



**Barnwood Park**

AMBITION | DETERMINATION | SUCCESS

# OPTIONS BOOKLET

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2025

# Key Stage 4 Options

We are approaching a very exciting and important time in your child's education, their Key Stage 4 option choices, where students will decide which subjects they wish to study in Years 10 & 11.

Making the right option choices is incredibly important for examination success and the future aspirations of your child. At Barnwood Park we are ambitious for our students and pride ourselves on all of our students being successful in the subjects that they study at Key Stage 4. The starting point of this success is the Options Process. We are delighted to be able to continue to offer a very wide range of subjects at Key Stage 4, to ensure that the students can select a combination of subjects that is right for them.

We have designed this booklet and the accompanying videos to provide you and the students with as much information as possible, so that informed choices can be made. I strongly encourage you to read this booklet, watch the videos with your child and take time to consider what options are the most suitable. To further support the options decision, all Year 9 parents/carers will be provided with the opportunity for an options meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

All options choices will need to be submitted by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025 so that we can ensure that our timetabling model can accommodate as many option choices as possible. There is more information on how to submit option choices on the [Year 9 options page](#) of the school website.

If you have further questions after reading this booklet and watching the videos, then please do not hesitate to contact any of the staff in the contacts section.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs K Rayfield | Deputy Headteacher**



“ There are many teachers at Barnwood to support and guide you when you choose your option subjects. ”

YEAR 11 STUDENT

## Our vision

At Barnwood Park we are ambitious for our students and are determined to ensure that every student who attends Barnwood Park has a better chance of success than if they attended any other school. This vision drives every decision that we make and as such, we have made significant progress towards this in a very short period of time.

We have created a school environment with disruption free classrooms, where all students can achieve so that they have the best opportunities for their future. We are equally committed to working with all of our students, parents and carers to create a community that is centred on high performance and excellence, regardless of a child's starting point.



# Making the right choices

Dear Year 9 student,

You are about to embark on one of the most exciting and important choices in your schooling so far, your Key Stage 4 options. Ensuring that you make the right Key Stage 4 option choices will mean that you have the best chance of achieving excellent GCSE grades in Year 11. It will also ensure that you can get into the sixth form, college or apprenticeship of your choice and will eventually support you getting into the career or university of your dreams.

At Barnwood Park, we are proud to be able to offer you a wide variety of different subjects, which will all be delivered expertly by our highly skilled teachers. You will be able to make **four** option choices and each of these choices must be very carefully considered.

It is important that you make the right choices for the right reasons. Reasons to consider when making an option choice:

- It is a subject I enjoy, and I am passionate about?
- It is a subject I might want to study at sixth form or college?
- Does this subject gives me a good balance to keep my future choices open?

Reasons not to consider when making an option choice:

- My brother or sister did the subject.
- I like the teacher I had this year.
- My friends are doing it.
- It looks and sounds easy.



This booklet will give you information on all the subjects that are available to you. I strongly encourage all of you to spend time reading this booklet and watching the accompanying videos with your parents and carers. This will ensure that you have all of the information before you make your choices.

After you have read the booklet and watched the video you may have more questions about different subjects. If this is the case, then please do not hesitate to contact the teachers via email from the contact list at the end of this section. Our teachers are ready and waiting to answer any questions that you may have and support you in this process. You will also be offered an opportunity to make an Options Choices appointment with a member of the Senior Leadership Team to further support you in making these choices.

I am sure you are aware of how important making the right choices is. Please make sure you take your time and choose wisely.

**Mrs K Rayfield | Deputy Headteacher**

**The table below outlines the key deadlines for the options process.**

27 <sup>th</sup> February 2025	Options information is released to Year 9 students and parents
27 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	Students, parents and carers are invited to an options meeting with a member of the senior leadership team
4 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Deadline for option completion on options online form
July 2025	Options choices communicated to students



# How does our options process work?

Every student at Barnwood Park will study the subjects in our core curriculum, this means that every student will leave the school with qualifications in English, Maths and Science.

**The core curriculum subjects are as follows:.**

- English Language
  - English Literature
  - Mathematics
  - Science
  - All students will also receive curriculum time dedicated to PE and PSHE.
- These subjects will not be examined.

## **Option subjects**

Every student will make **four** option choices. This will mean that the students will leave Barnwood Park with nine GCSE or vocational qualifications.

Students **must** choose one of the following subjects:

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish

Students will then have a choice of **any three** of the remaining subjects.

Students will then need to choose **any three** of the subjects below, plus **one reserve** choice:

- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Design Technology
- Fine Art
- Food Preparation
- French
- Geography
- Health & Social Care
- History
- Music
- PE/Sports Studies
- Photography
- Religious Education
- Spanish
- Textiles

Once we have received the option choices of all students we will, as much as possible, try to accommodate the choices of all students. However, it is important to note that there may be capacity or timetabling issues which mean a certain combination of options won't work. If this is the case, we will contact you on an individual basis.

## Who can I contact if I want information on specific subjects?

If any further information is required on any of the option subjects or the options process in general, please do not hesitate to contact the staff members in the table below.

