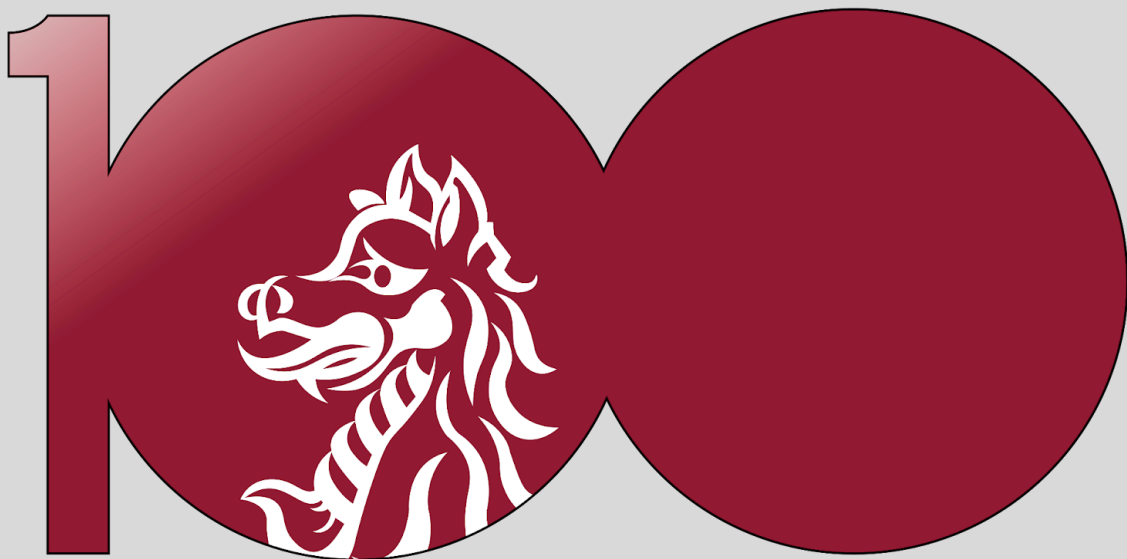




Lower IV GCSE Option Choices 2026 - 2029

Information Booklet



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

Options Evening Tuesday 3rd February 2026



Dear Parents/Carers

It's been nine years since you first sent your beautiful/gregarious/shy/worried/confident/artistic (delete as applicable) child into school for the very first time and yes, now we are talking about their GCSE examinations! Where have the last nine years gone?

At Beech Hall, we made the decision some years ago to enable pupils to select options at this stage of their school journey, and therefore to run their GCSE programme over three years instead of the traditional two. We are confident in the benefits of that decision, not least the fact that the vast majority of pupils are very clear about the subjects they do not want to study, and there has been a significant increase in course content that we felt would warrant three years' study.

Last year we introduced a compulsory Tech Award in ICT to ensure all our pupils have good digital literacy to prepare them for life in this digital age. This is a graded GCSE-equivalent qualification. This takes the standard number of qualification courses our pupils follow to 9.

So here we are, just about halfway through Year 8, ready to support and guide you through the decision-making process.

The curriculum for the next three years comprises the core curriculum and option subjects. Unlike many schools, the option blocks are not set, so pupils are not required to select from pre-determined subjects. Instead, at this stage, we ask pupils - *'in an ideal world, what subjects would you like to study?'* We will then do our best to timetable these subjects accordingly.

"The GCSE curriculum is planned effectively and enables pupils to study a wide range of subjects at a pace that meets their needs. Teachers use their high level of subject expertise to plan lessons well taking into account examination requirements as well as pupils' individual needs and targets. Progress of pupils who speak EAL is rapid with pupils achieving in line with their peers at GCSE" - ISI January 2025

The **core curriculum** is composed of:

- Combined Science
- English Language
- Mathematics
- Level 1/2 Vocational Award (Tech Award) in ICT (equivalent to one GCSE)
- Games
- PSHE/RSE



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE option subjects (you can select six but will study four):

- Art & Design
- Computer Science
- Design & Technology
- Drama
- English Literature
- Film Studies
- Geography
- German
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics taken as three separate GCSEs)
- Sociology
- Spanish

Vocational Qualification option subjects (which can form part of your selection) include:

- VCert Level 2 (or Level 1) Certificate in Food & Cookery (equivalent to one GCSE)
- VCert Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business & Enterprise (equivalent to one GCSE)
- BTEC Sport Level 1/2 (equivalent to one GCSE - cannot be taken as well as GCSE PE)
- Outdoor Education - a number of nationally-recognised activity-based qualifications

As you already know, there are a great many advantages to being part of a small school. One of the challenges is that there must be a minimum number of pupils per option subject in order to make it viable to run. For this reason, we ask you to select and rank your top six choices, and we will do our very best to make this work for you. This is an exciting time in your child's education, and we look forward to supporting you and them through this process.

