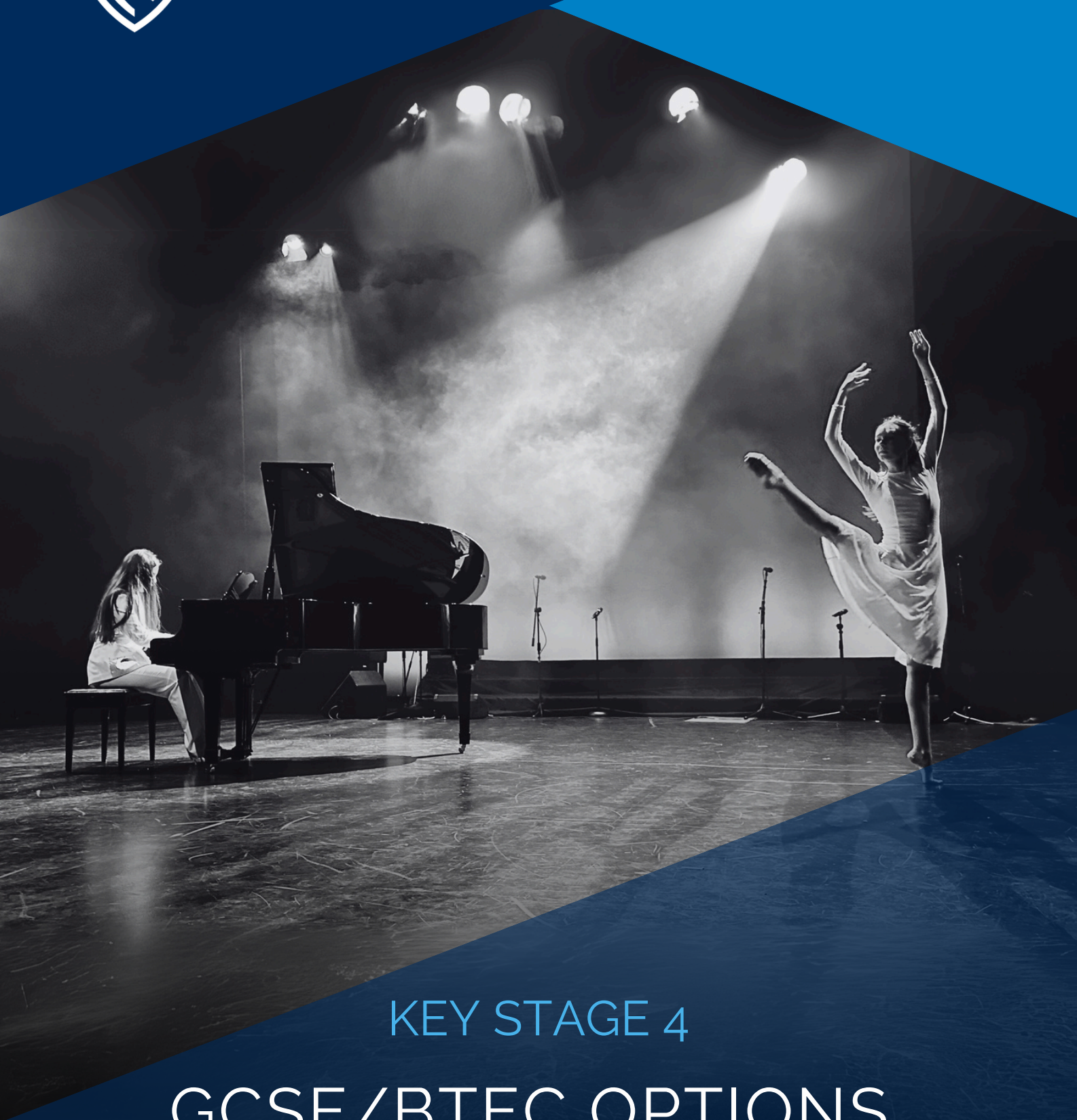
BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT



KEY STAGE 4

GCSE/BTEC OPTIONS

EXAM YEAR **2029**

Growing learners who are best for the world



Our Vision

A world class British education where everyone is valued, respected and inspired to learn

BRITISH SCHOOL
MUSCAT

Everyone Can

STUDENT DESTINATIONS



Every option can lead to somewhere amazing

Upon completion of their studies at Post 16, British School Muscat students went on to study at Universities around the world.

In a few years, you will be one of these students…but where!
EveryoneCan

STUDENT OUTCOMES

2026 RESULTS



PROGRESS: **+1.26**

Our success extends beyond grades.

Rooted in our values of Excellence, Kindness, Courage, and Innovation, we take pride in developing young people who are curious, resilient, and ready to contribute meaningfully to the world around them.

Every student's journey is defined not only by what they achieve, but by who they become along the way.

QUALIFICATIONS

BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT



2 year courses

Prepare students for employment and develop student practical skills.



Core Subjects

Core subjects are Mathematics, English, Science and Modern Foreign Languages. Students also study and engage with non examined courses in PSHE and Core PE



Specialists

Friendly supportive moderators, accessible exemplar material online, accessible platforms for registrations/grade awarding



Option choice

Students chose option subjects of study. There are 12 unique option choices available alongside core subjects

WELCOME

Welcome to Key Stage 4 at British School Muscat

Choosing your Key Stage 4 options marks an exciting stage in every student's journey - the beginning of a more personalised learning experience across Years 10 and 11. This is where interests, strengths and ambitions start to shape the future.

This booklet is designed to help students and families make informed, confident decisions about the courses ahead. Inside, you will find details about each subject, an overview of the options process and guidance on how these choices link to future studies and pathways.

While this guide offers key information, it is only one part of the process. We encourage students to discuss their choices with subject teachers, form tutors, and Key Stage leaders - to explore interests, ask questions, and seek advice.

At British School Muscat, our values of Excellence, Kindness, Courage and Innovation underpin all that we do. Making thoughtful, well-informed decisions now helps every student to enjoy Key Stage 4, challenge themselves with courage, support others with kindness, think creatively about the future, and strive for excellence in all they do.

