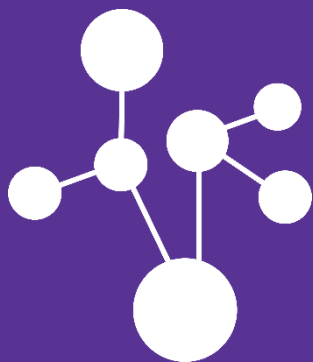




GCSE OPTIONS

2025 - 2026

SUBJECT GUIDANCE FOR YEAR 9 STUDENTS



THE BEAUTIFUL THING
ABOUT LEARNING
IS THAT
NO ONE CAN TAKE IT
AWAY FROM YOU.

WELCOME TO THE PLYMPTON ACADEMY SUBJECT GUIDANCE BOOKLET

Year 9 students and parents/carers

Our options curriculum is designed to provide a range of learning pathways so that every student can tailor their programme of study to their strengths, interests and future aspirations. As a school, we firmly believe on our core values of Curiosity, Compassion, Courage and Community and these are developed further as students progress into their KS4 studies.

This is an exciting opportunity, but can be daunting. At Plympton Academy we aim to provide strong information, advice and guidance throughout the options process, ensuring that all our students feel fully informed regarding their choices.

Through individual meetings, informative assemblies and the robust tutor programme, students will be able to make choices based on their strengths and achievements.

Please do not hesitate to ask for further advice. We are here to guide you through the process of making choices from a broad and balanced curriculum offer, alongside the support that you will have from your parents.

The aim is that all students have a learning programme that will enable them to achieve their very best and enjoy their future at Plympton Academy.

Shaun Willis
Principal

QUALIFICATIONS AVAILABLE AT PLYMPTON ACADEMY

This booklet includes information for parents and students in Year 9 as they prepare to begin their Years 10 – 11 Learning Journey. Our curriculum is designed to provide students with a rich and flourishing learning experience, through a flexible yet highly ambitious range of GCSE and BTEC qualifications.

Our aim is to provide an extensive, broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of our students and enriches their future opportunities.

Both qualifications have equal rigour and currency, but the methods of study and assessment, as well as the grade awarded, differ.

