



Belfairs Academy Future Gateways



The Future Gateway Process at Belfairs Academy 2026

Key events and dates

Monday 2nd February 2026

Promotional assemblies and lessons for option subjects.

Wednesday 4th March 2026

Future Gateways Information Evening for Parents 4-6pm.
Presentation by Mr Noakes at 5pm.

Thursday 5th March 2026

Year 8 Progress Evening 4-7pm.

Friday 20th March 2026

Deadline for forms to be submitted online.

May/June 2026

Confirmation of Future Gateways choices communicated to parents.

Introduction

Welcome to the Belfairs Academy Future Gateway Process 2026. This is an important time in your child's education and we aim to make the process run as smoothly as possible, in order to fully support our students' transition into year 9 and beyond.

At Belfairs Academy, all students study a core curriculum of English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, PE and RSHE. In addition, we have a wide range of options for students to choose from, all of which are detailed in this booklet and listed on your application form.

Please take time to read through and discuss this information with your child. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the relevant member of staff at the academy via gateways@belfairsacademy.org.uk.

The Future Gateways Process

Students are required to complete the Gateway process in order to gain places on their chosen courses. Students will choose from a selection of option subjects while also studying the core curriculum. **English, Maths and Science** are compulsory examined courses for all students whilst core PE and RSHE lessons are not examined but form an integral part of the timetable each week.

There are three different Gateways that students follow. The Gateway your child is will be indicated on their personalised Gateway form made available prior to the market place information Gateway evening.

Gateway 1:

English Baccalaureate route: MFL compulsory, History/Geography compulsory, Triple Science for those wishing to pursue Science in the future.

Gateway 2:

English Baccalaureate route: Either History or Geography is compulsory, MFL compulsory.

Gateway 3:

History/Geography compulsory

We will issue each student with an option form and advise on the Gateway we think is most suitable. Students also need to select reserve options in case we cannot accommodate their first preferences.

EBacc

The academy would like to draw the attention of parents to the Government's measure of student attainment, the English Baccalaureate (EBacc). Although students do not gain a certificate or qualification of the EBacc, the subjects within the EBacc (English, maths, sciences, a humanities subject like history or geography, and a modern foreign language) are widely regarded as a solid academic foundation and are valued by employers and universities. It is agreed that taking a broad and rigorous academic core, such as that offered by the EBacc combination, helps keep a young person's future study and career options open, especially for competitive degrees or apprenticeship programmes.



Qualifications

We have a variety of subjects and qualifications which include GCSE VCerts, BTEC, WJEC and Cambridge Nationals.

What is a BTEC/WJEC/Cambridge National /VCert qualification?

These courses provide an alternative to the more traditional GCSE route and have a vocational focus. They differ from GCSE in that they have a higher proportion of content assessed through coursework, for which students produce portfolios of assignments on which the qualification grading is based. All courses now have an exam as standard in addition to the coursework.

VCerts are designed in collaboration with employers and practitioners to empower students with industry-relevant skills and knowledge appropriate to a range of growing sectors, giving students a taste of real-world tasks and projects.

All of these qualifications are graded from Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, to Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, which are equivalent to GCSE grades 8-5-1.

Students are assessed using both project-based non-exam assessments, as well as external examinations, to give them the opportunity to achieve based on their skills as well as their knowledge.



Art, Craft and Design

Edexcel GCSE

What will I study?

Students will get the opportunity to explore different mediums and materials in order to broaden their artistic experience. They will look at areas of Fine Art, Print Making and Textiles.

Students will learn how to research artists and their styles then relate this to art and design concepts. They will combine artists' styles with their own ideas to make meaningful pieces of artwork.

How is the course assessed?

- Students' portfolios are internally assessed and externally moderated.
- 60% for Internal portfolio
- 40% for External Controlled Assessment, taken in the Spring term of Year 11.

Additional information

Students are required to attend lessons with the correct materials; a hardbacked sketchbook, pencils and eraser. The academy does offer an Art pack that can be purchased through ParentPay at the start of the course to provide them with a range of art materials to support their studies.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Students who achieve a 6 or above can go on to study A Level Fine Art at Belfairs or other Level 3 Art based courses at other centres.

There are opportunities for students to follow careers in all creative based areas, including art administration, galleries, teaching, freelance art, design companies, advertising, fashion design, brand marketing and architecture to name just a few.

Course Leader

Miss E Absolom

Art and Design – Photography

Edexcel GCSE

What will I study?

