



# Welcome

to

# Year 9

## Parents and Choices Evening

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024

## Toilets

Parents and  
Students

## The Hub

Maths – 0044, 0045, 0060

## Main Hall

Geography  
History  
Design  
Art  
PE  
Languages

### ICT Room 0040

Religious studies  
Citizenship

### ICT Room 0048

Music  
Drama

### ICT Room 0069

ICT

# 1<sup>ST</sup> Floor

## Library

English

## Heart Space



Subject Advertisement  
For all Choices subjects

SEN / Medical / SEMH  
Careers / P16

Parent/  
Student  
Sign in  
Desk

## Balcony

Science

# Ground Floor

Reception  
Admin Office

GAD Entrance

\*If you would like more information on the following subjects, please see the subject advertisement and the relevant teachers:

**Sociology – Mrs Dainty (Religious studies)**

**GCSE Statistics – Miss Williams (Maths)**

**GCSE Triple Science – Mrs Palmer, Mr Taylor or Miss Duncan (Science)**

**Media – Mr Pemberton**

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# Letter from the Principal

Parent/Carer,

During year 9, we work with students and their families to consider the Key Stage 4 curriculum that they will follow.

At Grace Academy Darlaston, we offer every student the personalised opportunity to achieve success and gain a range of valuable skills and qualifications for their future. In order to secure this, we have an innovative and exciting curriculum that will provide your child with a variety of opportunities.

Our core curriculum offers a broad and balanced base of qualifications for students' futures, as well as a range of other subjects that are creative, practical and engaging.

During Parents Evening, you and your child will have the opportunity to investigate the range of subjects we offer at Key Stage 4. Your child will have been in assemblies and lessons to introduce the choices they can make for their next steps in education.

This booklet outlines the subjects on offer with key information to help your child make an informed decision throughout this process. It also provides information on the 'English Baccalaureate' which is a set of subjects at GCSE that keep young people's options open for further study and future careers.

It is your child's opportunity to explore their interests, prepare for their future, and begin further studies that may flourish into careers. It is important to consider carefully the courses that they will follow. We advise that your child's courses are based on their interests, their passions and their goals for the future.

I encourage you to contact the academy if you require any further information or to discuss the Key Stage 4 subjects.

Yours sincerely,  
**Julie Anstey**  
Principal



# Grace Academy Darlaston Curriculum

At Grace Academy Darlaston, all students study a broad and balanced range of subjects. These subjects provide a variety of opportunities and ensure every student develops the skills and knowledge required to gain qualifications leading to further education, employment or training.

All students will study core subjects and some students will study a language to gain the 'English Baccalaureate'.

## Core Subjects

English Language GCSE

English Literature GCSE

Mathematics GCSE

Science GCSE- worth 2 GCSEs

History and/or Geography GCSE

Physical Education (recreational)

All students will receive a regular CR lesson which contains RE, Citizenship and PSHE.

## Key stage 4 Option Subjects

Business GCSE

Spanish GCSE or German GCSE

Sport BTEC

Sociology GCSE

Religious Studies GCSE

Citizenship GCSE

Digital Information Technology BTEC

Statistics GCSE

Art & Design GCSE

Art Textiles GCSE

Hospitality & Catering WJEC

Health & Social Care BTEC

Engineering WJEC

Sociology GCSE

Drama GCSE

Music BTEC

Sport BTEC

Media Studies GCSE

## Key

GCSE- General Certificate of Education

BTEC– Pearson Tech award - Level 1/2\*

WJEC –Vocational award—Level 1/2\*

OCR Cambridge Nationals—Vocation award—Level 1/2\*

\*All vocational awards at level 2 are equivalent to 1 GCSE

## Grading

GCSE subjects will be graded using a 1 - 9 scale. A grade 9 is the highest grade that can be achieved by a student.

Vocational awards (which are equivalent to a GCSE) will be graded using a pass, merit, distinction or distinction\* system. Distinction\* is the highest award that can be achieved.

# Tutor Time in Key Stage 4

Tutor Times form a key part of Key Stage 4 life. Students will be allocated a tutor group and a designated tutor will help monitor progress and the personal development of each student. This will contribute to the SMSC (Spiritual, Moral, Social & Cultural) delivery that the academy provides which helps to build our students' character.

Tutor times will deliver Ethos information, SMSC and activities relating to the Grace Academy values to Key Stage 4 students, as well as citizenship and relationships. An exploration of key concepts in SMSC will give students the building blocks with which to construct their understanding of belief systems, and the context in which to develop the attributes of a spiritually-educated young person. Below is a typical week of tutor activities for a Key Stage 4 student.

## Typical Week for a Year 10 Student:

For more information, please see Mr Miles (Acting Associate Vice Principal).

<b>Mon</b>	News Tutor Housekeeping (Check Gold stars/consequences/ attendance)
<b>Tue</b>	Reading
<b>Wed</b>	Resilience/ Character Development
<b>Thu</b>	Ethos Topic Work (Half-termly activities exploring the ethos and values of the academy).
<b>Fri</b>	Year 10 Assembly



# GCSE Mathematics

## What is it? What do you do?

This qualification in mathematics encourages students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, mathematics and to recognise the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society. This qualification prepares students to make informed decisions about the use of technology, the management of money, further learning opportunities and career choices. The course aims to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Measures
- Statistics
- Probability

This will allow students to use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts.

A key benefit of the course is gaining the ability to apply the functional elements of mathematics in everyday and real-life situations. There is a greater emphasis on problem-solving and mathematical reasoning, with more marks in the GCSE exams being allocated to these higher-order skills.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

Maths will give you a skill seen as a foundation for many career choices and will allow you to study other courses such as Business Studies, Accountancy, Investment banking, Computing and Engineering.

