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# YOUR OPTIONS YOUR CHOICE

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Curriculum Guidance for Students and Parents

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Choosing your options is the first step to your future and as such is a very exciting time. You get to shape your learning for the next three years, but also start to shape your career – these subjects will determine what you do in Post 16, maybe what you do at university, and what job you will go into. That makes this very exciting but also very important.

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You will be asked to think very carefully about the choices that you make and this booklet and the information from tasters and other students will also help. You can also ask teachers any questions that you think you need to make the right choices.

We will support you every step of the way to make the best choices for you, and help you as your school career develops to get you to where you want to be.

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## MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

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### Dear Parents / Guardians

As your child comes to the end of their two year Key Stage 3 programme they move onto a 13-19 curriculum, which will see them through to the end of their school career and into the next stage of education and life. During these years, learners will access courses at a variety of levels that maximise and often exceed individual potential.

At Heath Park all learners follow a core curriculum of English, Maths and Science. This gives all learners a broad base of studies on which to build their personal curriculum. In addition to the core curriculum, learners will be guided through a wide range of qualifications in a wealth of subjects. Students are entered for examinations and progress to the next level at the point that is right for them.

We are committed to providing appropriate and relevant courses for all learners which build on individual interests, abilities and aptitudes.

To these ends, learners will be counselled on the choices they wish to make, with a clear view of where this will take them in the future.

After reviewing the information, please complete the Curriculum Guidance form and submit form. Following receipt of this form, individual curriculum offers will be put together based on preferences and recommendations from subject areas. Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mr Barber, Head of School.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Holloway, Executive Headteacher

Students are offered two kinds of qualifications at Level 2, both of which are of the same value as qualifications, and viewed the same by further education and employers:

- **GCSE** - GCSEs are graded 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade. They are academic qualifications assessed almost exclusively through examinations at the end of the course. A good pass at GCSE is regarded as a grade from a 9 to a 5.
- **Vocational** - These are grades from a Distinction\* to a Pass. They are vocational qualifications which focus on the skills in particular employment areas such as the food industry or in business. They are assessed through a mix of examinations at set points in the course and units completed in school.

### Advice to help you with your decision



Before you even start thinking about filling in the form, you should have done a number of things:

- Reflected on the taster sessions you have had in new subjects
- Talked to older learners who have studied the courses
- Talked to subject teachers
- Talked to your form tutors
- Discussed everything with your parents or guardians.

There are also a number of questions you should ask yourself:

- **Why am I choosing the subject?**  
If it's to be with friends or because you might get a certain teacher then that's the wrong reason - you may be split from friends and teachers might change
- **What are my strongest subjects?**  
These might give you an idea of the career that you might be heading for
- **What will I enjoy studying?**  
Three years is a long time and you need to stay committed and motivated
- **What do I want to do after I finish school?**  
This may determine the subjects you need to take.

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## THE CORE CURRICULUM

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All learners follow a core curriculum of:

### English

All students study GCSE English Language and English Literature across Key Stage 4.

#### English Language

The aim of the Language qualification is to allow students to:

- Read fluently from a range of texts and summarise, evaluate and compare these texts
- Write effectively using Standard English, use spelling, punctuation and grammar correctly and accurately, and develop and apply a wide vocabulary.

Assessment is through two examinations which include both reading and writing tasks. One is looking at creativity and the other at viewpoints and perspectives. There is also a separate Spoken Language mark awarded which is given from work across the course, but this does not contribute to the GCSE English Language overall grade.

#### English Literature

The English Literature qualification complements the Language qualification and builds on both the reading and writing skills. Students will study:

- A Shakespeare play such as Macbeth
- A 19th century novel such as a Christmas Carol
- Modern prose such as an Inspector Calls
- A range of poetry dealing with the themes of power and conflict.

Assessment is through two written examinations at the end of the course. The exams will be based on the texts studied in lessons but also contain an unseen element to test the skills developed across the course.