Together, let's take this next step with curiosity, confidence and purpose.

Dan Comber
Deputy Head Teacher
comberD@britishschoolmuscat.com

Key Stage 4 Options

The British educational curricular offers students the opportunity to choose a flexible and personalised approach to their curriculum choices at Key Stage 4.

Students are given the opportunity to select 'Option subjects' to complement their **core** subjects of English, Mathematics, Science and a Modern Foreign Language.

British School Muscat offers GCSE and BTEC Level 2 qualifications for study at Key Stage 4. All are excellent options, offering a 2 year course for students aged 14 - 16 enabling them to successfully apply for Post 16 Education. The combination of GCSE Core, GCSE and BTEC Options offers students a vibrant mix of opportunities to explore a rich and contemporary curriculum.

Where can I find information?

British School Muscat provides this 'Options' Booklet for Key Stage 4 containing Option choices alongside an Options Evening event typically held in November. This event offers an opportunity to meet departments and enquire around the subject. Further to this, students can discuss option choices with their form tutors, Head of Year and Head of Department prior to making confirmed Options choices.

What next?

Parents and students will have received a letter explaining in detail the Options process and a timeline of events is found within this booklet. Please enquire with our senior office if you have not received the options information letter.

KEY STAGE 4 TO POST 16: PATHWAY

BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT

KS4 Subjects

Yr10/11

Commence in August of Year 10 and complete in the Summer of Year 11. Students make option choices in Year 9. Core subjects are Maths, English, Science and Modern Foreign Languages.

KS4 Exams

Yr10/11

Most subjects typically have a final examination at the end of Year 11. Some subjects such as IGCSE Economics may have modular exams. BTEC subjects have no exams and are coursework based.

Entrance to 6th form

Yr12/13

Students in Year 11 have the opportunity to continue studies at BSM 6th form - this is Key Stage 5. Students now specialise into subjects - there are entry criteria to be met - outlined in the Post 16 booklet.

Post 16

Yr12/13

Key Stage 5 - students typically begin with 4 subjects of study and specialise into 3 subjects with final examinations at the end of Year 13. Students are expected to attain grade D or better in their studies by the end of Year 12. Students attain A Level/ BTEC qualifications to support University applications.

OPTIONS: INFORMATION

Pathways and choices

Students can design their choices to suit their aspirations and broaden their horizons, ensuring they are best for the world. In this respect the following pathways are all viable options to be considered.

Guidance on Choosing Options

Typically at this stage it is common for students to fall into two clear categories

- Those who are unsure on what they wish to study and where they wish to take their studies
- Those who are clear on what they wish to study and why

Every student is unique and every ambition is personal to them. The advice we offer is designed to support the process of making choices for Options at Key Stage 4 which support students into future study at Post 16 and beyond.

Form tutors, teachers, heads of department and senior leaders are all on hand to help answer any questions.

Students and parents **please note**

While every effort will be made to meet students' choices, it may not be possible to provide every combination requested. We also reserve the right to not offer a course if there is insufficient demand for it.

If either of these scenarios occur, parents and students will be advised and offered appropriate advice and guidance.

When making option choices, please follow the deadlines for submission. Students who miss deadlines may not be able to receive their preferred choices.

Students will have two opportunities to decide on options choices and may change their mind at the second opportunity if their new option choices fits the constructed option blocks.

Reserve Subjects

A reserve option subject will be used if the initial option choice is unavailable. Students and parents should consider carefully the reserve option choice during the process

Head of Year & Heads of Department

Year 9 students can speak with their Head of Year for guidance around the Options process. It is the Head of department or teacher within the department who can begin to answer subject specific questions. Remember the focus is on studying what you enjoy and experiencing new fields of study which were not available at Key Stage 3.

Options Event

Held in November, students and parents can meet with departments and subjects specialists to learn more about the subject. An overview of the options process, university applications and next steps also takes place during this event.

Options Booklet

The options booklet will provide students and parents with more information around choosing options and the option courses available. Please be aware some subjects may/may not run and this will change year on year according to student demand.

Unifrog

Each student of Year 9 will have access to Unifrog, an online tool designed to assist students in researching careers and courses.

Students will be introduced to this in September and provided with associated login details at this time. Students will have PSHE lessons dedicated to learning how to navigate and use Unifrog.

Future Planning

Some students will have a clear focus on their goals and understand the Options choices they want and links to Post 16 studies.

To help all parties The Russell group of Universities have produced an interactive guide to choosing subjects for study at degree level. This can be found at www.informedchoices.ac.uk.

OPTIONS

Key Stage 4 **Option** Considerations

The following questions are always worth considering:

- Does this subject help support me and to qualify for my likely path?
- If I am not sure what I would like to do in the future, have I chosen subjects that will keep my options open?
- Am I capable of being successful in this subject?
- Am I really interested in studying this subject?

IAll students must select a reserve subject**. This will be a backup option used by British School Muscat should a chosen subject not run OR where there is a clash in option blocks OR if a chosen course is oversubscribed.**

Timeline of events

A more comprehensive timeline can be found in the letter sent to parents in October. The key highlights to be aware of include

- Options Evening: 11 November 2026
- Options Form: 12 November 2026
- Options Deadline One: 03 December 2026

- Options Deadline Two: 11 February 2027
- Options Confirmation: June 2027
- Key Stage 4 begins: August 2027
- Deadline for changes: End of September 2027

At BSM we know how important it is to talk with people to make an informed choice. With Options evening, parent engagement days and parents evenings, you can rest assured advice and support is available throughout the whole process.

If you wish to make an inquiry, please contact our Senior School Office on senioroffice@britishschoolmuscat.com for help.

We hope you find this Options booklet beneficial in making informed choices for study at Key Stage 4.

Key Stage 4

Year 10 & 11

GCSE & BTEC
Subject Information

BRITISH SCHOOL
MUSCAT

ART & DESIGN

"I enjoy the freedom you get in art. One topic could have endless possibilities in the ways you and others interpret it."



Exam Board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: up to 120 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Art & Design encourages innovative and imaginative responses from students in their interpretation of subject matter presented.