Students will learn:

- how to use DSLR cameras
- how to edit images using Adobe Photoshop
- how to use studio lighting
- the importance of composition, lighting and camera techniques
- how to research photographers and artists and how to analyse their work
- ways of creating meaningful photographic images using a variety of skills and techniques

How is the course assessed?

- Students' portfolios are internally assessed and externally moderated.
- 60% for Internal portfolio
- 40% for External Controlled Assessment, taken in the Spring term of Year 11.

Additional information

Students will be producing digital portfolios and require a hard backed sketchbook, gel pen/ink pen and glue stick for final photographs.

All items are available to purchase from the academy.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Students who achieve a 6 or above can then progress to A Level if desired.

There are opportunities for students to progress to careers in all media-based areas, including the BBC, photojournalism, teaching, freelance photography, travel photography, design companies, advertising, magazine companies, fashion/design and brand marketing.

Course Leader

Miss E Absolom

Business and Enterprise

V Cert

What will I study?

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Business and Enterprise allows students to learn how a business is structured, who stakeholders are and why they're important. Students will gain an understanding of the different areas of a business from HR to finance, operations and marketing.

How is the course assessed?

Assessments are through project-based non-exam assessments and two external examinations.

Additional Information:

This course provides an alternative to the more traditional GCSE route and has a vocational focus. V Certs have a higher proportion of content assessed through coursework for which students produce portfolios of assignments on which the qualification grading is based. All courses now have an exam as standard in addition to the coursework.

They are graded from Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, to Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, which are equivalent to GCSE grades 8-5-1.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

A T Level on Management and Administration, or a Business A Level or Applied General at college or sixth form. Apprenticeship in Business Administration or as a marketing assistant.

Course Leader

Mrs C G Vasanthakumar

Business

Edexcel GCSE

What will I study?

Students will learn about how small businesses are developed and discover how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy. Students will also learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them.

Units 1 - Investigating Small Business

- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into practice
- Making the business effective
- Understanding the external influences on business

Unit 2 - Building a Business:

- Growing the business
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

How is the course assessed?

Unit 1 - 1 hour 45-minute exam.

- Section A – 35 marks and will be multiple choice and short answer questions
- Section B and C – 55 marks will be case study-based responses

Unit 2 - 1 hour 45-minute exam.

- Section A – 35 marks and will be multiple choice and short answer questions.
- Section B and C – 55 marks will be case study-based responses.
- 10% of the overall mark will come from the use of calculations.

Additional information

You may have an interest in business and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

This business course can help you prepare for further and higher education. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of a team. A GCSE Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.

Course Leader

Mrs C G Vasanthakumar

Citizenship

AQA GCSE

What will I study?

You will study the role of citizens in society and the way in which British politics and society works. There are three main themes of study:

- Life in Modern Britain
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Politics and Participation

Students will also have the opportunity to complete an 'Active Citizenship' investigation where they will choose an issue of their own interest, investigate the issue, plan and carry out the action, before evaluating the successes of their action.

How is the course assessed?

There are 2 examination papers at the end of the course. Both papers are 1 hour and 45 minutes. Both papers are worth 50% of the total GCSE. There is a mixture of multiple choice, short answer, source-based, and extended questions.

Additional information:

What skills will I develop in this course?

- Problem solving
- Literacy skills
- Critical questioning and enquiry
- Decision Making and evaluation
- Resourcefulness
- Analysis and evaluation

There are crossovers with other subjects. This course shares similar skills with GCSE History and there are content similarities with Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. The written nature of the extended answers will support students with the skills and confidence needed in most of their GCSE subjects.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3:

This course will give students the foundational knowledge needed to continue to study Politics at A Level. The skills gained will be transferable to any number of Level 3 courses. The knowledge and skills developed in this course are applicable to a range of careers including journalism and media, law, charity work, and many more. The key skills developed are desirable to a wide variety of careers.

Course Leader:

Mr L Maher

Computer Science (9-11)

OCR GCSE

What will I study?

- Current and emerging technologies, how they work and then apply this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts
- Use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using computational thinking and programming the solutions
- Computer technology, its use, and the implication of different technologies
- How to apply creative and technical skills and knowledge plus you will develop an understanding of software application and hardware technology in a range of different contexts
- Computer programs and their use in solving problems
- The effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of, and issues related to, the use of computer technology in society

How is the course assessed?

Computer systems and programming: 100%
Examination Assessment

Additional information

Entry requirement:
Grade 3 and above for Mathematics and English

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

There is a looming skills shortage in Computing and demand from employers has risen and continues to rise. Students can go on to study A Level Computing, enter further training courses and apply for competitive apprenticeships. This qualification leads to multiple career paths, a good understanding of computing and evidence of solving problems through computational thinking is highly valued by employers.

