

FOREWORD

Dear Students (and Parents/Carers)

This is a really important time in your school career. For the first time in your school life you have the opportunity to decide what you will be studying.

There are certain subjects which all students will continue with: English, Maths, Science, Modern Languages and ICT.

The GCSE courses and other examinations really do start next September. Coursework is a vital component of these courses and students will be set a variety of deadlines during the next three years. It is essential that parents are also aware of the amount of work which is necessary to find out about the courses available and this booklet will give you that information.

Please use the Options Evening to ask questions and follow this up with teachers subsequently.

I wish you well during the next few months, as it is such a demanding time, and I believe that by the end of the process you will have a curriculum which has challenge for each of you and enables you to achieve success.

Please contact Mr. Taylor at school if you have any further questions relating to the Options process.



E. M. Hilton
Headteacher

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Options Guidance

1. Choose subjects you are **interested** in and which you **enjoy** doing.
2. Choose subjects you feel you are **good** at, but **check** with teachers concerned.
3. Do not choose subjects because you think they are “**right**” for boys or girls.
4. Do not choose a subject because you like the **teacher**. You cannot be sure of having the same teacher in Years 10 and 11.
5. Do not choose a subject because your friends are going to do it.
Your main consideration should be **yourself** and what is **best for you!**
6. Be **REALISTIC** about which courses you are likely to succeed in and enjoy.

What happens now?

After various assemblies and careers guidance sessions:

- You have the opportunity to talk with your subject teachers. (Make sure you know what is demanded in each subject - especially at examination level.) You can also ask the teacher in charge of subject (their name is at top of subject information).
- The majority of you will be interviewed to discuss your choice of subjects. Parents will be able to come to those interviews if they wish. If any changes are needed because certain courses are over or under subscribed or it is considered that a better choice could have been made then you will be asked to discuss this matter with the Pupil Progress Director, Assistant Pupil Progress Director, or the Curriculum Deputy Headteacher (Mr. Taylor.) Mrs. Wilkins will see students who have Special Educational Needs and contact their parents.

CORE CURRICULUM EXAMINATION SUBJECTS: English (Language and Literature), Mathematics, Science, Modern Languages, ICT

All students will follow these subjects towards a qualification.

Non Examination Subjects

Students will spend two periods a week, on a rota basis, studying Personal, Health and Social Education (P.H.S.E.), Citizenship and Religious Studies over Years 9, 10, and 11: at the same time a variety of modules of Core P.E. will be taken in each year. These subjects are not examined.

PHSE, CITIZENSHIP AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Modules will include aspects of Religious Studies, Health Education, Careers Education, Citizenship, Politics, The Law and other important topics.

CORE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Modules may include golf, dry slope skiing, and orienteering, besides the more conventional activities.

ENGLISH SUBJECT LEADER MRS. L. BROWNE

What is GCSE English Language + English Literature?

All students are required to study both subjects at KS4.

You will follow an integrated course (AQA syllabus) that includes speaking and listening, reading and writing.

The department not only want to equip you with the language skills you will need throughout life but also to foster an understanding and enjoyment of literature in all its forms.

You will study prose, poetry and drama from a wide range of periods, including some Shakespeare. You will also study written media, film and spoken language.

Some students will be offered an extra lesson of English a week to increase their chances of a C grade. This will appear as 'Study Plus' on your timetable.

How Will I Be Assessed?

English Language will be assessed by controlled assessment.

40% written

20% oral

And by a terminal exam worth

40%

English Literature will be assessed by

25% controlled assessment

75% terminal exam

There will be Controlled Assessment tasks done at intervals through the course. It is vital that students take adequate notes in lessons and organise their time effectively.

At least a grade C in English Language is essential for Further Education and for most careers. English Literature, although not a requirement for Further Education, is an important GCSE which displays an educated and lively mind.

Students will take units as they go through the course, with early entry and resits as appropriate.

MATHEMATICS: SUBJECT LEADER MS. G. WATFORD

All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 follow a course in Mathematics appropriate to their ability and needs.

The course takes into account the two following principles:

1. That teaching and assessment aim to develop the full potential of each student.
2. That teaching and assessment should enable each student to demonstrate what they know rather than what they do not know.

Students are taught in sets comparable to their ability. Movement between sets is possible at various times during the year.

Students cover the following courses, depending upon their allocated set.

Set 1a

EDEXCEL/OCE

GCSE Mathematics - Higher Tier Available Grades: A* A B C D.

(Possible early entry in Nov)

And then EITHER GCSE Statistics Higher Tier Available Grades: A* A B C D E

(25% coursework)

OR Additional Mathematics.

A free standing qualification aimed at preparing pupils for 'A' Level Mathematics and associated subjects.

This decision will be made by the class teacher depending on the ability and needs of the class.

All other sets

EDEXCEL

GCSE Modular Mathematics – Entry at either Higher or Foundation Tier

Modular exams are in March (30%) and June (30%) Year 10 and May/June (40%) Year 11

Please note that the decision about the final tier of entry will be dependent upon each student's performance throughout the course. An extra exam session for sitting missed modules is available in the November of Year 11. Students will also be able to resit if the department feel it is appropriate.

Some students will be offered an extra lesson of Maths per week to increase their chances of a C grade. This will appear as 'Study Plus' on your timetable.

SCIENCE: SUBJECT LEADERS; MRS. H. SILCOCK, MR. T. DAWSON, MRS.E.RUSSELL

We are following the suite of GCSE Science specifications offered by AQA and Edexcel. These courses place emphasis on 'How Science Works', which means not just learning theory but understanding the practical side of Science and its relation to the world in which we live.

