



Key Stage 4 Options

2020-2022

Dear Student

This is an exciting time for you. In the next two weeks you will make important decisions about some of the courses you will study in your final two years at Whitstone. These decisions are important because they will influence your enjoyment of school, your achievements at school and your life after school.

This is, therefore, also an anxious time for you. With choice comes responsibility. The curriculum we have created is designed to make sure that you are studying the right combination of courses for you. You are then left free to focus on your choices knowing that the essentials are in place.

In this booklet you will find lots of information about the courses on offer at Whitstone. Please read this carefully and remember to keep discussing your options with your parents, teachers and tutors.

Kind regards



Mr Atkins

Key Dates

Parents' and Options' Evening	16 th March
Deadline for the return of Choices Form	23 rd March

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Grade Key

GCSE Grading	BTEC Grading
9/8	Level 2 Distinction*
7	Level 2 Distinction
6/5	Level 2 Merit
5/4	Level 2 Pass
3	Level 1 Pass
2	Level 1 Pass
1	Level 1 Pass

English Language GCSE

Contact: Mr Lappin-Cook

AQA Examination Board

How you will be assessed:

- **Paper 1: Explorations in creative reading and writing**
Reading and writing examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of qualification)
- **Paper 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives**
Reading and writing examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of qualification)
- **Spoken Language:**
Non-examination assessment: (0% weighting of GCSE)

GCSE grading: 9 - 1

English Literature GCSE

Contact: Mr Lappin-Cook

AQA Examination Board

How you will be assessed:

- **Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel**
Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (40% of qualification)
- **Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry**
Written examination: 2 hours 15 minutes (60% of qualification)

GCSE grading: 9 - 1

Mathematics GCSE**Contact:** Mr Elsegood

The department uses a variety of resources in order to deliver the subject content of the AQA Linear Syllabus. The department aims to provide a course which allows students to develop a variety of skills in the five areas of mathematics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability and statistics.

Where possible learning will take place through investigations and practical mathematics, including the use of computers.

How you will be assessed: there are three exams, two calculator and one non-calculator, which will be taken at the end of Year 11.

GCSE grading: 9 - 1

Science GCSE**Contact:** Mr Prichard

Students will study the Trilogy of Science from the AQA syllabus. Students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There is no formal coursework assessment but specific practicals will be assessed in the final papers. All exams are to be taken at the end of Year 11. Students will receive two GCSE grades 9-1.

At the end of Year 11 students will sit two exams for each Science, six papers in total. The results will be combined to give two GCSEs.

GCSE grading: 9 - 1

The course is made up of four units which are spread across the two years. The units are designed to give learners a wider understanding of art and design through a broad and balanced introduction to the core skills. Possible areas of study include: Graphic Design, Photography, Textiles and Visual Arts.

The two core units are:

- Introduction to Specialist Pathways in Art and Design – you will explore, experiment with and learn how to use specialist materials and techniques.
- Creative Project in Art and Design - you will choose your own brief from the exam paper. Your choice should inspire you through your preferred area of Art and Design.

The two specialist units are:

- Communication Ideas in 2D – you will explore 2D visual language around the theme of *Natural Forms*.
- Investigating Contextual References – you will find out how artwork from the past has influenced contemporary design, on the theme of *Identity*.

With further study, students go into careers including: Fine Art, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Internet/Web Design, Product Design, Advertising, Fashion, Three Dimensional Design, Architecture, Games Design, Film and Animation etc.

How you will be assessed:

- 75% assignments which are set and marked by the teacher and completed in class.
- 25% brief chosen from the exam paper and marked by the exam board.

BTEC grading:

Level 2 Distinction*

Level 2 Distinction

Level 2 Merit

Level 2 Pass

Level 1 Pass

BTEC Dance combines theory and practical together to deepen students' understanding about the performing arts industry. Students will be assessed on their development as a dancer. This includes their physical and interpretive skills, their creativity through choreography and performance and their overall awareness of what being a dancer involves.

The course is made up of three components, two of which are assessed in school by the teacher and the third is set and marked by the exam board:

1. Exploring the Performing Arts
2. Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts
3. Performing to a Brief

Components one and two are internally assessed and component three is externally assessed.

Dance should be chosen by students who are passionate, self-motivated and keen to improve their skills as a dancer. Students will be individually assessed. However, group work is an essential part of the course, especially in component three and therefore good organisation skills and attendance are essential.

How you will be assessed:

- 60% - assignments which are set and marked by the teacher and completed in class
- 40% - a task set and assessed by the exam board.

BTEC grading:

Level 2 Distinction*

Level 2 Distinction

Level 2 Merit

Level 2 Pass

Level 1 Distinction

Level 1 Merit

Level 1 Pass

The GCSE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity for students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products and prototypes. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, students will participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of wider influences on design and technology.

