



The
Bulmershe
School

INSPIRING POTENTIAL,
ACHIEVING TOGETHER



The Bulmershe School
Year 9 Raising Achievement
Evening
***KS4 INTRODUCTION, INFORMATION
AND GUIDANCE***



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October 2017

Dear parents, carers and students,

At the Bulmershe School we value the way in which we work together with parents to ensure that all students maximise their success. We have published this booklet, in conjunction with the options guidance you received at the end of last term, to give an overview of the GCSE programme of study in Year 9.

This booklet, along with the slides from this evening's presentation, will be available on the school website for you to read or download. As well as tips and information from each of the GCSE subject areas, you will also find details regarding who students can speak to if they are concerned about any aspect of their course, and who you can contact for information about any of the subjects your child is studying.

We hope this is a useful source of information in setting out our expectations for the academic year, and providing relevant strategies for success over the coming terms as we embark upon this important GCSE stage of your child's education.

Thank-you in anticipation of your continued support.

Yours faithfully,

Ms J Bishop

Year 9 Tutor Team contact details:

Mr S Bradbury (9BF) sbradbury@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

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Ms J Bishop – Head of Year 9

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Key Dates for the Diary

Parents Evening - Thursday 10th May 2018

Year 9 Exams – Monday 2nd July – Friday 6th July 2018



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Art

Course Title: GCSE Art and Design

You will study:

- A series of set projects using a variety of different techniques, including fine art drawing and painting, graphic design and photography, print-making, printed and stitched textiles, pottery and sculpture work. Freedom of choice will be encouraged to allow the development of individual style and technique, but the portfolio handed in for examination must cover a broad range of approaches.
- The work of artists and designers, both from the past and the present, and learning how to analyse and evaluate their art work through critical and contextual writing relating to your own outcomes, will form a part of the course.
- How to produce preparatory drawings and designs showing your research, development and refinement process, and how to present these to be entered in the portfolio and examination piece at the end of the course.

Projects to be covered may include:

Natural forms/still life/photography/artist-based work/portraits/identity/other cultures/environments, including architecture/townscapes/ collections.

At least one project will be based on work carried out during a visit to a major art gallery.

Equipment needed:

The Art Department provides students with a range of materials and equipment to successfully complete their course in class. However, to be fully equipped for homework, it is recommended that additional items are purchased from an equipment list handed out at the start of the course.

Assessment:

Controlled assessment – Portfolio of work (Year 10 work and Year 11 mock exam): 60% of the total marks, must include MORE than one project; you will have the flexibility to select work from your course to effectively reflect and evidence the nature of your experiences and personal engagement with learning opportunities.

Externally set task (Year 11 Exam): 40% of the total marks. You will respond to one starting point. The paper is issued from the 1st of January in the year of examination to allow for the preparation of supporting studies - around ten weeks to complete a portfolio of work. The test must be completed inside a ten hour limit.

Progression:

The qualification can lead to Art and Design related courses such as AS/A2 level Art and Design and Photography, which in turn can lead to a number of Foundation and Higher Education Courses.

Student Profile: This course is ideally suited to students who have a genuine passion for the subject, commitment and a willingness to learn and experiment. These are essential ingredients for success in this subject. **For more information please go to** <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-4200> **Email: Head of Art Mr S Davis -** sdavis@bumershe.wokingham.sch.uk

3D Art

Graphic Communication

Examination Board: AQA

Assessment:

Controlled assessment - Portfolio of work (Year 9, 10 work and year 11 mock exam):

60% of the total marks.

Must include MORE than one project, you will have the flexibility to select work from your course to effectively reflect and evidence the nature of your experiences and personal engagement with learning opportunities.

Exam Project - Externally set task (Year 11 Exam):

40% of the total marks.

You will respond to one starting point. The paper is issued from the 1st of January in the year of examination to allow for the preparation of supporting studies. Around 10 week to complete a portfolio of work.

The test must be completed inside a 10 hour limit.

Equipment needed:

The Art and Tech department provides students with a range of materials and equipment to successfully complete their course in class. However to be fully equipped for homework it is recommended that additional items are purchased from an equipment list handed out at the start of the course.

Revision:

It is advised students attend Portfolio reviews arranged in and out of lesson time. These sessions help to provide support for students' progress.

For more information please email: Head of Art Mr S Davis - sdavis@bumershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Art

Steps to Success

- Discuss your work and ideas with your teacher and listen to their advice.
- Make sure you understand the assessment objectives and cover all of these in your coursework and examination preparation.
- Keep up to date with class work and home learning.
- Ensure coursework is of the best quality. This is 60% of your overall.
- Visit a London art or photography gallery with family or a friend!
- Attend workshops and extra sessions after school and at lunchtime if invited.
- Thoroughly annotate your work.
- Make sure you look closely at other artists' work that is relevant to what you are studying and analyse what they are trying to say. Always express your thoughts and opinions and always use your own words.

