

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Choices 2021-23



Burford School
Oxfordshire

Contents

Introduction	2
The Options Process	3-5
Subject Pages:	
Careers & Work Experience	6
PSHE	6
Art & Design	7
Business	8
Child Development (BTEC)	9
Computer Science	10
Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)	11
D&T: Design Technology	12
D&T: Engineering (Technical Award)	13
D&T: Food & Nutrition	14
Drama	15
English Language & Literature	16
Enterprise (BTEC)	17
Geography	18
History	19
Mathematics	20
MFL: French, German or Spanish	21
Music	22
Physical Education	23
Religious Studies (Short Course)	24
Science (Combined Award)	25
Science (Triple Award)	26
Sports Studies (Cambridge National)	27
Study Skills	28
Travel and Tourism (BTEC)	29

Please direct all enquiries regarding the options process to Mr D Pullin.

Email: d.pullin@burford.oxon.sch.uk

A copy of this booklet can also be found on the school website (www.burford.oxon.sch.uk).

All information correct at time of publishing (25 January 2021)

Curriculum Years 10 and 11: 2021 - 2023

Introduction

This booklet provides you with valuable information about the curriculum you will follow during the next two years. Two pathways can be identified through our Key Stage 4 curriculum:

Pathway A	Pathway B
Mathematics	Mathematics
English Language	English Language
English Literature	English Literature
Science (Combined Award)	Science (Combined Award)
Science (Combined Award)	Science (Combined Award)
Religious Studies (Short Course)	Religious Studies (Short Course)
Group 1 Option	Study Skills
Open Option	Group 3 Option
Open Option	Open Option
Open Option	Open Option

Pathway A is taken by the majority of students and provides 9 full qualifications on completion.

Pathway B is taken by invitation only. Students will typically finish with 8 full qualifications, with at least two being BTECs/Cambridge Nationals. Additional support sessions are provided for Maths, English and Science as well as 'Study Skills', which will be tailored to the group.

Whichever pathway is followed, every student must follow a common core of:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Studies
- Personal, Social and Health Education & Citizenship
- Core Physical Education & Games

The rest of the curriculum is made up of a number of optional subjects with most students choosing four option subjects. We recommend that you follow a curriculum that gives you the experience of different areas of learning, ensuring that you have a broad education base that will not limit your choices in the future.

Option Subjects at Key Stage 4

Below is a list of all the optional subjects on offer to students. Further information on each of these can be found later on in this booklet. All are GCSEs unless otherwise stated.

Group 1 – Students on Pathway A must choose at least one option from the following:

French	Geography
German	History
Spanish	

Group 2

Art & Design	Business
Computer Science	Drama
D&T: Design & Technology	D&T: Engineering (Tech Award)
D&T: Food & Nutrition	Music
Physical Education	

Group 3 – Students on Pathway B must choose at least one option from the following:

Enterprise (BTEC)	Child Development (BTEC)
Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)	Sports Studies (Cambridge National)
Travel & Tourism (BTEC)	

Please note that students should only select a maximum of one D&T subject.

Understanding the difference between GCSEs and VTQs

The majority of our options offer is made up of traditional GCSE qualifications. However, we also offer a range of vocational and technical qualifications (VTQs). Below is a summary of how studying a VTQ differs from a GCSE.

	GCSEs	VTQs
How do they work?	GCSEs involve the study of theory and skills related to the subject. They tend to have an academic focus.	These courses contain theory and skills but have a greater focus on practical application for use in the workplace and make greater use of real-world scenarios.
How are they assessed?	All GCSEs are assessed through exams at the end of the 2 year course. Some courses will also include assessed coursework which may take place in Year 10 or Year 11.	These courses tend to have fewer exams – often only one. There is a greater weighting given to coursework and many involve building a portfolio of work. These courses are Level 2 qualifications, which mean they are equivalent to a GCSE.
What can they lead on to?	Depending on results, GCSEs prepare students to study A-levels. However, they would also be useful if moving onto a college course, apprenticeship or other work-based training.	Success in these courses will enable students to continue into sixth form, pursue similar courses at college, and gain an apprenticeship or other work-based training.

The VTQs we offer, such as BTECs, Cambridge Nationals and Technical Awards, will report on a scale of pass, merit, distinction and distinction star. A comparison of the two grading scales is included below:

GCSE grading	VTQ grading	
9	Level 2 Distinction*	
8		
7	Level 2 Distinction	
6	Level 2 Merit	
5 (strong pass)		
4 (standard pass)	Level 2 Pass	
3	Level 1 Distinction	Level 1 (Engineering and Travel & Tourism only)
2	Level 1 Merit	
1	Level 1 Pass	

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The English Baccalaureate is a collection of subjects which we regard as providing students with a strong academic core. It is not a qualification, but is a measure the Government introduced to promote specific academic subjects. The subjects include:

- English Language & English Literature
- Mathematics
- A Modern Foreign Language: French, German or Spanish
- A Humanity: History or Geography
- Science: Combined, Triple Award or Computer Science

All of these subjects are offered in our curriculum. While we want students, parents and carers to be aware of this measure, we also want students to follow courses which are right for them. Therefore we do not insist that all student take an EBacc combination of subject.

