Head Teachers Letter

Dear Parents and Students

This is a very important time for Year 9 students. This booklet contains information available on the courses we have on offer next year. Please read the booklet carefully in order to ensure that you feel confident in choosing the most appropriate subjects.

Once you have read this booklet, please make a note of your option choices on the last page of this booklet. A member of staff will be in contact you by 5th June 2020 to answer any questions you may have and find out what options you have chosen.

Yours faithfully

Miss M Keating

Head teacher
What Options Can I Take?

When you are in Year 10 and 11 you will have to study a number of core subjects. Everyone will take these subjects. Core subjects are

- English
- Maths
- Science
- ICT
- SMSC
- Core PE

In addition to this you will be able to CHOOSE three subjects to take as your Options. Options subjects are

- Rural Science
- Art
- Food Technology
- Design & Technology
- Motor Vehicle Maintenance
- PE
- Humanities.

The following pages will give you an idea of what each of the subjects offers at Key Stage 4 and will help you to make a choice about the right options for you. If you have any questions regarding the choices you can discuss them with the member of staff who calls you to discuss your choices.

You can only choose three Options!!
SOME IMPORTANT “DO’S” and “DON’TS”

**Do’s**

**DO** choose subjects that you enjoy and feel happy to participate in.

**DO** look carefully at the assessment methods for each course and match them to the way you learn e.g. some students thrive on coursework more than examinations.

**DO** look to get a variety of subjects to support your workload.

**DO** talk through your choices with as many people as possible!

**Don’ts**

**DON’T** choose a subject you have never done before merely because you prefer the unknown to the known.

**DON’T** choose a subject because you think you will have an easy time. Work in all subjects in Years 10 and 11 require consistent effort and exams are designed to be equally demanding across all subjects.

**DON’T** choose a subject because your friends have done so. This is your choice and yours only. Your friends cannot take the exams for you to share qualifications. What you do now will affect the rest of your life; you may never see your friends again when you leave school.

**DON’T** choose a subject just because you like the teacher - he or she may not be here next year! - Similarly, don’t reject a subject because of the teacher.
Level 1 Certificate in Sport and Active Leisure

WHAT THE COURSE INVOLVES
This qualification is designed for 14–16 year olds who want to learn about sports coaching, organising sporting events or how the body works. The course helps students develop the knowledge, skills and experience that could open the door to a career in the sport or leisure industry.

Pupils complete different theoretical and practical units and need to gain a minimum of 13 credits to pass the course by the end of KS4. The units undertaken are as follows:

1. How the body works
2. Job opportunities in sport and active leisure
3. Taking part in exercise and fitness
4. Assisting a leader of sports or active leisure activities to plan and deliver an activity
5. Taking part in sport
6. Planning own fitness programme

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED
The course is half theory and half practical. Students will complete coursework completed in lesson time and will also be assessed on their ability to lead and plan sports sessions.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES POST 16…
This qualification is designed for 14–16 year olds who want to learn about sports coaching, the mechanics of the body in sport or organising sporting events in a practical setting that helps them develop the knowledge, skills and experience that could open the door to a career in the sports industry. This is a start to a career in sport and perfect for anyone wanting to go onto college to do a similar course at a more advanced level.
RURAL SCIENCE

QUALIFICATIONS:
C&G Level 2 Animal Care
C&G Level 1 Land-based Studies

WHAT THE COURSES INVOLVE

The Level 1 course is equivalent to GCSE grades D-G and gives students experience of a wide range of land-based subjects. The Level 2 course is equivalent to GCSE grades C and above, and is focussed specifically on animal care. Students will be placed on a route which challenges them but is appropriate for their interests and academic ability. We also have the option to complete entry level 2 and 3 units. Both courses will involve students working with our animals to complete practical and theory work relating to their care. Many of the assessments are practical in nature but students will also need to create a portfolio of coursework. There is a very short external test for the level 1 course but at the time of writing the level 2 course has no exam aspect, though this may change!

