



READ THIS
CAREFULLY

FORGE VALLEY PATHWAYS 2025

A Resource for Pupils



⇒ SOME GOOD ADVICE ⇒

CHOOSE SUBJECTS WHICH YOU LIKE, ACHIEVE WELL IN AND THAT INTEREST YOU!

READ THIS PATHWAYS INFO. CAREFULLY!

DISCUSS OPTIONS WITH YOUR TUTOR AND YOUR FAMILY!

GO TO THE CAREERS TEAM FOR ADVICE!

DISCUSS YOUR STRENGTHS, AND AREAS OF DEVELOPMENT WITH YOUR TEACHER!

UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL PUPILS IN ALL SUBJECTS!

MAKE SURE THAT YOU ARE HAPPY WITH YOUR CHOICES

REALISE THAT THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE ARE IMPORTANT!

⇒ SOME MORE GOOD ADVICE ⇒

DON'T EXPECT TO DROP OR SWITCH SUBJECTS!

DON'T MAKE YOUR MIND UP BEFORE YOU KNOW ALL THE FACTS!

DON'T CHOOSE A COURSE BECAUSE YOUR FRIENDS HAVE DONE SO!

DON'T MAKE DECISIONS HASTILY OR LIGHTLY!

DON'T LET YOUR OPINION OF A TEACHER INFLUENCE YOUR CHOICE!

DON'T CHOOSE (OR IGNORE) A SUBJECT BECAUSE OF THE OPINION OF OTHERS!

DON'T PANIC WE ARE HERE TO HELP!

THERE ARE NO "SOFT OPTIONS", YOU WILL HAVE TO WORK HARD IN ALL SUBJECTS!

KEY STAFF



MRS BROWN

As CAREERS OFFICER, Mrs Brown is available to help you with all aspects of planning for your future career, helping you to understand different types of qualifications & the opportunities they offer.



MR WATSON

As ASSISTANT HEAD responsible for KS4 pathways, Mr Watson can help you understand how each subject fits into your timetable & how to make your choices work best for you at school.



CORE SUBJECTS

Everybody will
take these
courses!

GCSE Science

GCSE English

GCSE Maths

GCSE Religious Studies



OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

GCSE Science (Ms Hazelby)

GCSE Business Studies (Mrs Archer)

GCSE History (Mrs Warburton)

GCSE Computer Science (Mrs Clement)

GCSE Geography (Mr Taylor-Rowe)

Vocational Award in Health & Social Care (Miss Bowler)

GCSE Spanish (Miss Leach)

BTEC Sport (Mr Kerrison)

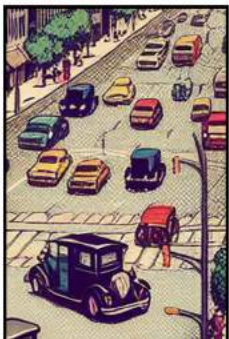
Hospitality & Catering Lvl 1 & 2 (Mr Taylor & Ms Parkes)

GCSE Design Technology (Mr Taylor & Mr Hudson)

GCSE Art & Design (Ms Wardle)

BTEC Performing Arts (Miss Travers)

Creative iMedia (Mrs Clement)



GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES!

What will I learn on this course?

You will be introduced to the world of small businesses & look at what makes a successful business person. You will find out how to develop an idea & spot an opportunity, then turn that idea into a successful business.

You will understand how to make a business effective & manage money well. You will also see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved, as well as learning about how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy.



What skills do I need?

You will need to master many skills which will be useful throughout your life, including how to work effectively individually & as part of a team, written & verbal communication skills, presenting information, time-management, managing your finances & independent research skills.

How will the course be assessed?

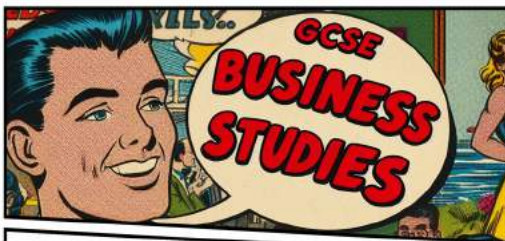
You will sit two exams at the end of the course. Each paper contains a mix of multiple choice, calculations, short & extended written answers, totalling 90 marks.