There will be three different routes by which Science may be studied in Years 9, 10 and 11. All of these courses will include areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will have some choice about the amount of time you wish to spend studying Science but will also be given clear guidance as to which is most suitable for you. The three routes are as follows:-

BTEC Diploma/Certificate in Science

The BTEC Diploma is worth four GCSEs/*two GCSEs in Science*.

There are three different levels of passes:

Pass (Four C Grades)	Merit (Four B grades)	Distinction (Four A grades)
(Two C Grades)	(Two B Grades)	(Two A Grades)

The BTEC course is 100% coursework assessed. This means that students will not have to sit any exams. Over the two years students complete a number of assessment tasks that will form a portfolio of evidence for their grade.

If they do not complete all the tasks they will not be able to pass. This means as long as they attend regularly and keep up to date with the tasks and deadlines set, they should pass. Each piece of assessed work will be different and not necessarily a piece of written work e.g. presentations, posters, practical work etc.

The BTEC Diploma/*Certificate* is made up of six units/*three units*.

Please be aware that BTEC is not suitable for students who wish to study a Science at AS or 'A' Level. However, BTEC Level 3 courses are available at local college. Students were directed to this course from September 2009.

GCSE Science and GCSE Additional Science - Double Science

Students who opt for this route will do a double option consisting of four periods a week.

They will receive two GCSE grades at the end of the course. We expect that the majority of our students will follow this route.

Students would take GCSE Science in Year 10 and GCSE Additional Science in Year 11.

Students following this route will take three objective tests in March and three objective tests in June of Year 10. This results in a GCSE grade for Year 10.

In GCSE Additional Science the scheme of assessment consists of a centre-assessed unit (**25%**) and three written papers (**75%**). The centre-assessed unit comprises of an Investigative Skills Assignment and a Practical skills Assessment. There will be one written paper for Biology, one for Chemistry and one for Physics and they will take place at the end of Year 11. This results in a separate GCSE grade for Year 11.

The Year 11 and Year 10 grade are separate and don't have any bearing on each other.

Triple Science - GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics

Students will have to study all three of these specifications. It involves a serious commitment to Science of six periods a week. Students who may want to study mainly Science 'A' levels and pursue an academic based Science career will be interested in this route. It will provide them with a very good background as it will cover the material from GCSE Science and Additional Science and build on this in more depth.

In each of these GCSEs 25% of the marks will come from a Centre-Assessed unit comprising of an Investigative Skills Assignment and a Practical Skills Assessment.

A further 25% will come from objective tests taken in March and June of Year 10.

The remaining 50% will come from written papers taken in January (Biology 2, Chemistry 2 and Physics 2) and at the end of Year 11 (Biology 3, Chemistry 3 and Physics 3).

Two Groups traditionally take this course. They must be on the Red pathway (See Pathways).

The decision between Double GCSE Science and BTEC Science will be made by Science teachers looking at which route will best ensure student success.

OCR LEVEL 2 NATIONALS IN ICT: SUBJECT LEADER MRS. S. JONES

The Course

Today we live in a world where we are 'Technologically reliant' therefore it is vitally important that we equip our young people to cope with this. It is our aim in ICT to provide students with the knowledge, skills and understanding for them to survive and flourish in Further Education and /or the work place. The qualifications being offered by OCR aim to do precisely this. Students are assessed on their ability to carry out a range of tasks. The qualification has been designed to recognise students' achievements in a modern, practical way that is relevant to the workplace.

All students must complete the ICT Skills in Business unit. The most able students will be directed to completing the National Award in ICT at the higher grades, whilst all other students will be directed to completing the National Certificate in ICT at Pass grades.

All students will complete a selection of the following units:

Creating Sound Creating Video Creating Animation DTP	Creating Computer Graphics Multimedia products Webpage creation Spreadsheets
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The Qualifications

OCR Level 2 National First Award in ICT	equivalent to one GCSE
OCR Level 2 National Award in ICT	equivalent to two GCSEs
OCR Level 2 National First Certificate in ICT	equivalent to three GCSEs
OCR Level 2 National Certificate in ICT	equivalent to four GCSEs

Grades Awarded: equivalent:	GCSE
Distinction	A*/A
Merit	B
Pass	C

Assessment

Assessment for all units is by coursework – there is NO FINAL EXAMINATION. If any student falls behind with any unit they will be expected to attend out of lesson sessions either at lunch time or after school.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Subject Leaders: Mrs. C. Shillito, Ms. A. Higgins, Ms. C. Stevenson

Walkden High School is a Language College and so all students will continue to study a language in Years 9 – 11, including students taking vocational courses. There will be, however, different routes of study and we aim to offer courses to suit different abilities and motivation levels.

Fast Track Students will continue to study 2 Languages in curriculum time in Years 9 and 10. They will take their GCSE in Year 10 and depending on the result they will have the following choices in Year 11:

- Continue to study French on an AS level bridging course accredited using the Asset Languages scheme.
- Take a GCSE in their second language
- Re-take French to gain a higher grade.

If students have studied three languages and wish to continue all three, they can choose their third language in the options.

Upper Band Students will take their GCSE in Year 11. they may continue with French or it may be possible for them to choose their second language instead. It must be stressed that this needs careful consideration as pupils have spent less time studying their second language, and decisions should be made in consultation with their class teachers. These students can, of course, continue to study both languages by choosing their second language in the options.

Lower Band Students will continue to study 2 languages in curriculum time. They will take NVO level 1 in International Business Communications in French. In addition they will gain a qualification in their second language through the Asset Languages scheme.

The table below highlights some of the similarities and differences between the courses we are offering.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Do I have to sit long exams in the hall?

The longest language exam is one hour; most are between thirty to fifty minutes, depending on the exact qualification you are taking. The NVO and Asset Languages don't involve any exams in the hall. All the assessments are done in the classroom.