The Options Process

This year the options process is entirely digital so please make sure you read the additional guidance documents regarding how to use the different systems when necessary. The timeline for selecting options is outlined below:

29.01.2021	Option subject videos will be made available online via our school website. You will receive a ParentMail once they are live with additional information. These will provide you with more information on what it is like to study the subjects at Key Stage 4.
01.02.2021	Virtual Taster Day – students will have the opportunity to attend a range of subject taster sessions throughout the day using Microsoft Teams. This replaces normal lessons for the day.
04.02.2021	Virtual Year 9 Parents' Evening (4.30-7.30pm) – your chance to talk to your teachers about your progress and the Key Stage 4 courses on offer.
12.02.2021	Deadline for your initial choices to be completed. This is <u>not</u> your final choice. We collect your initial choices to see if we can timetable and staff the combinations students want. If your first choices cannot be met, then we will talk with you individually about the different possibilities available to you.

In making your decisions, make sure you have talked with your parents and teachers, and also think about your own interests and strengths. Remember, it will be your enthusiasm and commitment that will bring you success. If you have any concerns, then **please ask for help** from your subject teachers and your Form Tutor.

The final options offer will endeavour to provide the widest choice for the greatest number of students, however some course combinations may not be possible, either because of lack of numbers or clashes between subjects. In light of this, it is important that reserve choices are given serious consideration and your subject choices are ranked correctly in order of preference when competing the initial choice form.

Please note that students **will not be allowed to drop or change subjects** in Year 10 or Year 11.

Mr D Pullin
Assistant Headteacher: Curriculum & Standards
d.pullin@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Careers & Work Experience

What will I study?

Mrs Haines, is the school's Careers Lead and is available full time in school to guide students as they reach key decision making points in their school careers - be that in Year 9 when choosing GCSE options, in Year 11 when considering what next after GCSEs, or in the Sixth Form when considering what next after A levels.

In May of Year 10, all students are given the opportunity to undertake a one week work experience placement. Students are encouraged to find their own placements with support from Mrs Haines, who can offer suggestions of employers they can approach. Through work experience students learn important life skills which are reinforced in Year 11, when all students undertake practice applications/CV writing and mock interviews with local employers.

Mrs Haines is available to see students in Year 9 who may wish to further discuss option choices and their career implications. Students can book an appointment by emailing Mrs Haines, or by visiting the careers office at break/lunchtime.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs H Haines – Careers Lead – h.haines@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE)

Number of lessons per fortnight: 1

What will I study?

PSHE comprises all aspects of the school's planned provision to promote the student's personal and social development, including health and economic well-being. Through knowledge, skills and understanding, the students will develop confidence and responsibility, make the most of their abilities, lead a healthier lifestyle, have good relationships, respect the differences between people and understand their finances.

This area aims to provide a positive and supportive framework in which students can explore and develop mature and moral attitudes about personal issues, such as feelings within relationships and assertiveness in sexual relationships. Through a mixture of information and group discussion sessions, issues regarding Drug Abuse, Contraception and Pregnancy, Parenting, STI's - including HIV and AIDS- will be addressed.

The course is primarily delivered by Form Tutors, however, the School Nurse, Oxfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and local companies also support the delivery of the PSHE programme.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr J Goodson – PSHE and House Systems Coordinator – j.goodson@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Art & Design (GCSE)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Art & Design?

- You are passionate about the subject.
- You are a creative individual.
- You love to draw from observation/life or make things.
- This course is ideal for students going on to study A Level Art or thinking of pursuing a career linked to the Arts – for example: fine artist, graphic designer, architect, illustrator, fashion designer, painting restorer, etc.
- You enjoy working with your hands and you like looking at beautiful or interesting things. You enjoy the tactile quality of working with materials. In other words, you are a visual person.

What will I study?

The portfolio consists of teacher led projects which enable you to experiment and develop skills, using a range of media and materials, including drawing, painting, printmaking and working with clay. Visual recording takes place in sketchbooks and all projects lead to a final response. You will study the work of artists and engage with contemporary and historical art work from different cultures, making links with your own personal experience. Homework will be set weekly enabling you to develop your ideas further.

How will it be assessed?

Each year you will undertake new projects – your aim is to fill at least one A3 sketchbook, two A1 boards and a final piece (canvas or 3D). Part of the assessment for your GCSE in Art & Design will be done by an externally set practical examination lasting 10 hrs. This takes place in April/May of Year 11 and is worth 40% of your final grade.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Miss A M Vella – Head of Art – a.vella@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Business (GCSE)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose GCSE Business?

The Business GCSE looks to familiarise candidates with the business aspects of organisations within their economic, political and social contexts. The course is split into two themes that cover a wide variety of business topics. This GCSE helps prepare students for a world that is increasingly focused on enterprise, opportunity, efficiency and decision making. Business Studies students will gain essential analytical, communication and technical skills that are needed by active participants in today's rapidly developing business environment.

What will I study?

The course consists of two themes:

- **Theme 1: Investigating small business** - this concentrates on the key issues and skills involved in starting and running a small business. It explores key issues from the point of view of an entrepreneur setting up a business, such as spotting a business opportunity, understanding external influences on business and how to make a business effective.
- **Theme 2: Building a business** - this theme examines how a business develops beyond the start-up phase. It focuses on the key business concepts, issues and decisions used to grow a business, such as marketing, finance and human resources. Students are introduced to issues affecting national and global business and how they impact on business decision-making.

