

# Options Choices 2019-2022



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# Welcome to Wixams Academy

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to welcome you to our OPTIONS booklet and look forward to working with you to deliver the most stimulating and successful Key Stage Four (KS4) education for your child.

We are proud to be able to offer a wide range of GCSE and BTEC subjects and in this booklet you will read detailed explanations for each subject in our KS4 curriculum, including the 'Option Subjects' from which your child can make four choices.



We begin all of our examination courses in Year 9 which means there is plenty of time over the three years of KS4 to explore content in depth and fully prepare your child for final exams. The three year curriculum also allows us to offer unique opportunities to explore additional qualifications and awards, such as Duke of Edinburgh, Sports Leaders; Primary mentoring; Home Language GCSE; Extended Project and Arts Award. This is a real strength of our curriculum offer and at Wixams we firmly believe that our students should leave us not only with excellent exam results, but also with the skills and qualities which will allow them to live rich, happy and meaningful lives.

Our Assistant Principal, Lindsey Pearson, oversees the Curriculum and Options process and will work closely with your child's tutor and specialists to ensure the most suitable curriculum options have been chosen.

All students will study the core subjects of English Language and Literature, Maths, Science and Physical Education. Elements of Religious, Social and Citizenship education will also be taught to all students. As mentioned above, students will also choose from a range of special enrichment subjects, qualifications and awards delivered as discrete lessons each week. To further enhance your child's experience at Wixams Academy, our highly popular and extensive 'wrap-around' extracurricular club timetable will also continue.

Our curriculum offers the breadth and flexibility to ensure a suitable career pathway for each and every student. Numerous new pathways open up through our wide range of subjects and opportunities. Your job and ours, is to help your child make the right choices to reach their highest potential and develop those skills so necessary for success in 21st century society.

The next page features a list of important dates, so please keep this booklet safe over the coming weeks. There are opportunities to meet with Academy staff at the **Options Afternoon and Evening on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019** and I look forward to seeing you there.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Spyropoulos'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Paul Spyropoulos  
Principal

# Key Dates for Options Choices

Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> Friday - 18 <sup>th</sup> January 2019	Year 8 Options Assemblies during school time
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2019	Year 8 Options Afternoon (4.00-5.30pm) OR Year 8 Options Evening (6.30-8.00pm)
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> February 2019	Deadline for submission of final Options Choices Form
April 2019	Confirmation of student options

## **Year 8 Options Afternoon OR Evening Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2019, 4.00-5.30pm OR 6.30-8.00pm, Wixams Academy**

Wixams Academy staff will be available to answer questions about what their subject offers and how it is taught. An introductory talk by Mr Spyropoulos will take place in the Assembly Hall at 4.00pm and 6.30pm (please indicate which session you will be attending by completing and returning the reply slip attached to the letter of 8<sup>th</sup> January). This is an opportunity for parents/carers and students to find out more about subjects that are of interest, and to narrow down their decisions on which subjects to choose.

## **Post 16 Routes**

### **Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019 3.45-4.15pm, Wixams Academy Apprenticeship talk – Peter Rayner (SEMLEP)**

Peter Rayner from SEMLEP will be visiting the Academy to talk to the Year 8 students about Apprenticeship Routes post GCSE in order to encourage students to consider how their GCSE options might affect their future careers. Although aimed at the students, parents/carers are more than welcome to attend this session- please contact the Academy to confirm your place.

## **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2019 - during the Academy day (students only)**

Staff at the Academy will talk to the students about the different routes that they have taken in their careers, starting with GCSE option choices and leading through KS5, post compulsory education and into the world of work.

# The Key Stage 4 (KS4) Curriculum

## The principles of our curriculum:

8 periods per fortnight	8 periods per fortnight	8 periods per fortnight	5 periods	5 periods	5 periods	5 periods	2 periods	2 periods	2 periods
English Language and English Literature	Mathematics	Double and Triple Science	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D	Core PE	Elements of RSC	Enrichment

- All students will have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- All students study the core subjects: English (two GCSEs), Mathematics (one GCSE), Science (up to three GCSEs).
- All students also take part in other activities: Core PE, RSC and enrichment.

**British Values:** Our curriculum supports life in modern Britain and is taught through the four values of Democracy, Individual Liberty, Mutual respect and tolerance and the Rule of law. Students learn about the significance of each of value and their role in ensuring a respectful and free society. These values are embedded across all subjects and also form a component of the RSC curriculum.

Everyone has a range of courses to choose from for their KS4 Curriculum. For many students this will mean studying four further GCSE subjects, whilst for others the right decision will mean choosing BTECs (vocational qualifications) as well as GCSEs. For some students we may recommend that they choose fewer GCSE/BTEC options and, where appropriate, we will provide an individual alternative curriculum based on key skills.