The process of studying Art is an ongoing visual enquiry that has an infinite number of creative possibilities. The Art & Design department uses a wide range of media from the traditional drawing & painting, printmaking, collage and ceramics through to photography & digital manipulation. We are looking to engender creative thinking and originality through stunning visual vocabulary. We ensure all artwork produced has a political, social, cultural or historical context.

Who is it for: Anyone who loves being Artistic: creative, imaginative, expressive, experimental and open minded. This course is for people who enjoy a range of learning styles, it is for people who celebrate their originality and express their ideas in a variety of styles and materials.

Creative Careers: fashion, graphics, architecture, make up, illustration, animation, jewellery, art therapy, photography, ceramics, furniture, special effects.

How will I be assessed?

Personal Portfolio unit 1: Completed in Year 10 this project is about our local culture. It incorporates a field trip to places of local interest and students develop skills in painting & drawing, surface texture, digital media, photography, textiles and ceramics

Personal Portfolio unit 2: Completed in term 1 of year 11, this project is based on natural forms which students investigate in a personally chosen direction, selecting media and techniques of their choice

Externally Set Assignment: The starting point comes from the exam board which students interpret individually during term 2 before the 10 hour exam (usually held in late April).

How can I support my learning

Art & Design can be found wherever you look- fashion, textiles, architecture, illustration, animation, interior design, graphics… everywhere! Draw what you see, draw from your imagination. Be inspired by artists online, in books and in galleries or museums. Follow your favourite artists or designers on social media. Download some art apps/ programmes and use them to doodle on your photos and to create new images

Be patient and enjoy the process from concept to realisation.

BUSINESS

"You don't learn to walk by following rules. You learn by doing and falling over." — Richard Branson



Exam Board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: up to 30 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Are you fascinated by the world of business and aspire to start your own one day? Do you have a curious mind and a desire to learn about how businesses are established and what makes someone a successful entrepreneur? If so, this GCSE Business course is for you.

Designed for anyone interested in understanding the business world, this course provides valuable insights whether you aim to be an employer or an employee. It's not just for aspiring entrepreneurs but for anyone looking to gain a foundational understanding of business.

In Year 10, you will participate in a business simulation where you will run your own travel agency, applying the concepts you've learned in a practical setting.

Join us on this journey to discover how businesses operate and how you can succeed in the business world. This course is your first step towards a successful career, equipping you with the knowledge and skills to excel in your future endeavours.

What will I learn?

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business

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

Theme 2: Building a Business

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

How will I be assessed?

Assessed via two 105 minute exams comprising of calculations, multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-writing questions, completed at the end of Year 11.

How can I support my learning?

- Take a proactive approach to learning. Seek support from online resources, your peers and your teachers.
- Keep notes up to date and regularly practice exam technique.
- Read around the subject to develop wider knowledge of Business in the real world.

CREATIVE MEDIA BTEC LV2

"He who controls the media controls the minds of the public"
Noam Chomsky



Exam Board: Pearson (BTEC)

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 90 minutes per fortnight

Overview

The Level 2 International BTEC in Creative Media is a vocational course, which concentrates on the creation of digital media. It is wholly practical and teaches students the creative processes involved in producing and manipulating photography, a range of print media products, moving image shooting and editing and marketing techniques.

With a studio equipped with cameras, tripods, green screens, lighting, gimbals, teleprompters, microphones, etc. the emphasis is on production and students are assessed in house; there are no examinations.

Students will use Adobe Creative Cloud applications, from Photoshop to Premiere Pro and After Effects to edit their own original content.

How will I be assessed?

All work is digitally uploaded onto the student's own website where it is assessed internally and moderated externally. Assessment consists of:

- Research and analysis skills
- Ideas generation, development and production planning
- Making the planned final product

What will I learn?

The course is broken down into key units:

Unit 1 – Research, develop and Propose

- Research a digital media product set by Pearson
- Develop an idea for a digital media product based on your research
- Propose your idea explaining both content and format

Unit 4 – Digital Video Production

- Plan, shoot, edit and publish a short film of 3-5 minutes

Unit 7 – Digital Photography

- Apply digital photography processes, skills and techniques to plan and take photographs for a digital media product.

Unit 10 – Advertising Production

- Research, plan and produce a cross platform marketing campaign for a product aimed at a global audience

How can I support my Learning?

To succeed in Creative Media students need to be willing to research thoroughly across all medias to understand how they are all inextricably linked. The department has an extensive library of specialist media books which cover every aspect in depth.

COMPUTER SCIENCE

The waste energy generated from one bitcoin transaction is equivalent to throwing away two iPhones.



Exam board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Short Research Activities

Overview

During the course students will learn how to understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science. The course encourages student to analyse problems in computational terms, through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging their own scripts in Python.

The subject encourages students to think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically. With strong ties to mathematics, students must use their skills and apply them to computer science.

The course is assessed through two papers, both worth 50%:

- Paper 1 - Written Exam (1hr 30mins)
- Paper 2 - On Screen Programming Exam (2hrs)

Students can study Computer Science and go on to a career in Engineering, Business, or any type of Science. There are also a multitude of Computing related to degrees, allowing students to focus in on a specific area of interest eg. Cyber Security, Networking or App Development

What will I learn?

By the end of Year 11 students will have an understanding of the components that make up digital systems and how they communicate with one another and with other systems, as well as an understanding of the impact digital technology has on wider society, including issues of privacy and cybersecurity.

These are taught through 6 Units:

- Topic 1: Computational thinking
- Topic 2: Data
- Topic 3: Computers
- Topic 4: Networks
- Topic 5: Issues and impact
- Topic 6: Problem solving with programming

How can I support my learning

On the Google Classroom students will find various links to supporting websites which can help support their learning, such as Craig n Dave with interactive Lessons that students can use to work independently and further their knowledge!

Each Unit of study also has a Learning Resources area which they can drop into at any time with additional activities, notes, videos and questions.

To improve their programming students may wish to access the W3Schools Python Course, which offers a strong foundation in all of the skills they will need.

