

KS4 Options Information

2016



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INTRODUCTION

Year 9 students are at an extremely important stage of their school education in that they must now select the subjects they wish to study at GCSE. This booklet aims to provide you and your child with information about the subjects available for study at GCSE and to inform you of our 'pathways' system.

You may be aware that the government has changed the way in which student and school performance is measured at Key Stage 4. KS4 is the period of GCSE education during Years 10 and 11. For most pupils this will cover the 14 to 16 age range. Some of these changes reflect an increased emphasis on core academic subjects such as English, Maths, the Sciences, Humanities and Languages. An A*-C pass in all of these subject areas constitutes a pass in what the government has called the 'English Baccalaureate' (EBacc). The government has recently indicated that it anticipates compulsory EBacc curricula in all schools across the country by 2019; it is becoming an increasingly important measure of student and school performance. It is also likely to become an important feature in the selection process for sixth form places and university admissions. We are keen that students at The Albany are able to compete with students from other schools in the borough and across the country, who will equip their own students with qualifications across EBacc subjects.

At the same time however, we are aware that an academic curriculum is not necessarily the best thing for all students. At The Albany we believe that a student's education should be tailored to their interests and abilities. For that reason we have developed three 'pathways.' Each pathway is no more than a set of subject-based options, which are explained in more detail in the pages that follow. All students can opt for the green pathway (which is the EBacc pathway) if they choose to.

Parts of The Albany curriculum are compulsory for all students. Other parts allow for an element of choice. The degree of choice depends on which pathway each student has been allocated. All students can shape their own learning programme at KS4 according to their interests, as well as their further education and career aspirations.

The Senior Leadership Team, House Leaders, Subject Leaders and Form Tutors will all play a part in informing students about their options programme. Please spend some time reading the information within this booklet to help you assist your son or daughter in making the best choices for them. We have scheduled a number of events to help you decide. These events are outlined on page 6.

Whatever courses your child eventually studies, the staff at The Albany, with the help of parents, will encourage each student to achieve his or her best. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

YEAR 9 OPTIONS AND PATHWAYS

Making Option choices may seem complicated and difficult, but the procedure for selecting them is relatively straightforward. Core subjects are compulsory courses that every student follows. In addition to these, students will be presented with a number of options, dependent on their chosen pathway.

Core Subjects

- English Language and English Literature GCSEs (4.5 hours per week)
- Mathematics (4.5 hours per week); some students may also study Statistics as an additional GCSE
- Combined Science GCSEs (5.0 hours per week).
- PE (1.0 hour per week). This is a non-examined part of our KS4 curriculum.
- Life Skills (1.0 hour per week). This is a non-examined part of our KS4 curriculum.

Pathway Subjects

In addition to the core subjects above, students will select a number of optional subjects. The nature of these options depends on their chosen pathway. Each optional GCSE will be taught for 3.0 hours per week. **All students can opt on to the Green Pathway if they choose to do so.**

- **Green Pathway**
In addition to the core subjects, students will select a humanities subject (either History or Geography) and a modern foreign language (French or Spanish). They will then select one additional subject of their choice.
- **Blue Pathway**
In addition to the core subjects, students will select either a humanities subject (History or Geography) or a modern foreign language (French or Spanish). They will then select an additional two subjects of their choice.
- **Purple Pathway¹**
In addition to the core subjects, students will select an additional three subjects of their choice. One of these subjects can be a vocational course and this will be discussed on an individual basis with each family.

Reserve Subject

On rare occasions it is not possible for a student to study a 'first-choice' options subject. This might be because of a lack of pupil uptake, restrictions or clashes emerging from the school timetable, or an unforeseen circumstance. We therefore ask all students to select one reserve GCSE options subject.

¹ See page 5 for additional details.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR OPTIONS (PATHWAYS)

It is important that students discuss their options with parents, teachers and form tutors. Students and parents/carers will have the opportunity to discuss the options process with a member of the Senior Leadership Team during the week beginning 8th February. Below are some key factors to consider before you make your choices:

Good reasons for choosing a course include:

- What are your interests and abilities? If you are good at a subject and enjoy it, it is likely you will do better in it.
- While most 13 year olds will be uncertain about a future career path, some might have ideas on this. If this is the case, then the subjects taken should be appropriate to what they hope to do in the future.
- It is important that a broad range of curriculum subjects are studied if students are unsure. This means that future options are kept open.
- You should find out information about the GCSE courses and the exam board used by subject areas. We will provide as much information as is practicable but you are encouraged to take an active interest in how courses are structured and examined. Speak to teachers and other school staff for guidance and advice.

