



# OPTIONS BOOKLET

2026

# Key Stage 4 Options

Dear parents and carers,

We are approaching a very exciting and important time in your child's education, their Key Stage 4 options. Making the right option choices is crucial for examination success and the future aspirations of your child. At Henley Bank High School we pride ourselves on all of our students being successful in the subjects that they study at Key Stage 4 and a key part of this is a successful options process. We are incredibly pleased this year to be able to offer a very wide range of subjects, to ensure that the students can pick the 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 students will be provided with the opportunity for an options meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team on Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th January , between 4:00pm and 7:00pm.

All options choices will need to be submitted by Friday 6th March so that we can ensure that our timetable 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.



**Mr G Dakin** | Head of School



“Teachers at Henley Bank High School go above and beyond to ensure that I am given every opportunity to be successful.”

YEAR 11 STUDENT

## Our vision

At Henley Bank High School our vision is that every student who attends Henley Bank High School has a better chance of success than if they attended any other school, a vision that we have taken monumental strides towards, in a very short period of time.

We have created a safe and caring environment with disruption-free classrooms, where students can achieve the very best qualifications and skills so that they have the best opportunities for their future. We are equally ambitious for all of our students, working with parents and carers to create a community ethos within our school 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 Henley Bank High School, 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.
- 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 of the booklet. 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 a call from 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.

Mr G Dakin | Head of School

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

<b>Monday 26th January</b>	Options information is released to Year 9 students and parents
<b>Wednesday 28th and Thursday 29th January</b>	Students, parents and carers are invited to an options meeting with a member of the senior leadership team
<b>Friday 6th March</b>	Deadline for option completion on options online
<b>July 2026</b>	Options choices released to students





# How does our options process work?

Every student at Henley Bank High School 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:

The core curriculum subjects are as follows:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- All students will also receive curriculum time dedicated to PE, Religious Studies 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 Henley Bank with nine GCSE or vocational qualifications. All students must study two subjects of Triple Science, Geography, History, French or Spanish.

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

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

- Triple Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish

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

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Triple Science
- Religious Studies
- Art
- Enterprise (Business Studies)
- Health and Social Care
- Hospitality and Catering (Food)
- Performing Arts
- Design Technology
- Digital IT
- Sport
- Music

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 don'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 options enquiries	Mrs G Dakin	gdakin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
English	Ms J Acland	jaclandl@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Maths	Ms S Cresswell	scresswell@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Science	Mr B Murphy	bmurphy@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Geography	Mr B Gailey	bgailey@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
History	Mr B Gailey	bgailey@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
French	Ms M Bray	mbray@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Spanish	Ms M Bray	mbray@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Religious Studies	Mr B Gailey	bgailey@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Art	Ms C Lane	clane@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Performing Arts	Mr J Blackwell	jblackwell@heneleybankhighschool.co.uk
Design Technology	Ms E Kay	ekay@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Enterprise	Mr G James	gjames@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Health and Social Care	Mr G James	gjames@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Digital IT	Mr J Blackwell	jblackwell@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Sport	Ms S Cuke	scuke@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Hospitality and Catering	Ms C Lane	clane@henleybankhighschool.co.uk
Music	Mr J Blackwell	jblackwell@henleybankhighschool.co.uk

# GCSE English Language AQA

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	1 hr 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	1 hr 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: [jacland@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:jacland@henleybankhighschool.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: [jacland@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:jacland@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1	Non Calculator	1 hr 30min exam	80 marks (out of 240 total)
Paper 2	Calculator	1 hr 30min exam	80 marks (out of 240 total)
Paper 3	Calculator	1 hr 30min exam	80 marks (out of 240 total)

All content is divided between the 3 papers. The key topics that will be covered across all papers are number, algebra, ratio, geometry, probability and statistics.

### **There are two tiers of entry for Mathematics GCSE:**

1. Foundation (grades 1-5)
2. Higher (grades 4-9)

### **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.

### **Where can it take you?**

Maths can open a number of doors later on in life. Prestigious universities look positively on students who study Maths. It can also help you access higher level apprenticeships. There is huge demand for people who are excellent mathematicians in industries such as: Technology, Engineering, Science, Human Behaviours, (including other highly sought after subjects such as Law and Economics.)

Having a good GCSE in Maths (a GCSE grade 5 or above) is often a requirement to gain entry to sixth form, college courses and apprenticeships. It is also a minimum requirement for many employers.

