

Biddenham International School & Sports College

Key Stage 4 Curriculum 2020 - 2021



Philosophy

We aim for Biddenham students to leave us well prepared for future success in all aspects of their lives. We are committed to developing a learning community where students are motivated, questioning and strive to understand and organise their learning; a place which is safe, purposeful, challenging and fosters mutual respect.

High quality teaching enables students to play an active role in their learning, to understand the purpose of their lessons and to develop as individuals. Opportunities will be provided for all students to receive appropriate levels of challenge and support, to broaden their cultural, social, sporting, creative and technological horizons, to develop independence and to be prepared for living and working in a diverse 21st century society.

Our Core Principles are:

- **Personalisation:** We believe in providing a rich and varied curriculum ensuring breadth of experience for all. Our curriculum is designed with consideration of the aspirations and needs of our students and the local and national economic community to which we belong. This allows us to offer maximum choice and facilitate the provision of inspiring and relevant learning experiences.
- **Inclusion:** We strive to identify and tackle the barriers preventing access to education for every student.
- **Success:** We believe that every student should have the opportunity to enjoy their learning and achieve at the highest level so that they feel proud of what they have accomplished during their time at Biddenham.

Three Year Key Stage 4

At Biddenham, students begin year 9 and enter a seven week 'carousel' where they will experience every option subject on offer alongside their core curriculum. By October half term, they will choose four option subjects to study, alongside their core curriculum. There is a comprehensive programme of 'Careers, Information, Advice and Guidance' which runs alongside the carousel, to ensure students are fully supported in making personalised option choices. Students will then follow their core curriculum and option subjects for years 9, 10 and 11.

Reformed GCSEs

The main changes to affect students are around how these courses will be assessed, grades have changed from letters (A*-G) to numbers (9-1), with 9 being the highest and 1 being the lowest. BTEC Business, BTEC Digital Applications (ICT) and OCR Cambridge National Health and Social Care, are assessed through both examination and controlled assessment, the grading for these subjects will stay the same (Distinction* - Pass).

Core Curriculum all students will study:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)*
- GCSE Religious Studies
- Core Physical Education

*In Science students will be entered for either Combined Science, which is equivalent to two GCSEs or Separate Sciences, which are three separate GCSEs. All students will cover Biology, Chemistry and Physics within the Science curriculum. Final decisions about entries will be made in Year 10 and parents notified.

All students will then choose FOUR option subjects, one of which must be an Ebacc (blue) subject; Geography, Spanish, French, German, History, Computing.

The options form will include subjects in each column, students must select one subject from each column. Popular subjects will appear in more than one option column, and we try hard to ensure common 'combinations' of subjects are possible each year. However, there may be subjects that students wish to study which 'clash'. We try hard to accommodate students' option choices, if students have a 'clash' between subject choices they should inform so please inform us if this is the case and we will see if anything can move once students have made their choices.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D
Subject 1	Subject 2	Subject 3	Subject 4

All students will then choose FOUR option subjects, one of which must be an Ebacc (blue) subject, as shown on the template form below.

Biddenham Year 9 Option Choices 2018 - 2021

Please visit our website www.biddenham.beds.sch.uk to find out more about each course.

Please write your name in this box:

All students will study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Religious Studies, PSHCE and Physical Education.

Students will then select FOUR option choices, at least one of which must be a subject shaded blue.

Please choose ONE subject in EACH column.

COLUMN A	COLUMN B	COLUMN C	COLUMN D
Geography	German	Computing	German
Spanish	Geography	History	History
French	History	Geography	Drama
Graphics	Computing	Spanish	ICT
Business	Art	Food	Business
Health & Social Care	Business	Physical Education	Textiles
Design & Technology	ICT	Dance	Design & Technology
Art	Physical Education	ICT	Graphics
Food	Music		Physical Education

Notes:

- BTEC Work Skills, Learning Support and EAL (English as an Additional Language) - selection for these options is through liaison with the SENCo and/or the EAL Coordinator.
- If you cannot study the combination of subjects you would like, please write to Ms Eckett at the school or email cathy.eckett@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Please ask your parent/carer to sign this form.

I approve of this choice of options. Signed

If insufficient students choose an option we may be unable to run a subject. We may need to limit the numbers of students admitted to a class for educational or health and safety reasons. We reserve the right to rearrange the options if this will improve the curriculum for a greater number of students.

Core Curriculum Subjects information

GCSE English Language

Description

GCSE English Language is designed to inspire and motivate students, providing appropriate stretch and challenge, whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all. The course enables students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly. There are two equally-balanced exam papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way.

What are the entry requirements?

All students will study GCSE English Language (alongside GCSE English Literature). The exam board is AQA.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed over a 3½ hour period, split equally across two papers, giving them time to express their true abilities and achieve their best possible grade. Paper one will assess a literature fiction text looking at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Paper two will assess two literary non-fiction texts in order to focus on writers' attitudes and viewpoints. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes in length, and each account for 50% of the qualification.

Is there anything else I need to know?

A good command of the spoken and written word is vital for success in other subject areas. English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life.

Who should I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mrs Steward laura.steward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Mrs Burton caroline.burton@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE English Literature

Description

The specification takes a skills-based approach to the study of English Literature that is consistent across the genres; it has been designed to inspire, challenge and motivate every student, no matter what their level of ability.

What are the entry requirements?

All students will study GCSE English Literature (alongside GCSE English Language).

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is spread over two papers, grouping similarly structured questions together, to allow students to maintain their focus. Paper 1 takes the form of a 1 hour 45 minute written exam on a Shakespeare text and a 19th century novel (40% of the qualification). Paper 2 takes the form of a 2 hour 15 minute written exam on a modern text and an anthology of poetry (60% of the qualification).

Is there anything else I need to know?

Being a literate reader widens horizons and opens up a lifetime of opportunities. Reading enables students to acquire knowledge and to build on what they already know.

Who should I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mrs Steward laura.steward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk
Mrs Burton caroline.burton@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE Mathematics

Description

Mathematics is concerned with the nature of numbers and space, pattern and relationships, and is a major tool in helping people make sense of, and describe, the world as well as to solve problems new and old, real and abstract. We believe that mathematics is a creative and useful activity requiring not only facts and skills, but also understanding gained through exploration and application.

What will I learn?

We aim to provide relevant mathematical knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable students to have the necessary independence in adult society as well as promoting the ability and willingness to contribute actively and positively to that Society. We aim to give each student the confidence and satisfaction derived from a sense of achievement and to promote in them a lively and enquiring mind, capable of rational judgement and disciplined imagination.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is assessed by three exams, two calculator papers and one non calculator paper at the end of year 11.

What are the costs?

Students will be required to bring their own scientific calculator to each lesson. They cannot use a mobile phone for this purpose in Mathematics as mobile phones are not allowed in examinations and they need to be familiar with using their own calculator.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students will be entered at the appropriate level for their ability. Both levels have the opportunity to gain a grade 5 at GCSE.

Future opportunities

A good result in this GCSE is imperative for future career progression. It has been shown that students with a good grade at A2 Mathematics earn on average £15,000 per annum more than those without. It is a prerequisite for entry to university courses to study finance, medicine, etc

Who should I contact for further information?

Course Contact: Mr Strzelec piotr.strzelec@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

(GCSE Combined Science*)

(Information on Combined Science can be found at the end of this document).

GCSE Separate Sciences

What will I learn?

