



KS 4 Curriculum

Yr 9 Guided Choices



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Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parent/Carer

YEAR 9: Guided Choices

Your son/daughter is approaching a pivotal stage in their educational journey as they will soon select their examination subject choices.

For the first time in their offered a choice of some of the subjects they will study – this can be both an exciting and daunting prospect; therefore, having access to high-quality information, advice, and guidance is crucial for the students. It is important that we work together to support students in making their choices about their curriculum for Year 10 and beyond.

The 'Guided Choices' process for Year 9 will start after half-term. They will be given a Subject Booklet (electronically), followed by an assembly on **26th February**, where subjects not taught at Key Stage 3 will have the chance to discuss the course content. The process will also be supported with a parents' evening, providing both parents and students the opportunity to discuss the student's progress and the content of subjects.

Key dates for your diary are:

- **Before Half-Term:** This Letter goes home to outline the process.
- **Monday 24th February 2025 after 1pm:** Subject booklet available to view on 'Guided Choices' Website. Please follow this link: [Year 9 Guided Choices Site](#)
- **Wednesday 26th February 2025 AM:** Subject Choices Assembly- Students will have the opportunity to hear from Heads of Department/Subject Leads about those subjects not taught at Key Stage 3.
- **Thursday 27th February 2025 PM:** Parents' Evening. Make sure you get in person appointments with your year 9 teachers that teach the subjects you are interested in. The letter with further information about Parents' Evening is included in this communication.
- **Friday 28th February 2025:** Students will be sent your Guided Choices form by email. A link to this will also be on the Year 9 Guided Choices website.
- **Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March 2025:** These tutor sessions will be set aside for Students to discuss their choices and complete their Guided Choices forms.
- **Friday 6th March 2025: **Deadline for the Guided Choices Process****
- **June 2025:** Students will start their Key Stage 4 studies

This year, we will be guiding student choices to some degree to ensure they succeed. Many Key Stage 4 qualifications have altered the way in which assessments are completed, so now more than ever, considerations such as attendance and prior attainment must be taken into account to ensure students achieve strong grades.

We aim to offer students their first preference; however, please understand we cannot guarantee all courses will run (e.g., if too few pupils choose the subject). Therefore, careful thought must be given to all choices made. We have increased the breadth of subjects on offer, including options such as Dance and 3D Technology, but not every course may be available depending on the spread of choices during the Guided Choices process.

Considering Ebacc qualifications

As part of the decision-making process, we encourage students and parents to carefully consider the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc). This suite of qualifications includes core subjects such as English, mathematics, science, humanities (geography or history), and a modern foreign language. The Ebacc is highly regarded by universities and employers and provides a strong foundation for a wide range of future study and career pathways. Choosing a combination of subjects that meets the Ebacc criteria may open more doors for students in the future, so it is worth exploring this option during discussions.

When making informed choices, it is important to consider:

Sound reasons for choosing courses might be:

- What subjects most interest and engage students.
- Whether the subject chosen will benefit a specific career choice or intended future studies.
- Whether a course structure suits students' learning style. For example, do they enjoy a more practical approach, working in groups, teams, or more independently?

Considerations that are

- Whether friends are doing the same course.
- Making a choice based on liking the teacher.

It is important to us that students engage with and enjoy their learning. Inevitably, GCSEs and BTECs demand hard work; if students enjoy their subjects, it will make the time and dedication to their studies much more rewarding.

The most important advice I can share is to take every opportunity to discuss choices with teachers, family, and friends. Remember, students currently in Year 10 and 11 have already been through this process and can provide valuable insight. Use the Guided Choices booklet and supported links to gain as much insight into courses as you can. Hard decisions are made easier when you are well informed.

If you have any queries about this process, please do not hesitate to contact me, either by phone or email: jford@tas-tkat.org.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Jo Ford
Headteacher

Introduction

This booklet explains, in detail, all of the examination courses that will start from June 2025. It is designed to enable you to access all of the information you need in order to make educated choices that will help students to achieve success and prepares all students successfully for post 16 education and future employment.

To provide a balance of choice, progression, challenge and support over the two years, the following curriculum provision has now been put in place.

Compulsory (core)

- English – two GCSEs, one in Language and one in Literature
- Mathematics – one GCSE
- Combined Science – two GCSEs (with choice to opt for Triple Science, in Guided Choices package)
- Personal, Social, Health & Economic (PSHE) Education - non examined subject
- Physical Education

Guided Choices

Students must make a decision about what they want to study over the next two years in order to achieve the best possible results and facilitate a wide range of opportunities as they move into Further Education.

Below are the courses available of which they must choose four. The only restriction is that you must choose at least one subject from either Spanish, Geography, History or Triple Science.

Choose at least one of these:

- Spanish GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- History GCSE
- Triple Science GCSE - (Most suited to students with a natural aptitude for academic subjects)

Considering the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

In addition to helping students achieve their best possible results, the curriculum is also designed to support those aiming to gain the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc). The Ebacc is achieved when students secure a grade 4 or higher in English, mathematics, science, a humanity (Geography or History), and a modern foreign language (Spanish).

The Ebacc is a valuable qualification that demonstrates a broad academic foundation, which is highly regarded by universities and employers. For students considering academic or professional career paths, achieving the Ebacc can provide a significant advantage in the future. While it is not compulsory, we strongly encourage students to choose subjects that contribute to the Ebacc, as it offers a robust preparation for post-16 studies and a wide range of career opportunities.