2. What is the speaking test like?

Your own teacher conducts the speaking test, because you are used to him/her and they will know how to put you at your ease so that you can do your best.

3. Are the exams in German, Japanese Russian and Spanish easier because we have studied them for less time?

Not necessarily, but the results in previous years have been excellent. Talk to your class teacher if you want an idea of what grade they think you are capable of in their subject.

4. Are dictionaries allowed in the exams?

No, you can only use a dictionary to help you with coursework.

Modern Language Courses on offer at Walkden

	Exam Board	Number of exams	Coursework?
GCSE French/German/ Spanish	Edexcel	<p>Listening and Reading each worth 20% of the total grade. Two tiers of entry, Foundation and Higher, which you can mix and match e.g. Higher Listening, Foundation Reading.</p> <p>Speaking is worth 30% of the final grade and is based on assessments undertaken over the course of Year 10 and 11.</p>	Yes , worth 30% of the final grade. Two pieces to be submitted, a minimum of two hundred words. Coursework has to be carried out under controlled conditions i.e. in the classroom and under supervision.
GCSE Russian/Japanese	Edexcel	<p>Listening, and Reading each worth 20% of the final grade.</p> <p>Writing and Speaking each worth 30% of the total grade. There are no tiers of entry.</p>	No
Asset Languages	OCR	Ongoing assessments taken when the teacher feels the pupils are ready. Assessments can be taken in speaking, listening, reading and writing. Assessments are externally marked.	No
NVQ	OCR	Ongoing assessments set and marked by the teacher. Assessments are taken in speaking, listening, reading and writing.	No

OPTIONS

PATHWAYS - To ensure all our learners gain success

Students and Parents please note that the red and green pathways are only available to learners who have at least a Level 4a in both English and Mathematics in their current report (due to parents on March 25th.) :

Green Pathway - The Diploma in Creative Arts & Media

Astronomy GCSE

Sociology GCSE

Geography GCSE

History GCSE

Red Pathway

Media Studies GCSE

Music GCSE

PE GCSE

Three separate Sciences to GCSE (Physics, Chemistry and Biology)

All students who are not yet up to Level 4a in English and Mathematics will have an extra period working on Study Plus materials in both subjects over Year 10 and 11 to try and ensure they reach the desired C grade; a necessity for most job and college courses.

These students will be directed to either:

<u>Blue Pathway</u>	Off site Vocational courses with either a BTEC or 2 GCSEs
<u>Yellow Pathway</u>	Mainly BTEC courses with some GCSE's

DIPLOMA IN CREATIVE ARTS & MEDIA- SUBJECT LEADER MRS. L. VENABLES

We are now in our third year of offering the new Diploma Qualification.

Diplomas are available at Level 3 (with three and a half 'A' levels) at Sixth Form Colleges and are a pathway to university degree courses.

Our students will take the Diploma at Level 2, worth seven A* - C equivalents

Diplomas at Level 2 are aimed at people able to achieve at least a GCSE grade C, in some of these areas.

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Film studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• How advertising works and making advertisements
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Film making	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2D Art
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Television studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 3D Art
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Programme making	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Graphic Art

The Diploma combines an academic approach to learning with a practical element that has been designed to reflect life in the Creative industries as realistically as possible. Learning will be led by subject teachers within additional input from industrialists and artists working at the cutting edge of their industries in the Greater Manchester area. This will be in the form of workshops and out of school visits. These experiences will also form the basis of the 10 days work experience in the creative fields which is an essential part of the course.

As the Diploma is worth the equivalent of 7 GCSEs pupils will have 8 hours of lessons per week. These lessons will vary from teacher led sessions, group projects to independent work. Students should expect a minimum of 4 hours homework from the subject per week. Assessment is mainly coursework based although students are required to sit Functional Skills exams in Maths, English and ICT.

There are fifteen places available on the Creative Arts & Media Diploma at Walkden High School. These will be given to people with the aptitudes and abilities to succeed in the media and the arts. It is vital that students are highly motivated and have a strong interest in the areas of Media, Film, Art, Graphics and Drama. Students should contact Mrs. Venables to explore whether their talents match the course and find out more.

It is important to note that although progression through to Level 3 Diplomas and degree courses are already in place, Walkden High School students taking the Diploma would be able to move into many other directions Post-16. They would leave with:

- GCSE English
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE x two Double Science
- OCR ICT (Equivalent to at least two A*-C GCSEs)
- GCSE in one of French, Spanish, German.
- And the Diploma worth seven GCSEs at A*-C.

A minimum of fifteen GCSE/GCSE equivalents.

So careers in business, nursing, teaching, police – everything – are still wide open. Students will not have cut off any other possible careers by choosing to study the Diploma.

To choose the Diploma (**Green** pathway) all students must have at least 4a in English and Mathematics in their current report

Functional Skills

All students taking the Creative and Media Diploma are required to take Functional Skills examinations at Level 2 in Maths, English and ICT, which they must pass in order to achieve the full Diploma qualification.

Essential Skills and Qualities

- A strong interest in the Creative and Media fields
- Self motivation and the ability to manage workload to meet deadlines
- Good team work skills and ability to work effectively with a range of people from peers to industry professionals.
- Ability to work independently
- Excellent organisational skills
- Confidence in sharing ideas with others.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA IN SPORT SUBJECT LEADER MR.P.GREENWOOD

BTEC First qualifications offer a focused vocational qualification for learners who wish to follow a school based programme of study related to an aspect of sports related employment.

The assessment approach of the BTEC Firsts in Sport allows for learners to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they provide evidence towards the grading criteria. Evidence for assessment may come from a range of activities including simulated workplace assessment, role play and oral presentation. Learners should be encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and achievement.