The schemes of work cover the new Science Programme of Study. This has been developed so that students become more 'scientifically literate', i.e. they are able to make reasoned judgements about the science issues which may affect them in their everyday lives. It looks at aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and includes a detailed look at the scientific method. Some of the topics covered include:

- Cell level systems
- Genes, inheritance and selection
- The nervous system
- The particle model
- Types of chemical reaction
- Controlling chemical reactions
- Magnets and magnetic fields
- Radioactivity
- Powering Earth

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be using the new 9-1 grading system, replacing the A*-G. The foundation tiers will cover grades 1-5 and the higher, grades 4-9. There are no controlled assessments in the new science qualification however a far greater emphasis is placed upon the use of mathematical and practical methods in science. There will be 6 written exams each of them are 1 hour and 45 minutes (2x Biology, 2xChemistry and 2xPhysics) and it is worth noting that 10% of the Biology paper, 20% of the Chemistry and 30% of the Physics will assess mathematical skills.

In Combined Science there are still six papers but they are each 70 minutes long.

Future opportunities

The course prepares students for progression onto A level Sciences.

The development of science in a modern society is essential for economic growth. It increasingly plays a part in our everyday lives. The list of career opportunities is almost endless. They range from the medical profession, i.e. doctor, nurse, pharmacist, public health and dentistry, to construction engineering, chemical engineering and mechanical engineering. Opportunities also occur in computing, electronics, telecommunications and electrical engineering. Scientists also form an important part of the aerospace industry, industrial chemical manufacturing, textiles and car industry.

Who should I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mrs Squair Suzanne.squair@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [OCR](#)

* All students will begin their Science qualification studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics with selected students changing to the combined Science course at the end of Year 10, this choice will be made by the subject teacher after discussion with parents.

GCSE Religious Studies

Description

The GCSE will assess students on their knowledge of two major world religions (Christianity and Islam) and six philosophical and ethical themes:

- Theme A: Relationships and families
- Theme B: Religion and life
- Theme C: The Existence of God and Revelation
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment
- Theme F: Religion, human rights and social justice

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

What are the entry requirements?

All students will study GCSE Religious Studies.

How will I be assessed?

Students will sit two written exam papers:

- Paper 1 will assess the study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam.
- Paper 2 will assess knowledge and understanding of the religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes listed above.

Each paper will last 1 hour 45 minutes and will be worth 96 marks (plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)).

Is there anything else I need to know?

In a complex and diverse society and world it is important that we understand the beliefs and motivations of others if we are to avoid conflict. The study of the moral and ethical issues also prepares us for the moral decisions that we may need to make in the future.

Who should I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mr Forster paul.forster@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

Core Physical Education

What will I learn?

Within Physical Education lessons across Years 9, 10 and 11 students will take part in a variety of physical activities in line with the new Key Stage 3/Key Stage 4 National Curriculum. In year 9 and 10 students will be grouped into single sex groups all having the same opportunities as each other.

In year 11 students are placed in a pathway groups that best suits them. Students will then vote on a variety of activities in their group. This gives the students more ownership of their curriculum and allows students to develop links with activities that they will hopefully continue with into Post 16 students

At key stage 3 (year 9) and key stage 4 (year 10 and 11) students will learn how to:

- Use and develop a range of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in direct competition through team and individual games (e.g. badminton, basketball, cricket, football, hockey, netball, rounders, rugby and tennis).
- Develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports (e.g. athletics and gymnastics).
- Perform dances using advanced dance techniques in a range of dance styles and forms.
- Take part in outdoor and adventurous activities which present intellectual and physical challenges and be encouraged to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group.
- Analyse and evaluate their performances compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement to achieve their personal best.
- Take part in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs.

How will I be assessed?

Students will be assessed practically in a wide variety of activities. At Biddenham our assessment against key PE skills and concepts, Physical, Personal and Thinking to get an overall grade, and assessing progress using the following grading system:

- **Skills and Concepts**
Physical: Technical skills, competitive situation and fitness.
Personal: Leadership, teamwork, sportsmanship and taking part in extra-curricular.
Thinking: Decision making and tactics, solving problems, evaluating own and peer performance.
- **Grading System**
Emerging: Just starting to learn a new skill or concept.
Developing: Showing an increased understanding in that skill or concept.
Secure: Frequently showing evidence of understanding of a skill or concept.
Mastered: Always demonstrating a deep understanding of a skill or concept.

In order to show progress within the thresholds we operate a fine grading system. Our fine grading system is explained below:

S1: Absolutely Secure at this threshold (90 -100%)

S2: Likely to convert to a Secure (75%)

S3: Just into this threshold (50%)

Is there anything else I need to know?

There will be opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills by being part of the Leadership Academy run through our Bedford and Kempston School Sports Partnership. Students involved in the academy have the opportunities to attend leadership courses in a variety of physical activities and first aid courses, as well as organising and running sports festivals for lower and middle schools.

All students will be able to access a variety of extracurricular activities both at lunch and after school. This will allow for all students to participate in competitive sport outside of the curriculum. Extra-curricular activities range from football, hockey, athletics, rounders, cricket, golf, leadership, softball, handball and dodgeball. These are only a few activities on offer please see the PE section of the school website for more detailed information.

Who should I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mr Evans michael.evans@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Essential Learning Skills and Core Computing

What will I learn?

Essential Learning Skills (ELS) is divided into four core themes:

- Citizenship
- Health and Wellbeing
- Relationships
- Careers and Employability

ELS is a programme that covers the requirements of PSHCE (Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education) through which young people acquire the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. The ELS programme at Biddenham aims to develop the qualities and attributes students need to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. It prepares them to manage many of the most critical opportunities, challenges and responsibilities they will face growing up in such rapidly changing and challenging times. It also helps them to connect and apply the knowledge and understanding they learn in all subjects to practical, real-life situations while helping them to feel safe and secure enough to fulfil their academic potential.

All students will spend two of their tutor time sessions per week to look at the various issues surrounding Relationships and Sex Education, Personal Safety and Wellbeing, Adapting to Change, and Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance.

How will I be assessed?

There is no formal assessment.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Schools have a statutory responsibility to provide a curriculum that is broadly based and balanced, and meets the needs of all students. As part of this responsibility schools must:

- Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils at the school and of society.
- Prepare pupils at the school for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.
- Promote children and young people's wellbeing. (Wellbeing is defined in the Children Act 2004 as the promotion of physical and mental health; emotional wellbeing; social and economic wellbeing; education, training and recreation; recognition of the contribution made by children to society; and protection from harm and neglect.).
- Promote community cohesion (Education and Inspections Act 2006; Education Act 2002).

PSHE education makes a major contribution to this and as a result it is embedded within the whole school curriculum.

Who should I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mr Forster paul.forster@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

ELS Core Computing and ICT Skills (Year 9 only)

Description

Information Technology (IT), the convergence of computer and network technology, is a highly transformative discipline. It touches nearly all aspects of our lives: the way we work, learn, communicate, socialise and entertain ourselves. Where would we be without it? These days, success in any occupational field, be it law, medicine, business, education, entertainment, finance, etc., requires a command of IT.

IT is and will remain the foundation of the global economy for years to come.

The Year 9 Core IT syllabus incorporates elements of Computer Science and Information and Communications Technology. You will be taught key, transferable skills which can be utilised across all of your subjects from use of Google services through to elements of computer programming.

What will I learn?

Knowing how to read, write, and participate in the digital world has become the fourth basic foundational skill next to the 'three Rs' - reading, writing, and arithmetic - in a rapidly evolving, networked world. Having these skills on the web expands access and opportunity for more people to learn anytime, anywhere, at any pace.

