



BRENTSIDE HIGH SCHOOL

LEARNING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER

Year 8 Options Process

Straight Talking

Teacher Guide

This guide provides a summary of certain subjects, for more detailed information, use the Options Booklet.

Subject name: **Geography**

The course content summed up in a few lines:

This course will give you extensive knowledge and understanding of the two main themes of the subject: human geography and physical geography. Human geography deals with how people and the environment interact and physical geography is all about scientific aspects of the world's changing environment. In Years 9 and 10 you undertake fieldwork in both a human and a physical environment

An example of what we do in one unit:

Unit: Changing Cities

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

As part of your studies into the city of London you will get the opportunity to investigate regeneration. In the past we have visited Stratford. In lesson you will design questionnaires and land use surveys to carry out on your visit.

Controlled assessment topics if relevant:

We don't have coursework but we do have trips which students write about in the final examinations. In previous years, in Year 9 we have visited the River Chess in Buckinghamshire where we carried out fieldwork methods such as measuring the width, depth and velocity of the river. In Year 10 we visited Stratford in East London and investigated the impact of the 2012 Olympics through the use of questionnaires and land use surveys. Geography field trips give students the opportunity to learn outside of the classroom as part of a team.

What an examination is like in this subject:

In Year 11 there are three examinations. One is on human geography (37.5%), another on physical geography (37.5%) and the final is geographical investigations (25%). Together these account for 100% of your overall grade. The examination includes multiple choice questions; short open questions; open response questions; calculations and an 8 mark extended writing question.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if:

You will enjoy GCSE Geography if you are interested in learning about current issues in both the UK and across the world such as climate change, population growth, development, resource management and ecosystem depletion.

Subject name: **History**

For this course, you will have the opportunity to study four of the most popular topics in history which include:

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39
- Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: surgery and treatment
- Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40
- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-19

An example of what we do in the two main units:

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39

This unit will give you the opportunity to learn about the problems Germany faced at the end of WW1 and how they tried to overcome them. You learn about the impact this had on society. You will also learn about the development of the Nazi Party and Hitler's rise to power and learn about how the Nazis changed people's lives in Germany.

Medicine in Britain, c1250–present

For this unit you will become fascinated with the way people's understanding of the causes and treatment of disease has changed over time. You will learn about the discoveries of treatments and prevention of disease. You will be introduced to several key individuals who contributed to this and how factors such as technology and WW1 contributed to the development of medicine.

What an examination is like in this subject:

In Year 11 there are three examinations: Paper 1 covers Medicine in Britain (30%), Paper 2 covers The Cold War **and** Henry VIII together (40%) and Paper 3 covers Weimar and Nazi Germany (30%).

The examinations include:

- source questions, where you are shown something such as a propaganda poster and you are asked to respond to it, evaluating the validity and bringing in other information that you know.
- examining other people's interpretations of the key events and deciding whether you agree with them.
- short answer questions which usually test your factual knowledge.
- medium length answers that ask you to explain the reasons why some of the key events happened.
- extended answers that test how you make your own judgement on key events- using your own knowledge to support your opinion.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject:

- You will be taught how to think critically, evaluate evidence and make clear, concise, and convincing arguments.
- All lessons are taught in a way that makes learning fun and engaging, where everyone gets involved through discussions and debates. These include group work and carrying out independent research.
- For each unit we will teach you how best to revise.
- For each unit we will show you how to use writing frames and help you develop your writing skills.
- For each unit we will practise examination questions right from the start in Year 9, giving a very good preparation for the GCSE examinations.
- **You will have the opportunity to go to on a trip abroad (France, Belgium or Germany) to strengthen your knowledge.**
- In Year 11 we will support you through small group interventions and a revision timetable and you will be given revision materials.

Subject name: **GCSE Art and Design**

Although the specification is the same for all subjects, you actually specialise in one of the areas bullet pointed below:

- Fine Art (painting, printmaking and drawing)
- Fine Art (sculpture and ceramics)
- Graphic Communication (computer graphics and photography)
- Textile Design (printed and woven textiles and garment construction)
- General Art and Design (a combination of at least two of the specialist disciplines)

When you complete your online options form, if you choose art rather than music or drama, you will choose a first choice from the list above and you also need to choose a reserve from the list above.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Explore how to interpret a given theme e.g. 'Growth and Decay' in your specialist area.