## Course Details

Led by Mr L Garner

Exam board:

Higher- Edexcel

Foundation- OCR

## Assessment Summary

100% exam

# GCSE English Language

## What is it? What do you do?

The course allows students to:

- **GCSE English Language**

The GCSE English Language course is an exciting journey into diverse texts, fostering engagement with creative and relevant contexts. Students develop high-order reading skills, critical thinking, and a comprehensive understanding of texts across eras and forms. Analysing and evaluating texts becomes second nature, empowering students to approach literature with a discerning eye. They not only grasp language nuances but also use extensive reading knowledge to write confidently and persuasively. This course equips them with essential communication skills and instills confidence in articulating thoughts effectively and eloquently.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

**English GCSE is the prerequisite for all employment opportunities, training, college and post 16 courses**

English graduates are keenly sought after by employers who respect and desire the skills that are acquired through this subject. Popular career routes include education such as research or teaching, law, media, journalism, advertising, public relations and politics.

Famous English graduates in the media include cartoonist, writer and illustrator Quentin Blake, Danny Boyle, actress Emma Thompson and broadcaster Natasha Kaplinski.

### Course Details

Led by: Director of Learning Miss Bladen and Head of English Miss Sutcliffe

Exam board: AQA

### Assessment Summary

100% examination and spoken language assessment



# GCSE English Literature

## What is it? What do you do?

The GCSE English Literature course is a deep dive into seminal texts, exploring elements like plot, characterisation, setting, and context. Through critical and academic reading, students evaluate diverse perspectives, enhancing their understanding of literature and honing nuanced discussion skills. Encouraged to express personal responses, students nurture creativity, individuality, empathy, and connection with literary characters and situations.

Our KS4 English curriculum goes beyond Language and Literature, fostering holistic growth. Students develop a love for reading, critical analysis, and confidence in eloquent expression. Empowered as adept readers and writers, they become thoughtful, empathetic, and articulate individuals ready to navigate the complexities of the world.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

**English Literature GCSE is the prerequisite for all employment opportunities, training, college and post 16 courses**

English Literature graduates are keenly sought after by employers who respect and desire the skills that are acquired through this subject. Popular career routes include education such as research or teaching, law, media, journalism, advertising, acting/drama, public relations and politics. Famous English Literature graduates in the media include movie producer Steven Spielberg, Stephen Fry, actress Renée Zellweger and actress Jodie Foster.

### Course Details

Led by: Director of Learning Miss Bladen and Head of English Miss Sutcliffe

Exam board: AQA

### Assessment Summary

100% exam

# GCSE Science

## Trilogy (Combined)

### What is it? What do you do?

GCSE Science is a two year GCSE course, graded 1 –9. This covers Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

### What will I be doing on the course? How will it be structured?

There are 24 units of work divided between Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. You will sit two examinations in each science in Year 11. There are no controlled assessments, but you will be required to carry out 21 required practical pieces of work. These will take place in lessons and are not completed in examination conditions. There will be questions about the required practical's in your final examinations.

### What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?

To be successful in science you need to be able to apply your knowledge to new situations. You need to have the ability to draw conclusions from data, and use the information to explain scientific theory. You should be confident in using a range of mathematical techniques.

### What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

GCSEs in combined science can open many doors. You do not have to study Triple science to study A Levels or get onto any science course at university. or opt to stay at Grace and study for the BTEC Level 3 in Forensic & Criminal Investigation. Many universities and employers are keen for you to have good science grades as it shows you are a logical thinker.

#### Course Details

Led by Ms S Palmer, Miss L Duncan & Mr E Taylor

Exam Board: AQA

#### Assessment Summary

100% exam

# GCSE Triple Science

## Triple\* (Single Sciences)

### What is it? What do you do?

Each area is taught separately (Biology, Chemistry & Physics) and each is worth one GCSE, graded 1-9. This means you will receive 3 GCSEs in total.

### What will I be doing on the course? How will it be structured?

There are 25 units of work divided between biology, chemistry, and physics. You will sit two examinations in each science specialism in Year 11. There are no controlled assessments, but you will be required to carry out 22 required practical pieces of work. These will take place in lessons and are not completed in examination conditions. There will be questions about the required practical work in your final examinations.

### What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?

To be successful in Triple science you need to be able to work independently, apply your knowledge to new situations and cross link concepts to demonstrate a clear understanding of theory. You need to have the ability to draw conclusions from data, and use the information to explain scientific theory. You should be confident in using a range of mathematical techniques.

### What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

GCSE's in science can open many doors. You may choose to continue and study for A levels in science, or opt for the BTEC Level 3 in Forensic & Criminal Investigation. Many universities and employers are keen for you to have good science grades as it shows you are a logical thinker.

**\*To study Triple Science, you will need to be consistently on track or above to achieve a pathway to 5 in Science, Maths & English. For any clarity on your grades currently, please speak to the course lead/s.**

#### Course Details

Led by Ms S Palmer, Miss L Duncan & Mr E Taylor

**Exam Board: AQA**

#### Assessment Summary

100% exam

# GCSE Citizenship

**What is it? What do you do?**

Students learn a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the topical events in the news. Students gain an understanding of how the UK is governed by studying the rights, responsibilities and duties of citizens; the role of the voluntary sector; different types of government; the role of the media, the criminal and civil justice systems including the Crown Prosecution service and the Police. The course also covers discussions about the UKs relationship with the wider world. They obtain and use different kinds of information, to form and express an opinion on debates studied.

**What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?**

Citizenship gives students a knowledge of Britain, its Values, Law and how the country is run to enable them to participate in society when they leave school. After GCSE Citizenship, students could choose politics or Law at A-level and could go on to be Barrister, solicitors, politicians or teacher.

**Course Details**

Led by Mrs Y Cooper

Exam board: Edexcel

**Assessment Summary**

100% Exam

# GCSE History

## Course Details

Exam board: AQA

## Assessment Summary

100% Exam

### What is it? What do you do?

Your journey in History so far has given you the knowledge of different periods of time in your local and British history, as well as engaging and challenging topics in world history. As a History student you have built up a better understanding of why certain monarchs, governments and individuals act the way they do.