The GCSE enables students to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise, in order to:

- develop real design proposals as a result of the exploration of design opportunities
- use imagination, experimentation and combine ideas when designing
- develop the skills to critique and refine their own ideas whilst designing and making
- communicate their design ideas and decisions using different media and techniques, as appropriate for different audiences at key points in their designing
- develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing their own project work
- develop a broad knowledge of materials, components and technologies and practical skills to develop high quality, imaginative and functional prototypes
- be ambitious and open to explore and take design risks in order to stretch the development of design proposals
- consider the costs, commercial viability and marketing of products

How you will be assessed:

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century Written examination:
2 hours 50% of qualification

Component 2: Design and make task Non-exam assessment:
Approximately 35 hours 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by the exam board, assessing candidates' ability to identify, investigate and outline design possibilities then design and make prototypes. Also their ability to analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

GCSE Grading: **9-1**

The course is lively and varied in content involving the preparation and performance of both scripted and devised drama. It is split into three components, two of which are assessed in school by the teacher and the third in set and marked by the exam board.

In component one, students have to study three plays of differing styles. Through this they will look at the role of an actor, director, choreographer, and playwright in the creation of a piece of theatre

In component two students will develop their skills as an actor. This involves learning scripts, preparing improvised pieces and an ongoing log book to chart their developing skills both in performing and managing their time and concentration in lessons.

The final component is the set task from the exam board and makes up the externally assessed part of the course. Students will need to create a piece of devised work in a small group. This piece must be based on a theme given to them by the exam board.

Drama should be chosen by students who are self-motivated and keen to improve their performance skills. Students will be individually assessed however group work is an essential part of the course, especially in component 3 and therefore good organisation skills and attendance are essential.

How you will be assessed:

- 60% - assignments which are set and marked by the teacher and completed in class
- 40% - a task set and assessed by the exam board.

BTEC grading:

Level 2 Distinction*
Level 2 Distinction
Level 2 Merit
Level 2 Pass
Level 1 Distinction
Level 1 Merit
Level 1 Pass

Knowing a foreign language is an important skill to have in our technological world, where, with a single click of the mouse, we can be transported to any corner of the globe.

Having knowledge of a foreign language will not only help you to communicate with people from other countries and learn about their culture, it can also help you to build your communication skills generally. It can give you greater knowledge of your own language; it can help you to build your self-confidence and will put you in the minority of 34% of Britons who can speak a foreign language. Ultimately it's fun to learn, so why not have a go?

The French GCSE course follows themes of study that are relevant to you. Topics include: personal relationships, technology, health, social issues, equality, leisure, local and global environment, work and education.

During the course, you will have access to a wide range of resources, designed specifically to cover the relevant language and vocabulary, including authentic listening and reading materials. You will be expected to participate readily in group and pair work and will have plenty of opportunity to practise your spoken language. You will be expected to learn vocabulary regularly and learn pieces of language from memory. In addition to this, you will have the opportunity to experience French culture through cultural activities both in and outside the classroom.

How you will be assessed:

There will be four exams at the end of Year 11 in listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each exam will carry equal weighting of 25%.

GCSE grading: 9 - 1

In our fragile and ever changing world, Geography has become ever more important. Increasingly the individual decisions we make in our country have wide ranging effects across the world and so it is important to understand your part in this global machine in order to make the right choices for yourself in the future.

Geography is a broad subject. The topics you study and the skills you learn can be transferred to most jobs. GCSE Geography follows topics that are both local to you as well as looking at places across the world. Below is an outline of what we will cover.

Living with the Physical Environment

Earthquakes, volcanoes, weather and climate change; coastal and river landscapes; ecosystems, tropical rainforests and cold environments; geographical skills.

Challenges of the Human Environment

World population growth and changing cities; changing economic world; the challenge of resource management; geographical skills.

Geographical Applications

Two geographical enquiries; issue evaluation; geographical skills.

How you will be assessed:

Three exams at the end of Year 11.

GCSE grading: 9 - 1

This course combines theory with practice, and is a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification which provides the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to prepare learners for employment or further study.

The two-year course will enable learners to gain more experience and insight into the health, social care and early years sector and allow them to progress into employment in a supervised role or to further study such as A levels, BTEC Nationals or Diplomas.

Overall it has the potential to inform career or further education decisions and provide an initial experience of this vocational area. The course consists of completing three components.

The components cover a wide range of areas within the health and social care professions and include: Human Lifespan Development; Health and Social Care Services and Values; Health and Wellbeing (externally assessed).

How you will be assessed:

- 60% - assignments which are set and marked by the teacher and completed in class and independently
- 40% - an examination marked by the exam board.

BTEC grading:

Level 2 Distinction*

Level 2 Distinction

Level 2 Merit

Level 2 Pass

Level 1 Distinction

Level 1 Merit

Level 1 Pass

History is an important subject to study to help us understand our past and make sense of the world in which we live. The new GCSE contains an exciting range of topics and more British history than ever before.

