



Key Stage 4 Options
Information
Booklet
2012-2014

Bottisham Village College

Please note that this booklet describes the courses we expect to offer at the time of writing. It is likely that some courses may not be able to run either due to student numbers or staff changes. For this reason, students will be asked to give alternative preferences. If their first preferences are not available then they will be asked to choose one of these.

Bottisham Village College is committed to the provision of equal opportunities. It is a principle that underpins the ethos of the whole school. Our aim is to enable all students to gain access to what is best in education provision, regardless of physical, sensory, intellectual, emotional or behavioural difficulties, gender, social and cultural background, religion or ethnic origin. We have planned our provision of courses in Years 10 and 11 with this as a guiding principle.

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Introduction

You are about to enter an exciting phase of your educational career. For the first time you get to choose some of the subjects that you study next year. It is important that you make good choices - and that means making **informed** choices.

This booklet is designed to help you pick the right options. It tells you the sort of things that you need to be thinking about, the questions that you need to ask, and where you can get the answers that you need. Most importantly, it gives you information about all of the courses that we offer at Bottisham. It acts, therefore, as a basic source of reference. Because of this, you must make sure that you do not lose it. We would also like you to show it to your parents and discuss its contents with them.

Don't forget that you are not just picking which subjects to take next year: you are also picking which types of courses you would like to take. In addition to GCSEs, the college offers BTECs (and an OCR Nationals course). Make sure that you know about these qualifications — they might be right for you.

The golden rules are to listen hard and ask if you are not sure. If you follow these rules, we are very confident that you will make the choices that are right for you.

The Options Process

The Options Evening

This evening is for parents only and consists of a 30 minute introduction to the options process and the different qualifications that we offer, followed by 45 minutes in the dining hall, when there will be an opportunity to ask the different faculties about the courses that they run.

February PSHE day

The focus for this day is careers. By the end of it, you will have a sense of what careers you might be interested in and what type of qualification you might need to attain this. This sets a context for your options choices. However, **it is quite legitimate at this stage for you not to have made up your mind about your career.**

The Subject Assemblies

You will have one of these each morning for a fortnight. Each faculty will give Year 9 students a presentation about the courses that they offer.

Parents' Evening

This evening, when you and your parents meet with your subject teachers, is focussed on discussing your general progress. However, it is also an opportunity to ask your teachers any questions that you might have about the courses next year.

The Guidance Interview

These interviews last 10 minutes each and are held with a senior member of staff. During them, your provisional choices will be discussed, and if necessary, adjusted or refined. Once again, it is a chance for you or your parents to ask any questions, or raise any concerns that you might have.

The Options form needs to be handed in on Tuesday **28 February**. Please do not hand it in before this date. If you have not been able to make a final choice by this date, then you have until **5 March** to hand in the form.

Questions to consider

This booklet contains a lot of information. As you read through it, think about these questions.

*Which subjects do I **enjoy** at Key Stage 3 and why do I enjoy them?*

*Which subjects am I **best** at in Key Stage 3 and why am I good at them?*

*How are the different options **assessed** (tested) and does this play to my strengths?*

*What do I want to do when I **leave Bottisham**? How will my options help me to do this?*

*What are my **career plans**? Which subjects will help me with these plans?*

Can my brothers and sisters, or other older students that I know, give me other information about the courses?

Dos and Don'ts

DO

- Ask **lots** of questions: get as much information as possible before making your choice.
- Try to have a mix of options: for example, try to have at least one practical subject
- **Remember that your career plans might change.**
- **Remember that there is no guarantee that we can give you your first preferences: think really carefully about your third and fourth preferences.**

DON'T

- Pick a subject because your friends are doing it: you probably won't be in the same group as they are.
- Pick a subject because you like the teacher: you probably won't get them next year.
- Pick a subject because you think it is easy—all Key Stage 4 options are hard in their own way.

The Different Types of Course

At Bottisham we offer three different types of course: BTEC courses, GCSE courses and non examined courses.

GCSE Business Studies, GCSE Catering and all the BTEC courses are applied learning courses.

WHAT ARE APPLIED LEARNING COURSES?

Applied learning courses - which are sometimes called vocational courses - give you knowledge and skills that are relevant to the world of work. They help train you for working in a particular area of employment, such as the Travel industry. Because a lot of the skills that they teach are **generic**, by following an applied learning course you also learn about the world of work in general.

GCSEs also help to prepare you for the work place: they give you skills that are useful for lots of jobs, such as the ability to research, or the ability to express yourself in writing, or the ability to think analytically. But these are not related to **specific** jobs or workplaces and you are not taught about the work place explicitly, so in this sense GCSEs are not the same as applied learning qualifications.

Applied learning qualifications also involve you learning in an environment that is similar to the world of work. The college, for example, is equipped with a catering suite containing facilities that would be found in a restaurant kitchen; by using them you are experiencing what it would be like to work in such a kitchen. Because of the emphasis on work related learning, for some courses you might be required to purchase a small amount of specialised equipment through the college.

Finally, applied learning courses require you to engage with the world of work: your teachers will arrange speakers to come in and talk to you, and visits for you to see, for example, a travel agency at work.

BTECS

Following the election of the new government, BTEC qualifications are in a state of transition. This means that there are two types of BTEC course on offer this year, namely those that are established, and those that are newly configured.

Established BTEC courses

These courses, which have been in place at Bottisham for five years, do not involve terminal exams, and give access to grades that are equivalent to GCSE A*-C.