GCSE History really is an exciting time to continue to build upon the knowledge and skills you have gained already that will help to widen your mind and opportunities in the future.

We study an exciting range of fascinating topics in History that are all engaging and relevant to our modern world:

- *Conflict and Tension: the inter-war years, 1918-1939* in which we study the challenges in keeping peace in Europe in between the First and Second World War,
- *Britain: Health and the People* in which we study the history of medicine in Britain,
- *Germany 1918-1945* in which we study the significant changes of Germany and its leaders after World War One through to World War Two,
- *Elizabethan England* in which we study the dramatic and exciting reign of Queen Elizabeth I.

### What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

A GCSE History qualification can lead to a wide-range of courses and careers. People who have studied History are well-respected because of the skills they have. Examples include, but are not limited to: journalism, accounting, law, business, teaching, anthropology, film and television, video game design and government and politics.

You could be a barrister, a broadcast journalist, a solicitor, newspaper or magazine journalist, a police officer, a teacher, an accountant, a project manager... the list is endless and the doors are open with GCSE History.

# GCSE Geography

## What is it? What do you do?

"Geography is everything." There has never been a better or more important time to study geography. Studying geography will be essential to meet the government's ambition to create 2 million skilled and highly-paid green jobs by 2030. It's hard for us to even begin to imagine the new green jobs which will be created in the next five years. The subject's relevance to today's world is why an increasing number of students in the UK chose it as a subject option. Geography also helps us to explore place and space and recognises the differences in cultures, political systems, economies, landscapes and environments. Geography is an education for life and for living.

It is no surprise then, that people studying geography are highly employable and gain higher than average salaries if they study it up to degree level.

GCSE geography gives you the exciting opportunity to go on two school trips (in Y10 & Y11). You will undertake fieldwork in a river surrounded by natural beauty at Carding Mill Valley and also see changes and challenges in urban environments when we visit Birmingham.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

A level Geography provides you with knowledge and transferable skills that will help you in problem solving, critical thinking, statistical analysis and the ability to think about difficult moral and ethical issues. The broad nature of skills is why it is a popular choice. Geography has strong links with sciences, social sciences (business, sociology, psychology) and humanities (history & R.E.).

At A level, you will get the chance to choose a topic you are interested in to conduct fieldwork. This is undertaken during your five-day residential trip to the beach in Wales. This is an excellent opportunity to develop teamwork and independent research skills needed for university. One student this year said: "the trip was an invaluable experience which I'll remember for the rest of my life."

Geography provides you with a diverse range of skills which is why there are numerous career pathways. For example: hydrologist; environmental consultant; conservationist; transport planner; marine biologist; landscape architect; civil engineer; cartographer and environmental manager. Due to geography's strong links with business, many geography students go on to work in: accountancy; market research; marketing; sales; human resources; consultancy; management and politics.

## Course Details

Led by Miss L Guest

Exam board: AQA

## Assessment Summary

**100% exam**

Paper 1: Physical Geography: 35%

Paper 2: Human Geography: 35%

Paper 3: Geographical applications: 30%



GEOGRAPHY IS EVERYTHING

# GCSE German

## What is it? What do you do?

Knowing other languages opens up the world.

With Germany being one of the UK's leading trading partners and British companies needing professionals with a good knowledge of German, GCSE German is a great choice for any career.

GCSE German will build on the skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening, and will enable students to communicate about a range of topics. These topics come under three broad themes: 'people and lifestyle', 'popular culture' and 'communication and the world around us'. These topics also enable students to develop an understanding of the culture of countries and communities where German is spoken. Most importantly, the GCSE encourages enjoyment of language learning and equips students to take their place in a multilingual, global society.

This four-unit specification requires students to develop their ability to write and speak in German as well as to read and listen.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

GCSE German is the must-have foundation for A level German. A level German widens language study to include film and literature. Students will also debate and give opinions on key topics such as multiculturalism in Germany and politics. A level German can lead to further study at University as part of a single honour degree or combined with another subject such as law, business or where ever your interest lies.

Language graduates are sought by universities, employers and even government – the Secret Service included - due to their highly-specialised skills. Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally. Popular career routes include **finance, interpreting and translation business, education (such as research or teaching), law, media, journalism, advertising, public relations, engineering and politics.**

[Reasons to study German](#)

[Birmingham University: studying languages](#)

[What does the GCSE course involve?](#)

[A flavour of German at KS4](#)

[What do the exams look like?](#)

## Course Details

Led by J. Leggett

Exam board: AQA\*

## Assessment Summary:

**100%**

25% Listening

25% Speaking

25% Reading

25% Writing

\*TBC





# GCSE Spanish

## What is it? What do you do?

Spanish is spoken in 21 countries globally and is the second most spoken language in the world. Learning Spanish opens up exciting opportunities for travel, working abroad, meeting new people and working for multinational companies.

GCSE Spanish will build on the skills of speaking, reading, writing and listening, and will enable students to communicate about a range of topics. These topics come under three broad themes: 'people and lifestyle', 'popular culture' and 'communication and the world around us'. Topics within these themes range from 'celebrity culture' to 'customs and festivals'. Students will not only learn language but also about the cultures and traditions of people from across the Spanish speaking world. GCSE Spanish encourages enjoyment of language learning and the recognition that language skills enable students to take their place in a multilingual global society.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

Students must have studied Spanish at GCSE in order to study Spanish at A-level. A-level Spanish builds on fluency and widens language study to include looking at film and literature, as well as debating and giving opinions about a range of key topics. These topics include: 'the role of women in Spain' to 'politics in Latin America' and 'the Spanish Civil War'.

A-level Spanish can lead to studying Spanish as a single honours degree at University, or with another subject such as Marketing or Law.

Modern Foreign Language graduates are sought by universities and employers for their highly-specialised skills. Popular career routes include **education (such as research or teaching), law, media, journalism, marketing, business, public relations, politics and charity work**. Language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally.