## How will we help you decide?

We have a rigorous options process to support your child. Our careers programme has been ongoing since Year 7. We have had introductory talks already on option topics and have an Options Afternoon/Evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Before students' options are finally submitted, they will have a group careers session and the option of specialist careers advice.

## Key terms:

### English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

EBacc is a performance measure, not a qualification. The measure shows where pupils have secured a GCSE grade 4 or above across a core of academic subjects at KS4: English, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography and a language.

EBacc is not compulsory at Wixams Academy and we appreciate that in many cases it is not appropriate. **You do not need to have** studied all of these to go to university, but having your GCSE mix steered towards English Baccalaureate subjects will help keep your options open. With the exception of English and Maths, and in a few cases a Modern Foreign Language, most Russell Group universities have no universal entry requirements in terms of specific GCSE subjects. Subject choice is ultimately much more important at the post-16 or A-level stage

**Progress 8** captures the progress a pupil makes from the end of primary school (KS2) to the end of KS4. Progress 8 is a type of value-added measure. It will show how students have performed, and the average of all students' progress will create the school's result. This result will be published by all schools in a standard format. Our options process has been designed to steer students to the most appropriate choices within the compulsory framework of Progress 8.

Qualifications can come in different levels:

Level 1 qualifications include GCSE grades 1-3, BTEC Level 1

Level 2 qualifications include GCSE grades 4-9, BTEC Level 2

Level 3 qualifications include A Levels and BTEC Level 3

There are also other awards and certificates where the equivalent level will be specified, eg Number and Measure Level 1, Number and Measure Level 2.

# Post-16 Considerations

At this early stage, we recommend students maintain a breadth of study and focus on subjects they enjoy and are good at. However, if students *do* have a clear idea of what they would like to study in the sixth form or beyond, please ensure you speak to the relevant staff during our Options Afternoon & Evening on 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

There are also some very useful websites to aid your careers research:

- [www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com)
- <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>
- [www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk)
- [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk)
- <https://www.careersadviceforparents.org/>

Finally, every student will get the opportunity to have a one-to-one careers interview with an independent careers adviser over the next two years.

# The range of Level 2 courses offered at Key Stage 4

At Wixams Academy, we aim to personalise our curriculum to allow all our students to reach their full potential. We therefore offer different types of qualifications to suit different preferences, strengths or styles of learning.

## GCSE

By the time our students sit their GCSEs in 2022 all subjects will feature the increased demands of the new specification. Key features of the new GCSEs are:

- Graded on a scale 1-9 (9 being the highest)
- Tiers (where pupils sit foundation or higher exams) will only be available for Mathematics, Science and Modern Foreign Languages
- All courses have fully linear structure, i.e. no modules, no coursework, no controlled assessments
- Exams are the default method of assessment, 'except where they cannot provide valid assessment of the skills required'. For example, in Science there will be no separate grade for practicals, but questions related to practicals will account for 15% of the total marks in the final exams. In GCSE PE, practical performance is worth 40% of the marks through teacher assessment. In Geography one out of the three papers is a practical fieldwork exam
- Increased extended writing with fewer bite sized questions in examinations
- Focus on a knowledge-based curriculum.

## L2 Vocational courses (eg BTECs and CIDAs)

The GCSE and the BTEC/CIDA are both academic qualifications that are awarded at the Academy and nationally. They are equivalent Level 2 qualifications. The main difference is that BTEC is awarded for vocational subjects, and the GCSE is awarded for a large number of other subjects. The CIDA is a vocational course in Digital Applications. A BTEC/CIDA may involve more coursework and practical work. BTEC/CIDA are graded differently to GCSE using Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\*.

## Alternative pathways

At Wixams Academy, we appreciate that for some students completing nine Level 2 courses may not be appropriate. For these students we will offer alternative pathways to support their learning. These pathways will be offered by invitation only. Following discussions with the student and parent/carer, bespoke options will be created based on awards, certificates, support studies, work experience and other activities, as appropriate.

# Core Subjects

English Language and Literature

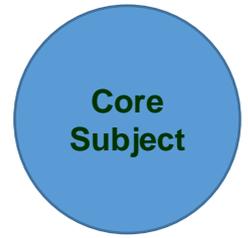
Mathematics

Science

Physical Education

Religious, Social and Citizenship Education

# English Language GCSE



## Course information

All students will study two separate courses and be awarded two separate GCSEs in English. The first is English Language. In this course, students will read both fiction and non-fiction texts/extracts. We will explore the way that writer's use language for effect and how they structure texts for impact. We will also consider how writers express viewpoints and perspectives. In addition, students will develop a range of creative writing skills and will write in both narrative and non-fiction styles.