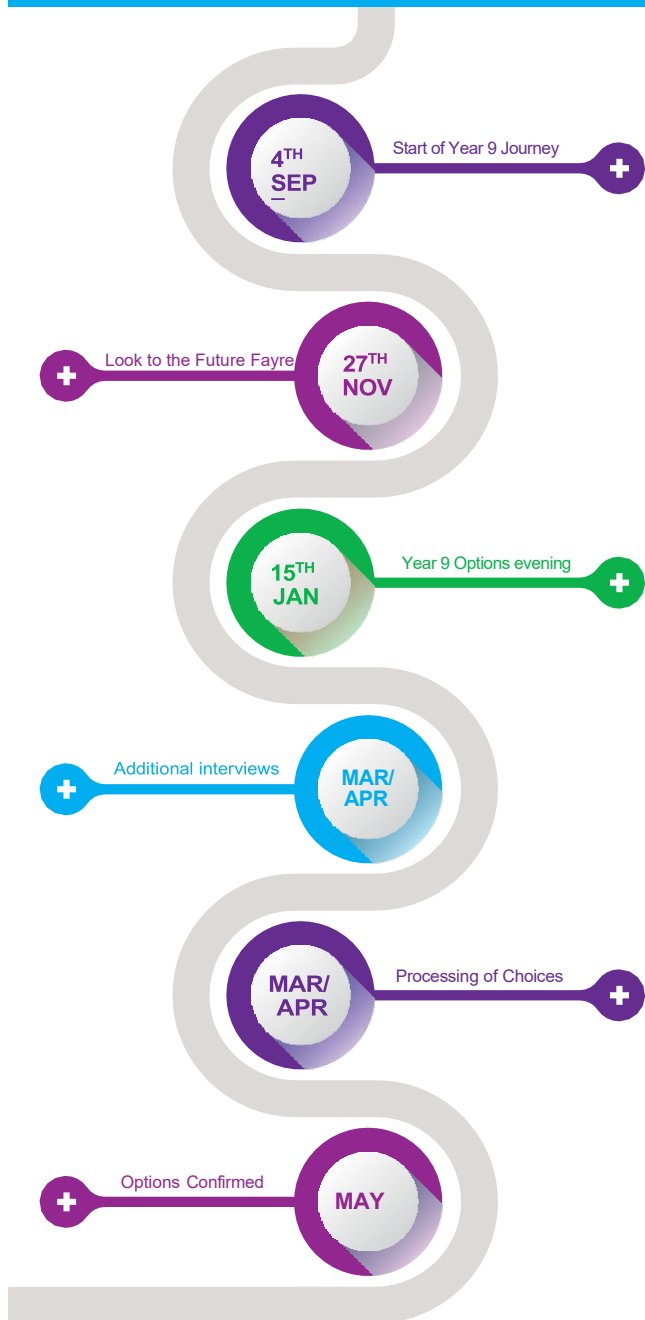
GCSEs

- Courses are assessed at the end of Year 11
- Assessment is through external examination.
- GCSE grades range from 1-9, with 9 being the highest grade awarded. A Grade 5 is classed as a 'good pass'.

BTECs

- Are assessed through a mixture of assessments in a controlled environment called controlled assessments and final examinations. These can be a mix of written and practical assessments depending on the course.
- Units may be examined or completed throughout Years 10 and 11.
- BTEC grades awarded are Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

KEY DATES 2025/26



PERSONAL LEARNING PATHWAYS

SECTION 1

COMPULSORY EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

ALL STUDENTS WILL STUDY:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science

NON-EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

- Physical Education
- Careers and Work-Related Learning
- Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)

All students follow a statutory curriculum consisting of compulsory subjects at both examination and non-examination level.

In addition to this, students will follow a Personalised Learning Pathway suitable to their interests and needs.

Whilst the Academy will do its best to ensure all courses run, this is subject to student numbers.

SECTION 2

ONE SUBJECT TO CHOOSE FROM

ALL STUDENTS CHOOSE ONE SUBJECT TO STUDY FROM:

- History
- Geography
- Spanish

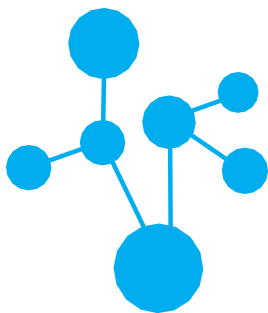
SECTION 3

THREE SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE FROM

ALL STUDENTS CHOOSE THREE SUBJECTS TO STUDY FROM:

- GCSE**
- History • Geography • Spanish • Art • Photography
 - Computer Science • Religious Studies • Sport • Triple Science

- BTEC**
- Music • Health & Social Care • Performing Arts (Drama) & (Dance)
 - Hospitality & Catering



Expand Your World @ PA

We believe in inspiring a culture of success for all.

In our Academy, individuals are equipped to take pride in their achievements and pursue their dreams.

Plympton Academy is the cornerstone of a thriving community that is stronger through collaboration.

We foster innovation and promote opportunity, creating resilient learners with a love of challenge.

All students will study:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science

Non-examination Subjects:

- Physical Education
- Careers and Work-Related Learning
- Personal, Social and Health Education



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE & GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

All students will study two English GCSEs: English Language and English Literature.

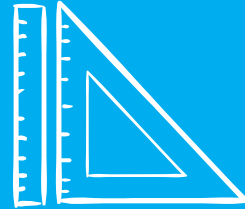
English Language assesses the key skills of reading, writing, and speaking. Throughout the course, students will read a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th century to the present day, as well as learn how to write in a variety of forms, for different purposes and audiences. For the spoken language component, students are required to give a presentation on a subject of their choice.

For English Literature, students will study one Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, a modern drama and a collection of poetry. These texts are most likely to include: 'Romeo and Juliet', 'A Christmas Carol', 'Power and Conflict Anthology' or 'Blood Brothers', although these choices may change.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Both courses are assessed by 100% external examination. For English Language, there will be two exams of one hour 45 minutes each. Each exam is worth 50% of the overall qualification. Reading and writing are both worth 50% of the total marks available. The reading texts in the exam are unseen. Spoken language does not count towards the final GCSE grade: certificates, with a separate grade, are awarded.