[Birmingham University: studying languages](#)

[Why study Spanish?](#)

[Benefits of knowing Spanish](#)

[What does the GCSE course involve?](#)

## Course Details

Led by T Nicholson

Exam board: AQA\*

## Assessment Summary:

**100% exams**

25% Listening

25% Speaking

25% Reading

25% Writing

\*TBC





# GCSE Religious Studies

## What is it? What do you do?

We live in a rich and diverse world. Religious Studies helps you to develop your knowledge and understanding of various religious attitudes towards very real and relevant issues in our world today.

This two-unit course covers Religious beliefs, teachings and practices in both Christianity and Islam. In addition, four themes will be explored in-depth from Christian, Muslim and non-religious viewpoints. We will be studying religious attitudes towards themes such as relationships and families, religion and life, the existence of God and revelation, and religion, crime and punishment.

The course requires you to develop your sense of empathy; that is your ability to understand, argue and reason from a range of different viewpoints. A key skill developed will be to take key religious facts and phrases and apply understanding of them to a range of world issues.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

Understanding people and the ability to think for yourself are the two key skills employers need. GCSE Religious Studies is all about people, their views of the world and how we can successfully interact with others.

GCSE Religious Studies is an excellent foundation for A-Level studies, leading onto degrees that enhance your chances of careers where communication is key; such as **journalism, social work, law, education and many more**. In addition, it is suitable for a diverse range of candidates who wish to further their academic, research, enquiry and analytical skills.

### Course Details

Led by Miss Dainty

Exam board: **AQA**

Specification: A

### Assessment Summary

100% Exam



## What is it? What do you do?

We live in a rich and diverse world. Sociology helps you to develop your knowledge and understanding of very real and relevant issues in our world, studying the society in which we live.

This course covers topic areas, such as families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. In addition, we will explore research theories and methods, focussing on how past and present Sociologists have created studies to support their theories.

The course requires you to develop an analytical approach to the topic areas above, creating reasoned arguments and an ability to compare and contrast the perspectives that are studied. You will develop skills in investigating facts and making judgements, forming opinions and new ideas on social issues. Furthermore, you will develop your analytical skills to gain a better understanding of our social world through critical evaluation of research.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

Understanding people and the ability to think for yourself are the two key skills employers need. Sociology is all about people, how we fit into society and how we can successfully interact with others.

*There is potential for you to continue to study this at Grace Academy Darlaston's Post 16 by opting to study Level 3 A-Level Sociology. GCSE Sociology is an excellent foundation for Level 3 A-Level studies, for example History, RE, Geography, Law, Psychology, English. Other routes might include BTEC Criminology.*

The study of Sociology can enhance your chances of a variety of careers; such as **social work, law, educational psychologist, occupational health, nursing, civil service, politics, police force.**

**To Study Sociology you will need an end of year 11 target of Grade 7 or higher and be on track to achieve in English by the end of year 9.**

## Course Details

Led by Miss Dainty

Exam board: **WJEC (Eduqas)**

Specification: **C200QS**

## Assessment Summary

100% Exam



# GCSE Business

## What is it? What do you do?

You will learn about how businesses operate and develop an understanding of the following key business concepts:

- **Investigating small business**
  - What is entrepreneurship?
  - How to spot business opportunities
  - How to put a business idea into practice
  - How to make a business effective
  - Understanding external influences
- **Building a business**
  - Growing a business
  - Making marketing decisions
  - Making operational decisions
  - Making financial decisions
  - Making human resource decisions

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

This subject will provide an excellent foundation for A-Level Business Studies or BTEC Business and is the starting point for those wishing to study subjects like Business, Accounting, Finance and Economics at university level. GCSE Business Studies also provides a great overview of how organisations operate which is useful if considering starting a small business.

## Course Details

Led by Miss A Brooks  
Exam board: Edexcel

## Assessment Summary

Two external exams

Theme 1 50%

Theme 2 50%

# Digital Information Technology – Level 1/Level 2 Tech award

## What is it? What do you do?

### What will I be doing on the course? How will it be structured?

BTEC Digital Information Technology gives you the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

You will develop key skills in digital information technology such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces (mobile apps and websites), and creating dashboards to present and interpret data processes that underpin effective ways of working.

The first mandatory unit involves analysing a variety of user interfaces. This will include the efficiency and functionality of several unique interfaces. Once analysed, pupils will be challenged to plan and create an effective user interface of their own which is efficient and user friendly. This unit will be assessed internally.

The second mandatory unit will also be assessed internally. Pupils will be tasked in collecting, presenting and interpreting data in an effective manner. Pupils will be exposed further to software's previously used at Ks3 so that they can manipulate and present data in an appropriate format.

The third and final unit will be assessed externally. Pupils will be tasked with evaluating a variety of professional digital systems based on their efficiency and productivity. Pupils will identify security threats and legislation that is used in the digital world and will analyse impacts they have on an individual as well as an organisation.

### What skills do I need to develop to be successful at this course?

To be successful on this course you must have a passion for ICT and information systems. The course has 2 core units that promote pupils to work independently and this is essential in order to complete these projects.

Students will also need have a cognitive mindset in order to complete the external based unit. Pupils will require to think logically and intuitively in order to be successful

### What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

There is potential for you to continue to study this at Grace Academy Darlaston's Post 16 by opting to study BTEC Level 3 IT or T - Level Digital Production Design & Development.

## Course Details

Led by Mr S Ali

Exam board: Pearson BTEC

## Assessment Summary

40% exam

60% internal assessment



# BTEC Tech Award in Sport

## What is it? What do you do?

This course is equivalent to 1 GCSE.

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech award in Sport is for learner who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational context by exploring the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participants as part of their KS4 learning. They will also explore the different types of participants and their needs in order to gain an understanding of how to increase participation for others in sport and physical activity and further develop their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology.