## How will I be assessed?

100% exam

There will be two separate exam papers for this course:

**Language Paper 1** - Fiction Texts and Descriptive Writing

**Language Paper 2** - Non-Fiction Texts and Non-Fiction Writing (Viewpoints)

Both exam papers contain unseen texts to read, questions to answer and a creative writing task.

Spoken Language Assessment- Each student will give to their class. It does not count as part of the final GCSE English Language grade. It is marked separately and reported with the final results.

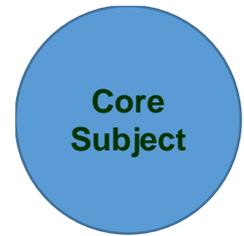
## Want to know more?

Mrs Alexa Hill, Teacher of English: [ahill@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:ahill@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

Miss Melissa Perry, Teacher of English:

[mperry@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:mperry@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# English Literature GCSE



## Course information

This is the second English GCSE that students will study. During this course, students will study texts from a range of time periods. All students will study a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel, a Shakespeare play, a collection of poetry and a modern texts. Students will explore the way that writers use language and structure for effect, writer's opinions and motivations, ways that texts link to a time period, issues presented in texts and opinions of characters.

- 19<sup>th</sup> Century novel: A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens
- Poetry: AQA Poetry Anthology
- Shakespeare text: Macbeth
- Modern text: Blood Brothers

## How will I be assessed?

100% exam

There will be two separate exam papers for this course:

**Language Paper 1**- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Novel and Shakespeare Play

**Language Paper 2**- Poetry and Modern Text

The exam papers will contain some extract analysis questions and some open questions where students will need to use their knowledge of whole texts to answer.

## Want to know more?

Mrs Alexa Hill, Techer of English:

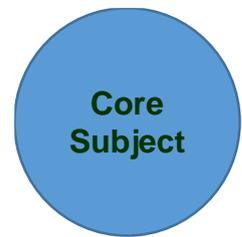
[ahill@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:ahill@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

Miss Melissa Perry, Teacher of English:

[mperry@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:mperry@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Mathematics

## GCSE



### Course information

The GCSE course is designed to promote progress and reward achievement for students of all abilities. Topics are taught under the headings of:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and proportion
- Geometry and measures
- Probability
- Statistics

It is still important for students to be able to perform mathematical processes quickly and confidently. But GCSE studies will put far greater emphasis on using those fundamental skills in problem solving, using mathematics in context, and communicating clearly and precisely. The GCSE Mathematics course is essential preparation for all lines of employment and further study. Success in mathematics, at GCSE level and beyond, gives students far greater life choices and prepares them for complex and technical careers.

### How will I be assessed?

Internal assessments will continue to happen on a termly basis to check that students are making good progress. These will be supplemented and supported by an exam in an Edexcel Award each year. These qualifications stand separate from the GCSE course, but cover the same topics. By taking these additional exams, students can gain additional qualifications in Mathematics, as well as giving students plenty of real practice in taking external examinations. Final GCSE assessment will comprise of one non-calculator exam and two calculator exams at the end of Year 11, all lasting 1 hour 30 minutes.

### Want to know more?

Mrs J Hepburn, Director of Assessment  
[jhepburn@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:jhepburn@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

## Course information

Science encourages us to ask questions about the world around us. The study of science improves our ability to conduct enquiry processes, to problem solve effectively and even to debate confidently, as well as helping to develop numeracy and literacy. GCSE Science has a significant practical element and students will complete a number of required practical activities throughout the course.

There are two pathways for this subject, and students may be encouraged to pursue a particular option dependent on their KS3 assessment data, teacher recommendation and personal preference. All students will be taught the same content initially, with a final decision being made at the end of year nine. The options are outlined below:

### **GCSE Combined Science (two GCSE qualifications)**

This course is divided equally between Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It teaches students how scientific information is obtained, how they can determine its reliability, what its limitations are, and how this information is used by society to make important decisions. It also teaches how human behaviours can impact the planet, and the importance of using resources responsibly.

### **GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics – also referred to as GCSE Separate Sciences (three GCSE qualifications)**

A strong work ethic and a real interest in the subject are essential for this course, as a wider range of content must be delivered in comparison to the GCSE Combined Science option. This option will provide a good foundation for further scientific study beyond GCSE level, or for those who have demonstrated high ability in the subject throughout KS3.

## How will I be assessed?

Students have followed an AQA endorsed scheme of work throughout KS3, and it is expected that the AQA examination board will be used at GCSE level. However, this will be confirmed at a later date. Both qualifications are linear, which means that all examinations are sat at the end of the course in year eleven. There is no coursework element.

