

Friesland School



KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS

Information for Year 8 students and
parents

2019/20

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Key dates

Monday 7th January

Options website goes live

Tuesday 15th January

Year 8 parents evening

Wednesday 16th January

Deadline for signing up to taster sessions

w/b 21st January

Taster sessions during the week

Friday 8th February

Deadline for options applications

Introduction

Welcome to our Key stage 4 options information booklet. At Friesland we have the highest expectations of our students and want them to gain high value qualifications that will prepare them for further study and the world of work. We also want our students to study a broad and balanced curriculum of subjects that they enjoy and are enthusiastic about. Our Key stage 4 curriculum supports both of these aspirations.

All students will continue to study GCSE's in English, Mathematics, Science and core (non-examined) PE. In addition students must choose 4 additional subjects that they wish to study through to year 11.

Help and advice

There is lots of help and advice available to students to decide which 4 subjects that they will study.

Year 8 parents evening held on Tuesday 15th January is an opportunity for students and their parents to talk face to face with their teachers about further study in their subjects. In addition students can talk through their choices with their form tutors or their Head of year Mrs Reynolds. Above all else students should choose subjects that they enjoy and subjects that they feel they are good at.

Taster sessions

Most subjects available to students will be familiar to students. However students will not have met Business studies, Film studies and Travel and tourism. During the week beginning 21st January there will be hour long "taster sessions" for these three subjects. During these sessions students will get an introduction to the courses and be able to ask any questions that they might have.

The sign-up sheet for these sessions will be on Google classroom and students will have until Wednesday 16th January to sign up to these sessions.

Online applications

Google classroom

All students have been invited to join a google classroom called “GCSE option choices”. Students should join this class. Students will submit their option choices using Google classroom. It’s therefore important that all students know how to log into Google classroom. Any student who does not should contact the IT support team.

In addition to the options submission form, Google classroom will also host the taster sessions sign up form and an expanded version of this booklet which contains a description of the options process and also detailed information about all of the subjects that students can choose from.

The online form

The Google classroom will contain a link to the online form into which students can enter their options. The form will remain open until Friday 8th February.

If you wish to make changes to your choices after you have submitted them online, then please contact Mr McKay and we will delete the old record, allowing you to resubmit.

Any student who doesn’t have internet access or has difficulty with the online application process and would like help should contact Mr McKay

Option routes

The core curriculum

All students will study a core curriculum comprising of GCSEs in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science and core (non-examined) core PE.

Two options routes

In addition students will follow one of two option routes.

The majority of students will follow the route A. Through this route students can achieve the English Baccalaureate by studying English and English Literature, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Humanities and a Language. In addition, students will be able to make at two further option choices from the subjects in the option blocks.

A minority of students will follow route B which offers a more flexible curriculum. Students following this route will study a humanities subject plus three guided choices from the subjects in the option blocks.

Option route A

Students following the Route A will enter the EBACC. They will make 4 choices.

Choice 1: A language

Students choose to study one of the following languages subjects:

German or Spanish

Choice 2: A humanities

Students choose to study one of the following humanities subjects:

History or Geography

Students wishing to study two humanities subjects can choose the additional subject in a later choice.

Choice 3: A free choice

Students choose to study one of the following options subjects:

Art, Art (Textiles), Business studies, Computing, Drama, Film studies, Geography, German, History, ICT, Music, Music technology, PE, Religious Studies, Spanish or Travel and tourism.

Choice 4: A free choice

Students choose to study one of the following options subjects:

Art, Business studies, Computing, D&T: papers and boards, D&T: timbers, metals and polymers, Drama, Engineering, Film studies, Food technology, Geography, German, History, ICT, PE or Spanish.

Route A at a glance

The best way to visualise route A is using the table below. Students have 4 choices to make and must choose one subject from each column of the table. Some subjects appear in more than one column so you should think about which subject you choose in each column to achieve the combination of subjects that you wish to study.

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4
German	Geography	Art	Art
Spanish	History	Art (Textiles)	Business studies
		Business studies	Computer science
		Computer science	D&T: papers and boards
		Drama	D&T: Timbers, metals and polymers
		Film studies	Drama
		Geography	Engineering
		History	Film studies
		ICT	Food technology
		Music	Geography
		Music technology	History
		PE	ICT
		Religious studies	PE
		Travel and tourism	

Option route B

Students following route B will make 4 choices:

Choice 1: A Humanities subject

Students choose one of these subjects:

Geography, History

Students wishing to study two humanities subjects can choose the additional subject in a later choice

Choice 2: A Free choice

Students choose one of these subjects:

Art, Computing, Geography, German, History, Music, PE, Religious studies, Spanish or Travel and tourism.