The literature course also has two exams, totalling four hours. The different texts (see above) are weighted equally. Students will be expected to critically respond to texts, commenting on characters and themes as well as evaluating a writer's choice of form, language and structure.



GCSE MATHEMATICS

GCSE Mathematics is made up of five key topics: Number; Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change; Algebra; Statistics and Probability; Geometry and Measure. The course will develop your application of mathematical skills in familiar and unfamiliar contexts by giving scenarios in real life situations, as well as problem-solving with non-routine problems. You will also be asked to work thoroughly through problems, presenting solutions clearly and communicating mathematics effectively.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

GCSE Mathematics is an examination subject and is assessed at two tiers. Higher Tier will accommodate students from Grades 4-9 and Foundation will be for students aiming for Grades 1-5. Students will be assessed through 3 x 1.5 hr papers. Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper, whilst calculators should be used for the other two. Whole course content will be assessed across the three papers.





NON-EXAMINATION SUBJECTS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

CAREERS & WORK RELATED LEARNING

PERSONAL, SOCIAL & HEALTH EDUCATION (PHSE)

GCSE SCIENCE

The GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) course enables all learners to achieve two GCSE qualifications in Science which encompass the three science disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Science is exciting, innovative and one of the most fundamental subjects that you can study: it forms the basic grounding for most areas of work including engineering, medicine, environmental science, space, veterinary science, pharmacy, construction, nursing, the armed services, food science, sport science, ecology, zoology, biotechnology... the list is huge!

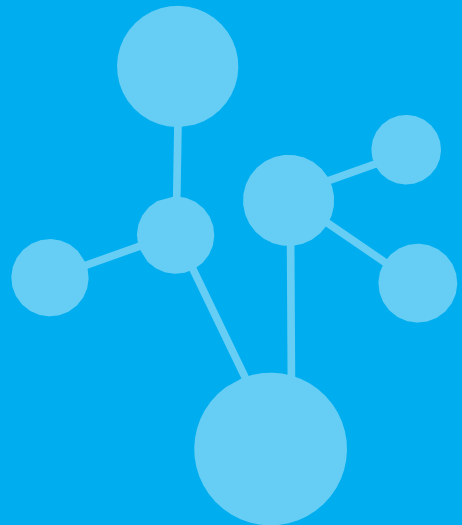
During the course students study cell biology, infection, bioenergetics, homeostasis, inheritance, atomic structure, chemical reactions, chemical kinetics, forces, energy, waves, magnetism and many more topics through a combination of theoretical and practical lessons.

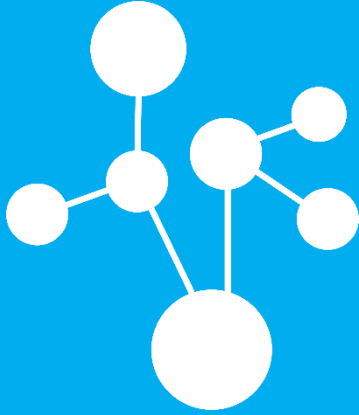
HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

At the end of Year 11 students will be assessed through 6 written papers, 2 per science discipline. Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes in duration and contributes equally (16.7%) to the overall qualification. The papers include different types of questions such as multiple choice, short answer, longer written response and calculations.

The exam papers will also include questions on the core practicals students will have completed as well as general questions on working scientifically.

The Combined Science GCSE course leads directly to all Post-16 Science subjects such as A-levels and BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science which are gateways to university, higher level apprentices or employment.





THE EXPERT
IN ANYTHING
WAS ONCE
A BEGINNER.

All students will select one subject to study:

- History
- Geography
- Spanish



GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Topics of study include: climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

The course involves the study of the following:

- The challenge of natural hazards
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- The living world
- Urban issues and challenges
- The challenge of resource management
- Human and physical fieldwork.

Students will undertake two geographical enquiries which will involve fieldwork outside of the academy site.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Students will be assessed in Geography through three examinations:

- 35% Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minutes written examination on physical geography
- 35% Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minutes written examination on human geography
- 30% Paper 3: 1 hour written examination on geographical applications (this will include questions on fieldwork skills and a decision-making style exam question based on a pre-released document).