At both levels approximately 50% of lessons will be spent on theory work and 50% on completing practical tasks. Students will have some choice in which animals they focus on in their practical assessments but they will be expected to have a go at working with most of the animals (phobias excepted of course!) and learning how to look after them.

HOW THE COURSE IS TO BE ASSESSED

Level 1: This course involves one multiple choice test which is completed in exam conditions at school, but online rather than on paper. The test is on health and safety and covers normal things that we learn in practical lessons and it presents no problem to most students. The rest is coursework (theory and practical).

Level 2: 100% coursework. There are some compulsory units but there is also some choice of specialism. Work completed in class is assessed by your teacher and then checked by the exam board to ensure that it has been marked fairly and accurately.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES POST 16...

This course is suitable for students who wish to work with animals, or in the wider land-based sector, in a variety of different jobs. You could leave school with this qualification and enter a related apprenticeship, or choose a vocational post-16 course that builds on what you have already learned. This course really is suitable for a wide range of future progression choices. A number of students have now gone on to successfully study animal care at local colleges.

We have always been keen to go on trips with our rural science classes where possible. We have good links with two local farms as well as the Birmingham Wildlife Conservation Park and Cotswold Farm Park. We also have the chance to go on a small-group trip to Harper Adams University each year. We have taken students, staff and animals to a number of local agricultural shows now and future students who feel confident enough to try this will have the opportunity to gain experience and meet other young people with similar interests at these events.
FOOD QUALIFICATION: BTEC HOME COOKING SKILLS

WHAT THE COURSE INVOLVES
This course builds upon the work completed in Years 7-9. It has been developed to give learners the opportunity to develop:

- The knowledge, understanding and confidence to cook meals at home.
- An understanding of how to economise when planning a meal.
- An ability to transfer skills learned to different recipes.
- An ability to inspire others by transferring that knowledge.

The course is very practical based and learners will be cooking from scratch. We have 3 lessons a week; 2 practical and 1 theory.

HOW THE COURSE IS ASSESSED
Pupils will cook weekly and photographic evidence will be taken. In Year 10 Students will complete a written assignment about producing a dish from scratch and discuss the value of home cooking to achieve a Level 1 BTEC Award.

In Year 11 pupils will be given a scenario where they have to plan, prepare and serve a two course meal. They also need to pass recipes onto other people and know ways to economise when cooking. They can achieve a Level 2 BTEC (equivalent to half a GCSE).

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES POST 16
GCSEs and/or A Levels, Diplomas or Apprenticeships
BTEC specialist qualifications may also enhance learners’ self development by providing them with valuable life skills.
Entry Level Certificate in History and Geography

WHAT THE COURSE INVOLVES

This qualification is designed for 14–16 year olds who want to learn about and develop an interest in History and Geography. It provides a curriculum that can ignite and engage learners in a variety of different ways and settings. Topics can include Crime and punishment, World War 1 and 2, the USA, Monarchy, Germany, The World, Natural Disasters, The UK and the War and more. Work in class will vary and assessment will be in various ways that suit the students. The course will also look to bring the topics to life with trips and visits around the topics.

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED

The whole course will be internally assessed. There are tasks to complete and they are flexible

1— A Thematic study from topics including crime and punishment, War, Natural Disasters plus others.—40% of the course

2— A Depth study from topics such as Germany during the war, Britain and the War, How to deal with disaster, types of countries’. 30% of the course.

3— Two pieces of work—a 150 word biography and 250 word explanation, 30% of the course.

All pieces of work can be completed in various ways that is suited to the students there is also flexibility with the topics depending on the interests of the class.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES POST 16...

The course is designed for students that have an interest in history and would like to pursue this in the future. It will provide an opportunity to progress to further levels at college or even in school and access GCSE and further qualification in the subject.
This qualification is with the Institute of Motor Industries (IMI Awards). The qualification involves a practical approach and includes many visual questioning techniques which stimulates and draws interest to learners.

**What the course Involves**

This Vocationally Related Qualification (VRQ) is designed to engage and motivate 14-19 year olds who are interested in learning about the automotive retail industry. It is ideal for those learners who wish to undertake a qualification which provides a stepping stone to further Education and the Motor Industry.

