please see page 28 for more information. Students who do not choose triple science will study combined science

What does the qualification cover?

- Cell Biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology
- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources
- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure (radiation)
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

What can the qualification lead to?

Possible exciting career options include:

Law • journalism • media and communications • business management • finance and accounting • public services • project management • IT support • digital and tech roles • environmental planning • architecture • marketing • teaching • social work • psychology-related roles.

Components

Six exam papers, 75 minutes each:

1. Bio Paper 1: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.
2. Bio Paper 2: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology
3. Chem Paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
4. Chem Paper 2: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources
5. Physics Paper 1: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure (radiation).
6. Physics Paper 2: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

Key Skills

Although there is no coursework for this subject, practical skills are embedded within the topics studied, include required practicals that are compulsory which will be examined in the written papers. Further skills include: Mathematical skills, working scientifically (experimental) skills and analytical and evaluative skills



Core PE

Course Leader: Mrs P Moore

- Core curriculum
- Non-examined

Why choose this subject?

This is a core subject, all students will study Core PE

Core PE at KS4 is a fantastic opportunity for students to stay active, healthy, and engaged during their GCSE years. Even though it's a compulsory subject, it offers a welcome break from classroom-based learning and helps reduce stress while improving physical fitness. Core PE also develops important life skills such as teamwork, communication, and resilience, which are valuable in all areas of life and future careers. It's a chance to try new sports, build confidence, and maintain a healthy lifestyle—benefits that go far beyond school.

What does the qualification cover?

Core PE at KS4 is timetabled for two one-hour lessons each week. These lessons give students the chance to stay physically active, improve fitness, and enjoy a change from academic subjects.

What can the qualification lead to?

Core PE at KS4 does not lead to a specific qualification, but it plays an important role in developing lifelong skills and habits. It helps students maintain physical fitness, improve health and wellbeing, and learn teamwork, communication, and resilience—skills that are valuable in everyday life and future careers. Regular participation in PE can also spark interest in sports-related pathways, such as coaching, fitness, or leadership roles, and supports overall academic performance by reducing stress and improving focus.

Components

Core PE at KS4 is structured around a variety of practical components that focus on developing physical fitness, skills, and teamwork through different sports and activities. These components cover a wide range of sports, including traditional team games like football, netball, basketball, volleyball, and handball, as well as individual and racket sports such as tennis and badminton. Students also experience alternative and emerging activities like lacrosse and ultimate frisbee, alongside opportunities for swimming to enhance overall fitness. This diverse curriculum ensures learners build competence, confidence, and enjoyment across multiple sporting contexts

Key Skills

Teamwork and Cooperation – Working effectively with others in team sports and group activities.

Communication – Giving and receiving instructions, encouraging peers, and using clear verbal and non-verbal communication.

Leadership – Taking responsibility in roles such as captain or coach during activities.

Problem-Solving – Adapting strategies and tactics during games and overcoming challenges.

Resilience and Perseverance – Coping with setbacks, staying motivated, and striving for improvement.

Time Management and Organisation – Preparing for lessons and managing activity transitions efficiently.

Physical Literacy – Developing coordination, balance, agility, and overall fitness.



Core RE

Course Leader: Mr J Morris

- Core curriculum
- Non-examined

Why choose this subject?

This is a core subject, all students will study core RE.

Core RE in Years 10–11 is vital for developing critical thinking, ethical awareness, and cultural understanding. It equips students to engage with diverse beliefs and moral issues, fostering respect and informed citizenship, even without a formal qualification.

What does the qualification cover?

In year 10 students cover key beliefs and values of all world religions, analysing these alongside their own beliefs. They progress to understanding religious law and authority and finish the year looking at examples of religious rebels – seeking to understand when opposition to unjust law and rules are necessary.

What can the qualification lead to?

Core RE can help in careers by developing transferable skills and perspectives that employers value. For example:

- Law and Politics: Understanding ethics and diverse worldviews aids in fair decision-making and policy development.
- Healthcare and Social Work: Empathy and cultural awareness improve patient care and support for different communities.
- Education: Builds strong communication and teaching skills for working with varied beliefs.
- Business and Leadership: Ethical reasoning and respect for diversity foster inclusive workplaces.
- Media and Journalism: Helps interpret global issues and report sensitively on cultural topics.

Components

There are no key exam components for this course as it is not a recognised formal qualification.

Key Skills

Critical thinking – analysing complex moral and ethical issues.

Cultural awareness – understanding diverse beliefs and worldviews.

Communication skills – discussing sensitive topics respectfully.



PSHE

Course Leader: Dr G Caldwell

- Core curriculum
- Non-examined

Why choose this subject?

PSHE is a core subject, all students will study PSHE. PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) helps pupils stay healthy, safe and ready for life and work in modern Britain. It's considered an essential part of every student's education.

What does the qualification cover?