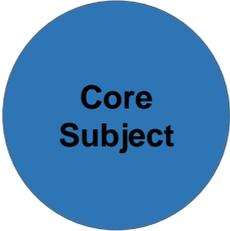
Students who follow the **GCSE Combined Science** course will sit six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. Each of the papers will be worth 70 marks and will be completed during a 1 hour 15 minute examination. Marks will be available for answering a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer, and open response questions.

Students who study the **GCSE Separate Sciences** will also sit six papers as detailed above, equivalent to two per GCSE. However, each of the papers will be worth 100 marks (or 50% of each GCSE) and will be completed as a 1 hour 45 minute examination.

## Want to know more?

Miss Hannah Taylor, Teacher of Science:  
[htaylor@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:htaylor@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Physical Education



Core  
Subject

## Course information

Core PE is taught to every student and is a non-qualification course which aims to stimulate the mind and body through sport. Students will be participating in a variety of sports to improve them physically as well as gaining skills such as teamwork, organisation and leadership.

Sports will include:

- Invasion games
- Net/wall sports
- Striking and fielding
- Athletics/Working at maximum intensities
- Accurate replication

Lessons aim to give students enjoyment in sport which will promote a healthy, active lifestyle and to enhance the likelihood of continued participation in sport throughout their lives.

## How will I be assessed?

There are no formal assessments/qualification in Core PE. However, students will be internally assessed based on which sport they are doing. They will be given a grade based on what the GCSE PE grades for practicals would look like.

## Where can it lead?

Students will also be given opportunities to develop leadership skills which could allow them to complete sports leadership courses which can give students a qualification.

## Want to know more?

Mr Dean Dummett, Teacher of Physical Education:  
[ddummett@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:ddummett@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Your Option Choices

Art and Design – Fine Art	French
Art and Design - Textiles	Geography
Business Award	Health and Social Care
Business Studies	History
Computer Science	Hospitality and Catering
Dance	Media Studies
Design and Technology – Product Design	Music
Digital Applications	Physical Education
Drama	Religious Studies
Food Preparation and Nutrition	Spanish

# Art and Design – Fine Art GCSE



**Course information**

Students develop a broad range of skills, which fundamentally sustain a competency in drawing and painting. A foundation of skills is taught in Year 9, which evolve into individual projects in Years 10 and 11. Students are able to develop creative and individual outcomes. The work produced incorporates a critical content which references artists,' approaches, materials, mediums and techniques.

Students will have the opportunity to explore drawing, painting, mixed media, three dimensional form and printmaking.

**How will I be assessed?**

Art and Design – Fine Art is externally moderated and is weighted:  
60% Coursework (developed across the 3 years)  
40% Exam (a 10 hour practical in Year 11)

**Where will it lead?**

GCSE Art & Design can lead to further studies at A level and beyond. Working towards employment in the art industry. This could include careers in advertising, design, costume, fashion, theatre and TV design, architecture, publishing, illustration, interior design, fine artist, art therapy, the media and many others. Whichever path is chosen, the study of art and design can help develop transferable skills into any career or job and provides a framework for a life-long appreciation of the arts and the aesthetic world we live in.

**Want to know more?**

Ms Angela Smith, Teacher of Art and Design Technology:  
[asmith@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:asmith@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Art and Design – Textiles

## GCSE



Option  
Subject

### Course information

Textile design is the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles.

There are a substantial number of practical activities exploring traditional techniques and cultural influences and the use of new technologies to develop your textile design knowledge, understanding and skills

You will study elements of fashion and costume design, construction, printed and dyed textiles, stitching and embellishing, soft furnishings and digital textiles.

Other skills in research, annotation and explanation, product testing and evaluation will also be developed.

### How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – 60% Coursework,  
Component 2 – 40%, 10 hour practical exam

### Where will it lead?

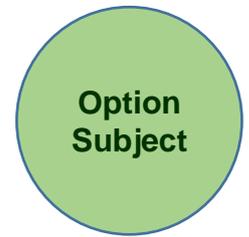
This course prepares students for 'A' level Textiles or level 3 BTEC Fashion and Textiles. After 'A' levels there are Higher Education courses in Fashion buying, Fashion Design, Textile Technology, Interior Design and Fashion Marketing. These can lead to careers such as a fashion designer, pattern designer, garment/product developer, sample machinist, fashion buyer, and retail visual merchandiser.

### Want to know more?

Mrs K Kettlewell  
[kkettlewell@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:kkettlewell@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Business Award

## BTEC – Level 2



**Course information**

BTECs are vocational qualifications, where learners develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. The core units cover the essential knowledge and skills required in the business sector. The optional specialist units, cover branding and promotion, customer service, sales, retail business, recruitment and career development, and business support.