Choice 3: A Free choice

Students choose one of these subjects:

Business studies, Drama, Film studies, Geography, German, History, ICT, Music Technology, PE or Spanish

Choice 4: A Free choice

Students choose one of these subjects:

Art, Art (Textiles), Business studies, Computing, D&T: papers and boards, D&T: Timbers, metals and polymers, Drama, Engineering, Film studies, Food technology, Geography, German, History, ICT, PE or Spanish.

Route B at a glance

The best way to visualise route B is using the table below. Students have 4 choices to make and must choose one subject from each column of the table. Some subjects appear in more than one column so you should think about which subject you choose in each column to achieve the combination of subjects that you wish to study.

Choice 1	Choice 2	Choice 3	Choice 4
Geography	Art	Business studies	Art
History	Computing	Drama	Art (Textiles)
	Geography	Film studies	Business studies
	German	Geography	Computing
	History	German	D&T: Papers and boards
	ICT	History	D&T: Timbers, metals and polymers
	Music	ICT	Engineering
	PE	Music Technology	Film studies
	Religious studies	PE	Food technology
	Spanish	Spanish	Geography
	Travel and Tourism		German
			History
			ICT
			PE
			Spanish

Other options

Reserve choices

We make every effort to ensure that students get their first choices. 95% of the time students get all their first choices but we cannot guarantee that. Because of this you will be asked to indicate a reserve choice when you make your final two choices. We do not guarantee that every subject will run. If very few people choose a subject then we may not be able to afford to run the course. Similarly, some subjects are very popular and have only limited places on them. In instances where we have more students than places students effort in that subject during year 9 will be used to decide on the makeup of the groups.

GCSE Dance

Students can opt to study GCSE Dance instead of following the normal core PE curriculum. If you want more information about GCSE Dance then please talk to Mrs Baxendale who is our Dance teacher. Applications to do this are made on the same online form that is used for student's option choices.

Qualifications

All of the courses that students study will lead to a GCSE or BTEC qualification.

BTECS

BTECS are high quality vocational qualifications that are equivalent in value to GCSE's. BTEC's offer the same progression routes as GCSE's. All colleges and sixth forms will accept BTEC's and GCSE equivalently for all of their courses.

At Friesland we offer BTEC's in Business studies, Engineering, Food, ICT, Music technology and Travel and tourism.

BTECS's are graded on a 5 point scale: Starred distinction, Distinction, Merit, Level 2 pass, level 1 pass. The primary difference between BTEC and GCSE courses is that BTEC courses are assessed largely through coursework while GCSE's are assessed through exams. For more information speak to Mrs Burton who leads our vocational offer or Mr McKay who coordinates the options process.

Subjects with two courses

Business studies, Computer science, Engineering, Food, Computer science and PE offer both GCSE and BTEC courses. When making your options in these subjects you will not have the choice to distinguish between the GCSE and BTEC courses. Once students have made their choices our subjects will decide on the most appropriate subject for each student and place each student in an appropriate class. For more information speak to the head of the subject whose course you are interested in or Mr McKay.

Single Subject pages

The rest of this information booklet is organised into pages that give a brief summary of the course that students will study in that subject.

English language and literature

The course

The English course followed by all students in Years 9, 10 and 11 consists of two separately certificated subjects: 'English Language' and 'English Literature'. All students will normally be entered for both and receive two GCSE grades.

English Language and English Literature help students learn to read and respond to fiction and non-fiction texts. This develops their ability to prove their understanding by selecting relevant information and giving an informed response to it.

Students will also develop their ability to write in a range of styles, learning to choose the most appropriate vocabulary and style for the purpose of the writing and the intended reader.

All students must be entered for English Language and English Literature at Key Stage 4

Assessment

GCSE Courses are assessed purely by examination and at the end of the two years.

English Language GCSE:

Two written examinations

1. Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing
2. Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

English Literature GCSE:

Two written examinations

1. Shakespeare and the 19th-Century Novel
2. Modern texts and Poetry

Progression

A good grade in English is a pre-requisite for any Level 3 course including moving onto the Sixth Form

Mathematics

The course

All students continue with their Mathematics education in Years 9, 10 and 11. The course covers a wide range for topics from the four main areas of Mathematics, number, shape, data and algebra. The course is taught to engage students, allowing them to progress them through these topics whilst building a solid mathematical basis.

GCSE Mathematics is delivered in two tiers which are targeted at the ability levels of the students:

Foundation tier Grades 1 - 5

Higher tier Grades 4 - 9

Students will take the Higher or Foundation Tier depending on their level of attainment at the end of KS3. Students on a lower level at KS3 would be expected to follow the Foundation tier syllabus.

However we recognise that individual development means that opportunities to sit the Higher tier remain a possibility for those who are well motivated and demonstrate improved understanding of the work undertaken. Students who follow the Higher tier are expected to achieve Grades 4 - 9, those at Foundation level can achieve Grades 1 - 5.