Course Leader

Mr S Carroll



Design and Technology: Product Design

Edexcel GCSE

What will I study?

This course will enable students to incorporate knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes to research, design and make prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities.

Students will look at design from both historic and present day, developing an understanding of its impact on daily life and understand that high-quality design and technology is important to the creativity, culture and sustainability of the nation and the global community.

The course will allow students to have a broad understanding of a wide range of materials and techniques across Design and Technology, with their main specialism being in Product Design/timbers.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework - 50% One research, design and make piece of work that students select from briefs set by the exam board.
External examination - 50% One exam paper in 2 sections. Section 1 covers a core knowledge of materials, techniques and manufacturing knowledge across the Design Technology curriculum and Section 2 for their specialist area of Timbers.

Additional information

You will need good time management skills for the coursework project and a good level of Maths as this is included in the coursework and written paper.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

A qualification in Design Technology could lead students into a career in graphic design, furniture making, and architecture, designing cars or electronic goods (such as vacuum cleaners or mobile telephones) or even the fashion industry!

Students can continue to study Design Technology at A Level or BTEC/diplomas in related creative subjects.

Course Leader

Mrs S O'Neill



Drama

AQA GCSE

What will I study?

Different explorative strategies, mediums and elements and Drama which will help support and add meaning to practical work.

These skills will be applied to assessed performance work, both devised and scripted. Candidates will watch these skills be put into practice by professionals during our annual visit to a show in the West End.

How is the course assessed?

GCSE Drama consists of:

- Component One: Written Exam
- Component Two: Devising
- Component Three: Performance from a text

60% of the course (Component One and Three) is externally assessed:

- Component One is a written exam and is split into 3 sections based upon a set text and a live theatre production. Students will answer from the perspective of a performer, director and designer.
- Component Three is a performance exam. Students will perform two extracts from the same play to a visiting examiner from AQA.

40% of the course (Component Two) is internally assessed. The component comprises of a devised performance with an accompanying portfolio that can be entirely written, or part written with audio recordings.

Additional information

It is an expectation of the course that all candidates attend the live performances on offer in order to write their response to the live performance covered in the written exam. Candidates will also be expected to attend extra rehearsal sessions after school in order for them to be fully prepared for the practical aspect of the course.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Students with an 9 - 4 in GCSE Drama can expect to be looked favourably up on by colleges and employers, who are keen to work with people who have confidence and inter-personal skills the subject enables them to develop. Students can go on to study an A Level in Drama and Theatre or a Level 3 in Performing Arts.

Course Leader

Ms M Rainbird

Engineering Design

OCR Cambridge National Certificate

What will I study?

Cambridge Nationals are vocationally related qualifications that take an engaging and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. They're industry relevant and geared to key sector requirements.

Engineering design is a process used to develop and enhance new products and systems as a response to market opportunities. This qualification is an opportunity for students to develop a design specification and study the processes involved in designing new engineered products. You will use practical skills such as drawing, computer modelling and model making to communicate design ideas.

Cambridge Nationals are graded Pass, Merit or Distinction for Level 1, and Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* for Level 2.

How is the course assessed?

There are 3 units to this qualification:

Written paper – R038- 75 mins

- Design briefs, design specifications and user requirements

Centre Assessed Tasks – 2 Units- R039, R040

- Product analysis and research
- Developing and presenting engineering designs
- 3D design realisation.

Additional information

You will need to be determined and self-motivated. You will also need good research and time management skills for the projects undertaken.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Students can continue to study Engineering at Post 16 or consider an apprenticeship.

Course Leader

Mr S McKenzie/ Mrs S O'Neill

English Language

AQA GCSE

What will I study?

Students will study a range of texts to be able to respond independently under examination conditions where they will be asked to read unseen extracts; students will develop comparison skills and how to assess language across time, as well as how writers use narrative and descriptive methods to capture the interest of readers.

Students' written work will be continuously developed so students can write confidently and accurately under examination conditions; students will be asked to write descriptively, narratively, and in different forms for a given audience. Students will develop the confidence to respond to a stimulus (it may be a photo, a quote/statement, or extend a piece of prose).

How is the course assessed?

Students will complete two examinations which are sat at the end of the course. Students' final grade is assessed through 100% final examination.

Additional information

In studying English, students develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing that they will need to participate in society and employment. They will develop skills in analysing both fiction and non-fiction texts; writing to persuade, argue and advise; writing to explain, inform and describe; writing and speaking for different purposes and audiences.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

This is a Gateway to A Level English Literature and Language. This qualification is vital for all careers and there is an expectation from all employers that a high level is achieved.