GCSE HISTORY

Students will learn about the past 1000 years, studying the changes, ideas, and people that have shaped our modern world. We follow the Edexcel exam board specification which offers students the opportunity to learn about a variety of subjects.

-Ever wondered what surgery was like before they could knock people out safely? Are you interested in how England survived the Spanish Armada? Have you always wondered what the truth is behind all the cowboy and western stories? Would you like to learning about the Western Front during the First World War? Or are you intrigued by how Germany went from being one of the most free democracies in the world to being controlled by the Nazis?

If the answer is “yes”, then GCSE History is for you!

Topics of Study:

The units are designed to appeal to all students of History by the offering a breadth of interest and time periods. At Plympton Academy we study the History of Medicine 1250-present day, The Western Front 1914-18, Elizabeth England 1538-88, The American West 1835-95, and Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39.

The course involves the study of the following:

-AO1 Knowledge and Understanding of the Past, AO2 Explanation in Writing, AO3 Analysing Evidence and Sources, AO4 Interpretation Analysis

-Second order concepts of Change, Continuity, Cause, Consequence, Significance, Similarity, and Difference.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Students are assessed through 3 examinations:

- 30% Paper 1: 1 Hour 30 minutes written examination on Medicine and the Western Front
- 40% Paper 2: 1 Hour 30 minutes written examination on Elizabeth England and The American West
- 30% Paper 3: 1 Hour written examination on Weimar and Nazi Germany.





GCSE SPANISH

Did you know that learning a foreign language helps your memory, creativity, listening skills and self-confidence? Not only is knowledge of a foreign language an essential life skill, it can give you the edge in the jobs market and provide opportunities for you to live and work abroad. Some of the UK's best universities may request the study of a language at GCSE as an entry requirement and it also combines extremely well with virtually any other subject for further study.

A GCSE in a modern foreign language will build upon the skills you have acquired at Key Stage 3 and broaden your knowledge and application of language in many interesting topic areas. During the course you'll also develop your skills in listening, reading, speaking and writing that you will be able to put to good use outside of the classroom.

By choosing to study Spanish at GCSE you will cover the following themes:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the World Around Us

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

All GCSE examinations take place at the end of Year 11 and they can be sat at either Foundation or Higher level. The speaking tests will be conducted and recorded by your teacher in school and consist of role-play, a reading aloud task with follow-up questions and picture-based discussion and questions linked to the themes above.

Examination Outline:

Paper 1: Listening 25% (Foundation 35 minutes, Higher 45 minutes)

Paper 2: Speaking 25% (Foundation 7-9 minutes, Higher 10-12 minutes)

Paper 3: Reading 25% (Foundation 45 minutes, Higher 60 minutes)

Paper 4: Writing 25% (Foundation 70 minutes, Higher 75 minutes)

All students choose three subjects to study from GCSE or BTEC options.

GCSE OPTIONS:

- History
- Geography
- Spanish
- Art
- Photography
- Computer Science
- Religious Studies
- Physical Education



GCSE ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

This is a fun and exciting course that allows you to work creatively and independently with a wide range of materials and techniques. We encourage students to use their imagination, be experimental and have fun producing the artwork. You will look at art from other times and cultures alongside modern, contemporary works.

You work across a range of disciplines including: painting, drawing, printing, ICT, photography, 3D and textiles. You will have the opportunity to work with clay, wire, collage, pastels, chalks, charcoal and alternative materials such as wax and plaster. You will look at the work of other artists and craftspeople to inspire you and document your thoughts, experiments, designs and outcomes in your sketchbooks and on A2 sheets.

Educational visits are an important part of the course and past trips have been to the Eden Project, Plymouth Aquarium, The Box and TR2.

Many students will get the opportunity to work with professional artists during one-day workshops and in lessons. This is a popular course, with a history of excellent results here at Plympton Academy. If you love being creative and enjoy your art lessons this course is a must!

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

During Year 10 and 11 you will complete a coursework portfolio consisting of two main projects and smaller mini projects.