PERFORMING ARTS DANCE - LV2 BTEC

"Dance has taught me the importance of discipline, whilst giving me the freedom to express myself with confidence"



Exam board: Pearson (BTEC)

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 90 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Level 2 International BTEC in Performing Arts Dance, is a vocational course that is equivalent to 2 GCSEs. The programme allows students to develop their choreographic, technical and performance ability.

Students will explore a range of dance styles and professional practitioners, gaining an appreciation of the surrounding context and artistic intention.

Within lessons, students work collaboratively with their peers to rehearse, choreograph and perform pieces for assessment, show performances and technical development.

The course is predominantly practical and explores the creative processes involved in choreographing and performing a range of solo and ensemble pieces, across a breath of dance styles.

Students are assessed in house through practical and written coursework tasks; there are no examinations

What will I learn?

Unit 1 – Intro to Performance & Production Arts.

- Learners will explore the performing arts industry, developing skills and collaborative working practices through workshops, classes and rehearsals.

Unit 2 – Performing Arts Production

- This unit has a Pearson Set Assignment. Learners must complete a Pearson Set Assignment Brief.
- Learners will take part in the planning, and preparation of a dance production in a performance role.

Unit 4 – Devising Performance Work

- Learners will work as part of a group to create, rehearse and perform a dance piece in response to a given stimulus.

Unit 6 – Community Performance

- Learners will gain an understanding of organisations and community performance projects and how they make a difference in community settings. They will plan and develop a community performance project for primary students.

Students will have the opportunity to showcase their skills in a variety of events at BSM throughout the two year course

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

"Design is not just what it looks like and feels like. Design is how it works."
Steve Jobs



Exam board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 90 minutes per fortnight

Overview

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

GCSE D&T allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

The assessment consists of the project (Non exam assessment) which makes up 50% of the marks and a 1 hour 45 minute exam paper that students will sit at the end of year 11 which makes up the other 50% of the marks.

What will I learn?

Students will complete a practice project in year 10 to further enhance their knowledge from KS3. Alongside the project they will complete 3 units of theory in year 10.

In year 11 students will work on their final project which they will choose and will be based on 1 of 3 contexts set by the examination board (Pearson Edexcel). The remaining 2 units of theory will be covered in year 11.

The 5 units of theory that students will cover are:

- New and emerging technologies
- Informing design decisions
- Energy, materials, devices and systems
- Material types
- Timber based materials

How can I support my learning

To make progress in Design & Technology, students need to be aware of the world around them and understand how products are designed and made. Students can support their learning by ensuring they stay up to date with new technologies and watch plenty of videos on how products are made. The following websites will also support you.

Technology DT Site
https://www.autodesk.com
www.youtube.com/user/camtopher

DRAMA

"One thing that I was surprised to gain from studying Drama, is the importance of empathy" - BSM Student



Exam board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 60 minutes per fortnight

Overview

The course has a 60% Practical and 40% Written weighting, with the majority of lessons focused on a practical approach to learning.

The Edexcel Drama course is an exciting, rewarding and highly creative subject to study at GCSE. It is not just for students who want to be performers. Your time studying this course will equip you for many life skills: teamwork, listening, public speaking, time management, confidence in your imagination, problem solving – and as you study your set texts or explore your devising stimuli you will encounter aspects of history, sociology, psychology.

This course offers you an excellent insight into the world of theatre and you will develop skills in performance, design, analysis and evaluation. Your confidence will grow and you will discover the ability to find solutions to a wide range of problems. It is hard work but great fun. Plus it gives you a taste of what it would be like to work at a professional level.

What will I learn?

Component 1- Devising (40%)
Students devise a piece theatre based on given stimuli, which they then will perform. They will record the process in a written coursework portfolio that records the creation of an original piece of drama. This component is internally marked and externally moderated.

Component 2- Performance from a text (20%)
Students will perform two extracts from the same set text, which can be presented as a solo, with a partner or in a group. This is externally assessed.

Component 3 - Theatre Makers in Practice (40%)
Students study one set text from the viewpoint of a director, performer and designer and review a contrasting piece of live theatre performance. All works are explored through practical and theoretical tasks culminating in a 105 minute written exam that is externally assessed.

In the first two components you do not have to act you may choose the designer route eg lighting, sound, costume and set design

How can I support my learning

It is important to see a wide range of performances, either live or online, to support your understanding of theatrical styles, genres and contexts.

All students are also invited to join BSM's Youth Theatre and gain the valuable experience of collaborative performance to larger audiences.

ECONOMICS

"The ideas of economists and political philosophers are more powerful than is commonly understood. Indeed, the world is ruled by little else." John Maynard Keynes



Exam board: Pearson (iGCSE)

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 60 minutes per fortnight

Please discuss with Mr Danion (Head of Business, Economics and Computing) the demands of this course prior to selection.

Economics iGCSE will have formal examinations at the end of Year 10 and Year 11.

This is a highly intensive academic course.

Overview

Ever wondered why prices rise? why some companies succeed while others fail? or how governments make big economic decisions? IGCSE Economics is your pathway to understanding the choices that shape our world. This course dives into the fascinating world of economics, where resources are limited, and we face trade-offs at every step decisions that force us to consider opportunity costs, or what we give up to get something else. You will explore how individuals, businesses, and countries navigate these trade-offs.

In microeconomics, you will learn about supply and demand, how markets set prices, and what happens when things go wrong. Business economics will reveal how companies organise production, improve efficiency, and compete in dynamic markets. In macroeconomics you will explore major economic indicators like inflation, unemployment and national growth. Here, you will uncover the power of government policies, global trade, and exchange rates in shaping economies.

Designed for curious, analytical thinkers, IGCSE Economics connects classroom learning with real-world issues. This course empowers students to make informed, responsible decisions that contribute to a better, more prosperous world.

What will I learn?

Throughout this two-year course, you will engage with topics including:

Microeconomics: Understand how individual markets operate, exploring concepts like supply, demand, elasticity, and market failure. Delve into business structures, costs, revenues, and the effects of competition on consumers and the economy.

Macroeconomics: Study national and global economic issues, such as inflation, unemployment, economic growth, and international trade. You'll analyse how government policies and globalisation impact economies and the role of exchange rates in trade.