Specifically, these skills are described as:

- 'Read' is how we explore the web. Web literate individuals understand basic web mechanics such as the difference between names and addresses on the web, and how data is linked and moves through the infrastructure of the web. They can evaluate web content, and identify what is useful and trustworthy.
- 'Write' is how we build the web. Web literate individuals can transform a word into a hyperlink and add media to websites. As abilities are honed, one becomes more adept at remixing other users' content and understanding or writing code.
- 'Participate' is how we connect on the web. It includes interacting with others to make your own experience and the web richer and working in the open. It also includes having a grasp of security basics, like protecting your online identity and avoiding online scams.

Over the suite of courses from year 7 to year 13 you will learn the basics of Hypertext Markup Language (html), Cascading Style Sheets (CSS) and Javascript allowing you to create your interesting and interactive websites. You will also learn how these powerful tools can be used to create automated processes and interact with Google Services to create end-to-end workflow.

How will I be assessed?

There is no formal assessment but successful completion of the tasks set will be recorded by your teacher.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The content is not examinable, so those looking to undertake any form of IT qualifications **must** select either GCSE ICT or GCSE Computing as an option subject.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mrs Cadman shelley.cadman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

BTEC Tech Awards in Digital Information Technologies (DIT)

Description

The aim of DIT is to provide a broad range of skills in a practical and engaging way. You will develop a deeper understanding of the modern digital sector by:

- Developing technical skills and techniques.
- Planning a realistic digital solution for a given brief.
- Understanding modern concepts such as cloud computing and cyber security.
- Appreciating the importance of ethics when working with data.

What will I learn?

- Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
Aim: How to project plan the design and development of a user interface
- Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
Aim: Process and interpret data and draw conclusions.
- Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices

What are the entry requirements?

There are no entry requirements however please make sure you are aware of the differences between ICT and Computer Science so that you make the right option choice. The subjects are very different.

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1: Internally assessed coursework - 30% of final grade
- Component 2: Internally assessed coursework - 30% of final grade
Internal component grades:
Level 2 Distinction
Level 2 Merit
Level 2 Pass
Level 1 Merit
Level 1 Pass
- Component 3: 90 minutes externally set and assessed paper based exam taken in Y10 - 40% of final grade
External component grades:
Level 2 Distinction
Level 2 Merit
Level 2 Pass
Level 1 Distinction
Level 1 Merit
Level 1 Pass

Who should I contact for further information?

Course contact: Mrs Cadman shelley.cadman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Pearson](#)

GCSE Art & Design and Textiles

If you enjoy drawing, painting, fashion, designing and making artefacts from fabrics and threads then Textiles would be the ideal choice for you.

What will I learn?

Students will learn to design and make beautiful artefacts from textile materials. As there is no written element the whole course is practical and you will learn a wide range of skills which will include drawing, various textile techniques, designing, researching, analysing the work of other artists and designers and applying all knowledge gained to your final pieces of work.

What are the entry requirements?

The main requirement is that students are creative, willing to work hard and are interested in fashion or textile design. Previous experience in Art or Textiles would be a bonus.

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1: is your portfolio of work and is worth 60% of the final mark:
The work is coursework based and builds up your portfolio. During years 9, 10 and 11 you will do a range of different projects on a selection of themes. These can take a number of different pathways from fashion based projects where we make garments and accessories, to constructed textiles and embroidery.
- Component 2: is the externally set task and is worth 40% of the final mark:
This is an externally set assignment. At the beginning of January students will be given an Externally Set Assignment exam paper from AQA which gives seven different themes to work from. For example: decorative textiles, exotic feathers, butterfly wings, animal skins, fish scales and shells have inspired the design of decorative textiles throughout the world.

The students will be given a minimum 10 weeks to research one of the exam themes. Students will need to experiment and refine their ideas before completing their final outcome under exam conditions.

The four assessment objectives are:

AO1: Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.

AO2: Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes.

AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as works progress.

AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

What are the costs?

Students will need to purchase sketch books, some materials and threads to manufacture their designs. There will be trips such as The Handmade Fair in London.

Is there anything else I need to know?

It is not a subject that is only for girls. Most of the famous fashion designers in the world are males. It also does not matter if you don't have any previous textile experience as long as you are willing to learn. We also have links with working textile designers such as Mister Finch and Mr X Stitch who we use to inspire our students and try to get them to come in and work with us wherever possible to further enrich our work.

Future Opportunities

A level Art & Design Textiles is available and is an ideal subject to study if you want a future career in the arts, fashion or textiles. Study at Biddenham through an AS or A level in Art & Design Textiles, college, or an art foundation course. Possible careers after studying Art & Design Textiles are as follows: architecture, art therapist, games designer, audio - visual designer, book designer, corporate identity designer, display designer, electronic image designer, exhibition designer, exhibition officer, fashion buyer, fashion forecaster, fashion grader, fashion illustrator, fashion journalist, fashion merchandiser, and many other art related careers

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mr Alexis paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE Art and Design

What will I learn?

GCSE Art and Design is all about having visual ideas and for those who enjoy making practical pieces of artwork. The main areas are drawing and painting, mixed-media, printmaking, ceramics and sculpture; but there are also opportunities for digital imaging.

An enquiring mind and a willingness to learn new techniques are essential. You will learn about significant artists and designers from the past and about contemporary artists too. The skills you learn will be varied: among them will be a working knowledge of the materials, techniques and technology. You will also be shown how to analyse and experiment and know how to move your ideas forward.

The specific skills you will develop may vary depending on the area of study you may choose to major in, for example drawing, painting, printing, 3D, graphic design or photography.

Thinking skills will be developed alongside the practical activities to encourage creative thinking. Students become aware of art theory and wider cultural influences. Students keep a sketchbook, to explore themes and develop personal response for projects. Digital cameras may support this creative process.

What are the entry requirements?

The main requirement is that you enjoy having visual ideas and a desire to learn practical skills. If you are interested in art or design and you have an aptitude for the subject - if you are creative or 'good at drawing' - you may have the basic skills to succeed. It is also necessary to be interested in the meaning behind practical work and finding the right technique and form to express your idea.

How will I be assessed?

Coursework is worth 60%: The Personal Portfolio. For the coursework you will complete two coursework projects.

Practical Examination is worth 40%: This will take the form of a broad theme - for example it could be something like 'Journeys' or 'Time'. You will have eight weeks to prepare for the timed test. At the end of this period you will sit a 10 hour timed examination during which you will produce your final piece(s) of work.

The four assessment objectives are:

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
- Refine ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

What are the costs?

Students studying GCSE will have the opportunity to purchase sketchbooks and assorted art materials to enable students to complete work independently.

Is there anything else I need to know?

It is not just about being "good" at drawing or painting it is about having an interest in all things visual, wanting to learn more and make something new.

Future Opportunities

Art & Design GCSE can lead to an AS or A level in Art & Design or a BTEC level or equivalent. If you know the area of art, craft or design you want to specialise in you could study for the National Certification or National Diploma in Art & Design. There are a vast number of courses at university under the umbrella of Art & Design. Some possible careers in art and design are: advertising designer, animator, art therapist, ceramicist, corporate identity designer, editorial illustrator, electronic image designer, exhibition designer, fashion illustrator, fashion stylist, film director/producer maker, fine art conservator, furniture designer, gallery administrator, illustrator, image animator, Industrial designer, Interior designer,, landscape designer, lettering artist, magazine designer, model maker, photographer, printmaker, publicity designer, sculptor, silversmith/jeweller, teacher, technical illustrator, theatre designer and photographer.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mr Alexis paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination board: [AQA](#)

BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise (Previously Business Studies)

This subject is assessed through two pieces of coursework and one externally assessed exam.

What will I learn?

This popular course is designed to give students an understanding of the dynamic environment in which businesses operate and the factors which impact upon business activity. Everyone works in a business or has contact with a business whether this is privately owned e.g. shops, hairdressers, builders, garages, solicitors; controlled by the government e.g. health, education, defence; or a voluntary organisation e.g. a charity.