How will it be assessed?

Assessment is through two written exams at the end of the course, focusing on each of the themes, each making up 50% of the qualification. Each exam is 1 hour 30 minutes in duration.

Additional information:

Several topics in the Business GCSE, such as business finance, will contain a significant amount of mathematical content. If you are not confident with calculations, such as percentage changes, then the Enterprise BTEC may be a more appropriate course. The Head of Department reserves the right to allocate places at their discretion based on the suitability of the student for the course.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs R Ford – Head of Business & Enterprise – r.ford@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Child Development (BTEC)

Exam Board: Pearson

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why study Child Development?

Would you like a practical challenge? Do you enjoy working with children? Would you like to be kept up to date with child development issues? Are you ready for life away from school? If you have answered yes to these questions, then choose to study Child Development. In this course you will develop your knowledge and skills through studying a range of different topics. You will also have the opportunity to carry out a variety of practical investigations. The qualification can lead to further study at A-Level and/or GNVQ/VCE in a variety of subjects. There will also be career opportunities in nursery nursing, nursing, midwifery, teaching and the caring professions.

What will I study?

The course gives students the opportunity to develop a knowledge and understanding of child development and growth from birth to the age of five, it explores how children learn through play and how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development and learning. In a practical learning environment, students will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas:

- the characteristics of children's development from birth up to five
- factors that affect growth and development
- the importance of play and how play promotes children's learning and development
- reasons why children may need additional support
- child-friendly environments to support play, learning and development in children from birth to five years old
- supporting all children to learn and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially, and adapting activities to support children's play, learning and development.

How will it be assessed?

Component 1: Supporting Children's Growth and Development (30%) - students will investigate growth and development for children from birth to five years old. Coursework assignment.

Component 2: Learning through Play (30%) - students will develop an understanding of how play activities can influence children's learning between the ages of birth and five years old. They will consider the different types of play in which children engage, and how activities can support children's learning and progress across the five areas of development. Coursework assignment.

Component 3: Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop (40%) - students investigate how a child learns and develops and adapt activities to support the inclusion of all children in play for learning and development. Examination.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs L Speakman – i/c Child Development – l.speakman@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Computer Science (GCSE)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Computer Science?

Computer technology is advancing faster than ever and plays an ever-increasing role in our business and home lives. This course will appeal to students who want to understand more about the hardware and theoretical aspects of computer science. You will learn about the development of computer networks, control systems and the creative and innovative design and creation of software solutions. Computer Science is classified as an EBacc subject, and successful students will be able to progress to an A Level in this subject.

What will I study?

The growth in mobile phone and web-related technologies has opened up a wide range of opportunities for technically-aware individuals. This course enables students to learn more about the technology that underpins their daily lives, including computer networks and computer systems (hardware and software). You will extend your programming abilities, enabling the creation of complex solutions using various languages such as Python, Visual Basic, C, HTML, and JavaScript.

How will it be assessed?

Assessment is through 100% examination.

- **Component 1** – (50%) Computational Thinking and Programming Skills – this 2 hour paper has a mix of multiple choice, short-answer and longer-answer questions assessing a student's practical problem solving and computational thinking as well as theoretical knowledge of computer systems and data representation.
- **Component 2** – (50%) Computing Concepts – this 1 hour 45 minute paper has a mix of multiple choice, short-answer, long-answer and extended response questions assessing a student's knowledge of networks and cyber security as well as the ethical, legal and environment effects of digital technology. SQL programming skills and theoretical knowledge has also been added in this new specification (databases).

Additional information:

There is a great deal of mathematical and logical content within this course. To achieve well, students will need to enjoy problem solving and mathematics. Consideration will be given to performance in Computer Science work undertaken in Year 9 but the Head of Department reserves the right to allocate places at their discretion based on the suitability of the student for the course.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr C Elliott – Head of Computer Science & ICT – c.elliott@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Mr P Count – Teacher of Computer Science & ICT – p.count@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)

Exam Board: OCR

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Information Technology?

Being able to use IT to manage and communicate information clearly and safely is vital, both in our personal and working lives. With the rise of digital economy and the internet, it is more important than ever to gain IT skills that allow us to present information that is clear, persuasive and appealing. The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia will equip learners with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. Through the use of these skills, learners will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative media products.

What will I study?

This course will appeal to students who want to develop their practical IT skills. Students will learn about tools and techniques for use in different digital hardware and software technologies, and how these can be integrated to create digital solutions to manage and communicate data and information. They will learn to use various software tools that will remain relevant in future careers such as digital imaging and web design.

How will it be assessed?

Assessment is through three practical assignments which constitute 75% of the overall grade and 25% examination. Mandatory units include:

- **Written Examination: Pre-Production Skills** - students will answer questions relating to the planning, sourcing and presentation of information to meet a client brief. This will include consideration of legal issues such as copyright, data protection, intellectual property and defamation. This exam is 1 hour 15 minutes in duration.
- **Practical Assignment 1: Creating Digital Graphics** - this unit consists of an assignment set by the exam board and marked by your teacher. This could involve designing, sourcing and creating, images and graphics for a specified audience, using software tools such as, but not limited to Photoshop, Illustrator and Fireworks.
- **Practical Assignments 2 and 3:** A further two units will be undertaken from the optional units list, which includes web design, animation, sound and video.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr C Elliott – Head of Computer Science & ICT – c.elliott@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Mr A Beaney – Teacher of Computer Science & ICT – a.beaney@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Mr P Count – Teacher of Computer Science & ICT – p.count@burford.oxon.sch.uk

D&T: Design and Technology (GCSE)

Exam Board: Eduqas

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Design and Technology?