Up until this year, BTECS have been double award, in other words equivalent to two GCSEs. **Following a decision by the new government, they will now be equivalent to one GCSE.**

The established BTEC courses are being phased out by the government; this will be the last two year cycle in which they run.

NB ICT OCR Nationals is structured and assessed in the same way as our established BTEC courses.

Newly Configured BTEC courses

Sport, Science and Health and Social Care are the three newly configured BTECs that we shall be offering at the college this year. Although the specifications for these courses have not been finalised by the exam boards, we do know that up to 25% of their content will be assessed through a terminal exam.

In addition to this, students can either be entered for a Level 2 qualification (which will give rise to grades that are equivalent to one GCSE grade in the A*-C band) or a Level 1 qualification (which will give rise to one GCSE grade in D-G band). We envisage that the vast majority of our students will complete the course at Level 2 qualification.

At Bottisham, all of our BTECs are taught in one options block. In other words you study for five hours a fortnight, as you would a normal option.

GCSEs

This longstanding qualification has been around since 1987 and the bulk of the courses that we offer are GCSE courses.

Most GCSEs are assessed through a mixture of guided coursework, controlled assessments and formal examinations, with the emphasis on the last of these methods. For some there are tiered papers: ie exams for which only a range of grades is available.

All the GCSEs give rise to a single grade, from A* to G. Most GCSEs are not applied learning courses.

WHAT ARE THE NON EXAMINED COURSES?

We offer one non examined course at Bottisham - Study Support. Further information about it can be found on page 17.

How the curriculum is organised

CORE—STUDIED BY ALL STUDENTS

English Language and English Literature

A small group of students study single entry English only

Mathematics GCSE

Double Science

Students who have an aptitude for Science, and have an interest in continuing Science at AS level may do Triple Science. BTEC Science* is available by invitation.

Humanities

One subject from History, Geography, RS Philosophy and Ethics, BTEC Travel and Tourism*, or BTEC Work Skills* by invitation

Non examined subjects

Physical Education; Religion Ethics and Philosophy; Citizenship; PSHE

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

Please select **four** options choices from Column A. On the form, these should be written in rank order of preference.

Students should then pick **three** option choices from column B, once again written on the form in order of preference. In Years 10 and 11, students will follow two of the courses selected from Column A, and one of the courses selected from Column B

Column A	Column B
BTEC Horticulture* GCSE Business Studies* GCSE PE BTEC Sport* Catering* Product Design BTEC Construction* Textiles ICT OCR Nationals* Art and Design Drama Music French OR Spanish (2 nd language) History OR Geography (2 nd humanities)	French Spanish ICT OCR Nationals* BTEC Health and Social Care* BTEC Travel and Tourism* Study Support

Courses marked with an asterisk are applied learning courses

Assessment Summary

Use this information to compare how the different courses are assessed

Subject	What qualification does it lead to?	How many exams are there and when are they?	How much coursework is there?
BTEC Construction; BTEC Horticulture; BTEC Travel and Tourism.	A BTEC which is equivalent to one GCSE. The grades awarded are Distinction plus, Distinction, Merit or Pass. These correspond to the GCSE grades A*-C.	There are no exams with these BTEC courses	Students work on assignments in lessons. These are marked on an ongoing basis, creating a portfolio of assessed work.
BTEC Sport The specifications for this course have not been finalised by the exam boards	A BTEC which is equivalent to one GCSE. The grades awarded are Distinction plus, Distinction, Merit or Pass. If the student is entered at level 2, then these correspond to the GCSE grades A*-C.	25% of the final mark is externally assessed via an online exam, which relates to content covered in one unit. This, in all likelihood, will be the last one taught.	Students work on assignments in lessons. These are marked on an ongoing basis, creating a portfolio of assessed work. 75% of the final mark is assessed in this way.
BTEC Health and Social Care The specifications for this course have not been finalised by the exam boards	A BTEC which is equivalent to one GCSE. The grades awarded are Distinction plus, Distinction, Merit or Pass. If the student is entered at level 2, then these correspond to the GCSE grades A*-C.	Between 20-25% of the final mark is externally assessed via an exam.	Students work on assignments in lessons. These are marked on an ongoing basis, creating a portfolio of assessed work. 75-80% of the final mark is assessed in this way.
BTEC Science The specifications for this course have not yet been finalised by the exam boards This course is by invitation	Please see page 17		

Subject	What qualification does it lead to?	How many exams are there, and when are they?	How much coursework is there?
BTEC Work Skills. This course is by invitation	The qualification is equivalent to a single GCSE at either B-C or D-G.	There are no exams with this BTEC.	Students work on assignments in lessons. These are marked on an ongoing basis, creating a portfolio of assessed work.
ICT OCR Nationals	In combination with units that students are covering in Year 9, this course gives rise to a qualification which is equivalent to 1 GCSE.	There are no exams.	Assignments are completed in class as units are covered. The marks achieved are collated to give a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade.
English Language (AQA)	GCSE	One exam. Terminal Exam.	40% external exam 60% controlled assessment
English Literature (AQA)	GCSE	Two exams. Terminal exams.	75% external examination 25% controlled assessment
English (AQA)	GCSE	One exam. Terminal exam.	40% external exam 60% controlled assessment
Maths	GCSE	3 exams, one for each of the three modules covered. The exams are terminal exams, being taken in June of Year 11.	100% exam.
Core Science	GCSE	3 exams in summer of Year 10	25% coursework 75 % exam
Additional Science	GCSE	3 exams in summer of Year 11	25% coursework 75 % exam
Biology	GCSE	Currently 3 exams (one in summer of Year 10, one in January of Year 11, one in summer of Year 11)	25% coursework 75 % exam
Chemistry	GCSE	Currently 3 exams (one in summer of Year 10, one in January of Year 11, one in summer of Year 11)	25% coursework 67 % exam