Additional choices:

- Art & Design - ART GCSE (*you can only pick either of the Art & Design subjects, not both*)
- Art & Design - 3D Design GCSE (*you can only pick either of the Art & Design subjects, not both*)
- Child Development Level 1/Level 2 Award
- Dance GCSE
- Drama GCSE

- Enterprise BTEC
- Hospitality and Catering Level 1/Level 2 Award
- Music BTEC
- ICT BTEC
- Health & Fitness (Sport)

Once students have selected their choices, they are expected to continue them until the end of Year 11. This will lead to a maximum of ten Level 2 qualifications.

We have increased the breadth of subjects on offer, including subjects such as Dance and 3D Design but we may not be able to offer every choice in our curriculum model. This will depend on the spread of choices made through the Guided Choices process.

Understanding the different types of qualifications and grades

GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education)

GCSE is offered in the traditional school subjects such as English, Mathematics, Science, Languages, Art, Drama, Technology and Humanities subjects. Most teaching takes place in the school classroom. Courses are assessed through a mix of coursework and examinations which differ according to each subject.

BTEC First Award and Technical qualifications

BTEC First Awards and Technical qualifications are provided by Pearsons and the NCFE examination group. These are vocationally related qualifications, they provide an introduction to an occupational area. The work is a mixture of external examination and short coursework type assignments. The outcomes are equivalent to GCSE qualifications (see details at the bottom of this page), but delivery and assessment are different.

Grading Equivalence

The table below should help outline the grade equivalencies of all the qualifications we offer at The Academy, Selsey.

GCSEs are now graded from 9-1, instead of the more traditional A*-G.

BTECs and vocational subjects follow a Pass, Merit and Distinction framework.

	Level 1				Level 2					
Old GCSE Grade	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*		
New GCSE Grade	1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8	9
Vocational Qualifications	Level 1 Pass	Level 1 Merit	Level 1 Dist		Level 2 Pass	Level 2 Merit	Level 2 Dist	Level 2 D*		

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why do I have to choose courses?

We believe that you should be given the freedom to decide which subjects best suit your future aspirations. Our role is to guide you towards meeting your educational or career aspirations. Your freedom of choice is of paramount importance.

Why do I have to talk to the teachers? Why can't I just decide?

We are a small school community. One of the benefits of that environment is that all your teachers know you. We have the knowledge of our specialist subjects as well as the experience of guiding previous students towards their future successes. Why wouldn't you ask us?

Will I get the subjects I choose?

We cannot guarantee it, although we will try our very best. If less than ten students choose a course, we may not be able to run it.

I don't know what I want to do after I leave The Academy. How do I know which subjects to choose?

It is important to keep a range of subjects in your timetable. If you've got a good mix, there's nothing wrong with choosing a subject because you enjoy it and you feel that you would be good at it.

We also encourage you to consider selecting subjects that contribute to the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc). The Ebacc is achieved by gaining grade 4 or higher in English, mathematics, science, a humanity (History or Geography), and a modern foreign language (Spanish). This broad academic foundation, which is highly valued by universities and employers. Even if you're unsure of your future path, choosing Ebacc subjects can help keep more options open for further education and careers.

Your Form Tutor or any Subject Teacher you want advice from about their subject and they will help you as best they can.

Can I find out who will be in my groups and which teachers I'll have?

You must choose your subjects according to what is best for you, not because you like the teacher and the other students in the class. You will not receive any information about teaching sets and staffing until the beginning of Year 10.

Can I take up a subject at College or Sixth Form if I haven't taken it in Years 10 and 11?

Some post 16 courses don't have an equivalent GCSE/BTEC course, although they follow on from other GCSE subjects. In general post 16 vocational courses do not require a subject to have been studied in Years 10 and 11. However a single subject e.g. Music 'A' level would require you to have studied Music at level 2.

What happens if, before the end of September, I decide that I've chosen the wrong subject?

If things are not going well in a subject during September of Year 10, don't bottle it up. Tell your Teacher, your Form Tutor, a Pastoral Manager or Mr Tymon. If we know about a problem early enough we can usually fix it. It would not be possible to change after this deadline.

How will I know if I will be able to cope with the course?

You must talk to your Subject Teacher and to your Form Tutor.

If I choose PE (VCert Health & Fitness), will I still have to do the compulsory PE course?

Yes, you will. The courses will support each other.

Checklist

Make sure you:

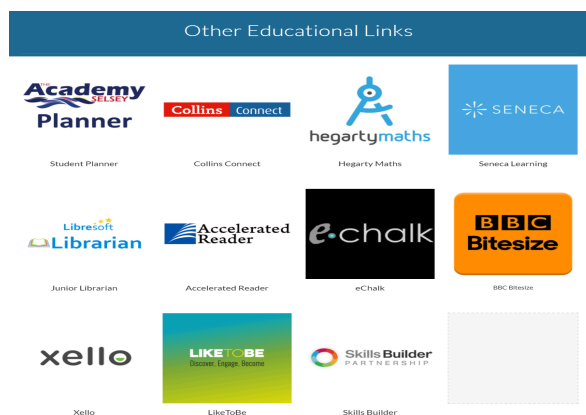
- ☐ Read through this booklet and start to make some decisions on your choices.
- ☐ Remember you need to pick 6.
One of your top four must be Triple Science, Spanish, Geography or History.
- ☐ Consider If Ebacc qualification route is a good choice for you
- ☐ Attend the Parents Evening on Thursday 27th February 2025.
- ☐ Submit your online Guided Choices form by Friday 6th March 2025.