**How will I be assessed?**

There is one exam based core unit and three internally assessed tasks, two from the optional units.

**Where can it lead?**

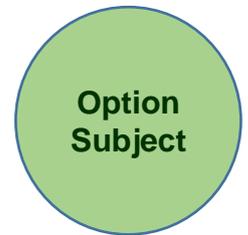
Business Award could provide a starting point into employment in many of the diverse areas of business, including roles in specialist areas such as marketing, finance, customer service or human resources in large businesses, or a more generic role in a small, local business.

**Want to know more?**

This course will be taught by a new specialist teacher from September 2019. Until then, please contact Mr Spyropoulos [pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk) for more details.

# Business Studies

## GCSE



### **Course information**

As well as the core issues, Business helps to develop many important skills, such as numeracy, literacy, ICT, problem solving, information collecting, as well as analytical, evaluative and social skills. Students partake in a considerable amount of group study, practical activities and project work. Students are encouraged to learn by using local and national business, the media, Internet, their friends and family.

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

Assessment is via two 1 hour 30 minute exams in Year 11.

Exam 1: Investigating small business

Exam 2: Building a business

### **Where can it lead?**

A qualification in Business Studies can lead to a career in accounting, advertising, banking, retail, management consulting, marketing, research, human resources, a small business, or self-employment as an entrepreneur.

### **Want to know more?**

This course will be taught by a new specialist teacher from September 2019. Until then, please contact Mr Spyropoulos [pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk) for more details.

# Computer Science

## GCSE



**Course information**

Computer Science is an engaging and practical subject, which encourages creativity and problem solving. It encourages students to develop their understanding and application of the core concepts in computer science. Students also analyse problems in computational terms and devise creative solutions by designing, writing, testing and evaluating programs.

**How will I be assessed?**

Students take two 1.5 hour exams at the end of Year 11

**Where can it lead?**

Students choosing Computer Science GCSE will be well-prepared to take on the challenges of the modern world in which the need for problem-solvers able to meet these challenges head-on is paramount.

Careers include: Computer Systems Analyst; Computer Network Architect; Web Developer; Software Developer.

**Want to know more?**

This course will be taught by a new specialist teacher from September 2019. Until then, please contact Mr Spyropoulos: [pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk) for more details.

# Dance GCSE



Option  
Subject

## Course information

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject, which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. Students will explore performance and choreography in a variety of styles and will perform as both a soloist and as part of a group. Six professional dance works are studied in order to develop students critical appreciation of professional works, their knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills and their critical appreciation of own their work.

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Performance and choreography – practical 60%  
Component 2: Dance appreciation – written paper 40%

## Where can it lead?

GCSE Dance can lead to level 3 subjects (A levels) in Dance/Performing Arts or Level 3 BTEC subjects such as Performing Arts. It can lead to a Degree or career within the Arts and can support in developing confidence and creativity.

## Want to know more?

Mrs Lindsey Pearson, Assistant Principal:  
[lpearson@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:lpearson@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Design and Technology – Product Design GCSE



**Course information**

Students follow GCSE syllabus as set out by the examination framework.

This course teaches students about a range of materials, manufacturing processes, techniques and technologies, and how to use them appropriately to design and make.

A foundation of skills is taught in year 9. This supports students' progress in graphical drawing, designing, making, presentation, practical and organisational skills using a range of modelling and making materials. Year 10 is dedicated to developing these skills to the highest standards possible, in preparation for the coursework and exam in Year 11.

**How will I be assessed?**

The course consists of:  
50% coursework  
50% examination

**Where can it lead?**

GCSE Design Technology can lead to further studies at A level and beyond. Working towards employment in the design and technology industry. This could include a career as an architect, product designer, fashion designer, computer animator, games designer, graphic designer, carpentry/plumbing, engineering/mechanic.

**Want to know more?**

Ms Angela Smith, Teacher of Art and Design Technology:  
[asmith@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:asmith@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Digital Applications

## Edexcel CiDA – Level 2



**Course information**

Digital Applications is a vocational qualification for creative learners with a passion for digital content. Tailor-made to meet the needs of today's creative industries, the qualification covers imaging, creative multimedia, website development and computer game production

**How will I be assessed?**

Assessment is 50% Examination and 50% based on a Summative Project. The Summative Project is the means by which you will bring together the knowledge, skills and understanding you have acquired throughout the unit into a project piece of work.

**Where can it lead?**

After completing a CiDA qualification, you will have the foundation of knowledge and skills you need to progress to further study of computing and IT-related courses at A-level and level 3. Careers include: App design; game design; image design; website design.