Assessment

There are 3 papers which make up the GCSE assessment which are sat at the end of the course. These are each worth 33.3% of their GCSE grade. All papers will include topics from Number, Algebra, Shape, Ratio, Proportion, Measures and Statistics.

Paper 1 – 33.3% non-calculator – 90 mins

Paper 2 – 33.3% calculator – 90 mins

Paper 3 – 33.3% calculator – 90 mins

Progression

A higher GCSE Mathematics grade is required for most further education courses, sixth forms and apprenticeships, make sure you check what the minimum grade requirement for what you want to do after GCSE. For those with a grade 7 or higher you can undertake further study in A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

Science

The course

All students begin their GCSE Science 'Trilogy' Course in which they study a mix of the 3 Sciences (Chemistry, Physics and Biology) in Year 9. They will continue the course throughout Year 10 and 11 and then sit their exams at the end of Year 11 to gain 2 GCSE Science grades.

However for our more able Scientists, we offer separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics GCSEs. Students who are suitable for this course will be selected towards the end of Year 9. These students will have shown good ability in the subject and a passion to learn the subject in more depth. They will gain 3 GCSE Science grades at the end of Year 11.

Assessment

Science Trilogy: They will sit 6 exams at the end of Year 11. They will also have to complete a number of practical activities throughout the course, which take place in normal lesson time.

Separate Sciences: They will sit 6 exams at the end of Year 11. They will also have to complete a number of practical activities throughout the course, which take place in normal lesson time.

Progression

For those who achieve grade 6 or above in Trilogy Science or any of the Separate Sciences then there is the option of A-Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

For those with a grade 4 in the above there is the option of Level 3 BTEC Applied Science course, which is the equivalent of an A-Level.

Geography

The course

We are all global citizens. We eat food and buy goods made in different countries, go on holiday abroad and see events from around the world in the news every day. Geography is the subject that helps us to make sense of the complicated world in which we live.

Geography enables us to find answers to questions such as:

Is internet shopping to blame for the closure of High Street shops?

How does population growth cause the deserts to grow in Africa?

How can tourists help to save the tropical rainforests?

Why did a hurricane cause crime to increase in New Orleans?

Were the 2016 Olympics a good thing for the people of Rio de Janeiro?

How might a snowman help to stop floods?

The course we follow at Friesland School is a modern look at geography, using real life case studies of the subjects we study. We use a variety of classroom activities, homework tasks and fieldwork trips to examine how people affect the natural world and how the natural world affects us.

Assessment

The course comprises four units; which are tested through three examinations. . The topics covered on the course include cities, types of work, ecosystems such as rainforests, weather and climate, rivers, coasts, climate change, desertification, water sources and development issues.

Progression

Geography is the subject that covers aspects of both the sciences and arts. This means that you develop a broad range of knowledge and skills that are useful in any job or future studies. Plus having a sense of place and an understanding of issues in the world today is essential in our daily lives. Specific jobs that may require geography are town planning, tourism, environmental jobs, architecture, surveying and geographical information systems jobs, to name a few!

History

The course

We are all products of the past. Our lives are shaped by all that has gone before. Studying history helps students to develop their own identities and their understanding of the world we live in as they consider history at local, national and international levels. History develops important skills of analysis and empathy with people from the past and from different cultures, it also hones skills of argument and debate. And last, but by no means least, it is fun!

The course is split into four topics :

A Thematic study: British Medicine c1250-present and The British sector of the Western front 1914-18, injuries, treatment and the trenches.

Period Study and British Depth Study: The American West 1840-95. The settlement of the West by the white man, the inevitable clash of cultures with the Native Americans.

Henry the VIII and his ministers 1509-1540.

Modern Depth Study: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

Assessment

100% is on a written examination:

Paper 1: Thematic Study and Historic environment 1 hour 15 min exam (30% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study 1 hour 45 min exam (40% of GCSE)

Paper 3: Modern Depth Study. 1 hour 20 min exam (30% of GCSE)

Progression

The options are endless. There is the obvious option of A level study. This qualification will prepare you for further education in a variety of areas not just History.

German

The course

Studying German will teach you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand the spoken and written language. You will learn about the cultures of countries where German is spoken and will be able to communicate with people from these countries. You will learn the following skills: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking. You will have already learnt a lot of German in year 7 and year 8 which will provide you with a good basis for GCSE. Remember not everyone can speak a foreign language and this is the best opportunity you will ever have. There is also our successful German exchange with our partner school in Langen.

Assessment

Listening and understanding in German is worth 25% of the final GCSE. You will listen to audio tracks containing messages, dialogues, announcements, discussions etc. in German and respond accordingly to questions on an exam paper.

Speaking in German is worth 25% of the GCSE. Students respond to 3 different stimuli materials: Role play, Photo card, General conversations

Reading and understanding in German is worth 25% of the GCSE. The exam paper contains a variety of different texts. There is also a translation from German into English.