### Maths

All students will study GCSE Maths in Key Stage 4, building on their knowledge from Key Stage 3. The GCSE focuses on the development of mathematical knowledge, skills and methods to allow students to:

- Solve problems
- Use reasoning to draw conclusions
- Interpret information in a range of forms.

Assessment is through examinations at the end of the course and there are two tiers of entry depending on a student's abilities. Students are entered for Maths at the point of readiness and this may allow an opportunity to access further qualifications in Year 11, including A Level Maths.

### Science

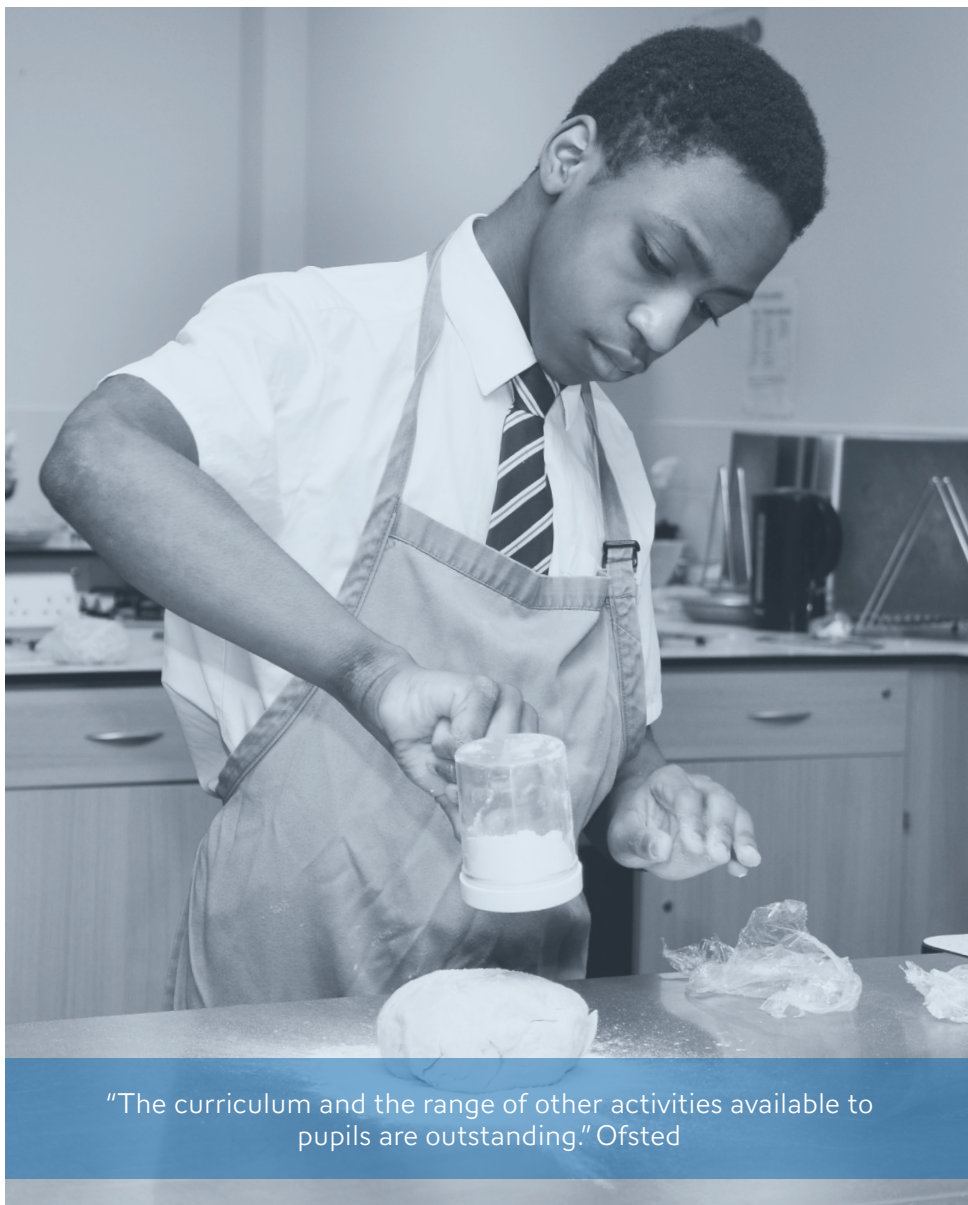
All students will study the three sciences in KS4, leading to qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

In their studies, students will gain a wide knowledge of the different disciplines which is fundamental to an understanding of the world we live in, but also a strong foundation for many other subjects. They will also engage in a plethora of practical assignments which build skills such as investigation, analysis and evaluation.