**Want to know more?**

This course will be taught by a new specialist teacher from September 2019. Until then, please contact Mr Spyropoulos: [pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk) for more details.

# Drama GCSE



Option  
Subject

## Course information

Students participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a specific genre. They also study two extracts from the same performance text and participate in one performance, using sections of text from both extracts. Students will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama. They will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Devising Theatre/Drama (Practical)– 40%  
Component 2: Performing from a Text (Practical) – 20%  
Component 3: Interpreting Theatre (Written examination) – 40%

## Where can it lead?

GCSE Drama can lead to level 3 subjects (A levels) in Drama/Performing Arts/Theatre Studies or Level 3 BTEC subjects such as Performing Arts. It can lead to a Degree or career within the Arts and can support in developing confidence and creativity.

## Want to know more?

Mrs Lindsey Pearson, Assistant Principal:  
[lpearson@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:lpearson@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE



Option  
Subject

## **Course information**

This exciting GCSE equips you with an array of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. It will inspire and motivate you, opening your eyes to a world of career opportunities and giving you the confidence to cook with ingredients from across the globe.

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

Non-exam assessment accounts for 50% of the final grade.

Task 1: Food Investigation assesses students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.

Task 2: Food Preparation assesses students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, and presentation of food.

Written Examination (1 hour 45 minutes) accounts for 50% of final grade (undertaken at the end of Year 11)

## **Where can it lead?**

Food technology careers include Food Technologist, manufacturing; restaurant business; Chef; Food Scientist; Nutritionist.

## **Want to know more?**

This course will be taught by a new specialist teacher from September 2019. Until then, please contact Mr Spyropoulos: [pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk) for more details.

# French GCSE



Option  
Subject

## Course information

Students will study three themes in French:

Theme 1 – Identity and Culture

- Myself, family and friends
- Free time
- Technology

Theme 2 – Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest.

Home town and local area

- Social issues
- Global issues
- Travel and tourism

Theme 3 – Current and Future Study and Employment

- My studies
- Life at school
- Education post-16

Students will learn key grammar points, including communication using a range of sentence structures and tenses.

## How will I be assessed?

Four exams:

Speaking (25%) one-to-one during Spring term 2022

Reading (25%)

Writing (25%)

Listening (25%)

## Want to know more?

Mrs R Connelly, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages:  
[rconnelly@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:rconnelly@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

### Course information

#### Global Geographical Issues (Unit 1)

- Hazardous Earth
- Development Dilemmas
- Challenges of an urbanising world

#### UK Geographical Issues (Unit 2)

- The UK's evolving physical landscape
- The UK's evolving human landscape including the study of a major UK city
- Geographical Investigations including one physical fieldwork (rivers) and one human fieldwork investigation (urban)

#### People & Environmental Issues – Making Geographical Decisions (Unit 3)

- People & the Biosphere
- Forests Under Threat
- Consuming Energy Resources

Students will develop geographical skills throughout the course including map interpretation, graph interpretation, problem solving, data handling and mathematical and statistical skills. Students will take part in a variety of decision making exercises, role plays and simulations, utilising a variety of teaching and learning styles. Fieldwork is an important part of the course and will involve two local day trips.

### How will I be assessed?

3 exams:

Unit 1 Global Geographical Issues (37.5%),

Unit 2 UK Geographical Issues (37.5%),

Unit 3 People & Environment Issues - Making Geographical Decisions (25%).

All 3 exams will include multiple choice questions, short open, open response, calculations and 8 mark extended writing questions. In addition in unit 3, the 'Making Geographical Decisions' section requires students to apply their knowledge to an unseen situation and choose one of three decisions assessed through a 12 mark extended writing question.

### Where can it lead?

Level 3 courses – A Levels in Geography, World Development, Environmental studies or Geology. Vocational courses in in Leisure/Travel, Countryside or Town planning/management and Forestry management. Employment-according to the UK's Higher Education Statistics Agency (Hesa) Geography graduates are among the least likely to be unemployed. Employers stating that geography is a perfect mix of all skills in particular problem-solving and critical thinking, that are very transferable, ie. useful for a whole range of jobs.

### Want to know more?

Ms Kelly Miles, Teacher of Geography: [kmiles@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:kmiles@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Health and Social Care

## CNAT – Level 2



<b>Course information</b>	Health and Social Care introduces students to the specialist knowledge and skills needed to work in various care settings. Underpinning the qualification is a focus on core values and communicating with individuals so as to maintain their dignity and sense of being valued.
<b>How will I be assessed?</b>	Assessment is via one 1 hour exams in Year 11 (25%) and three Internal Assessment tasks (75%).
<b>Where can it lead?</b>	A qualification in Health and Social Care can lead to a range of careers including: care work, personal assistant work, social work, community support and outreach work and occupational therapy.
<b>Want to know more?</b>	This course will be taught by a new specialist teacher from September 2019. Until then, please contact Mr Spyropoulos: <a href="mailto:pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk">pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk</a> for more details.