Subject	Name	Email
General Option Enquiries	Mrs K Rayfield	<a href="mailto:krayfield@barnwoodpark.co.uk">krayfield@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
English	Mrs A Fitzgerald-Johnson	<a href="mailto:ajohnson@barnwoodpark.co.uk">ajohnson@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Maths	Mrs C Taiwo	<a href="mailto:ctaiwo@barnwoodpark.co.uk">ctaiwo@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Science	Mr C Dowle	<a href="mailto:cdowle@barnwoodpark.co.uk">cdowle@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Business Studies	Mr S Phelps	<a href="mailto:sphelps@barnwoodpark.co.uk">sphelps@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Computer Science	Mr J Lainsbury	<a href="mailto:jlainsbury@barnwoodpark.co.uk">jlainsbury@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Dance	Miss E Saunders	<a href="mailto:esaunders@barnwoodpark.co.uk">esaunders@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Design Technology	Mrs J Workman	<a href="mailto:jworkman@barnwoodpark.co.uk">jworkman@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Drama	Ms. M Jones	<a href="mailto:mjones@barnwoodpark.co.uk">mjones@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Fine Art	Mrs T Dunford	<a href="mailto:tdunford@barnwoodpark.co.uk">tdunford@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Food	Mrs J Workman	<a href="mailto:jworkman@barnwoodpark.co.uk">jworkman@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
French	Mrs T Kincaid	<a href="mailto:tkincaid@barnwoodpark.co.uk">tkincaid@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Geography	Ms Z Patel	<a href="mailto:zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk">zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Health & Social Care	Mrs N Hanlon	<a href="mailto:nhanlon@barnwoodpark.co.uk">nhanlon@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
History	Ms Z Patel	<a href="mailto:zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk">zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Music	Miss K Hallam	<a href="mailto:khallam@barnwoodpark.co.uk">khallam@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
PE/Sports Studies	Mrs R Aboud	<a href="mailto:raboud@barnwoodpark.co.uk">raboud@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Photography	Mr D Hayne	<a href="mailto:dhayne@barnwoodpark.co.uk">dhayne@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Religious Education	Ms Z Patel	<a href="mailto:zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk">zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Spanish	Mrs T Kincaid	<a href="mailto:tkincaid@barnwoodpark.co.uk">tkincaid@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>
Textiles	Mrs T Dunford	<a href="mailto:tdunford@barnwoodpark.co.uk">tdunford@barnwoodpark.co.uk</a>

# GCSE English Language AQA

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	1hr 45min exam	50%	Section A: 1 unseen fiction text and 4 questions to answer  Section B: Descriptive or narrative writing
Paper 2	Writers Viewpoints and Perspectives	1hr 45min exam	50%	Section A: 2 unseen nonfiction texts and 4 questions to answer  Section B: Writing to present a viewpoint
Non Examination	Spoken Language	Presentation	You are given a separate endorsement: Pass, Merit or	A 10 minute presentation on a topic of your choice Distinction

## Why English Language?

The English Language GCSE assesses students on their writing and reading skills both with fiction and nonfiction texts. During the course they will build on their knowledge gained at Key Stage 3 and learn to write with flair and originality whilst maintaining accurate punctuation and grammar. English Language gives students the opportunity to read a range of texts which explore big ideas that are relevant to society today and teaches them the fundamental skills that they will need in their future when it comes to reading and writing.

Language Paper 2 encourages them to form and write about their own viewpoints and perspectives on issues ranging from climate change to future challenges society faces. They will also do a speaking and listening presentation which develops their ability to express their thoughts logically and clearly in readiness for their next steps whether this is an academic or more vocational route.

## Where can it take you?

English Language is one of the core GCSEs that all students need. All colleges and sixth forms will have a minimum requirement for this GCSE and the students will need to achieve this in order to get onto any vocational, apprenticeship and A Level course. It opens up opportunities for many different subjects at A Level such as English Language, English Literature, Media, Criminology, History and Politics.

For more information, please contact Mrs Fitzgerald-Jonson, [ajohnson@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:ajohnson@barnwoodpark.co.uk)



## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel	1hr 45min exam	40%	Macbeth A Christmas carol
Paper 2	Modern Texts and Poetry	2hr 15min exam	60%	An Inspector Calls Power and Conflict Poetry Anthology Unseen Poetry

### Why English Literature?

In English Literature, students study a variety of writing forms and learn about the bigger social issues that all of the writers and poets are exploring in their texts. They gain a valuable insight into understanding morality as well exploring humanity across the ages. By reading and analysing the classics such as Macbeth and A Christmas Carol, it opens them up to worlds which they may not know and wider questions about redemption and conflict, which students can then apply to their own real world experiences. Through studying the poetry anthology and unseen poetry, they will learn the different ways in which people express themselves and develop their analytical skills.

### Where can it take you?

English Literature GCSE opens up opportunities for many different subjects at A Level such as English Literature, Media, Criminology, History, Politics plus many more. It is especially useful for subjects that require students to write extended essays. It is also a qualification that will support applications for apprenticeships. At university level, English Literature is an incredibly diverse academic subject with elements looking at different authors, different time periods and different forms. Whether you study English Literature at A Level or at university, it will offer a variety of pathways in a wide range of careers including journalism, teaching and even becoming a social media manager.

For more information, please contact Mrs Fitzgerald-Jonson,  
[ajohnson@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:ajohnson@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

## Overview

The qualification consists of three equally-weighted written examination papers at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. All three papers must be at the same tier of entry and must be completed in the same assessment series.