Subject	What qualification does it lead to?	How many exams are there, and when are they?	How much coursework is there?
Physics	GCSE	3 exams (one in summer of Year 10, one in January of Year 11, one in summer of Year 11)	33% coursework 67 % exam
Art and design	GCSE	Exam: April Year 11	60% coursework 40% exam
Drama	GCSE	Practical exam: March/ April Year 11 2 controlled assessments, 10 hours each	60% coursework 40% exam
Music	GCSE	Listening : Jan or June Year 11 Creative practical task : May/ June Year 11 2 controlled assessments, 10 hours each	60% coursework 25% Listening exam 15% Creative task
Catering	GCSE	There are 2 practical exams and a controlled assessment that contribute 60% towards the final marks. The remaining 40% of the marks is derived from a written exam that lasts an hour and a quarter.	
Product Design	GCSE	Terminal exam in June Year 11.	60% coursework 40% exam
Textiles Technology	GCSE	Terminal exam in June Year 11.	60% coursework 40% exam
GCSE Business Studies The specification for this is yet to be finalised.	GCSE	The number of exams and the amount of coursework is dependent on the specification picked. Our aim is to give as much weighting as possible to coursework.	
Geography	GCSE	There are 3 written exams, two are unit exams and one is a Decision Making Exercise. 1 of the exams is in Year 10, with 2 in Year 11. All take place in the summer term.	25% of the final mark is from the controlled assessment. Each of the 3 exams is worth 25%.

Subject	What qualification does it lead to?	How many exams are there, and when are they?	How much coursework is there?
History	GCSE	1 controlled assessment in Autumn Year 11. 3 exams in Summer Year 11.	75% exam, 25% controlled assessment.
Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics	GCSE	There are 4 exams and no coursework. Exam modules can be taken in Year 10 or Year 11 dependent on student progress.	100% exam
French	GCSE	1 Listening exam (June Year 11) 1 Reading exam (June Year 11)	Exam: 40% Speaking and Writing controlled assessments: 60%
Spanish	GCSE	1 Listening exam (June Year 11) 1 Reading exam (June Year 11)	Exam: 40% Speaking and Writing controlled assessments: 60%
PE	GCSE	There is one terminal exam, which assesses understanding of P.E. theory. 40% (June Year 11)	60% of the course is assessed through performance of practical activities.

THE CORE

These are the subjects that everyone takes. Getting good results in these is the key to doing well when you leave Bottisham.

Maths

All students take GCSE Maths. Students will be entered for one of the Edexcel specifications. Full details of the changes to be made to their specifications are not yet available but the one that we are almost certain to use is Edexcel B (1MA1). This format, if approved by OFQUAL, will be examined by three exams, all of which will be taken in June of Year 11.

Unit 1	Statistics and Probability	30%	Calculator allowed
Unit 2	Number, Algebra, Geometry 1	30%	Calculator NOT allowed
Unit 3	Number, Algebra, Geometry 2	40%	Calculator allowed

The exams can be taken at either Higher (Grades A—D) or Foundation level (Grades C—G). The level of entry for each student will not be finally decided until January of Year 11.

English

Most students take two GCSEs in English, namely English Language and English Literature.

English Language GCSE develops and tests students' ability to read, write, speak and listen. Students are required to respond to a variety of texts, and to write for and speak to a range of audiences and purposes.

English Literature GCSE exposes students to a range of literary texts, both contemporary and historic. It develops and tests their ability to respond to them in an analytical way.

Students who achieve lower levels in Year 9 are selected to take a single entry GCSE in English. This course combines the skills and scope of the two other GCSEs, but contains less content, enabling students to focus on achieving one good grade in this important subject.

Science

In Science, students take qualifications that lead to the award of 2 or more GCSEs or equivalent, unless they are invited to take the BTEC course. Three 'routes' are offered.

Route 1 - Students following this route take 2 separate GCSEs in general Science, one in Year 10 called Core Science, and one in Year 11 called Additional Science.

Route 2 – Some students take separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This is known as Triple Science. These students opt to study separate sciences for a variety of reasons, including an interest in these subjects, a desire to stretch themselves academically, and a desire to study Science post-16.

Route 3 – A small number of students are invited to study BTEC science. As the exam board specifications have not yet been accredited by the government, a final decision about the course that this group will follow has not been taken. Our intention is that, by the end of year 11, students in this group will have obtained one BTEC qualification that is equivalent to one GCSE at grade A*-C.

Students will be assessed largely through ongoing assignments, but will take an external exam contributing 25% to the final grade. As with all BTECs, they will be awarded a distinction plus, a distinction, a merit or a pass.

If you study a BTEC in Science, then it will not be possible to take AS science; however other post 16 science based qualifications are available.

Later on in the year, Science teachers will give guidance in lessons as to which route is best for you.

Non Examined Options

Study Support

Study Support is an option which gives you time and space to catch up on the coursework or homework set in your other subjects. You spend your time working independently on such tasks, with a teacher on hand to help.

This course will appeal to you if:

- You are concerned about coping with the standard number of GCSEs and want to focus your efforts on a smaller number of courses;
- You are up to the challenge of working independently or in a small group;
- You find ICT useful for improving your work;
- You feel that you would benefit from having supervised time and space to keep up with deadlines and pressures of work;
- You like to extend your work in particular subjects;
- You would like help developing your Literacy and Numeracy skills.