PSHE is not a qualification and will not be formally assessed throughout KS4. Students will be assessed on their knowledge at the start and end of each topic to assess the progress they have made regarding understanding key terms and content.

What can the qualification lead to?

The core purposes of the PSHE curriculum are to:

- **Support physical and mental health:** PSHE gives students knowledge and skills to maintain their wellbeing, covering topics like mental health, healthy lifestyles, and managing stress. This is particularly important as they begin their mock examinations and formal assessments.
- **Building safe relationships and understanding RSE:** Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is compulsory in secondary schools. PSHE lessons within this topic helps students form respectful, safe relationships and understand consent, boundaries, and online behaviour.
- **Preparing for economic wellbeing and careers:** This ensures students understand financial literacy, careers, and economic wellbeing — helping students make informed choices about money, work, and future pathways.
- **Developing personal and social skills:** PSHE strengthens communication, resilience, decision-making, and self-awareness — skills that support academic success and life beyond school.
- **Keeping pupils safe:** Topics such as online safety, substance misuse, exploitation, and risk management help students recognise dangers and protect themselves.
- **Contributing to wider outcomes for young people:** PSHE supports national outcomes like being healthy, staying safe, making a positive contribution, and achieving economic wellbeing.

Components

In year 10 students will study content within these topics:

Managing my health, relationships and sex education, my financial future

In year 11 students will study content within these topics:

My financial future, having my say, relationship realities

Key Skills

A broad PSHE curriculum does far more than deliver information — it builds a toolkit of life skills that students carry into adulthood. Students can expect to develop their communication and self-expression skills, emotional literacy and self-awareness, resilience learning new coping strategies, economic understanding and social skills within developing respectful relationships.

GCSE Option Choices





Art & Design

Exam Board AQA

Course Leader: Mrs L Drake

- GCSE
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

Art and Design is a practical subject where you are given the opportunity to create independent project work and are given the freedom to express your own ideas and interests. You will develop your skills in a creative and vibrant environment. You will create and experiment with lots of different media. You will look at inspiring artists and develop your ideas.

Who is this qualification for?

Anyone who is creative, interested in both historical and contemporary art and artists. Anyone who enjoys practical lessons with exciting themes and materials.

What does the qualification cover?

In Year 10 you will begin a project entitled 'Beach City Underground' then 'Culture' then 'Reflections'.

In Year 11 you will create a project entitled 'Famous Faces Famous places'. You will investigate these project titles independently, develop your ideas, experiment with materials, and create a final outcome.

What can the qualification lead to?

A-levels, BTEC nationals, and degrees in countless creative qualifications. Careers such as art curator, art teacher, set design, illustrator, games design, graphic design, visual effects artist, art therapist and much more!

Components

- AO1 develop their ideas through investigations, informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
- AO2 explore and refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, techniques, and processes.
- AO3 record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.
- AO4 present a personal, informed, and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realizing intentions and where appropriate making connections between visual and other elements.

Key Skills

You will advance your skills in a range of materials including paint, collage, print, 3D sculpture, drawing techniques and various mark making skills. You will develop your independent learning skills and creative thinking skills.



Computer Science

Exam board: OCR

Course Leader: Mr A Bartlam

- ☑ GCSE
- ☑ Option
- ☑ Examined

Why choose this subject?

Computer Science is a modern, fascinating subject. The world depends on computers. In this GCSE you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and future challenges.

Choosing Computer Science will provide numerous opportunities to develop your analytical and evaluative skills. You will also develop problem solving skills, learn through exploration and hopefully change the world using programming.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is designed to equip you with the knowledge you might need if you want a career working in programming, games development, network management, systems development, computer repairs and maintenance and cyber security. There is a lot of programming content (based in Python) and the theory topics are quite technical in nature, such as how a CPU actually works, the difference between different types of hard drive and so forth. You MUST be interested in these types of topics to do well on this course. It is really aimed at students whose job will revolve around computers; whether that is programming them, maintaining them or building them.

What does the qualification cover?

Computer systems:

Systems architecture, memory and storage, computer networks, connections and protocols, network security, systems software and ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Computational thinking, algorithms and programming:

Algorithms, programming fundamentals, producing robust programs, boolean logic, programming languages and integrated development environments

What can the qualification lead to?

Computer Science opens many doors, some of the careers include:

Software Developer, Software Engineer, Machine Learning Engineer, Data Scientist, Robotics Engineer, AI Product Manager, Programmer, Cyber Security Analyst, to name but a few. Students with a GCSE in Computer Science might go on to study Computer Science at A Level, a computing-based level 3 vocational qualification or a level 3 apprenticeship in the computing industry.

Components

Component 1: Computer Systems – 1.5 hour exam worth 50% of your final grade

Component 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming – 1.5 hour exam worth 50% of your final grade.