You will also complete an exam project at the end of the course. Your work will be assessed in four areas: Develop, Experiment, Record and Present. Your teacher will provide you with continual verbal feedback and written feedback at key points.

The course is 60% coursework and 40% examination.



GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

This is a practical course that explores the world through the lens. You will learn digital photography techniques, working in the studio, and computer suite. You will study photography throughout history, explore different cultures, alongside modern and contemporary art and photography.

Projects include portraiture, landscape (working from the built or natural environment), still life (working from natural or manufactured objects), documentary photography, photojournalism, narrative, reportage, fine art and new media practice such as computer manipulated photography.

You'll create a digital portfolio and produce sketchbook work to support your studies. Educational visits include: the Eden Project and The Box. Many students will get the opportunity to work with professional photographers during one-day workshops and in lessons.

This course can lead to A-level photography here at Plympton Academy. Students are expected to work creatively with original thought and a passion for the subject is essential.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

During Year 10 and 11 you will complete a coursework portfolio consisting of two main projects and smaller mini projects.

You will also complete an exam project at the end of the course. Your work will be assessed in four areas: Develop, Experiment, Record and Present. Your teacher will provide you with continual verbal feedback and written feedback at key points.

The course is 60% coursework and 40% examination.





GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

WHAT IS COMPUTER SCIENCE?

GCSE Computer Science provides students with an in-depth understanding of how computers and systems work, focusing on programming and computational problem-solving. This course is ideal for students interested in programming, particularly using Python, and encourages the development of practical skills, independent thinking, and confidence.

It covers how computers are designed and programmed and explores computational systems, which are relevant across fields like biology, chemistry, psychology, and economics. By the end of Years 10 and 11, students will have a solid grasp of key computer science concepts, including RAM, binary arithmetic, data storage, embedded systems, and networking. They will also learn about security vulnerabilities, operating systems, and the ethical, cultural, and environmental issues tied to digital technology. Furthermore, students will explore data measurement units, flowcharts, algorithms, and programming concepts such as Boolean operators and data types, along with testing and debugging practices. This comprehensive course equips students with the essential skills and knowledge for further studies or a career in computer science.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

The course is examined by two written exams:

- Paper 1: Computer Systems: Systems architecture Memory and storage Computer networks, connections and protocols Network security systems software Ethical, Legal, Cultural and Environmental impacts of digital technology
- Paper 2: Computational thinking, Algorithms and Programming: Algorithms programming fundamentals, Producing robust programs, Boolean logic, Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments.



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Whether you believe in God or not, religion has a major influence on the way that people live their lives around the world. From UK laws on abortion and euthanasia being based on Christian beliefs, to the conduct of war based on the Just War Theory, and with the U.K.'s main holidays still based on Christian festivals, religion is always in the background of daily life.

In GCSE Religious Studies, we will investigate the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Hinduism in the UK and around the world. These beliefs will then be applied to a variety of issues including Abortion, Animal Rights, Charity, Poverty, Crime and Punishment, the Death Penalty, and the debate between religion and science.

Throughout the course students are invited to express their own opinion on the issue studied. For example, do you agree with animals being experimented on for medicines or part of a pig being used in human transplants?

Do you agree that a murderer should lose their own life? Do you believe that science has now disproved religious belief?

The course is seen as ideal preparation for a whole range of careers including: medicine, law, education, social work, travel and tourism, business management, as well as both the Armed Forces and emergency services. It is also an excellent basis for Post-16 study.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Throughout the course, students will be assessed both during and at the end of each unit to check knowledge and understanding of the issues being studied. At the end of the GCSE course, students will sit two exams which form 100% of the GCSE grade. They will be examined on the beliefs and practices of Christianity and Hinduism as well as ethical and philosophical issues.

The questions are split between:

- Knowledge/understanding
- Evaluation Approximately 50% of the marks are based on evaluation skills and students' own opinion.



PEARSON GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE Physical Education offers our students at Plympton Academy the opportunity to develop a deep understanding of physical activity, health, and fitness. It combines theoretical knowledge with practical performance, making it ideal for those who enjoy sport and want to explore the concepts behind it.

