



Pathways

2021

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Student Pathways

At Ratton we endeavour to ensure that all students are able to follow a broad and balanced range of subjects. Each student's curriculum can be personalised to enable them to reach their full potential in subjects they enjoy.

At Ratton we offer a range of subjects to meet the interests of all students.

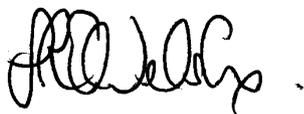
All students will study the Ratton School Core Curriculum of the following subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Ethics
- Core PE (BTec and GCSE PE are also available as options)

In addition, students will study a range of subject options to enable them to work towards their life goals.

This booklet contains full details of our curriculum offer.

Please note that subject choices are made in consultation with the school and that preferences cannot be guaranteed. Courses are dependent on viable numbers opting for each subject and the student's ability to succeed in a given subject.



Jamie Welsh

**Senior Assistant Headteacher
Curriculum and Assessment**

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Core Subjects



“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world”

Nelson Mandela

MATHEMATICS

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: The aim of the course is to equip students with a greater range of problem solving skills, along with fluency in basic mathematical processes.

Course assessment: The course is assessed by examination – three papers, 1 calculator and 2 non-calculator. The syllabus is examined in two overlapping tiers designed to optimise student achievement:

- Higher – grades 9 to 4 (unclassified if the standard for grade 3 is not achieved).
- Foundation – grades 5 to 1.

Students will be taught towards the tier most suitable for them.

Additional information: Students are required to have the necessary equipment for both their lessons and examinations. This consists of a pen, a pencil, a ruler, an eraser, a protractor, a pencil sharpener, a compass and a scientific calculator.

Further study: GCSE Mathematics opens the door to all further education and to career opportunities, which range from financial and economic planning through management services to scientific and industrial research. A good pass in a Mathematics GCSE is a pre-requisite for almost all college courses.

Student view: *“I have really loved my Maths lessons in Year 10. I have developed problem solving skills that have helped me in all my other subjects and are important for my future success.”*

ENGLISH AND ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

Outline of the course: Students will follow two GCSEs. Both courses are linear and therefore examined at the end of the course.

Assessment: In English, students will sit two exams in each GCSE. Reading and writing skills will be examined. They will be required to read extracts and respond to questions on nineteenth, twentieth and twenty-first century fiction and non-fiction texts. They will also receive a certificate for Spoken Language to show their achievements in speaking and listening.

In Literature, students will be required to read and respond to a Shakespeare text, a pre nineteenth century text, a modern prose or drama text and a variety of poems.

Additional information: It is highly recommended that students have personal copies of the Literature texts to annotate in class. Revision guides will also be available for all aspects of the courses. The course will include a number of exciting opportunities to visit theatre productions and poetry events.

Further study: A good understanding of the English language is key to success in any field. A good pass in an English GCSE is a pre-requisite for almost all college courses.

Student view: *"I enjoyed English because it gave me the writing and speaking skills that I need for later life. It helped me with job applications and day to day situations."*

COMBINED / SEPARATE SCIENCE

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of course: The GCSEs in Science promote an understanding of the material world by investigating, observing, experimenting and testing out ideas. Students will study units in each of the scientific disciplines Chemistry, Biology and Physics. Most students will follow a Combined Science course which will lead to two GCSE qualifications.

Course assessment: 100% Examination at the end of Year 11 comprising of six papers two in each of Chemistry Biology and Physics.

Additional information: Selected students who have achieved most highly across a range of subjects during years 7 – 9 will follow the Separate Science GCSEs, one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Further study: Science GCSE will help you to understand the world around you. Progression to A Level Science qualifications is likely to require good grades (Grade 5 and above) in GCSE Combined Science, English and Maths.

Student view: *“My science lessons have opened my eyes to how the world really works.”*

ETHICS

Qualification: GCSE Religious Studies

Outline of the course: This GCSE explores Christian, Buddhist, humanist and other contemporary British views. Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards issues such as divorce, euthanasia, creation, forgiveness, terrorism and equality.

This course also includes PSHE and Citizenship such as relationships and sex, drugs and alcohol, mental health, the law and work related learning.

Course assessment: Students will sit 2 exam papers. Each paper is worth 50% and is 1 hour 45 minutes long.