Key Skills

This qualification will help you develop strong problem-solving skills, logical thinking and an ability to break down and interpret technical information. It will equip you with the ability to understand the specifications for electronic devices you might purchase and use in your day to day life. The course will help you be more informed for flourishing in careers which revolve around the development and use of new technologies.



Design Technology

Exam board: AQA

Course Leader: Mrs S Penny

- GCSE
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

Design and Technology is a challenging course that combined both practical work with Design and Technology theory. You will develop core design and manufacturing skills to produce a working prototype that solves a real-life problem. You will analyse the world around you and look at the work of other inspirational designers. This course requires dedication to both the coursework and theory exam. Both will develop your problem-solving skills, designing and manufacturing skills to high standard of accuracy and finish in your products. Your understanding of the design world will inspire new ideas as you follow an iterative design process.

Who is this qualification for?

Design and Technology students should bring energy to both designing and making lessons. You must be interested in the topics included in core and specialist material technical principles as well as designing and make principles within the design world. You should be ambitious with your outcomes and willing to take risks to test your ideas. You should be interested in designing for the needs and wants of others.

What does the qualification cover?

- Year 10 – 2 Design and Make Tasks
- Core Technical Principles: new and emerging technologies, energy generation, new materials, systems approach to designing, mechanical devices, materials and working properties.
- Specialist Technical Principles: Timbers, Forces and Stresses, Ecological and social footprint, Scales of production.
- Design and Making Principles: Investigation, environmental, social and economic change, the work of others, design strategies, communication of designs, prototype development, selection of materials and components, tolerances, specialist tools and equipment, techniques and processes.

What can the qualification lead to?

A-Levels, BTEC, Apprenticeships in a wide range of Design and Technology related areas. Careers include Engineer, Product Designer, Architecture, CAD/CAM Technician, Construction, Project Management, Interior Designer and many more.

Components

Paper 1: 2 hours – written exam – 50% of the GCSE

- Principles of materials and the design and make process

Non Examined Assessment: 30 – 35 hours – Design and Make task – 50% of the GCSE

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing and evaluating

Key Skills

Designing, Making, Analysing, Investigating, Evaluating, Mathematical application of DT, Scientific application of DT, Experimentation, Problem Solving.



French

Exam board: Edexcel

Course Leader: Mrs N Stanley

- GCSE
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

Language skills are amongst the top 8 desired skills for *all* occupations, and bilingual employees are paid more money than others on average. People who speak more than one language have improved memory, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, enhanced concentration, ability to multitask, and better listening skills. Learning a second language can also open opportunities for working and studying abroad.

Who is this qualification for?

Students who wish to continue their language learning journey. Students could be thinking about taking French at A Level or thinking about a future career path or simply using it for when they go on holiday. Remember, universities and employers look more favourably at students who have studied other languages because of the skills that you acquire whilst learning a language.

What does the qualification cover?

My personal world, lifestyle and wellbeing, my neighbourhood, media and technology, studying and my future, travel and tourism

What can the qualification lead to?

Possible career options include:

• Armed forces • Hospitality and Catering • Travel Industry • Diplomatic Service • Translating and Interpreting • Teaching • Journalism (sport journalism) • Sales • business • Sports Industry • Media • Humanitarian services • Intelligence services (MI5) • Immigration services • Vlogging services • Cyber security services • Olympic games related jobs (physiotherapist, game planner, information editor, sport instructor or coach)

Components

Each skill is examined and has equal weighting (25%) and all skills are examined at Foundation Tier or Higher Tier

- **Paper 1 – Speaking Exam**
- **Paper 2 – Listening Exam**
- **Paper 3 – Reading Exam**
- **Paper 4- Writing exam**

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9).

Key skills

- Reading aloud (short paragraph), taking part in a role play/a short conversation, describing a photo
- Writing 50 to 90 words (foundation), 90 to 150 words (higher)
- Responding to multiple choice questions & opened ended questions in English
- Completing a dictation and translating a short paragraph (about 4 lines)

This language course is highly engaging and rewarding as it would provide you with one of the most sought-after skills in the UK job market. Learning a language opens many doors of opportunities and would enhance your chances of securing a place in one of UK top universities. As Franck Smith stated 'one language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way.'



Geography

Exam board: AQA

Course Leader: Miss R Sheldon

- GCSE
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

Students who study Geography gain a broad understanding of the world. The skills, knowledge and understanding gained during their study are held in high regard by employers. Geography is important for careers that involve the environment, planning, collecting and interpreting data as well as teaching students' environmental responsibility. This diverse subject leads to a range of opportunities due to the transferable skills as well as subject specific skills learnt throughout the course.

Who is this qualification for?