The Eduqas GCSE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for students to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, students will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on design and technology, including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

What will I study?

To ensure they have a broad knowledge and understanding of design and technology, students are required to study all the content in the following five areas:

- design and technology and our world
- smart materials
- electronic systems and programmable components
- mechanical components and devices
- materials

In addition to the core knowledge, students are required to study at least one of six areas for an in-depth knowledge and understanding of a specific material:

- Papers & boards
- Ferrous & non-ferrous metals
- Systems that incorporate electronics
- Natural & manufactured timber
- Thermoforming & thermosetting polymers
- Fibres & textiles

Students will initially focus on one material area (Graphic Products, Resistant Materials or Textiles) which will be delivered by teachers with specialist subject knowledge.

How will it be assessed?

- **Component 1:** Design and Technology in the 21st Century - written examination: 2 hours (50%)
A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing students' knowledge and understanding of technical principles, designing and making principles along with their ability to analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.
- **Component 2:** Design and make task - non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours (50%)
A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by Eduqas, assessing students' ability to identify, investigate and outline design possibilities; design and make prototypes; analyse and evaluate design decisions and wider issues in design and technology.

Additional information:

Students will have access to well-equipped specialist rooms and equipment including a range of CAM equipment: two laser cutters; two 3D printers; a computerised embroidery machine; heat press and sublimation printer. This course leads onto an A-level in Product Design.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr H Clayton – Teacher of Design & Technology – h.clayton@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Mr A Rodgers – Teacher of Design & Technology – a.rodgers@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Miss R Ellis – Teacher of Design & Technology – r.ellis@burford.oxon.sch.uk

D&T: Engineering (Technical Award)

Exam Board: Eduqas

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Engineering?

Engineering continues to be an in demand subject in the world of work with many industries continuing to complain of worker shortages. This subject will allow you to experience some of the techniques, both old and new, used in industry.

What will I study?

This is a new single award qualification where the emphasis is on practical work and engineering drawing. During the course students will:

- Use a variety of modern and traditional engineering machines
- Complete a least five practical projects
- Use ICT to design, write and illustrate reports
- Investigate different aspects of engineering industries
- Design, make and test an engineering prototype
- Draw and interpret engineering drawings using both CAD and traditional hand skills.

How will it be assessed?

- **Unit 1:** Engineering Design Internal Assessment - Design and Communication
Students will design an artefact stipulated by the Exam Board. Students are expected to research, develop ideas and create a set of working drawings, but are not expected to make the artefact.
- **Unit 2:** Producing Engineering Products Internal Assessment - Practical Engineering
Students will make an engineered artefact to very high standards, read engineering drawings, select materials, create a production plan, use a range of tools and materials including CAD/CAM and evaluate their finished work against a range of criteria. This unit will be done in Year 11.
- **Unit 3:** Solving Engineering Problems External Assessment – Written Paper
In this unit, students will look at manufacturing and engineering theory. They will sit an exam in the summer of Year 11, which will cover topics such as technical drawing and applied maths.

Additional information:

This course is focussed on a more vocational approach to engineering and contains a high degree of engineering drawing, in orthographic, as well as a strong element of applied maths. Students who do not have a strong level of competence in either of these areas are advised to opt for the Design & Technology GCSE. The workshop is available for students use on certain sessions after school and during lunch times. As this subject does not grade incomplete practical work, students will be encouraged and expected to do one catch-up session each week. In the event of this course being oversubscribed the Head of Department will allocate places at their discretion based on the suitability of the student for the course.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr S Love – Head of Design & Technology – s.love@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Mr S Waggott - Second in Design & Technology – s.waggott@burford.oxon.sch.uk

D&T: Food and Nutrition (GCSE)

Exam Board: Eduqas

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Food and Nutrition?

This GCSE brings together all the best elements of previous food focused GCSEs. It is an exciting and challenging new GCSE that will teach you to plan, make and present a range of interesting dishes whilst also developing your technical skills through practical and experimental work. You will also explore and extend your knowledge and understanding relating to food preparation and nutrition.

What will I study?

- Effective and safe cooking skills through planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.
- Functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- The relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health.
- The economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices.
- Food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- A range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

How will it be assessed?

Assessment is through coursework (50% of qualification) and written exam (50% of qualification).

- Written exam – 1 hour 45 minutes
- Assessment 1: Food Investigation – a scientific food investigation which will assess the student's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.
- Assessment 2: Food Preparation Assessment – preparation, cooking and presentation of a menu which assesses the student's knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

Additional information:

Students will be doing a range of practical tasks every week for which they will need to supply their own ingredients.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs C Rose - Head of Food & Nutrition – c.rose@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Drama (GCSE)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Drama?

GCSE Drama is an exciting, challenging course. Throughout the course you will learn a great deal of new skills which will be useful for both your Drama work and for other areas of your school life. Drama is a fun, practical subject which will challenge and stretch you as a person.