Assessment is through terminal examinations at the end of the course, with practical skills evaluated through specific questions in these exams. At the end of their GCSE studies, students are well prepared to move onto A Levels in the sciences, or a number of other academic or vocational subjects such as Health and Social Care and Psychology.

### ICT

All students will work towards a vocational ICT qualification across Key Stage 4. This will allow them to explore issues around ICT in the workplace and at home so that they understand the role information technology plays in all our lives. The course will also allow students to effectively prepare for studies in ICT and computing at Post 16 and beyond.



"The curriculum and the range of other activities available to pupils are outstanding." Ofsted

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## OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

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- Art and Design
- Business
- Computer Science
- Dance
- 3D Design
- Drama
- Food and Cookery
- Geography
- Graphic Communication
- History
- Health and Social Care
- ICT
- Music
- Physical Education
- Photography
- Spanish
- Textile Design
- Travel and Tourism

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## SUBJECT DESCRIPTIONS

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Carefully read subject information, it will give you better understanding of the subject and what career path it could lead to.



Details of the content of the courses can be found on school's website - [www.heathpark.net](http://www.heathpark.net)



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### Art and Design

**What subjects will we cover?** This GCSE enables students to develop and produce personal responses that reflect a broad exploration of art, craft and design.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Students will be asked to engage in the creative process and take risks with their work, learning from mistakes to make improvements. Students should show an understanding of working practices and techniques and develop cultural knowledge and an understanding of the role of Art and Design in society. Students will be expected to learn to draw from direct observation and also research a range of artists/designers techniques, experimenting with a range of materials.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Students would be well prepared for study at A Level or BTEC Level 3 qualification.

**What careers will this help me with?** Advertiser, Animator, Art Critic, Art Director, Art Gallery Curator, Courtroom Artist, Graphic Designer, Architectural Designer, Art Therapist, Artists' Agent, Commercial Artist, Costume Designer, Craftsperson, Interior Designer, Jewellery Designer.



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### Business

**What subjects will we cover?** Within the course we cover all aspects of business including finance, self employment, starting a business and people in business.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** The course is designed to encourage students to consider the practical application of business concepts. Courses are set out to encourage candidates to develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. Learners use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish between fact and opinion, build arguments and make informed judgements.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Learners may go onto study A Level Business, BTEC National or a range of NVQs including Business Admin.

**What careers will this help me with?** Retail Manager, Administrator, Sales, Marketing and Banking.



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### Computer Science

**What subjects do we cover?** The qualification consists of two assessments: Principles of Computer Science which is a paper-based exam, and Application of Computational Thinking where students have to demonstrate their programming skills. Students will learn a wide range of topics. Some of these topics include: computer hardware and software, how the internet works and how computers generate sound and images.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Students will undertake in-depth research and practical work. Students will be learning a programming language called Python. These programming skills will allow students to write code and enable them to write their own programs. This allows learners to develop their analytical and problem-solving skills.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Learners may go onto study A Levels, BTEC National or a range of NVQs including Computer Science, Engineering, Sciences and Maths.

**What careers will this help me with?** Computer Programmer, Project Leader, Games Developer, Systems Administrator, Network Engineer, Hardware Architect, Systems Architect.





## Dance

**What subjects do we cover?** The course covers many aspects of dance appreciation, choreography and performance.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** The course encourages learners to understand and appreciate the art and purpose of dance and movement, as well as develop kinesthetic skills useful in all sports and practical activities.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto an A Level or BTEC National Dance course.