James D Allen
Headmaster

Colin Richards
Director of Studies



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY



Core subjects studied at Beech Hall

The core curriculum subjects for 2025 –2028 are:

- Combined Science (two GCSEs)
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE Mathematics
- Tech Award in ICT
- Games
- PSHE/RSE



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy)

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Foundation (Grades 1 - 5)	Biology Paper 1: 1 hour 15 mins - 70 marks	16.7%
	Chemistry Paper 1: 1 hour 15 mins - 70 marks	16.7%
Higher (Grades 4 - 9)	Physics Paper 1: 1 hour 15 mins - 70 marks	16.7%
	Biology Paper 2: 1 hour 15 mins - 70 marks	16.7%
	Chemistry Paper 2: 1 hour 15 mins - 70 marks	16.7%
	Physics Paper 2: 1 hour 15 mins - 70 marks	16.7%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Biology topics include Cells, Biological Organisation, Infections and Response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and Response, Evolution and Genetics and ecology.</p> <p>Chemistry topics include The Periodic table, Structure and Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes, Rate of Chemical change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Resource Management.</p> <p>Physics topics include Energy, Particle model of Matter, Electricity, Atomic Structure, Forces, Waves and Electromagnetism.</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 6 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level Sciences</p> <p>The AS specifications are based on the materials studied in the Combined Science course, so there will be no disadvantage at A level, if you have followed this course. Grades 6 - 9 would be required if the intention was to study AS level science.</p>

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE English Language

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Fiction - Explorations in creative reading and writing	Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minute – 80 marks.	50%
Non-Fiction - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minute – 80 marks.	50%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Paper 1: Creative Reading - Section A:</p> <p>Analysing and evaluating how writers use language and structure to achieve their purpose and engage the reader within a range of fictional extracts from the twentieth century.</p> <p>Creative Writing- Section B:</p> <p>Pupils will use a variety of words and linguistic and structural devices to write imaginative stories and descriptions to engage the reader.</p> <p>Paper 2: Non-fiction Reading - Section A:</p> <p>Pupils will compare two non-fiction extracts about a similar topic from different time periods. They are required to make inferences, analyse and evaluate the writer's methods, and identify and compare writers' viewpoints and how they have been presented using language and structure.</p> <p>Non-Fiction Writing - Section B:</p> <p>Pupils will be given a statement on which they must present their viewpoint using a range of linguistic and structural devices. They will practise writing non-fiction texts such as articles, speeches, letters and travel writing. Spoken language study-Pupils give a 10-minute presentation about a topic of their choice to an audience of their class.</p>	<p>GCSE Grade</p> <p>6 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>Pupils could go on to study A Level courses at college or sixth form such as Journalism, English Language, Creative Writing.</p> <p>They may then go on to study any of these subjects at university going into careers such as teaching, journalism, copywriting, marketing, public relations, publishing or even become an author.</p> <p>The skills acquired at GCSE are transferable to many other subjects and will always appeal to future employers and course leaders, as a qualification in English Language always suggests that the holder has excellent reading and writing skills that are applicable and often essential in the majority of professions.</p>

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Mathematics

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Foundation (Grades 1 - 5)	Paper 1 Non Calculator - 1 hour 30 mins - 80 marks Paper 2 Calculator - 1 hour 30 mins - 80 marks Paper 3 Calculator - 1 hour 30 mins - 80 marks	33 ⅓ %
Higher (Grades 4 - 9)		33 ⅓ %

What does the course involve?	Further, Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Foundation Tier is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 25% Number 25% Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change 20% Algebra 15% Statistics and Probability 15% Geometry and Measures <p>Higher Tier is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30% Algebra 20% Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change 20% Geometry and Measures 15% Number 15% Statistics and Probability 	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 7 - 9</p> <p>Grade 6</p> <p>Grade 5</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Level Mathematics A-Level Further Mathematics Level 3 Core Maths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Level Mathematics Level 3 Core Maths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level 3 Core Maths

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

ICT (Technical Award)

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: ICT in Society	On-screen examination: 1 hour 20 minutes Questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.	40% 80 marks
Unit 2: ICT in Context	Controlled assessment: 40 hours An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available via the WJEC Secure Website.	60% 120 marks