Paper 1 is a non-calculator assessment.

Paper 2 and 3 are calculator assessments.

Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. Each paper has 80 marks. The content outlined for each tier will be assessed across all three papers.

Tier	Topic Area	Weighting	Grades
Foundation	Number	22% – 28%	1 - 5
	Algebra	17% - 23%	
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	22% - 28%	
	Geometry and Measures	12% - 18%	
	Statistics and Probability	12 % - 18%	
Higher	Number	12% - 18%	3 - 9
	Algebra	27% - 33%	
	Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change	17% - 23%	
	Geometry and Measures	17% - 23%	
	Statistics and Probability	12% - 18%	

### Why Maths?

Maths is a subject which enables students to be able to problem solve and reason logically. It enables people to make connections across a variety of topics and also understand real-life applications of data. Maths is the study of patterns, making predictions and trying to make sense of the world we live in.

### Skills developed

The course aims to encourage you to:

- apply mathematical knowledge and understanding to solve problems;
- think and communicate mathematically – precisely, logically and creatively;
- apply mathematical concepts to situations arising in your own life;
- acquire a firm foundation for further study;
- work cooperatively, independently and practically;
- consolidate basic skills and meet appropriately challenging work.

### Where can it take you?

Mathematics provides a strong foundation for both further academic and vocational studies, as well as for securing employment. It equips students with the appropriate mathematical skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to excel in a variety of further and higher education courses. It can lead to numerous career opportunities, including roles as an Engineer, Data Analyst, Cryptographer, Economist and Accountant, among others.

For more information, please contact Mrs Taiwo, [ctaiwo@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:ctaiwo@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

Useful website link: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/home.html>

## Overview

Exam	Style of Assessment	Weighting	How is your grade calculated
Biology 1	1hr 15min	16.67%	Scores from all 6 exams are combined together and from this mark you will be awarded 2 consecutive GCSE grades eg) 8.7 or 7.7 or 7.6 etc
Chemistry 1	1hr 15min exam	16.67%	
Physics 1	1hr 15min exam	16.67%	
Biology 2	1hr 15min exam	16.67%	
Chemistry 2	1hr 15min exam	16.67%	
Physics 2	1hr 15min exam	16.67%	

Exam questions are a mixture of multiple-choice, structured, open and closed response, graph skills and calculations. The questions are classified as either low, standard or high demand, depending on their difficulty.

There are foundation and higher tier papers. Foundation tier papers contain low and standard demand questions and are capped at a maximum of a grade 5. Higher tier papers contain standard demand and high demand questions and have no upper cap. However, higher tier papers have a minimum score of a Grade 4 which means that any score below that threshold will receive a U grade.

Whether you are entered for foundation or higher tier exams will be determined by your performance in class alongside results from mock exams and other assessments. Final decisions on tiers of entry are made in Year 11.

There will be no controlled assessment. Investigation skills will be assessed through questions on the exam papers. Students will carry out a number of required practicals during the learning of the content. These are set by the exam board.

## Why Science?

During GCSE Science you will continue to develop your scientific knowledge alongside enquiry, analysis and numeracy skills. You will learn how to apply your understanding to new, unfamiliar contexts and develop a host of transferable skills that will help you when applying for sixth form, college and jobs in the future.

## Where can Science take you?

Science is a flexible qualification which can be applied to a vast number of career paths such as medicine, military technology, healthcare and midwifery, sport science, ecology and environment, epidemiology, astronomy, electrical/mechanical/chemical engineering and research scientists.

**What students say:** *“The experiments are fun and interesting. The work is challenging but it’s made fun and definitely worth all of the revision done.”*

For more information, please contact Mr Dowle, [cdowle@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:cdowle@barnwoodpark.co.uk)  
**Useful website link:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/science-8464/assessment-resources>

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Unit 1	Investigating Small Business	Externally assessed Written Paper: 1 hour 45 minutes	50%	1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice 1.4 Making the business effective 1.5 Understanding external influences on business
Unit 2	Building a Business	Externally assessed Written Paper: 1 hour 45 minutes	50%	2.1 Growing the business 2.2 Making marketing decisions 2.3 Making product decisions 2.4 Making financial decisions 2.5 Making human resource decisions

### Why Business?

If you are interested in our consumer culture and how it works. You follow current affairs and are interested in the world around you. You are keen on a career in business and have creative ideas. You are keen to learn a lot of new terms and concepts and enjoy written exams. If you are interested in entrepreneurs like the characters seen on Dragon's Den and finding out what made them reach the top of their fields. After studying Business the world will be your oyster.

### Skills developed

Successful students will develop a good understanding of the business world, how and why businesses are started, and the decision making processes that make and keep them successful. You will develop an ability to evaluate numbers and statistics, and understand the short-term and long-term impacts of business decisions on finances and people. You will gain an understanding of the importance of planning and effective research to aid better decision making, and gain awareness of the impact of economic and world news on everyday decisions.