Over the duration of the course pupils will cover five mandatory units and one chosen unit for the qualification. Additional units can be covered for those students who excel at this level and they can progress towards gaining a certificate or diploma at entry 3.

Subject areas covered:
- Health & Safety
- Tools & Equipment
- Communication
- Brakes
- Wheels & Tyres

**Career pathways**

**How will the course be assessed**

At the end of each module an assessment is carried out to ascertain the pupils understanding. The assessments can be theory, practical or a combination of both and an average of 60% is required to pass. There is a final online test which must be achieved for full certification.

**Progression Opportunities**

After completing this qualification, the learner has the opportunity to progress post 16 with an IMI L1 Certificate in Transport Maintenance - Generic and further progressions to Levels 2,3,4+ qualifications.
Level 1 Certificate in Design and Craft
7716-83 3D Studies (Woodwork)

About the Qualification

About City & Guilds
City & Guilds is the UK’s leading provider of vocational qualifications, offering over 500 awards across a wide range of industries, and progressing from entry level to the highest levels of professional achievement. With over 8500 centres in 100 countries, City & Guilds is recognised by employers worldwide for providing qualifications that offer proof of the skills they need to get the job done.

What Learners will be Studying

For the Level 1 Certificate in Design and Craft, you will have to follow and complete Unit 1 and Unit 2 as outlined below.

Unit 1 – Design for Craft is a common unit for all qualifications at this level. It introduces you to simple design ideas which you can then take forward into your chosen craft.

Unit 2 – Craft is a specific craft unit for the subject you have chosen to study. The syllabus gives details of what you have to produce as evidence that you have achieved the outcomes listed. You will gain skills in the practice of the craft and in the knowledge of materials, techniques and processes applicable to this level of work.

At the end of each unit, there is an assessment record sheet to be completed by your tutor/assessor, in discussion with you, as you achieve each of the outcomes.

As a student of your centre and a candidate of City & Guilds, you too have responsibilities. They include regular and timely attendance, following the syllabus guidelines and presenting your work, as required, for assessment, internal and external verification.
WHAT THE COURSE INVOLVES

You will need to complete two units

UNIT 1 – Personal Portfolio (COURSE WORK)

UNIT 2 – Externally Set Assignment (EXAM)

Unit 1
Unit 1 is worth 60% of your overall mark. This is the coursework you will be working on in lessons.

What you will need to do in Unit 1

We start the coursework by looking at the artist Shepard Fairey. You will then branch out and find artists that will interest you and create your own projects. You will develop work by following some of these areas of study:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Illustration
- Product design
- Mixed media
- Sculpture
- Graphic Design
- Design for theatre, film and television
- Printing
- Advertising
- Package design
- Illustration
- Graphic Design
- Package design
- Product design
- Design for theatre, film and television

You will have to do some written work but most of your ideas will be explained visually through your artwork.

HOW THE COURSE WILL BE ASSESSED

Assessment is a mixture of coursework and exams.

- Unit 2 is worth 40% of your overall mark. This is an Externally Set Assignment that is given to you in Year 11.

- Unit 2 is an assignment that is set by the exam board and is released on January the 2nd every year. The Theme of the assignment changes every year.

- Once the theme has been released pupils will then start to think up a project based on this theme.

- You will then have 10 hours to create a piece of art based on the theme.

- The 10 hours will be broken down into sessions.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES POST 16...

- Some students go on to college to study are based courses
Year 10 Options – September 2020

- The options for each block are in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Options for 2020</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Please choose a 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd} and 3\textsuperscript{rd} choice from each option block.
- It is important to make 3 choices per block for the best chances of being allocated a subject that you prefer. Making fewer choices will not guarantee you a place on the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option A</th>
<th>Choice (1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option B</th>
<th>Choice (1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Maintenance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Science</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option A</th>
<th>Choice (1\textsuperscript{st}, 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 3\textsuperscript{rd})</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDT</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students name ____________________________________________