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Unit 1 This unit allows learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society. They will investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use.</p> <p>Unit 2 This unit enables learners to gain a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images and to apply their knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings</p>	<p>Grade</p> <p>Level 2 Pass and above</p> <p>Level 1 Pass</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>Level 3 BTEC National in Computing, IT, Business, Enterprise and Marketing</p> <p>Creative iMedia Level 2</p>

Examination Board: WJEC



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

Option Choices

Art & Design
Business & Enterprise
Computer Science
Design & Technology
Drama
English Literature
Film Studies
Food & Cookery Skills
Further Maths
Geography
German
History
Music
Outdoor Education
Physical Education / Sport
Religious Studies
Separate Sciences
Sociology
Spanish

**Once you have made your choices,
please scan the QR Code
to submit your six choices by
Sunday 1st March 2026**





YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Art & Design

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Component 1 – Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1 - A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives - 96 marks • Component 2 -Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time - 96 marks •Both Components are Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) set and marked by the school/ college and moderated by AQA during a visit. Moderation will normally take place in June. 	60%
Component 2 – Externally Set Task		40%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Portfolio : A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project developed in response to a subject or theme showing the journey from initial idea(s) to the end piece. A selection of further work resulting from activities such as trials and experiments; skills-based workshops; mini projects; responses to gallery visits.</p> <p>Externally Set Task : Pupils respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.</p>	<p>GCSE Grade 4 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study: BTEC Nationals in Art & Design Level 3 Specialist Diploma in Creative Media GCE A Level Art & Design Careers in art are wide and varied. The internet, television and print media provide plenty of new appointments. Architecture, Fashion Design, Interior Design, Illustration Advertising, Graphic/Web Design, Photography, Film/Theatre/T.V. Industry Animation, Museum Curator, Fine Artist</p>

Examination Board: AQA Fine Art Specification



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Computer Science

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
GCSE (9 - 1) Computer Science (1CP2)	Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes	50% 75 marks
Topic 1: Computational thinking Topic 2: Data Topic 3: Computers Topic 4: Networks Topic 5: Issues and impact	Covers topics 1-5 and consists of multiple-choice, short-, medium- and extended-open-response, tabular and diagrammatic items.	
Topic 6: Problem solving with programming.	Paper 2: Application of Computational Thinking On Screen examination: 2 hours This practical paper requires students to design, write, test and refine programs in order to solve problems.	50% 75 marks

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>The aims and objectives of this qualification are to enable students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically understand the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems understand the impact of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy and cybersecurity apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science. 	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 7 - 9</p> <p>Grade 5 - 6</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level Computer Science A Level ICT</p> <p>Vocational Computing Courses</p>

Examination Board: Edexcel



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Drama

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Component 1 – Understanding Drama Component 2 – Devising Drama Component 3 – Texts in Practice	Written Exam - 1 hour 45 mins Practical Performance - Devising Drama Practical performance - Texts in Practice	40% 40% 20%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Component 1 is a written exam. Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. Study of a set play. Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers. This will be examined in a written exam at the end of the course in Year 11</p> <p>Component 2 Devising Drama Candidates perform a piece of devised drama based on stimulus materials (20%) Candidates submit a written Devising Log recording initial ideas, development and evaluation (20%)</p> <p>Component 3 Texts in Practice Candidates perform two extracts from a full length published play</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 5 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level Theatre Studies GCSE Drama utilises the skills that are ideal for following into A Level study of academic nature or a more practical vocational based course.</p> <p>Pupils who study Drama have used their skills of written communication, teamwork, deadline meeting and social/ personal skills to pursue further study and careers in Journalism, Teaching, Law, Medicine, Police work, Social care, Marketing, Management, Politics, Business, Planning, Public speaking, Media and of course, performance based careers.</p>

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Design Technology

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Core Knowledge (20%) Material Specialism (30%)	Examination Paper – 1hr 45 mins	50%
Design & Make Project (50%)	NEA (Non-Examined Assessment) – coursework project	50%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>We will have one theory lesson a week in which we will cover the examination content:</p> <p>Core Knowledge Topics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact of New and Emerging Technologies • Informing Design Decisions • Energy, Materials, Devices & Systems • Material Types, Properties and Structures • Designing Principles <p>Some theory is taught practically, eg. in Y9 we will spend 8 weeks learning different drawing and presentation techniques and for 6 weeks in Y10 we will be making wood joints.</p> <p>Specialist Material – Timbers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design Contexts • Sources, Origins and Properties • Influencing Selection • The Impact of Forces and Stresses • Manufacturing Processes • Specialist Tools, Equipment and Processes • Surface Treatments and Finishes <p>The other two lessons a week are used for practical learning of some theory content and skills, and projects aimed at developing your design and practical skills in preparation for the NEA project which is undertaken in Year 11.</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 6+</p> <p>Grade 5+</p> <p>Grade 3 or below</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level D&T leading to BSc, BEng and BA courses in a wide variety of disciplines</p> <p>Level 3 Engineering or Apprenticeship courses Careers or Apprenticeships in Product Design, Engineering, Project Management, Architecture, Surveying, Manufacturing, Medical Engineering, and many more</p> <p>Level 2 Engineering, Design or Manufacturing or related courses</p> <p>Careers or Apprenticeships in any design, manufacturing or related industry.</p>