### Where can it take you?

This course is designed to equip students with business knowledge, commercial skills and an understanding of modern organisations. Ideal for students who are considering further study in a business related discipline, a career in the business world or possibly self-employment. It can lead on to further study of business and marketing ideas at college or 6<sup>th</sup> Form, including Level 3 courses at college or 6<sup>th</sup> Form in Business, Economics or Accounting.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Phelps, [sphelps@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:sphelps@barnwoodpark.co.uk)



## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Unit 1	Computer Systems	Written Exam - 1 hr 30 mins (80 marks)	50%	Systems Architecture, Memory, Storage, Wired and Wireless Networks, Network Topologies, Protocols and Layers, System Security, and Systems Software. It also includes a section on ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.
Unit 2	Computational thinking, algorithms and programming	Written Exam- 1 hr 30 mins (80 marks)	50%	Algorithms, Programming techniques, Producing robust programs, Computational logic, Data representation, Translators and Facilities of languages.

## Why Computer Science?

Whatever your chosen career path, or even if you are still deciding, the knowledge and understanding of computing and information technology is a key skill in the modern world of work. You will enjoy this course if you like solving problems (whether these are game puzzles or real-life situations), you are a good lateral thinker, are curious about technology which underpins everyday activities and want to know more on programming – Using Python Programming language.

## Skills developed

Computer Science is concerned with logical thinking, computer design, and computer programming. It gives learners a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. This course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in Computer Science and allows learners to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills.

During the course you will gain an in-depth understanding of how the computer works and what you can make it do, exploring networks and systems development.

## Where can it take you?

This GCSE can lead to a range of courses at local colleges and 6th forms such as Computing, Media and Graphics. Career areas would include IT or graphic designer, website designer, games developer, and software engineer. This is a course for those interested in one of the most rapidly advancing areas of technology, leading to challenging and stimulating careers.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr Lainsbury, [jlainsbury@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:jlainsbury@barnwoodpark.co.uk).

## Overview

### **Course content outline and how the course is assessed:**

This course comprises of 3 components, all of which have a strongly weighted practical element, with the addition of a written element. Two of the units are internally assessed throughout the 2-year course with the students compiling a portfolio of work that will be graded either Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction \* level.

### **Component 1 – Exploring the Performing Arts**

In this unit, you will look at professional dance in a variety of styles and how all the features of the piece work together to communicate a theme. You will explore the style, ideas, influences, process and people involved in creating the piece.

### **Component 2 – Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts**

You will participate in practical workshops to develop your dance skills towards learning and performing a professional group dance piece. You will review your progress and performance throughout the process.

### **Component 3 – Performing to a Brief**

You will be given a brief and a starting point to create a piece of choreography portfolio. This is group work where everyone is encouraged to contribute and work collaboratively to create an effective dance piece that clearly communicates an idea to the audience.

## Why Dance?

Dance is about creating your own dances and working with other people to develop your skills as a dancer. You do not need any previous formal dance training. This course is an enjoyable and creative outlet alongside more academic subjects.

## Where can it take you?

Those who study Dance may progress onto various pathways in the future such as performance, choreography, fitness and movement therapy, BTEC level 3 course or A level Dance or Performing Arts. It is a strong foundation for those wishing to study Dance or the Performing Arts at university or even the possibility of study at a national dance school.

**What students say:** “Dance is a thrilling and fun way to explore your own dance abilities as well as adapting your style using inspiration from set works. Don’t be scared to do it. Be bold, be yourself. Everyone can dance.”

For further information, contact Miss Saunders, [esaunders@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:esaunders@barnwoodpark.co.uk).

## Overview

This course comprises of 3 components, all of which have a strongly weighted practical element, with the addition of a written element. Two of the units are internally assessed throughout the 2-year course with the students compiling a portfolio of work that will be graded either Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction \* level.

### **Component 1 – Exploring the Performing Arts**

In this unit, you will look at professional drama performances in theatre in a variety of styles and how all the features of the piece work together to communicate a theme. You will explore the style, ideas, influences, process and people involved in creating the piece.

### **Component 2 – Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts**

You will participate in practical workshops to develop your drama skills towards learning and performing a professional group drama piece. You will review your progress and performance throughout the process.

### **Component 3 – Performing to a Brief**

You will be given a brief and a starting point to create a piece of devised theatre portfolio. This is group work where everyone is encouraged to contribute and work collaboratively to create an effective drama piece that clearly communicates an idea to the audience.

## Why Drama?

Drama is both a creative and academic study. It provides you with the essential soft skills that you need to be successful in applying for future careers. This course is an enjoyable and creative outlet alongside more academic subjects for those students who are interested in creating your own drama pieces and working with other people to develop your skills as an actor. You do not need any previous drama training.

## Skills developed

Students will develop a wide range of skills in leadership, analysis, presentation, discussion, imagination and creativity.

Specifically to Drama; vocal projection, spoken language, characterisation, drama structures, movement skills, staging, lighting and sound.

## Where can it take you?

Due to the fantastic range of skills that you acquire in GCSE Drama, you can apply these to almost any subject or career choice in the future. Students can go on to pursue a place at Drama School, BTEC courses A-Level Drama and then onto University.

Because you are improving your skills in communication, presentation and teamwork, Drama can be a useful subject and give you skills that employers and universities are looking for especially in careers involving people.