Course Leader

Mrs H Heighington

English Literature

Edexcel GCSE

What will I study?

Students will study:

- A Shakespeare Play
- A modern novel or play, published after 1914
- A 19th century published novel
- A collection of poetry (published since 1789)
- A range of poetry to be able to respond to 'unseen' poetry

How is the course assessed?

Students will complete two examinations which are sat at the end of the course. Students' final grade is assessed through 100% final examination.

Additional information

References to literature are all around us – in films, television, songs and newspapers. The ability to read, understand and respond to a wide range of literary texts and to appreciate the ways in which authors achieve their effects can increase your understanding and enjoyment of modern media. In this course you will also develop awareness of historical and social contexts and how these influence the study of literature. You may well find that your studies of literature interact favourably with other courses that you have chosen, such as Media, History and Religious Education.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

This course supports the progress on to A Level English Literature and other Level 3 courses. It is excellent preparation for jobs such as journalism, theatres, teaching and various other careers.

Course Leader

Mrs H Heighington

Film Studies

Eduqas

What will I study?

The range of products studied in film include texts from Britain and around the globe enables students to be analytical, build opinions and develop creativity. The intent of our courses is for students to leave as confident analytical individuals with a lifelong passion for film. The intent of the film curriculum content is to develop students knowledge and understanding of:

- How films are constructed through cinematography mise-en-scène , editing and sound
- How films are organised into structures – genre and narrative
- How films can be used – artistically and as a way of communicating ideas and issues
- How learners make sense of film through exploring a film's relevant contexts (social, cultural, historical, political and institutional), through an awareness of key aspects of the history of film and through specialist writing on film

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of three US films chosen from a range of options. Assessment consists of four extended questions on one pair of US mainstream films and one US independent film produced between 1930-1960 and between 1961-1990.

Component 2: Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 35% of qualification

This component assesses knowledge and understanding of three global films produced outside the US chosen from a range of options including foreign language film.

Component 3: Production Non-exam assessment 30% of qualification

Practical coursework production of writing and possibly filming your own screenplay.

Additional information

You must have a real interest and passion for film and be open to all sorts of genres, styles and languages of film. Although we will be watching films as the texts we study, you will be expected to analyse and deconstruct them to answer written questions about them in your exam.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

A level Film Studies, A Level Media Studies, Russell Group Universities offer Film Studies degree courses, Careers in Film industry, Journalism, Public relations, Research.

Course Leader

Mrs E Dietman

French

AQA GCSE

What will I study?

The course content is taught based upon the three main themes as follows:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Through the course content students will be able to understand and respond to everyday situations, giving information about themselves and others, understanding future plans in addition to developing an appreciation of other cultures and a deeper understanding of how language works.

Students throughout the course will be able to and encouraged to access authentic materials / resources which replicate normal life in French speaking countries / environments.

How is the course assessed?

The course is skills based and will be assessed via four separate exam papers. At the end of the course students will sit an examination in the following skills which comprise the entire GCSE, each have an equal weighting of 25 %.

Listening

Speaking

Reading

Writing

Additional information

The course is assessed at both Foundation or Higher level. Students will be entered for the appropriate level according to strengths and ability.

Students may not mix or match the level entered for the various skills.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Students who achieve a grade 6 or above at GCSE may have the opportunity to progress to the A level course. Career opportunities include: international banking, journalism, translating , export and import industry, teaching, health service or the tourism industry to name but a few.

Course Leader

Ms O Sediri

Geography

AQA GCSE

What will I study?

Living in the Physical Environment:

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

Challenges in the Human Environment:

- Urban issues and Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource management

Geographical Skills and Fieldwork

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1 – Living with the Physical Environment

1hr 30 min paper – 35%

Paper 2 – Challenges in the Human Environment

1hr 30 min paper – 35%

Paper 3 – Applications (Fieldwork/Geographical skills) 1hr 15 min paper – 30%

Additional information

A genuine interest in the world around us is very important.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

A Level Geography career options: Civil Engineering; Meteorology; Hazard Management; Urban Planning; Police. According to the Royal Geographical Society, Geography students have some of the highest graduate employment. Geography will help you develop your communication and teamwork skills as you will often work on group projects. You will also develop your research and analysis skills in IT, laboratory and fieldwork tasks.

Course Leader

Mr I Toward

Health and Social Care

OCR: Cambridge National Level 2

What will I study?

Units covered are:

- Principles of care in health and social care
- Life events
- Health promotion

How is the course assessed?