If I follow this course, where could it lead me?

There are many Post16 courses available in school, college & at university for which GCSE Business Studies will provide a solid foundation. Likewise there are many career choices that will benefit from knowledge & skills gained from this course, such as accounting, marketing, administration & law.

What else do I need to know?

This course requires pupils to take an interest in current affairs & keep themselves informed of developments in the world of business. Unlike many subjects, this is one which changes on a continual basis.



GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

GCSE SPANISH!

In GCSE Spanish, you will develop language skills in a variety of contexts and topic areas in four key skills areas: Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening. The course covers a range of topics through which these four skills are practised: Healthy Lifestyles, Holidays, Local Area, and Social & Global problems such as The Environment...

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

Studying GCSE Modern Foreign Languages requires hard work and dedication. The subject demands good communication and writing skills as oracy and literacy are key skills necessary to achieve well in this subject. You need to enjoy the language and be prepared to work consistently hard throughout the two-year course; this includes completing weekly vocabulary learning homework.



If I follow this course, where could it take me?

You can continue with your language study at Forge Valley Sixth Form, or college, at A-level. If you choose to stop studying the subject at GCSE, you will have already developed excellent communication skills, which are highly regarded by higher education institutions and employers. You will also have the ability to speak a language which is the second most widely spoken language in the world!

How is this course assessed?

The course is assessed through final exams at the end of Y11 in the four key skills areas:

Reading, Speaking, Listening and Writing.

Each examination is worth 25% of the final GCSE grade.



What else do I need to know?

You will receive dedicated time with our Foreign Language Assistant to improve your spoken language skills and priority for places on study trips abroad!

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE!

What will I learn on this course?

This course is split into two main components, which cover the following: hardware, problem solving, and the production of a programmed solution to a problem.



What skills do I need?

You will need to have at least a level 5 in ICT & Maths as well as a passion for programming & all things computerised. This course is for you if you have spent some of your own spare time coding. You will need to enjoy solving problems and should be resilient when things don't go to plan.

How will the course be assessed?

There will be multiple components including written exam papers based on computer science theory as well as practical coding

If I follow this course, where could it lead me?

You can go on to study A-level IT or an ICT or Computing-related course, useful for jobs in cyber security & computer forensics, programming, designing code, building websites & apps, and much much more...

What else do I need to know?

This is one of the most rewarding if you are willing to commit to hard work & prepared to go the extra mile. This is not a course for the casual Xbox gamer. There will be a lot of note-taking as there are 60 topics to cover.



GCSE CREATIVE iMEDIA!

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn how to use computer skills like a professional developer & how to impress employers with your presentation skills. You will create products including videos, animations, sound projects, graphics & interactive digital media (such as apps and websites).

What skills do I need to succeed on this course?

You need to be prepared to edit and improve the presentation of work and have an interest in learning different software tools. The ability to plan a project and evaluate it are beneficial. Some drawing will be involved in the planning stages, not just practical computer work, and the exam contains written practice questions. You need to be able to think outside the box, and be creative when it comes to how you present and develop a solution - for example, using voice in a presentation or creating a unique slide master!



How will this course be assessed?

You will study three units:

R081 Pre-Production Skills (1hr15m Written Exam)

R082 Creating Digital Graphics (Coursework)

You will create a range of planning documents including mood boards, work plans, mind maps, etc., and produce evaluations. As well as spend lots of time editing images using professional software, such as Photoshop, Drawplus plus others. This coursework is all about image editing - so great for artists/graphics/product design/content creators, even interest in architecture. You will design branding and logos.

Optional 3rd Unit: Creative Coursework (Games Design, Web, Graphics or even a Comic like this one!)

If I follow this course, where could it lead me?

You could go on to study A-level IT or an ICT or Computing-related course, useful for jobs in multimedia, film, TV and radio industries, as well as graphic design, gaming, web design and much more...

What else do I need to know?