Careers advice and further guidance

It is always a good idea to think about what you might like to do when you are 16, 18 and older.

This plan might change but looking at what level 2 qualifications you might need to move on to Sixth Form, college or university would be a good start.

You can access our amazing careers website
<https://sites.google.com/tas-tkat.org/careers/home>



We also have some fantastic careers platforms to help you.

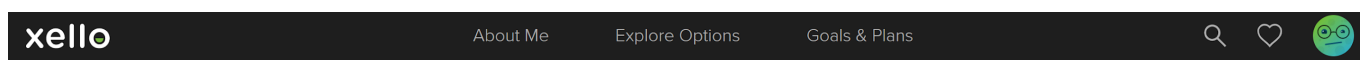
- Xello- helps you research courses and match your academic qualifications and transferable skills to them.
- Skillsbulider- focus on the 8 key skills required to be successful.

These sites can be accessed through the TAS intranet.

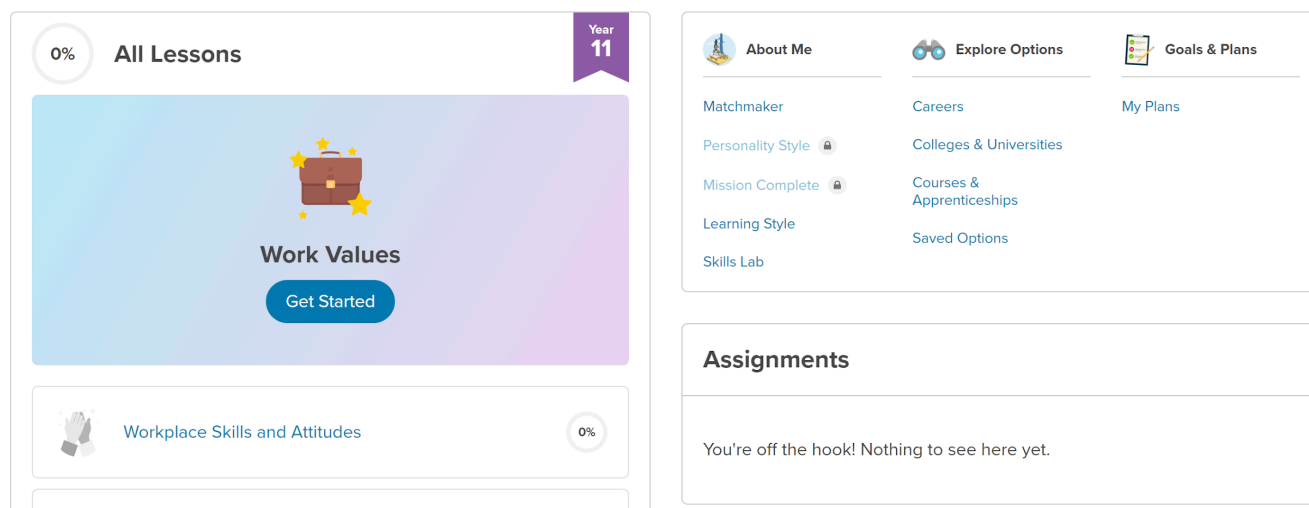


Xello

Sign in using your school google account



Hey |



If you would prefer to talk to somebody, you or your parents/guardians can contact the school's Careers Advisor, and if required book an appointment here

www.elev8careers.org.uk/contact-a-careers-advisor.html

Or visit the 'Chichester Find it out Centre'

<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/education-children-and-families/your-space/life/finditout-entres/chichester-finditout-centre/> for more details.

Message from the Careers Service



YEAR 9 – MAKING CHOICES FOR YOUR FUTURE!

TIPS FOR MAKING THE BEST CHOICES FOR YOU

- Do your research! Think carefully about what you enjoy and find out what the course includes – you will spend 2 years studying these subjects! If you have studied the subject before, don't assume you know what the GCSE course will include. Ask your teachers what topics you will be studying. If it is a new subject make sure you understand what it is all about.
- Consider what YOU are like. What are your hobbies and extra-curricular activities? If you are constantly drawing maybe art is a good idea or if you are always in the sports hall maybe PE is right for you?
- Reflect on how you like to learn. Do you prefer more practical ways of learning? Then BTECs or courses with a practical element may be right for you.
- Think carefully about your future.

What might be useful or even essential to study? Research jobs and entry requirements by googling 'national careers service job profiles' and explore different careers at <https://www.startprofile.com/> .

Remember, some future and higher education institutes are really strict about the grades you need to gain in a particular subject. Grade 5 in English AND maths is essential for most qualifications but physics at grade 6 might be vital if you want to be an engineer so....

Be aware of the different types of qualifications at

Level 3 - A levels, Apprenticeships, T levels, NVQ level 3, QCF and RQF level 3 or key skills level 3.

Level 4- A University degree, BTEC Professional Diplomas, Certificates and Awards, NVQs at Level 4, Key Skills Level 4 and Certificates of higher education.