Learner will undertake a physical session to develop skills in planning and delivering sports activity sessions to participants.

It will enable learner to develop their sector specific skills, such as sport analysis and sports leadership, using realistic vocational contexts, personal skills, such as communication, planning, time management and teamwork through practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

In a world where P.E./Sport takes centre stage world wide in events as diverse as Football, The Olympics, and the Winter Olympics, students can take studies into further and higher education in order to pursue a career within a wide range of sports-related careers e.g. sports nutrition, athletics, coaching.

### Course Details

Led by Mrs S Biddlecombe

Exam board: Edexcel

### Assessment Summary

60% Coursework

40% External Assessment



### **What is it? What do you do?**

This course concentrates on the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. You will have the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, you will also develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

**You will learn about the hospitality and catering industry by:**

- **Doing lots of practical work to learn new skills with weekly practical lessons.**
- **Practical competitions**
- **Visiting speakers/ case studies.**

**The great bonus of this course is that there is a strong emphasis on gaining the required skills and knowledge via practical work so it is great for anyone who wants to learn 'by doing'.**

### **What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?**

Our food tastes are forever changing and there is a need for creative and talented people to join the catering industry.

This qualification can be studied in Higher Education and Post 16 and can lead successfully to many career paths: **Head Chef, Chef, nutritionist, restaurant owner, food safety, Cake designer, Caterer, Dietarian etc**

### **Course Details**

Led by Mrs A. Rikunenko / Ms A Richardson  
Exam board: WJEC

### **Assessment Summary**

60% Controlled assessment

40% Exam

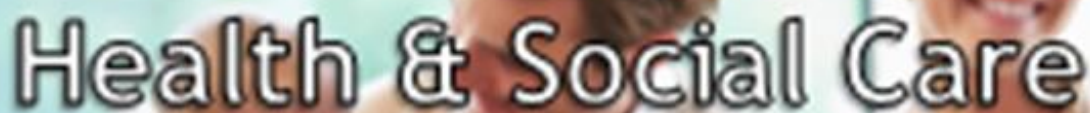
### **How will I be assessed?**

#### **Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering**

**Industry** will be externally assessed with an examination that lasts 80 minutes. This unit is worth 40% of your final grade.

#### **Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action** is internally assessed:

This involves you completing a piece of controlled assessment in school under examination conditions. You will be set a task by WJEC and will have to safely plan, prepare, **cook** and present nutritional dishes. This unit is worth 60% of your final grade.



# Health & Social Care

## What is it? What do you do?

This exciting course will give you a vocational look into the world of Health and Social care. The course is split into 3 units. This course includes contemporary issues in relation to health, social care and early years sectors in the UK.

**Unit 1: Human Development** In this examination unit, the aim is for you to demonstrate understanding and knowledge of aspects of human development across the lifespan of individuals and groups.

**Unit 2: Service Provision** In this non-examination assessment (NEA) unit, the aim is for you to carry out research that demonstrates understanding of the legislation and principles of care that underpin the work of key professionals. **Contemporary Issues in Health, Social Care and Early Years Services** In this NEA unit, the aim is for you to understand the statistics and challenges for society and individuals for a range of contemporary issues, and to understand the relevance of health promotion initiatives.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

This subject will give you a great foundation for further study at Post 16 or in Higher Education.

This qualification can lead successfully to many career paths: **Midwife, Nurse, Doctor, Nursery Nurse, Social Workers, Healthcare Assistants, Occupational therapists, Youth Workers, Care Assistance, Care managers, Support Workers and many more.**

## Course Details

Led by Mrs A. Rikunenko

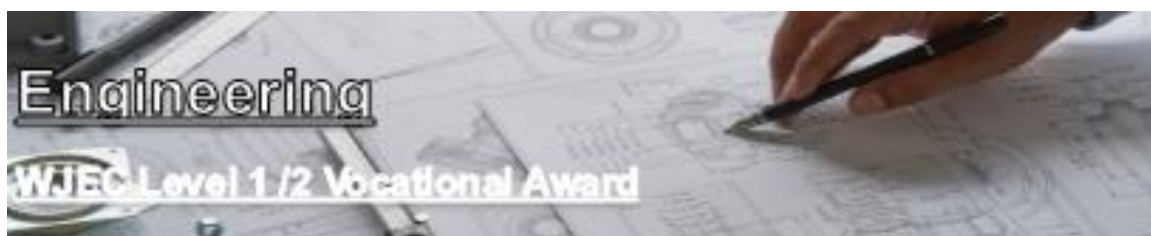
Exam board: WJEC

## Assessment Summary

60% Controlled assessment

40% Exam





## What is it? What do you do?

This exciting, creative and practical course that is comprised of three parts. . You will start by producing a product to a given design this is worth 40% of your overall grade. You will then need to produce a range of ideas to meet a problem, this is worth 30% of your overall grade You will also complete an external exam unit worth 30% of your final grade.

This course uses a practical approach to encourage you to design and make products with creativity and originality in a variety of practical activities, using a range of materials and techniques. You are encouraged to take ownership of your ideas and to explore them in an inventive and expressive manner as a creative journey. This is an intense and time demanding course!

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

In a world where new products and technologies are developing every day, there is a need for creative and hardworking people to develop and make new products for use.

This qualification can be studied in Higher Education and Post 16 and can lead successfully to many career paths: **designer, architect, interior designer, engineer, product designer, automotive design, textile designer, manual worker.**

### Course Details

Led by Mrs A. Rikunenko  
Exam board: Edexcel Pearson

### Assessment Summary

60% Controlled assessment  
40% Exam

Unit 1: Manufacturing engineering products

Have the opportunity to interpret different types of engineering information in order to plan how to manufacture engineering products. Develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment in order to manufacture and test a final product.

Unit 2: Designing engineering products Explore how an engineered product is adapted and improved over time. It offers the opportunity to apply your knowledge and understanding to adapt an existing component, element or part of the product that you will have manufactured for Unit 1.