Examination Board: EdExcel



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE English Literature

Topics/Topic/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1 (1hr 45m) Section A: Shakespeare Section B: 19th Century Fiction	Macbeth: A script extract analysis and whole play essay, linking to social/historical/cultural context - 30 marks + 4 SPaG marks A Christmas Carol: An extract analysis and whole novella essay, linking to Victorian context - 30 marks	21% 19%
	Paper 2 (2hrs 15m) Section A: Modern Text/Drama Section B: Set Poetry Anthology	An Inspector Calls: An academic essay, analysing JB Priestley's play and its context - 30 marks + 4 SPaG marks Power & Conflict or Love & Relationships Cluster: A comparison of poetic techniques, structure, content, meaning, form, structure and context between a set poem and one poem from memory - 30 marks
Section C: Unseen Poetry	Part One: Analysis of one poem's language, form and structure - 24 marks Part Two: A comparison of poetic methods between a second unseen poem and Part One poem - 8 marks	15% 5%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>A spiral three-year curriculum: Pupils will read, watch, discuss and analyse all elements of our set three texts: Macbeth by William Shakespeare, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens and An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley. When possible, pupils will also visit The Globe Theatre and the Old Vic in London and north-west theatres to watch these texts live on stage.</p> <p>Pupils will also read, learn and analyse 15 poems selected from either the Love and Relationships or Power and Conflict cluster. Each poem will offer pupils a meaningful perspective on life and its wonders or woes.</p> <p>Finally, pupils will be taught a wide range of unseen poems to embed the analytical skills required to achieve high grades when faced by unseen texts, written by a diverse mix of poets. Each section will be taught in UIV, LV and UV.</p>	GCSE Grade 6 - 9	Further Study: A-Level English Literature Eng Lit is also very useful to gain places on A-Level courses not always offered by schools at GCSE such as sociology, psychology, law, fine art, classics Employment Prospects: Popular careers for English Literature pupils include: Journalism; Teaching; Editorial; Media; Advertising; Solicitor; Barrister; Paralegal; Marketing; Writing; Acting

Skills you will gain from English Literature

English Literature still enjoys the kudos of being viewed as a highly academic subject, truly valued by universities, employers and institutions. The combination of English, history, art, sociology, psychology, drama and philosophy makes for a culturally rich learning experience. In addition to gaining significant cultural capital, studying English Literature gives you many transferable skills such as critical reading, perception, inference, analysis, discursive and persuasive writing. Employers and Universities regard all of these highly.

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Film Studies

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
1. Key Developments in US Film	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 70 marks	35%
2. Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style	Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes - 70 marks	35%
3. Production	Non-exam assessment Internally assessed, externally moderated by WJEC (production, 20%, evaluative analysis, 10%) 60 marks	30%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is designed to provide a foundation for subsequent study through formal study and Pupils' own productions; how films are constructed, as well as the role the screenplay takes in the film production process. • They will also develop a range of literacy, communication, analytical, production, IT and other transferable skills. • This will enable them to progress successfully to higher level study, whether that is in Film Studies, other related subjects or work environments. • For those who do not want to progress further with the subject, the specification provides a coherent, engaging and valuable course of study in itself. 	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 4 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3, in a range of subjects, from Humanities to Visual Arts. • Media • Creative • Cultural and heritage industries • Film and broadcasting industries • Publishing and research.

Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

VCert Level 2 Certificate in Food & Cookery Skills

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 01	Preparing to cook - covers key knowledge and skills around hygiene and health & safety in a commercial kitchen environment.	All units represent 25% of the total marks awarded. 100% Portfolio and practical assessments - no exam. Some homework will be set.
Unit 02	Understanding Food - food groups, how social, environmental, cost and sensory factors affect food choices. How to compare and choose ingredients for dishes.	
Unit 03	Exploring Balance Diets - balance diets, nutritional requirements for different groups of people, healthy eating advice, making nutritional recommendations.	
Unit 04	Plan and produce dishes to respond to a brief - assess a set brief, select a menu of dishes, plan and produce the dishes.	

