



Central Region
Schools Trust

Founded by the RSA

Our philosophy is directed towards your development as a mature, independent young adult, well able to direct and organise your own academic studies, social life, and role in society. Our aim is that you will thrive in whatever you choose to do.

Key Stage 4

CURRICULUM

ART

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	AQA	Grade 9-1

Course description

The GCSE Art and Design course is designed to help students explore all areas Fine Art. The delivery of the course will provide students with a wide range of creative, exciting, and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in art and design in ways that are personally relevant and developmental in nature. Students will present work through creatively visual, tactile, analytical, and evaluative means.

Course content

The portfolio of work will be produced through undertaking two projects based on a range of inspiring themes and concepts. Students will explore a wide range of artists for inspiration and learn how to use a variety of artistic materials, techniques, and processes. They will learn to experiment independently and to evaluate their work in order to develop their ideas towards a final piece.

External assessment

For the final project, students are given an exam paper where they are provided with a range of starting points to choose from. They will then have time in lessons to prepare and develop a response to their chosen theme of study through drawing, research, and experiments. The main difference with the external assessment is that students must produce their final piece independently in exam conditions, in a 10 hour exam at the end of the project.

Assessment

60% weighting for the portfolio of work and **40%** weighting for the external set task.

Progression into 6th Form

The GCSE in Fine Art will build students skills to allow direct progression on to the A Level Fine Art course.

Progress after 6th Form

On completion of these awards, students can progress to a BTEC Foundation Degree programme. These courses will also prepare students for employment in their chosen creative career.



3D DESIGN

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	AQA	Grade 9-1

Course content

The Three-Dimensional Design GCSE Course allows students to develop the skills and creativity to work with a variety of materials and techniques. The course aims to provide every student with the opportunity to develop their practical skills so that they can confidently experiment with a range of digital software, as well as developing their ability to work with wood, metal, textiles, and other chosen materials. We investigate a wide range of design including architecture, product design, fashion design and jewellery so that students are exposed to a range of inspiration. As part of this course, students will study a range of designers and artists, produce their own drawings and prototypes, and become experts in computer aided design programmes.

Assessment

There are two components in the GCSE Three-Dimensional Design qualification:

Component 1: 60% of the marks come from a portfolio of designs and 3D practical work showing a personal response to a title/theme

Component 2: 40% of the marks will come from an externally set task which is made up of a preparatory period, followed by a 10-hour supervision period. During this time, students will design and make a solution to a given problem. There is no written exam for this qualification as work is created as part of a portfolio

Progress into 6th Form

This course will equip students with the skills they need for taking the A Level Design course in Sixth Form. Allowing students to enhance their knowledge and skills to a chosen area of design.

Progress after 6th Form

This would be a useful course for any student considering going on to higher education in preparation for a career in apprenticeships, design, architecture, interior design, fashion design and many more.



CREATIVE iMEDIA

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
Cambridge National Certificate	OCR	Level 1/2

Course description

Creative iMedia is all about preparing students with the IT knowledge and skills to pursue a further course or job in the creative sector. Students will start at pre-production and develop their skills through practical assignments as they create final multimedia products. Through the use of these skills, learning will ultimately be creating for purpose creative media products.

Course content

R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry - Exam (40%)

Students will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry. They will learn the legal and ethical issues considered and the processes used to plan and create digital media products. They will learn how media codes are used within the creation of media products to convey meaning, create impact, and engage audiences.

R094: Visual identity and digital graphics - Coursework (25%)

In this unit, students will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. They will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate their visual identity to engage a target audience.

A further unit is also studied from the following:

- **R097: Interactive digital media - Coursework (35%)**
- **R099: Digital games - Coursework (35%)**
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Progression into 6th Form and beyond

BTEC Level 3 IT is available at 6th Form, allowing students to build on their knowledge from Level 2. Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia also provides a strong foundation to progress onto other courses, which will then enable you to proceed into careers such as:

- Games Design
- Website Development
- Front End Development
- Photographer
- Animator
- Set Designer
- Graphic Designer



DRAMA

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
Vocational	WJEC/EDUQAS	Level 1/2

Course description

This qualification is for students interested in performing and theatre making. It is a hands-on course that will offer students an insight into what it is like to work in the performing arts sector. This course enables students to develop the foundational skills that are integral to a wide range of roles across the creative industries alongside many more transferable skills for other sectors. Students will receive a general introduction to Drama, crammed with opportunities to learn and try out new skills, techniques, and styles. This is a practical course where students will work both collaboratively and independently. Written work is also completed for every unit to showcase knowledge and skills.

Course content

Unit 1: Performing

- Students will create a 3-10 minutes performance from an existing play

Unit 2: Creating

- Students will create an original piece of Drama that lasts between 3-10 minutes

Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice

- Students manage a project which is provided by the exam board, which involves the promotion and planning of an event

Assessment

Units 1 and 2 are marked by the course teacher and moderated by the exam board. Unit 3 is marked solely by the exam board. There is no written exam at the end of this course.