At the beginning of each lesson your teacher will talk with the class about the work that they need to do that lesson. You will then be responsible for completing your own tasks.

Study support will lead to you developing skills of organisation and independent study that are valued by employers.

Study Support as a means of raising achievement in Mathematics and English

Students who select Study Support as an option might be withdrawn from their study support lessons for one to one or small group tuition with a Maths or English teacher, if it is felt that they would benefit from such provision.

The timing and extent of these sessions will be determined by the Maths and English faculties. Their purpose will be to boost an individual student's performance in a particular aspect of their Maths or English work.

This model of intervention has proved highly successful in the past, and we are pleased to be able to extend it to a wider range of students this year.

HORTICULTURE BTEC

Why take Horticulture?

- If you want to spend time outdoors, take this BTEC.
- If you want to learn about growing plants and organising a garden, follow this course.
- If you want to do a very practical, hands on course then this is for you.



What is a typical lesson like?

- During all double lessons, you will go in the minibus to the local National Trust property – Anglesey Abbey.
- You will work in the Kitchen garden, preparing the land and planting and harvesting crops.
- In the single lesson and during bad weather, you will complete the coursework assignments.

What will I study?

- You will learn all about plants
- You will learn about crop production.
- You will learn about the Horticulture industry.

What does Horticulture BTEC lead to?

- Many students go on to college to study Horticulture at a higher level.
- A good qualification in Horticulture can lead on to a career in a range of land-based occupations such as market gardener.
- The generic work skills that you learn by doing this course can be applied to a variety of jobs.
- It is equivalent to 1 GCSE qualification.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- During the course you will visit a range of local Garden Centres and commercial crop producers to learn how they operate.

What's on the website?

- A range of photographs and a case study from Horticulture students.

ART & DESIGN GCSE

Why take Art?

Take art if:

- You want to understand the creative process.
- You want to explore a range of your own ideas in different media.
- You want to improve your technical, creative and thinking skills.
- You want to learn about artists, both living and dead.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In Art we discuss and share ideas. Initially everyone works in a sketchbook to develop technical and creative skills. Outcomes are then realised in two and three dimensional form.
- We encourage you to respond individually to all practical tasks and to express your own thoughts and view points.

What will I study?

- In Year 10 you will create art work based on a number of themes and workshops.
- In Year 11 you will choose a theme as inspiration for art work.

What does Art GCSE lead to?

- Lots of our students go on to study Art at Advanced level, but you could also study International Baccalaureate or BTEC Diplomas.
- Art teaches a range of skills that are vital to lots of jobs, for example, advertising, architecture, fashion, illustration, freelance practitioner, hair and beauty, photography and teaching.
- You could also study Art and design for the pure enjoyment of being creative!

How is the curriculum enriched?

- You have the opportunity to experience art work first hand at the V & A Museum, Tate Modern and Curwen Print Studios. The Royal Academy Outreach Programme teaches a day of life drawing activities.

What's on the website?

- Go to <http://www.bottishamvc.org/curric/arts/art/> for more information

DRAMA GCSE

Why take Drama?

Take drama if:

- You want to learn how to perform and create exciting devised Drama.
- You want to work with other students in a positive way.
- You want to experience what it feels like to act as if you are someone else.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In drama you will improvise, devise and study a variety of scripts.
- You will work in groups to create original, thought provoking plays.
- We use a variety of techniques and skills including designing, staging and lighting.

What will I Study?

- In both Year 10 and 11 you will create a variety of improvisations based on various stimuli.
- You will study a play by a classic or modern playwright such as William Shakespeare, George Bernard Shaw, Willy Russell and Mark Wheeler in detail.

What does Drama GCSE lead to?

- Some of our students go on to study Theatre, Drama or Performing Arts at A Level, BTEC or may now choose the Baccalaureate.
- Drama also teaches skills that are vital to lots of jobs, including those requiring good communication skills, such as performing, presenting and managing others.

How is the curriculum enriched?

There are regular theatre trips and an opportunity to participate in workshops and performances.

What's on the website?

Go to www.bottishamvc.org/curric/arts/drama for case studies and more information.

MUSIC GCSE

Why take Music?

You will enjoy the subject if:

- You like listening to a range of music from salsa, waltzes and bhangra to film music.
- You want to develop your performing skills further and work on ensemble and solo performances.
- You enjoy practical work, playing and composing your own music.
- You enjoy using technology to develop and record your musical ideas.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In music, most lessons are practical, working in groups or independently.
- You will have freedom to choose the music you perform, inspiring composition work.
- We study a wide range of music, listening and discussing key features of a style.

What does Music GCSE lead to?

- Many students go on to study music at A level or music Technology A Level.
- GCSE music also teaches skills that are vital to lots of jobs. It will help you to be confident when communicating your ideas to others, will develop your ability to learn independently, and will enhance your ability to work as part of a team.
- All universities accept Music as an academic subject and lots of journalists, teachers and doctors have studied it.
- You will also acquire skills that will enable you to appreciate and understand music for the rest of your life.

What will I study?

- Film music and other descriptive music.
- Dance music.
- Composing and performing on an instrument (or voice).
- Music composed for your instrument.

Frequently asked questions:

- Do I need to be able to read music?
No, it is helpful but not a requirement.
- Do I need to have taken grade exams?
No, this is not a requirement.
- Will I need an instrument to practise on? *Yes, regular practice is important. Don't forget, singing is an instrument!*

How is the curriculum enriched?