- **Component 1: The study of religions:** beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity and Buddhism)
- **Component 2: Thematic studies:** four religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes (Theme A: Relationships and Families, Theme B: Religion and life, Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict, Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment)

Additional information: Personal opinions are essential for success in this subject however, belief in a god or gods is not.

Further study: A good understanding of Ethics helps us to make the right decisions and choices throughout our lives. A good grade in Ethics will support progression to A levels in Philosophy, Law, English, Religious Studies, Psychology and Sociology.

Student view: *“Studying Ethics gives you a wider view on different cultures and religions and helps with life situations and moral decisions such as human rights, abortion & professional conduct.”*

EBacc Subjects



“Every child should receive an education that opens doors to their future and prepares them to realise their potential in adult life. This means young people leaving school fully literate and numerate, with an understanding of the history and geography of the world they inhabit, its workings as revealed by findings of science, and a grasp of languages other than their own.” **Nicky Morgan**

EBacc students need to achieve grade 5 or higher in each of:

GCSE English, GCSE Maths, GCSE Combined/Separate Science, GCSE History or Geography and a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: This GCSE provides a comprehensive breakdown of topics that form Computer Science for the basis for A levels and University Computer Science study. Topics include:

- 1.1 Systems architecture
- 1.2 Memory and storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols
- 1.4 Network security
- 1.5 Systems software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology
- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Course assessment:

Paper 1: Written exam (Computer Systems). 50% of GCSE.

Paper 2: Written exam (Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming). 50% of GCSE.

Additional information: This subject requires a high level of competence in Mathematics. Computing counts as a Science in the EBacc suite and requires a commitment to home study.

Further study: Our lives are increasingly impacted by automation and computers. A good grade in Computer Science will enable progression to Level 3 computing courses at college.

Student view: *“Computer Science is challenging but that’s what I like about it. This subject is great if you are really into programming. It is really tough learning how to write programs but I get a big sense of achievement when I see an application working.”*

GEOGRAPHY

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Studying geography gives students the opportunity to travel the world via the classroom, learning about both natural and social sciences along the way. They will understand how geography impacts everyday life and discover the key opportunities and challenges facing the world. Students will also develop academic and life skills from writing, teamwork and communication to analytical skills.

Modules:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment
Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment
Paper 3: Geographical applications

Course assessment:

Paper 1: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. 35% of GCSE.

Paper 2: Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes. 35% of GCSE.

Paper 3: Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes. 30% of GCSE.

Additional information: This subject requires competence in literacy and numeracy and requires a commitment to home study. Students must participate in a local field trip as part of the course. Further information on the specification can be found at: aqa.org.uk/geography.

Further study: Everybody needs to understand the world around them. Upon completion of this two-year course in Geography, students will have the skills and experience to progress to A-level courses in a range of subjects.

Student view: *"I have enjoyed learning about our planet in a more detailed way and understanding how our actions really affect others."*

HISTORY

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: This course would be appropriate for those with an interest in the subject and an enquiring mind. In this GCSE, students will study a range of time periods, to include:

- The Cold War 1941-91
- Elizabethan England 1558-88
- Medicine in Britain c.1250 – present and the British sector of the Western Front 1914-1918: injuries, treatments and the trenches
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

Course assessment: The GCSE is assessed by three exams:

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (30%)

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study (40%)

Paper 3: Modern depth study (30%)

Additional information: The literacy demands of the subject are fairly high and there is no Foundation level paper. We make an effort to cater for a range of learning styles within lessons, but if students have concerns they should talk to their teacher and look at some examples of GCSE work.

Further study: History provides us with a better understanding of how different ideas and societies have evolved. History GCSE is excellent preparation for any further academic study.

Student views: *“History GCSE is incredibly interesting and I’ve never had a boring lesson. Teachers are all committed and enthusiastic about the subject. History helps people understand life. There is a lot of work, but if you’re committed it can be good fun. It gives you confidence when you do well.”*

FRENCH

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students who have studied French in Years 7 -9.

Outline of the course: The course covers three contexts:

1. Identity and Culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

The course enables you to develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and build on work already done at KS3. It also prepares you for further study at A Level and for the world of work. Multilingualism has become more than just 'important'. Knowing a foreign language other than your native language is extremely beneficial. Whether viewed from a financial or social point of view, being able to communicate in a foreign language helps to make 'real' connection with people and provides a better understanding of your own language.