Useful websites: www.studentartguide.com
www.pinterest.com
www.tate.org.uk
www.theroyalacademy.org.uk

Excellence is in the details. Give attention to the details and excellence will come.

Business Studies

Course Title: GCSE Business

You will study:

Unit 1: Introduction to Small Business

- introduction to the world of small businesses
- understand what makes someone a successful business person
- find out how to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business
- understand how to make a business effective and manage money well
- analyse how the world around us affects small businesses

Students will then study the following units in Year 11:

Unit 2 – Controlled Assessment

This will be a business question set by the exam board; e.g. judging the competitiveness of two rival businesses, investigating how a business could increase its profits, or investigating the importance to a small business of innovation.

Unit 3 – Building a Business

You will understand about how small businesses are developed and discover how businesses promote themselves and keep their customers happy. You will learn how businesses manage both their finances and the people who work for them, and how the external environment of business impacts on the success.

Equipment needed: in addition to the normal requirements you will regularly need a calculator.

Assessment:

Unit 1

Written examination paper with multiple choice and objective test questions.

Unit 2

Controlled assessment. You will be given a list of tasks to choose from. The tasks will be based on what you have studied in Unit 1.

Unit 3

Written examination paper consisting of a mixture of multiple-choice, data response, short-answer, extended-writing and scenario-based questions.

Progression: This course can lead to further study at A level or OCR level 2 or 3, or business-related apprenticeships.

Student Profile: This course is ideally suited to students who are keen to learn a new subject and who have an enquiring mind and an interest in the world of business or economics. Students should have good English and Maths abilities.

For more information please go to www.edexcel.org.uk

Please email Head of Social Sciences Dr N Jigounova,
njigounova@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Business Studies

Steps to Success

- Have a positive attitude – this will help you to meet the new challenges this course will give you.
- Look out for relevant news articles and television programmes.
- Know your course and keep thinking about how it relates to your life.
- Take responsibility for yourself and your learning. Your teacher should not have to stand over you to check what you are doing all the time.
- Plan your time carefully – keep up-to-date with your work.
- Ask your teacher for help when you do not understand a concept.
- Try to learn at least one new word from every lesson to widen your vocabulary.

Recommended Revision Guides:

Pearson – Edexcel GCSE Business Studies Revision Guide

Past Papers can be found at:

www.edexcel.org.uk

Recommended Revision Websites:

www.businessstudiesonline.co.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize

www.tutor2u.net

Excellence is not a skill. It is an attitude

Child Development

Course Title: Cambridge National Level
2 Child Development

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J818

You will study:

Throughout the course you will look at the following areas of study:

- **Parenthood** - The structure of a family, Planning for a family, Preparing for the baby, Provision of a safe environment
- **Pregnancy** – Reproduction, Pre-conceptual care, Pregnancy, Preparation for the birth, Labour and birth, New born baby, Postnatal care
- **Diet, health and care of the child** - A healthy diet, feeding a baby, Weaning, Feeding the young child, Food related problems
- **Development of the child** – Physical development, Intellectual, development, Emotional and Social development
- **Support for the parent and child** - Child care, Types of support available, Child care provision, Educational and developmental provision.

Equipment needed: *Towards the end of year 10* a Child Study is carried out over a period of 4-6 months on a chosen child aged under 5 years students you will need to make your own arrangements to observe a suitable child.

Assessment:

- **Written Paper (Unit 1)** This is a 1 hour 30 minutes paper and makes up 40% of the total award and is taken at the end of year 11.
- **Research Task (Unit 2) - Controlled Assessment and makes up 20%** of the total award
- **Child Study (Unit 3) Controlled Assessment and makes up 40%** of the total award

Progression: This course can lead to BTEC Level 3 courses in Child Care or Health and Social Care, or work with children in the care sector.

Student Profile: This course is ideally suited to students who are interested in working with children in the care sector, midwifery, teaching or child psychology.

For more information go to <http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/vocational-education-and-skills/cambridge-nationals-child-development-level-1-2-j818/> or **please email Head of Social Sciences Dr N Jigounova** njigounova@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Child Development

Steps to Success

- Have a positive attitude – this will help you to meet the new challenges this course will give you.
- Look out for relevant news articles and television programmes.
- Take responsibility for yourself and your learning.
- Plan your time carefully, and keep up-to-date with class and homework.
- Respond to teachers' feedback when given.
- Make sure you catch up on any lessons missed.
- Home learning is set regularly to ensure you understand the work being covered. All such learning should be completed in full and handed in on time in order to develop your knowledge and understanding of the various topics.
- To ensure you understand the work covered in lessons you should always read through your class notes. It is useful to highlight key words to help you remember.
- Discuss your work and ideas with your teacher and listen to their advice.
- Look out for relevant news articles and TV programmes on the topics covered.

Excellence is not a matter of 'what' you do, it is 'how' you do it.