- Extended school activities; opportunities to perform in concerts, shows or assemblies; visits to concerts and shows; opportunities to use garageband and sibelius.

What's on the website? Go to www.bottishamvc.org/curric/arts/music for Year 10 case studies and more information.

CATERING GCSE

Why take Catering?

- If you like being creative and enjoy practical cookery skills then this could be the option for you.
- Catering is an applied learning subject - everything you do will be linked to the world of Hospitality and Catering at work.
- Catering students learn by doing. You will develop skills in practical classes; you will help to organise special events, and you will undertake work experience, both at CRC and with employers.



What is a typical lesson like?

- Practical lessons provide a realistic working environment in which you will produce dishes for different types of occasions. You will be expected to bring ingredients for most lessons.
- Theory lessons are also practical: they might involve running an event, or working alongside a professional or studying special topics in detail.
- You will also take a Food Safety Award.

What does Catering lead to?

- Catering is an excellent choice for students who are interested in a career in the Food Service or Hospitality industry.
- You can also take Catering as a practical complement to other subjects.

What will I study?

- Main areas of study are: the food & drink industry, job roles, health, safety & hygiene, food preparation, cooking & presentation, nutrition & menu planning, costing & portion control, specialist equipment, communication & recordkeeping, environmental considerations.
- Assessment is by a mixture of practical tasks, projects and a written paper.

Important information

- There is a possibility that students who excel in year 10 might be allowed to undertake a double award qualification in year 11. Please see Mrs. Taylor for more details.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- As well as 2 days work experience at CRC, you will be able to enter cooking competitions such as Future Chef, and visit employers.
- Help to organise and run events.

CONSTRUCTION BTEC

Why take Construction?

- Construction BTEC is a work related course with a practical component. You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations and activities.
- It introduces you to a popular employment sector and provides a good basis to go on to a more advanced work-related qualification.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In construction we cover a wide variety of subject matter from the environment, key jobs in the industry and health and safety.
- Some lessons are workshop based, where you will learn practical elements including; joinery, bricklaying and painting & decorating techniques.
- We encourage you to be independent learners throughout, gathering research to broaden your knowledge and complete the assignment tasks.
- You learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations and activities.

What does Construction lead to?

- Students could go on to further study, specialising in a particular area of Construction.
- Construction also teaches skills that are vital to lots of jobs. Because of this it does not narrow down your options: it keeps them broad, giving a 'taste' of a range of areas.
- Construction gives you a good understanding of the industry and a foundation for careers such as Architecture and Surveying.

What will I study?

- Over the two years of the course you will cover 6 units.
- 2 Mandatory units; Structure of the Construction industry and Exploring Health, Safety and Welfare in Construction.
- 4 units focusing on more practical areas of construction, such as Carpentry and Joinery, painting and decorating and Architectural drawing.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- There may be a number of site visits throughout the course to get first hand experience of modern building practices. We hope to have visiting speakers from a variety of areas of the Construction industry.

What's on the website?

www.edexcel.org.uk

This will tell you all about the qualification.

www.bconstructive.co.uk

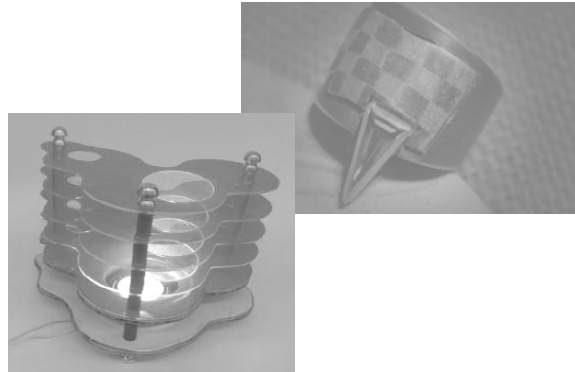
This will tell you all about the Construction industry.

PRODUCT DESIGN GCSE

Why take Product Design?

Take this subject if you want:

- To be creative and original
- To have fun designing and making your own ideas
- To develop your own independent learning style
- To understand how and why products are produced



What is a typical lesson like?

- You will be given lots of practical tasks involving designing and making in a variety of materials.
- You will study products and designers and the way they shape and influence the world in which we live.
- You will have the chance to use computers to design and make your ideas using CAD and CAM programs.
- You will be given plenty of opportunity to show originality.

What will I study?

- Designing and making skills working in 2D and 3D.
- Processes and manufacture.
- A wide variety of materials and components.
- Design and marketing influences.

What does Product Design GCSE lead to?

Students who follow this course can:

- Use their designing and making skills in a range of courses at sixth form colleges and CRC.
- Using their independent learning skills.
- Problem solve effectively and think more creatively.
- Develop their skills into animation, CAD design, product design, graphic illustration, advertising, media and general presentation.
- Use their wide range of practical skills effectively.
- Have an understanding how the world we live in is shaped by design.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- After school workshops are available.
- There may be a visit to the Grand Designs road show and opportunities to enter national competitions.

What's on the website?

- Examples of practical work produced by student, exemplar material from the exam board.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BTEC

Why take Health & Social Care

Take this subject if:

- You are interested in working with people.
- You want a career in either Health care or Social care.
- You are able to work independently and enjoy researching and producing written assignments.



What is a typical lesson like?

- There is no typical lesson.
- We discuss and we listen.
- We research topics and produce evidence supporting the research.
- We have visiting speakers.

What will I study?