**What careers will this help me with?** Dance Teacher, Gym Class Instructor, Dancer, Actor and Choreographer.



## Drama

**What subjects will we cover?** Through the course, learners explore how a published text is brought to life for an audience. They will explore the key principles and concepts of devising a piece of drama from stimulus material and explore the roles of deviser, designer, director and performer.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Learners work imaginatively and creatively in collaborative contexts, generating, developing and communicating ideas. They reflect on and evaluate their own work and the work of others. They also consider and explore the impact of social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto an A Level Drama course or BTEC in Drama/Performing Arts.

**What careers will this help me with?** Actor, Stage Manager, Arts Administrator, Drama Therapist, Production Assistant and Radio Presenter.



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## 3D Design

**What subjects will we cover?** We study Architectural design, Interior design, Product design, Environmental/landscape design, Sculpture, Design for theatre, film and television, Jewellery and body adornment, Ceramics

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Students will develop their practical skills through exposure to a wide range of 3D techniques and processes. By creating a series of personalised projects, students will have the opportunity to explore their own interests whilst learning how to be independent, creative and resilient. Students will be exposed to both traditional and contemporary artwork, broadening their cultural knowledge of Three-dimensional design in the wider world.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Students would be well prepared for study at A Level or BTEC Level 3 qualification.

**What careers will this help me with?** 3D Designer, Brick layer, Plasterer, Construction, CAD Technician, Exhibition Designer, Furniture Designer, Engineering, Landscaping, Interior Design, Architect, Theatre Design, Ceramist, Jewellery Designer.



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## Food and Cookery

**What subjects will we cover?** The course focuses on cookery and hospitality skills related to events and functions and the customer in the hospitality industry.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Studying this subject allows students to develop their knowledge and skills of hospitality in a vocational context. The course provides opportunities to develop interdisciplinary skills such as communication and team work, a range of key skills and students' capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto a wide range of Level 2 or 3 vocational courses such as NVQs in Food Production and Housekeeping, or develop hospitality units in other subjects such as Level 3 Hospitality.

**What careers will this help me with?** Chef, Catering Assistant, Waiting Staff, Bar Staff, Pub/Bar Manager, Hotel/Restaurant Manager, Food Industry Technician, Receptionist and Food Safety Inspector.



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## Geography

**What subjects will we cover?** The course covers many topics both physical, such as volcanoes and earthquakes, and human, such as settlement. There is also a fieldwork element.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** The course enables students to develop transferable skills that encourage flexible thinking as well as tackle important events that are moulding the world that you are growing up in. Geographical investigations develop enquiry, evaluative and analytical skills.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Many learners follow their GCSE studies by going onto A Level Geography.

**What careers will this help me with?** Disaster Manager, Journalist, Flood Prevention Officer, Risk Assessor, Location Analyst, Regional Developer, Transport Manager, Tour Guide and Media Researcher.



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## Graphic Communication

**What subjects will we cover?** Areas covered include: Typography, Communication Graphics, Design for print, Advertising, Multi-media, Illustration, Interactive design (including web, app and game design), Package design, Signage.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Students will develop their practical skills through exposure to a wide range of design processes and techniques. By creating a series of personalised projects, students will have the opportunity to explore their own interests whilst learning how to be independent, creative and resilient. Students will be exposed to both traditional and contemporary design work, broadening their cultural knowledge of design in the wider world.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Students would be well prepared for study at A Level.

**What careers will this help me with?** Advertising Art Director, Animator, Artworker, Concept Artist, Creative Director, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Exhibition Designer, Fine Artist, Game Artist, Interior and Spatial Designer, Medical Illustrator, Urban Designer, UX Designer.





## History

**What subjects will we cover?** We study the USA between 1929 and 2000, Germany in the 1920s and 30s, Medieval British History and Crime and Punishment Through Time.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Through the study of History you will develop an understanding of the world around you and its rich past. This will allow you to contextualise all the things which take place today - understand why they happen. History is about analysis and interpretation - understanding what something is saying and why it is said like this. It teaches us to be critical in our thinking and make sound judgements based on evidence.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After a successful GCSE course, learners would go onto A Level History.