Computer Science

Course Title: GCSE Computer Science

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J276

The OCR GCSE Computer Science is a GCSE qualification which gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which students with keen interest will find absorbing.

The GCSE Computing specification enables students to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation Develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and how they work
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

Course content and assessment: GCSE Computer Science students must take 3 units covering a range of Computing & problem solving skills. Below is a summary of the course units:

UNITS	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Computer systems <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Systems Architecture• Memory• Storage• Wired and wireless networks• Network topologies, protocols and layers• System security• System software• Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns•	Computer systems (01) 80 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes Written paper (no calculators allowed)	40% of total GCSE
Computational thinking, algorithms and programming <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Algorithms	Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (02) 80 marks 1 hour and 30 minutes	40% of total

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming techniques • Producing robust programs • Computational logic • Translators and facilities of languages • Data representation 	Written paper (no calculators allowed)	GCSE
Programming project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programming techniques • Analysis • Design • Development • Testing and evaluation and conclusions 	Programming project (03/04) 40 marks Totalling 20 hours Non-Exam Assessment (NEA)	20% of total GCSE

Equipment needed: students would need to have a workable PC, laptop or tablet with internet connection which they can use to access school work from home. Most of the work and assessment are done online and it is important for students to have good independent learning skills. Students who do not have access to computers or internet connection at home can attend weekly and after school revision classes.

Progression: Achieving a grade C or above in this course can lead to A Level Computer Science which is a prerequisite for studying Computing and Computer Science based courses at University. Computer science graduates are in very high demand with possible careers in software and hardware IT companies like Microsoft, Oracle, Google, Apple, DELL etc.

For more information please go to [OCR Exam Board](#)

Email: Head of Computer Science Mr K.Parvez kparvez@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Useful websites:

www.teach-ict.com

<http://www.codeacademy.com/>

<http://www.homeandlearn.co.uk/NET/vbNET.html>

Computer Science

Steps to Success

- Complete all home learning set, and reflect upon all feedback given by your teacher.
- Ask your teacher for help if you are having problems mastering a specific computing skill.
- Never delete any work. If you run out of disk space remove duplicate files and clean out your email folder.
- Ensure you use the necessary revision guides and computing books where possible.
- Make sure you download and install all programming software required.
- Be enthusiastic in lessons – have a go!
- Have a positive attitude – this will help you to meet the new challenges this course will give you.
- Plan your time carefully, and ensure you keep up-to-date with your work.
- Make sure you catch up on any work missed.
- Preparation is the key to success. Researching an activity before you begin it will help.

There's a way to do better ... find it!

Drama

Course Title: GCSE Drama

When the GCSE exams are finished and you've passed the course, what will you have...?

- a wide range of dramatic skills and knowledge
- the ability to work as a member of a team, co-operating and understanding others
- confidence to stand in front of an audience to perform and present - this is a useful skill in life and a definite advantage in many other subjects
- the perfect qualification to join the A Level Drama & Theatre Studies course to take your skills and interests to further heights

A Summary of the Course Units

The GCSE course is in three parts:

Unit One: develop your drama skills to express feelings and ideas about a range of issues

Unit Two: look at a play in detail, exploring how you can make it work on stage

Unit Three: either perform an existing play or devise your own

Progression:

What Career Options does Drama offer you?

Careers are possible in all aspects of theatre (on stage, backstage, directing, designing, administration, technical), as are careers in film, television, law, journalism and other areas where good presentational skills are necessary.

Email: Head of Performing and Community Arts Mr A Camichel on acamichel@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Useful websites:

www.aqa.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk – schools/GCSE bitesize/drama

Drama

Steps to Success

- Be enthusiastic in lessons – have a go!
- You must attend all lessons and rehearsals (including, where necessary, lunchtime and after-school), to avoid letting others down in group assessment work.
- Be supportive of others' performance work. You can learn a lot from evaluating the work of other people.
- Be organised when looking after your notes and scripts. Complete all written tasks diligently. This will help you as you progress through the course.
- Attend as much live theatre as possible.
- Be a leader! Don't be afraid to initiate ideas. Listen to everyone's ideas and select the best ones to try out.
- Listen to the advice of your teachers and act upon it.
- Think about the emotions of a character. Can you imagine how they feel?
- Think about your voice: pitch, pace and volume.
- Think about your body language: posture, facial expression and gestures.
- Keep a journal of your lessons. Explain the skills you are learning or developing. Ensure you keep a record of ideas you have contributed and how others responded to those ideas. How did you respond to the ideas of others?

Autograph your work with excellence!

English as a Second Language

This course aims to develop the ability to use English effectively for the purpose of practical communication, and forms a sound base for the skills required for further study or employment using English as the medium; it helps to develop an awareness of the nature of language, as well as to promote students' personal development.