Writing in German is worth 25% of the GCSE. Students must demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. This paper also includes a translation from English into German.

Progression

A GCSE in German will be a very worthwhile qualification in the future, both vocationally and for those going on to higher education. Vocationally, if you are thinking of going into Engineering, Computing or International Business, German is a superb extra language to have. Some of the most important engineering work in the world is now based in Germany. Some universities are beginning to insist on a language qualification. Learning one now will help you to learn others in the future. If you wanted to study German at university you would need an A level. We offer German up to A Level.

Spanish

The course

Studying Spanish will teach you to communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand the spoken and written language. It will benefit you when you come into contact with Spanish-speaking people at home and abroad, both at work in the future and on holiday. And Spanish is geographically the widest spoken language in the world after English.

You will learn about the cultures of countries where Spanish is spoken and will be able to communicate with people from these countries. You will learn the following skills: Listening, Reading, Writing, and Speaking.

You will have already learnt a lot of Spanish in year 7 and year 8 which will provide you with a good basis for GCSE. Remember not everyone can speak a foreign language and this is the best opportunity you will ever have. There is also a trip to Valencia in early July of year 10.

Assessment

The course assessment is as follows; Listening and understanding in Spanish is worth 25% of the final GCSE

You will listen to audio tracks containing messages, dialogues, announcements; discussions etc. in Spanish and respond accordingly to questions on an exam paper. Speaking in Spanish is worth 25% of the GCSE Students respond to 3 different stimuli materials: Role play, Photo card and a General conversation.

Reading and understanding in Spanish is worth 25% of the GCSE. The exam paper contains a variety of different texts. There is also a translation from Spanish into English. Writing in Spanish is worth 25% of the GCSE Students must demonstrate their ability to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes. This paper also includes a translation from English into Spanish

Progression

If you are looking for a career in Travel and Tourism, International Business or Fashion, among many other areas, Spanish is the language for you. Some Universities are also beginning to insist on a GCSE language qualification. Learning one now will help you to learn others in the future. If you wanted to study Spanish at university you would need an A level. We also offer Spanish up to A level.

Art & Design

The course

The GCSE course in Art, Craft and Design allows you to develop skills in a variety of ways: observational drawing and recording using photography, research and analysis of other artists, experimentation with materials and techniques, and the creation of your personal responses to themes and set tasks.

Drawing is important and will be the starting point for much of your work, but it is not the only skill you require or the only one you will improve. GCSE Art and Design is not just about being good at drawing. You will be encouraged to develop new skills as you are given the opportunity to use a variety of approaches and techniques including painting, textiles, photography, graphic and digital media, 3d design, printmaking, mixed media and sculpture.

You will learn how to investigate and appreciate a broad range of work produced by artists, craftspeople and designers, from different cultures and periods of history. Where possible, we will take trips to exhibitions to help support the development of your work.

Assessment

Your Art Teacher will monitor your progress closely, give you advice and assess your work. The examination grade is achieved through 60% coursework which is selected from all the art work and written work you produce during the course. 40% is gained from the external examination. You will be given the exam paper about ten to twelve weeks before the exam so that you can research, plan, experiment and prepare for it. During the 10 hour exam you will then demonstrate your skills and creativity producing a final outcome in response to the question you have chosen to research. There is no written exam for this GCSE option.

Progression

The range of careers that GCSE Art is useful for is very broad as the Creative Industries are important employers in the UK at the moment. Careers range from traditional creative directions such as Fashion, Textiles, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Architecture, Product Design and Theatre Design, to more recent career opportunities such as Film and Television, Display, Conservation, Animation and Concept Design. Friesland students have been successful in many of these careers.

Art and design (Textiles)

The course

The GCSE course in Textiles allows you to develop skills in a variety of ways: recording using sketches and photography, research and analysis of Textile artists, experimentation with materials and techniques, and the creation of your personal responses to themes and set tasks.

By taking GCSE Textiles you will be encouraged to develop new skills as you are given the opportunity to use a variety of Textile Design techniques and processes with fibres, threads, yarns, dyes and fabrics. These may include weaving, knitting, felt making, printmaking, embellishing and hand embroidery. Techniques using the sewing machine are an integral part of the course; including appliqué, reverse appliqué, quilting, machine embroidery, construction methods for soft sculptures or garments. Both functional and non functional Textiles can be explored.

Assessment

Your Textile Teacher will monitor your progress closely, give you advice and assess your work. The examination grade is achieved through 60% coursework which is selected from all the Textile work you produce during the course. 40% is gained from the external examination. You will be given the exam paper about ten to twelve weeks before the exam so that you can research, plan, experiment and prepare for it. During the 10 hour exam you will then demonstrate your skills and creativity producing a final outcome in response to the question you have chosen to research.

There is no written exam for this GCSE option.