40% written exam

60% 2 pieces of coursework

Additional information

Students will make at least two visits to local social care or early years' settings during the course to support the theory learnt in the classroom.

Students MUST enjoy working with people, should have interest in the health and social care sector and be willing to work in a range of groups throughout the course.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Students can progress on to the Applied A Level in Health and Social Care which leads into a range of careers including; nursing, teaching, social work and child care.

NOTE:

There is a considerable amount of written coursework required.

Course Leader

Mrs N Barrett



History

Edexcel GCSE

What will I study?

- Crime & Punishment C.1000-present, including Whitechapel C.1870-1900
- Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588
- Superpower relations and The Cold War 1941-1991
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

How is the course assessed?

This course will be assessed in the form of 3 examinations; Paper 1 – Thematic Study and Historic Environment (Crime & Punishment C.1000-present, and Whitechapel C.1870-1900) : 30% Paper 2 – British Depth Study (20%) & Period Study (Early Elizabethan England and The Cold War): 40% Paper 3 – Modern Depth Study (Weimar and Nazi Germany): 30%

Additional information

What skills do I need for this subject?

- Problem Solving
- Good literacy levels
- Questioning
- Decision Making
- Resourcefulness
- Analysis

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

There is the possibility of continuing your studies at Post 16 with A Level History and beyond to University. The career possibilities include journalist, archaeologist, archivist, curator, barrister, conservationist, solicitor, tourism, policing, crime scene investigator or the armed forces.

Course Leader

Mr J Rainey



Hospitality and Catering

WJEC Level 2

What will I study?

This course concentrates on what it is like to work in the hospitality and catering industry;

Areas of study include:

- Understanding the different sectors in the hospitality and catering industry
- Job Roles
- Health, safety and hygiene
- Food safety legislation
- Nutritional requirements of specific groups
- Planning and presenting dishes

You will be required to plan, prepare and cook a range of different dishes throughout the course to demonstrate you are building practical skills, as well as understanding theory.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through an 80 minute written exam and a controlled assessment of approximately 10 hours, which includes the practical assessment within it. The exam will be a mixture of short and long answer questions. The internal assessment task will require both written and photographic evidence as candidates will plan and carry out a practical task.

Both components are completed in Year 11.

Additional information

Learners will be required to bring in ingredients regularly for practical sessions and successful completion of this is necessary to pass the course.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

The course will enable learners to develop knowledge, understanding and skills to aid progression to further study in Hospitality and Catering or a related area.

This qualification is designed to give a strong focus on transferable employability skills meaning that learners will also have the necessary skills to progress directly into employment if they wish to do so.

Course Leader

Mrs K O'Connor

Mathematics

Edexcel GCSE

What will I study?

The course covers six attainment targets:

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

Lessons will follow a similar format to your current Mathematics lessons and homework will be set regularly.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment will be by examination.

There are two levels of entry, Foundation and Higher, and students will be entered at the level most suitable for their ability. The grades available to Foundation Level entrants are 1- 5 and to Higher Level entrants 4-9.

Additional information

This is a core subject.

There are 3 exams of 1hour 30 minutes each, each of equal weighting:

Paper 1 – non-calculator

Papers 2 & 3 – calculator.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Almost all jobs, careers and higher education courses require a Mathematics qualification. You will also find that a lot of what you learn in Mathematics will be useful in other GCSEs that you study. For example, in Science or Engineering you may be asked to use formulae and solve equations and in Geography you will need to read charts and diagrams and use statistics. A GCSE in Mathematics is also essential if you intend to take Science, Computing or Engineering beyond GCSE.

Course Leader

Mr D Murphy

Media Studies

OCR GCSE

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills and knowledge by exploring a plethora of digital media. They will learn about, design and create their own forms of digital media including; websites, interactive kiosks, virtual reality, augmented reality and mobile apps. In a dynamic environment, the students will learn about the features of interactive media and how they are made by media producers. They will understand how these products are crafted through the process of research, planning and production.

How is the course assessed?

60% of the course is allocated to a practical piece of coursework which the students will complete in their final year of study. The exam board provide a brief for the class and they will conduct research, planning and produce the product itself. Past examples have been a website for a boardgame cafe.

40% of the course is allocated to a written exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. The students will be tested on their understanding of the 7 units of the course which will be learned across all 3 years.

Additional information

Interactive Media is a subject for creative, collaborative and independent students. It is a subject that allows students to work creatively whilst connecting to real life scenarios.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

This course can lead you onto level 3 course at Post 16. It will also promote the practical skills and communication skills required within the media industry.