During years 9 and 10, two areas of study are covered: Business enterprise, entrepreneurial skills and organisations and pitching a business idea. These two units equate to 60% of the course.

In Year 11 students will complete an exam on Promotion and Finance worth 40% of their grade. Topics covered include: financial documents, types of costs, the marketing mix and branding and promotion.

Each year we aim to take all students studying Business Studies to visit an organisation and/or we aim to have guest speakers to help link the theory we learn in class to the real world around you. In the past we have visited Sainsbury's, Jordans & Ryvita as well as having marketing talks during visits to Thorpe Park and Alton Towers. In addition we utilise links with local employers to give students first-hand experience of how to set up and run a small/medium enterprise.

How will I be assessed?

There are three assessments which make up, two coursework units and one exam.

What are the costs?

Students will be advised to purchase revision texts. In addition, you may be asked to contribute towards the costs of visits.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Although there is a lot to learn, your teacher will use a variety of methods to deliver and engage you. There will be question and answer sessions, individual task work, group work, discussions, role-play, student presentations, the use of ICT, timed exam questions and mock exams. Over the duration of the course you will carry out independent research, have a willingness to contribute to class discussions and activities, and have the drive and commitment to succeed.

Future Opportunities

The BTEC Tech award in Enterprise ideally leads on to a Business Studies related level 3 course such as the level 3 BTEC in Business Studies which is currently on offer in the sixth form. The BTEC course is also excellent preparation for students seeking employment and/or training with many apprenticeships linked to Business Management and Business Administration. Many students who achieve in Business Studies go on to university and study a business related degree course e.g. business management, law, economics or accountancy. Further opportunities exist at university as a standalone subject or to be combined with other subjects.

Careers include both public and private sector employment opportunities in specific areas such as: marketing, IT, human resource management, planning and accountancy, and general administrative/managerial trainee posts in both the public sector and with large companies.

Business Studies is also a good platform for students who at some future point may wish to go into self-employment. It also prepares students for a whole range of higher education courses.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Ms Buckingham gemma.buckingham@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Pearson Edexcel](#)

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

What will I learn?

In studying Food students will:

- Learn about different foods, ingredients, processes and techniques.
- Develop practical cooking skills.
- Understand about diets and health.
- Plan, prepare and cook a range of dishes based on skill development
- Know how to plan and cost a meal
- Produce dishes of high quality with an emphasis on presentation

Practical work is used to back up theory lessons, and enhance the learning of skills. In addition to the subject knowledge Food Preparation and Nutrition will help students to develop some important skills that will be useful in other subjects and in their future lives. These include:

- Organisation skills
- Life skills
- Independent skills
- Team working skills
- Information and communication skills

How will I be assessed?

- One written exam accounts for 50% of the final grade.
- Two controlled assessments during the course:
 - Plan a menu of three dishes, then prepare, cook and present it in a 4 hour period.
 - Investigate and evaluate the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients creating a report setting out their findings.

What are the costs?

Students will have regular practical lessons for which they will need to bring in their own ingredients from home; a container to cook the product in and a bag or box to carry the food home. It is advised that students purchase a Revision Guide which is around £3.50.

Is there anything else I need to know?

All students are responsible for looking after their ingredients and dishes correctly. Each student is responsible for clearing away and tidying up efficiently at the end of each practical lesson. A lot of the learning is achieved through the practical. Therefore, it is critical that students bring in their ingredients for every practical.

Future Opportunities

Hospitality and catering is a growing sector of the jobs market and there are numerous opportunities within this industry from retail, hotel work, chef, etc. There is also the opportunity to attend college and study catering to BTEC or degree level. Apprenticeships are also available in a variety of local establishments.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mrs Ward margaret.ward@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [EDUCAS](#)

GCSE Computing Science

What will I learn and why choose the subject?

Technology is ubiquitous in our modern society. Everything from mobile phones, televisions, traffic lights, theme parks, agriculture to sport depends on technology. You need to be prepared for the digital world.

The computing syllabus will give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. As part of this, a large amount of the course will be spent learning computer programming. Through this study of computer programming, the course will help you develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills. For many, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects, especially mathematics and other sciences, and even applied in day-to-day life.

It is a fact that information technologies continue to have a growing importance. This means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If you want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer science, you will find that this course provides a superb stepping stone. Students who have taken a Computing GCSE and who then progress to study the subject at A level or university will have a sound underpinning knowledge of this area.

What are the entry requirements?

In order to deal with the complexities of the course, in particular the logic skills, you need to be in the top two sets for Mathematics. Exceptions can be made for those with good programming experience, in consultation with the Head of ICT & Computing.

How will I be assessed?

There are three units and each has its own assessment:

- Computer Systems:
Written examination paper - 90 minutes which is worth 50% of the qualification.
- Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming:
Written examination paper - 90 minutes which is worth 50% of the qualification.
- Programming Project:
Controlled assessment - approximately 20 hours and is used to compliment the unit above.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Computing Science is a tough and challenging subject. Within the first few lessons you will dive straight into computer programming, which many find challenging but fascinating. The computing science qualification enables you to:

- Develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies, understanding of how they work and apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts.
- Acquire and apply knowledge, some technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming.
- Use your knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become independent and discerning users of IT, able to make informed decisions about its use, and aware of the implications of different technologies.
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts.
- Develop computer programs to solve problems.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mrs Cadman shelley.cadman@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [OCR](#)

GCSE Dance

What will I learn?

This course is intended to develop students' understanding and appreciation of a range of dance styles, through performing, choreographing and viewing dances. Students will have opportunities to learn new dance techniques, take part in choreography workshops and view professional dance works both on video and at the theatre. There will be at least one theatre trip each year of the course (more if possible).

Dance is a Performing Art and as such students will be expected to take part in any performance opportunities that arise to prepare them for the practical exam that occurs at the end of the course.

How will I be assessed?

- Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes. 40% of GCSE. Students will study an anthology of 8 professional dance works as set by the exam board, covering a range of dance styles, themes and physical settings. Students will also study the theory of choreography and performance as well as learning the skills to critically appreciate their own work. Exam questions range from short answer questions to more extended answers which will require students to use their knowledge and understanding of all the dances studied and the subject itself.
- Performance: 30% of GCSE, Set Phrases - practical exam. Students will be taught a series of two phrases choreographed by the exam board lasting approximately 20 seconds each. Students will be assessed on their performance skills for phrases. Students will be assessed on their performance skills by their teacher and then these marks are moderated by the exam board.
- Performance in a Duo/Trio - practical exam: Students perform a duo/trio lasting approximately three and half minutes. The dance is choreographed by the teacher in collaboration with the students. The assessment includes marks for demonstration of knowledge of safe practice. Students will be assessed on their performance skills by their teacher and then these marks are moderated by the exam board.
- Choreography: 30% of GCSE, solo or group choreography - practical exam. The students create a solo dance lasting two to two and half minutes OR a group dance (2-5 dancers) lasting three to three and a half minutes. The dance may be in any style in response to an outline stimulus created by the exam board. The chosen style must allow the students to meet the criteria for assessment. The students perform their solo/group choreography as part of their practical exam. The students' choreographic skills are marked by their teacher and then the marks are moderated by the exam board.

What are the costs?

A number of trips to see professional dance works performed live will be arranged throughout the course. The cost is kept as reasonable as possible, with each trip cost approximately £25 -30 (including transport and tickets).

Rather than financial cost, students are required to make some personal commitments of their own time. There is a huge range of extra-curricular activities and performances run through the dance department and GCSE students are expected to be involved in at least one of these activities and at least one performance.