What will I study?

You will study a set text, 'Blood Brothers', and work through this practically in class. You will visit the theatre several times during the course and learn how to appreciate and write about live performances.

You will devise and perform a piece of original drama in small groups and write about the development of your acting or design skills in a devising log book. Previous devised shows have been based on a range of topics including gender stereotypes, Jekyll and Hyde and updated fairy tales. You will also work in small groups to rehearse and perform or design a piece of scripted drama in Year 11. These scripts are selected by students and previous texts have included excerpts from 'Hamlet', 'Teachers', 'Be My Baby' and 'The Birthday Party'.

In lessons, you will be expected to work in teams to accomplish a shared goal. You will contribute ideas and opinions with clarity and conviction, listening actively to others and building on their ideas to develop your creativity and imagination. You will work to develop leadership and communication skills and become an independent learner with an enquiring mind.

How will it be assessed?

- **Component 1:** Written Exam (40%) made up of three sections:
 - Section A – Multiple choice questions on Drama theory
 - Section B – Study of one set play (Blood Brothers)
 - Section C – Analysis and evaluation of live theatre seen during the course
- **Component 2:** Devising Drama (Practical) (40%)
This piece will be performed in front of an audience (you may choose to either perform or design lighting, sound, set or costume). You will also produce a devising log in which you analyse and evaluate your own work. This work is internally assessed by your teacher and externally moderated.
- **Component 3:** Texts in Practice (Practical) (20%)
You will study a play in groups and choose two extracts to perform to an audience (you may choose to either perform or design lighting, sound, set or costume).
This is externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Additional information:

Students will visit the theatre with the school at least three times during the course and may be required to attend rehearsals during lunchtimes and after school.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr D. Brookes – Head of Drama – d.brookes@burford.oxon.sch.uk

English Language & English Literature (GCSEs)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 8

What will I study?

English Language

- Explorations in Reading and Creative Writing
- Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives
- Spoken Language – Non exam assessment (compulsory - 0% of final marks)*

English Literature

- Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
- Modern texts and poetry

How will it be assessed?

English Language

- Paper 1 – Explorations in Reading and Creative Writing (20th Century Literary Fiction Extracts)
1 hour 45 mins (50% of qualification - 20% marks for SPAG)
- Paper 2 – Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (comparison of 19th and 21st Century Literary Non-Fiction)
1 hour 45 mins (50% of qualification - 20% marks for SPAG)

English Literature

- Paper 1 – Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel
1 hour 45 mins (40% of qualification)
- Paper 2 – Modern Texts and Poetry
2 hours 15 mins (60% of qualification)

All exams for both English Language and English Literature will be taken in Summer of Year 11.

Additional information:

Please note that as English Language and English Literature are new GCSEs there will be no single award course. All pupils must study both GCSE English Language and English Literature.

There are no longer tiers of entry. All pupils will take the same examinations.

*A significant proportion of students' Spoken Language performances must be filmed and sent to the exam board for moderation purposes. This usually affects 30-40 students per year group.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr S Howells – Head of English – s.howells@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Enterprise (BTEC)

Exam Board: Edexcel

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose BTEC Technical Award in Enterprise?

The business sector covers a large range of careers. A BTEC Technical Award in Enterprise is the ideal qualification to give you an awareness of the variety of interesting opportunities that are available. You will explore how businesses plan for success and understand the market itself. Students will have the opportunity to explore what it means to set up and run a business enterprise, develop key skills and discover potential careers. BTEC Technical Award qualifications are practical, work-related courses. This qualification will be accepted by sixth forms and local colleges as a passport to any Level 3 (A Level or Level 3 vocational) qualifications or apprenticeship schemes. The work that you complete, the assignments that you write and your performance in certain situations will be assessed continuously throughout the course.

What will I study?

To gain a Technical Award, you will need to study elements of enterprise in the business world, finance and brand promotion. You will learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. Consequently, it is important that you have an interest in this area and have considered working in a business-related setting. During your BTEC Technical Award in Enterprise, you will learn about the terms used in business and delve deeper into how the sector works; how they operate and the factors that can influence their success.

How will it be assessed?

Components 1 and 2 are assessed by means of a coursework portfolio with component 3 being completed as a synoptic activity, assessed by Edexcel.

- **Component 1** - (30%) Exploring Enterprises – students will examine different enterprises to develop knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs.
- **Component 2** – (30%) Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity – students will explore ideas, plan and pitch a micro-enterprise activity to an audience, and use feedback to review their business plan.
- **Component 3** – (40%) Promotion and Finance for Enterprise - students will explore the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market. This is an exam.

Additional information:

The BTEC Technical Award qualification is designed to complement GCSEs and provide a first glimpse into a professional sector. This qualification enables learners to be assessed more through assignments and tasks rather than traditional exams.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs R Ford – Head of Business & Enterprise – r.ford@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Geography (GCSE)

Exam Board: Eduqas [Specification B]

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Geography?

Geography is an exciting, enquiry-based subject which enables you to develop a full appreciation and understanding of the world in which you live. This new GCSE course creates a sense of awe and wonder in bringing together a wide range of geographical topics and a focus on developing transferable skills throughout the course. These include collecting, analysing and interpreting data, communicating your findings in different ways, and identifying and developing the links between different parts of the subject.