Unit 3: Solving engineering problems Introduced to a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general.



# GCSE Art and Design

## What is it? What do you do?

Art GCSE is an exciting and rewarding course which aims to build on the knowledge and skills you have established in Years 7, 8 and 9. If you enjoy Art, you're creative and hardworking and want to learn more, this could be the course for you.

Creating great art does take time and the department offers lots of lunchtime and after school clubs so that you can practise your skills, explore new media and develop ideas. This is aimed at students who like all areas of art and enjoy working in both two and three dimensions. Not only will you develop your practical skills, but also your analytical skills. An appreciation of other artists' work is an important part of the course and learning about the techniques that artists use and the purpose of their work will help you to improve and make progress.

This is an intense and time demanding course and there is written work involved alongside practical activities.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

In a world where we are constantly bombarded with visual imagery, visual literacy is increasingly important. A career within the Arts is possible, with hard work, dedication and commitment.

This qualification can be studied in Higher Education and Post 16 and can lead successfully to many career paths: **designer, animation, freelance artist, advertising, illustration, photographer, film and television, architect, interior designer, textile designer, fashion, teaching and gallery work/ curator etc.**

**Please note: this option cannot be chosen as well as Art Textiles**

## Course Details

Led by Mrs T Kaur

Exam board: OCR

## Assessment Summary

60% Controlled assessment

40% Exam



## What is it? What do you do?

GCSE Art Textiles is an exciting, creative and practical GCSE which aims to build on knowledge and skills learned throughout your art curriculum in years 7,8 and 9 . This course develops your understanding of the visual elements of art as we learn to apply these to textiles techniques. During the course we work with a wide range of textile materials and decorative techniques, allowing you to experiment and be creative.

If you are creative, hard-working and want to learn more, this could be the course for you!

Creating great art does take time and the department offers lots of lunchtime and after school clubs so that you can practise your skills, explore new media and develop ideas.

This is aimed at students who enjoy art and want to apply these skills to a textile outcome. We work in both two and three dimensions.

Not only will you develop your practical skills, but also your analytical skills. An appreciation of other artists' work is an important part of the course and learning about the techniques that artists use and the purpose of their work will help you to improve and make progress.

This is an intense and time demanding course and there is written work involved alongside practical activities.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16 ?

In a world where trends change from one minute to the next, there is a need for a new generation of textiles designers to help keep our fashion and homes up to date.

This qualification can be studied in Higher Education and Post 16 and can lead successfully to many career paths: **textiles designer, fashion designer, sportswear design, interior design, illustration, stylist, costume design, teaching etc.**

**Please note – this option cannot be chosen as well as Art and Design.**

## Course Details

Led by Ms E Irvine

Exam board: OCR

## Assessment Summary

60% Controlled assessment

40% Exam

# BTEC Teach Award Music

## What is it? What do you do?

There are three components to the course.

### Component 1: Exploring Styles

You will study 5 different genres of music focusing on the compositional and sonic features within pieces of music. You will then create 3 music products in 3 of the styles following a brief: Performance, Composition and Production.

### Component 2: Skills development

You will learn how to improve your musical skills in two disciplines. You will learn how to create a development plan, learn technical skills for performance, composition and production and create 2 music products following a brief.

### Component 3: Responding to a brief

Throughout this unit you will learn how to create a cover version of a song in a different style to the original song using the knowledge you have acquired in component 1 and

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

Successful completion of this course can be a springboard into further education in Level 3 BTEC National in Music or a BTEC National in Music Technology which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the music sector.

### Course Details

Led by Mrs Okunlola

Exam board: Edexcel

### Assessment Summary

Component 1 – 30%

Component 2 – 30%

Component 3 – 40%

# GCSE Statistics

## What is it? What do you do?

GCSE Statistics gives students the opportunity to broaden their knowledge in a key component of maths that is relevant to everyday life. You'll develop a core statistical grounding, as well as transferable skills and understanding that's applicable to a range of other subjects including sciences and geography.

GCSE Statistics enriches and extends the statistics topics taught as part of GCSE Mathematics, it has most of the GCSE Maths course embedded within it and is broken down into 8 chapters:

**Chapter 1:** Collection of data

**Chapter 2:** Processing & representing data

**Chapter 3:** Summarising data

**Chapter 4:** Scatter graphs & correlation

**Chapter 5:** Time series

**Chapter 6:** Probability

**Chapter 7:** Index numbers

**Chapter 8:** Probability distributions

GCSE Statistics is assessed in two exams at the end of the course.

There are 2 tiers of entry – Foundation (Grade 1-5) & Higher (Grade 4-9)

- Unit 1: examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

- Unit 2: examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes. Worth 50% of final grade.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

After the GCSE course, you will have covered several topics that are also covered in A level maths. The skills acquired through the study of Statistics at GCSE are useful to students wishing to study a variety of subject's post 16 including Maths, Science, Geography, Sociology, Psychology and Business Studies. These subjects require you to handle and interpret data! If students aspire to work in a role that requires handling statistics, then GCSE Statistics is an obvious choice for them. There are plenty of jobs that involve handling statistics including epidemiologist, public affairs manager, biostatistician, research psychologist, sports statistician, marketing and many more!

## Course Details

Led by Miss Williams

Exam board:

Edexcel

## Assessment

### Summary

100% exam

# GCSE Drama

## What is it? What do you do?

Studying GCSE in Drama is an exciting, inspiring and practical course. The subject promotes involvement in and enjoyment of drama, as performers and/or designers. Additionally, it provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members.

All Drama students will be given opportunities to participate in and interpret their own and others' drama. They also have the option to work practically as performers and/or designers in Components 1 and 2.