Course Leader

Mrs H Goldhawk

Interactive Media

V Cert

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills and knowledge in digital media. Students will gain insight into all types of interactive media products, learning about their features and their audiences before delving into how to develop, promote and present an interactive media product.

How is the course assessed?

Assessments are through project-based non-exam assessments and two external examinations.

Additional information

This course provides an alternative to the more traditional GCSE route and has a vocational focus. V Certs have a higher proportion of content assessed through coursework for which students produce portfolios of assignments on which the qualification grading is based. All courses now have an exam as standard in addition to the coursework.

They are graded from Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, to Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, which are equivalent to GCSE grades 8-5-1.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

A T Level in Media, Broadcast or Production or an A Level in Media Studies at college or sixth form.

Apprenticeship as a Junior Content Producer or Broadcast Production Assistant.

Course Leader

Mrs H Goldhawk

Music

Edexcel GCSE

What will I study?

- Performing Music (Component 1): One solo and one group performance for coursework in year 11. To work towards this, you will regularly work in groups in class to learn and perform songs by lots of different artists from lots of different genres. With your one to one teacher you will be learning pieces to perform solo in class, building and boosting confidence. Rehearsal skills will be investigated and developed so that you know how to prepare well.
- Composing Music (Component 2): The writing of 2 of your own pieces of music for coursework in year 11. One will follow a story set by the exam board and the other is to be written in a style of your choice. To work towards this, you will learn about the elements of different genres of music including, film music, minimalism, serialism, popular song and EDM and recreate your own music in these styles.
- Listening (Component 3): The exam paper in year 11 is made up of two sections. Section A: Six questions related to six of eight pieces of music studied in class. This music includes a song by Queen, a song from the musical Wicked and the famous fanfare from Star Wars. Section B: Comparing music and explaining similarities and differences.

You will also:

- receive 50% off your one to one music lessons in the Academy
- attend numerous live events (visits)
- perform at school and community events
- use Cubase 12
- use recording equipment

How is the course assessed?

There are two internally assessed units(components 1 and 2) worth 30% each and one externally assessed unit (component 3) worth 40%.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Level 3: A level in Music and BTEC Music A Level in Music Technology

Possible careers: Instrumentalist, Sound Designer, Cover band, Songwriter, Composer, Lyricist, Music teacher, Production music writer, Armed forces musician, Singer (solo/ session), Session musician, Musical theatre, Rock/Pop artist

Course Leader

Mr E Marriott

BTEC Teach Award Level 1/2 in Music Practice

Pearson

What will I study?

This qualification is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSEs that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the Music sector – a vibrant, exciting and competitive industry that offers many different and exciting new work opportunities, whether in composing, performing, or producing music. This course allows learners to explore the sector, and to learn and try out new skills, techniques and styles, allowing them to make an informed decision about their future learning and career.

You will gain the following skills and knowledge:

- **Practical Skills:** Recording, mixing, composing, live performance, sound technology.
- **Industry Knowledge:** Understanding the music industry's structure, organizations, and career pathways.
- **Vocational Skills:** Teamwork, project planning, self-evaluation, and working to deadlines.

You will also:

- receive 50% off your one to one music lessons in the Academy
- attend numerous live events (visits)
- perform at school and community events
- use Cubase 12, MuseScore and BandLab
- use recording equipment

How is the course assessed?

You will be assessed on the following units:

- **Exploring musical styles and products. (Internally assessed)**
Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.
- **Music skills development. (Internally assessed)**
Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting their progress and planning for further improvement.
- **Responding to a musical brief. (Externally assessed)**
Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief

Career prospects

The qualification creates a pathway and further Progression to the BTEC Level 3 National Certificate in Music Performance (equivalent to 1 A-Level) This can be chosen as an option in Post-16 studies. It also will give you the skills required to study.

Possible careers: Instrumentalist, Sound Designer, Cover band, Songwriter, Composer, Lyricist, Music teacher, Production music writer, Armed forces musician, Singer(solo/ session), Session musician, Musical theatre, Rock/Pop artist

Course Leader

Mr E Marriott

Performing Arts – Dance

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award

What will I study?

The course is divided into 3 components:
Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts
Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts
Component 3: Performing to a Brief

Students study different styles of dance throughout the course. Students learn physical, interpretative and choreographic skills. Whilst the course has a lot of practical, it is also quite heavily weighted with theory and choreography.

Students are required to participate in live performances and keep a log book of their progress, as well as create extended writing and PowerPoint presentations on a range of dance practitioners and their works.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Practical evidence needed, but marked purely on written coursework – internally assessed.