You will study skills within the categories below:

Reading - understanding and responding to information presented in a variety of forms

Writing - communicating clearly, accurately, and appropriately; conveying information and expressing opinions effectively

Listening - understanding and responding to information presented in a variety of forms

Speaking - communicating clearly, accurately, and appropriately

Assessment:

Students will sit **Reading, Writing, Listening and Oral examinations** at the end of the course. The candidates study: the **core curriculum** OR the **extended curriculum**. Grades A*, A, and B are available only to candidates taking the extended curriculum.

Progression: a sound foundation for employment or further study at Levels 2 and 3, including AS and A level GCE and Cambridge pre-U qualifications.

Student Profile: this course is designed for learners who already have a working knowledge of the language and who want to consolidate their understanding in order to progress in their academic career.

Email: Mrs S. Khanna skhanna@bulmershewokingham.sch.uk

Useful website:

<http://www.cie.org.uk/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-igcse-english-second-language-count-in-oral-0511/>

English as a Second Language

Steps to Success

- Be enthusiastic in lessons – have a go!
- Complete all home learning and respond to the feedback given by the teacher.
- Refer to regularly and make good use of core vocabulary and grammar lists given to you by your teacher.
- Be proactive! Take an active role in your learning by researching, practising and stretching yourself.
- If you can, ask another member of your family to proof-read your work to check for mistakes.
- Ask your teacher for help if you do not understand a topic or piece of work.
- Have a positive attitude – this will help you to meet the new challenges this course will give you.
- Review and revise your learning throughout the course.

Excellence is not a singular act but a habit.

Geography

Course Title: GCSE Geography

Geography GCSE is an engaging and interesting course relating learning directly to the World we live in. The course looks closely at how people live in different parts of the World and how and why places change. Students will learn about both global and local issues. Interestingly, a recent survey of employers showed that after Mathematics and English, Geography is rated as one of the most desirable subjects. This is due to the number of different skills that the students will gain and their ability to develop analytical minds, enabling them to see the bigger picture.

What you will study and how it will be assessed:

Component 1: Investigating Geographical Issues Written Examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of qualification.	Theme 1, Changing Places, Changing Economies. Theme 2, Changing Environments. Theme 3, Environmental Challenges.
Component 2: Problem Solving Geography Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification.	Part A will introduce an issue and set the geographical context. Part B will outline a number of possible solutions to the issue. Part C will provide an opportunity for the candidates to choose a solution and justify their choice in an extended response.
Component 3: Applied Fieldwork Enquiry Written Examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification.	Part A will assess approaches to fieldwork methodology, representation and analysis. Part B will assess how fieldwork enquiry may be used to investigate geography's conceptual frameworks. Part C will assess the application of broad geographical concepts to a wider UK context and assess the ability to make and justify a decision.

Assessment: -

- Assessment will be a through Linear Examination only. There will be only one tier of entry.

Progression: This course can lead to A level and degree courses in Geography, planning, environmental studies and geology. Geography also links to a variety of careers in tourism, nature conservancy, and sustainable living.

Email: Head of Geography Miss S Garrad [Sgarrard.bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk](mailto:bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk)

Useful Website: <http://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/geography/gcse-b/index.html>

Geography

Steps to Success

- Be enthusiastic in lessons – have a go!
- Take an interest in the natural and human world by keeping abreast of current global issues.
- Learn all key words and terms – list them on paper and put it in your folder.
- Highlighting key information, concept maps, post-it notes and quizzes are all different ways to memorise information. Think what kind of revision techniques work best for you.
- Try to include annotated diagrams to support your written answers.
- Always read through your written work and check for mistakes.
- Ask for help and guidance if you need it.
- Know when homework deadlines are and plan to meet them.
- Ensure you understand the assessment objectives and make links to the work you complete.

Excellence is not a singular act but a habit.

History

Course Title: GCSE History

'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it'. George Santayana

- History will help you to understand the modern world
- You will learn to argue effectively, using evidence to back up your judgements
- It will allow you to express your own opinions and not take news headlines as fact
- It affects all of us

You will study:

- A range of different units. As this is a new course, for some units we will ask students to say which topics they prefer, so that the course is designed to be of interest to you. We will decide the final list of topics when we have heard students' views.
 - Ideas of topics are:
 - How medicine has changed over time (for example 'Horrible Histories' – Historical Doctors sketches) and looking at the development of cosmetic surgery in WWI.
 - A British topic – King John (famous from Robin Hood) or Elizabeth I
 - Superpowers – USA and the USSR (Russia) and conflict in Cuba, Vietnam and the building of the Berlin Wall
 - Modern Depth Study – Hitler's Germany or Stalin's Russia.

Assessment: Assessment will be through Linear Examination only.

Progression: History can help if you want to be a lawyer, journalist, researcher, police officer or scientist. In fact employers recognise that studying History will have taught you a range of different skills which can be transferred into many careers.

Student Profile: This course is ideally suited to students who have an interest in History, Politics, Science or Current Affairs.