**What careers will this help me with?** Lawyer, Journalist, Researcher, Archaeologist, Police Officer, Manager, Civil Servant, Diplomat, Politician, Writer, Librarian, Social Worker.



## Health and Social Care

**What subjects will we cover?** We will look at Health and Social Care in a work context, both for personal development and the early-years sector. We will also examine issues that affect human life, diversity and culture.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Through the course, learners will develop an analytical approach to the issues and problems they encounter and seek solutions for all involved. They will be challenged to use and enhance all the skills needed in the wider world of work in a real world context.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Learners may choose to study Health and Social Care at Level 3 or move onto courses in Child Care.

**What careers will this help me with?** Nursing, Care in the Community, Care in Residential Homes, Hospital Worker, Nursery Nurse, Teaching and any Health and Social Care related jobs for example, Receptionist in health organisations and Social Services.



## ICT

**What subjects will we cover?** Students will cover three main areas: Exploring Media Products, Developing Digital Media Products and Creating a Media Product in Response to a Brief. Each of these areas covers a range of topics from target audiences, graphic creation, web development and other digital assets.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** ICT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. In this subject, learners will acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by applying the learned knowledge and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating media products as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Learners may go onto study Cambridge Technicals in ICT (Level 3), BTEC in ICT (Level 3), A Level ICT or any other vocational qualification at Level 3.

**What careers will this help me with?** Business Information Systems, Computing with Business, Data Analysis, Software Developers, Web Designing, Network Support, Management Consultant.



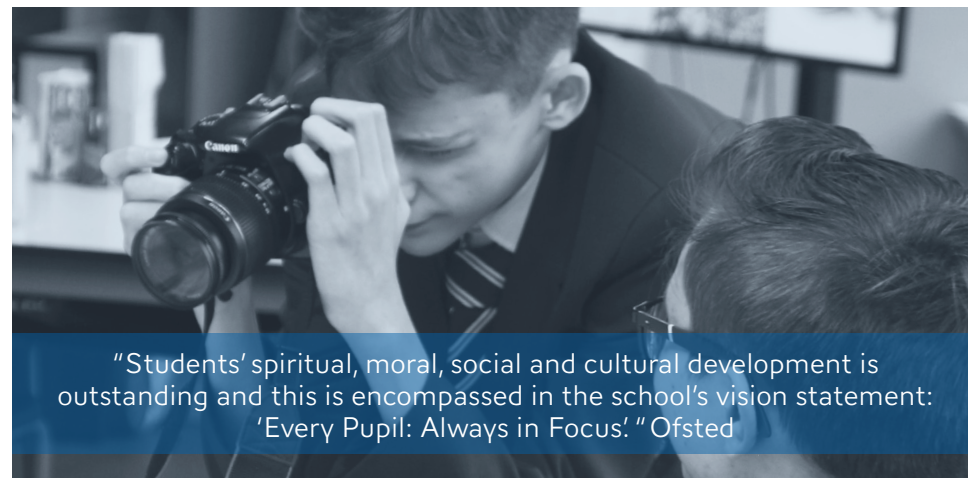
## Music

**What subjects will we cover?** The course covers a full range of skills including performing and composing.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Throughout the course, learners will develop a range of performance and presentation skills both as a soloist and in ensemble, promoting independence and the ability to work as a group. There is also a strong element of evaluation both of your own and other people's material.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing the course, learners may go onto A Level Music.

**What careers will this help me with?** Instrumental Teaching, Professional Entertainer, Music Therapy and Sound Recording.



"Students' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is outstanding and this is encompassed in the school's vision statement: 'Every Pupil: Always in Focus.' " Ofsted



## Physical Education

**What subjects will we cover?** The course covers a wide range of sports related topics including Anatomy, Physiology, Lifestyle and First Aid.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Students will develop practical sporting skills, improve their awareness of issues affecting sport and fitness. Students will be able to evaluate performance, highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing this course, learners may go onto A Level Sport, BTEC National Sport or Coaching qualifications.