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

## Overview

Exam	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics	How is your grade calculated
Biology 1	1hr 15min	16.7%	Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.	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	16.7%	Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.	
Physics 1	1hr 15min exam	16.7%	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.	
Biology 2	1hr 15min exam	16.7%	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.	
Chemistry 2	1hr 15min exam	16.7%	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.	
Physics 2	1hr 15min exam	16.7%	Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism	

### Why Science?

Science helps our understanding of the world around us. Everything we know about the universe, from how trees reproduce to what an atom is made up of, is the result of scientific research and experiment.

Human progress throughout history has largely rested on advances in science. From our knowledge of gravity to cutting-edge medicines, students of science have shaped our modern world. Science is also vital for students to understand contemporary issues that are incredibly important to their futures for example, vaccinations and climate change.

Science is a desirable qualification for employers and colleges and universities as it demonstrates an ability to recall and apply knowledge, think critically, problem solve, follow instructions, use practical equipment safely and interpret and understand information.

### Where can Science take you?

The skills you will develop through science can be applied to almost all career paths, which is why a science GCSE qualification is required for many vocational, A Level and post-16 colleges. STEM graduates are in high demand in many countries. 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.

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

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	Speaking in French	Exam conducted by teacher Task 1: Read aloud Task 2: Role-play Task 3: Picture task with conversation	25%	All 6 topics studied
Paper 2	Listening and understanding in French	Exam paper Section A: Listening comprehension Section B: Dictation	25%	All 6 topics studied
Paper 3	Reading and understanding in French	Exam paper Section A: Reading and understanding Section B: Translation into English	25%	All 6 topics studied
Paper 4	Writing in French	Foundation tier exam paper: Q1: Picture-based task Q2 + Q3: Open-response question Q4: Translation in French Higher tier exam paper: Q1 + Q2: Open-response question Q3: Translation in French	25%	All 6 topics studied

### Why French?

Learning a foreign language is an excellent opportunity to improve your communication skills (in your native language as well) and enables you to gain a deeper appreciation of different countries and cultures. One of the greatest benefits of learning a language is that it enables you to travel outside of the UK and explore the world! 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.

### Where can it take you?

Learning French 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 French 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 French 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 Ms M Bray at [mbray@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:mbray@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	Speaking in Spanish	Exam conducted by teacher Task 1: Read aloud Task 2: Role-play Task 3: Picture task with conversation	25%	All 6 topics studied
Paper 2	Listening and understanding in Spanish	Exam paper Section A: Listening comprehension Section B: Dictation	25%	All 6 topics studied
Paper 3	Reading and understanding in Spanish	Exam paper Section A: Reading and understanding Section B: Translation into English	25%	All 6 topics studied <sup>0</sup>
Paper 4	Writing in Spanish	Foundation tier exam paper: Q1: Picture-based task Q2 + Q3: Open-response question Q4: Translation in Spanish Higher tier exam paper: Q1 + Q2: Open-response question Q3: Translation in Spanish	25%	All 6 topics studied

### Why Spanish?

Learning a foreign language is an excellent opportunity to improve your communication skills (in your native language as well) and enables you to gain a deeper appreciation of different countries and cultures. One of the greatest benefits of learning a language is that it enables you to travel outside of the UK and explore the world! If you are interested in broadening your horizons and improving your academic and career opportunities, 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.

### 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 Ms M Bray at [mbray@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:mbray@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	Living with the Physical Environment	1hr 30min exam	35%	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)
Paper 2	Challenges in the Human Environment	1hr 30min exam	35%	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)
Paper 3	Geographical Applications	1hr 30min exam	30%	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. It is an academic subject that links the sciences and the arts. Geography looks at how the physical world was formed by studying the different processes that took place in the past and how these have interacted to create the landscapes we see globally. It looks at how humans have used and developed these landscapes to create the extraordinary world we live in today. From how changes in technology have shaped our global economy, to how humans have adapted to live in our diverse climates. It provides people with the knowledge to understand important issues that affect our society such as climate change and our ever changing political landscape and help us make sense of how and why decisions are made at an individual, national and international level.

### 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. It is also a qualification that will support applications to the majority of apprenticeships. At university level, Geography is an incredibly diverse discipline with courses ranging from the individual disciplines of physical and human Geography to international relations and hazard management, there are hundreds of different courses that are available.