Progression

The range of careers that GCSE Textiles is useful for is very broad as the Creative Industries are important employers in the UK. Careers range from creative directions in Fashion Design or Illustration, Textiles, Surface Pattern or Decoration, Digital Textiles, Printed and Dyed Textiles, Interior Design, Costume Design and Textile Installations or Textiles may be incorporated into Graphic Design and Animation. Friesland students have been successful in many of these career

Business GCSE

The course

The GCSE Business course provides an understanding of the commercial world, how businesses operate and how businesses grow. In today's economic climate, Business Studies is an important and worthwhile subject area. No matter what career you decide to pursue, you will be involved in business in some way. By the end of the course you will possess the necessary skills and knowledge to set up your own successful business. You never know, you could be the next Alan Sugar! You will study six units throughout the course. Each of the six units will focus on specific aspects of business. The main topics included are:

- Business in the real world including how to be a successful entrepreneur
- Influences on business including. e-commerce, legislation and the economy
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

Assessment

The course is assessed through two written exams.

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity worth 50% of the course

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity worth 50% of the course

Both exams will be a combination of multiple choice questions, case study and data response questions.

Progression

The GCSE Business course covers a wide variety of topic areas so would lead extremely well in to many A level subject areas. Primarily, the GCSE Business course provides an excellent knowledge base to A level Business. However, it also has links with Maths, Sociology, Psychology, Media, Law and Accountancy.

The GCSE Business Studies has a very diverse content, and you will learn many aspects of business. This course would benefit a huge array of different careers as everyone will be involved in business in some way throughout their careers.

Business BTEC

The course

The BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise gives you an insight into the way in which a business operates. It covers many different aspects of business in a variety of units.

BTEC (delete the word business) is a vocational course, which means it has a great practical element to its content. During Years 9, 10 and 11 you will be required to do constant research of different businesses and show how these businesses are affected by different influences in the business world. You will also learn the skills necessary to start your own successful business!

You will be asked to produce various pieces of work to make up each unit's final assignment. These can include:

- PowerPoint presentations
- leaflets
- fact sheets, and
- written reports

The coursework is made up of several different elements, each one based around a business scenario. For an example of the Unit 1 assignment see Mrs Burton or pick one up at the Year 9 Information evening.

Assessment

Due to the vocational element of this course the majority of the formal assessment will be through coursework. You will study three units; two of these are assessed through a piece of coursework, which you will complete in lessons. The third unit will be assessed through a written exam paper.

Progression

On successful completion of this BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise, you can use it as an entry into the sixth form. It is a useful introduction for various A level courses and Vocational A levels

Computer science

The course

Computer Science GCSE will develop your understanding of computer systems and programming. You will learn how computers work and build the programming skills and computing knowledge to apply this understanding across both written work and programming challenges.

You will gain advanced knowledge and understanding of computer systems and high level programming languages.

The Computer Science course is a challenging and exciting course which enables students who have an interest in computing and/or programming to further build their understanding and move on to further study or a career in the computing sector.

Assessment

The course is 20% Coursework, 80% exam. There are three units that are assessed.³ All three Units are taught across the 2 years.

Unit 1: Computer Systems. This unit introduces students to systems architecture, networking, software and security. Topics include: System Software, Memory, Storage, CPU, Networks, System Security, Legalities

Unit 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming This unit builds students programming knowledge, techniques and understanding of different languages and data representation. Topics Include: Binary, Translators, Algorithms, SQL, Pseudocode, Sorting, Compression

Unit 3: Programming project. This project is set by the exam board and students produce a program in 20hrs of controlled assessment. The Programming language used is mostly Python.

Progression

You can progress to study A-Level Computing.

A-level computing provides a comprehensive start for students to progress onwards to further Computing/Programming study or employment.

Dance

The course

Dance GCSE is an exciting option at Friesland School. It offers you opportunities and challenges both practically and academically. Developing personal skills such as confidence, co-operation and independence. The course is now run within core PE to enable students the opportunity to gain an additional GCSE qualification.

The course focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance, in particular looking at dance movement as a way to communicate through mediums such as appreciation, creation and performance.

Two lessons are delivered in curriculum time within core P.E. In addition to this students will be required to do one session per week after school in order to complete the course requirements. Commitment to these sessions is compulsory.

Assessment

GCSE Dance will be a challenging, but enjoyable, course where assessment will take place in a variety of forms:

The course has two components

1) Performance and choreography (60% of course). This component has three assessed units: Performance in a duo/trio (20% of course), the performance of set phrases within a solo performance (10% of course), Solo or group choreography (30% of course)

2) Dance appreciation (40% of course). This requires the students to sit a written exam. Questions will be based on the students own practice in performance and choreography and the professional works set by the exam board.