**What careers will this help me with?** Physiotherapist, Coaching Sport, Business in Sport, Officiating and Sports Psychology.



## Photography

**What subjects will we cover?** The course covers Portraiture, Landscape photography, Commercial photography, Still life photography, Documentary photography, Experimental imagery, Editorial photography, Photographic installation, The photographic process, Moving image, Animation

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Students will develop their practical skills through exposure to a wide range of photography processes and techniques. By creating a series of personalised projects, students will have the opportunity to explore their own interests whilst learning how to be independent, creative and resilient. Students will be exposed to both traditional and contemporary design work, broadening their cultural knowledge of design in the wider world.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Students would be well prepared for study at A Level or BTEC Level 3 qualification.

**What careers will this help me with?** Advertising Art Director, Film/Video Editor, Graphic Designer, Magazine Features Editor, Medical Illustrator, Photographer, Press Photographer, Television Camera Operator, Art Therapist, Digital Marketer, Media Planner, Multimedia Specialist, Museum/Gallery Curator, Stylist, VFX Artist, Visual Merchandiser, Web Content Manager, Web Designer.



## Spanish

**What subjects will we cover?** We will look at being out and about, customer service and transactions, personal information and future plans, education and work.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Learning a language will help you with your speaking and communication skills as well as developing an awareness of other cultures. It has also shown to increase memory and brain capacity!

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** After successfully completing the GCSE, learners can study A Level Spanish, take language units within other vocational courses like Business or take a Business Language course.

**What careers will this help me with?** Translator, Teacher, work within the tourism industry, Journalist, Pilot, Customs and Excise, Diplomatic Service and International Business. As global business grows, languages become more and more vital.



"The behaviour and safety of students are outstanding. Students are proud to attend the school and are highly motivated to achieve their very best." Ofsted





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## Textile Design

**What subjects will we cover?** This course covers Constructed textiles, Digital textiles, Dyed fabrics, Printed fabrics, Fashion design, Installed textiles, Soft furnishings, Stitched and/or embellished textiles.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Students will develop their practical skills through exposure to a wide range of fabric manipulation techniques and processes. By creating a series of personalised projects, students will have the opportunity to explore their own interests whilst learning how to be independent, creative and resilient. Students will be exposed to both traditional and contemporary artwork, broadening their cultural knowledge of textiles in the wider world.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Students would be well prepared for study at A Level or BTEC Level 3 qualification.

**What careers will this help me with?** Clothing/textile Technologist, Colour Technologist, Illustrator, Interior and Spatial Designer, Fashion Designer, Textile designer, Community Arts Worker, Conservator, Further Education Teacher, Graphic Designer, Higher Education Lecturer, Printmaker, Product Designer, Retail buyer, Secondary School Teacher, Stylist, Visual Merchandiser.



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## Travel and Tourism

**What subjects will we cover?** The course covers all aspects of the travel and tourism industry, including learning about the different organisations that make up the travel and tourism industry, why the industry is so important to the UK economy, sustainable tourism, UK and international destinations, as well as the different factors that influence the travel and tourism industry.

**What skills will I develop in this subject?** Through the course, a full range of learning skills including independence and research are developed. Topics are placed within a real world setting which allows students to contextualise the learning and apply it to their own lives.

**What would my next steps be in this subject?** Students often choose to go onto a Level 3 Travel course, or use it within A Level Business or Geography then to move onto study at university. The nature of the subject also allows students to move directly into training in the travel and tourism industry.

**What careers will this help me with?** Travel Agent, Transport Manager, Cabin Crew, Holiday Brochure Designer, Holiday Representative, working on a cruise ship, events management, visitor attractions, marketing and promotion for travel and tourism organisations.

We hope you found this booklet useful, if you need more help or information please speak to one of your subject teachers.

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## USEFUL INFO



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