Email: Head of History Miss H Arif harif@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

History

Steps to Success

- Ensure all your work and notes are up-to-date. After each lesson re-read your notes and ensure you understand them. If you are absent, copy any missed work immediately.
- Organise your class work neatly and clearly.
- Ensure homework contains sufficient detail and uses correct historical language and concepts.
- Revise thoroughly for tests, assessments and mock examinations. Make your own separate revision notes as these can be used later.
- Ensure you understand the different examination techniques for answering different types of questions.
- Use timelines to develop your sense of chronology.
- Make mind-maps at the end of each topic and complete practice questions.
- Make keyword lists and ensure you know how to use each word in an examination answer.

Useful websites:

www.learnhistory.org.uk

www.bbc.co.uk/schools/gcsebitesize/history

www.schoolhistory.co.uk

You can't use up creativity. The more you use the more you have

ICT

Course Title: Cambridge Nationals in ICT

Exam Board: OCR

Course Code: J810

The OCR Cambridge Nationals in ICT is a fully accredited GCSE equivalent qualification that helps students make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices in Information Communication Technology.

The OCR ICT GCSE specification enables students to:

- acquire & apply creative, programming & technical skills
- acquire knowledge & understanding of ICT in a range of contexts
- become independent, discerning users of ICT, to make informed decisions about its use and be aware of its implications for individuals, organisations and society.
- develop ICT-based solutions to solve problems.
- develop an understanding of current and emerging technologies, their social and commercial impact.
- develop their understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental issues raised by ICT.
- recognise potential risks when using ICT, and develop safe, secure and responsible practice.
- develop the skills to work collaboratively & independently.
- evaluate ICT-based solutions.

Course content and assessment:

GCSE ICT students must take 4 units covering a range of ICT skills including creative use of ICT:

UNITS	Assessment and duration	Weighting
Unit R001 – Understanding computer systems Written paper covering a range of ICT systems, as used in the home, at school, and in society.	1 hour – 60 marks	25%
R002 – Using ICT to create business solutions Students study a range of everyday software applications to be able to manipulate and process data and other information effectively and efficiently and to present information in a format suitable for purpose and audience.	Coursework assessment internally moderated and externally verified by Exam board. 60 marks	25%
R005 – Create an interactive product Students develop a multimedia solution (e.g. interactive website, mobile phone APP) with appropriate creative elements.	Coursework assessment internally moderated and externally verified by Exam board. 60 marks	25%
R008 – Introduction to computer programming Students develop a computer game using an object oriented language (e.g. Scratch)	Coursework assessment internally moderated and externally verified by Exam board. 60 marks	25%

Equipment needed: students would need to have a working PC, laptop or tablet with internet connection which they can use to access school work from home. Some of the work and assessment are done online and it is important for students to have good independent learning skills. Students who do not have access to computers or internet connection at home can attend lunchtime clubs and weekly after school revision classes.

Progression: Achieving a grade C or above in this course can lead to studying the Cambridge Technicals in IT qualification at level 3, equivalent to an A level. It is a recognised qualification by many universities when applying to study Information Technology and other related courses. IT graduates are in high demand with possible careers in many fields and industries.

Student Profile: This course is ideally suited to students who have a real passion for problem solving and creative IT solutions using computer software including spreadsheets, databases, website authoring, etc. Good independent learning skills are also very essential to succeed in this course.

For more information please go to [OCR Exam Board](#)

Mr Parvez Email: kparvez@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

ICT

Steps to Success

- Complete all home learning set, and reflect upon all feedback given by your teacher.
- Ask your teacher for help if you are having problems mastering a specific ICT skill.
- Never delete any work. If you run out of disk space remove duplicate files and clean out your email folder.
- Ensure you use the necessary revision guides and ICT books where possible.
- Make sure you download and install any software required.
- Be enthusiastic in lessons – have a go!
- Have a positive attitude – this will help you to meet the new challenges this course will give you.
- Plan your time carefully, and ensure you keep up-to-date with your work.
- Make sure you catch up on any work missed.
- Preparation is the key to success. Researching an activity before you begin it will help.

Paint a masterpiece daily. Always autograph your work with excellence

Modern Foreign Languages

Course Title: GCSE French / Spanish

Spanish

Exam Board: AQA

Course Code: 8658 (Fr) 8698 (Sp)

Why study Modern Foreign Languages?

Businesses in the UK need people with language skills Learning a language makes you more employable.

Knowing a language opens doors No matter what your field of work or study, knowing a language increases opportunities for work and leisure. As far as Britain's top universities and employers are concerned, a language GCSE definitely gives your CV the edge.

Language learners gain strength in a range of key skills including communication skills, team-working skills, interpersonal skills, problem-solving skills, organisational skills and good learning strategies. Languages also dramatically improve your ability to communicate effectively in English.

It's not all work and no play (and you don't have to be fluent) Those who know a language are well equipped to enjoy travel, meeting people of other cultures, and the many benefits of learning a language — no matter what their level of fluency.