By careful work we expect all our students can reach Level 2 which is equal to **at least** two C grades at GCSE,; diligent students can do even better by going on to achieve the full **Diploma** qualification, which is equivalent to four C grades, or above, at GCSE.

Key features of the BTEC Firsts in Sport

The BTEC Firsts in Sport have been developed to focus on:

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education and training for those working in the sport sector. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing opportunities for those working in the sport sector to achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 vocationally specific qualification |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Providing opportunities for learners to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification to enter employment in the sport sector or to progress to further qualifications such as the Edexcel Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Sport and Sport and Exercise Sciences.• Providing opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life. |

**BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM:
SUBJECT LEADERS MR. S. HODSON, MR. J. PRYCE
(Equivalent to 2 GCSEs: Covers 2 options)**

The BTEC National First Certificate in Travel and Tourism course will be offered jointly by the Geography and Business Studies Departments.

Training in the field of travel and tourism has received something of a boost in recent years due to increasing demand for world travel and new and exciting holiday destinations.

The travel and tourism industry is a big employer worldwide and the award of the 2012 Olympics to London has helped fuel a demand for people with skills in this area.

For students with a thirst for travel and desire to learn about other cultures, the travel and tourism industry is a natural career choice.

Vocational qualifications are specially designed to provide students with specific skills that increase the chances of being able to find work on finishing the course.

For students who wish to progress to higher education it will provide a first step towards advanced qualifications, and acts as a gateway into the industry.

The course consists of two Core units, these are:

- The UK Travel and Tourism Industry
- Exploring Customer Service in Travel and Tourism

Plus one specialist unit chosen from either:

- UK Travel and Tourism Destinations or European Holiday Destinations

The course will be internally assessed with no final examination, so may suit candidates who find formal examinations a struggle.

Assessments will require students to provide evidence of understanding in key areas of the course. Evidence for assessment will come from a range of activities including school based assessment, role play and oral presentation.

A final grade for each unit is awarded at pass, merit or distinction: These grades will be externally verified by Edexcel.

BTEC First Certificate is equivalent to two GCSEs grades A*-C

Students who choose this option must be prepared to work at their best. They will be rewarded with a qualification which is respected and recognised by employers, further and higher educational establishments.

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE AND DIPLOMA IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE SUBJECT LEADERS MRS. J. MALBON, MRS. J. WARREN

This new qualification replaces the previous Child Development course, and goes further covering two options worth of teaching time. It is assessed continually in bite-size modules where keen students can go back and push their marks up by determination. It is the obvious choice for students interested in careers in the health care, social work and environmental health fields etc.

The course is worth a minimum of two Cs at GCSE but keen students can gain up to four GCSEs grades. We would expect everyone to gain **at least** two Cs.

Students can choose to progress to further study of BTEC Nationals in Health and Social Care or the Level 3 NVQ in Health and Social Care, or A level Health and Social Care all of which are available at our local colleges.

We will ensure a related work experience placement during the course as this is a requirement.

Key features of the BTEC Firsts in Health and Social Care.

The BTEC Firsts in Health and Social Care have been developed in the Health and Social Care sector to focus on:

Education and training for those working in the Health & Social Care sectors.

Providing opportunities for those working in the Health & Social Care sector to achieve a nationally recognised Level 2 vocationally specific qualification

Enabling learners to gain a nationally recognised qualification, to enter employment in the Health and Social Care sector or to progress to further qualifications such as the Edexcel Level 3 BTEC National Diploma in Health Studies, Care of Early Years, or the 'A' Level in Health and Social Care.
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Providing opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

How will I be Assessed?

The assessment allows for learners to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course. Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of activities including simulated or workplace assessment, role play and oral presentation. Learners are encouraged to take responsibility for their own learning and achievement.

ART AND DESIGN SUBJECT LEADER MR. K. BOX

Students choosing this option must be committed to taking the exam. The examination consists of two parts: - Coursework (60%) Controlled Test (40%)

Coursework

This will include work done in class and also any work you do at home either as homework or simply from interest. There are three areas of work:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Drawing and Painting | 2. Graphic Design | 3. 3-Dimensional work. |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|

You must produce work in at least two areas.

Homework is Compulsory

All projects will require homeworks. These may be drawing tasks, working out ideas and designs, researching the work of artists or designers (use library or internet) or occasionally written tasks. Students will need an A3 sketchbook (available from school) and some good drawing and colouring pencils.

Students who do well in this subject are invariably those who are willing to spend time in the art rooms outside of lesson times. The art rooms are open at lunchtime and after school for this purpose; it is often during these sessions that students can get extra "one to one" tuition and make most progress.

Controlled Test (ten hours total)

This will be work produced on your own and under supervision, accompanied by preliminary/supporting studies as appropriate. The controlled test is designed to show what you have learned during the course.

The Exhibition

In June, in our Summer exhibition, the best of your coursework and your controlled test work will be displayed for examination. Year 8 students planning to take Art are encouraged to come and see the standard expected by the end of Year 11.

Students opting for Art and Design should be:

- **Keen to succeed.**
- Prepared to work outside of class time.
- Ready to work in a variety of materials.
- Keen to learn and improve practical skills.

The course is designed to give you a wide choice of activities and let you show off what you can do best. Those interested in careers in design, advertising, fashion, the media, nursery and primary education, theatre, architecture, beauty, hairdressing (and many others) will benefit from this course.

ASTRONOMY GCSE SUBJECT LEADER MR. B. TOOGOOD

Astronomy is the cutting edge of scientific discovery and studying it will enrich opportunities for students. Students will gain an understanding of several Astronomy theories and practices. The history of Astronomy and its cultural impacts are also explored. At the same time, students will improve their research and analytical skills and develop an understanding of recent advances in Astronomy.