Overview of unit:

To produce a workbook exploring the theme in a variety of different ways and then produce a creative outcome.

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

1. You will research the way other artists and designers have approached the same theme in different ways using different techniques and materials.
2. You will record and plan your approach to the theme through drawings, designs and photographs.
3. You will experiment with different ideas and different techniques that you will be taught in your chosen discipline (type of art bullet pointed above).
4. You will evaluate your progress as you go along and then make a finished outcome or outcomes suitable for display.

You will have deadlines for each of the four assessment objectives in classwork and homework and you will be assessed on your progress in each of these.

What an examination is like in this subject:

At the end of the course you will complete a practical task in your discipline which will involve producing an outcome or outcomes following research and experimentation on a given theme. This task will be completed over two days over 10 hours, supervised and unaided.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if:

- You enjoy expressing yourself and making art and design.
- You like to try out new materials and processes in art and design.
- You are interested in how artists and designers work.

Subject name: **Drama**

The course content summed up in a few lines:

- Group work creating and performing your own drama.
- Study of a play text.
- Performing a play text.
- A written exam.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Overview of unit: Performing a play text.

Types of activities that might be carried out in lesson / homework:

Writing up the process of creating drama. Researching a topic or theme. Rehearsals and learning lines.

Controlled assessment topics if relevant:

Portfolio and performance.

What an examination is like in this subject:

A performance examination and a written exam.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if:

- You can work well with others (this is essential).
- You are creative and like project work and like to problem solve.
- Enjoying performing is a bonus but we can help you build your confidence if you are scared to perform.

Subject name: **Music**

The course content summed up in a few lines:

GCSE Music covers performing, composing and listening to a wide variety of musical styles. You will get to perform a solo and ensemble, compose two pieces of music and study eight set works.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Title of unit: Composing

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

You will have to compose two pieces of music, one in Year 10 one in Year 11. You will be given access to software that you can use at home and so you will be asked to work on your composition work outside of lessons as well as within lessons. This component is internally assessed by your teachers and externally moderated by the examination board (Edexcel).

Coursework if relevant:

Performing (30%) and Composing (30%)

What an examination is like in this subject:

The examination is worth 40%. You will sit a listening paper on styles of music studied during the course, from a list of set works published by the examination board. You will study eight set works from classical music, popular music, film music and world music.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if:

...you enjoy performing and composing music in a wide range of styles, enjoy listening to different styles of music from throughout history and enjoy performing on your own and with others.

Subject name: **Music Technology**

The course content summed up in a few lines:

The NCFE Technical Award in Music Technology (worth the same as a GCSE but technical/practical) enables students to develop skills, knowledge and understanding of the music technology industry. Students will gain practical skills in creating their own music, recording music and mixing music.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Title of unit: Unit 1: Using a Digital Audio Workstation

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

Students will create a guide on how different parts of the computer work, both from a music perspective and a non-music perspective. Students will also create a guide explaining how our programme, Soundation, works. Students will then get the opportunity to create their own piece of music, showing that they can produce a variety of different tracks. Google Classroom is used, so students will be asked to complete some work for homework.

Coursework if relevant:

Unit 1: Using a Digital Audio Workstation, Unit 2: Creating Music, Unit 3: Studio Recording, Unit 4: Sound Creation.

What an examination is like in this subject:

Students will complete two external assessments – one is a 2-hour written paper, the other is a 2-hour practical task. These two external assessments will test students' knowledge and skills from all four units.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if:

You are motivated by learning through a 'hands-on' approach and you are interested in learning how to use a variety of different music software packages and want the opportunity to learn how to use the Brentside recording studio.

Subject name: **Computing**

The course content summed up in a few lines:

How do computers and networks function? How does the Internet work? The course covers all these topics as well as system and software security, the impact computers have on human life, computational thinking and how we communicate with computers to solve problems and of course coding.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Unit: Write a program to perform a real task.

Overview of unit:

We look at some everyday tasks such as sorting information in alphabetical order or finding specific information from a long list. We then break the task down into smaller tasks so that we can view the problem step by step. Once we have a good understanding of the problem, we design an algorithm to represent the task visually and finally we use our coding skills to produce a program to perform the task automatically.

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

Creating flowcharts, writing pseudocode and coding, lots of coding.