Such activities include: street dance club, Biddenham dance company, cheerleading, body conditioning (fitness training), the school musical, theatre trips (Milton Keynes, Cambridge, London etc), choreographic workshops at the University of Bedfordshire, internal dance and drama showcase, 'Spring into Dance' internal dance production, performances at the University of Bedfordshire, supporting primary school students (Westfield).

Future Opportunities

It is the intention of the dance course to enable students to develop the skills of decision making, problem solving, critical and creative thinking and the ability to co-operate with others that will equip them for a variety of working environments.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Miss Wiltshire hayley.wiltshire@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE Drama

What will I learn?

The course engages and encourages students to become confident performers and designers with the skills they need for a bright and successful future. The course provides many opportunities for students to do what they like best - participate in performance.

All students will study influential drama practitioners, scripted texts and devising from a stimulus. They will work practically and collaboratively to create two performances. Students can choose to develop their skills as a performer or as a designer (set, costume & make up or puppets) or as both performer and designer. Whichever option they choose, students can be sure to gather many invaluable skills, both theatrical and transferable, to expand their horizons. Transferable skills students learn are to collaborate with others, think analytically and evaluate effectively. They gain the confidence to pursue their own ideas, reflect and refine their efforts. A willingness to perform in front of others and good attendance will ensure success on this course due to the continual practical coursework and written demands.

What are the entry requirements?

All committed and interested students are welcome to opt for one of our courses, irrespective of experience. However, a willingness to get involved in group activities and enjoyment of performing in front of others is a basic requirement of this course. This course is not advisable for students who do not like getting up and presenting in front of others. This is a very practical course and your attendance and commitment to extra activities is a basic expectation to develop your skills and discipline in performance. There are regular drama activities at school and we would encourage students to join this as these projects will support the student's coursework grades.

How will I be assessed?

- **Component One: Understanding drama - written exam, 1 hour and 45 minutes, 40% of GCSE**
This component is a written exam in which students are assessed on their knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed, including a connection to a set play and on their ability to analyse and evaluate the live theatre work of others. The paper is divided into three compulsory sections:
 - Section A: Theatre roles and terminology
 - Section B: Study of set text
 - Section C: Live theatre productionIn the exam students are expected to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the subject content.
- **Component Two: Devising Drama, 40 % of GCSE**
This is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance, apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance and analyse and evaluate their own work. It is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.
For this component students are required to complete the following two assessment tasks:
 - Produce an individual Devising log documenting the devising process.
 - Contribute to a final devised duologue or group performance. The Devising log is marked out of 60. Each student's contribution to the final devised performance is marked out of 20.
- **Component Three: Text in Practice , 20 % of GCSE**
This component is a practical component in which students are assessed on their ability to apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance. It is marked by AQA. For this component students must complete two assessment tasks:
 - Study and present a key extract (monologue, duologue or group performance)
 - Study and present a second key extract (monologue, duologue or group performance) from the same play. Each student's contribution to each key extract performance is marked out of 20.

What are the costs?

The Drama department aims to offer you theatre trips and workshops at a cost to cover travel and tickets for events. Each trip is approximately £25 - £30. Various props/costumes for drama pieces may be required.

Is there anything else I need to know?

There is a rich diversity of activities to get involved in from musical theatre, showcases, lunchtime and after school events as well as visits to the West End and local theatre and cultural events. There are also opportunities to get involved in other extra-curricular opportunities such as working to develop work for an annual showcase of final exam work. GCSE students are expected to be involved in at least one of these activities and at least one performance. This course provides a sound basis for the study of Drama at A level or Performing Arts and provides opportunities to develop the key skills of working with others, solving problems and presentation that are invaluable in a wide range of careers.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Miss Wozniak sarah.wozniak@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE French

"A different language is a different vision of life."

Why study GCSE French?

More than 200 million people speak French on the five continents. The Francophonie, the international organisation of French-speaking countries, comprises 68 states and governments. French is the second most widely learned foreign language after English, and the ninth most widely spoken language in the world. It is also the only language, alongside English, that is taught in every country in the world. France operates the biggest international network of cultural institutes, which run French language courses for more than 750,000 learners.

What will I learn?

The course is AQA GCSE French Specification code 8658. The course we follow will help you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand it in speech and writing. You will benefit when you come into contact with French speaking people both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where French is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people in these countries.

Key features of this course are:

- A meaningful and enjoyable educational experience for all candidates.
- Known and achievable but challenging goals for candidates of all abilities.
- A useful level of linguistic competence that all candidates can achieve.
- A suitable stage in a culture of lifelong language learning.
- Useful experience of language acquisition.
- Reference to other cultures, enabling personal awareness to develop.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- Theme 1: Identity and culture.
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest.
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

What are the entry requirements?

An interest in French and the culture of France and French-speaking countries, communicating with others and a desire to break down language barriers is very important. You are expected to have achieved at least level 5 in Key Stage 3 in order to access GCSE French. We try to accommodate anyone with a genuine interest and strong work ethic. If you want to study for a GCSE in a Modern Language ab initio, then please come to talk to us in the Department first.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

There are 4 areas of assessment:

- Paper 1: Listening exam (25% of GCSE). Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.
- Paper 2: Speaking non-exam assessment (25% of GCSE). Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.
- Paper 3: Reading exam (25% of GCSE). Understanding and responding to different types of written language.
- Paper 4: Writing exam (25% of GCSE). Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

What are the costs?

You will be expected to have your own bilingual dictionary at home and use your chromebook to access different online dictionaries and useful websites for learning French. You are also advised to buy a revision guide to support your studies. You will be able to purchase one from the department at a cheap price, but there are also good revision guides that can be bought in high-street bookshops (e.g. Waterstones or WH Smith).

Is there anything else I need to know?

A 'pen-pal' programme is in place and proves a valuable way to use the language in context.

Exchange programmes and trips to the target-language country may take place, where numbers permit. Costs are in the region of £300 to cover all expenses: travel to and from school, accommodation, food, language activities and excursions.

Future Opportunities

It is worth considering the study of a foreign language at GCSE level as some universities now insist that applicants have a Modern Foreign Language qualification, (even if not immediately relevant to the course of study being applied for).

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Miss Calvete estefania.calvete@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE German

"A different language is a different vision of life."

Why study GCSE German?

German is the most widely spoken native language in Europe and is one of the three official working languages of the European Union. In absolute numbers, German is the second most-spoken language on the continent of Europe. However, when it comes to native speakers, German is number one. The language is amongst the ten most commonly spoken languages in the world. It is also a lingua franca of Central and Eastern Europe.

What will I learn?

The course is AQA GCSE German Specification code 8668. The course will help you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand German in speech and writing. You will benefit when you come into contact with German-speaking people both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where German is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people in these countries.

Key features of this course are:

- A meaningful and enjoyable educational experience for all candidates.
- Known and achievable but challenging goals for candidates of all abilities.
- A useful level of linguistic competence that all candidates can achieve.
- A suitable stage in a culture of lifelong language learning.
- Useful experience of language acquisition.
- Reference to other cultures, enabling personal awareness to develop.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- Theme 1: Identity and culture.
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest.
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

What are the entry requirements?

An interest in German and the culture of Germany, communicating with others and a desire to break down language barriers are very important. You are expected to have achieved at least level 5 in Key Stage 3 in order to access GCSE German. We try to accommodate anyone with a genuine interest and strong work ethic. If you want to study for a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language ab initio, then please come to talk to us in the Department first.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE German has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

There are 4 areas of assessment:

- Paper 1: Listening exam (25% of GCSE). Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.
- Paper 2: Speaking Non-exam assessment (25% of GCSE). Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.
- Paper 3: Reading exam (25% of GCSE). Understanding and responding to different types of written language.
- Paper 4: Writing exam (25% of GCSE). Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

What are the costs?