Don't choose a course because:

- You like a particular teacher or want to be with friends. You may not be in the same class as your friends and it is entirely possible that you will not have the same teacher.
- You think it will be easy even though you really don't like the subject.

Please take the options process seriously. These choices will affect the rest of a student's education and could have a dramatic impact on further/higher education opportunities and employment prospects. It is unlikely that any student will be able to change a course once they start their GCSEs. Students will not be able to change their GCSE subjects for any reason after September 16th, 2016. It is therefore vital that they make the right choices to give themselves the best possible start to their GCSE studies. Requests to change a subject in September 2016, which are justified on the basis of friendship issues or teacher allocation will not be considered.

OPTIONS FORMS

The three options forms can be found at the end of this booklet. Each form details core (compulsory) subjects as well as the optional subjects. Students will have to complete one of these forms, depending on their allocated pathway. They simply need to put a 'X' in the option box in each section.

To summarise the three pathways are:

1. Green (all core subjects; must take a humanities subject and a language) plus one additional option subject
2. Blue (all core subjects; must take a humanities subject or a language) plus two additional options subjects
3. Purple (all core subjects); plus three additional options subjects. Additional vocational courses will be offered depending on student interest. We are currently exploring the possibility of running some BTEC and NVQ courses (eg Construction and others).

OPTIONS CALENDAR

Options Assembly (students only)	Wednesday 3 rd February: Period 5
Distribution of Options Booklets	Wednesday 3 rd February: Options Assembly
Options Evening (parents and students)	Thursday 4 th February: 7.00 pm - 8.30 pm
Parental interviews with Senior Team	Mon 8 th - Friday 12 th February: 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Year 9 Parents' Evening (parents and students)	Thursday 3 rd March: 4.00 pm onwards
Deadline for handing in completed Options Forms	Thursday 10 th March
Confirmation of student choices	April/May 2016
Commence KS4 study	September 2016

WHAT NEXT?

As parents, you have a critical role in helping your child make sound options choices. This can be a difficult scenario to manage since you have to balance your child's immediate desires with what you or we think might ultimately be best for them. The fact that there are no second chances can also add pressure to the mix.

However, at The Albany we are keen to help parents in their efforts, particularly given the volume and pace of change in secondary education at this particular time. Please read the individual subject pages in this options booklet carefully. If you have general queries about options and pathways then please contact Mr McConnell (Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum) or Ms Masson (Deputy Headteacher). For more specific queries about particular GCSEs, please contact the relevant Head of Department. Contact details are listed within the individual subject areas in this booklet. For general careers advice please contact Mrs Tyler, our Careers Officer. You might also be interested in looking at exam board websites for details of the specific qualifications. Information on the exam boards that each subject area follows are also listed within the individual subject areas within this booklet. If you are interested in the changing national education policy you can visit the DfES website at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education/services-information> (see curriculum and qualifications section in particular).

Once all student option forms have been returned we will begin to build your son/daughter's timetable. In late April or early May your child will receive a letter confirming the option subjects they will be studying in Year 10 and 11.

We very much look forward to seeing you on Thursday 4th February for our Year 9 Options Evening.

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: AQA 4707
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Course Assessment

100% Written Examination
Part 1: Exploration into creative reading and writing
Part 2: Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

What We Study

GCSE English Language is designed on the basis that students should read and be assessed on high quality, challenging texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries. Each text studied represents a substantial piece of writing and makes significant demands on students in terms of content, structure and the quality of language. The texts, across a range of genres and types, support students in developing their own writing by providing effective models. The texts will include literature and extended literary non-fiction and other writing such as essays, reviews and journalism (both printed and online).

Spoken Language

Students are asked to deliver an accredited piece of Speaking and Listening which assesses their:

- Presenting Information and Ideas: selecting and organising information and ideas effectively and persuasively for prepared spoken presentations; planning effectively for different purposes and audiences; making presentations and speeches.
- Responding to Spoken Language: listening to and responding appropriately to any questions and feedback.
- Spoken Standard English: expressing ideas using Standard English whenever and wherever appropriate.