Progress into 6th Form

This course will enable the students to make a smooth transition on to the Creative and Performing Arts course offered in sixth form as the students will be equipped with the skills and knowledge to apply themselves to Level 3 work.

Progress after 6th Form

Students will be desirable. Employers and universities welcome the many transferable skills embedded within performance. More specific career choices within the performing arts industry could also be pursued and these include actor, director, producer, stage manager, lighting technician etc.



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	AQA	GRADE 9-1

Course description

The English Language course covers a wide range of reading and creative writing, as well as developing speaking and listening skills. Creative and independent writing skills are developed, allowing students to adapt their style in the most appropriate way. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are practised to ensure accuracy when writing. Speaking and listening skills are developed to enable students to speak confidently in a range of contexts.

Course content

- A Study and analysis of literary fiction, non-fiction, and media texts, such as: websites; advertisements; leaflets; posters; autobiographies; and newspapers
- A study and analysis of texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st century
- Evaluating a range of texts from different genres and time periods critically
- Descriptive or narrative writing using a text, video, or image as a stimulus
- Speaking and Listening skills will include demonstrating formal presentation skills, using standard English effectively and responding to questions/feedback

Assessment

Paper 1: Creative Writing & Reading - Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks (50%)

- Section A, reading a literature fiction text in order to consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers
- Section B, writing their own creative text, inspired by the topic that they have responded to in section A to demonstrate their narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario, or visual image

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints & Perspectives - Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks (50%)

- Section A, reading two linked sources from different time periods and genres in order to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader
- Section B, producing a written text to a specified audience, purpose, and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme that has been introduced to them in section A

Progression into 6th Form

GCSE English Language at grade 5 or above is generally required for entry onto Level 3 courses. GCSE English Language provides skills to enable progression to A' Level English Literature and A' Level Media Studies.

Progress after 6th Form

GCSE English Language at Level 4 or above is required for entry to university and for most employment offers.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	AQA	GRADE 9-1

Course description

The English Literature course covers a wide range of reading including: A Shakespeare Text; a 19th Century novel; a modern play; a selection of poems from an Anthology and unseen poetry study. Analytical and independent writing skills are developed, allowing students to express their understanding and analysis of the writers' craft. Spelling, punctuation, and grammar are practised to ensure accuracy when writing.

Course content

The study and analysis of novels, plays and poems from different genres and time periods, including the study of at least one Shakespeare play and one 19th century novel. The course is linked to the GCSE English Language qualification.

Assessment

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel - Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes, 64 marks (**40%**)

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry - Exam: 2 hours 15 minutes, 96 marks (**60%**)

Progression into 6th Form

GCSE English Literature provides skills to enable progression to A' Level English Literature.

Progress after 6th Form

GCSE English Literature at level 4 or above supports entry to university.



ENTERPRISE

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
Cambridge National Certificate	OCR	Level 1/2

Course description

This business qualification will enable students to develop the essential knowledge and understanding of enterprise and marketing concepts; this includes the activities that need to happen and the key factors to consider when starting up a new business. Students will also learn how to design a business proposal to meet a specific business challenge and finally develop a brand identity. They will then pitch their proposal to an external audience.

Course content

R067: Enterprise and marketing concepts - Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes in Year 11 (40%)

- Students will learn how market research gives an entrepreneur an insight into the wants and needs of their customers, so that products and services can be developed to satisfy them. Learn how the marketing mix elements must be carefully blended to enhance business performance and explore the decisions that an entrepreneur needs to make. They will learn about the types of ownership for an enterprise and sources of capital available

R068: Design a business proposal - Coursework (30%)

- In this unit, students will learn how to develop market research tools and use these to complete market research. They will use their research findings to decide who their customers will be, create a design mix and produce product design ideas. They will complete financial calculations to determine whether the proposal is likely to make a profit

R069: Market and pitch a business proposal - Coursework (30%)

- In this unit, students will learn how to design a brand which will make their product stand out in the market, before creating a promotional campaign to get the brand noticed by customers. They will then need to create a presentation to pitch to an audience. After delivering their professional pitch to an audience, they will reflect on their pitching skills, brand, promotional campaign, and the likely success of the product

Progress into 6th Form

BTEC National Business is available at 6th Form. It focusses on similar topics such as business planning and the wider business environment, allowing students to build on their knowledge from level 2.

Progress after 6th Form

Universities and employers consider the skills developed by students of business as highly desirable. The subject leads to a variety of careers due to the skills and the breadth of topics that it covers. Students can go on to a wide range of degree courses and can work in specialist areas such as accountancy, business administration and the law. The skills students develop are equally as valid in direct employment after 6th Form, in the retail sector or in many types of management positions.