**What students say:** *“Drama is great for me because I am emotional and I have learned how to use that effectively to create characters in performance. I have also learned that theatre can change the world as well as help me understand myself!”*

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Jones, [mjones@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:mjones@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

## Overview

**Written Examination: 50% of total grade**  
**Non Exam Assessment: 50% of total grade**

### Year 10

Subject knowledge and design skills delivered through a variety of design and make tasks which will cover:

- Designing and making principles
- New and emerging technologies
- Energy generation and storage
- Structural and mechanical design
- Understanding materials
- Systems approach to designing

### Year 11

- Substantial design and make task (Non Exam Assessment)
- Assessment criteria to include the following:
- Investigating

## Why Design Technology?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making, and apply technical and practical expertise.

This GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

## Where can it take you?

Design and Technology is a versatile subject that will expose learners to a plethora of potential opportunities. Academic and vocational options are a few of these, such as going on to study courses like product design, architecture, fashion design, sculpture, furniture design, biomechanical and structural engineering , to name just a few, at college or sixth form before heading to university or undertaking an apprenticeship as soon as you've left school in things such as carpentry, engineering or multi-trades.

For more information, please contact Mrs Workman, [jworkman@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:jworkman@barnwoodpark.co.uk)



## Overview

Learning is assessed through completion of work in sketchbooks and in larger final pieces.

**Portfolio: 60%**

**Externally Set Task (Examination): 40%**

### Why Fine Art?

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, Art is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art encourages self-expression, critical thinking and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity and character. Studying art helps to create a broad and balanced curriculum, which is an excellent foundation for whatever you want to do afterwards. The transferable skills you'll gain in Art will complement a range of other subjects and careers.

### Skills developed

- Confidence with handling, exploring and experimenting with a range of artistic media, materials and processes such as painting.
- The ability to be self-motivated and work independently to develop your creative potential.
- The ability to develop exciting sketchbook work and final outcomes using a range of media and materials as well as showing an awareness of work from other artists and cultures and visual language.
- The ability to evaluate through the reflection and modification of your learning to improve progress.

### Where can it take you?

Art can open up many opportunities and can provide lots of varied opportunities for future progress. Whether you decide to move on to A Levels or a vocational route, there are many pathways built upon the foundations of Art.


Progression can be to:

- Other creative areas of study including Textiles, Photography and Digital Media
- A Level / BTEC at post-16 education providers including 6th Forms and College of Further Education
- Degree or Higher Diploma

**What students say:** *"It's an enjoyable and creative subject in which I can release my inner passion!"*

For more information, please contact Mrs Dunford, [tdunford@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:tdunford@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

**\*Please note you are able to choose only 1 of either Fine Art or Textiles.**



*"Choose options that  
you'll be interested to  
learn, don't choose what  
your friends are doing.  
This is **your decision**,  
so make sure you make  
the right choices."*

YEAR 10 STUDENT



## Overview

### 50% Controlled Assessment (2 tasks) and 50% Exam

**Year 10** – Developing practical skills and deepening your understanding of nutrition, food science and culinary theory.

**Year 11** – Embedding the practical skills learnt in Year 10 and moving on to assessment tasks to develop the skills before a final exam.

#### Areas covered include;

- Advanced culinary skills including how to bone a chicken and fillet a fish
- International Cuisine
- Health, safety and food hygiene
- Food preparation, cooking and presentation
- Nutrition and menu planning
- Costing and portion control
- Specialist equipment
- Environmental considerations

## Why Food Preparation and Nutrition?

If you love cooking or want to improve your cooking skills, or are interested in working in the catering or hospitality industry, interested in food, its origins and meeting chefs and suppliers and feeding those around you with delicious food, then Food GCSE is a great choice for you.

## Skills developed

- High-level culinary skills such as how to make fresh pasta.
- Time keeping and organisation; making sure all your tasks are completed on time and remembering all your ingredients.
- Team work and co-operation; many tasks require teamwork and good communication with others.
- Resilience; bouncing back when a dish has failed.
- Research and evaluative skills are frequently used to improve and develop skills and understanding.

## Where can it take you?

According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. This course is great preparation for any Hospitality & Catering course or career. If you are planning on going to university or do an apprenticeship, it gives you good skills for being independent and opens up part-time job opportunities.

For further information, contact Mrs Workman at [jworkman@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:jworkman@barnwoodpark.co.uk).

## Overview

### **Paper 1 - Speaking (non-examined assessment)**

25% of total marks

Includes reading aloud, role play and picture description.

### **Paper 2 - Listening and Understanding**

25% of total marks.

All questions set in English. Includes multiple-choice, short-answer open response questions and dictation.

### **Paper 3 - Reading and Understanding**

25% of total marks.

All questions set in English. Includes multiple-choice, short-answer open response questions and translation into English.

### **Paper 4 - Writing**

25% of total marks.

Includes Photo-card (Foundation only), two writing responses with a choice of two options for each question and translation into Spanish.

## Why French?

Learning a foreign language is an excellent opportunity to improve your communication skills and enables you to gain a deeper appreciation of different countries and cultures. If you are interested in broadening your horizons and improving your academic and career opportunities, then studying GCSE French is an excellent choice for you.

Throughout the course you will practise the four communication skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking, across multiple topics relating to your own interests and experiences, as well as the wider world.

## Skills developed

- Confidence, communication and cultural understanding.
- Language skills developed in a variety of contexts.
- Students develop the confidence to communicate in French in a safe, supportive environment.
- Students learn to appreciate the French culture through the study of not only the French language, but also festivals and traditions as well as aspects of the geography and history of France.