The AQA GCSE Geography course is for learners who want to cover a mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers, and hazards – to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big issues which affect our world, and understand the social, economic, and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

GCSE geography is designed to allow many topics to be studied and to provide an insight into a variety of the most important and relevant geographical issues. This diversity also allows all students to find topics they are interested and engaged in. The course provides opportunities to learn new skills such as map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting and debating techniques. Fieldwork is an important part of Geography; you will receive two opportunities to experience some of the concepts you have learnt about in class.

What does the qualification cover

This qualification gives learners the opportunity to develop their knowledge and understanding of physical and human geography as well as geographical skills including fieldwork.

- In the physical geography section of this course, learners will gain an understanding of natural hazards, the living world and extreme environments as well as the UK and its landscape.
- The human geography section of the course will look at urban issues and challenges, our changing economic world and resource management.
- Fieldwork is an enjoyable opportunity to explore new environments, improving your understanding of topics as they come to life.

What can the qualification lead to?

Studying geography provides you with a huge range of valuable skills and a firm base for life-long learning. Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector.

Components

Learners are required to complete and achieve all three components in the qualification. The three components focus living with the physical environment, challenges in the human environment and geographical applications.



History

Exam board: Edexcel

Course Leader: Miss G Taylor

- GCSE
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

History is all about exploring the past and how you interpret the events that have happened in the past which shaped the modern world that we live in.

You will develop and extend your knowledge and understanding of specified key events, periods, and societies in local, British, and wider world history, and of the wide diversity of human experience. You will also: -

- Engage in historical enquiry to develop as independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers.
- Develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past, to investigate issues critically and to make valid historical claims by using a range of sources in their historical context.
- Develop an awareness of why people, events and developments have been accorded historical significance and how and why different interpretations have been constructed about them.
- Organise and communicate their historical knowledge and understanding in different ways and reach substantiated conclusions.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for anyone who has an interest in History and is looking to develop their understanding of British, European and World history. Studying GCSE History will provide a foundation for anyone looking to study History at A Level or at university. Studying GCSE History will benefit students even they do not wish to study this at a higher level later.

What does the qualification cover?

The qualification covers British, European and World history, highlighting how key events and people have shaped the world we live in today. Students will look at key developments from throughout history, from the Medieval period to the Present day. Students will look at how medicine and medical care has developed over time from the Medieval period to the Modern day, whilst also looking at how democracy and dictatorships shaped Europe in the 1900s through the study of Weimar and Nazi Germany and the Cold War. Students will consider how the reign of Elizabeth I affected England and how she attempted to overcome challenges.

What can the qualification lead to?

You can carry on and study A levels or attend a college course. Many people go into careers such as politics, public administration, journalism, law, and education. History is a subject that will open many doors for you in the future. There are many careers that you can also go into with a history qualification such as recruitment and human resources, Journalism, banking and finance, museum or gallery management, writer or a business manager, archologists and a historian.

Components

Paper 1: 1 hour 20 minutes (52 marks)

Medicine in Britain c.1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes (64 marks)

Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88

Superpowers Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91

Paper 3: 1 hour 30 minutes (52 marks)

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

Key Skills

- Literacy skills – reading and writing is a significant part of any History GCSE
- Understanding chronology – knowing the order of key events and using this to explain their significance
- Source analysis – unpicking and making inferences from sources
- Analysis of interpretations – analysing and explaining Historians' views on the past





Music

Exam board: Eduqas
Course Leader: Mr J Pierce

- GCSE
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

Music is not only a challenging and exciting subject that will offer you a highly practical approach to achieving a very rewarding qualification, but it is also a lifelong and highly desirable skill that will unlock opportunities in education, the world of work and in the wider world. Musicians are statistically some of the most employable people in the world. Musicians make great communicators, problem solvers and have proof of their dedication, by showing they can meet the demands of developing their skills on an instrument or their voice. At Brownhills, music students are statistically very successful, achieving excellent grades and thoroughly enjoying the highly focused and high energy learning environment we share with our students. Being a music student at Brownhills is about much more than what we do in the classroom; with it comes the opportunity for more responsibility, independence, leadership pathways, the chance to be genuinely creative and personal development to enrich your current curriculum and your future.

Who is this qualification for?

Music students should be ambitious, hard-working and resilient. Music students should be students who enjoy playing an instrument or singing and are prepared to perform on their own. Music students should enjoy listening to new music and being a critical listener to music they have not heard before. Music students should enjoy rehearsing with large or smaller groups to put performances together. Music students should be creative and offer ideas to compose their own music.

What does the qualification cover?

- Western Classical Tradition – *Baroque, Classical & Romantic Music*
- Music for Ensemble – *Musical Theatre, Jazz & Chamber Music*
- Film Music – *Themes & underscore from famous films, TV shows and video games*
- Popular Music – *Pop, Dance Music, Rock & Music Technology*

What can the qualification lead to?