Component 2: Marked on a mixture of practical and written coursework - internally assessed.

Component 3: Marked on a choreographic task and written task- controlled assessment that is externally assessed.

Additional information

Practical dancewear is required – school PE kit is acceptable or other suitable dancewear.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Progression on to a Level 3 BTEC Dance course including: A-Level Dance, A-Level Performing Arts, other BTEC Level 3 options.

This then has the potential, after degree level, to lead to careers in the performing arts industry; arts administration, production, performance, education and teaching.

Course Leader

Mrs L Bish

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion

GCSE Religious studies & AQA Exam Board

What will I study?

Students who opt for this subject will follow a course leading to a GCSE in Religious Studies. Students will study two religions and will be able to discuss how their beliefs affect their practices. The course will involve discussion of relevant topical issues and the evaluation of different ethical viewpoints.

You will be able to explore the big questions such as 'how did the universe get here?' and 'is there life after death?' You will also look at ethical issues relevant to British society such as relationships and families, crime and punishment, animal rights and euthanasia.

There are lots of opportunities for debate of interesting and topical issues.

How is the course assessed?

There will be a written examination at the end of the course.

Additional information

What skills will you develop?

- Communication
- Working with others
- Problem Solving
- Improving your own learning
- Clarity about your own beliefs and opinions, and the ability to express them

It is NOT about making you religious, it is enabling you to think for yourself about social and moral issues!

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

This course is a stepping stone to a wide range of future opportunities within further education and employment. It can lead to AS/A Level in Religious Studies, or other related humanities subjects such as History, Sociology or Law.

This GCSE also prepares you to work and deal with people of different cultures and beliefs – very useful for most careers and highly regarded by employers.

Course Leader

Mr L Maher

Physical Education

OCR GCSE

What will I study?

The GCSE in Physical Education has two elements, theory and practical. The theory element is divided into two sections:

Applied Anatomy and Physiology
Socio-cultural influences, Sports Psychology, Health, Fitness and Well-being
In a practical setting, you will have an opportunity to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting a healthy and active lifestyle.

How is the course assessed?

The GCSE course is assessed over two units. Unit one is theory which is assessed across two different exams. Exam one is 'Applied Anatomy and Physiology' which is worth 36% of the course. The second exam is 'Socio-cultural influences, Sports Psychology, Health, Fitness and Well-being' and is also worth 24% of the course. Unit two is based on practical activity, this is worth 30% of the course and includes assessment in three different practical activities and coursework (10%) which is analysis of sporting performance.

Additional information

The course is stimulating and interesting but involves work outside of Academy hours with students required to achieve a high standard in all physical areas. All GCSE

students are expected to develop the practical side of the subject by attending extra-curricular activities, clubs and aspiring to represent the borough in sporting activities.

Commitment to this is expected.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Progress on to A level and related vocational qualifications such as BTEC firsts and Nationals in Sport. The course develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in such areas such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry, the armed forces and the civil service.

Course Leader

Mr G Townson

Sports Studies

V Cert

What will I study?

Students will study a variety of topics such as Ethics and Technology in Sport and Psychology for Sports Performance. This will help support students on their way to a career in many sports related fields, such as coaching, management and physiotherapy.

How is the course assessed?

Assessments are through project-based non-exam assessments and two external examinations.

Additional Information:

This course provides an alternative to the more traditional GCSE route and has a vocational focus. V Certs have a higher proportion of content assessed through coursework for which students produce portfolios of assignments on which the qualification grading is based. All courses now have an exam as standard in addition to the coursework.

They are graded from Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction, to Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*, which are equivalent to GCSE grades 8-5-1.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

An A Level in Physical Education and Sport or an Applied General in Sport at college or sixth form. Apprenticeship as a sporting excellence professional or outdoor activity instructor.

Course Leader

Mr G Townson

Sciences

AQA GCSE

What will I study?

There are two routes that are available to students:

- Combined Science (a double award equivalent to two GCSEs)
- Three Science GCSEs, separated into Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is for Gateway 1 students only.

How is the course assessed?

• **Combined Science** has 6 papers, all of which are externally assessed examinations. Each paper carries an equal weighting. There is no internal controlled assessment. Students will carry out a minimum number of practical activities defined by AQA exam board. Within the written question papers, a minimum of 15% of marks will be from questions concerning practical work and the necessary skills within them. Students will be examined at the end of year 11

• **Triple Science** has 2 papers in each of the Sciences, making a total of 6. All papers are externally assessed examinations. Each paper carries an equal weighting. There is no internal controlled assessment. Students will carry out a minimum number of practical activities defined by AQA exam board. Within the written question papers, a minimum of 15% of marks will be from questions concerning practical work and the necessary skills within them. Students will be examined at the end of year 11

Additional information

The routes students take will be determined by their performance in year 8.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Each of the Gateways will enable students to deepen their understanding of the natural world and the methods scientists use to investigate it. This will permeate through all career paths students follow.