Key Features

Provides enrichment opportunities for a flexible curriculum at Key Stage 4 or Post-16.

A wide range of delivery options.

Complements GCSE Science and GCSE AS/A Physics.

Clear amplification of subject content.

Coursework guide - A subject suitable for all age groups.

Summary of the specification content

Unit content:

1. Planet Earth

2. The Moon and the Sun

3. The Solar System

4. Stars and Galaxies

5. Observing techniques and space exploration

Summary of scheme of assessment

Mode of assessment weighting length:

Written paper - Two hours
Externally assessed.

75%

Coursework – internally assessed

75%

BUSINESS STUDIES SUBJECT LEADER MR. J. PRYCE

Students will work on skills and topics leading to 2 final assessments

Small business	Building a business
A seventy minute, fully electronic exam consisting of on-screen, computer-marked questions. This will be available for candidates at the end of Year 10 (with one re-sit possibility)	100% external assessment. Ninety minute exam paper with one data response question and one 'Management Scenario' case study requiring candidates to judge the priorities facing a firm.

Will I enjoy this course?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that:

- Is relevant to the world you live in and to your future
- Focuses on the world of business
- Gives you the opportunity to investigate how business works

Why should I consider Business Studies?

1. Business Studies is an ideal subject for developing a range of skills which will support you in further studies and/or employment.
2. You will acquire skills; knowledge and understanding that will be highly valued by employers and will be useful in the world of work.
3. A GCSE in Business Studies is a stepping stone to a whole range of future opportunities.
4. A good grade at GCSE will help you to move on to any AS, 'A' level or BTEC National course or related subjects such as:

Economics Business and Economics Information Communication Technology	Retail and Distributive Studies Travel and Tourism Accounting
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5. Employment opportunities where your business skills will be valued include:

Business Management Information Communication Technology Human Resources	Accounting Marketing
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You will find many employers accept Business Studies as a qualification as it demonstrates an analytical mind and an awareness of key business principles.

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY SUBJECT LEADER MRS. J. MALBON

The Department offers the following subjects at examination level:

GCSE Design & Technology: Resistant Materials (Workshops)

GCSE Design & Technology: Graphic Products

GCSE Design & Technology: Food

GCSE Design & Technology: Textiles

All of the subjects are of a practical nature, with safe working practices always encouraged. Students' work is often related to their own personal interests, and the changing world around them.

All of these subjects are open to both girls and boys.

Design & Technology: Resistant Materials (Workshops)

The students will design and make products through the use of wood, metal or plastics. Problems will be set which encourage research and analytical skills, followed by ideas and a proposed final design. A range of practical processes will then be used to make the product in a workshop.

The coursework project consists of the design and making of a product of the students own choice. The areas of study may include furniture design, product design, toy design etc.

The written examination tests the students' knowledge of materials, tools, processes, design work use of ICT, social, moral and cultural issues.

Coursework - (<i>One design and make project</i>)	60%
Written Examination – One Paper for all Grades (A-G)	40%

Design & Technology: Graphic Products

The students will design and make using a range of graphical techniques, including ICT. Problems will be set which encourage research and analytical skills, followed by ideas and a proposed final design. A range of skills will then be used to produce card mock-ups and models of the final solution.

The areas of study may include illustration, advertising, graphic design, packaging and product design etc. The coursework project consists of a single design and make project selected from a range of exam board set tasks.

The written examination tests the students' knowledge of materials, techniques, drawing conventions, design use of ICT, social, moral and cultural issues.

Coursework - (<i>One design and make project</i>)	60%
Written Examination - One Single Tier Paper Grades A -G	40%

Design & Technology: Food

The students will design and make food, and food products, using a variety of ingredients and processes. Work is set which encourages research and analytical skills, followed by suggestions for final products/dishes.

The coursework project consists of a single design and make activity of the students own choice. The areas of study may include food properties and characteristics, use of processes, accuracy and finish, product development, manufacturing, processing and labelling.

The examination tests the students' knowledge of production methods, ingredients, hygiene, packaging, control checks, sensory analysis, use of CAD and CAM, social, moral and cultural issues.

Coursework - (<i>One design and make project</i>)	60%
Written Examination - One Single Tier paper: Grades A*-G	40%

Students may also be entered for the Basic Food Hygiene Certificate, as this qualification is necessary when working within the hospitality and catering industry. In this way we are providing excellent preparation for working life.

Design & Technology: Textiles

The students will design and make textile products, using a variety of materials and processes. Problems will be set which encourage research and analytical skills, followed by ideas and a proposed final design. A range of practical skills will then be used to make a garment or product from the chosen textiles.

The coursework project consists of a single design and make activity selected from a range of exam board set tasks. The areas of study may include garments, accessories, furnishings etc.

The examination tests the students' knowledge of fibres and fabrics, design and research skills, industrial processes, use of ICT and social, moral and environmental issues.

Coursework - (<i>One design and make project</i>)	60%
Written Examination - One Single Tier paper: Grades A* - G	40%

DRAMA SUBJECT LEADER MRS. N. COLES / MRS. H. STRIBLING

The GCSE Drama course is for you if you have enjoyed the drama you have done at Key Stage 3 and you want to develop your drama skills.

There are practical and written assessments so you shouldn't choose it if you are not prepared to do some written work. There is also an expectation that you will do some written tasks at home and there will be occasions when you will need to attend rehearsals at lunch and after school. You need to be prepared to perform in front of an audience.

Unit 1: Drama Exploration

Exploration of creative and structural aspects of drama:

- forms of stimuli
- explorative strategies
- drama medium
- elements of drama.

30%

Controlled assessment: six-hour practical exploration, centre-devised based on the Programme of Study. Written evidence – maximum two thousand words.