The course also helps students build valuable transferable skills such as teamwork, analysis, and communication. In addition, it provides an excellent foundation for further study, supporting progression to our range of well-established BTEC Sport courses in our 6th Form, and furthermore into careers in areas such as coaching, teaching, physiotherapy, sports science, and the fitness and health sectors.

Throughout the course, students will learn how the body works during exercise and gain insight into the principles of training and fitness testing. They will explore the psychological and social factors that influence participation in physical activity and develop the ability to improve performance through analysis and planning.

This course is perfect for students with a genuine interest in sport, health, and fitness. It suits those who enjoy both practical and theoretical learning and is particularly beneficial for anyone considering a future career in sport, health sciences, or education.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE Physical Education course is divided into four key components, combining theoretical knowledge with practical application:

- **Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems (Theory – 36%)**
 - Anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training, Use of data
- **Component 2: Health and Performance (Theory – 24%)**
 - Health, fitness, and well-being, Sport psychology, Socio-cultural influences
- **Component 3: Practical Performance (30%)**

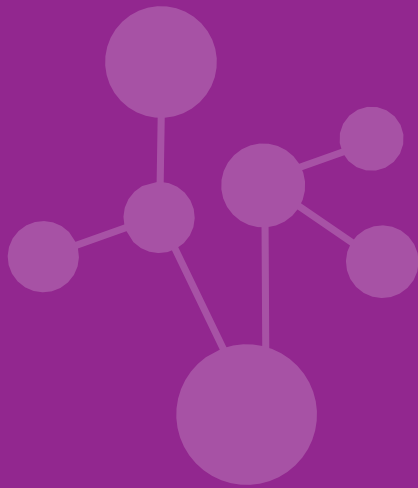
Students are assessed in **three activities**:

- One team sport • One individual sport • One additional activity (team or individual) through demonstrating skills both in isolation and in competitive situations.

- **Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) (10%)**

This involves creating and evaluating a personal training programme, showcasing analytical and planning skills.

The qualification is assessed through a combination of written exams and practical work with students sitting **two written exams** (1 hour 45 minutes each) at the end of Yr11 worth 60% of their total grade. The final 40% of their final grade is assessed through the **Practical performance and PEP** which is assessed across the 2 years of the taught course and moderated by an external assessor between March and May of Yr11.



STOP BEING
AFRAID OF WHAT
COULD GO
WRONG
AND THINK OF
WHAT COULD
GO RIGHT!

All students choose three subjects to study from GCSE or BTEC options.

BTEC OPTIONS:

- Music
- Health & Social Care
- Performing Arts (Dance)
- Performing Arts (Drama)
- Hospitality & Catering



HOSPITALITY AND CATERING LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD

According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with most new roles falling within the 18-24 age groups. The ability to plan, prepare and present food is an essential skill within the hospitality and catering industry. The WJEC Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering equips you with theoretical knowledge about the industry as well as enabling you to develop practical skills in planning, preparing and cooking a variety of dishes

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Unit 1: Hospitality and catering industry: 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: You will develop practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting nutritional dishes to meet specific client's needs

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Level 1/2 in Hospitality and Catering is externally and internally assessed.

Unit 1 The Hospitality and catering industry: is assessed through a written examination which is 40% of qualification.

Unit 2 Hospitality and catering in action: is assessed through a non-examination assessment task (NEA) which will be completed under controlled conditions, marked by your teacher, externally moderated by WJEC. This assessment will allow you to showcase the food preparation skills you have developed through your practical lessons.

It is worth 60% of qualification.

You will need to propose 4 nutritious dishes that you think could be served in the catering outlet and need to plan for the production of 2 dishes. You will need to prepare, cook and serve 2 dishes with accompaniments during a set practical session, Written evidence will be needed to show coverage of the Assessment Criteria.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication



BTEC HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

The programme offers units including: Discovering the human body systems; Healthy living; Equality and diversity; and the opportunities to carry out research into specific areas of interest. The course provides students with a high-quality vocational and applied curriculum and opportunities to link education and the world of work in engaging, relevant and practical ways. The course develops transferable interpersonal skills including working with others, problem solving and independent study.

There are 3 components:

- 1 - Human Lifespan Development
- 2 - Health and Social Care Services and Values
- 3 - Health and Well-being

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

This course contains 3 units, each will contribute to your overall course grade.