- In Year 10 you will look at effective communication and will consider how diverse society is.
- You will go on to study the different stages of life and the needs of people.
- In Year 11 you will consider people's needs and look at how Health & Social Care organisations meet these needs.

What does Health & Social Care lead to?

- This qualification is the starting point for those wanting a job in the caring sector. Examples of such jobs are Nursing, Social Work, being a care assistant and working with children.
- Health and Social Care can also be studied at a more advanced level when you leave Bottisham.
- The course also will help you to develop a range of skills such as collecting, interpreting and presenting data. These skills are valued by most employers.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- We organise visits from speakers and from a range of organisations who operate in the caring sector.
- We also go to a local nursery, a residential home and a college.

What's on the website?

- Students opinions about the course.

TEXTILES GCSE

Why take Textiles?

- You build on your existing designing and making skills.
- You have an opportunity to be creative and work more independently.
- You learn lots of new textiles, decorative, fashion and dressmaking skills.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In a practical lesson you might be experimenting with stitches, fabrics, dyes and colours.
- You might be researching and designing a new fashion range, or you might be making one of your designs.
- In some lessons you will look at how textiles are made and at the fashion and clothing industry in today's world, using ICT, DVDs and personal investigation.

What will I study?

- In Year 10 you will learn and use lots of practical skills and learn lots more about textiles.
- In Year 11 you will complete a coursework project designing and making a new textiles product.

What does Textiles GCSE lead to?

- Lots of Textiles GCSE students have gone on to study fashion and textiles courses at A level and beyond.
- Textiles GCSE gives you a broader skills base for Art and Design A level and foundation courses.
- Students who study Art GCSE can use the skills learned in both subjects when developing project ideas. The subjects sit well together.
- Textiles GCSE enhances thinking skills, problem solving skills, design, creativity and presentation skills.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- A trip to the Clothes Show Exhibition in Years 10 and 11.
- Textiles is part of the extended schools programme.

What's on the website?

- Case studies of students.
- Examples of work.

BUSINESS STUDIES GCSE

Why take Business Studies?

If you enjoy:

- communicating and explaining your ideas
- thinking creatively and making decisions
- working with numbers to solve business problems
- learning about the world of business through research as well as through practical tasks

Then GCSE Business is for you!



What is a typical lesson like?

- You will work using a variety of resources including text books, worksheets, past papers and computers. We will look at case studies notes of small businesses.
- When appropriate, and subject to availability, speakers from the business community will be invited to our lessons.
- You will work from student booklets and homework will be used to support your learning in class.

What will I study?

- There are three compulsory units across two years. Topics will include spotting a business opportunity, showing enterprise, marketing, meeting customer needs, money management, people in the work place, growing businesses and the wider world affecting business.
- Assessment will be through two examinations and one piece of controlled assessment which will be set by the examination board.

What does Business Studies GCSE lead to?

- Fancy yourself at the head of a successful business? Got some great ideas for new products or services? Or maybe you want to work for a large company by working in marketing or management.
- All the key topics for starting and running a business are covered and armed with this knowledge, maybe you could be giving Richard Branson a run for his money in a few years time!
- Not everyone wants to run a global corporation. A lot of people prefer small businesses offering individual service or set up their own business, working for themselves.
- Either way, you still need to know about business e.g. how to get your products to market, how to price them, how to promote them and how to get paid!
- It's all in GCSE Business Studies!

How will the curriculum be enriched?

- Through the school's links with business, it is hoped real life stories, their successes and failures, will consolidate our theoretical learning in the classroom.

What's on the website?

- As this is a new GCSE, the website will be updated over the forthcoming months.

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

Why take Geography?

- If you are interested in the beauty of the earth and the terrible power of earth-shaping forces, or if you want to understand many of the challenges facing the world today (climate change, food security, energy choices) then Geography is for you!
- Geography fascinates and inspires; it will deepen your understanding of these issues.



What is a typical lesson like?

- Your lessons will be enquiry based, finding solutions to challenging issues facing the world today. You could be working as a group, or as an individual.
- You will use a wide range of resources, including text books, maps, video and film clips, real life situations and tailor-made work booklets.

What will I study?

- In Year 10 you will study the unit People and Planet and take a Decision Making Exercise paper.
- In Year 11 you will study the unit Dynamic Planet and also complete a Controlled Assessment.

What does Geography GCSE lead to?

- Geography graduates develop skills that are valued by lots of employers.
- Career destinations include management and administration, further training and teacher training courses, work in the financial and retail sectors and many others, including the media.
- The transferable skills which geography fosters are an asset in the complex world of employment today. Geography is about the future and encourages flexible thinking!

How is the curriculum enriched?

- In Year 11 you will take part in a Geography field trip as part of your Controlled Assessment work. The destination changes from year to year. Students opting this year will study coastal processes and change.

What's on the website?

- A case study of a current Year 10 student, showing what they think about the course.
- More information about studying Geography at GCSE and what it can lead to.

HISTORY GCSE

Why take History?

- If you want to understand the present, you need to study the past.
- It's all about people and the choices they make—and people are fascinating!
- History makes you think analytically and helps you to explain your views persuasively, in debate and on paper.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In history we keep things varied: you will learn to take effective notes, to perfect your source handling skills, to debate, to re-enact, to create interpretations with digital media, to analyse ideas, to write essays and, most of all, to think.
- We encourage you to be independent learners throughout.

What will I study?

- In Year 10, we investigate the history of medicine and surgery.
- In Year 11, we study Germany 1919-1945 and the Vietnam War.