Progression

Many students go on to study dance at A Level or into a more general course in the performing arts. Many degree courses now focus on a range of dance skills such as choreography, appreciation, teaching and performance. Alongside degree courses there are many dance schools/colleges that create elite performers.

Design & Technology

The course

GCSE Design and Technology can be studied in one of the following routes:

Design and Technology with papers and boards or,

Design and Technology with timbers, metals and polymers

Both routes will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world.

Students will be able to choose the focus of their Design and Technology GCSE when studying the specialist subject knowledge and when completing the non-examined assessment.

Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing, making and applying technical and practical expertise.

The Design and Technology GCSE 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.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a written exam that is worth 50% of the course and a controlled assessment task that is worth 50% of the course.

The exam is a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended response questions. The controlled assessment comprises of a design and make task. Students are required to investigate a chosen topic, produce a 20 page A3 portfolio and create a final piece of practical work.

Products can be made in the student's preferred material area but all students will be expected to work within a range of materials.

Progression

Possible routes for progression are A Level Design and Technology, Apprenticeships, Creative industries

Drama

The course

Drama is not only for you if you are interested in performance and wish to pursue a career in an Arts-related fields, it also enables you to develop the confidence and communication skills necessary to any successful social and working life.

The course aims to develop:

- an understanding and response to a wide range of play texts and an ability to communicate the authors intentions to an audience
- an awareness of social, historical and cultural contexts of play texts
- increased self and group awareness and the ability to appreciate and evaluate the work of others, and
- skills of creativity, time management, resilience, self-confidence, concentration, self-discipline and communication

Assessment

Assessment is broken down into the following areas:

- Devising Drama
- Creating and performing your own piece of devised theatre. You also Analyse and evaluate your own work through a portfolio which could include photographs, annotations, notes, video and audio recordings.
- Presenting and Performing Text
- You must perform two extracts from a play for a visiting examiner
- Written Exam (40%)
- Studying a set text practically and writing about it. Analysing and evaluating a live theatre production that you have seen
- Theatre visits, essays and practical written responses will be set all the way through the course as homework

Progression

There are many progression routes from GCSE drama including: AS/A2 Level Drama & Theatre Studies/Performing Arts, Level 3 BTEC Drama and Performing Arts Courses.

Engineering

The course

The sky's the limit. Engineering is an increasingly innovative and exciting area to work in. It affects every aspect of modern life – from skyscrapers to smart phones, cars to carrier bags.

The course introduces students to a host of new technologies, helping them to gain practical skills and understanding to inspire a lifelong interest in engineering. The Engineering GCSE will utilize a range of mathematical and scientific formulae and techniques to problem solve and develop ideas.

Subject content is split into six sections. This subject content will be taught within a range of realistic contexts based around the major themes in the course specification. Students will learn about Engineering materials, Engineering manufacturing processes, Systems, Testing and investigation, The impact of modern technologies, Practical engineering skills

Students will get the opportunity to apply this subject knowledge to creatively solve problems within an engineering context.

The Engineering GCSE will particularly appeal to those who enjoy being creative, with an affinity for drawing, design, mathematics, science and problem-solving.

Assessment

The course is assessed through a written exam that is worth 60% of the course and a non-examined assessment task that is worth 40% of the course.

The exam is a mixture of multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended response questions.

The non-examined assessment comprises of a report that includes engineering drawings or schematics to communicate a solution to the brief and also an engineering product that solves a problem.

Progression

Possible routes for progression from the GCSE in Engineering could include;

A'Level Design and Technology, A'Level Tech-level Engineering, Apprenticeships

Film

The course

Studying GCSE film allows you to develop your interest and enjoyment of a wide range of films and find out how the film industry works. As a Film Studies student, you will learn how to analyse film with a critical and investigative approach considering the following concepts and their related theories: film language, audience, institution, representation and importantly, contextual issues and debates.

As well as becoming an analytical film critic, you will also develop your technical, practical and creative skills as you work with lights, cameras, Adobe editing software and online tools in the Media imac suite.

Furthermore, you will have used your knowledge and understanding to create your own film studies coursework such as a screenplay, a storyboard and perhaps even, a scene from a film of your own design. You will examine a wide range of full, feature-length films such as:

King Solomon's Mines, Raiders of the Lost Ark, Slumdog Millionaire, District 9, Juno, The Hurt Locker, The Wave, Attack the Block and many more film extracts throughout the course.

By the end of the course, you will be able to write at length from a critical perspective on how different factors shape film productions, their representations and the ways audiences respond.

Assessment

You will be assessed by two end-of-course examinations of 1hr 30 mins, worth 70% of the final GCSE mark.

Paper 1 (35%) – US Film 1930-1960, US Independent Film

Paper 2 (35%) – Global Film English Language, Global Film Non-English Language, British Film

You will also be required to produce coursework worth 30%.