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Both Level 1 and Level 2 are the same format. With Level 2 there is an expectation that you will display more skills. You do not need to complete Level 1 to do Level 2 they are stand-alone qualifications. We will decide at the end of Year 9 as to which Level pupils will be entered for, but it is expected that all or most will be entered for Level 2.</p> <p>The course has a focus on applied study of the food and cookery sector and incorporates a significant core of knowledge and theory which is then applied to planning, preparing and evaluating a range of dishes and meals.</p>	<p>Level 2 Merit, Distinction or Distinction*</p> <p>Level 2 Pass</p> <p>Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level Nutrition and Food Science</p> <p>BTEC Food and Nutrition Level 3</p> <p>Level 2 NCFE Food & Cookery, BTEC Level 2, GCSE Food & Nutrition</p> <p>Possible future careers: chef, catering manager, journalist, restaurant owner, baker, butcher, entrepreneur.</p>

Examination Board: NCFE



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Geography

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Living with the Physical Environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The challenge of natural hazards • The living world and Physical Landscapes of the UK • Geographical skills are assessed throughout the paper 	1 hour 30 mins Exam (Paper 1)	35%
Challenges in Human Environments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban issues and challenges • The changing economic world • The challenge of resource management 	1 hour 30 mins Exam (Paper 2)	35%
Geographical Applications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issue Evaluation; this is based on a pre-release resource booklet available in March and will involve Geographical problem solving. • Fieldwork; 2 pieces will be undertaken, one focusing on physical Geography, the other on human Geography 	1 hour 15mins Exam. (Paper 3)	30%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studying Geography enables you to explore the global issues that occur throughout the world on an almost daily basis. eg. from looking at tectonic hazards to issues countries face around development; you will gain an understanding of what is happening in our world today. • You will also be able to apply what you are learning within the field when you carry out your fieldwork. Looking at both human and physical Geography aspects which allow you to develop a broad range of Geographical skills. 	GCSE Grade 4-9	Further Study A-Level and BTEC courses University courses: Geography and Management and more. Careers: Cartographer, Risk Assessor, Hydrologist, Planner, Coastal Manager, Social worker, Geologist, Market researcher, Civil engineer, Aid worker, Weather presenter, Diplomat, Disaster manager, flood prevention officer, Accountancy, Law, Teaching and more!

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE German

Exam levels	Assessment	Weighting
Foundation (Grades 1 - 5)	<u>Paper 1</u> - Speaking 7 - 9 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation. (Reading Aloud / Role Play / Picture Task and Conversation)	25%
	<u>Paper 2</u> - Listening 45 minutes plus 5 minute reading time (Listening comprehension with questions and answers in English / Dictation)	25%
	<u>Paper 3</u> - Reading 45 minutes (Reading Comprehension with questions and answers in English / Translation German to English)	25%
	<u>Paper 4</u> - Writing 1 hour 15 mins (Picture task / 40 word writing / 90 word writing / translation English to German)	25%
Higher (Grades 4 - 9)	<u>Paper 1</u> - Speaking 10 -12 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation. (Reading Aloud / Role Play / Picture Task and Conversation)	25%
	<u>Paper 2</u> - Listening 60 minutes plus 5 minutes reading time (Listening comprehension with questions and answers in English/ Dictation)	25%
	<u>Paper 3</u> - Reading 60 minutes (Reading Comprehension with questions and answers in English / Translation German to English)	25%
	<u>Paper 4</u> - Writing 1 hour 20 mins (90 word writing / 150 word writing / translation English to German)	25%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier cover 6 thematic contexts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My personal world 2. Lifestyle and wellbeing 3. My neighbourhood 4. Media and Technology 5. Studying and my future 6. Travel and tourism <p>Transferable Skills: Problem solving; critical thinking; communication; active listening; adaptability; self-management; self-development</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 5 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A-Level German</p> <p>Any degree can be combined with German to increase employability.</p> <p>Examples: Journalism / Scientific research / Teaching / EFL / Politics / Marketing / Tourism / Sports</p> <p>Language skills have become increasingly important in the workplace as the world becomes more globalized and connected. Having the ability to communicate effectively in more than one language is very valuable in the workplace.</p>