Through real-world examples and interactive discussions, you will develop the ability to evaluate economic scenarios, make reasoned judgments, and connect theoretical knowledge to current events.

Assessed via two 90-minute exams, covering multiple-choice, short-answer, data response, and extended-writing questions. These exams test both your analytical skills and understanding of real-world economic issues, completed at the end of Year 10 for paper 1 and end of Year 11 for paper 2.

How can I support my learning

Stay Curious: Read financial news, listen to economics podcasts, and explore case studies. Engaging with current events helps you connect theories to real-world situations.
Practice Calculations and Diagrams: Economics often involves graphs and calculations. Use online platforms like Seneca for interactive practice.
Participate Actively: Take part in class discussions and group projects. Discussing ideas with peers brings new perspectives and reinforces key concepts.

FIRST LANGUAGE ENGLISH & WORLD LITERATURE

"The test of literature is, I suppose, whether we ourselves live more intensely for the reading of it." Elizabeth Drew



Exam board: CAIE

7 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 90 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Our primary objective is to make the study of English exciting, engaging and purposeful for students at all levels of the school. We hope that studying English will equip students with transferable skills and enrich their journey beyond the classroom and into the wider world.

In pursuit of this aim, we strive to ensure that students:

- engage with a range of literature and language texts (pre and post 1914) including texts from other cultures
- develop deep and higher order thinking skills
- gain the confidence to write creatively and harness the power of story telling
- learn to express themselves persuasively both orally and in writing for a variety of audiences and purposes
- foster a sense of social conscience and global responsibility, with an understanding, awareness and respect for other cultures
- become reflective learners
- communicate in a confident, articulate manner in a variety of contexts
- read critically and speak and write academically

We believe that the strength of the department lies in its strongly held commitment to the teaching of language and literature, as well as in diversity of pedagogical approaches employed by our staff. As a department, we value the importance kindness alongside high expectations, and we emphasise the building of confidence in our students.

What will I learn?

We offer two separate English IGCSEs

CORE: First Language English (FLE) – compulsory for all students.
The First Language English course involves an extensive exploration of both fiction and non-fiction through a coursework portfolio of three assignments and a two-hour examination.
The course fosters skills in: Creative and functional writing, comprehension, vocabulary acquisition, summarisation, analysis and critical thinking

DUAL: World Literature – for selected students only

The World Literature course encompasses a broad range of drama, prose, and poetry. Students complete a coursework portfolio of two assignments focusing on empathic writing and critical analysis, as well as two examinations:
One on a prescribed anthology of 14 poems
One on an unseen poetry text

Students are encouraged to appreciate how literature enhances our understanding of ourselves and the world around us

How I can support my learning

Students are encouraged to:

- Read beyond the texts studied in class, including canonical literature and reliable news sources.
- Vary revision approaches - create podcasts, mind-mapping, or completing exam-style questions.
- Refer to vocabulary banks and writing frames available on the KS4 Support Resources Google Classroom.
- Use Bedrock Learning regularly to strengthen vocabulary, grammar, and reading comprehension

GEOGRAPHY

"Geography has made us neighbors. History has made us friends. Economics has made us partners, and necessity has made us allies." — John F. Kennedy



Exam board: CAIE

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 60 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Geography follows the Cambridge International GCSE Syllabus. This provides a balance between Human and Physical Geography and encourages students to develop their knowledge and understanding of a wide range of themes and issues within an international context.

Students engage in a variety of learning experiences over the two years including in depth class discussion about pertinent issues, case study productions, presentations, class debates and structured research projects.

All students take part in a school funded field trip which is the basis of their coursework.

Coursework is written by students in class with their teacher and is worth 28% of the total grade.

Coursework is completed in Year 10, with Year 11 focused on knowledge and skills for the final assessment.

What will I learn?

THEME 1 : Physical Geography

- Changing river environments
- Changing coastal environments
- Changing ecosystems
- Tectonic hazards
- Climate change
- Structure and Change
- Settlements and Urban Studies

THEME 2: Human Geography

- Changing populations
- Changing towns and cities
- Development
- Changing economies
- Resource provision

THEME 3: Component 3 - coursework

Students complete a piece of coursework of 2000 words only. Students are credited for their;

- Acquisition of geographical knowledge
- Understanding and application of ideas
- Development of skills and the clarification of values in a geographical context.

Geography provides opportunity for students to develop communication skills, graph and mapping techniques, ICT and GIS applications, debate and discussion skills, as well as honing problem solving abilities.

HISTORY

"We are never as steeped in history as when we pretend not to be, but if we stop pretending we may gain in understanding what we lose in false innocence." - Michel-Rolph Trouillot



Exam board: Pearson (iGCSE)

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 30 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Students of IGCSE History focus on elements of the political, economic, military and social histories of Europe, the USA and China in the 20th centuries.

The iGCSE course in history is building on the skills, knowledge and understanding students have developed throughout Key Stage 3 History curriculum.

The ability to interpret information, to reason, draw conclusions and make historical judgments; make inferences, analyse and evaluate sources are all integral skills that feature throughout the course.

What will I learn?

Depth Study 1: Germany - development of dictatorship, 1918-45

- Weimar Republic
- Hitler's rise to power
- Nazi Germany during the 1930s
- The collapse of Nazi Germany at home and aboard

Historical Investigation: A3 The USA, 1918–41

- 1920s Boom in USA
- Wall Street Crash and Great Depression
- President Roosevelt and the New Deal
- Impact of WW2 on the USA

Depth Study 2: A divided union: civil rights in the USA, 1945-74

- African American Civil Rights
- Women Right Campaign
- Student Movement
- Counterculture movement

Breadth Study: B4 China: conflict, crisis and change, 1900–89-

- The fall of the Qing
- The triumph of Mao and the CCP
- Change under Mao
- The Cultural Revolution
- China, 1976–89

MATHEMATICS

"A mathematician, like a painter or a poet, is a maker of patterns."