FILM STUDIES

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	WJEC/EDUQAS	Grade 9-1

Course description

We study a diverse range of film, including American Independent film, British film, and foreign language film. The course looks at the significance of film and film practice in national, global, and historical contexts. We investigate film and its key contexts (including social and contexts). The course aims to analyse and evaluate how films generate meanings and responses through form as an aesthetic medium and how we as spectators respond to film.

Course content

6 films to be studied across two years. All films will be studied in relation to the key elements of film, contexts and audience responses. Most films also have a specialist area of study to focus on.

Assessment

Component 1: Key Developments in US film - Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (35%)

Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style - Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (35%)

Component 3: Production - Non-exam assessment (30%)

Progression into 6th Form

Film is one of the main cultural innovations of the 20th century. Those who study it characteristically bring with them a high degree of enthusiasm and excitement for what is a powerful and culturally significant medium, inspiring a range of career opportunities in creative, technical and directorial positions. Many students continue to university, to pursue education in Media and Film.



FOOD & NUTRITION

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	WJEC/EDUQAS	Grade 9-1

Course description

The Food Preparation and Nutrition course equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook, and to apply the principles of food science, nutrition, and healthy eating.

Course content & assessment

Component 1 - Exam (50%)

- The written exam covers all the theory content covered across two-year course

Component 2 - Non-exam assessment (15%)

- These are science experiments looking at the performance of ingredients within a food product. A new title is released each year for this section

Component 3 - Non-exam assessment (35%)

- The exam board will provide a task for students and this title will change each year. For e.g., create three dishes suitable for a celebration event.

Progression into 6th Form

The GCSE in Food Preparation & Nutrition will build students skills to allow direct progression on to the Level 3 Food Science & Nutrition course.

Progression after 6th Form

This course is excellent in combination with sciences and can lead to university study and careers in catering, nutrition, food development etc. You also develop a range of practical skills, so you are able to cook for yourselves and others.



GEOGRAPHY

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	AQA	Grade 9-1

Course description

The first unit studied is part of the Physical Paper 1: Living World. Students investigate two biomes in detail: Tropical Rainforest and Hot Deserts and the process of Desertification. They specifically study three locations including Amazon Rainforest, Australian Desert and the Sahel, North Africa. The second unit studied comes from the Human Paper 2; entitled Urban Issues and Challenges. Students will investigate opportunities for people in large urban areas and the challenges of significant population growth. They specifically study three locations including Rio De Janeiro, Birmingham, Curitiba and Longbridge.

Over the course of the year, students alternate between the other physical and human topics including; Economic World, the study of development of countries and the inequalities around trade, aid and multinational companies; Rivers and Coasts, developing knowledge on how physical processes of water shape the land around us; Resource Management, understanding the issues the world faces around food, water and energy; Finally Natural Hazards, including exciting case studies on the Haiti Earthquake in 2010, Japan Tsunami in 2011, Typhoon Haiyan in 2013 and the Somerset Levels Floods in 2014.

During the course, students will attend two trips to conduct their own investigations on the physical landscape of Carding Mill Valley in Shropshire and Birmingham's regeneration policy. The outcome of these trips will be examined in Paper 3 in Year 11.

Course content & assessment

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment - Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (35%)

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards
- The Living World
- Physical Landscapes in the UK

Paper 2: Living with the Human Environment - Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (35%)

- Urban Issues and Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management

Paper 3: Geographical Applications - Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (30%)

- Issue Evaluation
- Fieldwork
- Geographical Skills

Continued...

GEOGRAPHY

Course content

This course gives students the opportunity to develop the ability to:

- Develop relevant transferable skills; decision-making, extended writing, debating, gathering information. These skills lend themselves to other GCSE subjects and are desired by leading universities and employers. Geography encourages students to become investigative, and curious about the world in which we live. Students study contemporary topics that are crucial to understanding issues in the world today, which is becoming increasingly important within today's society.

Progression into 6th Form

A Level Geography is available at 6th form. It focuses on some similar topics such as plate tectonics, coasts and urban challenges, allowing students to build on their knowledge from GCSE. This is supported by new topics such as water and the carbon cycle and the geographies of health.

Progression after 6th Form

Geographers are considered as desirable by universities and employers. The subject leads to a variety of careers, including working in large companies with data management to rural/urban planning for a local council.



HAIR & BEAUTY

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
Vocational	VTCT	Level 1/2

Course description

The VTCT Level 1/2 Technical Award is an introduction to the hair and beauty sector. The qualification has been specifically designed to develop a broad understanding of the hairdressing and beauty therapy sector and related industries, including retail, leisure, manufacturing and other personal care services. The course also allows opportunities for the students to follow hair/barbering OR beauty pathways within different units.

Throughout the delivery of the qualification, learners will develop the following skills and knowledge.

- A broad and comprehensive understanding of the hair and beauty sector
- A significant knowledge core which spans the vocational sector and related industries
- Academic and study skills that will support progression within the hair and beauty sector and more broadly.