What an examination is like in this subject:

There are two examinations. The first paper will test your knowledge of the science behind computers and how they work while paper two will test your ability to solve real problems and construct coded solutions.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if:

You have resilience and are able to see a problem through to the finish even when the going gets tough. You need to be able to think logically and be precise in your work, with an eye for detail. You will need to hold on to a lot of technical information and express your knowledge clearly and accurately. You need to be curious and enjoy working with computers. Usually students who do computing are in the top sets in mathematics as many of the skills are similar.

Subject Name: **Media Studies**

The course summed up in a few lines:

Want to know how the media works? Want to understand how world events inspire your favourite memes? Want to learn how to create media products that people will enjoy? These are just some of the things you will learn on this course. Become a critical thinker who understands the positive and negative influences the media can have on our view of the world.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Unit: Create a media product.

Unit Overview: In this unit, you will be responding to a brief asking you to create a media product such as: a website, the opening of a television show or a magazine double page spread. Your creations will have to attract and suit a specific target audience outlined in the brief.

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

Storyboarding, location scouting, script writing, filming, video editing using iMovie (typical tasks for a video making brief – tasks vary depending on the chosen brief).

What an exam is like in the subject:

There are two exams at the end of Year 11. In Media Paper One, you will be applying your knowledge and understanding of media to unseen products and some set texts. In Media Paper Two, you will watch an extract from one of your television set texts, answer questions in relation to this extract and answer additional questions on other set texts.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if:

You work well in groups and independently. You have creative ideas and can think outside the box. You want to develop new skills with programs such as Photoshop and iMovie. Usually students who enjoy English, really enjoy media because the analytical skills used when looking at poems and books, as well as the ability to express your ideas clearly in writing, are the same skills used in media studies.

Subject name: **Food Preparation and Nutrition**

The course content summed up in a few lines:

This GCSE qualification with OCR is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills. It has been developed with the help of Heston Blumenthal. As you may know, Heston Blumenthal has an unusually creative and scientific approach to cooking. This course will enable you to discover the essentials of food science, build strong practical cookery skills and gain a good understanding of nutrition. The majority of the specification can and should be delivered through practical experiences- one practical every week.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Overview of unit:

Section D: Skills requirements (preparation and cooking techniques)

- Knife skills
- Preparation and techniques
- Cooking methods
- Sauces
- Set a mixture
- Raising agents
- Dough
- Judge and manipulate sensory properties

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons during this unit:

For this unit students will complete a range of practical lessons to cook a range of recipes in order to learn the skills listed above. An example would be the bread project where students will make a range of multicultural breads such as pitta, naan bread, pizza bread dough and French bread rolls.

Controlled assessment topics:

Food investigation task and food preparation task.

What an examination is like in this subject:

The examination will be 1 hour and 30 minutes and is worth 50% of the overall qualification. Learners will be expected to answer questions based on content studied throughout the course.

The following types of question will be asked:

- 10 compulsory questions including structured and free response questions
- some questions that include stimulus material
- synoptic questions (testing a wider range of knowledge from across the course).

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if you like:

- Preparing and cooking food
- Tasting and eating food
- Learning about different ingredients and food products
- Knowing where our food comes from
- Understanding what's in our food (the nutrients) and how this influences our health
- Experimentation.

Subject name: **Health and Social Care**

The course content summed up in a few lines:

This course gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major lifechanging events like marriage or parenthood. You will learn how people adapt to these changes as well as the types of support available to help them.

You will also learn about the different health and social care services. You will develop skills in interpreting data about someone's state of health in order to design a plan that will allow them to improve their health and wellbeing.

This new BTEC qualification is the same size, value and level as a GCSE and is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about health and social care.

An example of what we do in one unit:

The course is made up of three components: two internally assessed and one that's externally assessed.

1. Human Lifespan Development
2. Health and Social Care Services and Values
3. Health and Wellbeing

Overview of one unit: Health and Social Care Services and Values

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

- Applying knowledge learned in lessons to real life scenarios
- Practical tasks, for example, conducting a school audit of disability provision
- Completing coursework tasks

Controlled assessment topics if relevant:

Two thirds of the of the course is completed as coursework which is currently delivered in units in Year 9 and 10. These units are:

Human Lifespan Development: here students will learn about the changes that we all go through as we move through life stages from birth to a later adult as well as life events which may affect people during those life stages.