Course Leader: Mr Stanley (bstanley@thealbany.biz)

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: AQA 9715
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Course Assessment

100% Written Examination

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.

What We Study

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the nineteenth century novel

- Section A Shakespeare; students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play then write about the play as a whole.
- Section B The 19th Century Novel; students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

- Section A Modern Texts; students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.
- Section B Poetry; students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.
- Section C Unseen Poetry; students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Course Leader: Mr Stanley (bstanley@thealbany.biz)

CORE: MATHEMATICS

C

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: AQA 8300
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Course Assessment

100% Written Examination

What We Study

- Algebra
- Geometry
- Number
- Probability and Statistics
- Ration, Proportion and Rates of Change

Additional Information

The recent education reforms have made changes to both the content and assessment of the Mathematics GCSE. The course specification will now have a broader and deeper mathematical content. There will be a greater focus of problem solving and the requirement to provide clear mathematical arguments.

There will be three written examinations each lasting 1 hour 30 minutes.

Course Leader: Miss Arrowsmith (sarrowsmith@thealbany.biz)

CORE: PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1 hour)

C

Examination: Level 1 Award

Examination Board: Sports Leaders

YEAR 10

Course Assessment

There are no formal tests at the end of this award in Sports Leadership. Students are continuously assessed for the duration of the course.

What We Study

The course is broken down into seven units. During units 1-6 pupils will be taught a range of leadership skills. In unit 7 students have the opportunity to practice all they have learned in the earlier units, by working with pupils from a local primary school.

- Unit 1: Planning, preparing and assisting a simple sporting activity
- Unit 2: Basic communication skills for leading a sporting activity
- Unit 3: Principles and practice in delivering a basic health and fitness session
- Unit 4: Understanding fair play in sport
- Unit 5: Understanding the role of the sports official
- Unit 6: Understanding the scope of local sport and recreation activities
- Unit 7: Demonstration of leadership skills in sport

Additional Information

Sports Leaders UK is the awarding body for the Sports Leaders Qualification. The Sports Leaders Awards are nationally recognised awards.

YEAR 11

During Year 11 students will study:

- Officiating courses
- Organising and running primary school events
- Alternative sports (eg rock climbing, bike polo, bowling)

Course Leader: Mr Norris (dnorris@thealbany.biz)

Examination: GCSE
Examination Board: AQA Draft 8464

Course Assessment

100% Written Examination

What We Study

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

Additional Information

There are 6 exam papers all sat at the end of Year 11, each lasting 1 hour 15 minutes.

This qualification is a double GCSE and will be graded on a 17 point scale from 1-1 to 9-9. Where 9-9 is the best grade.

Course Leader: Mr Webb (awebb@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: ART

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: OCR J161
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Course Assessment

60% Unit 1 A Coursework Portfolio School Set Project

40% Unit 2 OCR Set Task Project

What We Study

The Fine Art GCSE allows students to develop an idea, research and gain inspiration from other sources, experiment and develop practical skills and techniques, before realising an outcome. Once these skills and techniques have been developed students are guided to focus on two areas to further explore their ideas for their assessed units. We offer drawing, painting, printing, air drying sculpture and some digital art work.

The unit is made up of four objectives:

- Developing an idea
- Exploring processes and techniques
- Recording information
- Producing a personal response/final piece

The course assessment is based on two units of project work and assessed on pupils meeting the following objects in both.

Both Unit 1 and Unit 2 require several hours of commitment outside of lesson as tasks can often be time consuming to create high quality outcomes. We suggest that at least three hours extra work outside of the classroom each week is needed.

The final piece of work for both units is produced under examination conditions. The test questions for Unit 2 are given out at the start of the spring term allowing students the maximum time to prepare for the examination.

The whole course; Units 1 and 2 are marked by the student's teacher in school. The work is then exhibited and moderated by the exam board.

Pupils will be required to purchase packs that provide the materials required to complete the course.