Examination Board: Edexcel



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE History

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1 - Understanding the Modern World. Paper 2 - Shaping the Nation	Paper 1 - Written Exam 2 hours Paper 2 - Written Exam 2 hours	50% 50%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Paper 1. Understanding the Modern World. • Germany 1890-1945 Democracy and Dictatorship. Conflict and Tension 1894-1918</p> <p>Paper 2. Shaping the Nation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power to the People. 1170 to the present day. • Elizabethan England, 1568 - 1603. <p>History will help you to understand the modern world around us and the events that shaped the 21st century. It helps you understand the greater story of humanity across thousands of years and the people, events and circumstances that made it so fascinating. It is a subject about human beings. From their peak of intellectual curiosity and the marvels of science & medicine that exist today, to the darkest horrors of the human psyche and the Holocaust. GCSE History takes you on a global, European and local study of the World around you and the past that we all share.</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 4 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level History A range of BTEC courses University courses: History and Politics, Modern History and more.</p> <p>Future career links: Law, Advertising, Communications & Media, Politics, Human Relations, Marketing, anything that requires a good analytical mind and communication skills.</p>

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Music

Topics/Unit Top	Assessment	Weighting
Component 1: Understanding Music	Written Exam - 1 hour 30 mins. (96 marks)	40%
Component 2: Performing Music	Performance - Solo plus an ensemble piece (72 marks)	30%
Component 3: Composing Music	Composition to a brief and free composition (72 marks)	30%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Component 1:</p> <p>Understanding Music Section A Listening to unfamiliar music. Each extract is heard several times and candidates answer short questions. Section B – study pieces. Candidates answer questions on set pieces they have studied.</p> <p>Component 2:</p> <p>Performing Music Candidates must perform both a solo and an ensemble piece of music. These are marked internally during the final year of the course.</p> <p>Component 3:</p> <p>Composing Music Candidates complete a composition of their own choosing and a second composition to a brief. They must last for a minimum of 4 minutes in total.</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 5 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level Music Level 3 BTEC Music or Performing Arts</p> <p>GCSE Music leads to a wide range of career options, university and college courses. The course is rated highly by Universities and Colleges. If you would like to perform in an orchestra or a rock band, GCSE Music provides the opportunity to develop your performance skills.</p>

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

Outdoor Education (Multiple Qualifications)

Potential Qualifications	Assessment
<p>National Pool Lifeguard Qualification HSE First Aid Duke of Edinburgh Award Silver Orienteering Food Hygiene Certificate</p>	<p>Each qualification has its own assessment criteria and processes. All involve practical assessments and some will also involve a written examination.</p>

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects
<p>This course will develop pupils' physical and mental capabilities through lots of practical outdoor activities as well as some theory lessons. Throughout the three years pupils will be introduced to, develop and refine their skills ready for assessment.</p> <p>Some qualifications may be gained during Year 9 or 10, but others require the candidate to be 16 before they obtain the qualification, in which case final assessment will take place in Year 11.</p> <p>We may potentially be able to expand the number of qualifications obtained and will remain flexible in our approach to this course which is intended to offer a more vocational pathway as an alternative or complement to academic GCSE studies.</p> <p>There will be classroom-based activities and learning as well as plenty of time spent outdoors.</p>	<p>Employment in the leisure industry</p> <p>Further vocational studies towards the leisure, sport or adventure industries.</p> <p>Level 2 and Level 3 vocational courses such as Sports & Leisure and Coaching qualifications</p> <p>All the qualifications offered will be nationally recognised.</p>

Examination Board: Various Awarding Bodies



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Physical Education (option to study BTEC Sport instead, in YR10 & YR11)

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
1. The Human body and movement in physical activity and sport	Paper 1 - 1 hour 15 mins	30%
2. Socio-cultural influences and wellbeing in physical activity and sport	Paper 2 – 1 hour 15 mins	30%
3. Practical element (3 sports)	Evidence of 3 sports and a written analysis of one sport	40%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The course is 60% theory (i.e. many of the lessons will be classroom based). You will cover sociological, psychological, anatomical and physiological and biomechanical issues in sport. ● You must have a healthy appetite for learning to succeed in this course. ● The practical element requires pupils to complete three physical activities from a set list. Pupils ideally need to play at least one sport outside of school to a minimum of a club standard. ● One practical sport must be a team activity, one must be an individual activity and the final activity can be a free choice of either team or individual. 	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 4 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level and Degree courses.</p> <p>The opportunities for employment in the sports industry continue to grow from being a professional sports person to teaching and coaching. Sports psychology, physiotherapist and dietitian all require a background in sports education.</p>

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

BTEC Tech Award in Sport (Level 1/2) (YR10 & YR11)