Health and Social Care Service and Values: here students will learn about the different services that are available to service users, such as a doctor's surgery, dentist or residential care homes. We learn about barriers which may make it hard for people to use these services and how people in care professions work to try to overcome these barriers.

What an examination is like in this subject:

Students could be asked to assess the health and wellbeing of a fictitious individual, responding to short-answer questions. Students are then asked to create a health and wellbeing improvement plan for the individual.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if...

...you are interested in working in health or social care professions and you would like to develop skills that you will be able to use in real life.

Subject name: Creative iMedia

The course content summed up in a few lines:

Everywhere you look you see and hear the product of digital design, for example, posters, magazines, computer games, radio and TV adverts. The graphics, animations and sound recordings that we experience everyday are produced by digital designers. These are the topics covered in the course as well as the skills needed to plan and organise your designs to make sure they appeal to the right audience.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Overview of unit: Creating a radio advert

We research radio and TV adverts focusing on the various sounds used to make them. We explore the different ways sounds can be recorded and then used in adverts and films. Once the research is done, we start to design our soundtrack looking for sounds on the internet or even recording our own sounds before editing them into a final soundtrack.

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

Recording sounds, researching existing sounds, editing sounds and merging them into soundtracks. Getting feedback from other people and evaluating the quality of different designs.

Controlled assessment topics if relevant:

You will complete three units in class which will take the form of projects that need planning, drafting, organising and completing in a limited time.

What an examination is like in this subject:

This is all about the planning and organisation involved in digital design projects. It will test your understanding of what is needed to meet the needs of the client within set deadlines.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if:

This course is for you if you are creative and imaginative. You will do well if you are the type of person who has individual ideas and is able to organise those ideas and plan a way of expressing them clearly and efficiently to your clients. You will listen to what others think about your work and you will have an original eye for detail and design. You will love to spend time on a computer tweaking your work to make sure that it meets all the necessary requirements.

Subject name: **Physical Education**

GCSE

The course content summed up in a few lines:

Anatomy and physiology, psychology in sport, movement analysis, physical training, health and fitness, ethical issues in sport, practical assessments and analysis of performance.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Overview: Physical Training.

Fitness assessments, development of understanding of components of fitness and the principles of training. Using this knowledge to develop training programmes to improve fitness and performance.

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

Fitness testing using normative data, analysis of performance and fitness, creating training programmes for clients. Homeworks: examination testing.

Controlled assessment topics if relevant:

Practical assessments: students will be assessed on a variety of individual and team sports over the course. The highest scoring team sport, the highest scoring individual sport and next highest of either will be submitted. You will then need to complete an analysis of performance to complete your practical grade. This is 40% of your final mark.

What an examination is like in this subject:

There are two examinations, each 1 hour 15 minutes long consisting of 78 marks each. This will contribute 60% of your final grade.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if...

...you enjoy being active, exploring and discovering how your body moves and works and you are a talented sportsperson who is interested in how to improve their performance both on and off the field/court.

Subject name: **GCSE Product Design**

The course content summed up in a few lines:

A folder of work and a final product demonstrating knowledge of a range of design principles.

A written examination of 2 hours at the end of Year 11.

An example of what we do in one unit:

Overview of unit: Designing principles

Types of activities that might be carried out in lessons/for homework during this unit:

- using a range of techniques to support clear communication of design ideas such as isometric, oblique, exploded and perspective drawings.
- learning how to design and develop prototypes/models in response to client wants and needs.
- evaluating your prototypes and including users' feedback to make changes which will improve work.

Controlled assessment topics if relevant:

The theme for the controlled assessment is released at the end of Year 10.

Students will select a theme and respond to this by producing a portfolio of work and a prototype.

The work produced in Year 11 should demonstrate the knowledge and skills acquired during the course by:

- Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing and evaluating your work throughout the project.

What an examination is like in this subject:

The examination will carry 100 marks and is equal to 50% of your GCSE grade. It will be divided into three sections as follows:

Section A – A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – A mixture of short answer and extended response questions based on designing and making principles.

You will enjoy/do well in this subject if...

...you would like to continue developing your creative skills, do practical work with different materials such as wood, plastic and card to realise an idea that you have and you don't mind sharing your ideas. It is a subject where you will use your knowledge from across the curriculum such as geography – looking at the environmental impact of the materials we use in the workshop and ICT – using software to make models of your design ideas. Plus, you get to keep the product you make at the end of the course.