Course content

Learners will explore design skills and techniques used within the hair and beauty sector to develop their skills in planning, carrying out research and presenting design brief ideas. They will also explore the business aspect of the hair and beauty sector and have the opportunity to investigate the principles of marketing and how entrepreneurship supports the hair and beauty sector, including how to select and design promotional activities and materials.

Students will learn about the industry through the following hair and beauty units:

UCO90: Business and entrepreneurship in the hair and beauty sector – Coursework & Exam

- This unit will enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding of business principles, types of businesses, marketing and entrepreneurship and different business opportunities within the hair and beauty sector

UCO91: Anatomy, physiology, and cosmetic science - Coursework & Exam

- This unit will enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding of cosmetic chemistry, the role of the integumentary system and the development of hair and beauty products

UCO92: Design in the hair and beauty sector - Coursework

- This unit will enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding of the purpose, principles, and development of design briefs for the hair and beauty sector, including how to present and communicate design brief ideas and concepts to a range of audiences and develop analytical, reflective and evaluative skills.

Coursework submission – Year 10 (60%)

2 Hour Exam – Year 11 (40%)

As part of these units, there will be opportunities to learn some practical hair and beauty skills relevant to the industry (the students are not assessed on their practical skills).

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
BTEC	Pearson	Level 1/2

Course description

BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Health & Social Care enables students to develop their knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- The life stages and key characteristics in the physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development classifications and the different factors that can affect an individual's growth and development
- Different life events and how individuals can adapt or be supported through changes caused by life events
- Health and social care conditions, how they can be managed by the individual and the different health and social care services that are available
- The barriers and obstacles an individual may encounter and how these can be overcome
- The skills, attributes and values required to give care and how these benefit the individual
- How factors can affect an individual's current health and wellbeing
- How physiological indicators and an individual's lifestyle choices determine physical health
- The use of the person-centred approach
- Recommendations and actions to improving health and wellbeing and the barriers or obstacles individuals may face when following recommendations and the support available to overcome.

Course content

Learners are required to complete and achieve all three components in the qualification. The components are **interrelated**.

The components studied are:

Component 1: Human lifespan development - Coursework (30%)

- Learners will explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. They will explore the different events that can impact on individuals' physical, intellectual, emotional, and social (PIES) development and how individuals cope with and are supported through changes caused by life events

Component 2: Health and Social Care services and values - Coursework (30%)

- Learners will explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. They will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

Continued...

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Course content (continued)

Component 3: Health and wellbeing - Exam: 2 hours in Year 11 (40%)

- Learners will explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and person-centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.

All students must achieve a minimum of a Level 1 Pass grade or higher in all three assessment components to achieve the qualification.

Progression into 6th Form

BTEC Health and Social Care Level 3

Progression after 6th Form

Various degree and further education courses as well as vocational courses leading into careers such as occupational therapy, care worker, physiotherapist, mental health worker, adult and children's nursing, social worker, youth worker, midwife, health visitor, nursery assistant and many more.



HISTORY

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	Pearson	Grade 9-1

Course description

The History GCSE course provides great variety in the topics that students cover and builds on some of the content that makes up the Year 9 curriculum. Students will learn a lot about British and European history that will help them to understand the modern world. They will also learn how to argue their case effectively, use evidence and question the views of others.

Course content

Unit 1: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches

- Known as the 'thematic study and historic environment', this unit allows students to track one theme, the development of medicine, through 750 years of British history, identifying all of the factors that create advances, and declines, in medicine through focussing on areas such as public health, war, technology and the role of key individuals. This is twinned with the Historic environment studying, allowing students to specialise in surgery on the Western Front of WW1

Unit 2a: Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588

- Known as the 'British depth study', this unit allows students to the important aspects of the role of a Tudor Queen, her government and religion in England from 1558-1588, challenges to Elizabeth's rule from home and abroad, and then Elizabethan society in the 'Age of Exploration'

Unit 2b: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91

- Known as the 'Period study', this unit allows students to study how the Cold War between the USA and the USSR started, how flashpoints such as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the building of the Berlin Wall nearly lead to global nuclear war, then how the Cold War ended with the collapse of the USSR in 1991

Unit 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

- Known as the 'Modern depth study', this unit focuses on Germany after World War 1, the rise of the Nazis and life under the Nazi government.

This course gives students the opportunity to develop their ability to:

- Develop their own arguments and ideas, based on evidence. The ability to take a critical view of information and assess where it is from and why it has been published is also a key element to the course. Students' communication skills are also developed in history, from completing exam answers and essays to presentations and discussions.

Continued...

HISTORY

Assessment

Paper 1: Medicine - Exam (30%)

Paper 2: Early Elizabethan England/The Cold War - Exam (40%)

Paper 3: Weimar & Nazi Germany - Exam (30%)

The exam questions are a combination of short answer factual responses and longer essays. In addition, some exam questions also require students to respond to documents such as posters, photographs, and speeches.