Further & Higher Education Opportunities:

- A Levels – Music/Music Technology
- BTEC (Level 3) Music/Music Performance/Music Technology
- BTEC (Level 3) Performing Arts
- University – Degree in Music/Popular Music/Performance/Composition/Music Technology
- Conservatoire – Studying as a specialist instrumentalist or composer
- Drama School – Studying a degree in musical theatre/acting
- Instrument/Voice Grades – Up to Grade 8 & Diplomas on specific instruments or voice.

Possible career options include:

Musician, music producer, music theorist, private music teacher, secondary school teacher, sound engineer, sound designer. Sound technician for broadcasting/film/video, special effects technician

Other careers:

There are lots of doctors, nurses, lawyers and teachers of lots of different subjects that are also musicians. Many universities look very fondly on students who have GCSE & A Level

Music or can prove they can play an instrument or sing to a good level through music qualifications. In some cases, universities will even lower the entry requirements to courses if you are particularly skilled as a singer or instrumentalist.

Components

Music is assessed in three different ways at GCSE and the qualification is split in the following ways:

- Performance (30%) - Perform two songs as a singer or on your instrument. One as a solo and the other with an ensemble.
- Composition (30%) - Write two pieces of music. One in any style of your choice and the other in response to a brief.
- Listening (40%) - An exam paper at the end of Year 11 with questions based on a variety of different genres of music. Two of these pieces you will have studied in detail in lessons and the other six will be pieces you have not heard before.

Key Skills

Studying music will make you a more confident performer, a stronger leader, a more creative thinker and a more critical listener. You will learn how to work as an ensemble, how to pick out musical features in songs you are listening to and use them in your own performance and composition and how to read and interpret music. You will become a better singer and/or instrumentalist and gain a set of skills that you can carry through the rest of your life, either in your career or simply for the enjoyment of performing, writing and listening to music.





Religious Studies

Exam board: AQA

Course Leader: Mr J Morris

- ☑ GCSE
- ☑ Option
- ☑ Examined

Why choose this subject?

Taking a Religious Studies GCSE helps you learn about how religion, philosophy, and ethics form the basis of our culture. It also encourages students to develop a set of ethical and moral beliefs. It can also help students see 'the bigger picture or understand why some topics can be so highly policed and politicised. This understanding and curiosity about the world can open the door (and career path!) to other subjects such as sociology, political science, anthropology, language studies, classical studies, and history.

Who is this qualification for?

Students who want to develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership, and research skills. All these skills will help prepare you in further study beyond Brownhills.

What does the qualification cover

Component one – Students will study two key religions – Christianity and Islam. They will study the beliefs and practices of each faith, in order to understand and analyse the importance of these beliefs and practices – evaluating their significance.

Component two - Students will be taught different religious perspectives on key themes which affect modern-day society. There is opportunity here for debate on key social issues such as abortion, crime and punishment, human right and many other issues.

What can the qualification lead to?

Religious Studies can provide you with excellent transferable skills, from essay writing, developing confidence in debating, to developing the ability to appreciate other viewpoints. These skills can be incredibly helpful in a range of university degrees involving critical thinking and discussion e.g. Humanities, English, Psychology. Religious studies can be a useful subject for a wide range of jobs, especially those that require you to work with the public or involve helping people. Some of these include Chaplain, Teacher, Advice worker, Police officer, Youth worker, Counsellor, Community development worker, international aid/development worker, Mediator, Journalist and lawyer

Components

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings, and practice of Christianity and Islam

Component 2: Four religious, philosophical, and ethical studies themes will be studied: Relationship and families, religion and life, religion crime and punishment, religion, human rights and social justice.

Key Skills

GCSE Religious Studies is a highly engaging subject, and you can expect classes to involve a considerable amount of discussion and debate. To get the most out of the subject, you must be willing to participate in these discussions, both sharing your own ideas and listening and respecting the views of others. You will develop skills of critical evaluation and analysis, which you will practice within these discussions and in essay-writing.



Triple Science

Exam board: AQA

Course Leader: Mrs R McGowan

- GCSE
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

Triple Science means students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three separate GCSEs, giving a deeper understanding of each subject and an extra qualification compared to Combined Science.

It is an ideal choice for students aiming for science related careers or wishing to keep competitive pathways open, as it provides an extra GCSE and broader preparation for A-level sciences.

Biology:

Biology is the study of life and living organisms.

Biology-based careers will be pivotal in the twenty-first century as we strive to continue to improve human health, whilst reducing the impact of humans on our planet.

Chemistry:

Chemistry is the study of the matter that makes up everything. We investigate and describe the properties and reactions of substances and look at how we use this knowledge to make new substances. We examine how this knowledge enables us to understand industry, our environment, our atmosphere, pollution and global warming and consider how chemists might solve some of these big problems.

Physics

Physics is crucial to understanding the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond us. The study of physics will help to develop critical thinking skills which will enable future physicists to solve the energy crisis, combat climate change, explore deeper into the universe and under the sea, develop new medical procedures to save lives to name just a few.