Unit 2: Exploring Play Texts

Exploration of a play text chosen by the centre involving:

- exploration of character
- interpretation of the play
- design implications of the play.
- visit to a live theatre performance
- controlled assessment: six-hour practical exploration, centre-devised based on a play text and the Programme of Study. Written response – maximum one thousand words.

30%

Unit 3: Drama Performance

A devised or scripted play performed to an audience including a visiting examiner.

Students may offer:

- acting skills, or
- performance support and design skills.
- Controlled assessment: performance of a play, devised or scripted, to a visiting examiner

40%

GCSE Drama gives you the opportunity to develop your understanding of various drama techniques. You will work in groups exploring various themes, skills, techniques and practitioners.

Drama will prepare you for any job or course as it will help you with your communication and presentation skills. If you are a hardworking and enthusiastic person who is keen to develop their acting and technical skills then GCSE Drama is the course for you!

GEOGRAPHY SUBJECT LEADER MR. S. HODSON

Geography is about how your life is lived on your planet and why there are differences around the world. **What could be more relevant to your future?**

Geography is offered as a three year course leading to the GCSE examination. Students will be accepted to take the subject as long as they have demonstrated an interest in the earth and our environment and that they have a willingness to study.

There is a new syllabus for 2009, under the umbrella heading of 'Evolving Planets'. It will contain several major themes such as:

Population
Dynamics
Consuming Resources
Changing Countryside
Living Spaces
Coastal Change
Climate and Change

These are studied at local, national and global levels and much activity is based on problem solving. The case studies which we choose to illustrate these themes are as topical and relevant as possible.

Since the course is so wide-ranging it appeals to students with a wide variety of personal interests and there is the opportunity for students to develop these interests through the controlled assessment part of the examination. This takes the form of a geographical enquiry which earns **25%** of the final marks. Data for the research may be collected individually or in groups; in the local area on an organised field study visit. In the past, field study days and weeks have taken place in the Lake District as well as our own locality.

The Written Paper consists of two examinations, each lasting one hour:

- Paper 1: Based on dynamic Planet and People and the Planet.
- Paper 2: Based on two further Optional Units

The Papers are set at two tiers of assessment – Foundation C - G and Higher A* - D

Geography has much to offer the students in terms of environmental education, equal opportunities and economic and industrial understanding. It requires both scientific and humanistic skills and is welcomed by employers as a GCSE qualification since it is evidence that students can handle data in many different forms and interpret it to form valid conclusions.

Geography GCSE would be of benefit to students interested in careers in: distribution, marketing, business management, environmental management, travel and tourism, planning surveying, architecture, housing, local government, forestry, farm management, fuel and power industries, social work, civil engineering, meteorology and many more. The department strives for success for the students and interest and enjoyment for both students and teachers.

HISTORY SUBJECT LEADER MS. R. HERON

History is a fascinating and useful subject. History is a popular GCSE option and builds upon the skills and knowledge that you have learnt at Key Stage 3.

Why study History?

1. GCSE History teaches you important skills. History teaches you these skills;

- Investigative techniques
- Imagining yourself in a situation as a particular person
- Analysing events and situations, understanding cause and effect
- Presentation skills
- How to argue a case

2. GCSE History can lead to exciting careers.

If you look at the kinds of jobs that people with qualifications in History do, there are the obvious ones like museum work, tourism, archaeology, conservation and teaching. However, there are many other jobs which you might not have expected to see such as banker, architect, barrister, economist, journalist, police officer, armed services, publisher, and social worker. These are all well paid jobs that are looking for people who can research, analyse evidence, understand large amounts of information and then make balanced judgments or assessments on what to do next. Students of History are used to thinking critically and seeing the world around them in a unique way.

Employers in this rapidly changing world want people who are:

- Independent thinkers
- Open-minded
- Disciplined
- Good at problem solving

They often choose people who have studied History.

3. GCSE History is fascinating and exciting.

At Walkden High School the GCSE course studied is called the Modern World. We look at interesting questions and topics such as:

- **How did Roosevelt deal with the depression?**
- How did countries make peace at the end of World War One?
- Why did that peace not last?
- Why did the Second World War happen?
- Why did a cold war begin between USSR and the USA?
- Why did the USA ban the sale of alcohol in the 1920's?
- How important was Martin Luther King in the fight for Civil Rights in the USA?

The course is hard work but interesting, especially if you are dedicated to getting good results. The History team at Walkden High School is committed to help you get the best grade possible.

Students studying this examination will follow the AQA Modern World Course. Candidates study the following:

Paper 1 - One hour forty five minutes International Relations in the twentieth Century	37.5%
Paper 2 - One hour forty five minutes Depth Study USA 1919- 1968	37.5%
Coursework <ul style="list-style-type: none">Historical Enquiry - British People in War	25%

Some of the aims of this course are to:

- Stimulate interest and enthusiasm for the study of the past.
- To develop essential study skills such as the ability to locate and extract information from primary and secondary sources, to detect bias, to analyse and organise this information and to construct a logical argument.
- To study History on an international scale as well as on a national scale during the twentieth century.

MEDIA STUDIES SINGLE AWARD: SUBJECT LEADER MRS. L. VENABLES

This subject is relevant to people who are very interested in careers in Media Studies and have talents in some of the related creative arts fields and people interested in fast tracking one option of Media Studies as a GCSE option with non-arts subjects.

What is Media Studies?

- Do you have an interest in media products such as television, film, magazines, music and advertising?
- Are you interested in developing an awareness of the importance and power of the media in today's society?

Media Studies is an accessible subject in that it focuses on many products that you often use on a daily basis. These products shape how we make sense of the world and relate to those around us. Celebrities *seem* more familiar to us than those we meet face-to-face and we often create our own identities based upon those we see in the media. Understanding how power, identities and pleasures are formed, means understanding media.