Progression into 6th Form

A Level History is a popular and successful course in the Sixth Form. Students achieving grade 5 or higher in GCSE History and English would be considered for further study.

Progression after 6th Form

History develops an array of transferable skills and knowledge that are highly sought after and desirable on applications to both university and for employment after 6th form. Studying History can lead to some exciting career options due to skills gained in research, analysing evidence, and constructing arguments. These skills are highly desirable for future careers in law, journalism, and business, amongst others.



LEARNING FOR LIFE

At Arrow Vale, our aim is to design and deliver a high-quality learning for life (L4L) curriculum for all students, in support of their academic development and personal growth. All students have an entitlement to outstanding teaching and learning combined with outstanding care, guidance, and support and all staff at Arrow Vale take responsibility for delivering our Learning for Life curriculum. This is firmly rooted in our commitment to ensure no child is left behind or marginalised.

The Learning for Life curriculum is delivered through the following activities:

- Assemblies
- For tutor sessions
- Curriculum across year 9, 10 and 11
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All of these activities are valuable teaching and learning opportunities and can offer a great deal to each and every student's personal growth and development.

The core of our curriculum is formed from the following topics, which will be explored throughout your child's time with us:

- Religious Education
- Citizenship
- PSHE
- Careers education
- Relationships and sex education
- Personal finance
- Drug education
- Mental wellbeing
- Online and media safety



MATHEMATICS

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	Pearson	Grade 9-1

Course description

This qualification in Mathematics encourages students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. This qualification prepares students to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money, further learning opportunities and career choices.

Course content

There are 6 areas in mathematics that will be covered:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics
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In this specification there will be an element of functional skills content this allows pupils to have a deeper understanding of mathematics. Key Stage 3 knowledge will be assumed.

This course gives students the opportunity to develop the ability to:

- Acquire and use problem-solving strategies
- Select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in mathematical, every day and real-world situations
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inference and draw conclusions
- Interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context

Assessment

There are three written papers; paper 1 is non-calculator and papers 2 and 3 allow the use of a calculator. Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes in length and 80 marks in total. The final grade is calculated from a total of all three papers.

There are 3 assessment objectives that will be assessed in all papers:

- **AO1: Use and apply standard techniques** (50% Foundation, 40% Higher)
- **AO2: Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically** (25% Foundation, 30% Higher)
- **AO3: Solve problems within mathematics and another context** (25% Foundation, 30% Higher)

With more emphasis on problem-solving, communication, proof, and interpretations.

Continued...

MATHEMATICS

Progression into 6th Form

The GCSE course in mathematics will enable you to develop your skills in the numerate world and use them in a variety of careers as mathematics is an essential GCSE qualification.

Progression after 6th Form

If you take this at AS/A Level this qualification will open the doors to further careers, and you will have more opportunities at university. Mathematics is one of the most well regarded A Level course that you can study!



MFL : FRENCH

The most able students/linguists are given the opportunity to study both French and Spanish in Year 9 with the remainder of the cohort studying Spanish only.

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	AQA	Grade 9-1

Course description

When studying a GCSE in a modern foreign language, students are given the opportunity to develop their ability and ambition to communicate with native speakers in speech and writing. The study of a modern foreign language at GCSE will also broaden students' horizons and encourage them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world to become well-rounded global citizens.

Course content

There are three themes to this course: People and lifestyles, Popular cultural & Communication and the world around us.

This course gives students the opportunity to develop their ability to:

- Communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy
- Understand and demonstrate understanding of phonics
- Listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
- Deepen their knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary for them to increase their independent use and understanding of extended language in a wide range of contexts
- Acquire new knowledge, skills, and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material, adapted, and abridged, as appropriate
- Develop language strategies, including repair strategies
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Assessment

- **Paper 1: Listening** - Written exam for 35 minutes (Foundation), 45 minutes (High)
- **Paper 2: Speaking** Spoken exam with class teacher for 7-9 minutes (Foundation) + 15 minutes preparation time, 10-12 minutes (Higher) + 15 minutes preparation time.
- **Paper 3: Reading** - Written exam for 45 minutes (Foundation), 1 hour (Higher)
- **Paper 4: Writing** - Written exam for 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher)

Progression into 6th Form

Grade 6-9 needed to access an A level language course.

Progression after 6th Form

An A level in a language allows you to move on to a degree course which may incorporate a language as a joint degree or as a module. Speaking a second language is a sound skill to acquire for the job market in general and may well give you the competitive edge at an interview.

MFL : SPANISH

The most able students/linguists are given the opportunity to study both French and Spanish in Year 9 with the remainder of the cohort studying Spanish only.

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	AQA	Grade 9-1

Course description

When studying a GCSE in a modern foreign language, students are given the opportunity to develop their ability and ambition to communicate with native speakers in speech and writing. The study of a modern foreign language at GCSE will also broaden students' horizons and encourage them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world to become well-rounded global citizens.