Who is this qualification for?

Students who wish to continue studying a science related subject after GCSE. Studying 'Separate' rather than 'Combined' Sciences requires that you study about 33% more material which is delivered in the option block lessons. You will leave with three GCSE grades, individual for each science specialism.

What does the qualification cover?

Triple science covers all the topics in combined science but in extra depth and gives further understanding to each. There is an additional topic in GCSE physics which is Space.

What can the qualification lead to?

Possible career options include:

- Doctor • Nurse • Midwife • Molecular Geneticist • Nature Conservation Officer • Sports and Physiotherapist • Pharmacologist • Marine Biologist • Dentist • Dietitian
- Materials Scientist • Environmental Officer • Chemical Engineer • Scientist • Environmental Officer • Engineer • Astronaut • Laser specialist • Forensic scientist

Components

There are 2 exams for each specialism. 100 marks per exam. 1 hour 45 mins in duration. The score from both papers generates the GCSE grade for that science discipline.

Key Skills

Although there is no coursework for this subject, practical skills are embedded within the topics studied, and include required practical's that are compulsory, and which can be examined in the written papers.

Vocational Option Choices





Digital Information Technology

Exam board: Pearson

Course Leader: Mr A Bartlam

- BTEC
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

Choosing DIT will provide numerous opportunities to practice and develop skills using Microsoft PowerPoint and Microsoft Excel; skills that are highly sought after in the job market. Learners can continue their computing-based course to pursue further IT related qualifications in other sectors after successful completion of the course.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is aimed at students who want to be skilled in computing, but whose intended carer is not focussed on computing itself. For example, somebody who might wish to start their own catering business may need computing skills to manage the finances of the business or project plans on a spreadsheet, although their job does not involve the more technical side of computing such as building computers, programming or maintaining a network.

What does the qualification cover?

- Development of key skills for using computers in your work, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces and dashboards as a way to present and interpret data
- Effective ways of working in digital information technology, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct
- Use of software to create design prototypes (PowerPoint)
- Spreadsheet design and creation skills (Excel)

What can the qualification lead to?

This course will equip you with important work skills for almost any career. If you wish to continue studying computing after KS4 this course is an excellent starting point to move on to a level 3 vocational computing course (E.g. BTEC Nationals).

Career paths might include Information Analyst, Digital Designer, Digital Architect, Data Analyst, IT Support, Interface Designer, IT Project Management, Cyber Security Advisor, Banking Systems Maintainer.

Components

Learners will study 3 components over the 2 years (Year 10 and Year 11)

- Component 1 – Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques- **30% coursework based**
- Component 2- Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data- **30 % coursework based**
- Component 3- Effective Digital Working Practices- **40% exam based**

Key Skills

This course requires you to produce coursework in year 10 and this means having to have a good work ethic and the ability to meet deadlines to ensure the work is completed on time. You may have to have resilience to go back to work to improve your initial submission to get the work to the level you want it – as the work you complete in lessons will contribute (60%) to the grade you receive at the end of year 11. Being organised will help you manage your files and the coursework projects you undertake.



Health & Social Care

Exam board: Edexcel

Course Leader: Miss E Chapman

- BTEC
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

Choosing BTEC Health and Social Care can be a great option for students who are interested in careers that involve helping people and making a positive impact on society. Students will develop an understanding of the healthcare, social care and early years settings, which are directly linked to jobs in hospitals, care home and community services. Students will build key skills, learning how to support people's physical emotional & social needs, which are useful in everyday life and great for future careers within this sector.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is ideal for students considering careers in nursing, social work, midwifery, teaching, counselling, care work and/or early years. Essentially this course is for students who have an interest in helping people, enjoy supporting others and want to learn how to make a positive difference in people's lives.

What does the qualification cover?

The life stages and key characteristics in development classifications and the different factors that can affect an individual's growth and development. Different life events and how individuals can adapt or be supported through changes caused by life events. Health and social care conditions, how they can be managed by the individual and the different health and social care services that are available, including the barriers and obstacles an individual may encounter and how these can be overcome. The skills, attributes and values required to give care and how these benefit the individual. How factors can affect an individual's current health and wellbeing, how physiological indicators and an individual's lifestyle choices determine physical health. The use of the person-centred approach including recommendations and actions to improve health and wellbeing and the barriers or obstacles individuals may face when following recommendations and the support available to overcome.

What can the qualification lead to?

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 in this course might consider progression 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 Health and Social Care, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the health or social care sector.

Components

There are three mandatory units to study (two coursework and one exam unit)

Component 1: Human Lifespan Development

This component is about human growth and development across the life stages and the factors that affect it.