We try to use real-world examples & link with local & national businesses & industries. Trips in the past have included The National Video Game Museum, Alton Towers, Harry Potter World & The Showroom Cinema.



GCSE ART & DESIGN!

What will I learn on this course?

You will learn how to research, develop, refine and explore a range of skills & media, including observational drawing, photography, large scale work, felt making, wire & printing. You will learn to discuss, share & present ideas individually and in small groups evaluating your own outcomes and the work of other artists. You will be able to create 2D & 3D pieces of work, depending on your ideas & vision, with opportunities to introduce your own techniques.



What skills do I need?

You must have a basic understanding & skill in observational drawing & be able to produce work from primary & secondary sources, have vision & enthusiasm for creating ideas, & resilience to hone your research skills.

How will this course be assessed?



Coursework (60% of your GCSE): you will produce preparation sheets responding to the assessment objectives 1-4 given by the AQA exam board & produce final pieces of work to run along side these. The 60% covers 3 units of work carried out throughout the two years of study.

Externally set task (40% of your GCSE): set by the AQA exam board, a series of statements will be given, of which you will choose one to complete. A lead-in (preparatory) time of 8 weeks is given to complete preparation sheets. This includes research, development of ideas and is followed by a supervised exam of 10 hours in which you will produce your final piece of work.

What else do I need to know?

Art requires an amount of home study to complete outcomes so that lessons can be spent learning new skills & techniques. Art rooms will be available to work in after school & teachers will be available to support.



GCSE MUSIC!



What will I learn on this course?

You will learn to improve your performing of solo & group pieces in many styles of music. You will concentrate on your best or favourite instrument or voice, but you will also get the chance to try some new ones. You will learn to compose in a range of styles and for a number of instruments, using computer software. You will also learn to compose pop music, producing a lead sheet. You will learn to analyse and appraise music using technical vocabulary, recognising different elements of music within a wide range of pop, classical and world music.



How is this course assessed?

Performing in music is worth 30% of your GCSE. You will choose your best solo & group performances, which will be recorded across the 2 years. You are assessed on 2 compositions, which are controlled assessments & worth another 30% of the qualification. The remaining 40% is a final listening exam, during which you listen to extracts of music and answer questions on instruments, rhythms & harmonies.

What skills do I need?

You will need to have an enthusiasm for music. You need to already play an instrument, sing to a reasonable standard, or be confident in your ability to pick up these skills very quickly. It really helps, but is not essential, if you can read music or understand some technical music vocabulary, as these are the things that other pupils have found most difficult in the past. You will need to be creative, and have the ability to solve problems, be resilient and motivated.

Where could GCSE Music take me?

Many pupils go on to take music at a higher level, such as A-Level or BTEC. The skills you learn in GCSE music are universal, such as communication, self-confidence and resilience. Many employers favour applications from candidates with music on their CV!



BTEC SPORT!

What will I learn on this course?

This course is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSEs that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the Sports sector. It provides a broad introduction & allows you to make an informed decision about your future & career. This qualification enables you to develop sector-specific skills such as sport analysis and sport leadership, & personal skills such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical & skills-based approach to learning and assessment.



This course is split into three components, covered across two years...

Component 1: Preparing People for Sport & Physical Activity (Assessed via Controlled Assessment)

Learners will explore the different kinds of provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, the barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a cho-sen sport or activity, and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity.



BTEC SPORT!



Component 2: Taking Part & Improving Other Participants' Sporting Performance (Assessed via Controlled Assessment)

Learners will investigate the components of fitness & their effect on performance. They will take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply meth-ods & sporting drills to improve other particiants' sporting performance.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport & Physical Activity (Assessed via Synoptic Exam)

Learners will be introduced to and will develop an understanding of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity,

They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness.



Vocational Award in Health & Social Care

The Eduqas Level 1 / 2 Vocational Award (Technical Award) in Health and Social care is an ideal qualification for those pupils who want a broad background in health and social care or are considering a career in a care profession. Examples of employment that this vocational qualification may lead to include; nursing, physiotherapy, midwifery, social work, care assistant and occupational therapist, to name a few. This course is designed to suit those studying health and social care for the first time.