You will study:

The Edexcel GCSE syllabus for French and Spanish covers three key topics:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

Equipment needed: an Easy Learning dictionary will be useful.

Assessment:

The course is divided into Speaking, Writing, Listening and Reading. All skills are assessed in June/July of Year 11 and represent 25% of the total mark each.

Progression: This course can lead to A level French/Spanish and will be useful for careers in the Diplomatic Service, European Politics, Teaching and any job that requires travel around Europe, Africa and South America.

Student Profile: This course is ideally suited to any student wishing to develop their language skills further.

Email: Head of Languages Mrs Potter kpotter@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Modern Foreign Languages

Steps to Success

- Complete all home learning set. Reflect upon and respond to all feedback given by the teacher.
- Know the success criteria for each language skill, especially for speaking and writing.
- Refer regularly to and make good use of core vocabulary and grammar lists given by your teacher.
- Be proactive; take an active role in your learning by researching, practising and stretching yourself.
- Know your sentence and question building blocks.

Useful websites:

www.bitesize.co.uk

www.languagesonline.org.uk

www.linguascope.com

Excellence is not a skill. It's an attitude!

Music

Course Title: GCSE Music

Did you know that music involves more parts of the brain than any other function that people perform?

This course will help you to develop your enjoyment of music for further development in later life. It is designed to ensure that you can follow your own musical interests and to allow you to make music on your own and in groups. It will give you an understanding and appreciation of a wide variety of music and give you the confidence to comment on the music you hear. Lastly, it will develop other life-skills such as critical and creative thinking, cultural and emotional awareness, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-motivation – all skills welcomed by any employer.

You will study:

In addition to learning about a musical style of your choice, you will learn about pop music, film music, western art music from around 1600 and different types of music from around the world.

Equipment needed: If you are going to perform on an instrument rather than sing then you will need to have an instrument of your own at home. The school has industry standard software for recording your work and for production of electronic dance music. This software may be downloaded for FREE at home. Additionally, we have Sibelius for producing professional quality scores.

At The Bulmershe School, you have access to great facilities, industry leading tools and several performance opportunities.

Assessment:

You will be able to show your understanding by:

- Composing your own music in a style of your choice.
- Interpreting and performing music to a high standard.
- Answering questions about a diverse variety of music from around the World.

You will be expected to give **two performances** on your chosen instrument (which can be your voice) over the course of the year, lasting no less than 4 minutes. One of these performances will be on your own and the other in a group. These performances are worth **30%** of the total marks.

You will be expected to **compose** music lasting no less than three minutes in total. Your composing work will be worth **30%** of the total marks. You will be expected to complete a **90 minute listening exam** which may cover any of the topics and styles that we will cover in class. In this exam, you will hear several pieces of music that you have never heard before – But you will know how to identify and answer questions about the features that characterise the music. In fact, you shall have used many of these features in your own composing and performing work over the duration of the course. The exam will be worth **40%** of the total marks.

Progression: This course can lead to BTEC Level 3 Music Performing Course, Music A Level, music degree, work in the film, advertising, entertainment and music industry, music therapy and teaching. Additionally, the self-discipline expected of successful musicians is attractive to employers in all industries.

Student Profile: This course is ideally suited to any student who enjoys music; Whether you love beat boxing, sequencing, MC-ing, singing, playing guitar, drums or any other instrument that you can mention, the OCR GCSE syllabus makes it possible for students with a diverse range of skills to do well. Be prepared for hard work!

For more information please go to <http://www.ocr.org.uk/>

Email: Head of Music Mr A Mungall amungall@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

Excellence is not an exception, it is a prevailing attitude.

Music

Steps to Success

- Build up a portfolio of performance work.
- Be willing to try new things and listen to a wide range of music.
- Take risks and experiment with a range of musical styles.
- Be willing to work as part of a team / ensemble.
- Be prepared to ask for help and guidance.
- Be enthusiastic about the course.
- Know when your deadlines are and plan your time so you meet them.
- Attend support sessions after school, where required.
- Review and revise throughout the course.

PE

Course Title: GCSE Physical Education

Aims

The course will be both practical and theoretical. You will be assessed through continuous practical assessments and end of unit tests for the theory.

The course is assessed through 40% practical work based on 3 sports and 60% theory work.

What will you study?

- **PRACTICAL**-In your practical lessons, you will be expected to learn, develop and perform complex skills across a wide variety of sports.
- **THEORY**- Topics covered are based on the sociological, psychological and physiological aspects of sport. E.g. the demands placed on the performer, health and fitness, training, diet, applied physiology (how the body works in sporting situations), sport and culture.

How will you be assessed?

PRACTICAL- 40%

You will cover a wide range of sports throughout the course such as netball, swimming, football, athletics, hockey, table tennis, gymnastics and dance. An external moderator will finally assess you at the end of the two years based upon your 3 main sports. If you take part in a sport to a high level outside of school, which is not covered during your practical lessons, you can still be assessed in your sport by your teacher who will come to assess you at your club.