In this component you will:

- explore how people grow and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally, and socially throughout their lifespan (PIES is the acronym used to represent physical, intellectual, emotional, and social growth and development)
- investigate the specific milestones of development and key changes that occur in the life stages of infancy, early childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle adulthood and later adulthood

- explore issues that affect human growth and development such as lifestyle choices, relationships, and life events
- learn about how people adapt to life events with support from others and how their personality traits influence how they cope.

Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values

This component is about the different types of health and social care services and the skills, attributes and values required to give care.

In this component you will:

- develop knowledge and understanding of the different services available within the health and social care sector and ways that people who work within these service help to support the individuals
- investigate barriers which prevent service users accessing care and how those barriers can be overcome
- learn about the skills, attributes and values that are required of the people who work within health and social care organisations, to ensure that the highest quality care is provided for service users.

Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

This component is about the factors that affect health and wellbeing, physiological and lifestyle indicators and person-centred recommendations to improve health and wellbeing. Once the assignment has been explained and the tasks have been set, you will have to work on your own to complete the work.

In this component you will:

- apply your knowledge of health and wellbeing developed over the course, to various scenarios
- learn to assess different factors that might influence an individual's health and wellbeing
- interpret data about an individual's physical health
- make person-centred recommendations to improve the health and wellbeing of individuals.
- evaluate the potential challenges the person may face in implementing health improvements.

Key Skills

Students wishing to select this option must consider their ability within the following areas:

- Active listening and writing notes during lessons. Students will need to make detailed notes to use when completing coursework assignments.
- Literacy skills. Students need to be able to read and analyse case studies and scenarios to complete coursework assignments based on the knowledge gained throughout the course.
- Computer skills. Students should be competent computer users, being able to use Microsoft Word to effectively complete coursework assignments. Students will use Microsoft Teams to access course materials and upload assignments. Students will also need to be able to use research engines effectively to support necessary research throughout the course.



Hospitality & Catering

Exam board: WJEC

Course Leader: Mrs S Penny

Vocational

Option

Examined

Why choose this subject?

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. The course looks at the hospitality and catering sector in depth and focuses on the key skills students would need to know to gain roles in the industry.

Who is this qualification for?

The ideal candidate for this qualification would be a student who has a passion for food and cooking but is also motivated to learn about how the food industry operates. Whilst a desire to cook is great, there is a substantial coursework element to the course as well as a written exam so this would need to be approached with equal enthusiasm. It is essential that students are organised and stick to deadlines as many elements of the course are time dependent and require a commitment to work independently to practice skills.

What does the qualification cover?

The structure of the course is designed to develop in learners the knowledge and understanding of:

- Types of hospitality and catering providers
- How they operate and what they have to consider to be successful.
- Nutrition and food safety
- A wide variety of food preparation and cooking skills

What can the qualification lead to?

This qualification is a great foundation and stepping stone into further study in the hospitality and catering sector. Learners will be able to access Level 3 qualifications relevant to the hospitality and catering sector, such as WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition (certificate and diploma), Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery and Level 3 Advanced Diploma in Food Preparation and Cookery Supervision. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. All these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

Components

This course is taught through two main units of study.

Unit 1	The hospitality and catering industry Written exam 40% of qualification	This unit explores how the hospitality and catering industry operates and what factors need to be considered to make sure establishments are successful. This unit also covers a breadth of employment roles and their responsibilities.
Unit 2	Hospitality and catering in action. NEA (coursework) 60% of qualification	This unit enables students to explore nutrition and customers in more depth. Students are given a hospitality and catering brief and in response to this, students must research, plan and cook appropriate dishes which also demonstrate their cooking skills.



Performing Arts

Exam board: Edexcel

Course Leader: Mr J Pierce

- BTEC
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

The BTEC Performing Arts course at Brownhills is an acting course. This course allows you to achieve a drama qualification that is highly practical and focused on exploring theatre on the stage with a script in hand. We focus on performance skills that allow students to take a text from page to stage quickly and effectively. We aim to develop confidence and independence to allow students to interpret plays, poems and stories in their own way and craft characters that are realistic and exciting to watch. We aim to create young story tellers that love being on the stage and sharing their art with audiences, as well as young theatregoers who appreciate high quality performance and can recognise different stylistic features from a variety of genres of theatre. At Brownhills, performing arts students are successful and ambitious, statistically achieving excellent grades consistently and going on to study related qualifications in further and higher education. Furthermore, drama builds confidence, develops public speaking skills and the ability to lead and be part of a team; skills that are highly beneficial in any job interview or career.

Who is this qualification for?

Performing Arts students should want to perform and be keen to work practically on stage. Performing Arts students should be interested in theatre and want to learn more about how plays and shows are put together. Performing Arts students should enjoy group work and be ready to work in teams on performance projects. Performing Arts students should be ready to explore lots of different plays and be prepared to write their own material to engage, entertain and challenge audience about important issues through drama.

What does the qualification cover?