This course is split into 2 units, covered across the 2 years....

Unit 1

Human Lifespan Development
40% of the final grade

This unit introduces learners to different ways that individuals grow and develop during the life stages, including the different factors that can affect growth and development. Learners will gain understanding of how self-concept is developed and how health and well-being is promoted.

This unit will be assessed through a 1 hour 20 mins examination which can either be taken on a computer or as a written paper.



Vocational Award in Health & Social Care

Unit 2

Outcome-focused and person-centred practice in health and social care

60% of the final grade

This unit introduces learners to the value of person-centred practice, through application of how provision and practitioners' roles meet the needs of individuals, and how practice is underpinned by legislation and standards.



Unit 2 continued....

Learners will also gain an understanding of safeguarding and types of abuse. They will apply their knowledge of modern-day challenges to health and well-being which individuals face, and the impact of these on the health and social care sector.

This unit will be assessed through controlled assessment.



HOSPITALITY & CATERING!

LEVEL
1 & 2!!

What will I learn on this course?

Hospitality & Catering curriculum will be assessed through tasks set by the examination board under controlled conditions within the classroom & an external examination. Students complete the course content required for the written assessment across years 10 & 11, with focussed revision sessions in Y11. There is a strong focus on developing practical cooking & presentation skills as well as producing food products to a brief.

Required skills:

You need to have a desire to cook and prepare food as well as possessing organisational skills, self-motivation, research skills and exam & presentation skills. You need the ability to work individually, in pairs and in groups & have good communication skills through speaking and writing.



How is this course assessed?

Unit 1: The Hospitality & Catering Industry (40%)
This unit will be taught across the two years

Unit 2: Hospitality & Catering in Action (60%)
This unit will be taught across the two years and will be internally assessed through a portfolio of evidence and a practical assessment.

Where could this course lead me?

It would be the first step to studying food at Post-16. It counts as a relevant qualification for entry to any type of Post-16 education. It also contributes to many other jobs & careers. You will learn a wide range of skills that will be relevant throughout your life.

What else do I need to know?

Hospitality & Catering requires a significant amount of homework, so that lessons can be spent learning practical skills. You must expect to complete homework regularly across the two years



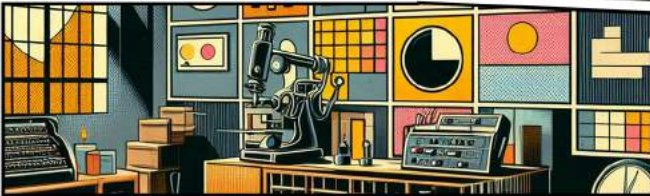
GCSE DESIGN TECHNOLOGY!

What will I learn on this course?

Design Technology makes the best use of our facilities, drawing on our workshop and IT capabilities. You will focus on the principles of Explorations, Creation and Evaluation across all aspects of Design Technology. You will work with materials such as timbers, metals and polymers. You will learn to develop independent practical skills and gain experience on working to strict deadlines.

What skills do I need to succeed?

You need to have a desire to design and manufacture as well as possessing organisational skills, self-motivation, research skills and exam & presentation skills. You need the ability to work individually, in pairs and in groups & have good communication skills through speaking and writing.



How is this course assessed?

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) - approx. 40hrs
100 marks (50% of your GCSE)

Written Exam - 2hrs
100 marks (50% of your GCSE)

Where could this course lead me?

It would be the first step to studying Design at Post-16. It counts as a relevant qualification for entry to any type of Post-16 education. It also contributes to many other jobs & careers. You will learn a wide range of skills that will be relevant throughout your life.

Design Technology requires a large amount of homework, so that lessons can be spent learning practical skills. You will access and use our design package (Fusion360), which will enhance your creativity & design skills.