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This course gives students the opportunity to develop their ability to:

- Communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy
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- Listen to and understand clearly articulated, standard speech at near normal speed
- Deepen their knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary for them to increase their independent use and understanding of extended language in a wide range of contexts
- Acquire new knowledge, skills, and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to a rich range of authentic spoken and written material, adapted, and abridged, as appropriate
- Develop language strategies, including repair strategies

Assessment

Paper 1: Listening - Written exam for 35 minutes (Foundation), 45 minutes (Higher)

Paper 2: Speaking - Spoken exam with class teacher for 7-9 minutes (Foundation) + 15 minutes preparation time, 10-12 minutes (Higher) + 15 minutes preparation time

Paper 3: Reading - Written exam for 45 minutes (Foundation), 1 hour (Higher)

Paper 4: Writing - Written exam for 1 hour 10 minutes (Foundation), 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher)

Progression into 6th Form

Grade 6-9 needed to access an A Level language course.

Progression after 6th Form

An A Level in a language allows you to move on to a degree course which may incorporate a language as a joint degree or as a module. Speaking a second language is a sound skill to acquire for the job market in general and may well give you the competitive edge at an interview.

MUSIC

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
BTEC	Pearson	Level 2

Course description

This qualification is for learners interested in both practical music making and the theory that underpins music. The three components taught offer a real insight into what it is like to work in the music sector – a vibrant and competitive industry with many different and exciting career opportunities, whether in composing, performing, producing or business. The course allows learners to study a variety of genres and to learn and try out new skills and techniques, allowing them to make informed decisions about their future learning and career pathways. Apple Mac MIDI technology (Garageband and Sibelius software) in the department supports both composition and performance tasks.

Course content

The course is divided into three components:

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

- Learners will explore popular and world styles (such as Samba and West African music), creating and performing music to a given theme set by Pearson

Component 2: Music Skills Development

- Learners will have the opportunity to develop composing and performing disciplines through practical tasks, documenting progress and planning for further improvement

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief

- Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief – a choice of songs and styles will be provided and the task of reimagining one of these songs concludes the course.

Assessment

- **Component 1:** The brief issued by Pearson will have a theme which learners must work to in Year 10 – this is assessed in school, then submitted to the examination board who verify marks awarded
- **Component 2:** The brief issued by Pearson will again have a theme which learners must follow. Work is completed and assessed in school during Term 1 of Year 11, then submitted to the examination board who verify marks awarded.
- **Component 3:** The brief is issued by Pearson in January of Year 11 – all work is assessed by the examination board (externally marked).

Progression into 6th Form

Studying BTEC Music at Key Stage 4 will allow learners to progress to the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Music Performance offered in Years 12 and 13.

Continued...

MUSIC

Progression after 6th Form

On completion of the Level 3 course, students will be able to progress to study music at university or music conservatoire level. There are a vast array of music degree programmes across a range of disciplines.

What do I need to begin this course?

A passion and interest in the history of music, composing and performing music, as well as using software/technology is a must. The ability to play an instrument, with a background in instrumental lessons, will support many aspects of the course, as will being able to read music to a basic level.



PHOTOGRAPHY

Students must have access to a camera at home in order to do this course

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	AQA	Grade 9-1

Course description

Students will study a wide range of digital photography and photo editing techniques throughout this course. They will learn to think creatively, work independently and in groups, to analyse and evaluate, and how to use cameras and Photoshop with confidence.

Course content

Students will explore a range of subjects and will learn how to take effective photographs and how to edit them professionally. They will develop ideas inspired by photographers, experiment with different techniques and bring ideas together in exciting outcomes.

GCSE Photography will suit student with good IT skills and a keen interest in photography as there will be a lot of homework where students are required to undertake independent photoshoots outside of school.

Assessment

There will be two coursework projects which make up **60%** of the Photography course. For both projects students are marked on their research and analysis of photographers, ability to experiment with different photography and editing techniques, the creativity of their ideas, ability to evaluate their work and the quality and creativity of their final outcome. All this work will be presented as a digital portfolio.

The final **40%** of the marks come from an externally set assignment, where students will be given a range of starting points to choose from, and then carry out the same process as the coursework, except that the project they develop in lessons is in preparation for a 10-hour exam where they will have to produce a final piece independently in exam conditions.

Progression into 6th Form and beyond

This course will equip students with the skills they need for taking the A Level Photography course in 6th Form. It would also be useful for anyone considering studying A Level Art or Media as there is a crossover of skills. This would be useful course for any student considering going on to higher education in preparation for a career in photography, journalism, media, marketing, and anything within the creative arts.



PROGRESS

What is this course about?

The Progress Programme is designed to offer additional support in curriculum time to students who may struggle with some of the challenges that face them at school. This option choice programme will offer an individualised course for students in smaller groups, allowing them additional time and personalised assistance to also enable them to access and improve their academic achievements in all subject areas.