Drama students will investigate a practitioner or genre of drama, work collaboratively to develop ideas to communicate meaning and experiment with dramatic conventions, forms and techniques to produce and realise a piece of original theatre. They will also have the opportunity to participate in the performance of an extract from a published performance text. Learners will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama, including their ability to interpret texts for performance, in a written examination. However, in preparation for this assessment, learners are encouraged to study their chosen text practically as a performer, designer and director.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

The study of GCSE Drama encourages students to develop skills in communication, teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, and adaptability, which are highly valued in a variety of industries.

This qualification can be studied in Higher Education and Post 16 and can lead successfully to many career paths: acting, theatre technician, teaching, screenwriting, journalism, media production and stage management.

## Course Details

Led by: Laura Bocking

Exam board: Eduqas

## Assessment Summary

Component 1:

Devised Performance

40%

Component 2:

Scripted Performance 20%

Component 3:

Written Examination

40%

# GCSE Media Studies

## What is it? What do you do?

Welcome to the exciting world of GCSE Media Studies, where creativity meets critical thinking! Choosing Media Studies as an option for your GCSE journey opens up a dynamic and engaging exploration of the media landscape that surrounds us every day. The EDUQAS GCSE Media Studies course offers a unique opportunity for you to analyse, create, and understand the powerful influence of media in our society.

- **Real-World Relevance:**  
Dive into topics that directly impact your life, from social media trends and advertising to news reporting and film analysis. Uncover the strategies behind media messages and discover how they shape public opinion and culture.
- **Critical Thinking Skills:**  
Hone your ability to deconstruct media messages critically. Explore how different media forms, such as TV, film, and online platforms, influence and reflect our society. Engage in thought-provoking discussions on media ethics, representation, and the impact of technology.
- **Practical and Theoretical Balance:**  
Strike the perfect balance between practical media production and theoretical understanding. Gain insights into the industry while building a strong foundation in media theories and concepts. This dual approach ensures a well-rounded and enriching learning experience.
- **Prepare for the Future:**  
Media is an integral part of the 21st-century world. Equip yourself with skills that are highly transferable to future careers in media, journalism, marketing, and beyond. Develop your digital literacy and become a savvy consumer and producer of media content.

## What can I do with this subject when I join Post 16?

GCSE Media Studies provides a foundational platform for post-16 education in media and cultural studies. This qualification imparts a critical understanding of various media forms. At the post-16 level, students can specialize in A-level Media Studies or related subjects like Film Studies, delving into both theoretical and practical aspects. Strong performance in GCSE Media Studies opens doors to vocational paths such as media production, journalism, or digital marketing. The acquired skills, including critical thinking and media production, are transferable and valuable in diverse academic and professional pursuits.

## Course Details

Led by: Mr Pemberton

Exam board: Eduqas

## Assessment Summary

### Component 1: Exploring the media landscape

Written exam 40%

### Component 2: Understanding media forms and products

Written exam 30%

### Component 3: Creating media products

Coursework 30%





## How will my child make their final choices?

All year 9 students will have an opportunity to complete their choices during form time via an online application form before Easter.

Students will only get one choice (1st choice) within each block. All option places are subject to the amount of people that opt for that course. We will ask students to select a second choice but this will only be used if we have no space in the subject they have selected as 1<sup>st</sup> choice. We will do our utmost to provide students with one of their preferences.

If you require any further information please contact: Mrs Israel (Head of Key Stage) or Mrs Wheeler (Pastoral lead).



# GCSE and BTEC Grading System

Legacy GCSEs	New GCSE Grades	Vocational Qualifications	
A*	9	Distinction * 8.5	Level 2
	8		
A	7	Distinction 7	
B	6	Merit 5.5	
	5		
C	4	Pass 4	
D	3	Distinction * 3	Level 1
E	2	Distinction 2	
F		Merit 1.5	
G	1	Pass 1	
U	U	Not Yet Achieved (NYA)	



## GCSE Grading:

From 2014 GCSE grades changed from letters to numbers. The **highest grade your child can achieve is a Grade 9 and 1 is the lowest**. This table shows you how the new GCSE grades compare with the old letters.

## Vocational Grading:

At Grace Academy Darlaston we offer a range of vocational qualifications in Years 10 and 11 to complement GCSEs. These are **vocational** qualifications. Students complete **coursework** through their two years of study and **sit examination units** that all go towards deciding their final grade. **These grades range from a Distinction\* to a Pass. Students have two attempts to sit their examination unit and improve their grade.**

***We encourage all our students to aim for their target grade or higher at GCSE and in their vocational examinations.***



# What can my child use to revise at home?



## Revision Guides: -

All students have been given a revision guide for all their subjects. Revision guides have what students need to know, as well as quizzes, exam practice questions and tips and advice on how to answer questions in their final GCSE exams.

It is important they use these for revision, homework when asked to and look after them as they're an important tool for revision.

## Online Resources—Digital Learning on the Student SharePoint

There is a huge range of online resources at Grace Academy Darlaston for students to use. These can all be accessed from the Student Login on our Website homepage. Homework, lessons as well as coursework guidance for all subjects is set on Microsoft Teams.

Seneca Learning, GCSEPod, Sparx Maths, BBC Bitesize are just a few of the websites students can use to revise.



If you are self isolating, in isolation or working at home, you will need to follow your timetable and access your lessons on Microsoft teams (see how to PowerPoint below). You can then email your teacher your work.

Office 365

My Maths

GCSE Pod

Seneca Learning

BBC Bitesize

Using Microsoft Teams for  
home learning and  
homework



PowerPoint demonstrating how to access and use teams for  
online learning and homework.

October Half Term Holiday  
Countdown

17 00 34 42  
days hrs min sec





# Revision Strategies

## *Top tips for effective revision...*

### Start early

It's a good idea to have a routine with revision. Year 10 will sit ECAs this year, so a schedule for revision can help to manage their time. We offer Enrichment sessions every day after school in all subjects in Year 11, but the revision at home can start now.



### Plan and block out time for revision

A revision timetable will help to manage time. Block out time for socialising, exercising and other breaks or plans. Use one of our templates as a starting point!