Course Leader: Miss Stevens (jstevens@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: BUSINESS COMMUNICATIONS

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: AQA 4130
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Course Assessment

40%	Written Examination
35%	Computer Based Examination
25%	Controlled Assessment

What We Study

This course investigates how ICT is used in business. Students will develop their practical ICT skills and also learn about the workings of the modern business world.

Additional Information

For those who have an interest in this subject area they should consider selecting Business Studies or ICT as an optional subject.

Course Leader: Mr Dickens (adickens@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: BUSINESS STUDIES

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: WJEC 4080

Course Assessment

75%	Written Examination
25%	Controlled Assessment Task

What We Study

This course looks in to what it takes to start a business, how it may be structured and how to manage and motivate the workers. It will also give students the chance to learn of the different production methods available in modern times and how finances are planned and managed. We will also look globally at the effects businesses have on us all and consider this from different perspectives.

There is lots of scope for creative minds, as we will look in detail at marketing, advertising and enterprise activities that businesses use to become successful.

Course Leader: Mr Dickens (adickens@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: COMPUTER SCIENCE

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: OCR J276
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Course Assessment

40% Unit 1 Written Examination (1hr 30min)

40% Unit 2 Written Examination (1hr 30min)

20% Unit 3 Non-Exam Assessment

What We Study

UNIT 1: Computer Systems

In this unit, students will explore how computers are constructed and how components such as memory and storage communicate with each other and function. Students will also study computer networks and protocols that allow computers to communicate with each other. As well as the ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns associated with the use of computers.

UNIT 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

In this unit, students will learn the importance of algorithms when creating software. As well as a wide range of techniques that the students can use when programming. Students will also explore data representation within computers by looking at binary and hexadecimal conversion and addition, as well as how images and sound are stored in computers.

UNIT 3: Programming Project

This is a non-exam assessment where students will be given a problem to solve and must apply computational thinking to create a solution. The students will also annotate any code they have written and test this throughout to ensure that it solves the problem. Students also must submit a report detailing the creation of their solution to explain the choices they made.

Course Leader: Mr Dickens (adickens@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: CONSTRUCTION

O

Examination: Btec Level 1/Level 2 Award

Examination Board: Wjec 9811/01

Course Assessment

70% Coursework	Learning three trade skills, project investigation folder
30% Exam	Based on health and safety and security in the construction industry

What We Study

If you enjoy practical work and are interested in a career in the construction industry. Then this is the course for you.

The aim of this course is to encourage students to complete practical activities that will prepare them for the world of work. The qualification is designed to provide learners with a broad appreciation of the work within the construction industry and the built environment and wider opportunities for progression into further education employment or training.

The course is broken down into the following three areas:

- safety and security in the construction industry
- practical construction skills (learning three trade skills)
- planning construction projects

Additional Information

There is no specific requirements for any prior learning or knowledge to access this course if you have a can do attitude and don't mind having a go at problem solving that this is the option for you.

Course Tutor: Mr D Henry (dhenry@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: DRAMA

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Assessment

40% Component 1: Devising (Practical 10%), Portfolio of evidence (Written 30%)
20% Component 2: Performance from text (Practical)
40% Component 3: Written examination – Performance text and live theatre evaluation

What We Study

GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work but there will also be a large focus on exploring plays written by other people, in particular the set text. The course is a combination of practical and written work and all practical sections will have a written supportive element.

Component 1:

You will take part in a performance that you have created as a group from a set stimulus given by your teacher. You will perform this in front of an audience. This will be supported by a written portfolio of evidence covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of this.

Component 2:

You will perform two key extracts from a performance text given to you by your teacher. This will be externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

Component 3:

This is completed as a written examination which will be made up of two parts. The first includes questions based on a section of the set text you have studied. You will be required to explore the text practically so that you can answer from the perspective of performer, designer and director. The second part of the examination is a live theatre evaluation based on a live performance you have seen with your class.

The examination for GCSE Drama has now changed to a **written exam**.

Additional Information

Excellent attendance is a key requirement for this course, as well as the right attitude and a willingness to participate in various styles of performance, as you will be expected to mix well with others, challenge yourself and work with commitment. Students should also be aware of the written element of the course and the written examination that is worth 40% of the final grade. This is a big change from the previous drama GCSE course.