What will I study?

Theme 1: Changing Places – Changing Economies

Includes the following topics: Development issues
Cities
Retail
Leisure
Trade
Aid

Theme 2: Changing Environments

Includes the following topics: Rivers
Coasts
Weather and climate
Climate change

Theme 3: Environmental Challenges

Includes the following topics: Ecosystems
Water resources
Desertification

You will also complete two compulsory fieldwork trips. One follows a physical geography topic while the other follows a human geography topic.

How will it be assessed?

- Paper 1 – Investigating Geographical Issues – 1 hour 45 mins (40% of qualification)
- Paper 2 – Problem Solving Geography – 1 hour 30 mins (30% of qualification)
- Paper 3 – Applied Fieldwork Enquiry – 1 hour 30 mins (30% of qualification)

There will be a range of question styles in all papers, including multiple choice, data response, short open response and extended responses.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr A Todd-Jones – Head of Geography – a.todd-jones@burford.oxon.sch.uk

History (GCSE)

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots”.

Exam Board: Edexcel

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose History?

Studying the History GCSE will provide you with a really enjoyable opportunity to embark upon a chronological and thematic journey through time enabling you to make connections between different periods, societies, events and individuals in order to understand the world we live in today. The process of historical inquiry will encourage you to critically analyse, argue, debate and develop your ability to evaluate and interpret different sources and opinions

What will I study?

- **Paper 1: Crime and punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city.**

Paper 1 gives you the opportunity to study the changing nature of crime and punishment from the medieval period to the present day. You will examine aspects such as the ‘hue and cry’, witchcraft, the Gunpowder plotters and the development of the Metropolitan Police Force. The Historic Environment aspect of the paper allows you to analyse in depth the links between the environmental context and crime through the local context of Whitechapel. You will examine the problems of overcrowding and poverty, tensions caused by the settlement of immigrants in the 1800s and the struggles of Scotland Yard in dealing with the notorious crimes of Jack the Ripper.

- **Paper 2: British Depth Study - Option B4 Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88**

The British Depth Study allows you to examine the challenges that Elizabeth, the Virgin Queen, faced due to her gender, her marriage and plots against her both at home and abroad. You will have an opportunity to delve into the world of Elizabethan exploration; new technologies, Drake’s circumnavigation of the globe and Raleigh’s attempts to colonise Virginia.

- **Paper 2: Period Study: Option 26/27 - Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91**

Through the Period Study, you will examine the origins, development and ending of the Cold War from the division of Berlin, to the Cuban Missile Crisis, Olympic Boycotts and the significance of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

- **Paper 3: Modern Depth Study: Option 31 - Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39**

This enquiry in depth focuses on the causes of the development of totalitarianism and its impact in Germany in the period 1919–1945. You will examine the problems faced by the Weimar Republic and the context of Hitler’s rise to power. You will investigate the impact of the Nazi dictatorship including the introduction of the Hitler Youth and the persecution of the Jews.

How will it be assessed?

- Paper 1 - 30% of qualification - 1hr 15 min - 52 marks (16 Historic Environment/36 Thematic Study)
- Paper 2 - 40% of qualification - 1hr 45 min - 64 marks (32 Period Study/32 British Depth Study)
- Paper 3 - 30% of qualification - 1hr 20 min - 52 marks

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs E Thomas – Head of History – e.thomas@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Mathematics (GCSE)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 7

What will I study?

You will continue to study and develop topics from strands that you studied at KS3:

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

How will it be assessed?

There will be three papers for the assessment, each 1 hour 30 minutes long.

- Paper 1 – Non calculator (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)
- Paper 2 – Calculator (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)
- Paper 3 – Calculator (33 $\frac{1}{3}$ %)

Each is available at Foundation or Higher level.

Additional information:

All pupils require basic mathematical equipment of a ruler, pair of compasses, angle measurer or protractor and a scientific calculator.

Pupils in the tops sets may have the opportunity to do a second mathematics qualification alongside this – AQA Level 2 Further Mathematics (syllabus 8360), which introduces new mathematics and is a useful stepping stone to AS level. There is no coursework.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr T Craig - Head of Mathematics – t.craig@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Modern Foreign Languages: French, German or Spanish (GCSE)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose French, German or Spanish?

This new GCSE will give you the opportunity to develop confidence and independence through the skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing. It will also inspire you to use your language skills to deepen your understanding of the language. Furthermore you will learn how languages can be manipulated and applied in order to enhance your educational prospects and opportunities for your future career. Languages have become increasingly more important than ever in a post-Brexit Britain.

What will I study?

The topics that will be covered are:

Self, Family & Friends	Daily Routine	School & Future Plans
Travel & Holidays	Home Life	Accommodation
Holiday Activities	Education	Illness & Accidents
The Environment	Career & Future Plans	Life in the Country
Interests and Hobbies	Home & Local Environment	Tourism
Shopping	Personal Identification	Services
Healthy Living	Jobs & Work Experience	Character & Relationships
Leisure	Choices & Responsibilities	

How will it be assessed?

There will be linear assessments in the four skill areas at the end of Year 11 and students will be entered for either foundation or higher tier. Each skill is worth 25% of the final grade.