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Component 1- Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity	Component 1 and 2 - internal assessment. Demonstrate and apply conceptual knowledge through coursework written tasks using a computer. Develop their leadership skills through the planning and leading of a warm up and an activity session to a small group of younger students in the school. Assessed by the teacher and moderated by Pearson. External exam - 1 hour 30 min	30%
Component 2 - Taking Part and Improving Participants Sporting Performance		30%
Component 3 - Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity		40%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Component 1 looks at the provision for sport and physical activity for different types of participants, the equipment and technology required in different sports and how to prepare participants to take part in sport and physical activity. Component 2 looks at the components of fitness and how they are used in different physical activities, the roles and responsibilities of officials and ways to improve participants' sporting techniques. Component 3 looks at a range of content to allow students to investigate how to improve participants sporting performance through fitness training programming. Content includes: components of fitness, fitness tests and fitness training methods. 	<p>Level 2 -</p> <p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 4 - 9</p>	<p>BTEC Level 2 Awards in Sport (If achieved Level 1)</p> <p>BTEC Level 3 National in Sport or Sport and Exercise Science</p> <p>A Level PE</p> <p>Vocational careers such as Personal Trainer, Coach, Sports Manager</p>

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Religious Studies

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1 - Religion and Ethics through Christianity. Paper 2 - Religion, Peace and Conflict through Islam.	Paper 1 - Written Exam 1 hour 45 min. Paper 2 - Written Exam 1 hour 45 min.	50% 50%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Paper 1. RELIGION AND ETHICS through Christianity. Students will analyse and evaluate various Christian beliefs and practices and compare them to non-religious perspectives (Humanism). They will explore: Christian beliefs depending on denomination, Marriage and Family Life (e.g. different types of family, attitudes to sex outside of marriage). Matters of life and death e.g. abortion, euthanasia, Life after Death. Christian practices e.g. Prayer and worship, pilgrimage, sacraments, celebrations and the role of the Church in the community and worldwide.</p> <p>Paper 2. Religion, Peace and Conflict through Islam. Students will analyse and evaluate the beliefs and practices of different Muslim groups. They will study the causes of crime, discuss different types of punishment and whether they are just. The use of capital punishment and treatment of criminals. The causes of war, use of weapons of mass destruction and pacifism will be explored. They explore Muslim views and those of Humanists (Atheists, agnostics) in relation to situation ethics and Utilitarianism.</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grades 4 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A level and BTEC options available.</p> <p>Future career links:</p> <p>RS teaches valuable skills of debate and evaluation of evidence essential for professions such as law, human rights, doctor or nurse, medical ethics, social work, counselling, psychology, politics and any profession involving interaction with people.</p>

Examination Board: Edexcel



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Separate Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Foundation (Grades 1 - 5) Higher (Grades 4 - 9)	Biology Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 mins - 100 marks Biology Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 mins - 100 marks	50% 50%
Foundation (Grades 1 - 5) Higher (Grades 4 - 9)	Chemistry Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 mins - 100 marks Chemistry Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 mins - 100 marks	50% 50%
Foundation (Grades 1 - 5) Higher (Grades 4 - 9)	Physics Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 mins - 100 marks Physics Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 mins - 100 marks	50% 50%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Biology topics include Cells, Biological Organisation, Infections and Response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and Response, Evolution and Genetics and ecology.</p> <p>Chemistry topics include The Periodic table, Structure and Bonding, Quantitative Chemistry, Chemical changes, Energy changes, Rate of Chemical change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Resource Management.</p> <p>Physics topics include Energy, Particle model of Matter, Electricity, Atomic Structure, Forces, Waves, Electromagnetism and Space Physics.</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 6 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A Level Science</p> <p>As Separate Science is aimed at those pupils who are looking to go on to complete one or more of the sciences at A Level, it will cover extra detail that will introduce some of the extra content studied at A Level. This makes this a sensible choice for those looking to go into science related careers such as engineering, medicine or more pure science jobs.</p>

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Sociology

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1 - Families and Education Paper 2 - Crime and Deviance and Social Stratification	Paper 1 - Written Exam 1 hour 45 min. Paper 2 - Written Exam 1 hour 45 min.	50% 50%

What does the course involve?		
Students will study society, social behavior and institutions and explore how society shapes individuals and vice versa through the topics of family, education, crime and class. We will develop our understanding of qualitative and quantitative research methods.	GCSE Grades 5 - 9	Further Study A level and BTEC options available. Future career links with Psychology or Politics. It paves the way for careers in social work, policing, law, journalism, HR, local government, charity management and teaching, while developing transferable skills like critical analysis and research.