GCSE Media Studies develops a range of knowledge and skills; research, analytical, evaluative, creative and technical to mention just a few. What we will teach you is how to consider media products critically, thinking about how they are created and consumed. You will become more conscious of your own media consumption and more inclined to question what you are consuming.

There is a crossover with subjects such as Art, English and ICT, which enables you to combine many of those subject skills to then create your own media product.

GCSE Media Studies - How will I be assessed?

At Walkden High School we follow the new AQA GCSE Media Studies (4812) specification. The final grade is based on: Coursework: 60%, Final Exam 40%.

In terms of coursework, there are three assessed pieces. For each piece, you will analyse an actual media product using terms and ideas which have been taught in the classroom; personal research will also be important for those higher grades! You will then produce your own creation based on that product: magazine covers, adverts, film trailers, CD covers for a new singer or band devised by yourself, etc. Your ultimate aim is to produce work that is an authentic representation of actual media output. You will have access to equipment such as computers and cameras, which will enable you to make the fullest use of your own skills in constructing your piece; feedback will be given throughout the process.

At the end of Year 11, you will sit a one and a half hour exam on a topic chosen by the exam board; you will be given time to research and prepare for the topic. Recent and future exams are as follows (year of exam in brackets):

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • TV advertising (2005) | • Sitcoms (2008) |
| • children's comics (2006) | • quiz shows (2009) |
| • the music press (2007) | • Popular Press (2010) |

The topic for the 2011 exam has just been announced as "Action Adventure Films"

Where can Media Studies lead?

Media Studies can lead to related careers such as journalism, advertising and television production. Indeed, it will be invaluable to any career path which values creativity, teamwork skills, individual initiative and effective communication skills. Most courses lead to an NVQ level 1 or BTEC qualification. Some are initially restricted to NVQ entry level and this can only be resolved depending on the quality of the students work over the course.

Essential Skills and Qualities

- A strong and active interest in the Media and how it impacts on our lives
- Self motivation and ability to work independently
- Good team work skills and the ability to share ideas with others
- Creativity
- Excellent organisational skills
- Analytical skills and the ability to look beyond the obvious
- Sound communication skills
- Commitment to meeting coursework deadlines

Double Award

(Only available to those beginning Options subjects in Year 9)

Students will initially follow the Single Award course, however, they will also sit an additional examination and complete an additional piece of coursework.

GCSE Double Award Media Studies – how will I be assessed?

At Walkden High School we follow the new AQA GCSE Media Studies Double Award (4812) specification. The final grade is based on: Coursework 60%, Final Exam 40%.

The second exam will involve 10 short questions in response to an unseen media stimulus such as film trailer, or extract, magazine article, web page, advertisement etc. Students will be expected to apply their media knowledge to this text.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGE OPTIONS: SUBJECT LEADER MS. SHILLITO

1. Question - Who can take these in Years 10 and 11?

Answer - You will be able to take these subjects in Years 9, 10 and 11 if you studied them in Year 8 as a **second** language.

2. Question – Are the examinations easier because we have less time?

Answer - **No** – but the results in **second** Language German have always been excellent: between **83%** and **100%** A* - Cs. Japanese results **average** Grade A!

3. Question - May we use a dictionary?

Answer - No, dictionaries are not allowed in the exam.

4. Question - What about writing in Japanese?

Answer - You will need to know all the Hiragana and Katakana. The use of Kana Majiri will be expected for the Higher grades in addition to a specific list of Basic Kanji both receptive and active and the Higher level Active Kanji.

5. Question - HELP!!!!!! Where can I get more information?

Answer - From your foreign language teacher or go directly to Ms. Shillito.

Modern Foreign Language Options

As a Language College we **strongly encourage** students who have studied two or more foreign languages in Years 8 and 9 to continue doing so in Years 10 and 11.

The exam information for Spanish/German/Japanese and Russian is the same as that given in the core section of the brochure under Modern Foreign Languages.

MUSIC GCSE – SUBJECT LEADER MRS. J. ROUSE

The proposed course in Music includes opportunities for candidates to develop their musical understanding through the interrelated activities of performing; realising and composing, and listening and appraising.

The course is designed to develop your interest in Music, allow you to develop your musical skills and to evaluate your own and others' music.

Key features

Structured musical learning through four Areas of Study:

Area of Study 1	My Music	Area of Study 3	Dance Music
Area of Study 2	Shared Music	Area of Study 4	Descriptive Music

- Opportunities for pupils to explore and compose in styles of their choice within the Areas of Study.
- Opportunity to perform in a variety of ways: Live Performance, Sequencing, Rapping, DJ Mixing.
- A unitised approach so that some performing, composing and appraising assessments can take place at different points within the course.
- Opportunity to develop a wide range of creative, personal and social skills.

The course provides a wide range of learning for pupils. Areas of study include a range of music from the past and present, from the western classical tradition and other world cultures such as Pop Ballad, Jazz, Indian, Classical, Musical, Disco, Clubdance, Bhangra, Baroque and Classical Chamber Music plus many more.

This course offers suitable preparation for further study. It takes into account recent developments in music and offers pupils greater opportunity to use ICT and Twenty First Century music technologies.

The assessment consists of four units

Integrated Tasks - A performance, a composition and a commentary, all related to Area of Study 1.	30%
Practical Portfolio - A portfolio containing a group performance relating to Area of Study 2, a composition relating to Area of Study 2, 3 or 4 and a log and commentary	30%
Creative Task - A timed task drawing on understanding gained from an area of study, in which pupils develop a short piece and communicate it, based on a stimulus.	15%
Listening Test - A written paper with CD, assessing knowledge and understanding of Areas of Study 2, 3 and 4.	25%

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – GCSE

SUBJECT LEADERS MR. P. GREENWOOD, MRS. H. HACKETT

There will be a three year course leading to GCSE in Physical Education (PE) or Games.