Additional information:

There will be an opportunity to take part on a Spanish exchange and/or a trip to France or Germany.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs P Santovety – Head of MFL – p.santovety@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Music (GCSE)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Music?

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. That's why we have chosen a contemporary GCSE that offers you the chance to study a wider range of musical genres, with more opportunities for practical learning. GCSE is all about performing, listening to, and making up music. It is a practical course for people who like music. The course is divided into three areas.

What will I study?

- **Performing** (30% of qualification) - a lot of time is spent performing music. Students will learn how to perform using either their voice or an instrument. All students must perform both as a soloist and as part of a group during the course. Completed coursework in Year 11 should be of approximately Grade 4 standard and it is advisable that students have regular instrumental/vocal lessons either within school or privately to support them with this aspect of the course.
 - **Solo Performance** (15% of qualification) – students will perform one piece. The performance will be recorded and marked by the teacher. The CD recording will be sent to the exam board for external moderation.
 - **Ensemble performance** (15% of qualification) – students will perform in one ensemble during the 2-year course. Students will have to show that they can perform an individual part within an ensemble.
- **Composing** (30% of qualification)
 - **Composition No 1** (15%) – the teacher will give students a brief to follow, and a step-by-step guide of how to compose the piece of music.
 - **Composition No 2** (15%) – free composition, this allows the student to develop their composing skills using step-by-step guidance given by the teaching staff.
- **Understanding Music** (40% of qualification) – students will sit a 1 hour and 30 minute exam at the end of Year 11. They will cover 4 areas of study and students will answer questions related to these areas of study whilst listening to music excerpts. Students will then focus on 2 of these areas and write extended answers on the specified study pieces.

Additional information:

Students will need a good level of performance and want to develop their instrumental or vocal skills throughout the course. A basic understanding of music theory is advised for this course - if you do not have these skills, we can organise theory lessons for you.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr S Frankcom – Director of Music – bim@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Physical Education (GCSE)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Physical Education?

The course enables students to enhance their knowledge and understanding of the modern sporting arena and to improve their performances across a range of activities to a high level.

What will I study?

- Students will study a full range of practical activities.
- Theoretical content will include, Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Movement Analysis and Use of Data, Sports Psychology, Socio-Cultural influences and Health, Fitness and Wellbeing
- There is a significant scientific content.
- There will be TWO practical lessons per fortnight and THREE theory lessons.

How will it be assessed?

- Students are assessed in all practical activities, but will have their best THREE marks carried forward for assessment, at least one of which must be an individual activity and one a team sport.
- Students would be expected to represent the school or an outside club in at least TWO activities.
- Practical work consists of 40% of the final grade.
- Theoretical content is assessed by two written examinations, each 1 hour 15 minutes in duration.
 - Paper 1 focuses on, 'The Human Body in Physical Activity and Sport'.
 - Paper 2 focuses on, 'Socio-Cultural Influences in Physical Activity and Sport'.

Additional information:

Students will be encouraged and expected to involve themselves in extra-curricular activities and clubs, both inside and outside of school. This course leads directly onto the A-Level course, offered in Year 12. The Head of Department reserves the right to allocate places at their discretion based on the suitability of the student for the course. You will be unable to do this course and the Physical Education (Cambridge National in Sports Studies) course together.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr P Green – Director of Sport – p.green@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Religious Studies (GCSE Short Course)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 2

What is Religious Studies (GCSE Short Course)?

The AQA GCSE Religious Studies course is designed to cover a range of religions and philosophical and ethical themes. Students will be challenged with questions about values, beliefs, truth, meaning and purpose. They will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture.

Religious Studies will provide a huge range of opportunities for students to develop their skills. These include the following: debates, discussions, problem solving, creative writing, evaluation exercises, display work, independent and group research, and much, much more.

What will I study?

- Beliefs and teachings in Christianity
- Beliefs and teachings in Buddhism
- Relationships and families (including sex, marriage and divorce and families and gender equality)
- Religion, peace and conflict (including religion, violence, terrorism and war and religion and belief in 21st Century conflict)

How will it be assessed?

Assessment is through one written exam paper (1 hour and 45 minutes) across all topics taught.

Additional information:

A short course GCSE is worth half a full GCSE. There is less content, assessment and teaching time to reflect this difference.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs S Fulford – Head of Religious Studies – s.fulford@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Science (GCSE Combined Award)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 9

Why study Science?

As a core subject, all students study GCSE Science. Within lessons, students will continue to discover about the biological, chemical, and physical world. Students continue to plan and conduct investigations to test out scientific ideas and explanations and appreciate that the scientific understanding of the world is constantly changing due to continuing research and new technology.

What will I study?

- **Biology topics include (3 lessons per fortnight):** Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology
- **Chemistry topics include (3 lessons per fortnight):** Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure, and the Properties of Matter, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rates and Extent of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis and Chemistry of the Atmosphere
- **Physics topics include (3 lessons per fortnight):** Forces, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Magnetism and Electromagnetism, Particle Model of Matter and Atomic Structure

How will it be assessed?

Assessment is through terminal written examinations. There are two papers for each Science, resulting in six examinations in total, each paper representing 16.7% of the overall GCSEs. Each paper will be a mixture of multiple-choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response style questions.