- March of Year 10, you will be assessed through a Pearson Set Assignment which consists of 4 tasks for Component 1.
- November of the year 11, you will be assessed again through a Pearson Set Assignment for Component 2.
- In May of Year 11, you will sit your final assessment which will be a 2-hour exam on Component 3.

Pearson Set Assignments (PSA) - These are assessments set each time by Pearson where students will complete multiple tasks in examination conditions. These tasks are supported with student's personal notes and is viewed as a 'timed assignment'.

WHY SHOULD I CHOOSE TO STUDY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

Students who study this course are compassionate, empathetic and resilient. This course is well suited for students who aspire to make a difference in their own health, but also of others. This course focuses on the health and social care problems within society, and looks to see who can help and how, so we are looking for enthusiastic individuals who can engage in the topic, but also try to make differences in the wider society.

Students choose this course if they have an interest in working with children, interested in the body and how we develop and for students who wish to improve their health and wellbeing.



BTEC MUSIC

The BTEC Tech Award in Music is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring and developing their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The course gives learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the music industry.

WHAT DOES THE QUALIFICATION COVER?

- Responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques.
- Processes of working in the music industry, such as the development of musical ideas, using skills and techniques for rehearsal and performance.
- Personal management and communication.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector such as musical skills and styles.

COMPONENTS

The three components focus on the assessment of knowledge, skills and practices. These are all essential to developing a basis for progression and, therefore, learners need to achieve all components in order to achieve the qualification. The components are interrelated, and they are best seen as part of an integrated whole rather than as totally distinct study areas. The three components in the qualification give learners the opportunity to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the music industry, specialist skills and techniques in music practice, and how to respond to a commercial music brief.

COMPONENT 1- EXPLORING MUSIC PRODUCTS AND STYLES.

Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles and genres. We will be exploring popular music from the 60's, 70's and the 80's. In this component, you will develop your understanding of different types of music product and the techniques used to create them. You will explore how musical elements, technology and other resources are used in the performance, creation and production of music. You will also practically explore the key features of different genres of music and music theory and apply your knowledge and understanding to developing your own creative work.



COMPONENT 2- MUSIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT.

Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement. In this component, you will participate in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical, personal and professional skills and specialise in at least two of the following areas: music performance, creating original music, music production. Throughout your development, you will review your progress and consider how to make improvements. You will learn how musicians share their work and collaborate with others and will develop your own skills as a musician in how to use blogs, YouTube™, Soundcloud™ and other platforms to share your work and skills' development with others.

COMPONENT 3 - RESPONDING TO A COMMERCIAL MUSIC BRIEF.

Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given commercial music brief. This component will allow you to work to your strengths and interests and apply the skills that you have learned throughout your course in a practical way. You will focus on a particular area of the music industry that excites and appeals to you and respond to a commercial music brief as a composer, performer or producer.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

- Component 1 - Solo and group performance
- Component 2 - Combination of logbook evaluation and performance
- Component 3 - Performance, composition or technological performance



BTEC Performing Arts (DANCE)

BTEC Dance will allow students to improve physical, expressive and choreography skills. It is created to give students an opportunity to experience different styles of dance, companies, repertoire and techniques so that they could go forward and study the subject further for a Level 3 qualification, but also acquire life skills such as: confidence, collaboration, control and communication.

The BTEC TECH in Dance is comprised of 3 components:

Component 1 requires students to investigate, research and analyse a piece of professional work. Students will look at elements such as roles, responsibilities and the application of relevant skills and techniques. They will improve their knowledge by observing existing repertoire, learning about the approaches of practitioners, and how they create and influence performance material. This will take the form of a written portfolio which is supported with practical workshops. Often students will have a professional workshop with a top UK dance company during this component to deepen their understanding and build connections with the dance industry in meaningful ways.

Component 2 will develop performance skills. Students will have the opportunity to specialise as a performer and will take part in workshops and classes where they will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. Students will learn existing dance repertoire (looking at companies such as Matthew Bourne, Rambert, Ballet Boyz etc), applying relevant skills and techniques to reproduce performance elements of the work. Students will review their own progress and consider how to make improvements through a performance logbook.