The programme consists of additional literacy and numeracy classes taught by specialists, with support from the Achievement Assistants. Both the literacy and numeracy lessons are designed to run alongside mainstream English and Mathematics courses but provide alternative methods of teaching and additional lessons to promote enjoyment and confidence in key skills.

The programme is based on the philosophy that all pupils are able to achieve with appropriate support and provision. The option will be recommended to a small number of students who Arrow Vale feel would benefit from an alternative and additional literacy and numeracy curriculum.

Students who are recommended for the Progress Programme will have the opportunity to have their needs met in a personalised, fun and relaxed environment and gain vital skills and knowledge to aid their confidence and achievements for the whole school environment.

The English and Maths qualifications are separate qualifications. Students will take this as one of their Option choices and will study either towards the English certificates, Maths certificates, or both.

How will I be assessed?

The Progress Programme provides students with the opportunity to study for additional literacy and numeracy qualifications e.g. Maths's entry level certificates (Level 1, 2 or 3) / Functional Skills English (Level 1 or 2). These qualifications will be taken in addition to GCSE English and Mathematics exams and will provide a stepping-stone approach to success.

The aim of the programme is to enable access for all students to a fully rounded curriculum and allow students, with additional support, to achieve their potential in all academic areas relative to their starting point.

Continued...

PROGRESS

What will this course allow me to do?

The course aims to:

- Promote an enjoyment of learning.
- Develop life-long literacy and numeracy skills.
- Allow pupils to achieve their potential in all mainstream lessons.
- Allow pupils additional time and support to meet their needs.
- Improve social and emotional skills
- Achieve additional, certified qualifications to assist College course entry.

What will I learn in Progress English?

The Progress English lessons will follow a specially designed programme to run alongside mainstream English lessons, with the opportunity to gain a stand-alone Functional Skills English qualification (Level 1 or 2). Key literacy and English skills will be covered throughout the courses with an emphasis on reading (Renaissance reading programme), comprehension: identification and retrieval skills, spelling, punctuation and grammar. A variety of different fiction and non-fiction texts will also be studied. This allows for literacy skill links across other subjects and provides important social and emotional skills. The lessons are designed to cater for a variety of learning styles and allow for a more practical approach to whole school learning.

What will I learn in Progress Maths?

The Progress Mathematics lessons will also follow a specially designed entry-level certificate programme to run alongside mainstream mathematics lessons. Key mathematical skills will be covered throughout the course and delivered through a variety of learning styles. The course will focus on more practical aspects of mathematics and teach pupils functional skills with a cross-curricular focus. Year 9 and 10, follow a more creative curriculum, which teaches the skills - but in an engaging way and then year 11 prepares them for the level 3 part of the certificate. The qualification sits alongside the GCSE and there is 100% crossover, so the Entry Level Certificate and GCSE courses support one another.

Students will gain vital life-long numeracy skills through active participation approaches, games and group projects.



RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
GCSE	Pearson	Grade 9-1

Course description

The GCSE Religious Studies is designed to help students explore ideas of religious teachings, beliefs, and practices from two denominations as well as a study of religious, philosophical, and ethical studies themes. The delivery of this course will provide students with a wide understanding of different cultures and beliefs to their own. This will in turn benefit students in broadening their tolerances of the rich and diverse world we live in today as well as improving their cultural capital. The course includes a range of creative, stimulating, and thought-provoking opportunities, focusing on interesting debates into topics such as family, crime and punishment, human rights, and social justice. The study of this course would serve to enhance students looking for future career paths within the public sector as well as improving students' overall debating skills.

Course content

In Key Stage 4, students will learn about beliefs, teachings and practices, philosophical and thematic studies from these faiths:

- Christianity
- Islam

Our religious and ethical studies themes are:

- Beliefs
- Religion, marriage and family
- Living the religious life
- Matters of life and death
- Crime and punishment
- Peace and conflict

Assessment

Students are assessed at the end of their course by two 1 hour 45 minutes written exam papers, both equally weighted as **50%** of the final grade. Both are out of 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation, and grammar (SPaG).

Progression into 6th Form

The GCSE Religious Studies course will build students' skills to allow progression to a range of A Level courses which require justification, debating and analysis skills.

Progression after 6th Form

This would be a useful course for any student considering going on to higher education in preparation for a career in social services, charities, financial and legal firms, business and media companies.

COMBINED SCIENCE

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
2x GCSE	AQA	Grade 9-1

Course description

This science course takes you on an exciting journey through the world of biology, chemistry and physics. You'll get to explore how the world works through experiments, a range of activities, and problem-solving challenges. We'll dive into topics like cells, chemical reactions and forces, showing how everything is connected. You'll learn how to think, speak and write like a scientist; you'll plan, experiment, analyse, and discuss ideas to answer real-life questions. By the end of the course, you'll not only have a solid understanding of key scientific concepts but also the skills to communicate and think critically about science.