Purpose:

- To stimulate interest in Physical Education and give a broader understanding of its importance in both work and leisure.
- To improve the understanding of the human body and to show the importance of maintaining fitness through diet and exercise.

Requirements:

Practical assessment and exam

To take part in four activities from at least two of the six areas of the National Curriculum.

To plan, perform and evaluate a Health Related Exercise Programme.

The six activity areas are games, gym, athletics, swimming, dance, outdoor and adventurous activities. It is also possible to get marks from some activities which you do in your leisure time such as golf, cycling or horse riding.

Practical assessment also includes self and peer analysis of performance

40%

Written Exam

This includes four main sections:

- Health, fitness and the factors affecting performance.
- The effects and principles of training.
- Local and national provision for sport.
- Social and cultural influences on sport, e.g. media, peers, drugs, sponsorship.
- Factors affecting individual performance and participation, e.g. changing attitudes facilities etc.

60%

The GCSE course is aimed at students who are expected to gain at least a C in GCSE. This is a well regarded qualification and is the base needed to study PE/Sports Studies at AS and A2 level, or to go with Sciences for physiotherapy or teaching PE.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES SUBJECT LEADER MR. D. LEVIEN

We offer the WJEC Religious Studies GCSE. The course is split into two separate short courses which can be combined to provide a full course qualification. There is also the option to enter for one short term course in Year 10, and then a further short course in Year 11. This may be validated either as a further short course or a full course qualification.

Course Content

The course offers a range of topical and moral issues of interest to students at Key Stage 4.

Option A: Religion and Life Issues

Unit 1 – Relationships	Issues of love, marriage and divorce
Unit 2 – Is it Fair?	Issue of justice and equality
Unit 3 – Looking For Meaning	Issues about God, life and death
Unit 4 – Identify and Belonging	Issues of choice, personal and corporate
Unit 5 – Our World	Exploring creation and our place in the world

Option B: Religion and Human Experience

Unit 1 – Religion and Conflict	Issues of war, violence and peace
Unit 2 – Religion and Medicine	Issues of medical ethics and sanctity of life
Unit 3 – Religious Expression	Issues of expressing one's faith
Unit 4 - Authority	Issues of law and order in religion and society
Unit 5 – Suffering and Evil	Issues of innocent suffering and the concepts

Assessment

Candidates will be required to complete:

Either: **TWO** papers, each of one hour thirty five minutes duration and two pieces of internal assessment

Or: **TWO** papers, each of one hour fifty minutes duration

The examination papers consist of structured questions based on written or visual stimulus.

Qualifications that count

Religious Studies is a valuable way to develop an understanding of global society; without such an understanding, no person is in a position to make informed judgments about other cultures and faiths. Religious Studies then, is for people who are interested in people, in what they do and why they do it. Study will certainly broaden and enrich student's viewpoints, as well as demonstrating open mindedness and understanding via their curriculum vitae.

This subject is a valuable entry qualification to Post-16 education 'A' and A/S Levels and further education opportunities. All universities accept and welcome students of Religious Studies onto a variety of courses in Humanities, Arts, Science as well as to specific courses in Religious Studies, Theology and related disciplines.

SOCIOLOGY GCSE SUBJECT LEADER MR. A. SIMS

Why choose Sociology?

- To understand better the society in which we live
- To question things in an informed way.
- To look at the world in a different way

What is Sociology?

- Sociology is the study of societies.
- It looks at how people live, behave and work together in groups.
- It asks questions about the world that we live in and tries to explain why it is the way it is
- Why the family is constructed the way it is? Why do some groups do better in education than others? Why do people commit crime but others do not?
- You will learn how major theorists have tried to answer such questions.

What are the benefits of studying Sociology?

- Sociology teaches you to question the world around you.
- It is a discipline accepted by Universities and employers alike.
- Students of sociology go on to a diverse range of careers from jobs in the media, such as researchers and journalists, to teaching and lecturing, police work, social work and health care, the list is endless....

Units studied

1. Studying society
2. Education
3. Families
4. Crime and Deviance
5. Mass Media
6. Power
7. Social Inequality

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1: Studying Society; Education; Families

Written paper
50% of the total marks
90 raw marks
1 hour 30 min

Unit 2: Crime and Deviance; Mass Media; Power; Social Inequality

Written paper
50% of the total marks
90 raw marks
1 hour 30 min

VOCATIONAL COURSES OFF-SITE

Students who are very sure that they want to join a "trade", and understand that by committing themselves from the age of 14 means that other career opportunities will be limited, may be considered for an off-site placement on one day a week.

Below are key points for consideration:

- Vocational placement cannot start until Year 10 so we may offer suitable foundation courses at school during Year 9.

- Students expected to get six or seven "good" GCSEs will be discouraged as they may well want and be capable of a wider career choice at 16.

- Being off-site one full day a week restricts other choices and means fewer GCSEs/BTECs will be taken.

- Students have to be capable of quite a high level of maturity and organisation to be allowed off-site by school.

- Parents have to be willing to sign and agree that they support the one day vocational off-site training.

- People wanting apprenticeships in plumbing or electrical work need to do GCSEs not off-site courses.

The areas available are:

- **Construction trade (all aspects - joinery, brickwork, maintenance etc.)
BTEC qualifications.**
- Hairdressing/Beauty Entry level to NVQ1
- Motor vehicle NVQ1
- Catering NVQ1

Usually about twenty to twenty-five students are offered a place on these vocational courses by arrangement with school and local colleges.