## Where can it take you?

The Edexcel GCSE French course builds on the KS3 programme of study and prepares students for further study at A Level and Degree. Careers areas for Modern Foreign Language students could include: translating and interpreting, journalism, travel/tourism and teaching. It is also very useful for business.

For further information, contact Mrs Kincaid. [tkincaid@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:tkincaid@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

**Useful website link:**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/Modern-Languages/2024-mfl-gcse-qualification-at-a-glance.pdf>



## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
<b>Paper 1</b>	Living with the Physical Environment	1hr 30min exam	35% (88 marks)	A: The Challenge of Natural Hazards (Tectonic and Weather Hazards, Extreme Weather in the UK, Climate Change)  B: The Living World (Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests and Cold Environments)  C: Physical landscapes in the UK (Rivers and Coasts)
<b>Paper 2</b>	Challenges in the Human Environment	1hr 30min exam	35% (88 marks)	A: Urban Issues and Challenges (Urbanisation, Lagos, London, Gloucester Quays)  B: The Changing Economic World (Development, Reducing the Development Gap, Nigeria, UK)  C: The Challenge of Resource Management (Resources; Food, Water and Energy in the UK and Global Food)
<b>Paper 3</b>	Geographical Applications	1hr 30min exam	30% (76 marks)	A: Issue Evaluation (Linked to Pre-Release Booklet)  C: Fieldwork (Blackpool Brook and Gloucester)

## Why Geography?

Geography helps make sense of the world around you and how this can affect people, places and the environment. Students will travel the world from the classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

## Where can it take you?

Geography GCSE goes hand in hand with other humanities subjects such as History and Religious Studies as a facilitating subject. Geography is a broad-based subject which provides lots of varied opportunities for future progress. It opens up opportunities for many different subjects at A Level such as Economics, Sociology and Politics, as well as supporting students to access more vocational courses such as level 3 courses in Travel and Tourism.

**What students say:** *“Geography gives us a broader understanding of the situations going on around us in the world. The lessons are very interactive and are always out of the ordinary to keep us fully engrossed”*

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Patel, [zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

**Useful website link:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-8035/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Component 1	Human Lifespan Development	Coursework	30%	A. How individuals develop physically, socially, emotionally and intellectually over time. B. How various factors, events and choices may impact an individual's growth and development. C. How people adapt to life events and cope with making changes.
Component 2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	Coursework	30%	A. Health and social care services that are available, and why an individual may need to use them. B. Who works in these services and what might stop people from accessing the services they need. C. The care values that make sure people get the care and protection they need.
Component 3	Health and Wellbeing	Coursework	40%	A. What it means to be healthy and how people view this differently, also how to assess someone's health. B. Factors that influence health and wellbeing and how to create an improvement plan for an individual C. Examine the challenges that the individual may face when trying to implement their improvement plan.

## Why Health and Social Care?

Health and Social Care enables students to explore academically and practically, areas that influence how we develop throughout life stages and in turn raise expectations of how we can live successful and healthy lives now and in our future. It equips our students with the skills to analyse the impact of positive and negative human behaviour and development in our daily lives. Health and social care is full of new and exciting knowledge, in one of the fastest growing employment sectors in the UK.

## Where can it take you?

Health and social care can take you on to both further education with a level 3 BTEC in Health and Social Care or A levels in health and social care, sports science, psychology, sociology, and early years education. It can also lead to apprenticeships or careers in midwifery, nursing, dietitian, care worker, social worker, community support and outreach worker, councillor, occupational therapist and lots more health and social care professions. The skills in communication and teamwork are also useful for any careers that involve working with people.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs Hanlon, [nhanlon@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:nhanlon@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	Thematic study and historic environment	1hr 20min exam	30%	Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.
Paper 2	Period study and British depth study	1hr 50min exam	40%	Period study: The American West, c1835–c1895 British depth study: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88
Paper 3	Modern depth study	1hr30min exam	30%	Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

### Why History?

History is a diverse and academic discipline that helps you understand the world and how it has developed to become what we know it as today. History looks at answering vital questions about issues such as; why does conflict happen, why do we live in a multicultural society and why have we got this current political landscape? Through History you can learn about past societies, systems, ideologies, governments and conflict and how these have changed over time.

### Where can it take you?

History provides lots of varied opportunities for future progress. History GCSE will prepare you well for A Levels, more vocational routes and apprenticeships, as it has many transferable skills. As an academic subject, History prepares you for a number of other subjects such as law, politics and sociology. History GCSE also goes hand in hand with other humanities subjects such as Geography and Religious Studies as a facilitating subject. At university level, history is an incredibly diverse discipline with courses ranging from the disciplines of ancient history, archaeology, classics and modern history.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Patel, [zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk)  
**Useful website link:** <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html>

## Overview

Listening Exam: 40%  
Composing Music: 30%  
Performing Music: 30%

### Topics

1. My music
2. The Concerto through time
3. Rhythms of the world
4. Film music
5. Conventions of Pop

## Why Music?

Music combines both creative and academic study. You will gain knowledge of how music composition, production and performance has evolved over time. The course also enables you to develop and refine your musical skills that are required for further education and employability within the music sector. You will also gain essential skills needed within a variety of professional industries. Such skills include working collaboratively with peers, understanding and responding to complex briefs, pitching and presenting ideas and creativity.