### Decide what you're going to revise

All subjects have provided curriculum journeys with all exam topics on to help to plan your revision. This can also be found on the Academy website in the student and Parent/Carer areas, on the Student Portal and in this information guide!



### Look after yourself

It's important to look after you. Eating a healthy, balanced diet, getting exercise, a good night's sleep and trying to stay calm and positive are all key to your success ahead of your exams.

We have lots of exam support and information available in the Academy for students and parents/carers.

# Post 16

**Your KS4 studies will lead you to a Post 16 with a 100% Pass Rate and 44% A\*/A or Dist\*/Dist grades in Summer 2023!**

Whilst you are considering your courses for KS4 you may also be thinking about your long-term career choices and what options are available for you here at Grace Academy Darlaston after you have completed your GCSEs.

We pride ourselves in meeting your individual needs and we provide a comprehensive range of Level 3 courses including both Academic and Vocational Qualifications such as A-Levels and BTECs. These courses develop the knowledge and understanding that you will have gained during KS4. Our courses have been carefully selected to allow a natural progression from your GCSEs and to prepare for your next steps after leaving Grace in Year 13, whether that be university, apprenticeships or the world of work.

All students in Post 16 are given everything needed to be successful in their studies. This includes all equipment (EG Textbooks), a laptop, locker, private outdoor space, private study space, kitchen area with refreshments and the ability to study from home on certain days. There are also numerous opportunities for Post 16 students including Trips, Volunteering, Social Events, Workshops as well as bursary funding, small class sizes, work experience and teachers that know you and how to get the best out of you!

You will get support with your Post 18 choices too. We will support you with your university applications, apprenticeship applications and preparation for interviews with employers. We will make sure that you are given all the advice and guidance needed in order to achieve your full potential!

I wish all of you the very best in choosing your options and I look forward to working with you in the very near future. If you have any questions about Post 16 please do not hesitate to contact me.

***Mr Pountney***

**Head of Post 16**

[jamespountney@darlaston.graceacademy.org.uk](mailto:jamespountney@darlaston.graceacademy.org.uk)





ART



BIOLOGY



BUSINESS



CHEMISTRY



COMPUTER  
SCIENCE



CRIMINOLOGY



ENGLISH



FILM STUDIES



GEOGRAPHY



HEALTH &  
SOCIAL CARE



HISTORY



IT



LAW



MATHEMATICS



MUSIC



PHYSICS



PSYCHOLOGY



RE

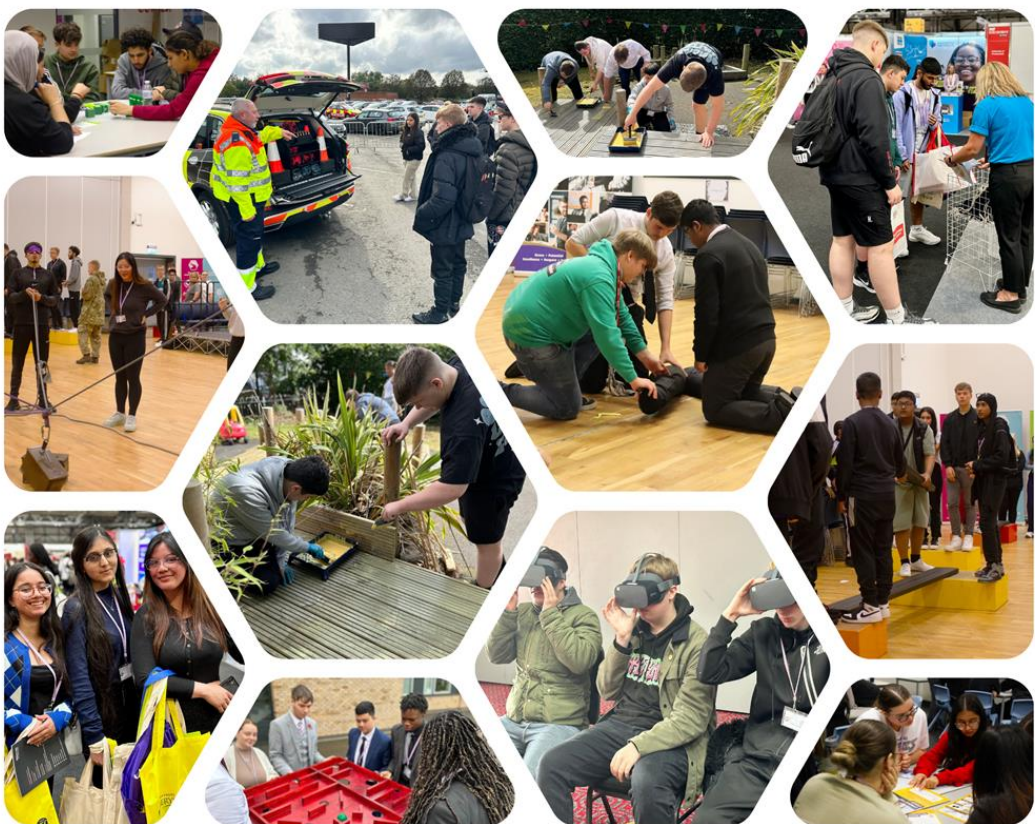


SOCIOLOGY



SPORT

# Post 16



Notes Page:

## Our Vision

Our Grace Vision is to develop well-educated, considerate and caring citizens with a strong sense of values, who will succeed in and contribute to modern society. At the heart of all we do is the passion to provide an outstanding education for our students which develops the whole person through our Christian ethos.

It is our Christian ethos that makes Grace Academy unique, shaping who we are as an organisation, and providing a clear road map for success through our five shared values of grace, respect, integrity, potential and excellence.

Our aim is for our shared values to be outworked through our Academy culture, embedded across an enhanced curriculum, role modelled by our staff, and explored and demonstrated by all of our students.

Our vision makes Grace Academy a better place to learn, work and achieve.