Exam board: Pearson

6 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 90 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Mathematics follows the Edexcel (9-1) GCSE syllabus. This course is designed to provide a thorough coverage of essential mathematical concepts and knowledge, ensuring students have opportunities to develop problem-solving skills and gain mastery of both calculator and non-calculator methods across the two-year course.

Students will engage in a variety of learning experiences, including opportunities to challenge themselves against mathematicians across the world in the Intermediate UKMT competition.

The experiences and knowledge gained from the GCSE course will position students to progress into post-16 study for Mathematics or Further Mathematics, subject to meeting entry requirements. The GCSE Mathematics course also provides a strong foundation for a broad number of other post-16 subjects, such as Physics or Computer Science.

Students in the Accelerated GCSE group (Set 1) complete their GCSE at the end of Year 10, and will subsequently spend Year 11 working on the first two modules of the International A Level course, culminating in one 90-minute examination at the end of Year 11 in May. All other groups sit their three Mathematics GCSE examinations at the end of Year 11.

What will I learn?

In the GCSE Mathematics course, you will develop fluency in your knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. You will be further enhancing your mathematical reasoning, and you will be expected to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information presented to you in a variety of different ways.

The syllabus consists of five strands:

1. Number (15%)
2. Algebra (30%)
3. Ratio, proportion and rates of change (20%)
4. Geometry and measures (20%)
5. Statistics and probability (15%)

At the end of the course, there are three equally weighted written examination papers each of 90 minutes duration. Each paper will cover all five strands in the proportions shown above. Paper 1 is a non-calculator examination. Paper 2 and Paper 3 are calculator examinations. Each paper has 80 marks.

How can I support my learning

It is anticipated that students undertake independent revision over and above their homework assignments.

We recommend the following websites for independent revision at home: Dr Frost, Corbett Maths, Maths Genie

ARABIC: SECOND LANGUAGE MFL

Arabic is an official language in 26 countries. There are 280 million Arabic native speakers worldwide.



Exam board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 60 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Arabic as a Foreign Language has been developed to help students of all abilities progress and develop a passion for languages, through culturally engaging content.

The engaging and inspirational course of study that will enable students to manipulate and use the target language effectively, independently and creatively, so that they have a solid basis from which to progress to A Level or employment.

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The assessments are clear, accessible and discriminate effectively. Our objective is to enable students of all abilities to develop their French language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence.

Students are assessed on their listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each skill is equally weighted i.e. worth 25% of the overall grade.

What will I learn?

Students will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of Arabic-speaking countries.

The five themes are:
1. Identity and culture
2. Local area, holiday, travel
3. School
4. Future aspirations, study and work
5. International and global dimension

How can I support my learning

To make progress in Arabic please immerse yourself in the culture, traditions and language by watching Arabic cartoons, films and television – you can find these on Arabic TV channels and on YouTube.

Being in Oman and in the Gulf, you can benefit from mingling with Arabic speaking friends. Try to read as much Arabic as possible such as road signs, leaflets and even menus. Listen to podcasts and the radio. Make use of the many resources shared in the Google Classroom, such as Education Perfect.

Recommended Revision Guides:
Pearson Edexcel GCSE Arabic
(ISBN 9781916122901)

Additional Information can be found in the KS4 MFL Parent Handbook.

ARABIC: FIRST LANGUAGE

Arabic is an official language in 26 countries. There are 280 million Arabic native speakers worldwide.



Exam board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 60 minutes per fortnight

Overview

Pearson Edexcel International GCSE First Language Arabic (9–1) is designed for students who already have a strong foundation in Arabic. The course develops linguistic accuracy, cultural understanding and confident communication through engaging and challenging content.

This stimulating course enables students to develop their reading and writing skills, deepen their understanding of Arabic texts and express their ideas effectively. Students will explore a range of topics, developing their ability to analyse language, summarise information and communicate with precision and creativity.

This qualification is linear, meaning students sit all examinations at the end of the course.

Assessment consists of two written papers: Paper 1 (Reading, Summary and Grammar), worth 60%, and Paper 2 (Writing), worth 40%. Students develop the skills needed to interpret texts, demonstrate grammatical accuracy and produce coherent, well-structured written responses.

What will I learn?

Unlike Second Language Arabic, the Pearson Edexcel International GCSE First Language Arabic (4AA1) is primarily skills-based rather than organised around five prescribed topic themes. Students will develop advanced reading, comprehension and writing skills through a variety of authentic Arabic texts. They will strengthen their vocabulary, grammatical accuracy and ability to communicate effectively in formal written Arabic.

How can I support my learning

To make progress in First Language Arabic, immerse yourself in the language through regular reading and writing. Read Arabic newspapers, novels and online articles to broaden your vocabulary and develop your understanding of different writing styles.

Living in Oman provides excellent opportunities to engage with Arabic. Practise writing regularly, discuss current affairs in Arabic and explore Arabic literature. Use teacher feedback to improve your grammatical accuracy, expression and written fluency.

Recommended Revision Guides:
Past examination papers and mark schemes.
Books will be provided in lessons.

Additional Information can be found in the KS4 MFL Parent Handbook.

MFL: FRENCH

French is the official language of 29 countries



Exam board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 90 minutes per fortnight

Overview

The Pearson iGCSE (9–1) in French as a Foreign Language has been developed to help students of all abilities progress and develop a passion for languages, through culturally engaging content.

The engaging and inspirational course of study will enable students to manipulate and use the target language effectively, independently and creatively, so that they have a solid basis from which to progress to A Level or employment.

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. The assessments are clear, accessible and discriminate effectively. Our objective is to enable students of all abilities to develop their French language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence.

Students are assessed on their listening, reading, speaking and writing skills. Each skill is equally weighted i.e. worth 25% of the overall grade.

What will I learn?

Students will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of French-speaking countries. Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

The five core topics are:

A Home and abroad
B Education and employment
C Personal life and relationships
D The world around us
E Social activities, fitness and health

How can I support my learning

To make progress in French please immerse yourself in the culture, traditions and language by watching French cartoons, films and television – you can find these on international TV channels and on YouTube.