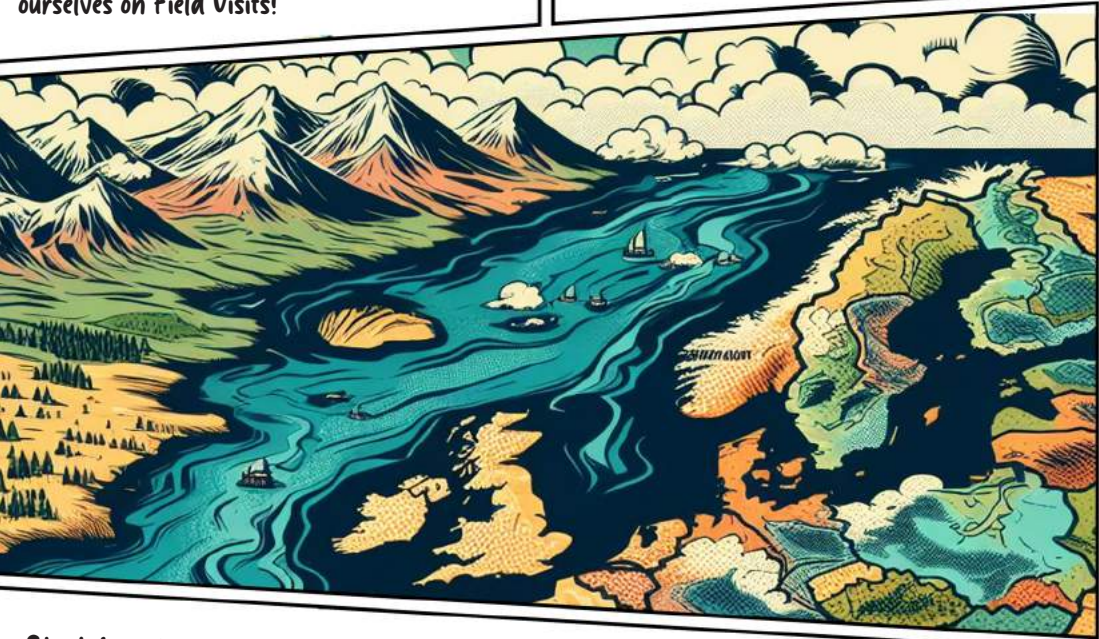
GCSE GEOGRAPHY!

What will I learn on this course?

Geography looks at the world in which we live and asks questions about what is happening and why; from the diverse & dynamic geography of the UK, to exploring the complexities of the planet and the interconnections that take place in the wider world. Can the world cope with a population of over 8 billion people? Are ecosystems really key to our survival as a species? We even get out there to see it for ourselves on Field Visits!

What skills do I need?

You need to be interested & inquisitive about the world in which we live. You need to have good communication skills and enjoy working both independently and as a team. The course will improve your numeracy, literacy & ICT skills as well as encourage you to problem solve. It will also expand your spatial, environmental and social awareness...



Studying Geography can take you anywhere and everywhere! Geography has one of the highest rates of graduate employability, and is highly valued by employers around the world. It is a subject in its own right, complements other subjects and can lead to a host of interesting careers; some of which are listed here: Advertising, Architecture, Cartography, Landscape Design, Surveying, Environmental Health, Estate Management, Nature, Conservation, Archaeology, Law, Libraries, Museums and much much more...



Unit 1: Living in the UK Today (30%)

During the unit we will discover the diverse natural landscapes of the UK & examine why the country we live in looks like it does. Why does the UK sometimes suffer from flooding & what is the impact on people & the environment? Are the costs of coastal management justified or should we let nature take its course? What is the population of the UK & what does this mean for the future? Does everyone have the same opportunities? How are we connected to other countries & how does it affect our daily lives?