## Skills developed

- Performance skills: how to perform with confidence and style on a chosen instrument (including voice).
- Composition Skills: be creative with new and existing musical ideas and develop your own style of writing music.
- Listening skills: delve into different genres and cultures of music, based on the areas of study above, understanding how they are put together.
- Music theory: understanding of musical symbols and different notation used in composition.
- Personal Skills: develop broader life skills and attributes including critical and creative thinking, aesthetic sensitivity, emotional awareness, cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-motivation.

## Where can it take you?

Due to the fantastic range of skills and knowledge gained throughout this course, there are many paths you can take as you progress from key stage 4. You will have acquired the skills to go on to study A Level Music or a Level 3 BTEC in Music which will enable you to go onto study at university. There are many subjects which cross over into music such as media studies, radio production and events management.

For more information, please contact Miss Hallam, [khallam@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:khallam@barnwoodpark.co.uk)  
Useful website link: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/>



## Overview

Students will be able to opt for a Physical Education option and based on practical ability and academic performance across KS3, students will be appointed onto either the GCSE PE or the Cambridge Nationals Sport Studies course by the PE staff.

### Component 1: Applied Anatomy and Physiology

Written examination: 1 hour. The assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions. 30% of the qualification (60 marks)

Content overview:

- Applied anatomy and Physiology
- Physical Training

### Component 2: Socio-cultural issues and Sports Psychology

Written examination: 1 hour, the assessment consists of multiple-choice, short-answer, and extended writing questions. 30% of the qualification (60 marks)

Content overview:

- 2.1 Socio-cultural influences
- 2.2 Sport Psychology
- 2.3 Health, fitness and well-being

### Component 3: Performance in Physical Education

Non-examined assessment: internally marked and externally moderated 40% of the qualification (80 marks)

Content overview:

The assessment consists of students completing three physical activities from a set list.

- One must be a 'team' activity
- One must be an 'individual' activity
- One other from either list

## Why Physical Education?

If you enjoy sport and recreation, developing knowledge and understanding through practical involvement, learning about the benefits of sport and exercise, improving your own performance in a range of sports roles, or if you are considering a sports-related career or an A Level/Higher Education course.

## Skills developed

- Practical skills in a range of physical activities, analysis and evaluating of performance levels.

## Where can it take you?

A GCSE PE qualification can lead on to A Level PE, BTEC Sport Level 3 and a range of educational pathways.

Due to the current concerns about health and fitness of society, more jobs are likely to be created in the health and leisure industry. Other occupations that may be pursued include P.E. Teaching, Coaching, Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine and Media related jobs.

For more information, please contact [raboud@barnwood-park.co.uk](mailto:raboud@barnwood-park.co.uk)

## Overview

Units	Optional?	GLH	How assessed?	Year completed
R184: Contemporary issues in sport	Mandatory	48	1 hour 15 minute written exam - Externally	11
R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities	Mandatory	48	Coursework - Centre assessed and OCR moderated	10
R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities	Selected	24	Coursework - Centre assessed and OCR moderated	11

### Contemporary issues in sport:

Topics include: Issues which affect participation in sport, the role of sport in promoting values, the implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country, the role National Governing Bodies (NGBs) play in the development of their sport, the use of technology in sport.

### Performance and leadership in sports activities:

Topics include: Key components of performance, Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity, organising and planning a sports activity session, leading a sports activity session, reviewing your own performance in planning and leading a sports activity session.

### Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities:

Topics include: Provision for different types of outdoor and adventurous activities in the UK, equipment, clothing and safety aspects of participating in outdoor and adventurous activities, plan for and be able to participate in an outdoor and adventurous activity, evaluate participation in an outdoor and adventurous activity.

## Why Sports Studies?

Cambridge National in Sport Studies offers students the solid foundation required for further study or progression into industry. Students will develop a wide range of highly desirable, transferable skills such as communication, problem solving, team working and performing under pressure.

The Cambridge National in Sport Studies has a sector-based focus, whilst also encompassing some core sport/physical education themes. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, and sport and the media. Students will develop an appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and how this shapes the sports industry.

## Where can it take you?

Sports Studies is a good grounding to many of the level 3 courses available at college settings; and not just in sport. In the workplace it allows you to consider jobs such as physiotherapy or sports analysts.

For more information please contact [raboud@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:raboud@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

# Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sports Studies OCR

## Overview

### 60% Coursework

- Includes class shoots, homework, and extended creative projects, one of which forms a mock exam in Term 1 and 2 of Y11.

### 40% Terminal Examination

- Completed during Terms 3 and 4 in Year 11; an extended creative response from a choice of 7 themes set by the AQA exam board.
- Learning is assessed through completion of work on-line and in sketchbooks

## Why Photography?

- You have a good level of commitment to the subject and are able to work independently
- You want to learn how to take and edit great photos
- You want to learn about using creative editing software and improve your computer skills
- You have creative and imaginative potential that you want to explore

## Skills developed

- Ability to be self-motivated and work independently
- Understanding how to use a camera and related technology to explore your creative potential
- Confidence with using digital manipulation and editing techniques
- An awareness of the meaning and value of photographic images
- An ability to reflect, criticise and modify your learning

## Where can it take you?

Understanding how to create, transfer, manipulate, store and present digital information and imagery is a valuable skill in a great many areas of employment. Progression can also be to other creative areas of study including:

- Fine Art and Graphic Design
- A Level / BTEC at post-16 education providers including 6th Forms and College of Further Education
- Degree or Higher Diploma

Whether you decide to move on to A Levels or a vocational route, there are many pathways built upon the foundations of Photography GCSE including media, marketing, teaching, photographer, to name just a few.