In a cosmopolitan and multicultural world, languages are useful in all areas of work including travel, catering, the police, law, retail, medicine, journalism and ICT. The list is endless.

Course assessment: Listening, speaking, reading, writing - all assessed by terminal examination, worth 25% each.

Additional information: A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is a key aspect of the EBacc suite of subjects and all students planning a future university education should consider studying a language at GCSE.

Further study: Speaking another language is an invaluable skill. Increasingly Further Educational establishments are recruiting students with a broad range of qualifications including a language at GCSE.

Student view: *"French is challenging, but enjoyable because you learn a great deal from it."*

GERMAN

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students who have studied German in Years 7 – 9.

Outline of the course: The course covers three contexts:

1. Identity and Culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

The course enables you to develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and build on work already done at KS3. It also prepares you for further study at A Level and for the world of work. Multilingualism has become more than just 'important'. Knowing a foreign language other than your native language is extremely beneficial. Whether viewed from a financial or social point of view, being able to communicate in a foreign language helps to make 'real' connection with people and provides a better understanding of your own language.

In a cosmopolitan and multicultural world, languages are useful in all areas of work including travel, catering, the police, law, retail, medicine, journalism and ICT. The list is endless.

Course assessment: Listening, speaking, reading, writing - all assessed by terminal examination, worth 25% each.

Additional information: A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is a key aspect of the EBacc suite of subjects and all students planning a future university education should consider studying a language at GCSE.

Further study: Speaking another language is an invaluable skill. Increasingly, Further Educational establishments are recruiting students with a broad range of qualifications including a language at GCSE.

Student view: *"Studying GCSE German is a great way to explore different cultures."*

SPANISH

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students who have studied Spanish in Years 7 - 9.

Outline of the course: The course covers three contexts:

1. Identity and Culture
2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest
3. Current and future study and employment

The course enables you to develop your language skills in a variety of contexts and build on work already done at KS3. It also prepares you for further study at A Level and for the world of work. Multilingualism has become more than just 'important'. Knowing a foreign language other than your native language is extremely beneficial. Whether viewed from a financial or social point of view, being able to communicate in a foreign language helps to make 'real' connection with people and provides a better understanding of your own language.

In a cosmopolitan and multicultural world, languages are useful in all areas of work including travel, catering, the police, law, retail, medicine, journalism and ICT. The list is endless.

Course assessment: Listening, speaking, reading, writing - all assessed by terminal examination, worth 25% each.

Additional information: A qualification in a Modern Foreign Language is a key aspect of the EBacc suite of subjects and all students planning a future university education should consider studying a language at GCSE.

Further study: Speaking another language is an invaluable skill. Increasingly Further Educational establishments are recruiting students with a broad range of qualifications including a language at GCSE.

Student view: *"Opens gateways to jobs and travel across the world."*

Other Subjects



“Education turns walls into doors”

- Unknown

ART AND DESIGN

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Students will develop ideas and techniques from given starting points, themes or briefs, producing work that is personal, informed and meaningful. Students will learn to analyse their own work and the work of others in contemporary, historical and cultural contexts.

Course assessment: Coursework (60%) Externally Set Task: (40%); comprising two in depth units of study. Portfolios explore various disciplines of art and design, such as:

- Fine Art: painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, lens-based imagery, alternative media
- Graphic Communication: illustration, advertising, packaging, multi-media
- Photography: lens-based imagery, digital imaging, the moving image

Additional information: Homework consists of research and gathering information, resources and artefacts.

Further study: A good GCSE or Vocational Certificate in Art and Design enables progression to a range of Level 3 courses including the study of Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography, Film Studies, BTEC in Art & Design and Visual Arts.

Student view: *“Art and Design is a challenging and very enjoyable course. There is a lot more creative freedom and a wide range of techniques and mediums to use. If you enjoy Art and have a creative imagination this is definitely a course worth taking.”*

ART AND DESIGN (TEXTILES)

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Students will be developing ideas and techniques from a given theme or brief, producing work that is expressive, decorative or functional through the use of fabrics, dyes and fibres. Students will demonstrate an understanding of various techniques, working practices and genres such as figurative, abstract and symbolic. Students will investigate the function of materials appropriate to their chosen specialism.