What does History GCSE lead to?

- Lots of our students go on to study history at A level, but history is also useful for lots of other post 16 qualifications, such as psychology or philosophy.
- History also teaches skills that are vital to lots of jobs—such as handling lots of information efficiently, being able to summarise an argument concisely and being able to see things from an alternative point of view. Because of this, it does not narrow down your options: it keeps them open.
- Often lawyers, journalists, teachers, managers and doctors have studied this subject.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- There is a residential trip to Berlin in Year 11, and a day trip visit to the Imperial War Museum's Holocaust Exhibition.

What's on the website?

- Some lesson resources we use, examples of current students' work, videos and photos of lessons in action, current students' reviews of the course.

RS: PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS GCSE

Why take Philosophy & Ethics?

- To learn how to create reasoned arguments using critical analysis and evaluative skills.
- To become better at using logic and ethics when making your choices.
- To consider 'ultimate' questions, such as Does God exist? Why is there evil in the world?
- To be more reflective, and more receptive to the views of others.



What is a typical lesson like?

- The course is 'issue based.' You will discuss different perspectives of philosophical questions and ethical issues.
- You will be involved in group and independent work including laptop/textbook based research.
- You will be introduced to exam technique including how to structure responses.

What does a Philosophy & Ethics GCSE lead to?

- A Level Religious Studies and Philosophy courses build on the work done in the GCSE course.
- Skills acquired by the GCSE are transferrable to other subjects including English and History.
- The issues covered by GCSE are relevant to those wanting to enter the caring professions, where they will need to be good listeners, those taking scientific routes such as medicine, who require an awareness of medical ethics, issues of life and death, and any profession which requires logical thinking and decision making.

What will I study?

- Two Philosophy modules and two Ethics modules. One is covered in year 10, the other in year 11.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- Outside speakers visit, to share different perspectives on issues. Revision classes are held prior to exams to help build confidence with exam technique.

What's on the website?

- Further information on the content of the course.
- An interview with a current RS: Philosophy & Ethics student.

TRAVEL AND TOURISM BTEC

Why take Travel and Tourism?

- Travel and Tourism is a fun and dynamic industry that is constantly changing.
- You will learn about different destinations, and how to access resources about them. You will learn about the importance of the customer experience and the importance of providing excellent customer service. You will also learn about the history of travel and tourism in the UK.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In most lessons you will work using laptop computers, as well as a variety of other resources including travel brochures, atlases and text books.
- You will work from dedicated student booklets and complete your assignments in lesson time.

What will I study?

- Three compulsory units across two years.
- Three additional units.
- Please see the website for more details of these units.

What does Travel and Tourism BTEC lead to?

- The BTEC will give you the skills needed to enter into any further qualifications in the industry, for example further BTEC studies at college or an Apprenticeship as a retail travel consultant, a resort representative, call centre team member, business travel assistant or an airport information assistant and many other careers in both travel and tourism sectors.
- You can use further qualifications to build up to a university degree in travel and tourism operations management.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- In Year 11 you will go to Cadbury World investigating customer service provision there.

What's on the website?

- A case study of a current Year 10 student, and what they think about the course.
- More information about studying Travel and Tourism BTEC and what it can lead to.

WORK SKILLS BTEC

Why Choose BTEC Work Skills?

- The Work Skills certificate is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn many valuable skills that can be transferred from the workplace to everyday life.
- The skills developed range from personal life skills to the skills needed to run a business.



What is a typical lesson like?

- The Work Skills certificate offers varied styles of learning. Some tasks involve research using the internet and the school library. All tasks will be carried out in groups or individually.
- Unit 3 (Managing your own money) Task 1, is a typical activity. It involves you creating a budget, by researching the costs of living away from home and calculating income and expenditure.

What does a BTEC in Work Skills lead to?

- The certificate is equivalent to a GCSE at either B-C or D-G. The qualification can be used to access further education.
- The skills you have gained will be also used in your daily life and in your future workplace.
- You will be studying units that will contribute towards your understanding of how workplaces operate as well as how they are kept safe.

What will I study?

- To achieve the Work Skills certificate, you will work through a total of 13 units. The units cover essential work and life skills such as Managing your own money, Interview Skills and Working in a Team.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- There will be opportunity to take part in an enterprise activity, which will see you, as a part of a group setting up and running a business. There may also be short field trips out to visit work places.

Important information

- This course is by invitation only

ICT OCR NATIONALS

Why take ICT?

Take ICT if:

- You want to gain skills in using software programs.
- You are interested in working in the ICT sector.
- You want to know how to make websites.
- You like gaining skills and then applying them in a creative way.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In a typical ICT lesson you will be shown a variety of new skills which you will apply to a specific task, in order to produce a document.
- Checklists are given so that you know what you need to create.
- We encourage you to be independent learners.

What will I study?

- In Year 10, you will learn how to make a website using HTML code and Dreamweaver. You will then design and create a spreadsheet for a business purpose.
- In Year 11 you will be working on a Desktop Publishing project.

What does ICT lead to?

- Many of our ICT students go on to study Computer Science or Applied ICT courses.
- ICT is becoming a necessary part of working life and most jobs will require some use and understanding of how to use basic programs.
- A qualification in ICT can lead to a variety of ICT specific jobs, such as software developer, website creator, programmer, technical supporter, games designer, telesales or ICT teacher!

How is the curriculum enriched?

- There is the opportunity to opt into completing additional units through after school sessions, to top your course up to a greater qualification.

What's on the website?