Your level 2, GCSE or BTECs are the stepping stones to these exciting opportunities.

There are plenty of local providers, which hold open evenings in the Autumn term. We will display the dates around school in September or you could visit their websites for more details.

Year 9 Guided Choices Timeline 2024-26

- **Monday 24th February 2025 after 1pm**
The Guided Choices booklet available to view on Website (follow link)

[Year 9 Guided Choices Website](#)

We will also give each student a paper copy with QR codes to the subject pages on the website.

- **Wednesday 26th February 2025 AM**
Guided Choices Assembly- You will have the opportunity to hear from Heads of Department about those subjects not taught at key stage 3.
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- **Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd March 2025**
These tutors sessions will be set aside for you to discuss your Guided Choices and complete your forms online.
- **Friday 6th March 2025**
Deadline for the Guided Choices Process.
- **June 2025**
You will start your Key Stage 4 studies.

Remember

You must choose one from

Triple Science, Spanish, Geography or History in your top 4.

Triple Science is most suited to students who have a natural affinity to academic subjects.

You can only choose one of either Art & Design course, but neither are compulsory.

English Language GCSE AQA (8700 – 601/4292/3)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The specification offers the attraction of two equally-balanced papers, relating reading sources to the topic and theme of writing tasks. The reading sources act as a stimulus for writing tasks, providing students with a clear route through the paper. In preparation for this, students will encounter a range of texts and writers from a variety of sources and backgrounds to develop a rich and rewarding appreciation of the diversity of the English language and to act as inspiration for their own creativity and communication through it.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

There will be two terminal exams which will be sat at the end of the two-year course. They will comprise of:

Paper 1: Explorations in creative Reading and Writing

Section A - Reading – one literature fiction text

Section B - Writing – descriptive or narrative writing

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Marks: 80 Percentage: 50% of the final GCSE mark

Paper 2: writer's Viewpoints and Perspectives

Section A - Reading - one non-fiction and one-literary non-fiction text

Section B - Writing – writing to present a viewpoint

Time: 1 hour 45 minutes

Marks: 80 Percentage: 50% of the final GCSE mark

Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language 0% weighting of GCSE

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM STUDYING THIS COMPULSORY SUBJECT?

It is a compulsory subject at Key Stage 4.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Mrs Butler (Head of English)

kayleigh.butler@tas-tkat.org



English Literature GCSE AQA (870601/4447/6)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will study a variety of literary texts from the following categories:

Shakespeare play

The 19th Century novel

Modern prose or drama text

The AQA poetry anthology

Unseen poetry

You will learn skills of analysis, interpretation and comparison, as well as those skills necessary to respond independently to a previously unseen text.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

The course will be assessed through two terminal exams to be taken at the end of the two-year course. All the exams are closed-book.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks

40% of final GCSE mark

Section A – Shakespeare students will answer one question on the play they have studied in their English lessons. They will be required to write about an extract in detail and then about the play as a whole.

Section B – The 19th Century Novel: students will answer one question on the novel they have studied in their English lessons. They will be required to write about an extract in detail and then about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

Written exam: 2 hours 15 minutes

96 marks

60% of the final GCSE mark

Section A – Modern Texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.

Section B – Anthology Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

It is a compulsory subject at Key Stage 4.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Mrs Butler (Head of English)

kayleigh.butler@tas-tkat.org



Mathematics GCSE

Edexcel (1MA1 - 601/4700/3)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

GCSE Mathematics is a critical element of secondary education. It is essential to all students no matter what their proposed career path.

During the course you will develop knowledge and skills of mathematical methods and concepts which will include: Number, Algebra, Measures, Statistics, and Probability. You will then use this knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts. The course includes a variety of experiences and learning styles, and also practice at how to apply the concepts learnt.

A new part of the GCSE in Mathematics includes questions which support the Quality Writing Communication (QWC) skills. This examines how you communicate your Mathematical understanding and gives students the opportunity to show how the connections are made and communicate the skills they have learnt.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

The assessment is by exam only.

There are three papers, each 1½ hours long, and each worth 33.33%:

Paper 1 - non-calculator

Paper 2 - calculator

Paper 3 - calculator

There is no coursework element in GCSE Mathematics.

There are two tiers of entry: Foundation 1 – 5 and Higher 4 – 9

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM STUDYING THIS COMPULSORY SUBJECT?

Mathematical thinking is important for all members of society. It is used daily in the workplace as well as for personal financial decision-making. Mathematics is essential in developing skills in Science and Technology. Students who develop their skills in this subject are able to think independently, reason and solve problems.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Ms Mills

donna.mills@tas-tkat.org



Combined Science Trilogy GCSE AQA (8464)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Combined Science is a double award: equivalent to two GCSEs.

This course will develop a student's understanding of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and follows a similar structure to Triple science but with less content.

Biology topics include: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and Response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis and Response; Inheritance; Variation and Evolution and Ecology.

Chemistry topics include: Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table; Bonding; Structure; and the Properties of Matter; Quantitative Chemistry; Chemical Changes; Energy Changes; the Rate and Extent of Chemical Change; Organic Chemistry; Chemical Analysis; Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Using Resources.

Physics topics include: Energy; Electricity; Particle Model of Matter; Atomic Structure; Forces; Waves and Magnetism and Electromagnetism.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

There are six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from different topic areas.