Course assessment: Coursework (60%) Externally Set Task: (40%); comprising two in depth units of study. Portfolios explore various disciplines of textiles, such as:

- Printed and dying: fabric painting, transfers, batik, silk painting, dipping, spraying, tie dying block, screen and discharge printing.
- Constructing: working with natural or synthetic yarns, experimenting with alternative media including plastic, paper and wire mesh and investigating the properties of these by techniques such as folding, slashing and fusing.
- Fashion: Fabric and fibres are used in a fashion context, body adornment, accessories and surface decoration.

Additional information: Homework consists of research and gathering information, resources and artefacts.

Further study: A good GCSE or Vocational Certificate in Art and Design enables progression to a range of Level 3 courses including the study of Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography, Film Studies, BTEC in Art & Design and Visual Arts.

Student view: *“Art Textiles is a great course. You will get the chance to be creative and to use your skills and imagination to develop works of Art. Art Textiles is definitely a course worth taking.”*

ART AND DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY)

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Students will be developing ideas and techniques from a given theme or brief, producing work that is expressive and decorative using photography and digital manipulation of images. Students will demonstrate an understanding of various photographic techniques and processes.

Course assessment: Coursework (60%) Externally Set Task: (40%); comprising two in depth units of study. Portfolios explore various disciplines of photography, such as:

- pin hole cameras
- digital processes
- time-lapse photography
- stop-frame animation
- hand manipulation
- film and video
- sun printing
- photomontage
- digital manipulation of images

Additional information: Homework consists of research and gathering information, resources and inspiration.

Further study: A good GCSE in Art and Design Photography enables progression to a range of Level 3 courses including the study of Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Photography, Film Studies, BTEC in Art & Design and Visual Arts.

DANCE

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Dance is a powerful and expressive subject, which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. This course recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and students will study a range of dance styles. They can choose any style to perform and choreograph in, providing it meets the assessment criteria. The study of the anthology of professional works will develop their ability to critically appraise dances of different styles and cultural influences and provides a springboard for engaging practical tasks.

Course assessment: Students will complete two assessments:

1. Performance and choreography (60%). This includes 3 Dance assessments (Solo Performance, Duet/Trio Performance and Choreography).
2. Dance Appreciation (40%). This is the written examination. It is clear, well-structured and easy for students to understand. Students will enjoy the variety of question styles, which include multiple choice, short and extended answer.

Additional information: The course includes regular Dance evenings, theatre visits, workshops and extra-curricular classes.

Further study: People often dance for enjoyment and to express emotion. A good GCSE in Dance will provide students with the skills and experience to progress to Level 3 courses in Dance and other Performing Arts courses.

Student view: *"Choose GCSE Dance if you really like to dance. It is hard work, fast-paced and fun. It's always interesting and keeps you fit as you discover new things".*

DRAMA

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: Drama in Years 10 and 11 is both a practical and academic course that allows students to develop their skills, knowledge and enjoyment of a wide range of performance styles and production work. As well as preparation for a career in the Performing Arts, the course helps to develop confidence, communication and group work skills.

Course assessment:

- **Understanding Drama – Written Exam (40%)** Students develop their knowledge and understanding of Drama styles, genres and practitioners. They respond to a set text and analyse and evaluate a live theatre production.
- **Devised Work (40%)** Original work created by the students exploring style, theme and genre. This is supported by working log book.
- **Scripted Work (20%)** Students rehearse and perform two scripted extracts from modern plays, either as part of a group, or as a monologue.

Additional information: Students will need to see as much live theatre as possible to support their written element of the exam and their own performance work. They will be required to learn sections of text lasting between 5 and 15 minutes. Due to the group work nature of the course, it is essential that students have good attendance to be successful in this subject. Students will be encouraged to involve themselves in as many extra-curricular performances as possible to extend their range.

Further study: GCSE Drama is a platform to study all Performing Arts courses at Level 3.