- There are tasks from the lessons, links to useful sites and tutorials on software that is taught in the additional units.

FRENCH GCSE

Why take French?

Take French if:

- You want to appreciate and understand an important foreign culture.
- You want to give an international dimension to your studies.
- You want to express yourself independently.
- You want to broaden your opportunities in an increasingly competitive world.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In French, we like to make lessons interactive. We keep you engaged and encourage you to take part and try out saying new things. There is an expectation that you will work hard and contribute to lessons. You will be expected to work well with a partner, in groups or independently.

What will I study?

- In Year 10: Sports, Films, Technology, Fashion and Travel.
- In Year 11: Education, Work & Employment and the Environment.

What does French GCSE lead to?

- Some of our students go on to study Languages at A level, but French is also useful when combined with other qualifications, such as those in business, tourism, engineering or law.
- French teaches transferable communication skills which employers in the UK are really looking for.
- Having a language at GCSE shows that you are hard working, committed and a people person.
- People who have studied a language don't just become teachers. Many work in business and finance, travel and tourism.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- We have regular access to our native speaking French language assistant.

What's on the website?

- On our website you can see a selection of our resources, links to useful websites and a case study of some of our current students.

SPANISH GCSE

Why take Spanish?

- To learn to speak, read and write the language.
- To find out about Spain's and Latin America's varied and enchanting culture.
- To broaden your opportunities in an increasingly competitive international environment by learning to communicate effectively in the third most widely spoken language in the world.



What is a typical lesson like?

- In a typical languages' lesson, you will build upon what you already know.
- Every lesson will be different and challenging and you will be expected to be active and involved.
- You will have a core course-book, but will also use reading and listening materials to improve your fluency and ability to communicate in Spanish.

What does Spanish GCSE lead to?

- To you being more competitive in the international job market; there are always jobs in business, finance, banking, media, law, and engineering and other sectors which prefer candidates with some Spanish.
- To you enjoying your holidays in Spain and Latin America more.
- A good GCSE grade is needed to move onto AS and A level in Spanish but if you can also combine it with other courses later on.

What will I study in Spanish?

- In year 10 we study the topics of Personal Information, Media and Culture, Sports and Leisure as well as Travel and Tourism
- In year 11 we study Education, Work and Employment, Future Plans, Healthy Life Styles and The Problems Facing Our Planet.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- There is a well established Spanish Exchange with the School Virgen de la Calle in Palencia Spain.

What's on the website?

- On our website you can see a selection of our resources, links to useful websites

PE GCSE

Take G.C.S.E. Physical Education...

- If you have a keen interest in sport and recreation and always look forward to your P.E lessons.
- If you want to know more about the benefits of sport and exercise and maintaining a healthy lifestyle.
- If you want to follow a course that develops knowledge and understanding through both practical and theoretical involvement.
- If you want the opportunity to improve your own performance as a participant, official, coach, sports leader.



What does GCSE P.E. lead to?

- Lots of our students go on to study 'A' level Physical Education or vocational Sports courses, and from there many progress to studying related degree courses at University.
- The course develops transferable skills and that employers look for. It can lead to a variety of employment opportunities such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating and the fitness industry, teaching.

What is a typical lesson like?

- Some lessons are classroom based, involving discussion and small group and whole class activities.
- Some lessons involve applying theory work to a practical environment, for example studying the effects of different types of training on the body systems.
- Some lessons are practical. Students work in the sports hall, the gym, the Bodytone fitness suite, on the field or on the astroturf. They develop skills and understanding in a variety of activities.

What will I study

- The effects of exercise and how training can improve performance.
- Identifying ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle.
- How 'sport for all' can benefit the whole of society.
- How to improve practical performance in a variety of roles.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- There are many opportunities to participate outside lessons as an individual or in a team. These can be as a player/performer, coach, sports leader, official.
- Trips are arranged to watch matches and performances by top teams and performers.

SPORT BTEC

Why take BTEC Sport?

- The Sport and Leisure industry is a fun and dynamic industry that is innovative and constantly expanding.
- You will learn about fitness training and testing and their effect on sports performance. You will design training programmes for yourself and others and look at the psychology behind elite athletes. You will analyse sports performers and develop your own skills in some sports.
- If you have a real interest in sport and are keen to learn more about it and possibly have a career in it, then this course is for you.



What is a typical lesson like?

- There is no typical lesson in BTEC Sport as it is delivered using numerous means. We could be in a classroom using the computers, in the fitness suite using the machines or in the gym doing some training. We could also be doing some technical work on a specific sport.

What will I study?

- Four units across two years: Fitness Testing and Training, Practical Sport, Psychology for Sports Performance and development of personal fitness.

What does BTEC Sport lead to?

- The BTEC will give you the skills necessary to enter into any further qualifications in the industry, for example further BTEC studies at college or a job where you can train to become a fitness instructor or other employment opportunities in this field. You can use further qualifications to build up to a university degree in Sport or simply use the credits to progress your studies further at Sixth Form. The BTEC Sport qualification is a good link to Advanced level PE as well as the diploma in Sport.

How is the curriculum enriched?

- Across the two years you will meet the performance analyst of Leicester City Football Club to discuss the psychological factors that affect top class sports people as well as the fitness training they undertake, as well as looking at data top class sports performers need to analyse their performance. You will have talks from physiotherapists and fitness trainers and a meeting with a range of sports industry representatives and performers.

What's on the website?

- An article from a current student discussing their views about BTEC sport.
- An article from an ex student explaining where BTEC sport can take you.