Each written exam is 1 hour 15 minutes long, is worth 70 marks and 16.7% of the GCSE, with Foundation and Higher tiers.

There will be no coursework but students will be assessed on practical work that they have carried out in lessons.

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM STUDYING THIS COMPULSORY SUBJECT?

It is suitable for students of all abilities and the course encourages students to understand theoretical concepts alongside developing practical Science skills.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Mrs Sedgwick, (Head of Science)

janine.sedgwick@tas-tkat.org



Personal Development and Citizenship AQA

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Personal Development encompasses the elements of Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) with Careers Education, Citizenship, Work-related Learning, Enterprise and Religious Education.

This will include modules such as Sex Education, Drug Education, Financial Capability and Preparation for Post-16 Education/Employment.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

There is no formal assessment for most aspects of this subject. Your Record of Achievement portfolio, which includes your Personal Statement and your Curriculum Vitae, will be seen by colleges or your future employer.

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM STUDYING THIS COMPULSORY SUBJECT?

The skills and knowledge that you gain in Personal Development are all chosen because they will help your learning in other subjects and prepare you for life after leaving school. You will learn practical life skills, from relationships to career choices. You will also learn how to debate and listen to others. This subject will support and guide you through Key Stage 4 and help you with those big decisions you will be making about your future.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Please speak to Mr Butler.

harry.butler@tas-tkat.org



Physical Education (CORE)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will have the opportunity to continue with Practical Physical Education for both years 10 and 11. You will be able to select a pathway of interest to you, so your physical activity can be maximised for your enjoyment and long term involvement in sport and activity

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

There is no formal assessment or examination, but a full commitment to the subject is essential for your own personal development in health and fitness. You will need to bring your full Academy, Selsey kit to all lessons, and be prepared to take an active and physical part at all times.

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM STUDYING THIS COMPULSORY SUBJECT?

The benefits to sports and exercise are numerous. You will be continuing to build a wide variety of skills and interests that will enable you to live a fully active and healthy lifestyle after leaving school. Depending on the pathway you select, you may be building your skills and knowledge of how to exercise and use gym equipment, develop the skills in sports to be able to participate in club level sport outside of school, or you may just be enjoying the chance to have a break from studies and appreciating moving.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

You can find out more from any member of the Physical Education Department.

Please speak to Miss Collins (Subject Lead in PE)

rebecca.collins@tas-tkat.org



Guided Choices Subjects

Art & Design - Fine Art GCSE AQA (8202)

(Remember you can only choose one of the Art & Design subjects - not both)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will be encouraged to develop creativity, technical skills associated with Fine Art practice, self-confidence and an enthusiasm and passion for the wide range of different types of Art worldwide. Project work is based around developing individual ideas inspired by an artist/designer/craftsperson. These ideas are then investigated and experimented in a range of materials leading to a final piece of work. The syllabus is unendorsed which means students will be creating work in a wide variety of media such as, paint, pencil, pastel, collage, printmaking, wire modeling, textiles and three-dimensional work.

Students will learn a wide range of practical skills including painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printing and photography. Students will also learn to develop their own ideas and imaginative artwork based on their practical research and the exploration of artists and designers. General analytical, organisational and presentational skills will underpin all work. Students will also learn how to become independent thinkers by using their own initiative to create experimental and original artwork mixing media and techniques in response to a brief.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

Students are required to produce a coursework portfolio of work throughout Years 10 and 11. Every piece of this is looked at in the final assessment which equates to 60% of the final GCSE grade. This coursework must include practical skills, sketchbooks and pieces based on knowledge of the work of other artists and designers. Students are also expected to provide written or typed annotations as their work progresses explaining ideas and reflecting on their choices.

The remaining 40% of the GCSE grade is obtained through preparatory work and a ten hour externally set task which students sit in the Spring Term of Year 11. Students will be expected to attend GCSE Art club once a week from 3pm to 4pm and complete and extend coursework for Home Learning.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

Anyone with a genuine enthusiasm for Art, is welcome to take this subject. Students with a commitment to their work will have the opportunity to further develop skills learnt during KS3.

This course is ideal for those who are creative and enjoy drawing, painting and working with craft techniques. If you work well with coursework projects then set exams at the end this course will suit you.

GCSE art can help gain access to many career pathways from Architect to Prop and set designer, Textile design, Photographer and more.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Miss Reeve

emma.reeve@tas-tkat.org



Art & Design - Three-dimensional design GCSE AQA (8205)

(Remember you can only choose one of the Art & Design subjects - not both)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Students will experience a variety of Three Dimensional Design methods. This course is ideal for students who have a particular interest in materials, modelling, designing through creative and practical skills. Students will learn a wide range of practical skills including painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, printing and photography. Students will also learn to develop their own ideas and imaginative artwork based on their practical research and the exploration of artists and designers. General analytical, organisational and presentational skills will underpin all work. Students will also learn how to become independent thinkers by using their own initiative to create experimental and original artwork mixing media and techniques in response to a brief.

The course is delivered through a series of portfolio based tasks to give the student experience of a variety of materials, design methods when linked to 3D artists and designers. These projects will allow the student to develop a range of practical and design skills. Each task will have a technical focus, which will relate to theory and widen their knowledge and contextualise the subject within industry and support them in their exam preparation. Regular catch up sessions are provided for the GCSE students as they will be expected to do at least 60 minutes of independent study outside of class time each week, this is usually for researching tasks relevant to their projects.