Examination Board: AQA



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

GCSE Spanish

Topics/Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Foundation (Grades 1 - 5)	<u>Paper 1</u> - Speaking 7 - 9 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation. (Reading Aloud / Role Play / Picture Task and Conversation)	25%
	<u>Paper 2</u> - Listening 45 minutes plus 5 minute reading time (Listening comprehension with questions and answers in English / Dictation)	25%
	<u>Paper 3</u> - Reading 45 minutes (Reading Comprehension with questions and answers in English / Translation Spanish to English)	25%
	<u>Paper 4</u> - Writing 1 hour 15 mins (Picture task / 40 word writing / 90 word writing / translation English to Spanish)	25%
Higher (Grades 4 - 9)	<u>Paper 1</u> - Speaking 10 -12 minutes plus 15 minutes preparation. (Reading Aloud / Role Play / Picture Task and Conversation)	25%
	<u>Paper 2</u> - Listening 60 minutes plus 5 minutes reading time (Listening comprehension with questions and answers in English/ Dictation)	25%
	<u>Paper 3</u> - Reading 60 minutes (Reading Comprehension with questions and answers in English / Translation Spanish to English)	25%
	<u>Paper 4</u> - Writing 1 hour 20 mins (90 word writing / 150 word writing / translation English to Spanish)	25%

What does the course involve?	Further Study/Employment Prospects	
<p>Foundation Tier and Higher Tier cover 6 thematic contexts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. My personal world 2. Lifestyle and wellbeing 3. My neighbourhood 4. Media and Technology 5. Studying and my future 6. Travel and tourism <p>Transferable Skills:</p> <p>Problem solving; critical thinking; communication; active listening; adaptability; self-management; self-development</p>	<p>GCSE</p> <p>Grade 5 - 9</p>	<p>Further Study</p> <p>A-Level Spanish</p> <p>Any</p> <p>degree can be combined with Spanish to increase employability.</p> <p>Examples: Journalism / Scientific research / Teaching / EFL / Politics / Marketing / Tourism / Sports</p> <p>Language skills have become increasingly important in the workplace as the world becomes more globalized and connected. Having the ability to communicate effectively in more than one language is very valuable in the workplace.</p>

Examination Board: Edexcel



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

My Notes & Questions for Subject Teachers

A large, empty rectangular box with a black border, intended for subject teachers to write notes and questions.



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

Subject Contacts

Art & Design	Miss H Fitzgerald	hfitzgerald@beechhallschool.org
Business & Enterprise	Mr R Babar	rbabar@beechhallschool.org
Computer Science	Mr R Babar	rbabar@beechhallschool.org
Design & Technology	Mr C Richards	crichards@beechhallschool.org
Drama	Mr A Stillburn	astillburn@beechhallschool.org
English Language	Mr B Coulbeck	bcoulbeck@beechhallschool.org
English Literature	Mr B Coulbeck	bcoulbeck@beechhallschool.org
Film Studies	Ms U Young	uyoung@beechhallschool.org
Food & Cookery Skills	Mrs H Partridge	hpartridge@beechhallschool.org
Further Mathematics	Miss H Forrest	hforrest@beechhallschool.org
Geography	Mrs A Rhodes	arhodes@beechhallschool.org
German	Mrs M Struthers	mstruthers@beechhallschool.org
History	Mrs A Rhodes	arhodes@beechhallschool.org
ICT (Tech Award)	Mr R Babar	rbabar@beechhallschool.org
Mathematics	Miss H Forrest	hforrest@beechhallschool.org
Music	Mr A Stillburn	astillburn@beechhallschool.org
Outdoor Education	Mr C Richards	crichards@beechhallschool.org
Physical Education / Sport	Mr R Walker	rwalker@beechhallschool.org
Religious Studies	Miss L Eaton	leaton@beechhallschool.org
Science	Mrs G Dallin	gdallin@beechhallschool.org
Sociology	Mrs N Metcalfe	nmetcalfe@beechhallschool.org
Spanish	Mrs M Struthers	mstruthers@beechhallschool.org



YEARS OF EXTRAORDINARY OPPORTUNITY

Once you have made your choices, please scan the QR Code below to submit your six options from the choices below by Sunday 1st March 2026:

Art & Design
Business & Enterprise
Computer Science
Design & Technology
Drama
English Literature
Film Studies
Food & Cookery Skills
Further Mathematics
Geography
German
History
Music
Outdoor Education
Physical Education / Sport
Religious Studies
Separate Sciences
Sociology
Spanish



<https://forms.gle/zxzMwX9isykWdM1r8>