Course content

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell biology• Organisation• Infection and response• Bioenergetics• Homeostatic and response• Inheritance, variation and evolution• Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic structure and the periodic table• Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter• Quantitative chemistry• Chemical changes• Energy changes• The rate and extent of chemical change• Organic chemistry• Chemical analysis• Chemistry of the atmosphere• Using resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy• Electricity• Particle model of matter• Atomic structure• Forces• Waves• Magnetism and electromagnetism• Space physics

Assessment

There are six papers in total:

- 2x Biology
- 2x Chemistry
- 2x Physics

Progression into 6th Form

Studying GCSE Science allows students to continue their scientific interests, either by making a good transition onto A Level Sciences or the Applied Science AA1 Level 3 qualification.

Progression after 6th Form

If you take this at A Level this qualification will open the doors to further careers, and you will have more opportunities at university. Science is one of the most well-regarded A Level course that you can study.

SEPARATE SCIENCE

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
3x GCSE	AQA	Grade 9-1

Course description

This science course takes you on an exciting journey through the world of biology, chemistry and physics. You'll get to explore how the world works through experiments, a range of activities, and problem-solving challenges. We'll dive into topics like cells, chemical reactions and forces, showing how everything is connected. You'll learn how to think, speak and write like a scientist; you'll plan, experiment, analyse, and discuss ideas to answer real-life questions. By the end of the course, you'll not only have a solid understanding of key scientific concepts but also the skills to communicate and think critically about science.

Course content

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cell biology• Organisation• Infection and response• Bioenergetics• Homeostatic and response• Inheritance, variation and evolution• Ecology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atomic structure and the periodic table• Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter• Quantitative chemistry• Chemical changes• Energy changes• The rate and extent of chemical change• Organic chemistry• Chemical analysis• Chemistry of the atmosphere• Using resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy• Electricity• Particle model of matter• Atomic structure• Forces• Waves• Magnetism and electromagnetism• Space physics

Assessment

Each of the separate science GCSEs is assessed through two 1 hour 45 minutes, 100 marks, tiered written examinations, containing a variety of question styles. Each science is graded separately. The examinations shall contain a mixture of question styles, including objective questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions.

Progression into 6th Form and beyond

Studying the Science GCSEs separately in this manner is a perfect way for students to continue their scientific interests, making a smooth transition onto A Level Sciences or the Applied Science AAQ Level 3 qualification. An ideal course for students looking to study subjects at Russell Group universities.

Progression after 6th Form

If you take this at A Level this qualification will open the doors to further careers, and you will have more opportunities at university. Science is one of the most well-regarded A Level course that you can study.

SPORT

GCSE/BTEC	Awarding Body	Course Level
BTEC	Pearson	Level 1/2

Course description

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport is for learners who want to gain knowledge and skills through real life contexts by exploring the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participation as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. They will also explore the different types of participant and their needs in order to gain an understanding of how to increase participation for others in sport and physical activity and further develop their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology. Learners will undertake practical sessions to develop skills in planning and delivering sports activity sessions to participants. The qualification enables learners to develop their sector-specific skills, such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using real life contexts, and personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

Course content

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity - Coursework (30%)

- Learners will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport or physical activity and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity

Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance - Coursework (30%)

- Learners will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance

Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport & physical activity - Exam: 1 hour 30 minutes in Year 11 (40%)

- Learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.

Assessment

- Components 1 and 2** are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. Non-exam internal assessment is delivered through Pearson-set Assignments. These assignments are set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson.

Continued....



SPORT

Assessment continued...

There is one external assessment, Component 3, which provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation.

Component 3 requires learners to use theoretical knowledge and understanding of applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis and physical training so that they can use this knowledge to analyse and evaluate performance and devise informed strategies for improving/optimising their own practical performance. The exam is 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth a total of 60 marks in Year 11.

All students must achieve a minimum of a Level 1 Pass grade or higher in all three assessment components to achieve the qualification.

Progression after 6th Form

The course develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in such areas as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, teaching, officiating, the fitness industry, the armed forces, and the Civil Service.

Higher Education

University:

- Many students choose to study sports-related courses such as Sports Science, Sports Management, Physical Education, Coaching

Foundation Degrees:

- Some universities offer foundation degrees in sports-related subjects, which combine academic study with practical experience and may lead to further study or direct entry into the workforce
-

Apprenticeships

Apprenticeships in Sports Coaching, Fitness Instruction, Sports Development, or similar fields provide an opportunity to gain practical experience and qualifications while working in the industry. Apprenticeships typically combine on-the-job training with classroom learning

Employment

Graduates of BTEC Sport qualifications may seek employment directly in the sports and leisure industry, working in roles such as sports coach, fitness instructor, sports development officer, or leisure centre manager. Some students may choose to gain experience through entry-level positions while considering further education or training opportunities to advance their careers.

Curriculum

Key Stage 4



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For further information about the school governance and policies please refer to our website.

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