You will be expected to have your own bilingual dictionary at home and use your chromebook to access different online dictionaries and useful websites for learning German. You are also advised to buy a revision guide to support your studies. You will be able to purchase one from the department at a cheap price, but there are also good revision guides that can be bought in high-street bookshops (e.g. Waterstones or WH Smith).

Is there anything else I need to know?

For several years now, the MFL department has organised a very successful exchange with a school in Bamberg (Bedford's German partner town) which has proved a valuable way to absorb both the language and the culture. If you take part in this programme, you should expect to host a German student and in return stay with a German family.

Also, there is currently an opportunity to take part in the residential trip to the German town of Boppard. Trip costs are in the region of £450 to include all expenses: travel to and from school, accommodation, food, language activities and excursions.

Future Opportunities

Whatever plans you may have for the future, the knowledge of a foreign language will increase your options. It is worth considering the study of a foreign language at GCSE level as some universities now insist that applicants have a Modern Foreign Language qualification, even if not immediately relevant to the course of study being applied for.

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Miss Calvete estefania.calvete@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE Spanish

"A different language is a different vision of life."

Why study GCSE Spanish?

Communicate with 350 million native Spanish speakers worldwide! Spanish is spoken by at least an estimated 400 million people around the world and is currently the fourth most commonly spoken language worldwide. It is an official language on four continents and is the mother tongue in 21 countries.

What will I learn?

The course is AQA GCSE Spanish Specification code 8698. The course will help you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand Spanish in speech and writing. You will benefit when you come into contact with Spanish-speaking people both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people in these countries.

Key features of this course are:

- Development of language skills in a variety of contexts.
- Flexible, unisex structure allows students to maximise achievement.
- Choice of contexts and purposes for writing and speaking units.
- Development of ability to provide and understand information and opinions on a variety of topics relating to both own country/community and those where Spanish is spoken.

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

- Theme 1: Identity and culture.
- Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest.
- Theme 3: Current and future study and employment.

What are the entry requirements?

An interest in Spanish and Spain and Latin American cultures, communicating with others and a desire to break down language barriers are very important. You are expected to have achieved at least level 5 in Key Stage 3 in order to access GCSE Spanish. We try to accommodate anyone with a genuine interest and strong work ethic. If you want to study for a GCSE in a Modern Language ab initio, then please come and speak to us in the Department first.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4-9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

There are 4 areas of assessment:

- Paper 1: Listening exam (25% of GCSE). Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.
- Paper 2: Speaking Non-exam assessment (25% of GCSE). Communicating and interacting effectively in speech for a variety of purposes.
- Paper 3: Reading exam (25% of GCSE). Understanding and responding to different types of written language.
- Paper 4: Writing exam (25% of GCSE). Communicating effectively in writing for a variety of purposes.

What are the costs?

You will be expected to have your own bilingual dictionary at home and use your chromebook to access different online dictionaries and useful websites for learning Spanish. You are also advised to buy a revision guide to support your studies. You will be able to purchase one from the department at a cheap price, but there are also good revision guides that can be bought in high-street bookshops (e.g. Waterstones or WH Smith).

Is there anything else I need to know?

A pen-pal programme is in place and proves a valuable way to use the language in context.

A trip to Spain may take place in the summer term for a week where numbers permit. Costs are in the region of £650 to cover all expenses: travel to and from school, accommodation, food, language activities and excursions.

Future Opportunities

It is worth considering the study of a foreign language at GCSE level as some universities now insist that applicants have a Modern Foreign Language qualification (even if not immediately relevant to the course of study being applied for).

Statistics show that students of foreign languages have access to a greater number of career possibilities and develop a deeper understanding of their own and other cultures. Some evidence also suggests that children who receive second language instruction are more creative and better at solving complex problems. The benefits to society are many: individuals fluent in other languages enhance our economic competitiveness abroad, improve global communication, and, some would add, maintain our political and security interests.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Miss Calvete estefania.calvete@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE Geography Edexcel A: Geographical Themes and Challenges

'Geography enables young people to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens.'

Why study GCSE Geography?

Geography can open doors for you in the future as you will learn many real life skills that are transferable and desirable for GCE level and the world of work: lateral thinking, 'understanding the big picture', problem-solving, debating, decision-making, data collection and analysis, independent study and research, map-work and cartography, recording techniques and data manipulation, construction of maps and diagrams, field sketching, evaluating work, group discussion, understanding current events, appreciating different cultures, global challenges, active citizenship and computer literacy (IT skills).

What will I learn?

Geography is a continuously evolving subject that involves us all - it looks at the key global issues that are having an impact today and which will affect our futures. It helps give a greater awareness of how we behave, emphasising the importance of the relationship between people in different countries, their impact on the environment and their impact on each other. Geography Edexcel A gives you the chance to make the subject more relevant for you. For example you will cover human and physical geography along with geographical skills and challenges. There is a greater focus on Place and Scale. There is more emphasis on geographical skills that geographers need to progress to GCE and that employers expect.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit three exams that consist of three key themes (see Papers 1-3 below). All exams take place at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: The Physical Environment, 1 hour 30 minutes, 37.5% weighting

- Changing landscapes of the UK: Two studies including coastal landscapes and river landscapes.
- Weather hazards and climate change: Two studies of Tropical Storms and Drought
- Ecosystems Biodiversity and Management: Two studies of tropical Rainforest and Temperate Deciduous Woodlands

Total marks for this exam = 94 marks

Paper 2: The Human Environment, 1 hour 30 minutes, 37.5%

- Changing Cities: Two studies of a UK city and a city in a developing or emerging country.
- Global Development: A study of a developing or emerging country.
- Resource Management: A study of water.

Total marks for this exam = 94

Paper 3: Geographical Investigation - Fieldwork and UK Challenges, 1 hour 30 minutes, 25%

- Fieldwork: One physical and one human investigation.
- UK Challenges: A study drawing across knowledge and understanding from The Physical Environment and The Human Environment.

Total mark for this paper = 64 marks

What are the costs?

There is a requirement for an out-of-classroom experience in which fieldwork must be undertaken in both the physical and human geography. Location and trip details will be publicised closer to the time.

Future Opportunities

Just some of the jobs you can get with geography: advertising, anthropology, archaeologist, architect, business management, civil engineering, conservationist, consultancy, development studies, environmental Science, European politics, financial adviser, geologist, hydrologist, journalist (TV and/or press), law, marketing, meteorologist, town planner, professor/lecturer, surveying, teaching, tourism, travel, urban studies.

For field trip experiences, please see articles on the school website and Google site.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Ms Roberts emily.roberts@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edexcel](#)

GCSE Art & Design Graphic Communication

Why choose Graphic Communication?

Graphic design is crucial in a number of industries for communicating brands, ideas and products, so if you're artistic and have a keen eye for striking visuals this could be the perfect career for you. You could find yourself working in a huge range of roles, including advertising, marketing, publishing and more. Jobs in this sector include art worker, commercial designer, graphic designer, illustrator, web designer.

You will work in areas of Graphic Communication such as those listed below.

- Illustration
- Advertising
- Packaging design
- Communication graphics
- Design for print
- Digital media
- Web Design
- Television
- Multimedia
- Lens-based and light-based media photography
- New media practices such as computer generated imagery

What are the entry requirements?

The main requirement is that students are creative thinkers, willing to work hard and are interested in graphic design, media and modern advertising techniques.