Student view: *"Drama has given me confidence and allows me to be creative. I love how it forces me to think 'outside the box' whilst at the same time developing my communication, team work and time management skills – all of which look great on my CV!"*

MUSIC GCSE

Qualification: GCSE

Suitable for: Open to all students. It is advisable to be taking instrumental or singing lessons.

Outline of the course: Music GCSE is both a practical and academic course that allows students to develop their knowledge of a wide range of styles of music.

Course assessment:

Performing (30%) – Students are required to prepare a solo piece and an ensemble piece.

Composing (30%) – Students are required to write two original compositions.

Listening (40%) – Exam paper that covers music from classical and pop to film music.

Additional information: Students are encouraged to perform publicly during the course as well as to attend live music events to enhance their knowledge and experience. Some students who choose this option may be given the opportunity to follow BTEC Music Performance or BTEC Music Technology.

Further study: People play music for enjoyment. A good GCSE in Music prepares students for further study in Music and other Performing Arts at Level 3.

Student view: *“As well as continuing to develop my skills in composing and performing from KS3, I have learnt how to analyse music in detail which has prepared me well for A Levels.”*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Qualification: GCSE

Outline of the course: The course is 60% theory and covers topics including anatomy and physiology, training, using data and psychology. This element of the course is very science based. The non-exam assessment is in one team activity, one individual activity and third in either a team or individual activity.

Course assessment: 60% Theory: 40% Practical

Paper 1 (30%) The human body and movement in physical activity (written exam)

Paper 2 (30%) Socio-cultural influences and well-being (written exam)

Practical performance (40%) this work is assessed by teachers and externally moderated.

Additional information: Students who follow the GCSE Physical Education pathway are expected to be competent performers in a wide range of sports, both individually and team-based. Some students who decide to follow a Physical Education option may have the opportunity to follow the BTEC First Award in Sport (see p. 27).

Further study: Fitness is key to a healthy lifestyle. A GCSE in PE will enable progression to:

- Other level 2 vocational qualifications.
- Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals, specifically the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Sport (QCF) or Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Sport and Exercise Science (QCF).
- Academic qualifications, such as A Level Physical Education.
- Employment within the sports and active leisure industry.

Student view: *“The theory is difficult, but very interesting. The practical element is really good”.*

Vocational Certificates



“One learns by doing a thing; for though you think you know it you have no certainty until you try.” – Sophocles

**All technical awards are offered pending approval from the Department of Education.*

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Qualification: WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

Outline of the course: Students will follow the vocational award during Years 10 and 11. They will study units to help them learn to prepare and cook using basic skills, understand food and its functions in the body and in recipes, understand balanced diets and modification of recipes for health, and plan and produce dishes for a purpose. Throughout the course, students will improve their abilities to plan, undertake research, communicate effectively and solve problems.

Course assessment: Students will produce a portfolio of work demonstrating their skills and knowledge across the two years, with an externally assessed examination paper sat in June of Year 10 with an opportunity to re-sit in June Year 11.

Additional information: This course will provide students with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food. Through this course, students will be able to incorporate a significant core of knowledge and theoretical content with broad-ranging applicability, which will provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.

Further Study: Preparing healthy and nutritious food is a key life skill. A pass in Hospitality and Catering enables progression to employment in the catering industry, vocational food apprenticeships, Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery, Certificate in Hospitality and Catering Principles.

Student View: “This course will prepare me for a job in the catering or hospitality industry.”

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Qualification: Cambridge Nationals Level 1/ Level 2 (GCSE equivalent)

Outline of the course:

- Health and well-being for child development
- The equipment and nutritional needs of children from birth to five years
- The development norms of a child from birth to five years

Course assessment:

50% written exam (child health and well-being)

50% coursework

There are two pieces of coursework, which are set by the exam board but will vary slightly from these examples below.

Coursework A) Equipment and nutritional needs of children

For example, you might be asked to select the correct equipment and create a feeding plan for children of a variety of ages age 0-5. You will have learnt about travel, feeding, sleeping, clothing and footwear, as well as the nutritional value of a variety of foods. You will need to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of various choices

Coursework B) Development norms of children 0-5

For example, design a plan for different play activities, which will develop a child's physical, intellectual or social skills. You will test your activities on a real child/ children and have to evaluate your chosen activity, comparing the child against the expected developmental norms for their age.

Additional information: Homework consists of research, planning, gathering, resources and inspiration.