# History GCSE



Option  
Subject

## Course information

OCR GCSE History A: Explaining the Modern World

History at GCSE covers thematic, depth, and period studies. Learners will study:

- International Relations: The Changing International Order from 1918 to 2001; Germany 1925 – 1955: The People and the State
- Migration to Britain c.1000 – c.2010
- Impact of Empire on Britain 1688 – c.1730; Urban Environments Patterns of Migration.

## How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through three written exams:

- Component Group 1: Period Study with non-British Depth Study – 50% of Total GCSE; 1 hour 45 minute written paper
- Component Group 2: Thematic Study – 25% of total GCSE; 1 hour written paper
- Component Group 3: British Depth Study with a Study of the Historic Environment – 25% of total GCSE; 1 hour written paper.

## Where can it lead?

History leads to students becoming civic minded, globally aware, and socially responsible adults. Studying History at GCSE allows students to make informed decisions about local, national, and international challenges that will face them in their lifetime.

Studies can continue on to A-Level and University. Avenues for employment in education, Law, museum studies, social advocacy and many other fields.

## Want to know more?

Ms Amy Kettler, Teacher of Humanities:  
[akettler@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:akettler@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Hospitality and Catering

## Vocational



Option  
Subject

### **Course information**

This vocational course covers a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety, and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. Students will also have the opportunity to develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

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

Assessment is via one 1 hour 30 minute exam in Year 11, which can be taken 'online' or on 'paper'. (40%)

And a range of internally assessed Tasks (60%).

### **Where can it lead?**

The hospitality and catering sector includes restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars. It also includes airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues. According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector.

### **Want to know more?**

This course will be taught by a new specialist teacher from September 2019. Until then, please contact Mr Spyropoulos: [pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:pspyropoulos@wixamsacademy.co.uk) for more details.

# Media Studies

## GCSE



Option  
Subject

### Course information

Media Studies is an exciting course which explores the influence of the Media of our daily lives. Students will develop skills in creating and analyzing Media products. They will learn to analyse the use of media language and representation in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers, or print advertisements. They will study all areas of the theoretical framework and contexts of the media in relation to television and music. Students will also create an individual media production for an intended audience.

### How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Exploring the Media Written examination- 40%  
Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products Written examination – 30%  
Component 3: Creating Media Products (Portfolio) – 30%

### Where can it lead?

Media studies can lead to level 3 courses (A levels) in Media Studies as well as Level 3 BTEC courses in Media Studies. Students typically enter careers in the media, cultural and creative industries. Areas of work include television and radio, film and video, digital media, computer games, journalism, writing and publishing, PR and media practice.

### Want to know more?

Mrs Lindsey Pearson, Assistant Principal:  
[lpearson@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:lpearson@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Music GCSE



Option  
Subject

## Course information

Students will study performance skills, composition and analysis of professional works. They must perform a minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance and either solo and/or ensemble. They will learn to compose to a specific brief, and will create two compositions. Students will follow four areas of study: Musical Forms and Devices, Music for Ensemble Film Music, Popular Music and will respond to eight questions based upon them. Students will need to undertake instrument lessons (including voice) in order to be able to complete this examination.

## How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Performing – 30%  
Component 2: Composing – 30%  
Component 3: Appraising (written examination) – 40%

## Where can it lead?

GCSE Music can lead to level 3 subjects (A levels) in Music, Music Technology or Level 3 BTEC subjects such as Performing Arts. It can lead to a Degree or career within the Arts and can support in developing confidence and creativity.

## Want to know more?

Mrs Lindsey Pearson, Assistant Principal:  
[lpearson@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:lpearson@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Physical Education

## GCSE



Option  
Subject

### Course information

**Component 1: Anatomy and Physiology & Physical Training**  
Students explore how parts of the human body function during physical activity and the physiological adaptations that can occur due to diet and training. They also develop skills in data analysis, and an understanding of the principles of training, why we train in different ways and how training plans can be made to optimise results.

**Component 2: Socio-cultural issues, Sports Psychology & Health, Fitness and Well-being**

Students develop their knowledge of the social-cultural and psychological influences on levels of participation in sport, and also how sport impacts on society more broadly. This includes the individual benefits to health, fitness and well-being of participating in physical activity, as well as the influences of commercialism, sponsorship and the media.