If you have any questions, please contact [ahaseler@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:ahaseler@henleybankhighschool.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	1hr 20min 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 is a gateway subject which opens the door to many study and career paths. History GCSE will prepare you well for A Levels, more vocational routes and apprenticeships, as it has many transferable skills such as critical evaluation, source analysis, understanding complex themes and argumentation. 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 [bgailey@henleybankhighschool.col.uk](mailto:bgailey@henleybankhighschool.col.uk)

## Overview

Exam	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics	How is your grade calculated
Biology 1	1hr 45 min exam	50%	Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.	1 GCSE grade awarded for Biology
Biology 2	1hr 45 min exam	50%	Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.	
Chemistry 1	1hr 45 min exam	50%	Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.	1 GCSE grade awarded for Chemistry
Chemistry 2	1hr 45 min exam	50%	The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.	
Physics 1	1hr 45 min exam	50%	Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.	1 GCSE grade awarded for Physics
Physics 2	1hr 45 min exam	50%	Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; Space physics	

### Why Triple Science?

In Combined Science, students sit six exams and are awarded two GCSE grades for Science. However, in Triple Science students sit six longer exams and are awarded three separate grades for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In Triple Science, students can expect to learn about additional material not covered in Combined Science, such as the eye, the brain, nanoparticles, acid-base titrations, telescopes and space. By taking sciences separately at GCSE level, students will cover more content, so will be better prepared if they want to take science A Levels. Triple Science provides a solid foundation of biology, chemistry and physics for students who wish to study a specific science at A Level or university or for those who just can't get enough of science.

### Where can Triple Science take you?

If you are interested in science-based degrees and jobs then it is definitely worth considering taking separate science GCSEs.

STEM graduates are in high demand in many countries. 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.

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

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Paper 1	The Study of Religions: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices	1hr 45min exam	50%	A: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Christianity B: Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of Buddhism
Paper 2	Thematic Studies	1hr 45min exam	50%	A: Religion and Life B: Relationships and families C: Religion, Crime and Punishment D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

### 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.

Topics will include: marriage, divorce, human rights, war and peace, evil and suffering, crime and punishment, the death penalty and medical ethics

### 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 [bgailey@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:bgailey@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Component 1	Portfolio	Students will begin a sketchbook in year 10 which covers two project themes up until January of year 11, when they will then begin their Externally Set Assignment. The assessment is entirely practical.	60%	<p>1. Project theme 1 – which will be based on a common theme students all do together, such as 'Food'.</p> <p>2. Project theme 2 – which is a project which students get more freedom over, usually based on the topic of 'Identity'.</p>
Component 2	Externally Set Assignment (ESA)	In January of year 11 students will choose a theme to do from 7 themes provided by AQA. They will then complete a final piece in a 10 hour timed session split over 2 days, which is completed in the Art rooms. Again, this is entirely practical with no written exam element.	40%	There will be 7 themes provided by the exam board AQA in the January of year 11 and students will pick one of the 7 themes that most interests them and they will complete a sketchbook of work based on that theme and a final piece in April of year 11 to conclude

### Why Art and Design?

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 and Design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work. 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.

### Where can it take you?

Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem solving skills, lateral thinking, complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing have an advantage. 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 GCSE including media, marketing, teaching, design, photography, illustration and art therapy to name just a few.

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

## Overview

	Weighting	Description	Assessment
Exam	50%	<p><b>Selection A</b> (20 marks) - Core technical principles Mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing technical knowledge and understanding</p> <p><b>Section B</b> (30 marks) - specialist technical principles. Several short answer questions and one extension response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles</p> <p><b>Section C</b> (50 marks) Designing and making principles. Mixture of short and extended responses.</p>	<p>2 hour written exam 100 marks</p> <p>Externally assessed</p> <p>30-35 hours approx 100 marks</p>
NEA	50%	<p><b>Practical</b> application of the design principles:</p> <p>Design and make task: Identify and investigate design possibilities Design brief and specification Generating ideas Developing ideas Releasing ideas Analysis and evaluation</p>	<p>Internally assessed and externally moderated by AQA</p>

### Why Design Technology?

Albert Einstein once said that “imagination is more important than knowledge,” Design and Technology is an integral part of society and is underpinned by the process of product design. The subject not only allows us to understand the world around us now, but it also facilitates opportunities to look into the future and consider the demands of a world that hasn’t yet emerged.

Design and Technology asks us to examine the needs of end users and apply design skills that range from scientific knowledge, technology availability, communication through drawing and artistic flair to design a product that could be smaller than a hand phone or as big as a cruise ship.