Progression

If you have followed this specification, you will have the necessary knowledge, understanding and skills to progress to the more demanding A Level Film Studies or Media Studies, Advanced BTEC Media or to a range of related subjects at A Level and Advanced BTEC level.

Food

The course

Students will be taught through practical tasks a variety of knowledge and technical skills related to food throughout years 9 and 10. Students will then use the skills they have learnt in year 11 to produce their own choice of dishes. Students will investigate ingredients and learn the functional, nutritional and sensory properties of food as well as food safety and hygiene. They will be tested with exam board set practical tasks and a written paper at the end of the course. The practical tests will be based on exploring, testing and modifying both British and International recipes as well as discovering about food science. The written exam will test such areas as nutrition, diet, health, production processes and the availability and sources of food. Students should have a keen interest in food and be prepared to organise and bring in chosen ingredients on a weekly basis"

The course will be delivered by a food specialist teacher in a well-equipped food technology room.

The mandatory modules are Food, nutrition and health, food science, food safety, food choice, and food provenance

Students will be expected to provide ingredients for all practical activities.

All students will be expected to provide an apron to wear during practical activities.

Assessment

Written exam – 50% of the total mark (1 hour 45mins)

Non-exam assessment (based on 2 tasks) - 50% of the total mark

Task 1: A Food investigation assessed via a written or electronic report, including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

Task 2: Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a set period of time. This will be submitted alongside a written or electronic portfolio, including photographic evidence of the three final dishes.

Progression

There are lots of natural progression routes from GCSE food including catering and hotel and hospitality management courses.

ICT

The course

Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia are media sector-focused, including web development and animation, and have IT at their heart. They provide knowledge in a number of key areas in this field from pre-production skills to digital animation and have a motivating, hands-on approach to both teaching and learning. Cambridge Nationals deliver skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things. You will complete 4 Units in total.

Unit 1 Pre Production Skills. This unit will enable learners to understand pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector.

Unit 2 Creating digital graphics. The aim of this unit is for learners to understand the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector. They will learn where and why digital graphics are used and what techniques are involved in their creation.

Unit 3 Creating a multipage website. This unit will enable learners to understand the basics of creating multipage websites. It will enable learners to demonstrate their creativity by combining components to create a functional, intuitive and aesthetically pleasing website.

Unit 4 Creating a digital animation. This unit enables learners to understand the basics of digital animation for the creative and digital media sector. Learners will be able to plan a digital animation to a client brief, use animation software to create the animation and be able to store, export and review the final product.

Assessment

The course consists of one exam (25%) that is assessed externally and three coursework units (75%) that are assessed internally. The course is graded Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Progression

You can progress to Level 3 BTEC in ICT at Friesland. All careers need a basic level of understanding in computer systems and employers expect employees to be digitally literate.

Music

The course

Music has three focus areas: performance, composition and listening and appraising.

The course provides students the opportunity to gain self-confidence through performing to others. It develops team-working skills through performing with others. GCSE Music extends students' creative skills through composing music. The course encourages the understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process

Assessment

There are 3 units of work

Unit 1: Performance: 30% of the qualification. Students perform two separate pieces, of at least four minutes' combined duration. There is one solo performance, of at least one minute in duration. There is one ensemble performance, of at least one minute in duration.

Unit 2: Composing: 30% of the qualification. Students compose two compositions, of at least three minutes' combined duration. One composition to a brief set by Pearson, of at least one minute in duration. One free composition set by the student, of at least one minute in duration. Each composition will be out of 30 marks. Work is internally marked and externally moderated.

Unit 3: Appraising. Written examination. 40% of the qualification . The paper is made up of two sections and is out of a total of 80 marks. It has 2 sections and contains a variety of question styles.

Progression

GCSE Music provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including A level Music and a career in music professions.

Music technology

The course

Half your lesson time will be spent preparing for the two core units and the other half for your chosen specialist area. Everyone studies Core 1: The Music Industry and Core 2: Managing a Music Product. You will then choose an appropriate pathway with your teacher for a further two units to develop your practical skills in either performing, composing or music technology.

The BTEC First certificate/ diploma is a vocational course, which prepares learners for careers in the Performing Arts, Music or Entertainment Industry whilst developing skills required for any profession such as confidence, organisation, time keeping, ICT. It also provides good progression to BTEC Nationals or AS/A2 levels. The aim of this course is to introduce you to specific aspects of the music profession through practical and creative work. You will develop your skills in a specific area of music, chosen with advice from your teacher from performance, composition or music technology, or you could choose to combine two areas.

Assessment

This course is 75% practical although there are many ways in which each unit of work may be assessed. Each Unit has several assignments for you to complete; and every piece of work counts towards your final grade. These may be practical tasks involving performances, presentations or practical demonstrations. They could be written tasks with research or they may be end musical products such as a performance, composition or recording. Assessment for these tasks will be on-going by the teacher.