Skills and Techniques

You will be expected to demonstrate skills and techniques in the context of their chosen area(s) within Graphic Communication:

- Showing an awareness of meaning, function, style and scale in relation to their chosen area(s) of Graphic Communication.
- Making an appropriate use of colour, line, tone, shape and form in their work.
- Interpreting a brief and working within its constraints, and/or responding to an idea, concept or issue.
- Displaying an appreciation of appropriate uses of typography (including hand lettering, calligraphy and graffiti), signs and symbols.
- Showing an awareness of a variety of materials, techniques and genres within their chosen area(s) of Graphic Communication.
- Being aware of the intended audience or purpose of their chosen area(s) of Graphic Communication.
- Providing evidence of the use of safe working practices.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 is your portfolio of work and is worth 60% of the final marks.

Unit 2 is the externally set task and is worth 40% of the marks.

The four Assessment Objectives are:

- Develop ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources, demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
- Refine ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.
- Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

What are the costs?

Students will need to purchase some materials including sketchbooks.

Is there anything else I need to know?

If you wish to design TV commercials, movie posters, packaging, book covers, magazines, logos for companies, t-shirts, CD covers etc. then this is the course for you.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mr Alexis paul.alexis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

OCR Nationals Health and Social Care

Cambridge Nationals in Health and Social Care will equip students with a sound, specialist knowledge as well as skills for everyday use including the 'Values of Care' and the current legislation requirements, and the importance of softer skills such as communication.

What will I learn?

- Unit R021: Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings
This mandatory unit focuses on the rights of individuals and will instil the values of care to be used when working in a health, social care or early years environment. As well as an overview of legislation and its impact on the care settings and covers the hygiene, safety and security matters that relate to promoting a healthy and safe environment.
- Unit R022: Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings.
This unit will provide learners with the underpinning knowledge and understanding of how to communicate effectively and what personal qualities will contribute to the creation of a caring environment when working with individuals in a health, social care and early years setting.
- Unit R027: Creative Activities
This unit will allow learners to consider the importance of creative activities within a variety of Health and Social care settings. They will explore the health benefits of individual and group activities and participate in a real life interaction.
- Unit R031- Using basic First Aid procedures
This unit will provide learners with a knowledge and understanding of basic common first aid procedures that could be used within health and social care settings. Learners will be able to assess the scene of an accident in health, social care and early years settings for risks and continuing dangers. Learners will know what information is needed when contacting the emergency services and will be able to perform a variety of basic first aid procedures.

What are the entry requirements?

No prior knowledge is required.

How will I be assessed?

This course is 25% exam and 75% coursework.

Unit R021 is an examined unit where students will sit a 1 hour exam at the end of year 10. The remaining units are coursework based.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Students should have a genuine interest in the Health and Social Care sector with a desire to work with people. Students must be good at meeting deadlines due to the number of coursework based units.

Future Opportunities

The Cambridge National leads onto the Platinum, Level 3 A Level Health and Social Care course, and subsequently a range of higher and further education opportunities. The student may decide that they wish to work as a care assistant, either with children or older people, for example, or study further to enable a career in nursing, midwifery or an allied health profession.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Ms Buckingham gemma.buckingham@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Cambridge National](#)

GCSE History

A GCSE in history will give you a good knowledge and understanding of the past and how it affects the modern world and will challenge you to think, argue, debate and write. History is a highly respected GCSE and many students of history have gone on to become professionals such as lawyers, politicians, teachers, business people and accountants as well as working in the creative industries and media.

What will I learn?

We use the Edexcel GCSE specification and there are three exams in GCSE history with three major units to study and one sub-unit. Year 9 will be spent laying the groundwork for the more in-depth study done in years 10 and 11. This first year will ensure that you have a good understanding of the historical skills and concepts that are vital to success in GCSE history.

- **Medicine in Britain, c1250-present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches:**
Students will learn how key features in the development of medicine were linked with key features of British society by studying the change and continuity of both medicine and society across a lengthy span of time. By being able to understand the patterns of change, trends and turning points and the things that influenced them students will be analysing the past through the lens of what was known about the human body but also infection and public health.
There is a special section of this unit devoted to looking at the health and well-being of soldiers on the Western Front during WWI. The historic environment study replaces the controlled assessment and will require students to engage in depth study both in class and independently outside of class.
- **Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588:**
Depth studies like this one focus on a shorter time span but require students to understand the complexity of society or a particular historical situation by looking at the ways different factors or individuals interact; this is very true of studying the early reign of Elizabeth I. Students will look at key political but also social changes during the years 1558-88.
- **Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991:**
The sub-unit on the Cold War enables students to do a focused period study covering WWII from America's entry into the war through to its breakdown and the emergence of the new bipolar balance of power where American and democracy were pitted against the Soviet Union and communism.
By using historical concepts like significance and cause and consequence students will be able to analyse the actions of the two superpowers and the outcome of those actions.
- **The USA, 1954-1975: conflict at home and abroad:**
The final exam unit is a modern depth study, as with the Elizabethan depth study, students will be focusing on the complex interplay of factors that contributed to the way that Americans viewed the conflicts they were in during this period, both internal and external by looking through the lens of the Black Civil Rights Movement and the conflict in Vietnam.

What are the entry requirements?

Enthusiasm and hard work are the key ingredients for successful history students. We welcome students who want to think for themselves, work in teams and contribute to group discussion. We aim to engender students who are responsible, resilient, resourceful and respectful researchers. You will need to be prepared to develop your extended writing, argument and reading. A prior interest in history is certainly helpful but don't be put off if you haven't enjoyed history lessons in the past. It is more important that you have an open and curious mind!

How will I be assessed?

There are regular assessments in GCSE history. In Year 9 the assessments are done during class time and could be longer-essay assessments or exam questions; these are done every three weeks. In Year 10 there is more of an emphasis on answering exam questions and as well as regular class assessments, partway through the year a larger mock exam will be conducted with a second at the end of the year. In Year 11 there is a mock exam at the start of the year and smaller assessments during the year, building up to the formal exams in the summer term. During all three years there are smaller low-stakes tests given to students in class that focus solely on knowledge recall and retention as a way to help boost student memory.

What extra-curricular opportunities are there?

The History Department runs a catch-up session on a rota each term, where students can come and get extra help or catch-up if they have been absent. There is also a History club known as the History Society. For Year 11 there are more frequent interventions run to help students with revision, catch-up and exam skills.

What are the costs?

Students are responsible for purchasing their own pens, pencils, rulers, and highlighters. It is advisable that students purchase their own copy of the course textbooks and revision guides so that they can study outside of school, but it is not required. The revision guides can be purchased from Reception.

Students are expected to pay for any trips that are organised.

Is there anything else I need to know?

GCSE History is a challenging, academic subject and our department demands hard work and commitment from students. However, if you are prepared to work hard and develop your writing skills you will find the course very rewarding!

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mrs Vaughan reeann.vaughan@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edexcel](#)

GCSE Music

What will I learn?

GCSE Music encourages students to recognise links between performing, composing and appraising and how this informs the development of music.

GCSE Music broadens musical experiences and interests whilst developing imagination and fostering creativity. Students develop the skills needed to communicate effectively as musicians in society. Four areas of study develop knowledge and understanding of music through the study of a variety of genres and styles in a wider context. The Western Classical Tradition forms the basis of Musical Forms and Devices, and students take the opportunity to explore these forms and devices further in the other three areas of study. Music for Ensemble allows students to look more closely at texture and sonority. Film Music and Popular Music provide an opportunity to look at contrasting styles and genres of music.

How will I be assessed?

