



Birch Wood Vale

Post 16 Options Booklet 20 - 21



Course Guide

In Year 11 students have the opportunity to choose some of the subjects they will study. We recognise that making these decisions can sometimes be difficult. Some students have a clear idea about the pathway they wish to make but most are unsure. In our experience, it is important that students keep an open mind and choose a curriculum which is broad and balanced.

We also see this as a time to reinforce the partnership that exists between the school, parents and students. We value this partnership as we feel that it is instrumental in ensuring that high aspirations are achieved and all students successfully transition in to either employment or further education. Staff will be only too pleased to offer any guidance that you may require and to discuss with you the opportunities which are available.

Once the subject choices are received, they are sorted and checked. We will try our best to provide students with their first choice. In some circumstances certain courses will not run if the number of students choosing a subject is too small. Students and parents will be notified of any subsequent changes made. Clearly it is our aim to keep these amendments to an absolute minimum.

Each student needs to ensure they take advantage of all information, advice and guidance on offer. However, if further guidance is required then please contact the student's tutor or Tom Smith, Deputy Head, who has responsibility for curriculum provision.

Making Choices in Year 11

We will offer a different pathway to each student according to how well we feel they will achieve on the courses available in that pathway. Whichever pathway students take, they will all follow a similar core curriculum. We will give students a great deal of guidance about their subject choices, and expect that they will select courses that reflect their aspirations, skills and abilities.

A Curriculum to ENABLE

Ensuring our curriculum for students means success at the end of Year 13/14, we work hard to evaluate each course on offer. Recent reform has led to the formation of two types of qualification.

These are:

- ✓ **GCSEs** - now graded 1 to 9 with grade 9 being the highest. These linear qualifications are based on between 60% and 100% assessment by written examination. All the written exams are taken at the end of the course.
- ✓ **Technical Awards** - graded pass, merit or distinction. These qualifications consist of approximately 25% external assessment with the remainder set as tasks completed in school. These include BTEC and other National Qualifications.

We also offer:

Entry Levels - If we feel that a student is unable to study English or Maths at GCSE level, we will offer them the chance to take an alternative qualification. Entry Level English and Maths courses are designed to help students develop basic literacy and numeracy skills and to improve their confidence.

It is important to consider the type of assessment when choosing a course. Many traditional GCSEs are now 100% written exam and for some students these do not always lead to the success we aspire to. It is better that students choose courses giving a mixture of assessment formats. We have, in some instances, chosen to offer a technical award qualification for a subject area instead of a GCSE. We know this will offer a better chance of success for students at all ability levels. We also know that both technical awards and GCSEs offer the same opportunities for progression onto Post 16 courses.

Core Curriculum

All students will study a core curriculum of:

- 3 x English
- 3 x Maths
- 2 x Recreational Fitness
- 4 x Duke of Edinburgh (DofE)
- 3 x Option Block A
- 3 x Option Block B
- 5 x Preparation for Adulthood (PFA)
- 2 x PSHEC

Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural Education

At Birch Wood each student has the opportunity to promote their own spiritual, moral, social and cultural development through different subject areas. This provision is also enhanced in the following ways

- ✓ Preparation for Adulthood Programme
- ✓ Challenge and Aspiration Days
- ✓ Extra-curricular opportunities such as sport, performance and volunteering.

Students will have the opportunity to **pick 1 subject** from each option block

Block A

- GCSE Art
- GCSE 3D Design
- Level1/2 Award Hospitality and Catering

Block B

- BTEC Sport and Active Leisure
- GCSE Short & Full Course Religious Studies
- BTEC Construction
- Moving Together Dance – Arts Mark Award

(Only 3 subjects will run based on numbers for Block B)

How to Choose a Course

So that you can make the best possible choices for you, you will need to find out as much as you can about the courses available to you, talk to your teachers and discuss your ideas with your parents/carers.

Do choose courses because:

- ✓ You enjoy the subject
- ✓ You are good at the subject
- ✓ It will help you with your future when you leave Birch Wood Vale
- ✓ It will give you a good balance of subjects so you have options to study what you want if you go to college

Do not choose courses because:

- ✓ Your friends have chosen it
- ✓ You like the teacher—you may have a different teacher next year
- ✓ You dislike the teacher who is teaching you at the moment—you may have a different teacher next year

What happens once I have handed in my Options Form?

You will hand your form into your tutor. This will then be checked by Tom Smith Deputy Head Teacher



This Curriculum Map reflects blocks of time not days of the week

<p>8.50-9.25 Pastoral Time and Reading for Pleasure</p> <p>This curriculum map reflects blocks of time, not days of the week</p>	English	Maths	<p>11.05-11.20 Social time (15mins)</p>	Preparation For Adulthood	Recreational Fitness	<p>2.00-2.15 Pastoral Time</p>	Recreational Fitness
	English	Maths		Preparation For Adulthood	Block A Option		Block A Option
	English	Maths		Preparation For Adulthood	Block A Option		Block B Option
	Duke of Edinburgh	Duke of Edinburgh		Preparation For Adulthood	Block B Option		Block B Option
	Duke of Edinburgh	Duke of Edinburgh		Preparation For Adulthood	PSHE		PSHE

To summarise the weekly timetable will be made up of the following:

- ✓ 50 minutes lessons
- ✓ 3 Maths
- ✓ 3 English
- ✓ 2 option blocks of 3 lessons per week
- ✓ 1 block of 4 lessons per week (Duke of Edinburgh)
- ✓ 2 Recreational Fitness
- ✓ 5 Preparation for Adulthood (PFA)
- ✓ 2 PSHE (includes Citizenship)

Challenge and Aspiration Days

From August 2017 we introduced our 'Challenge and Aspiration Days', every half term. This enables students at Birch Wood Vale the exciting opportunity to take part in a range of enriching activities throughout the year. Students are asked to indicate the 6 activities they are most interested in and we will do our best to accommodate their wishes. As well as enriching students learning experiences to fulfil our mission statement '*Where a love of learning grows*', the days are intended to provide students with an insight into potential future employment opportunities and to foster new areas of engagement and inspiration. Challenge and Aspiration Days will be part funded by the Pupil Premium and Sports Premium grant.