Try to read as much French as possible, make sure you are using the plethora of websites like Seneca The Language Gym and Quizlet. Listening to French radio and podcasts will also help. Make use of the many resources shared in the Google Classroom, such as Education Perfect.

Recommended Revision Guide:
Pearson Edexcel IGCSE French Revision Guide (ISBN 9781510474963)
Additional Information can be found in the KS4 **MFL Parent Handbook.**

MFL: SPANISH

Spanish is the official language of 21 countries and over 400 million people speak Spanish.



Exam board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 90 minutes per fortnight

Overview

The Pearson iGCSE (9–1) in Spanish as a Foreign Language has been developed to help students of all abilities progress and develop a passion for languages, through culturally engaging content.

The engaging and inspirational course of study will enable students to manipulate and use the target language effectively, independently and creatively, so that they have a solid basis from which to progress to A Level or employment.

This qualification is linear. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.
Our objective is to enable students of all abilities to develop their Spanish language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence.

Students are assessed on their listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each skill is equally weighted i.e. worth 25% of the overall grade.

What will I learn?

Students will study across a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will also develop a greater awareness of the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

Students study all of the following topics on which the assessments are based. The five core topics are:

A Home and abroad
B Education and employment
C Personal life and relationships
D The world around us
E Social activities, fitness and health

How can I support my learning

To make progress in Spanish please immerse yourself in the culture, traditions and language by watching Spanish cartoons, films and television – you can find these on international TV channels and on YouTube.

Try to read as much Spanish as possible, make sure you are using the plethora of websites like Seneca The Language Gym and Quizlet. Listening to Spanish radio and podcasts will also help.

Recommended Revision Guide:
Pearson Edexcel IGCSE Spanish Revision Guide
(ISBN 9781510475007)
Additional Information can be found in the KS4 MFL Parent Handbook.

MUSIC BTEC LV2

Music 'brings us together, helping us reflect upon who we are, where we have come from, and what lies ahead.' - Barack Obama



Exam board: Pearson (BTEC)

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: 30 minutes of homework is set - up to three times a fortnight. Daily practice on an instrument is expected also.

Entry Requirements:

An interest in practical experience in music performance or production is essential. Each applicant is evaluated based on individual strengths and experience.

Overview

BTEC in Music offers an engaging and practical curriculum, preparing students for diverse career pathways within the arts and beyond. Music is a highly respected subject that cultivates both creative and analytical skills, supporting various future academic and career opportunities. Students completing this qualification may progress into further studies in Music, Performing Arts, Media, or broader areas like business and education.

- Equip students with the foundational skills required for careers within the Music and Arts sectors.
- Facilitate practical experiences that build creative confidence, technical skills, and teamwork abilities.
- Expand students' cultural understanding and appreciation of Music's role in society and various global industries.
- Nurture highly transferable interpersonal and professional skills through collaborative and independent projects.

What will I learn?

Learners in this program engage in one mandatory unit and two options, designed to develop practical knowledge in music:

1. Mandatory unit - Planning and Creating a Music Product (externally set)
2. Two options, internally assessed from the following list:

i) Introduction to Performing
ii) Introduction to Composing
iii) Introduction to Recording
iv) Introduction to DAW Production
v) Introduction to Live Sound

Assessment

The Level 2 BTEC in Music is assessed through continuous coursework, practical assignments, and ongoing project evaluations. There are no final written exams; instead, students complete projects that reflect their learning and skill development. All units must be successfully completed to achieve the qualification, with assessments internally evaluated and externally verified by Pearson.

How can I support my learning

To make progress in Music, daily practice on an instrument is important alongside regularly playing in ensembles. These are offered in class, in ECA programmes and sometimes in joint ventures with other schools in Muscat and beyond. Students should listen to a wide variety of music and when they can, listen to live music in local venues.

GCSE PE

"It has been a long journey, but if you dream and have the ambition and want to work hard, then you can achieve your dreams." — Mo Farah



Exam board: Pearson

5 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: Up to 60 minutes per fortnight

Overview

This highly successful subject is offered as a Full Course over two years (covering Years 10 and 11) as a subject within the Option pools.

Students have to meet the physical and cognitive standards which will required to be successful in this subject. The Edexcel examination board will award grades from 9-1 (level 4 being a pass). Students who opt for this course must be proficient in English, Science and PE.

The Full Course has a weighting of 60% theory, 30% practical and 10% coursework element.

Students will be assessed across 3 practical activities (team and individual sports); they will be assessed in isolated skills drills and competitive situations.

The coursework involves designing a personal exercise programme and analysing it using 1500 words (essay writing).

What will I learn?

1. Fitness and body systems, including: applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis and use of data (Exam Paper 1, 36%).
2. Health and performance, including: health, fitness and wellbeing, sport psychology, socio-cultural influences and use of data (Exam Paper 2, 24%).
3. Practical performance: skills and performance through individual and team sporting activities (3 sports assessed, 30%).
4. Personal Exercise Programme (PEP), coursework assessment: plan, collect data and analyse programme (1500 word essay, 10%).

How can I support my learning

Attendance of all lessons is vital, as well as completion of notes and homework. Students may consider attending the GCSE PE clinic (after school session) if necessary.

Participating in physical activity inside and outside of school is imperative, particularly in the 3 assessed sporting activities.

Watching and immersing yourself in the world of sport is recommended for analytical purpose.

SCIENCE

"If you're really passionate about what you're doing, then you should just work hard for it and look for opportunities." - Noora Al Matrooshi , First Arab Female Astronaut



Exam board: Pearson EdExcel

12 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: between 30 - 45 minutes per subject per week

Overview

Students have specialist teachers for each of the Science subjects: Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. Core practical's are embedded across all three sciences.

In Year 10, all students follow the same scheme of learning. In Year 11, students are placed in classes that either follow Separate Science or Combined Science pathways.

The Separate Science pathway leads to three GCSE qualifications, one in each subject.

The Combined Science pathway leads to two GCSE qualifications, with each GCSE comprising one-third Biology, one-third Chemistry, and one-third Physics.

Both pathways allow students to progress to A-Level sciences if they wish.

What will I learn?

