

MEPA Academy GCSE Options



This booklet contains information about the nature of qualifications, the basis upon which choices should be made, brief details about each subject and a form to make your selections. This information is for both pupils and parents. Please read through the form and consider its contents carefully.

Core (compulsory) subjects:

In Years 10 and 11 students will continue to study English, Mathematics and Combined Science.

-English – All students continue to study both English Language and English Literature. There is a non-examined assessment (NEA) in Year 11 in Speaking and Listening that all students must complete, however this does not influence the students' final grade.

-Mathematics – All students will work towards taking the higher tier paper at the end of year 11. Foundation tier is still available if appropriate for the student.

-IGCSE Combined Science – It is important to note that the core subject of Combined Science equates to two GCSEs. There are no non-examined assessments, but practical skills developed during the course are assessed in the final examinations. Like Mathematics there are options for foundation and higher tier.

Option 1

History or Geography or BTec Sport

Option 2

BTec Music or BTec Art

Option 3

BTec Performing Arts - Choice of 1 of the following:

Acting, Musical Theatre, Dance

Thinking about making choices – try to consider the following:

-What subjects do you like? It is very important, at GCSE/BTec level, to study the subjects that you enjoy. You will find it easier to maintain interest and effort if you actually enjoy the learning.

-Think about what attracts you to a subject – the approach, content, practical work, experiments and projects – but do not choose a subject just because you like the teacher.

-What are you good at? This must influence your choice because it will help you to achieve the highest grades possible which are necessary for the future.

-What have you been recommended to do? You will be given lots of information and advice so it might be helpful to talk things through both at home and in school.

Remember that there are no easy GCSE courses and ultimately it is your choice. You must follow these courses for the next two years, so making the right decision is important.

-Do not allow yourself to be influenced by:

- a) whether you like, or dislike, your present teacher in a particular subject
- b) what your friends are deciding, since their interests and plans for the future may be quite different.

GCSE examinations and Non Examination Assessments (NEA)

In general terms, the GCSE and non-GCSE specifications place emphasis on understanding, skills and the application of knowledge. However, the recall, selection and communication of knowledge (facts) still accounts for a considerable proportion of marks. In most subjects, this is assessed by an external examination at the end of Year 11 however in some others, skills cannot be assessed adequately by just a final examination. In these areas there is provision for internal assessment by NEA (Non-Examination Assessment). NEAs are submitted at the end of the course and moderated marks for these assessments are not available until after all examinations have been completed and the results issued.

Subject Choices Overview:

GCSE Geography AQA

The AQA GCSE Geography comprises of the following elements:

- Paper 1: Living with the physical environment
- Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment
- Paper 3: Geographical applications

GCSE History AQA

The AQA GCSE History comprises of the following elements:

- One period study
- One thematic study
- One wider world depth study
- One British depth study including the historic environment.

GCSE French AQA

At the end of this course you will sit an examination in four skill areas, each of which is worth 25% of your total mark.

- 1. Listening – understand and respond to different types of spoken language.
- 2. Speaking – communicate and interact effectively in speech including describing a photo.
- 3. Reading – understand different types of written language and translate into English.
- 4. Writing – communicate in writing and translate into French.

GCSE Spanish AQA

At the end of this course you will sit an examination in four skill areas, each of which is worth 25% of your total mark.

- 1. Listening – understand and respond to different types of spoken language.
- 2. Speaking – communicate and interact effectively in speech including describing a photo.
- 3. Reading – understand different types of written language and translate into English.
- 4. Writing – communicate in writing and translate into Spanish.

EDEXCEL Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport

The qualification is 120 GLH, which is the same size and level as a GCSE, is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about the sport industry. You will study three mandatory units, covering the underpinning knowledge and skills required for the sports sector:

- fitness for sport and exercise
- practical performance in sport
- applying the principles of personal training. You will build on the knowledge gained in the mandatory units by choosing one further unit, covering areas such as:
 - the mind and sports performance
 - the sports performer in action
 - leading sports activities.

EDEXCEL BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts **Level 2 is Equivalent to a GCSE**

Students will be able to choose a focus of Dance, Drama or Musical Theatre.

Everyone taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas:

- Exploring the Performing Arts - developing an understanding of the performing arts including practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.
- Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts - development of performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting, dance and/or musical theatre repertoire as performers or designers.
- Responding to a Brief - contributing to a workshop performance as either a performer or designer in response to a given brief and stimulus.

EDEXCEL BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice: **Level 2 is Equivalent to a GCSE**

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- development of key skills that prove learners' aptitude in music, such as responding to a musical brief using musical skills and techniques
- processes that underpin effective ways of working in the music sector, such as the development of musical ideas, and using skills and techniques for rehearsal, creation, production and performance to respond to a music brief
- attitudes that are considered most important in the music sector, including personal management and communication
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as musical skills and styles.

EDEXCEL BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs
- process that underpins effective ways of working in the creative industries such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

Please complete then cut out this slip and hand it in to reception.

Name of Student: _____

Option 1: History **OR** Geography **OR** BTech Sport

Option 2: BTech Music **OR** BTech Art and Design

Option 3: BTech Performing Arts focus area:

Acting **OR** **Dance** **OR** **Musical Theatre**