Topics vary from the cowboys, explorers and gold miners of **The American West** to the doctors, anatomists and gruesome scientists of **Medicine in Britain**. There are brand new units on **The British Sector of the Western Front** during World War One, where you will learn about the struggles of the troops in the appalling conditions of Northern France and Belgium, and a study of **Early Elizabethan England** where you will learn about the machinations of Queen Elizabeth I and her ministers as they attempted to control a country divided by religion and threatened by invasion. In addition we will be studying **Weimar and Nazi Germany**, learning about the rise of Hitler and the persecution of those who stood in his way.

Studying History improves your investigation skills, broadens your understanding of the modern world and enables you to learn about the interesting and intricate lives of people from the past.

How you will be assessed:

Three exams at the end of Year 11 covering five topics:

- Paper 1: Medicine in Britain c1250-modern day and The British Sector of the Western Front; injuries, treatments and the trenches (30% of GCSE, 1 hour 15 minutes).
- Paper 2: The American West c1835-1895 and Early Elizabethan England c1558 – 1588 (40% of GCSE, 1 hour 45 minutes).
- Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939 (30% of GCSE, 1 hour 20 minutes).

GCSE grading: 9 - 1

In this qualification, learners will have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

It provides learners with the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations.

This qualification consists of two units:

- Unit 1 The Hospitality and Catering Industry – Externally assessed exam
- Unit 2 Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action – Internally assessed

How you will be assessed:

- 60% coursework, set and marked by the teacher and completed in class
- 40% an examination marked by the exam board.

Grading

Level 2 Distinction*

Level 2 Distinction

Level 2 Merit

Level 2 Pass

Level 1 Pass

This course is modern, relevant and teaches practical elements of ICT including creating engaging and interactive visual content. There is a large coursework contribution to the final grade which suits learners who enjoy coursework more than exams.

The two coursework units are:

- **Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques** - You will learn the different design principles that can be used to design effective user interfaces and apply appropriate project planning techniques to create a user interface that meets user requirements. You will learn how effective design and planning has a major impact on the user experience.
- **Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data** - you will learn the different data manipulation tools that can be used to change the way that data is presented. You will provide clear summaries of the data and present them in a dashboard that will allow organisations to make effective decisions.

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The exam unit is:

- **Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices** - This component will give you an opportunity to explore how the developments in technology over recent years have enabled modern organisations to communicate and collaborate more effectively than ever before.

How you will be assessed:

- 60% coursework, set and marked by the teacher and completed in class
- 40% an examination marked by the exam board.

BTEC grading:

Level 2 Distinction*

Level 2 Distinction

Level 2 Merit

Level 2 Pass

Level 1 Distinction

Level 1 Merit

Level 1 Pass

The course is designed to provide work-related qualifications in a range of sectors found in the music industry. It will also provide you with the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary for careers in music, musical appreciation or cross-curricular learning with other subjects. The topics include:

- the music industry
- managing a music product (organising and planning a gig/concert)
- music composition
- music performance.

The course is designed to personalise your own learning. You will be encouraged to work in groups as well as independently.

How you will be assessed:

- 75% assignments which are set and marked by the teacher and completed in class
- 25% an examination marked by the exam board.

BTEC grading:

Level 2 Distinction*

Level 2 Distinction

Level 2 Merit

Level 2 Pass

Level 1 Pass

This course is not examined.

Personal, Social and Health Education includes units of RE, Finance education and Careers education.

Students will study a broad range of topics throughout the programme including but not limited to:

- Citizenship
- Discrimination, prejudice and racism
- Healthy lifestyles
- Sex education and relationships
- Family life and society
- Financial awareness, banking and debt management
- The world of work, apprenticeships and preparing for further education.
- Study skills

Students will also have access to impartial careers guidance and help with applications and interview techniques through one to one interviews and mentoring during Year 10 and 11.

There are two sections of the course:

1. Beliefs and practices from two different religions – Christianity and Islam.
2. Religion, philosophy and ethics of different issues, including Life and Death, Peace and Conflict and Crime and Punishment within Islam and Christianity.

Students will learn how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture, and develop valuable skills that will help prepare them for further study.

Students will learn about different religious perspectives on the issues studied within and/or between religious and non-religious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

Students will also study religious, philosophical and ethical arguments related to the issues raised, and their impact and influence on the modern world.

How you will be assessed:

Two exams taken at the end of Year 11 each worth 50% of the total marks:

Paper One – Religion, Peace and Conflict through Christianity.

Paper Two – Religion, Philosophy and Social Justice through Islam.

GCSE grading: 9 - 1

BTEC Sport is a course ideally suited to students who would like to focus in more depth on Sport studies and may have an interest in following the subject at post-16 level and beyond.

Lessons will be divided into theory and practical sessions, allowing students to gain an in-depth understanding of the subject as well as improving their own sporting skill and ability in a team and individual sport. Students will cover the following units:

- Fitness for sport and exercise
- Practical performance
- Leadership in sport
- Training for personal fitness.

How you will be assessed:

- 75% assignments which are set and marked by the teacher and completed in class
- 25% an examination marked by the exam board.

BTEC grading:

Level 2 Distinction*

Level 2 Distinction

Level 2 Merit

Level 2 Pass

Level 1 Pass