Course Leader: Miss Brewer (lbrewer@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

O

Examination: GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Examination Board: WJEC/Eduqas

Course Assessment

35% Controlled Assessment

50% Written Examination

What We Study

This course is for those students who are interested in learning more about food and who enjoy the preparation and cooking of it. The course is made up of a mixture of practical tasks, theory and investigational work. The course will give students a knowledge of food and food preparation techniques by developing their cookery skills and extending their knowledge and understanding of nutrition and healthy eating in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

Theory

Areas of Content food commodities, principles of nutrition, diet and good health, the science of food, where food comes from and cooking and food preparation

Assessment controlled assessment 1 - food investigation
15% of total qualification, 8 hours, report length between 1500–2000 words

Assessment controlled assessment 2 - food preparation
35% of total qualification, 15 hours (includes a 3 hour practical exam), portfolio of evidence

Additional Information

Students are expected to provide their own ingredients and serving dishes.

Course Leader: Mrs Hennessy (chennessy@thealbany.biz)

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Assessment

25% Spoken	Internal exam with a teacher
25% Written	Answer two questions of approximately 50-100 words on two given topics
25% Listening	Final listening exam
25% Reading	Final reading exam

What We Study

The course is broken down into topic areas which are approached in a fun and meaningful way that students can relate to in a stimulating and interactive learning environment.

This new style GCSE should prove to be a good way of getting back to the core of language learning. Topics covered are culture based and are useful for day to day speaking in the country itself.

We pride ourselves on our ability to bring languages to life and create a stimulating, safe and fun environment in which learning flows nicely thanks to our highly trained and qualified staff and routine based approach.

Homework will only ever consist of vocabulary learning as this is the key to a good grade (also it is better than essay writing)! Pupils will be used to this so no surprises await.

There is also the opportunity to visit France during this time and go to the french institute in London.

Course Leader: Mr Lynn (jllynn@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: GEOGRAPHY

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: AQA 8035
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Course Assessment

35% Written Examination: Paper 1 (1 hour 30 minutes)

35% Written Examination: Paper 2 (1 hour 30 minutes)

30% Written Examination: Paper 3 (1 hour 15 minutes)

What We Study

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

The challenge of natural hazards, the living world, physical landscapes in the UK, geographical skills

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

Urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management, geographical skills

Paper 3: Geographical applications

Issue evaluation, fieldwork, geographical skills

Course Leader: Mr Knill (aknill@thealbany.biz)

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Assessment

100% Written Examination
Paper 1: Thematic Study and historic environment (30% of GCSE)
Paper 2: Period Study and British Depth Study (40% of GCSE)
Paper 3: Modern Depth Study (30% of GCSE)

What We Study

The new GCSE History course involves the study of world history ranging from the 13th century to the present day. It covers such topics as:

- Medicine through time (c1250 to the present day)
- The British sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: Injuries, treatment and the trenches
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88
- Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91

An in depth study paper is also undertaken of Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939 , this includes work on the impact of the first world war, the creation and development of the Nazi Party and changes in German society during the period.

Additional Information

History is increasingly skills rather than content based. It includes an understanding of the political and economic developments that have shaped modern life.

Effective from 2016 onwards coursework will no longer be a component of the History GCSE. Pupils will instead be required to sit 3 separate examination papers equating to 100% of their overall grade.

Course Leader: Mr Nowicki (nnowicki@thealbany.biz)

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: Edexcel 2IT01

Course Assessment

40% Written Examination Unit 1

60% Controlled Assessment Unit 2

What We Study**UNIT 1: Living in a Digital World**

In this unit, students explore how digital technology impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society. Students learn about current and emerging digital technologies and the issues raised by their use in a range of contexts (learning and earning, leisure, shopping and money management, health and well-being, on the move). They develop awareness of the risks that are inherent in using ICT and the features of safe, secure and responsible practice.

UNIT 2: Using Digital Tools

This is a practical unit. Students broaden and enhance their ICT skills and capability. They work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts. Students learn to reflect critically on their own and others' use of ICT and to adopt safe, secure and responsible practice. They put into practice what they learned about digital technology in Unit 1.