You will be required to produce a portfolio of evidence which will be based upon the rules of sports, performance analysis and evaluation.

THEORY-60%

Written examination at the end of year 11.

NB - You will be required to attend after school clubs in order to represent your school and to help you maximise your performance potential. We advise you to get involved in clubs outside of school.

After successful completion of this award, you can study A Level Physical Education or BTEC Sport Studies at The Bulmershe School Sixth Form or it will prepare you for the Sports & Fitness industry.

For more information go to www.aqa.org.uk

Email Head of P.E. Mr S Bradbury sbradbury@bulmershe.wokingham.sch.uk

PE

Steps to Success

- Practical assessment is worth 40% of your final grade. It is therefore essential that you attend extra-curricular clubs to maximise your practical marks.
- Your class notes will become your revision notes so it is important that they are presented clearly in your books and folders.
- Ensure you catch up on any lessons missed.
- To ensure you understand the work covered in the lesson you should always read through your class notes. It is helpful to highlight key words.
- All homework should be completed in full and handed in on time to develop your knowledge and understanding of the various topics.
- Preparation is the key to success. Researching a topic before or after a lesson can only develop your knowledge and understanding further.

Champions do not become champions when they win the event, but in the hours, weeks, months and years they spend preparing for it.

Photography

Course Title: GCSE Photography

Photography is an exciting subject that can be used in many different ways. Photography has many uses such as artistic, commercial, advertising, personal, industrial, fashion and architecture. Photographs can be used on the web or as beautiful printed objects. This course will teach you to look at the world in a creative way. Throughout the course, students will learn about a variety of photographic techniques and processes, including hands-on experimentation with digital media. Students will use sketchpads and workbooks to demonstrate all practical learning, ideas development and critical analysis. Tuition is enjoyable, structured, friendly and supportive. Photography develops a wide range of skills which will be useful in university applications and future careers. Photography may offer a highly creative and hands-on alternative to other subjects which you may be studying at GCSE.

You will study:

- a series of set projects exploring a variety of different processes and techniques, including black and white and colour photography, still life and portraiture and digital editing processes; freedom of choice will be encouraged to allow the development of individual style and technique, but the portfolio handed in for examination must cover a broad range of approaches.
- the work of photographers, artists and designers, both from the past and the present; learning how to analyse and evaluate their art work through critical and contextual writing relating to your own outcomes will form a part of the course.
- how to produce preparatory work showing your research, development and refinement process, learning how to present these to be entered in the portfolio and examination piece at the end of the course.

Projects to be covered may include:

Natural forms/still life/artist-based work/portraits/identity/other cultures/ environments including architecture/townscapes/ collections. At least one project will be based on work carried out during a visit to a major art gallery.

Equipment needed:

The Art Department provides students with a range of materials and equipment to successfully complete their course in class. However, to be fully equipped it is advised that students have their own digital camera, SD Card and memory stick.

Assessment:

Controlled assessment – Portfolio of work (Year 10 work and Year 11 mock exam): 60% of the total marks must include MORE than one project - you will have the flexibility to select

work from your course to effectively reflect and evidence the nature of your experiences and personal engagement with learning opportunities.

Externally set task (Year 11 Exam): 40% of the total marks. You will respond to one starting point. The paper is issued from the 1st of January in the year of examination to allow for the preparation of supporting studies - around ten weeks to complete a portfolio of work. The test must be completed inside a ten hour limit.

Progression:

This qualification can lead to Photography and Art and Design-related courses such as AS/A2 level Photography, which in turn can lead to a number of Foundation and Higher Education Courses.

Student Profile: this course is ideally suited to students who have a genuine passion for the subject, commitment and a willingness to learn and experiment - these are essential ingredients for success in this subject.

For more information please go to <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-product-design-4555>

Email: **Head of Photography Mr S Davis** - sdavis@bumershe.wokingham.sch.uk

There's a way to do better ... find it!

Photography

Steps to Success

- Discuss your work and ideas with your teacher and listen to their advice.
- Ensure you understand the assessment objectives and cover all of these in your coursework and examination preparation.
- Keep up-to-date with classwork and home learning.
- Visit photography exhibitions with family or friends!
- Attend workshops, when required, after school and lunchtime.
- Thoroughly annotate your work.
- Prepare for your lessons. Take photographs outside of school and bring them in to show your teacher and work on during lessons.
- Make sure you look closely at other photographers' work that is relevant to what you are studying and analyse what they are trying to say. Always express your thoughts and opinions and always use your own words.

Websites:

www.studentartguide.com

www.thephotographersgallery.com

www.pinterest.com

You can't use up creativity. The more you use the more you have.