- Naturalistic Plays – e.g. *DNA* by Dennis Kelly
- Epic Theatre – e.g. *Teechers* by John Godber
- Comedy Theatre – e.g. *The Play That Goes Wrong* by Lewis, Sayer & Shields
- Physical Theatre – e.g. *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* by Simon Stephens
- Musical Theatre – e.g. *Come From Away* by Irene Sankoff & David Hein
- Verbatim Theatre – e.g. *Too Much Punch For Judy* by Mark Wheeler
- Classical Theatre – e.g. *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

What can the qualification lead to?

Further & Higher Education Opportunities:

- A Levels – Drama/Theatre Studies
- BTEC (Level 3) Performing Arts
- University – Degree in Drama/Theatre Studies
- Drama School – Studying a degree in musical theatre/acting
- LAMDA Grades – Up to Grade 8 & Diplomas in acting

Possible career options include:

- Actor
- Community arts worker
- Director
- Drama teacher
- Choreographer

Other careers:

The skills learned in performing arts are directly linked to many skills that compliment a multitude of career paths. In any job that requires communication skills, public speaking skills, interpretive skills, interpersonal skills and teamwork skills, a performing arts qualification is supporting your ability to do these jobs successfully. Doctors, nurses, teachers, lawyers, shopworkers, pharmacists, engineers, bank managers and many other professionals all have to possess these skills in order to succeed in their jobs and a performing arts course can help you to harness and develop those skills to support you in any careers like these.

Components

Performing arts is assessed through three different assessments across the two-year course.

- Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (30%) - *Studying and practically exploring three pieces of theatre through drama workshops to understand how a play goes from page to stage.*
- Component 2: Developing Skills & Techniques in the Performing Arts (30%) - *Rehearsing and performing a play in small groups.*
- Component 3: Responding To A Brief (40%) - *Devising (writing) your own plays in response to a brief or stimulus.*

Key Skills

Studying drama in the way we do at Brownhills empowers young learners to lead, communicate and perform confidently and effectively. Our course is highly practical and gives lots of opportunities for personal exploration of theatre and performance skills to allow students to take their learning and the course in their own direction and fuel their own passion for theatre. Students will learn to speak clearly, create and develop characters and tell stories in an engaging way. Through this, students will learn the skill of using theatre to entertain, provoke and educate audiences and gain a lifelong love of theatre that will allow them to see plays and shows in a new light.





Sport

Exam board: Edexcel

Course Leader: Mrs P Moore

- BTEC
- Option
- Examined

Why choose this subject?

The BTEC Level 1/2 in Sport is an excellent choice for students who enjoy practical learning and want to develop real-world skills alongside their academic studies. This qualification not only supports progression to further education or careers in sport but also develops transferable skills like communication and time management, making it a valuable complement to GCSEs.

Who is this qualification for?

This course is ideal for students who have an interest in sport, physical activity, and health, and want to learn through practical, hands-on experiences rather than purely theoretical study. It suits learners who enjoy working in teams, developing leadership skills, and exploring real-world applications of sport, such as planning and delivering activities. The BTEC Level 1/2 in Sport is perfect for those considering future careers or further education in sport, fitness, or related fields, while also building transferable skills like communication, organisation, and problem-solving that are valuable in any pathway.

What does the qualification cover?

The BTEC Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- investigating provisions for sport including equipment and facilities to enhance sport
- planning and delivery of sport drills and sessions
- fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology.

What can the qualification lead to?

The BTEC Level 1/2 in Sport can lead to a wide range of opportunities in education and employment. It provides a strong foundation for progression to Level 3 qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals in Sport, or A-levels in related subjects. Learners can also move into apprenticeships or entry-level roles within the sports and fitness industry, including coaching, personal training, and sports development. Additionally, the course develops transferable skills like communication, organisation, and teamwork, which are highly valued in many careers beyond sport.

Components

The qualification consists of three components:

- Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity
- Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance
- Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity.

Key Skills

This course will have an element of practicality and theory as part of the qualification. Students will build on their leadership attributes and will learn how to lead a small group of students for developing skills or officiating a sports competition.

Students will be expected to participate consistently in sport for the school sports teams and encouraged to attend external clubs to further their understanding and practical ability of sport. You will develop sport specific techniques, strategies and skills within your lesson and will analyse how your performance compares to peers and other sports performance.

Option Form

Name: _____

Rank the subjects you wish to choose from 1 to 5, 1 being your favourite option.

We will do our best to ensure that you are allocated your preferred choices, where this is not possible a meeting will be arranged to discuss what options are available to you.

Option	Rank
GCSE Art	
GCSE Computer Science	
GCSE Design Technology	
GCSE French	
GCSE Geography	
GCSE History	
GCSE Music	
GCSE Religious Studies	
GCSE Triple Science	
BTEC Digital Information Technology	
BTEC Health & Social Care	
BTEC Performing Arts	
BTEC Sport	
WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality & Catering	