Examples of the components studied on the course are Sculpture, Ceramics, Product Design and Designs for theatre (Sets, Props).

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

Students are required to produce a coursework portfolio of work throughout Years 10 and 11. Every piece of this is looked at in the final assessment which equates to 60% of the final GCSE grade. This coursework must include practical skills, sketchbooks and pieces based on knowledge of the work of other artists and designers. Students are also expected to provide written or typed annotations as their work progresses explaining ideas and reflecting on their choices.

The remaining 40% of the GCSE grade is obtained through preparatory work and a ten hour externally set task which students sit in the Spring Term of Year 11. Students will be expected to attend GCSE Tech club once a week from 3pm to 4pm and complete and extend coursework for Home Learning.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

This course is ideal for those who are creative and enjoy designing, 3D work and working with craft techniques. If you work well with coursework projects then set exams at the end this course will suit you. Many students continue to study art at 'A' level, as the course will also provide you with a portfolio of artwork, which can be used to gain entry to a range of Art and Design, construction and Engineering courses in colleges.

Careers; Art and Design Historian, Fashion/Textile Design, Print maker, Architect, Jewellery Design, Design Consultant, Product Design, Set Design, Costume Design, Engineer, Carpenter, Construction worker, Art Therapist and many more

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Miss Reeve and Miss Lee

emma.reeve@tas-tkat.org harriet.lee@tas-tkat.org



Child Development Level 1/2 Certificate

OCR Cambridge Nationals - J809

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

This course will give you a detailed understanding of how children grow and develop from birth to five years old. You will learn about:

- The health and wellbeing of children during pregnancy and early childhood, including the importance of antenatal care and nutrition.
- How to create a safe environment for children and meet their nutritional needs.
- The physical, intellectual, social, and emotional development of children and how to observe and support these areas effectively.
You will also develop practical skills in planning activities, preparing meals for children, and evaluating childcare approaches.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

Your learning will be assessed through:

- Written Examination (40%) – Testing your knowledge of child health and wellbeing from Unit R057.
- Non-Examined Assessments (NEA) (60%) – Practical coursework based on two units:
 - Creating safe environments and understanding nutritional needs (Unit R058).
 - Observing and understanding development from birth to five years (Unit R059).

The NEA allows you to apply your knowledge in realistic and practical tasks, such as creating resources, observing child development, and preparing meal plans.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

This course is ideal if:

- You are passionate about understanding how children develop and thrive during their early years.
- You enjoy a mix of practical and theoretical learning. are considering a future career in childcare, education, or health and social care, such as becoming a midwife, teacher, social worker, or paediatric nurse.
- You want to develop transferable skills such as problem-solving, observation, and communication, which are valuable in any career.

Whether you aspire to work directly with children or simply wish to understand how they grow and learn, this course provides an excellent foundation for further education and employment in related fields.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

For more information, please speak to Mrs Ford or Mrs Orde

head@tas-tkat.org

tracey.orde@tas-tkat.org



BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (DANCE) (603/7054/3)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts (603/7054/3) is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying professionals' work and processes used, the skills and techniques used in different roles, and how to contribute to the creation of a performance in either a performance or non-performance role as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The qualification enables learners to develop their sector-specific skills, such as refining work and applying skills for a performance using realistic vocational contexts, and personal skills, such as working with others, working to deadlines, and responding to feedback through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

Internally marked and externally moderated:

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

In this component you will develop a practical understanding of how performing arts work is created. You will look at elements such as roles, responsibilities and the application of relevant skills and techniques. You will have the chance to explore practically the work of different professionals to develop an appreciation of the methods they use to explore a theme and communicate to audiences through their work.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

In this component, you will develop performing or design skills and techniques. You will have the opportunity to specialise as a performer or designer in one or more of the following disciplines: acting, dance, musical theatre. You will take part in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

In this component, you will have the opportunity to respond to a brief. You will be given a brief that outlines the performance and design requirements and asks you to consider your target audience and to start the creative process by using the stimulus included in the brief. Working as part of a group, you will develop your ideas for a workshop performance and apply your skills and techniques to communicate your creative intentions to your audience.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

This course is designed for students who are interested in dance and dance production. Examples include choreography, staging, sound engineering, lighting design and costume design.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

See Mr Williams

chris.williams@tas-tkat.org



SCAN ME

Drama GCSE Edexcel (1DR0)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

You will learn to explore theatre through devising and developing drama around stimuli material, analysing your work and the work of others. You will research playwrights and study play texts, learning about characteristics, interpretation and meaning communicated and the roles and responsibilities of theatre makers. You will perform rehearsed scripted work to an audience.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed through; scripted and devised performance group work, portfolio coursework evidence and a written exam.

- Component 1: Devising (40%) – Creating and developing a devised performance from a stimulus. Analysing and evaluating the devising process and performance through a written portfolio.
- Component 2: Performance from text (20%) – Perform two extracts from a performance text.
- Component 3: Theatres makers in practice (40%) – A two-part written exam. Section A focuses on the practical exploration and study of a performance text. Section B is a live performance evaluation of a play.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

If you enjoy Drama and performing to others this is the course for you! If you also appreciate the arts, theatre and the many elements that make up a performance, for example; costume, sound, lighting, props and set, you will enjoy this GCSE. Students taking this subject should also be able to listen to others and be prepared to work with anyone in the group.