- **Performing: 30%** Students will perform 4-6 minutes of music.
One solo performance and one ensemble performance on an instrument or a vocal. Performances must be to at least grade 3 standard.
- **Free Composition: 15%** Students compose a piece of music, three minutes in duration linking to an area of study.
The composition must be accompanied by a written score and we use Sibelius software to complete this.
- **Composition to a Brief: 15%** Students compose a piece of music, three minutes in duration linking to brief set by Eduqas.
The composition must be accompanied by a written score and we use Sibelius software to complete this.
- **Appraising written examination - 40%** 1 hour 15 minute listening examination.
Eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble, Film Music and Popular Music. Two of the eight questions are based on extracts set by Eduqas.

What are the costs?

The department provides free termly visits to orchestral concerts for all students. Music students also attend performing arts theatre visits. Students must take up weekly instrumental tuition either at school or privately. At school we offer free violin, viola, cello and double bass lessons. Other instrument and vocal lessons are provided by Bedford Music Co-operative at a cost of £12.75 per lesson. It is recommended that students can already play an instrument or sing before starting the course.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The department has an extensive extra-curricular programme that features links with The Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Bedford Music Co-operative, Music for Bedford Borough and Bedfordshire Orchestral Society. Students are encouraged to attend StringTastic, Ukulele Choir, School Musical, Fiddle Fiesta, Band Bananza and Recital Nights. The department provides free termly visits to orchestral concerts for all students. Music students also attend performing arts theatre visits.

Students need to be able to play a musical instrument or sing to grade 3 standard by year 11 and must attend instrumental music lessons every week on top of their theory lessons. We provide free instrumental lessons as part of the course.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mrs Murphy georgina.murphy@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Eduqas](#)

GCSE Physical Education

What will I learn?

From Year 9 the GCSE PE course is taught over four lessons a fortnight. Due to the high percentage of the GCSE Physical Education grade coming from theoretical work all lessons will be theoretical based in a classroom and with some practical elements interspersed throughout the course. Further practical lessons will be taught through core Physical Education lessons and extra-curricular opportunities are important.

The GCSE PE theory section of the course is split into different areas:

- The human body and movement in physical activity and sport.
- Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

During theoretical lessons students will be expected to develop the ability to analysis information, discuss the importance of physical activity, label anatomical diagrams, interpret information from graphs, and recall factual information. It is also vital that students learn how to apply their understanding of theoretical elements to specific practical activities.

It is expected that students take part in physical activity outside of the curriculum to allow for them to improve their practical ability as well as during their core Physical Education lessons.

How will I be assessed?

- Written exam (60%): Students will sit two written exams in the summer. This contains a combination of multiple choice, short and long answer questions assessing all theoretical concepts covered through the theory lessons.
- Controlled assessment (40%): Students will be assessed in a range of practical activities, this will be during their core Physical Education lessons. The strongest three marks will make up 30% of the final grade. Students will also be required to carry out an analysis of performance in one of their chosen practical activities this will be a written piece of coursework. This will count for 10% of their final grade.

What are the costs?

Students studying GCSE will potentially have the opportunity to purchase a GCSE PE T-shirt and revision guides during the course of the three years. More information on this will be provided during the course due to new specifications this year.

Is there anything else I need to know?

GCSE Physical Education is weighted heavily towards the theory of Physical Education so you need to enjoy learning about the body and the importance of physical activity not just taking part practically.

Future opportunities

The sports industry is an ever expanding part of our society and culture. There are more and more sports related careers available and there is a huge emphasis on the need to adopt healthy lifestyles in the 21st century. Qualifications in sport such as GCSE PE look great on your CV and can provide you with huge options for further study in the field of sport and physical activity.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Miss Lewis amy.lewis@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [AQA](#)

GCSE Design & Technology

If you enjoy designing and sketching combined with exploring potential ideas through modelling and also manufacturing products in the workshop from wood, metal and plastic and electrical components - this course could be suited to you.

What will I learn?

A GCSE in Design & Technology prepares students to participate in tomorrow's rapidly changing technologies. You learn to think and challenge creatively whilst acquiring expertise using specialist design software, equipment, machinery and hand tools. Students are encouraged to become creative problem solvers, as individuals and members of a team who develop successful verbal, visual and written communication skills. Students are encouraged to become objective and critical thinkers in order to help make independent decisions throughout the design process from initial ideas to creating 2D and 3D outcomes.

To assist them in their design work at Biddenham we have three workshops and one design studio that are equipped with traditional and modern manufacturing machinery and computers with software that allow students to experience, discover and develop a degree of expertise whilst working with a wide range of materials.

What are the entry requirements?

There are no formal requirements that you should have before embarking on the Design & Technology GCSE course. However, you should be mathematically confident and interested in current product design and have a keen eye for accuracy and precision combined with an artistic creative flair and imagination. You must be someone who can problem solve effectively and who enjoys the challenge of solving complex and difficult design problems.

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1, Examination (50% of qualification):
The written exam is divided into two sections: 40% core content and 60% material category (timber). The core content allows students to demonstrate their breadth of understanding of design and technology, whilst the material category enables students to demonstrate their specialist knowledge of one material area. The paper includes calculations, short-open and open-response questions as well as extended-writing questions.
- Component 2, Design and Make Project (50% of qualification):
Three contextual challenges will be provided by the board from which students must choose one to respond to. Students will produce a project, linked to their specialism, which consists of a portfolio and a prototype. There are four parts to the assessment: Part 1-Investigate, Part 2-Design, Part 3-Make, Part 4-Evaluate.

What are the costs?

Students may need to purchase some specialised materials and will be advised to purchase revision booklets.

Is there anything else I need to know?

There are strict health and safety controls in the workshop environment. Students are expected to have the highest regard for their own and others' safety.

Future Opportunities

A GCSE in Design & Technology will give you essential life skills of independence and creative, objective thinking however, your qualification in this subject can also open the doors to related design /manufacture apprenticeships, National Diplomas and A levels if you choose to gain further expertise and knowledge in the subject. Careers that can potentially develop from these GCSE's are: product design, architecture, theatre design, Interior design, jewellery design, exhibition design, engineering and manufacture, mechanics, carpentry, building Industry, project management, electrical and electronic engineering, armed forces, computer engineering, television and broadcast.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mr Ray paul.ray@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [Edexcel](#)

BTEC Workskills

What will I learn?

The BTEC Workskills suite of qualifications have been designed to offer learners a flexible programme of study to improve their understanding and application of employability skills. These qualifications have been developed to ensure that the knowledge, skills and understanding they provide are relevant, current and useful for learners and potential employers. Learners have the opportunity to follow a flexible course and achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 vocationally-related qualification. On completion of one of these qualification, learners have the opportunity to progress to related general and/or vocational qualifications, or employment in a particular vocational sector.

How will I be assessed?

There are no external exams, the course is 100% coursework. The internal coursework can be recorded through a number of means such as PowerPoint presentations, wall displays and Word reports. The activity that the group decide on will be documented throughout and feedback on self-assessment and self-reflection given throughout the course. You will obtain a Pass overall.

What are the costs?

There will be visits connected to the course which will be used as case studies to enhance knowledge, skills and understanding of the units being studied.

Is there anything else I need to know?

The course will appeal if you:

- Would like to gain more information and experience of work related skills and knowledge.
- Want to find out more about work through research, teamwork and independent study.
- Enjoy studying an area that will broaden your experiences.
- Want the opportunity to apply the theory of the course to practical work in the workplace.
- Enjoy discovering about yourself in 'hands-on' situations.
- Wish to study a course which is active, fun and enjoyable.

Future Opportunities

Apprenticeship scheme, A levels or college course, progress into a career in a wide range of jobs having experienced the skills which will help you understand what is required.

Who should I contact for extra information?

Course contact: Mrs Darlow beverley.darlow@biddenham.beds.sch.uk

Examination Board: [BTEC](#)