Course Leader: Mr Dickens (adickens@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: MUSIC

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Assessment/What We Study

This course allows students to develop all three disciplines in music:

Performing 30%	Students prepare and perform one solo and one ensemble piece for assessment
Composing 30%	Students compose two pieces of music for assessment using Cubase software
Appraising 40%	Students listen to and must study pieces that range from classical to pop and folk to world music. Notation and the theory of music is part of the course allowing students to read and write music. Students are taught how to respond to music in preparation for a final written exam.

Additional Information

The music industry offers many opportunities for employment and is not limited to those with instrumental or singing skills. If you chose GCSE Music you must expect to participate in musical performances throughout the course.

Course Leader: Mr Mansell (mmansell@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: PE GCSE

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Assessment

60% Written Exam: 2 exam papers
30% Practical Unit: 3 activity areas must be at least one team sport and one individual
10% Course Work: Personal exercise plan

What We Study

Theory Content	Paper 1: fitness and body systems - this includes applied anatomy and physiology looking at body systems (cardio-respiratory and musculo-skeletal), movement analysis and physical training Paper 2: health and performance - this area covers health, fitness and well-being, sport psychology, socio-cultural influences and using data
Practical Unit	Practical performance: Assessed in three sporting activities from a selected list. Pupils' skills and game play will be assessed in a team sport and one individual sport with the final activity being a free choice
Course Work	Pupils will plan, carry out and evaluate a personal exercise program

Why take this course

To gain success you must have a passion for both playing and learning about sport. The theory content means you need to have an aptitude for the sciences and how it is applied to sport. If you are thinking of taking A-level PE or considering a career in sport this course is a great stepping stone in furthering your knowledge and understanding of all sporting areas.

Pupils must also play sport inside and outside school to succeed in the practical element of the course.

Course Leader: Mr Norris (dnorris@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: PRODUCT DESIGN

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: AQA 4555
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Course Assessment

60% Controlled Assessment (split into five sections with deadlines set)

40% Written Examination (two hours with pre-released material issued)

What We Study

If you enjoy analysing, designing and making products, then this course would suit you.

The focus of the course is to move away from the traditional boundaries set within Design and Technology. It provides students with a greater opportunity to explore materials and components whilst designing and making products.

The aim of the specification is to encourage students to consider how materials can be shaped, combined and formed to create more useful or more desirable products. They will also consider how products will fit into industrial and commercial situations as well as the influence ICT and computer aided manufacture have on manufacturing in the modern age.

The core subject content will be based around key design issues related to Product Design, for example, product evolution, product life cycles, packaging, labelling and consumer protection.

During Year 10, you will continue to develop your skills and understanding in Product Design by completing a programme of structured design and making assignments. These mini 'design and make' tasks will focus on broadening understanding of materials through first hand practical projects. The emphasis within these projects will be developing 'hands-on' practical skills and building upon your theoretical knowledge.

In Year 11, you will complete your controlled assessment assignment. Students are required to submit a design folder which consists of 25 A3 sheets of written and design work and a realised 3D product which will be selected from a list of tasks provided by the exam board.

Additional Information

Students will be expected to provide their own memory stick. Successful completion of this course will allow you the opportunity to continue your studies at AS and A2 level. This course can also provide an excellent foundation for students wishing to pursue apprenticeships or further skills based training.

Course Leader: Miss Hall (ljhall@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: WJEC Option A

Course Assessment

The course is assessed through three written examinations:

Component 1: 2 hours

Component 2: 1 hour

Component 3: 1 hour

What We Study

Students will gain an understanding of the influence that religion has on individuals, communities and societies, through studying the following components:

Component 1: **Relationships:** adultery, divorce, cohabitation, commitment, contraception, gender, equality, responsibilities, roles

Life and Death: after life, environmental sustainability, euthanasia, evolution, abortion, quality of life, sanctity of life, soul

Good/Evil: good, evil, forgiveness, freewill, justice, morality, punishment, sin, suffering

Component 2: **Study of Christianity:** beliefs, teaching and practices of Christianity

Component 3: **Study of a World Religion:** beliefs, teaching and practices of Islam

Course Leader: Mrs Godfrey (sgodfrey@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: SPANISH

O

Examination: GCSE
Examination Board: Edexcel

Course Assessment

25% Spoken	Internal exam with a teacher
25% Written	Answer two questions of approximately 50-100 words on two given topics
25% Listening	Final listening exam
25% Reading	Final reading exam

What We Study

The course is broken down into topic areas which are approached in a fun and meaningful way that students can relate to in a stimulating and interactive learning environment.