You must be prepared for written coursework and a written exam.

You must perform for an external examiner and the rest of the class in set given groups.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Mrs Hopkins

hannah.hopkins@tas-tkat.org



Enterprise BTEC Level 2(603/1916/1) Edexcel Pearson

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Pearson Tech Award in Enterprise covers all areas of business in an overview of each area or starting your own enterprise. Everything from finance to marketing, human resources to pitching ideas and ownership, as well as the practical aspects of running your own business.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

This BTEC style course is assessed by two coursework components, each worth a third of the overall grade. Students research real local businesses and use their findings to create a portfolio of evidence, as well as creating their own micro business idea which they will pitch and run. The final component is assessed through an exam based on marketing and financial documents.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

Whatever you do for the rest of your life, you will be affected by business. You will work for a business or run your own, buy things from businesses or use them to provide you with services. The better understanding you have of how they work will help you to make more informed choices and may even help you earn more money. This course will suit any student looking to improve.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Mr. Tymon

matt.tymon@tas-tkat.org



Geography GCSE Edexcel Geography A

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Paper 1: The Physical Environment: Changing Landscapes of the UK; Rivers, Coasts, Weather Hazards and Climate Change, Ecosystems and Management.

Paper 2: The Human Environment: Changing Cities, Global Development and Resource Management - Energy

Paper 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork Investigation and UK Challenges

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED

Paper 1: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

The Physical Environment: Changing Landscapes of the UK; Rivers, Coasts, Weather Hazards and Climate Change, Ecosystems and Management: 94 marks (of which 4 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST)) 37.5% of GCSE

Paper 2: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes: The Human Environment: Changing Cities, Global Development, and Resource Management - Energy. 94 marks (of which 4 marks for SPGST) 37.5% of GCSE

Paper 3: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork Investigation – physical and human topics. UK Challenges – application of geographical skills. 64 marks. 25% of GCSE

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

You will gain significant insight into how our physical world impacts on people and an introduction to many current major global issues.

GCSE Geography can be used as a preparation for a wide range of further study. It compliments both Science and Math, and the skills you will learn can be used in every subject.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT

Speak to Mr. Harker

rob.harker@tas-tkat.org



History GCSE 9-1 Edexcel (1H10)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Unit 1: Thematic Study and Historic Environment: Medicine through Time c1000 to present & Medicine on the Western Front (1914-1918).

Unit 2: Period study & British depth study: Saxons and Normans & Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991

Unit 3: Modern depth study: Weimar & Nazi Germany 1919-1939

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

Exams: May/June 2026 (Moderated and marked externally)

Unit 1: Written paper. Thematic Study & Historic Environment: Medicine through Time c1000 to present & Medicine on the Western Front (1914-1918)

1 hour 15 minutes 52 marks (30%)

Unit 2: Written paper: Period Study & British Depth Study: Saxons and Normans & Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1941-1991

1 hour 45 minutes 64 marks (40%)

Unit 3: Written paper: Modern Depth study: Weimar & Nazi Germany 1919-1939

1 hour 20 minutes 52 marks (40%)

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

You will gain a good understanding of local, national, European and global history, including a good understanding of chronology, change and continuity. You will develop an awareness of why people and events have been given historical significance.

GCSE History is valued by colleges and universities and is seen as a useful subject to have if you are interested in journalism, law or politics as well as all aspects of history. The skills you learn will support progression in a wide range of subjects, and will provide you with interest and knowledge to last you throughout your life.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Dr Milliken or Miss Read

emma.milliken@tas-tkat.org

sophie.read@tas-tkat.org



Hospitality and Catering Level 1/Level 2 Vocational Award WJEC (603/7022/1)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Unit 1: Hospitality and Catering Industry.

You will :

- Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry.
- Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action.

You will:

- Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact nutritional value.
- Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed through a written exam and an assignment. Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification. In Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification. This includes a 3 hour practical exam.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

The hospitality and catering sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages and accommodation including restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars. This is a vocational award that is designed to support learners who want to learn about the Hospitality and Catering Industry. Students would also have the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support progression to work.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Miss Watts.

emma.watts@tas-tkat.org



Information Technology BTEC Level 2 Tech Award Pearson

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is designed to develop your skills in assessing, planning, designing and creating digital solutions using a range of IT software and skills. The course will develop your skills in using elements of the Office suite, as well as app building, sound and movie manipulation and desktop design.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

BTEC Tech Awards are covered in three units. Two of these are internally assessed and externally moderated as coursework. The third is an external examination. There are clear assessment criteria for each level and you will be able to see your progress across each unit. Your final grade will be based on the total across all three units.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

Digital media is a part of our everyday life. Understanding the elements that underpin the latest app or streaming media could lead to a successful career in programming or software development. This course would suit anyone with a basic knowledge of ICT who might be interested in going on to learn computer science at college or who might be looking at working in creative digital media. With the majority being coursework based, this will allow work to be created over the duration of the course.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Mr. Tymon

matt.tymon@tas-tkat.org



BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Pearson Edexcel (600/6818/8)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music, such as responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques
- processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music sector, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal, creation, production and performance to respond to a music brief
- attitudes that are considered most important in the music sector, including personal management and communication
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as musical skills and styles.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles - An essay or presentation demonstrating your understanding of four styles of music, three 30-60 second examples of ideas for music products related to a theme, using a range of realisation techniques.