### 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 [ekay@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:ekay@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

THE **ENERGY** AND  
**ENTHUSIASM** OF MY  
TEACHERS IS **INFECTIOUS**  
- LEARNING IS **ENGAGING**  
AND **INSPIRING**

YEAR 8 STUDENT

“



## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Component 1	Exploring Enterprise	Written coursework taken in close exam conditions	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Examine the characteristics of enterprises.</li> <li>B. Explore how market research helps enterprises meet customer needs and understand competitor behaviour</li> <li>C. Investigate the factors that contribute to the success of an enterprise</li> </ul>
Component 2	Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity	Written coursework taken in close exam conditions	30%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Explore and research enterprise ideas</li> <li>B. Plan for a micro-enterprise activity.</li> <li>C. Pitch a micro-enterprise activity.</li> <li>D. Review their own pitch for a micro-enterprise activity.</li> <li>E. Develop their planning and research, presentation, communication and self-reflection skills.</li> </ul>
Component 3	Promotion and Finance for Enterprise	Examination	40%	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of elements of promotion and financial records</li> <li>B. Interpret and use marketing and financial information in relation to a given enterprise.</li> <li>C. Advise and provide recommendations to a given enterprise on ways to improve its performance.</li> </ul>

### Why Enterprise?

Whether you are planning to enter farming or fashion, or something in-between, studying business is important to your success and will open a world of possibilities for you. Discover and develop your entrepreneurial skills from creating your own business idea, producing a marketing mix and understanding how to plan financial performance. You'll become multi-skilled and confident in all of the main aspects of business as well using IT skills to produce your coursework through reports and professional standard presentations.

### Where can it take you?

This course can take you on to both further study or gain employment, you will expand your enterprise and employability skills to help you take those next steps. Whether it is a level 3 course or an A Level in enterprise, business studies, travel and tourism or economics and politics. It can also lead to careers in management, finance, human resources, marketing and advertising, logistics and, of course, starting your own business and becoming a successful entrepreneur.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr G James by emailing [gjames@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:gjames@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

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

### 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, counsellor, 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 Mr G James by emailing [gjames@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:gjames@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

Unit	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
1	Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity	Coursework  Ability to lead a warm up is required	30 %	A Explore types and provision of sport and physical activity for different types of participant.  B Examine equipment and technology required for participants to use when taking part in sport and physical activity.  C Be able to prepare participants to take part in sport and physical activity.
2	Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance	Coursework  Ability to perform in a sport and lead a lesson is required	30%	A Understand how different components of fitness are used in different physical activities.  B Be able to participate in sport and understand the roles and responsibilities of officials.  C Demonstrate ways to improve participants' sporting techniques.
3	Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity	Examination	40%	AO1 Demonstrate knowledge of facts, components of fitness, fitness tests, training methods/processes/principles in relation to improving fitness.  AO2 Demonstrate an understanding of facts, components of fitness, fitness tests, training methods/processes/principles in relation to improving fitness.  AO3 Apply an understanding of facts, components of fitness, fitness tests, training methods/processes/principles in relation to improving fitness.  AO4 Make connections with concepts, facts, components of fitness, fitness tests, training methods/processes/principles in relation to improving fitness.

### Why BTEC Sport?

BTEC Sport gives a great starting point for those wanting to know more about how we perform in sport. Understanding the body and how it works in sport is vital to improving performance. Also, having the ability to know and understand the best way to train for improvements in both performance or a health benefit in all aspects of life. With a combination of both written and practical elements in the coursework, you will be able to try out some of the things you are learning in theory in a practical setting, and see for yourselves how it works..

### Where can it take you?

BTEC Sport 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 [scuke@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:scuke@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Topics
Component 1	Exploring the Performing Arts	Internally Assessed	A: Examine professional practitioners' performance work B: Exploring how different areas of the Performing Arts industry are similar and different in different styles of theatre
Component 2	Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts	Internally Assessed	A: Developing the skills and techniques needed in performance B: Applying these skills and techniques in rehearsals and a performance C: Review own development and contribution to the performance
Component 3	Responding to a Brief	Synoptic Externally Assessed	A: Understanding how to respond to a brief B: Selecting the best skills and techniques for the brief C: Applying the skills and techniques in rehearsals for a workshop performance of the brief D: Evaluating the process and outcome of the performance to the brief.

### Why Performing Arts?

Performing Arts is both a creative and academic study. It provides you with the subject knowledge and understanding of how humans have used the Performing Arts to make sense of their world and society around them. It also provides you with the essential soft skills that you need to be successful in applying for future careers. Such skills include understanding how to frame and present an argument to a group of people, how to lead and follow in a project and how to use your physical and vocal skills to get across an intention or idea. This vocational course will allow you to explore your creativity in acting, lighting design, sound design, set design or costume design. Please note, you do not need to act in your final coursework but you will need to explore some ideas in class with acting before putting your design into practice.