For more information, please contact [dhayne@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:dhayne@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices	1 hr 45min exam	50%	A: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Christianity B: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Buddhism
Paper 2	Thematic Studies	1 hr 45min exam (chose 4 themes from the topics)	50%	A: Relationships and families B: Religion and life C: The existence of God and revelation D: Religion, peace and conflict E: Religion, crime and punishment F: Religion, human rights and social justice

### Why Religious Studies?

Religious studies helps students to gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. It also allows an understanding of those around us and why they believe what they believe, but also the impacts that these beliefs have on them as an individual. If you enjoy thinking about and searching for the answers to quite complex questions such as: When does life begin? Is war ever right? Why is there evil in the world? Is everyone equal? Are the poor really our problem? Is there life after death? Is euthanasia murder? Does science prove religion wrong?

### Where can it take you?

Religious Studies GCSE is highly valued by lots of businesses, especially those looking to work with people such as in the police, nursing and teaching. The course will develop your skills of organising and using information, describing and explaining ideas, and evaluating different perspectives on various religious and moral issues. It will require you to think, understand different points of view and develop skills of argument.

Lessons will involve a wide range of different activities including reflection, discussion and various activities to communicate your ideas and understanding to others.

Religious Studies GCSE goes hand in hand with other Humanities subjects such as Geography and History and is a suitable subject in preparation for entry to university education.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms Patel, [zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:zpatel@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

**Useful website link:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-8062/specification>

## Overview

### **Paper 1 - Speaking (non-examined assessment)**

25% of total marks

Includes reading aloud, role play and picture description.

### **Paper 2 - Listening and Understanding**

25% of total marks.

All questions set in English. Includes multiple-choice, short-answer open response questions and dictation.

### **Paper 3 - Reading and Understanding**

25% of total marks.

All questions set in English. Includes multiple-choice, short-answer open response questions and translation into English.

### **Paper 4 - Writing**

25% of total marks.

Includes Photo-card (Foundation only), two writing responses with a choice of two options for each question and translation into Spanish.

## Why Spanish?

If you are interested in broadening your horizons, improving your academic and career opportunities and have a passion for learning about an exciting and vibrant culture, then studying GCSE Spanish is an excellent choice for you.

Throughout the course you will practise the four communication skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking, across multiple topics relating to your own interests and experiences, as well as the wider world.

## Skills developed

Spanish GCSE builds upon learning in Key Stage 3, as well as introducing new topics such as debating environmental issues and talking about issues that affect young people today. A wider range of grammar and vocabulary is taught as students develop skills to adapt language and respond to unexpected, unscripted situations. Writing skills are further developed to enable students to write coherent and fluent essays on topics, and reading and writing skills are developed to understand information from longer passages.

## Where can it take you?

Learning Spanish will develop many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers, as well as essential life skills, such as: the ability to communicate clearly, gaining confidence in public speaking and using problem-solving strategies. Learning Spanish could also improve your chance of studying at a top university in the UK or studying abroad whilst at university (even if you do not choose to do a language degree).

Careers which use Spanish include: working in any business which deals with importing or exporting, the Foreign Service, travel and hospitality, the leisure industry, accountancy, marketing, management, teacher, translator, and many more.

For further information, contact Mrs Kincaid, [tkincaid@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:tkincaid@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

Useful website link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/>



## Overview

### 60% Coursework Portfolio

- Includes classwork, homework, and extended creative projects.

### 40% Externally Set Task (Examination)

- Learning is assessed through the completion of work in sketchbooks and the production of larger final textile pieces.

## Why Textiles?

You will enjoy studying this course if you wish to use your interest in visual images, patterns and textures to create a final textile piece. This will be achieved by; drawing on inspiration from a range of sources, your own imagination, developing these into exciting ideas, an ability to work independently and the ongoing evaluation of your work by yourself and teacher.

## Skills developed

- Confidence with handling, exploring and experimenting with a range of artistic media, textile techniques and processes such as print, weave, batik, embroidery, silk painting etc.
- The ability to be self-motivated and work independently.
- The ability to develop exciting sketchbook work and final outcomes using a range of media and materials as well as showing an awareness of work from other artists and cultures.
- The ability to evaluate through the reflection and modification of your learning to improve progress.

## Where can it take you?

An Arts education to a Post 16 level and beyond can support a range of careers and jobs where an ability to work independently and develop creative visual outcomes is required. Progression can be via:

- Other creative areas of study including Fashion, Art, Photography and Digital Media.
- A level / BTEC at Post-16 education providers including 6th Forms and Colleges of the Further Education.
- Degree or Higher Diploma in Textile or Fashion courses.

For more information, please contact [tdunford@barnwoodpark.co.uk](mailto:tdunford@barnwoodpark.co.uk)

**\*Please note you are able to choose only 1 of either Fine Art or Textiles.**



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## **BARNWOOD PARK SCHOOL**



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