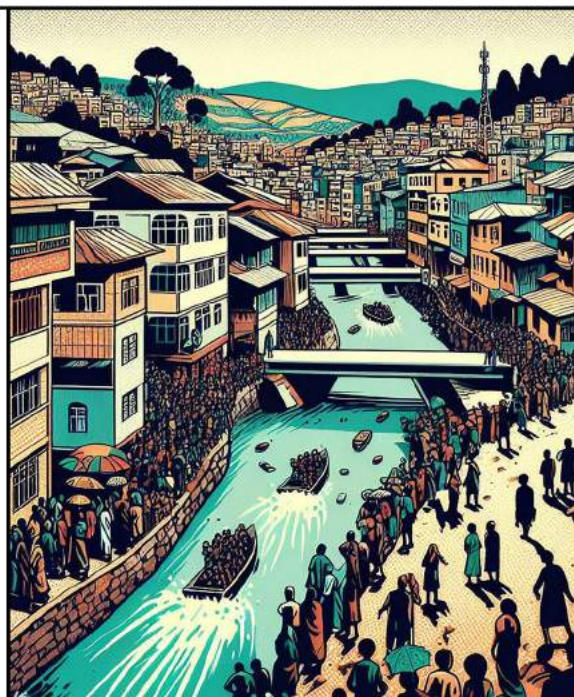


Unit 2: The World Around Us (30%)

This unit examines questions such as: why are ecosystems important? What impacts are people having on coral reefs and rainforests? Can we prevent further damage to these areas and work towards a sustainable future? Why is the world's population so unequal in terms of wealth and resources? Why do some people live well whilst others struggle to get one meal per day? What are the environmental threats that face our planet? How can we tackle them? Will we be successful?

Unit 3: Geographical Skills & Fieldwork (40%)

In this unit, you will be taught a huge variety of skills, which will not only enable you to become an expert geographer, but will also assist you in other subjects (e.g. Science & Maths) and the world beyond school too! You will also get out of the classroom and explore the world around you by conducting fieldwork. There may also be the opportunity to attend a visit to Italy to see the amazing Geography around the Bay of Naples!



GCSE HISTORY!

What will I learn on this course?

Over your two year History course, you will understand more about the modern world & learn how Britain was shaped into the country it is today. The course is made up of five units; In Y10 you will study The People's Health 1250-present & The Norman Conquest, as well as visit Connisburgh Castle. In Y11 you will study The Making of America 1789 -1900 & Living Under Nazi Rule 1933 - 45. Each Unit is worth 20% of your GCSE



What skills do I need?

GCSE History builds on skills you already have, such as: interpreting sources, considering both sides of an argument, lining and explaining causes and consequences, analysing change & continuity, justifying your arguments & evaluating historical evidence for reliability and utility.





How is this course assessed?



Thematic study The People's Health, c.1250-present	1 hour 45-minute paper 40 marks each (80 marks total)	20%
British Depth Study The Norman Conquest, 1065-1087		20%
History Around Us: The site study	1-hour paper 40 marks (+10 SPaG)	20%
Period Study The making of America, 1789-1900	1 hour 45-minute paper 40 marks each (80 marks total)	20%
World Depth Study Living Under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945		20%

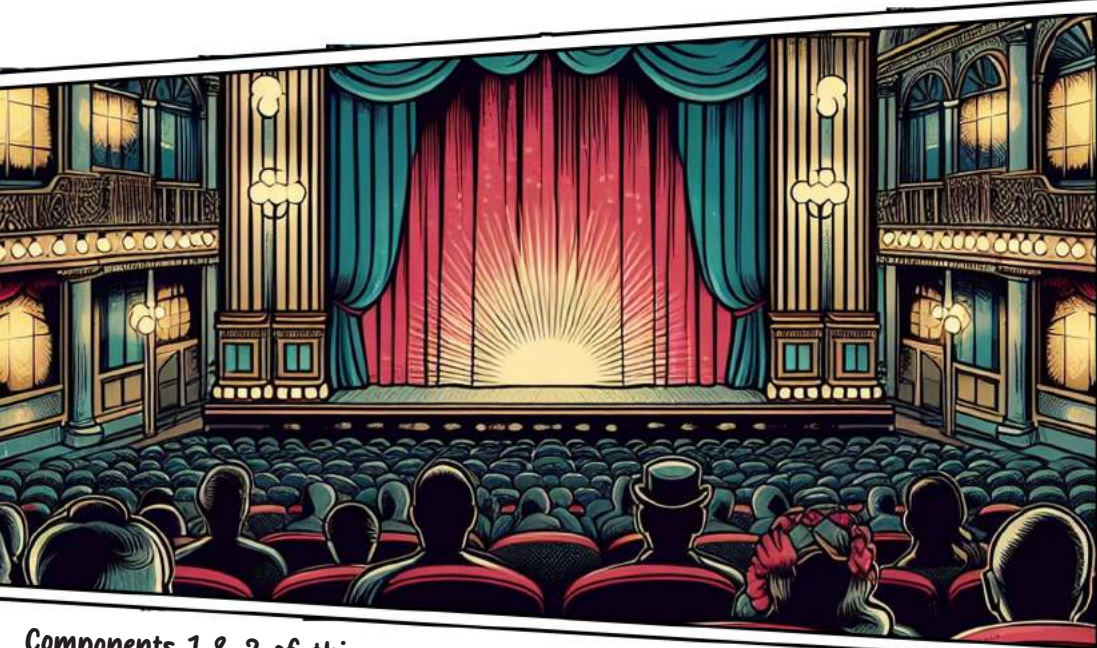
What else do I need to know?