An example of the types of activities on offer can be found on the next page

Challenge & Aspiration Days Activity Area	Example Activities	
<p><i>Media and Arts and Technology</i></p>	<p>Photography Film making/animation/Puppetry Day at the theatre Make a raspberry pie - computing</p>	<p>Programming Write a short story Visit an Art Gallery Radio production</p>
<p><i>Dream Job</i></p>	<p>Cake Decorating Flower arranging Be a DJ/Music Production Be a Bricklayer or Carpenter</p>	<p>Hair and Beauty Be a 'Learning Support Assistant' for the day (KS4) Animal Care</p>
<p><i>Skills For Life</i></p>	<p>First Aid Training Cycling Proficiency</p>	<p>Food hygiene Emergency First Aid</p>
<p><i>Get Active</i></p>	<p>Expedition Master class in Basketball Master class Football Master class Boccia</p>	<p>Horse riding Climbing Outdoor Adventure BMX</p>
<p><i>Local History</i></p>	<p>Museum Visit</p>	<p>Walking history tour of Leicester</p>

Art & Design – Design Focus

GCSE



Students will have the opportunity to produce a portfolio of work in the Three Dimensional Design strand which incorporates Product Design.

- *How will my work be assessed?*

There are two components comprising a portfolio accounting for 60% of the total mark and an externally set assignment accounting for 40% of the total mark.

Students could continue to study Design at a higher level or opt for a range of job opportunities in popular routes such as;

- Fashion Design
- Photography
- Animation
- Web Design

Art & Design – Art Focus

GCSE

Students will have the opportunity to produce a portfolio of work in the Fine Art strand which incorporates drawing and painting, studying different media, processes and techniques.

- *How will my work be assessed?*

There are two components comprising a portfolio selected from the course of study and an externally set assignment.



Students could continue to study Art at a higher level or opt for a range of job opportunities such as;

- Animator
- Architect
- Fine artist
- Florist
- Illustrator
- Photographer
- Product designer
- Set designer

Hospitality & Catering

Level 1/2 Award



The course has been designed so that knowledge, skills and understanding are developed through tasks that have characteristics of real work in the sector. Devised around the concept of 'plan, do, review' approach learners take part in practical activities in order to learn the related theories

- *How will my work be assessed?*

Internal and external assessed coursework.

- Further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers.
- All of these roles require additional education and training either through apprenticeships or further education.

Sport & Active Leisure

BTEC Level 1 Certificate



Vocational based qualification offering students the chance to develop skills practically based on the sports industry

- *How will my work be assessed?*

Students will produce coursework.
There is no written exam.

- Students can progress onto the Level 1 Diploma.
- The qualification can assist in gaining employment in the sports industry.

Religious Education

GCSE

The aim of this course is that it should encourage learners to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, satisfying and worthwhile course of study that challenges students and equips them to lead constructive lives in the modern world.

- *How will my work be assessed?*

Unit 1 = 1 x written examination
(short/full course)

Unit 2 = 2 x written examination
(full course only)



Students will have the option to take either the GCSE short course or the GCSE full course.

Topics covered will be:

- Unit 1 Religion & Philosophical Themes covering Life & Death and Good /Evil (short/full course)
- Unit 2 Religion & Ethical Themes covering Relationships and Human Rights (full course only)

Construction

BTEC Level 1 Certificate

The course provides an introduction to some of the key themes within the construction sector, enabling students to develop and apply their knowledge while also acquiring a range of relevant practical, communication and technical construction-related skills.

- *How will my work be assessed?*

Internally assessed coursework



- Students will access a number of units including Bricklaying, Joinery and Carpentry.
- Students may wish to progress onto a higher level course in the future or consider an apprenticeship in their chosen field.

Moving Together

Bronze/Silver Arts Award



This course will be delivered by Moving Together Creative Dance Company and provides a creative experience looking at dance both practically and theoretically, developing and facilitating young artists, researchers, choreographers and performers.

- *How will my work be assessed?*

Completion of a minimum 40 guided learning hours gives participants a Level 1 QCF qualification

Completion of a minimum 60 guided learning hours give participants a Level 2 QCF qualification

- Level 1 has 4 components; practical arts, arts as an audience member, research into heroes and heroines and passing skills onto others. An individual portfolio will need to be completed and will be assessed on their art form knowledge and understanding, their creativity and their communication.
- Level 2 has 2 main units; arts practice and arts leadership. Participants act as a leader within a team to plan and carry out an arts project or lead regular arts sessions (supervised). An individual portfolio will need to be completed and will be assessed on their art form knowledge and understanding, their creativity and their communication.



Birch Wood Vale Post 16 Option Choices 2020-2021



Forename:	Surname:	Class:
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Please put a 1 to indicate your 1st choice and a 2 to indicate your 2nd choice. Make a 1st and 2nd choice selection in Block A and Block B

You will only be able to take 1 subject from Block A and 1 from Block B

Block A			Block B		
GCSE 3D Design			BTEC Sport & Leisure		
GCSE Art			GCSE Religious Education		
Hospitality & Catering			BTEC Construction		
			Arts Award Moving Together		

Parent Name:	Signature:	Date:
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Please return to your tutor by _____