**Component 3: Practical Performance**

Students are assessed in performing three practical activities and one performance analysis task. In the practical performance, they demonstrate effective performance, the use of tactics or techniques and the ability to observe the rules and conventions under applied conditions. They are also required to demonstrate their ability to analyse and evaluate their own performance to produce an action plan for improvement.

### How will I be assessed?

60% Theory and 40% Practical as follows:

Component 1 (1 hour exam) – Physical Factors Affecting Performance = 30%

Component 2 (1 hour exam) – Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology = 30%

Component 3 (Practical Assessment of 3 sports) – at least one individual sport and one team sport. The third sport chosen can be individual or team. = 40%

### Where can it lead?

Careers in various aspects of sport including: personal trainer, teaching, coaching, journalist, commentator, sports science, nutritionist.

### Want to know more?

Mr Dean Dummett, Teacher of PE:  
[ddummett@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:ddummett@wixamsacademy.co.uk)

# Religious Studies

## GCSE

A green circle with a blue border containing the text "Option Subject" in black.

### Course information

Component one: Beliefs, teachings and practices of two from:

- Buddhism
- Christianity
- Catholic Christianity
- Hinduism
- Islam
- Judaism
- Sikhism

Component two: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes:

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

### How will I be assessed?

Exam 1: 1 hour 45 minutes. 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) 50% of GCSE  
Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks. Each religion is marked out of 48

Exam 2: 1 hour 45 minutes. 96 marks, plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG) 50% of GCSE  
Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks. Each theme is marked out of 24

### Where can it lead?

Level 3 study – A Levels in Philosophy, Ethics. Various employments.

Knowledge of other cultures and world religious beliefs can be useful in many jobs where you are working with the public or communities. These include counselling and social services, marketing, sales and advertising, catering and hospitality, leisure, sport and tourism, retail sales and customer services, education and training, medicine and nursing, and service sector roles.

### Want to know more?

Ms Kelly Miles, Subject Coordinator:  
[kmiles@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:kmiles@wixamsacademy.co.uk).

Exam board website: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/>

## Course information

Students will study three themes in Spanish:

Theme 1 – Identity and Culture

- Myself, family and friends
- Free time
- Technology

Theme 2 – Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest.

- Home town and local area
- Social issues
- Global issues
- Travel and tourism

Theme 3 – Current and Future Study and Employment

- My studies
- Life at school
- Education post-16
- Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Within each of these themes, students will develop independent communication styles in both written and spoken Spanish. Each theme will allow for acquisition of new vocabulary and development of previously learnt vocabulary (from Key Stage 3). Students will also learn key grammar points, including communication using a range of sentence structures and tenses.

Some students may choose to study both French and Spanish at GCSE, especially those who enjoy languages or want to follow a linguistic route. Please note that although the themes and grammar content are very similar in both languages, the courses will be taught separately with different focuses at different points throughout the year.

## How will I be assessed?

Four exams:

Speaking (25%) one-to-one during Spring term 2022

Reading (25%)

Writing (25%)

Listening (25%)

## Want to know more?

Mrs R Connelly, Teacher of Modern Foreign Languages:  
[rconnelly@wixamsacademy.co.uk](mailto:rconnelly@wixamsacademy.co.uk)







## YEAR 8 GCSE OPTIONS FORM 2018-2021

**Student:** .....

**Form:** .....

Please select a total of 4 first choices, one from each column, picking at least one pink option (from any column). Write a number 1 next to each of your choices.

Now select a total of 4 reserve choices, one from each column, picking at least one pink option. Write a number 2 next to each of these choices. The Academy will always endeavour to give students their first choice; on the rare occasion that a student may need to study their second choice, parents and students will be fully consulted. The following subject pairings may not be selected, due to similarities between the courses: a) Food Technology and Hospitality & Catering, b) Business GCSE and Business Award, c) Art Design: Fine Art and Art Design: Textiles.

Option A	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice	Option B	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice	Option C	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice	Option D	1 <sup>st</sup> or 2 <sup>nd</sup> choice
French		Computer Science		Computer Science		History	
Geography		History		French		Business Award	
Art & Design: Fine Art		Art & Design: Fine Art		Geography		Design Technology: Product Design	
Art & Design: Textiles		Business Studies		Dance		Drama	
Design Technology: Product Design		Dance		Digital Applications		Food Preparation and Nutrition	
Health & Social Care		Digital Applications		Hospitality and Catering		Media Studies	
Spanish		Music		Physical Education		Physical Education	
						Religious Studies	

**Please hand this form back to your form tutor no later than Monday 4<sup>th</sup>**

**February 2019**

**Parent/Carer signature** .....

	GCSE
	L2 Vocational Qualification



Wixams  
Academy

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