GCSE History allows you to focus on topics in depth to gain a more detailed & deeper understanding of how events in the past have led to ideas, attitudes, values and systems we have today. History enables us to make sense of the world we live in and what it means to be human!



BTEC PERFORMING ARTS!

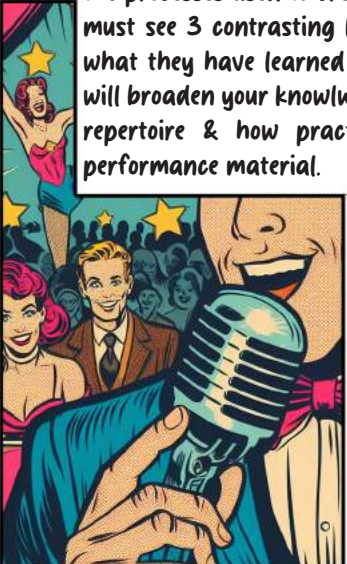
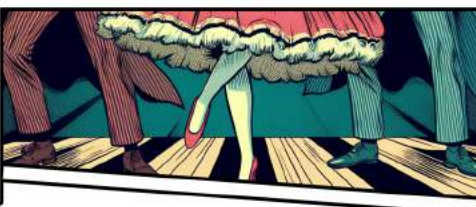
The BTEC Level 1 & 2 Award in Performing Arts is for learners who want to acquire performance knowledge & technical skills by studying acting, dance or musical theatre as a part of their KS4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning performance skills, theatre knowledge, communication techniques, and developing self-esteem in a vocational course exploring the performance art industry. This qualification will broaden your experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to you within this industry by studying a range of genres and watching professional live performances...



Components 1 & 2 of this course are assessed via internal assessment. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice. The components focus on knowledge and understanding of a range of performance styles & disciplines. You will develop & apply skills such as: practical & interpretative communication, rehearsal & performance, independent reflection & peer assessment. You will develop your own strengths & areas to improve in workshops & class presentation, alongside a written log book to support your progress.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

This component is worth 30% of your qualification. Learners develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work & the processes used to create performance. Learners must see 3 contrasting live performances & apply what they have learned to their own practice. You will broaden your knowledge by observing existing repertoire & how practitioners' work influences performance material.



Component 2: Developing Skills & Techniques the Performing Arts

This component is worth 30% of your qualification. Learners will develop their own performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting, dance & musical theatre repertoire as performers. You will communicate intentions to an audience through a variety of disciplines through rehearsing, developing, reviewing and performing a polished piece of repertoire. Throughout your development, you will review your own progress & consider how to make improvements.

Component 3: Responding to a Brief

This component is worth 40% of your qualification and is an externally examined unit. Learners will work as a part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance in response to a given brief & stimulus. The brief will outline the performance requirements, asking you to consider your target audience & to start the creative process. Working as a group you will develop ideas for your performance & apply skills & techniques to communicate your creative intentions to your audience. The work may involve improvisation, vocal work, movement techniques or assisting with audience involvement.





For More Information:

tel:01142348805

email: enquiries@forgevalley.sheffield.sch.uk

Ambition... Endeavour... Success...