This new style GCSE should prove to be a good way of getting back to the core of language learning. Topics covered are culture based and are useful for day to day speaking in the country itself.

We pride ourselves on our ability to bring languages to life and create a stimulating, safe and fun environment in which learning flows nicely thanks to our highly trained and qualified staff and routine based approach.

Homework will only ever consist of vocabulary learning as this is the key to a good grade (also it is better than essay writing)! Pupils will be used to this so no surprises await.

There is also the opportunity to visit Spain during this time and go to the spanish institute in London.

Course Leader: Mr Lynn (jlynn@thealbany.biz)

OPTION: TEXTILES

O

Examination: GCSE Examination Board: WJEC 4310

Course Assessment

20% Short Task	Year 10
40% Long Task	Year 11
40% Written Examination	Year 11

What We Study

During Year 10 a wide variety of practical tasks will be carried out to support the teaching of each module and to prepare students for the practical section of their Controlled Assessment. This includes:

- Fibres and Fabrics
- Textile Design
- Creative Design
- Design in the home
- Controlled Assessment 1

In Year 11 a variety of practical tasks will continue to be carried out to support the teaching of each module, covering:

- Controlled Assessment 2
- Preparation for mock examination
- Fashion Designers
- Fashion Trends and Influences
- Interior Designers
- Health and Safety
- Preparation for written examination

Additional Information

Pupils will be expected to provide their own fabrics for practical lessons.

Course Leader: Mrs Hall (ljhall@thealbany.biz)

NOTES

Year 9 Option Form: Green Pathway

Student Name:

Tutor Group:

Section 1: All students will study the following core subjects

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Combined Science

In addition, all students will study one hour each of PE and 'Life Skills' per week

Section 2: You must choose ONE of the following (place an X in the box of your choice)

French

Spanish

Please give details here of other languages you speak:

Section 3: You must choose ONE of the following (place an X in the box of your choice)

Geography

History

Section 4: You must choose ONE of the following (place an X in the box of your choice)

Art

*French

Product Design

Business Communications

*Geography

Religious Education

Business Studies

*History

*Spanish

Computer Science

ICT

Textiles

Drama

Music

Food Preparation and Nutrition

PE GCSE

Section 5: Reserve Option. Choose one additional subject that you have not chosen in any of the sections above

**Do not select if already chosen in section 2 or section 3*

***Please return your completed form to Mrs Bootle (Head of House block)
by Thursday 10th March***

Year 9 Option Form: Blue Pathway

Student Name:

Tutor Group:

Section 1: All students will study the following core subjects

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Combined Science

In addition, all students will study one hour each of PE and 'Life Skills' per week

Section 2: You must choose ONE of the following (place an X in the box of your choice)

French

History

Geography

Spanish

Computer Science

Please give details here of other languages you speak:

Section 3: You must choose TWO of the following (place an X in the boxes of your choice)

Art

*French

Product Design

Business Communications

*Geography

Religious Education

Business Studies

*History

*Spanish

* Computer Science

ICT

Textiles

Drama

Music

Food Preparation and Nutrition

PE GCSE

Section 4: Reserve Option. Choose one additional subject that you have not chosen in any of the sections above

**Do not select if already chosen in section 2*

***Please return your completed form to Mrs Bootle (Head of House block)
by Thursday 10th March***

Year 9 Option Form: Purple Pathway

Student Name:

Tutor Group:

Section 1: All students will study the following core subjects

English Language

English Literature

Maths

Combined Science

In addition, all students will study one hour each of PE and 'Life Skills' per week

Section 2: Languages

Please give details here of other languages you speak. If you do not speak any additional languages write 'none.'

Section 3: You must choose THREE of the following (place an X in the boxes of your choice)

Art		French		Product Design	
Business Communications		Geography		Religious Education	
Business Studies		History		Spanish	
Construction		ICT		Textiles	
Drama		Music			
Food Preparation and Nutrition		PE GCSE			

Section 4: Reserve Option. Choose one additional subject that you have not chosen in any of the sections above

***Please return your completed form to Mrs Bootle (Head of House block)
by Thursday 10th March***