### Where can it take you?

Due to the fantastic range of skills that you acquire in BTEC Performing Arts, you can apply these to almost any subject or career choice in the future. The course can lead to A Level Drama and Theatre Studies as well as Level 3 BTEC Performing Arts where you can then go on to university or drama schools to study both acting or design. Because you are improving your skills in communication, presentation and teamwork, BTEC Performing Arts can be a very useful subject if your chosen future career involves working with people or the public. It is also useful if you are unsure of what you want to do at KS5.

If you have any questions, please contact [hbenfield@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:hbenfield@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Unit 1	The Hospitality and catering industry	Externally assessed online exam	40%	The Hospitality and catering industry: In this unit you will focus on learning about different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the sector.
Unit 2	Hospitality and catering in action	Internally Assessed  Non-Examinable Component (NEA)	60%	Hospitality and catering in action: you will develop practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting nutritional dishes meeting the client needs.

### Why Hospitality and Catering?

You will focus on learning about different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the responsibilities within the sector.

Hospitality and Catering is both a practical and academic course which links the science of food nutrition to the factors that play an essential role in creating a successful hospitality and catering business. This Vocational Award, equips students with theoretical knowledge about the industry as well as enabling you to develop practical skills in planning, preparing and cooking a variety of highly skilled dishes. Throughout this course, you will learn about the different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the industry. It provides you with the practical skills required to produce food to meet the nutritional needs of a variety of people as well as problem solving, teamwork, independence and time management skills which are essential for your future success in whichever career you choose to follow.

### 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. The ability to plan, prepare and present food is an essential skill within the hospitality and catering industry and therefore this course places you well on the way to carving out a successful career in this sector. After completing the WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering you may be interested in progressing to a Level 3 vocational qualification further specialising in a catering career, or to apply for an apprenticeship in the sector. Alternatively, the course prepares you well for applying for part time work, whilst studying for A Levels and a university degree.

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

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Weighting	Topics
Component 1	Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques	Coursework	30%	<p>A. User Interfaces – understanding, designing and assessing user interfaces.</p> <p>B. Project Lifecycle – Writing a project plan and proposal, creating an initial design and developing a user interface.</p> <p>C. Review and assessing - review the success of the user interface and the use of the chosen project planning techniques.</p>
Component 2	Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	Coursework	30%	<p>A. Data collection by organisations and the impact on individuals.</p> <p>B. Creating a data dashboard – tools for data manipulation, data processing methods and producing a dashboard</p> <p>C. Reviewing data and drawing conclusions.</p>
Component 3	Effective Digital Working Practices	Examination	40%	<p>A. Modern Technologies – wireless working, cloud-based computing, collaborative working, accessibility and inclusivity.</p> <p>B. Cyber Security – security policies, threats to data, and the prevention and management of threats.</p> <p>C. Implications of Digital Systems – responsible use, legal and ethical issues, data protection and intellectual property.</p> <p>D. Forms of Digital Notation – flow charts, data flow diagrams, systems diagrams, tables and written documents.</p>

### Why Digital IT?

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. The course will not only cover technology but also includes many transferable skills such as project planning, problem solving and understanding policy documents. You'll become multi-skilled and confident in a wide range of computing areas as well using your IT skills to produce your coursework. BTEC Digital IT is a vocational course that is 60% coursework and 40% exam.

### Where can it take you?

This course can lead to a range of courses at local colleges and 6th forms. The course is designed to lead into both A Level and BTEC courses for further study. If you are interested in working in the digital sector, the range of topics will open up multiple roles across the IT industry.

If you have any questions, please contact [jblackwell@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:jblackwell@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)

## Overview

	Title	Style of Assessment	Topics
Component 1	Exploring Music Products and Styles	Internally Assessed	A: Demonstrate an understanding of styles of music B: Apply understanding of the use of techniques to create music
Component 2	Music Skills Development	Internally Assessed	A: Demonstrate professional and commercial skills for the music industry B: Apply development processes for music skill and techniques
Component 3	Responding to a Music Brief	Synoptic Externally Assessed	A: Understand how to respond to a brief B: Select and apply musical skills in response to a music brief C: Present a final musical product in response to a music brief. D: Evaluation of creative process and outcomes

### 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. The course will allow you to explore music composition, production, performance, musical theory, instrumentation as well as an insight into the music industry. To ensure that you succeed in this course, you will be expected to practice for a minimum of 30 minutes per week on your chosen instrument.

### 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: [jblackwell@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:jblackwell@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)



## HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Proud to be part of the...



Mill Lane,  
Brockworth,  
Gloucester,  
GL3 4QF



01452 863372



[admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk](mailto:admin@henleybankhighschool.co.uk)



[henleybankhighschool.co.uk](http://henleybankhighschool.co.uk)