Progression

There are different progression routes from Music technology the most obvious is A level in Music or Music Technology.

PE GCSE

The course

Friesland School offers students the opportunity to undertake a GCSE course in Physical Education. We follow the AQA specification, which has a full and varied theory content, as well as the opportunity to take part in a wide range of sporting activities.

Assessment

The GCSE PE course is made up of two parts:

1. Practical Controlled Assessment – 40% of overall grade. This requires you to be highly competent in three activities for assessment one team activity, one individual activity and a second team or individual.

An example of an assessment pathway: Basketball performer, Athletics performer, Badminton performer.

Students will also carry out an Analysis and Evaluation of Performance in one of the three activities they have been assessed in.

2. Written exam – 60% of overall grade. There are two exam papers. Paper 1 assesses Applied anatomy and physiology, Movement analysis, Physical training, Use of data. Paper 2 assesses Sport psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being, Use of data. Both exams have a mixture of multiple choice, short answer and extended questions.

Progression

Following a successful completion of the course you could access a higher level of learning (Sixth Form or College), or you could seek employment in the Sports & Leisure industry. Example pathways could be: Further Education, University (following success at the next level), Professional Sports person, Sports Centre staff/management, Sports Coaching, Officiating, Physiotherapy, Teaching.

PE BTEC

The course

Friesland School offers students the opportunity to study a two year BTEC course in Sport. We follow Edexcel's specification, which comprises of both theory and practical elements.

Assessment

Assessment takes place in a number of ways on this course. Unit 1 is an externally assessed online exam which covers areas including; Components of Fitness, Methods of Training and Fitness Testing.

Three further units are assessed through coursework / assignments and are internally marked with external standardisation. These units include;

- Unit 2 Practical Sports Performance: Part theory, part practical assignments based on team & individual sports
- Unit 5 Training for Personal Fitness: To design, carry out and evaluate a training programme for a specific sport
- Unit 6 Leading Sports Activities: Includes learning about leadership qualities and delivering sessions to small groups.

Progression

Following successful completion of the course, you could access a higher level of learning at sixth form or college, studying courses such as BTEC Level 3 Sport & A-Level Physical Education. Examples of pathways could include Further Education, University (following success at the next level), Sports Centre staff / management, Sports Coaching, Officiating

Religious studies

The course

GCSE Religious Studies will help you to develop your own thoughts and ideas about a range of ethical, philosophical and religious topics and how these form the basis of our culture. This course will not make you religious but it will enable you to problem solve, think critically and assess a range of beliefs and views.

Studying the course will involve personal independent projects, whole class debates, presentations and exam practice. There are also opportunities to go on visits to deepen knowledge and understanding from the classroom.

Component one is looking at philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world. We look at relationships, life and death, good and evil and human rights. We will use case studies to delve into the complexities of these topics such as euthanasia, abortion, the problem of evil and racism.

Component two is looking at Christian beliefs and practices – how belief affects the way people live their lives. We look at key festivals like Christmas and Easter, pilgrimages and the work of charities and how Christian belief affects these.

Component three looks at the belief and practices of Hinduism. You will study how their beliefs affect their community and will examine the culture associated with the faith. We will go to a Hindu Temple and experience their faith first hand and you'll be able to ask an expert and satisfy all your curiosities.

Assessment

The course is assessed with three written exams. Component one accounts for 50% of your final grade and is a two hour exam. Component two accounts for 25% of your final grade and is an hour long exam. Component three accounts for the final 25% of your final grade and is another one hour exam.

Progression

A GCSE in Religious Studies is a stepping stone to a wide range of future opportunities. The skills you develop will support you in further studies such as A Level and a wide range of employment.

Travel & tourism

The course

The BTEC First Award in Travel & Tourism gives you an insight into the whole of the travel and tourism industry. You will learn about UK and worldwide destinations, how different destinations appeal to different customers and what businesses contribute to making the tourism industry so successful. Travel and tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in UK industry so this an exciting time to be studying this subject

Although the main focus throughout this course is on travel and tourism, it does have elements of various other subject areas within the unit content. If you have an interest in geography, business, law, history or the media, then this course would help develop your skills in these subject areas.

There are three mandatory modules on the UK travel and tourism sector, UK travel and tourism destinations and customer service. In addition to these units you will also study worldwide tourism and the appeal of different types of destinations, and factors affecting worldwide travel.

Assessment

Due to the vocational element of this course the majority of the formal assessment will be through coursework. You will study four units; three of these are assessed through a piece of coursework, which you will complete in lessons. The fourth unit will be assessed through an external exam.

You will be asked to produce various pieces of work to make up each unit's final assignment. These can include: PowerPoint presentations, leaflets, fact sheets, and written reports

Progression

On successful completion of this BTEC Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism, you can use it as an entry into the sixth form. It is a useful introduction for various A level courses and Vocational A levels.