HELP FOR STUDENTS: Revision and Mock Exam Advice

To Revise:

- Find a quiet place to revise in home, school or the library
- Check the specification to ensure your revision is relevant!
- Read your own notes and make any extra notes from a text book
- Summarise your notes into key headings with a clear structure. This could be in the form of a list or spider diagram
- Learn key definitions and basic diagrams (with labels)
- Check you understand the work. If not, ask!
- Record your notes onto an MP3 and listen to them. Ask a family member or friends to test you
- Highlight key points in your books or notes
- Use the school website for key dates and revision

Mock Exam Hints:

- Be prepared – ensure you have the correct equipment
- Learn what the different command words are asking you to do
- Plan your time carefully
- Don't panic, even if you feel that you are unable to answer a question. Leave it for now but ensure you return to it later

Parents: How you can make a difference!

Encourage your child to:

- Be motivated and take responsibility for their own learning
- Develop strategies for persisting when the learning is challenging
- Organise them and their notes for different subjects
- Complete work independently
- Complete coursework in a timely manner

Other ideas to support:

- Provide a quiet place for your child to revise
- Ensure they have breakfast and eat a healthy diet, drinking plenty of water
- Make sure your child has adequate sleep and rest

Supporting progress:

- Encourage your child to read around the topics studied and keep up-to-date with current affairs
- Ensure your child's work is well-organised and backed up, both at home and at school
- Monitor your child's planner and the Boomerang system and communicate regularly with tutors and teachers if needed
- Encourage your child not to leave homework to the last minute
- Talk to your son/daughter about what areas are covered in their courses and ensure they understand what they are learning
- Check your child's homework **after** it has been marked and encourage them to make any necessary corrections

Contact with the school:

- If your child is consistently telling you that there is no homework
- If your child does not want to attend school if they are behind on work or feel that they cannot cope
- If your child has to be taken out of school for a particular relevant reason

% of Attendance	Attendance as a grade	RATE
100%	9	Perfect
98-99%	8	Excellent
96-97%	6-7	good
95%	5	Satisfactory (+0.29 progress)
93-94%	4	Unsatisfactory
91-92%	3	At risk of becoming a child with 'Persistent Absence' (PA)
90%	2	Identified as a child with 'Persistent Absence' (PA)
<89%	1	Education Welfare Officer (EWO) involved - At risk of a Penalty notice
<85%	U	Court proceedings may begin

The Bulmershe School Summer Term 2 Progress Report



Student Name:
Tutor Group: 1

Attendance: 100.0% (100% = perfect 98-99% = excellent 96-97% = good 94-95% = satisfactory 92-93% = unsatisfactory 90-91% = at risk of becoming a student with persistent absence (PA) below 90% = student identified with persistent absence (PA) Education Welfare Officer

Number of Positive Points Achieved: 136 (average whole year group achievement points: 72)

Subject	Teacher	Attitude to learning*	Current Attainment	Good Progress Target for End of Year 10	Homework*	The comment below outlines: 1) the name of the assessment John's current attainment is based on 2) a target to help John make suitable progress
Biology	Mrs C Sandels	2	4	4+	2	1) Short test on Year 9 and 10 topics 2) Evaluate the issues involved in embryo screening
Chemistry	Dr W Prowse	2	4	4+	2	1) Short test on Year 9 and 10 Chemistry topics 2) Show that you can predict outcomes of chemical reactions and explain them
English Language	Mrs A Dench	1	7-	5-	1	1) A speech on a topic of own choice 2) purposefully select a range of punctuation for clarity and sentence structures for deliberate effect
French	Mrs K Potter	1	4	4+	1	1) Cumulative Assessments to date 2) Use grammatical structures learnt in class to progress
Graphics	Mr A Hulley	1	5	4+	2	1) Festival Project 2) to complete the current project by the end of the year
History	Miss T Moran	1	5	4+	1	1) Transportation assessment and all work completed so far 2) produce organised and structured work with a clear line of argument throughout

*) 1-outstanding 2-positive 3-inconsistent 4-poor

6th form entry requirements

Students wishing to study 3 AS subjects: 5 subjects at grade 4 or above including English and Maths
Students wishing to study level 2 courses: 5 subjects at grade 3 or above including English and Maths

Above is an example of the tracker sheet that you will receive at the end of each half term to help you understand the progress that your child is making.

The attitude to learning is graded 1-4. 1 would suggest that your child is performing exceptionally in that subject where as a 4 would suggest there is a cause for concern.

The current attainment grade is what they are currently working at within their subjects.

The target grade is what they are expected to achieve at the end of year 10.

A homework grade shows how effective your child is when it comes to completing homework. A 1 would suggest the homework they are submitting is consistently outstanding, 1 would suggest it is good, a 3 would suggest it is inconsistent and a 4 would suggest it is not being handing in at all.

The final column shows what your child has been studying as well as comment for each child their next steps to ensure they continue to make progress.



The
Bulmershe
School

INSPIRING POTENTIAL,
ACHIEVING TOGETHER