Component 2: Music Skills Development - The planning and creation of two musical outcomes in response to a theme, showing a development of professional and music skills.

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief - The performance or DAW project of a set song covered in a new style.

WHAT WILL I GAIN FROM STUDYING THIS SUBJECT?

You will gain professional skills needed in the workplace and musical skills on your chosen instrument or music technology. This is a practical course and you will be expected to perform both to the class and to concert audiences. You will be expected to participate in extracurricular activities where appropriate.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Miss Illidge

heather.illidge@tas-tkat.org



Spanish GCSE AQA (8692)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

Themes: People and lifestyle, Popular culture, Communication and the world around us.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

EXAMS:

PAPER 1 Listening

Written exam responding to spoken extracts. 5 minutes preparation time. Exam: Foundation tier: 35 minutes, 40 marks. Higher tier: 45 minutes, 50 marks. 25% of GCSE.

PAPER 2 Speaking

Spoken assessment in 3 parts: 1) Role-play. 2) Reading aloud and short conversation. 3) Photocard and unprepared conversation. 15 minutes preparation time. Exam: Foundation tier: 7-9 minutes. Higher tier: 10-12 minutes. 50 marks for both tiers, 25% of GCSE.

PAPER 3 Reading

Written exam responding to written extracts and translation, Spanish to English. Foundation tier: 45 minutes, Higher tier: 1 hour. 60 marks for both tiers, 25% of GCSE

PAPER 4 Writing

Written exam, including translation from English to Spanish. Foundation tier: 1 hour 10 minutes, Higher tier: 1 hour 15 minutes. 50 marks for both tiers, 25% of GCSE.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

If you are interested in languages and the world around you then Spanish is the course for you. This GCSE will support you to develop your language and communication skills. You will also have the opportunity to broaden your cultural knowledge of the Spanish speaking world through the study of a wide variety of relevant topics.

A language GCSE will complement all other subject areas, and will enhance many different skills in preparation for future studies and careers.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Speak to Miss Sullivan or Miss Mead

harriet.sullivan@tas-tkat.org

kirsty.mead@tas-tkat.org



Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness NCFE 603/7007/5

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

- To develop a broad understanding of the structure and function of body systems
- Identify the effects of health and fitness activities on the body
- Understand health and fitness and the components of fitness
- Apply the principles of training
- Understand the impact of lifestyle on health and fitness
- Test and develop components of fitness
- Apply health and fitness analysis and set goals
- Plan, develop and take part in a health and fitness programme and understand how to prepare safely

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

Assessment is the process of measuring a learner's skill, knowledge and understanding against the standards set in a qualification.

The qualification has 2 assessments externally set by NCFE: one NEA and one written EA. Only one attempt at each assessment is permitted.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

This course is suitable for anyone who is passionate about fitness and performance – from the structure and function of body systems and the effects of health and fitness activities on the body, through to the principles of training and how to structure a health and fitness programme.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

See Miss Collins
rebecca.collins@tas-tkat.org



Triple Science:

Biology GCSE AQA (8461)

Chemistry GCSE AQA (8462)

Physics GCSE AQA (8463)

(Remember Triple Science is best suited to those students with a natural affinity for academic subjects)

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

The content covered is the same as Trilogy Science. However, it goes into more depth for each topic, for example yield and atom economy of chemical reactions is only studied in Triple Science. In addition, the Physics GCSE has the additional topic of Space.

HOW WILL MY LEARNING BE ASSESSED?

There are six papers: two for Biology, two for Chemistry and two for Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

Each written exam is 1 hour 45 minutes long, is worth 100 marks and 50% of each GCSE, with Foundation and Higher tier.

There will be no coursework but students will be assessed on practical work that they have carried out in lessons.

WHY WOULD THIS COURSE BE SUITABLE FOR ME?

All of the Science qualifications provide opportunities for progression. However, Triple Science includes progression in the subject content and consistency in the exam questions, so that students have the best preparation for A-level. It is a very content heavy course and is best suited to students who have a natural affinity for academic subjects.

If you're interested to find out more about the specifics of the differences between the qualifications please scan this additional QR code to see a powerpoint with further information:



HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT IT?

Mrs Sedgwick

janine.sedgwick@tas-tkat.org



Guided Choices 2024-2026

Exam board Websites

Art and Design (GCSE)	https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206
Child Development (OCR National)	https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/child-development-level-1-2-j818/
Drama (GCSE)	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/drama-2016.html
English and English Literature (GCSE)	www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature
Enterprise (BTEC)	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/enterprise.html
Geography (GCSE) **	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/geography-a-2016.html
History (GCSE) **	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/history-2016.html
Hospitality and Catering (Level 1/Level 2 Award)	https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering/hospitality-and-catering-level-1-2-award.html
ICT (BTEC)	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards
Music (BTEC)	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.html
Spanish (GCSE) **	www.aqa.org.uk/spanish
VCert Health and Fitness	https://www.ncfe.org.uk/technical-education/schools-14-16/v-certs/health-fitness/
Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics) (GCSE) **	www.aqa.org.uk/science