All three science subjects follow the latest Edexcel 9-1 GCSE specification. Topics covered within each subject include:

Biology:
Cells; Genetics; Evolution; Health, disease & immunity; Plant structure & photosynthesis; Exchange surfaces; Respiration; Animal coordination & homeostasis; Ecosystems.

Chemistry:
States of matter and mixtures; Chemical changes; Extracting metals and equilibria; The periodic table; Rates of reaction; Fuels and Earth science.

Physics:
Motion and forces; Conservation of energy; Waves; Light and the electromagnetic spectrum; Radioactivity; Energy; Forces; Electricity and circuits; Magnetism & the motor effect.

How can I support my learning

- Be proactive in seeking help from other students and your teachers.
- Deliberate & focused retrieval practice until you can recall the key facts from memory.
- Practice answering exam questions and use of the mark schemes for self assessment.

PE (CORE)

"I love having the choice of activity so I can work at a sport I enjoy and get together with my friends to have some fun..!"



Exam board: N/a

4 lessons per fortnight
Homework Expectations: encouraged to attend sporting ECAs.

Overview

Core PE in KS4 is a recreational sporting programme where students will choose their activities from a wide variety of individual and team sports. All lessons are taught by the department's teaching specialists. Each half term will feature different sports that best suit the students, the climate and excellent facilities. These lessons are non-assess and focus on student health and wellbeing.

With in Compulsory PE lessons, the BSM PE department have developed, over a number of years, Sports Leaders and Dance Leaders courses. These popular options courses result in students carrying out assessments in leading younger students in activities. Key skills include: communication of skills, demonstrating skills, organising groups of students, setting up equipment (planning, executing a session) and analysing sessions.

Students must also complete a swimming test at the start of each academic year in KS4, in line with the school policy. The policy states each student must be able to swim 25m on their front and back, competently, before the end of Year 11. BSM and the PE department value this important life skill and promote/support water based activities fully.

What will I learn?

- Conducting warm ups & cool downs;
- Basic anatomy & physiology.
- Skills related to the chosen sporting activity;
- Performance elements of the chosen activity;
- Tactics and strategy;
- Rules and regulations;
- Scoring, refereeing/umpiring/officiating;
- Analytical skills;
- Communication and leadership skills.
- Other HPL cognitive characteristics;
- Other BSM learning ethos attributes.
- DEIJB discussion.

How can I support my learning

Attendance of all lessons in correct BSM kit is vital. Specialised equipment may be brought to school for specific options, however, school will provide all equipment needed.

Participating in physical activity inside and outside of school is encouraged, starting with BSM's ECA programme.

Key Stage 4: Options Snapshot

All students will complete the **core** compulsory subjects of study at Key Stage 4 including MFL. There will be 3 further option choices made.

Subject	Examination Body	Core/Option	Examination/ Coursework
Art & Design	Pearson EdExcel	Option	Personal Portfolio & Externally Set Assignment
Creative Media Lv2 BTEC	Pearson	Option	Coursework
Business	Pearson EdExcel	Option	Examination only
Computer Science	Pearson	Option	Examination only
Dance (Performing Arts) Lv2 BTEC	Pearson	Option	Coursework
Design & Technology	Pearson	Option	Examination & Coursework
Drama	Pearson EdExcel	Option	Examination & Practical Performance
Economics	Pearson	Option	iGCSE Modular exams
English Language & World Literature	CAIE	**Core**	Examination & Coursework
Geography	CAIE	Option	Examination & Coursework
History	Pearson EdExcel	Option	Examination only
Mathematics	Pearson EdExcel	**Core**	Examination only
MFL: French, Spanish, Arabic	Pearson EdExcel	**Core**	Examination & Speaking Assessment
Music Lv2 BTEC	Pearson	Option	Examination & Coursework
PE	N/a	**Core**	Non examined
PE GCSE	Pearson EdExcel	Option	Examination & Coursework
Science	Pearson EdExcel	**Core**	Examination only

OPTIONS: FAQ

BRITISH SCHOOL MUSCAT

What are options blocks?

When choosing options in November, all students have 'free' choice. All students can choose 3 option choices. This free choice is then analysed and 'Option Blocks' are created. These are designed to enable provision of desired subjects within our timetable - think carefully on this choice as changing option blocks is not always possible.

A second round of options is then presented to students and parents in February. These options are now in blocks (A, B, C, D) The blocks are designed from the initial feedback gained in *November - therefore initial choice is important.*

The intention is to be in a position where every BSM student is able to study the subjects they want at Key Stage 4.

While every effort will be made to meet students' choices, **it may not be possible** to provide every combination requested/subject choices become full. We also reserve the right to not offer a course if there is insufficient demand for it. *Students are parents are advised to have a **reserve subject** of study should this be the case.*

Can I change subjects after September 30th 2027?

The end of September is a set deadline for changes to Options choices in Year 10, we understand sometimes that students experience a topic but then realise they wish to take a different pathway. The deadline is to ensure students do not fall too far behind in a 'new' subject if they change.

All changes are to be agreed by the Head of Year, Head of Department and Deputy Head of Curriculum. Parental consent is required in order to action the change.

Modern Foreign Languages

All students will study a Modern Foreign Language. Students will study the MFL taken in Year 9 (if they were a student in BSM)
Students gain a number of skills through language acquisition. Students will not be permitted to study a Modern Foreign Language in their mother tongue.

If you have any questions on this please contact our MFL department.

When are examinations for GCSEs?

When completing a full linear GCSE course, the examinations are typically taken at the end of Year 11. There are some exceptions to this process which are course dependent.

Students will sit an internal BSM assessment at the end of Year 10 to assess progression and understanding within subjects. Students will sit shorter assessments which are class based throughout Year 10 and Year 11.

The larger more formal internal assessments typically take place in December of Year 11. Full details of internal and external assessments are shared annually via our Exams Officer and BSM Website.

Incorrect Entry/Submission/ Further information about Options

If any errors in entry are made during the options process, please email us at senioroffice@britishschoolmuscat.com and we will support.

If you have any queries regarding your child's choices, please contact BSM via the Senior School Office.


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