Component 3 will require students to respond to a brief. You will be given an externally set brief that outlines the performance and design requirements requiring students to consider their target audience and to start the creative process by using the given stimulus included in the brief. Working as part of a group, students will develop their ideas for a workshop performance and apply their skills and techniques to communicate creative intentions to the Audience. Students will then write a reflective journal as part of a controlled assessment of how they developed the piece.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Students who bring not only existing skills in performance, but also willingness to experiment with new ideas and new ways of working, and a zest for collaborating with others, will be in a good position to enjoy success on this course.

Students will be given many opportunities to perform to live audiences and will walk away with a portfolio of work having developed new skills, collaboratively responding to different themes



BTEC PERFORMING ARTS (Drama)

BTEC performing arts encourages students to consider a range of different elements that contribute to theatre making. Students research the role of the actor and understand the progression pathways available within the industry. Whilst this course is a fantastic opportunity for students to develop their techniques as practitioners within the performing arts, it also supports more transferable skills that are welcomed by employers in the 21st Century. Students learn to work creatively in a team; to manage themselves and each other in accomplishing a task; to problem solve; to present their ideas to an audience and speak publicly.

Component 1 will explore a range of acting styles and genres such as absurdism, classical, comedy, commedia dell'arte, epic, forum theatre, melodrama, musical theatre, naturalism, symbolism, theatre of cruelty, and verbatim.

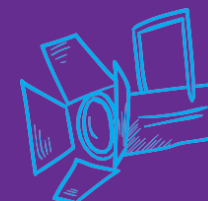
Throughout the unit students will explore elements such as: roles, responsibilities and the application of relevant skills and techniques. They will broaden their knowledge through observing existing repertoire and by learning about the approaches of practitioners, and how they create and influence performance material. This component gives students an understanding of practitioners' work and the processes and practices that contribute to a range of performance styles.

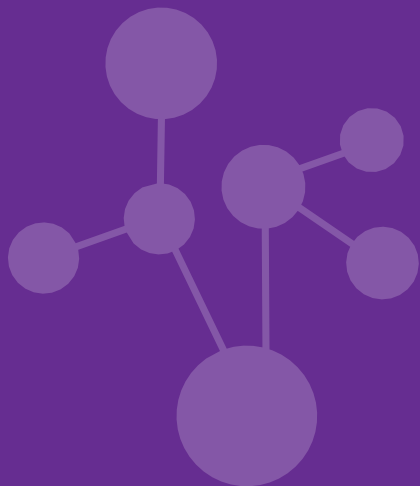
Component 2 requires students to take part in workshops and classes where they develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. Students work from existing performing arts repertoire, applying relevant skills and techniques to reproduce performance or design elements of the work. Throughout the development, students will review their own progress and consider how to make improvements.

Component 3 is an external component. It builds on knowledge, understanding and skills acquired and developed in Components 1 and 2 and includes synoptic assessment. Students will apply their skills and techniques creatively to a workshop performance for a selected audience. They will capture their ideas on planning, development and effectiveness of the production process in a written log and an evaluation report.

HOW YOU WILL BE ASSESSED

Students who bring not only existing skills in performance, but also willingness to experiment with new ideas and new ways of working, and a zest for collaborating with others will be in a good position to enjoy success on this course. Students will be given many opportunities to perform to live audiences and will walk away with a portfolio of work having developed new skills, collaboratively responding to different themes.





DON'T WATCH
THE CLOCK;
DO WHAT IT
DOES.
KEEP GOING!

UNLOCK YOUR POTENTIAL AT PLYMPTON ACADEMY



NOTES:

A large white rectangular area for writing notes, set against a green background.

YOUR CONTACTS AT PLYMPTON ACADEMY

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PLEASE WRITE ANY QUESTIONS ON THIS PAGE, CUT OUT AND GIVE TO YOUR
FORM TUTOR TO ANSWER.



EDUCATION
IS THE
PASSPORT
TO THE
FUTURE,
FOR TOMORROW
BELONGS
TO THOSE WHO
PREPARE FOR
IT TODAY.