Additional information:

Students gain two GCSE grades from completing the two-year course. Throughout the two years, students will undertake required practical work that may form the basis of questions in the written terminal examinations. The Combined Award in Science GCSE can lead on to A-levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs C Brown – Head of Science – c.brown@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Science (GCSE Triple Award)

Exam Board: AQA

Number of lessons per fortnight: 14

Why study Triple Science?

As a core subject, all students study GCSE Science. However, studying triple award enables students to access additional information to the Combined Science Award and results in students gaining three separate GCSE qualifications. Students will study each topic in more depth and start to develop the confidence, knowledge and skills to find answers to their own questions about the workings of the biological, chemical, and physical world.

What will I study?

- **Biology topics include:** Cell biology, Organisation, Infection and response, Bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Inheritance, variation and evolution and Ecology
- **Chemistry topics include:** Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure, and the Properties of Matter, Chemical Changes, Energy Changes, Rates and Extent of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis and Chemistry of the Atmosphere
- **Physics topics include:** Forces, Energy, Waves, Electricity, Magnetism and Electromagnetism, Particle Model of Matter and Atomic Structure

How will it be assessed?

Assessment is through written examinations. There are two papers for each qualification, each representing 50% of the individual GCSE. Students will therefore sit six examinations at the end of Year 11. Throughout the two years, students will undertake required practical work that may form the basis of questions in the written terminal examinations.

Additional information:

As stated in the letter sent out to all parents in November 2020, eligible students will be invited to study Triple Award. The invitation is a result of considering a range of student assessment data. The Head of Department reserves the right to allocate places at their discretion based on the suitability of the student for the course.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mrs C Brown – Head of Science – c.brown@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Miss E Broughton – Head of Biology – e.broughton@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Miss J Davis – Head of Chemistry – j.davis@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Miss K Scott – Head of Physics – k.scott@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Sports Studies (Cambridge National)

Exam Board: OCR

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose the Cambridge National in Sports Studies?

The course gives students an understanding of topical issues in the world of sport and an opportunity to focus on a range of practical activities.

What will I study?

- Developing player performance
- Gaining and practising coaching skills
- Gaining a greater understanding of how sport can be a force for good at local, national and international levels, because of its ability to bring people together.
- There will be TWO practical lessons per fortnight and THREE theory lessons.

How will it be assessed?

- Students will be assessed in all practical activities, but will have their best TWO Marks carried forward for assessment. One in a team activity and one in an individual activity.
- Practical work consists of 25% of the final grade.
- Two written assignments, each worth 25% of the final grade, meaning that written coursework makes up 50% of the marks awarded.
- Further theoretical content will be assessed by ONE written examination, which covers contemporary issues in sport, such as, participation levels and barriers and the role of high profile sporting events. This constitutes 25% of the final grade.
- Students would be expected to have an interest in sport and to attend at least ONE after school club.

Additional information:

Students will be encouraged and expected to involve themselves in extra-curricular activities and clubs, both inside and outside of school. It is the equivalent to a GCSE qualification. The course leads on directly to the level three BTEC course. The Head of Department reserves the right to allocate places at their discretion based on the suitability of the student for the course. You will be unable to do this course and the Physical Education GCSE course together.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr C Cowley – Head of Year 7 & Teacher of Sports Studies – c.cowley@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Study Skills (Pathway B Only)

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

What is Study Skills?

The Study Skills option block has been designed to support students' in their transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. It enables students to gain an additional lesson per fortnight in the core subjects, along with a study skills/project based lesson each week to support revision and access to exams.

What will I study?

Within this option block the students will focus on:

- Exam technique within the core subjects
- Specific topic revision within the core subjects
- Additional support across all other subject areas (where appropriate)
- Tailored study skills designed to suit all learners and prepare them for exams / revision and independent learning.
- Knowledge and skills related to project development - essential for the world of work
- Recreation sport/exercise for life sessions

Additional information:

There may be additional trips and outside agencies that will be involved in delivering the programme to aid the points above and prepare the students for their future career.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr S Bassett – Assistant Headteacher & SENDCo – s.bassett@burford.oxon.sch.uk

Travel and Tourism (BTEC First Award)

Exam Board: Pearson

Number of lessons per fortnight: 5

Why choose Travel and Tourism?

Travel and tourism is one of the UK's largest business sectors, and is very important to the Cotswolds and the local Burford area. There are a great variety of jobs in the travel and tourism sector from customer service to operations and logistics. This course introduces the subject and also develops vocational skills that are transferable to a wide range of careers.

What will I study?

You will complete 4 units, covering a range of knowledge and skills.

- Unit 1: The UK Travel and Tourism Sector
- Unit 2: UK Travel and Tourism Destinations
- Unit 3: The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience
- Unit 5: Factors Affecting Worldwide Travel and Tourism

How will it be assessed?

Unit 1 is assessed externally as a 1 hour exam and units 2, 3 and 5 are assessed as coursework, which you will complete in class. The pieces of coursework cover a range of skills, from creating travel brochures and travel maps to more practical skills such as spoken presentations, to ensure all learners develop a range of both academic and vocational skills. It is equivalent to a GCSE qualification.

Who can I ask if I need to find out more?

Mr J Belmont – Teacher of Geography/Travel and Tourism – j.belmont@burford.oxon.sch.uk