Combined and Triple Science will both prepare students to progress to Level 3 qualifications in the single sciences.

Course Leader

Mrs K Venables & Dr M Wisdom

Spanish

AQA GCSE

What will I study?

The course content is taught based upon the three main theme as follows:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular Culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

Through the course content students will be able to understand and respond to everyday situations, giving information about themselves and others, understanding future plans in addition to developing an appreciation of other cultures and a deeper understanding of how language works.

Students throughout the course will be able to and encouraged to access authentic materials / resources which replicate normal life in Spanish speaking countries / environments.

How is the course assessed?

The course is skills based and will be assessed via four separate exam papers. At the end of the course students will sit an examination in the following skills which comprise the entire GCSE each have an equal weighting of 25 %.

- Listening
- Speaking
- Reading
- Writing

Additional information

The course is assessed at both Foundation or Higher level. Students will be entered for the appropriate level according to strengths and ability.

Students may not mix or match the level entered for the various skills.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Students who achieve a grade 6 or above at GCSE may have the opportunity to progress to the A level course. Career opportunities include: international banking, journalism, translating, export and import industry, teaching, health service or the tourism industry to name but a few.

Course Leader

Ms O Sediri

Textiles

Textile Design
Eduqas GCSE

What will I study?

Students will get the opportunity to explore different materials, techniques and processes in order to broaden their artistic and design experience. They will look at a wide range of areas within textiles and can work in one or more of the following areas:

- art textiles
- fashion design and illustration
- costume design
- constructed textiles
- printed and dyed textiles
- surface pattern
- stitched and/or embellished textiles
- soft furnishings and/or textiles for interior

Students will learn how to research artists/designers and their styles then relate this to their textiles concepts. They will combine others' styles with their own ideas to make creative pieces of work.

How is the course assessed?

Students' portfolios are internally assessed and externally moderated.

60% for Internal Portfolio

40% for External Set Assignment, taken in the Spring term of Year 11. This is a 10 hour practical examination with a theme selected from those given by the exam board.

Additional information

Students are required to attend lessons with the correct Materials. The academy does offer a Textiles resource pack that can be purchased through ParentPay at the start of the course to provide them with a range of equipment and materials to support their studies. Other materials may be required throughout the course depending on the project outcomes students decide on.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

Students who achieve a grade 5 or above can go on to study A Level Textiles at Belfairs or other Level 3 Art based courses at other centres.

There are opportunities for students to follow careers in all creative based areas including fashion design, costume design, textile design etc.

Course Leader

Mrs S O'Neill

3D Design (Art & Design)

AQA

What will I study?

Students will get the opportunity to explore different materials, techniques and processes in order to broaden their artistic and design experience. They will look at a wide range of areas within 3D Design and could work in one or more of the following areas depending on the different projects they do:

- architectural design
- sculpture
- ceramics
- product design
- jewellery
- interior design
- designs for theatre, film and television.

Students will learn how to research and analyse different artists/designers, past and present, and their work then relate this to their projects. They will combine others' styles with their own ideas to make creative pieces of work. Within their work they will use drawing processes, model making, surface treatments and a range of materials that could include wood, clay, metal, plastic and found materials.

How is the course assessed?

Students' portfolios are internally assessed and externally moderated.

60% for Internal Portfolio – This is made up from 2 or more projects across the time.

40% for External Controlled Assessment, taken in the Spring term of Year 11. The exam board set themes for students to chose from, they then do a full project based on these theme that ends with the final exam, which is a 10 hour practical exam usually set over 2 days.

Additional information

Students are required to attend lessons with the correct materials; a pack is available at the academy which can be bought through Parent Pay at the start of the course to include a folder, sketchbook, paints, pencils, drawing pens and brushes. Other materials will be required throughout the course depending on the project outcomes students decide on.

Career prospects/Progression to Level 3

There are opportunities for students to progress to further study in a creative area, which could include 3D Design, Graphics or other arts-based courses.

Course Leader

Mrs S O'Neill

Belfairs Academy

Highlands Boulevard • Leigh-on-Sea SS9 3TG

T 01702 509 000

E gateways@belfairsacademy.org.uk

www.belfairsacademy.org.uk