Further study: A level 2 qualification in Child Development is equivalent to a GCSE and will allow access to Level 3 childcare courses. Child Development is an excellent course for anyone interested in working with young children in the future, or who might be interested in a career in the caring professions.

BTEC FIRST AWARD IN SPORT

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Award

Outline of the course: This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in health and fitness. It will provide learners with the experience of using different training techniques and methods to enable them with the opportunity to develop and experience their own fitness programme. Other aspects of the course cover leadership and designing fitness programmes. The First Award in Sport has been designed to provide an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of sport.

Course Assessment: Four units are studied. Three are practically based units and include Leading Sports Activities, Applying the Principles of Personal Training and practical Sports Performance. The fourth unit is an online exam on Fitness for Sport and Exercise.

Additional Information: The qualification builds on learning from Years 7-9 during PE lessons and is designed for those who may wish to explore a vocational route through their option choices.

Further Study: Fitness is key to a healthy lifestyle. A BTEC in PE will enable progression to

- Other level 2 vocational qualifications.
- Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals, specifically the Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Sport (QCF) or Edexcel BTEC Level 3 in Sport and Exercise Science (QCF).
- Employment within the sports and active leisure industry.

Student View: *“The BTEC course has a good balance of theory and practical and has helped me to develop my understanding of sport and improve my practical performance”.*

MUSIC BTEC - PERFORMANCE

Qualification: BTEC

Suitable for: All Students. The ability to play an instrument or sing is an advantage.

Outline of the course: Music BTEC is a practical course that allows students to develop their knowledge of a wide range of styles of music as well as specialising in the area of performance. Students will also gain practical skills such as recording and mixing to preparing them for the music industry.

Course assessment: The BTEC course is made up of 3 coursework units and 1 compulsory unit, 'The Music Industry', which is exam based.

Additional Information: Students are encouraged to perform publicly during the course as well as to attend live music events to enhance their knowledge and experience. Some students who choose this option may be selected to follow GCSE Music.

Further Study: BTEC Music (Level 3), Music Technology and Performing Arts.

Student view: *"The BTEC course really suits me as I can choose to specialise in performance and prepare for a job in the music industry."*

MUSIC BTEC - TECHNOLOGY

Qualification: BTEC

Outline of the course: Music Technology BTEC is a course that allows students to specialise in the use of computer and recording studios to produce and record music. Students will learn how to operate and work with advanced sequencers such as Logic Pro X, as well as learn about different types of microphones and their applications.

Course assessment: The BTEC course is made up of 3 coursework units and 1 compulsory unit, 'The Music Industry' which is exam based.

Additional Information: Students are encouraged to perform publicly during the course as well as to attend live music events to enhance their knowledge and experience. Some students who choose this option may be selected to follow GCSE Music.

Further Study: People play music for enjoyment. A good pass in Music BTEC prepares students for further study in Music Production and other Performing Arts at Level 3.

Student view: *"I've really enjoyed the computer side of music during the lower years and now I can specialise in technology and concentrate on making electronic music"*

DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BTEC

Qualification: BTEC Tech Award (Pearson)

Outline of the course: This BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology. This exciting and challenging course will introduce you to the digital sector. By studying for your award you will gain the important knowledge, understanding and skills that are the foundations for working in this area. This will include many of the skills that are used by professionals on a day-to-day basis, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces and keeping data secure. You will also learn about virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues, with the opportunity to apply these in realistic scenarios.

Course assessment:

You will be assessed in two different ways. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. This means that you will have an assignment brief to complete a set task. The assignment will cover what you have been learning about and will be an opportunity to apply your knowledge and skills. This is marked and graded in school. Your third assessment (for Component 3) will be an external assessment. This will be an exam that is set and marked by Pearson.

Additional information: The Award complements learning in GCSE programmes, such as the GCSE in Computer Science, by broadening experience and skills participation in different type of activities. It gives learners the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills practically through project work, such as planning and designing a user interface and developing a dashboard to interpret trends in data.

Further study: Preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as A Levels or BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

Student view: *“I have enjoyed this course this year including the trip to experiment with user interfaces in the Library, The Railway Station, The Beacon and McDonalds! It has been a good mix of practical and theory work. ”*

