

# Key Stage 4

## Specialisms Guide

### September 2020 - July 2022



**Bramcote College**

A member of The White Hills Park Trust

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Date	Event
Thursday 16 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Subject Specialists information session: Year 9s are able to discuss courses with Key Stage 4 students who are currently doing them.
Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2020	<p style="text-align: center;">Specialisms Taster Morning</p> <p>Students will spend the morning participating in three taster lessons to give them the opportunity to experience 'new' subjects and make an informed decision about whether or not they wish to specialise in them.</p>
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> January 2020 (4:00pm – 6:30pm)	<p style="text-align: center;">GCSE Specialisms Information Evening at Bramcote College</p>
Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	<p style="text-align: center;">Deadline for Specialisms choices. Specialisms forms should be given to form tutors.</p>
After Easter 2020	<p style="text-align: center;">Confirmation of selected Specialisms will be sent to Students and Parents/Carers.</p>

## Welcome to the Year 9 Specialisms Guide

At Bramcote College, we have designed a KS4 curriculum which is suited to the needs of all our students, including those with SEN.

We recognise that not all young people are suited to a full curriculum of academic subjects and have tailored our offer accordingly.

We have identified that your son or daughter may benefit from this specialised pathway and will work with you and your child to choose the right KS4 pathway for them.

Please read this booklet carefully and do not hesitate to contact us at school if you have any questions. We will be available for appointments during the Specialisms evening on 28<sup>th</sup> January and will also speak to each student individually during school time.

Jenny Read  
Assistant Head Teacher (KS3)

Mary Kirby  
SENCo

## Core Subjects

All students will be studying the following subjects:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- Core PE
- Modern Studies

## Specialisms

Students can select their Specialisms from the following subjects:

- Art
- Food Preparation and Nutrition
- Health and Social Care
- Photography
- Sport
- Travel and Tourism
- Performing Arts
- Achieve Diploma

They must pick **one subject** from each block. One choice **MUST be PE/Citizenship**.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Photography	Art	Performing Arts	Engineering
Travel & Tourism	Sport	Health & Social Care	Achieve Diploma
PE / Citizenship	Food & Nutrition	Achieve Diploma	PE/Citizenship

Subject	GCSE English Language
Exam Board:	AQA
Assessment structure:	100% final exam at the end of two years
Topics covered in this course include:	<p><b>English Language Paper 1: Fiction.</b></p> <p>Students read and respond to an unseen extract from a novel. They show understanding by answering questions on information and ideas, language and structure, and critically evaluating the writer's methods. Students have to choose one task, which may be descriptive or narrative writing.</p> <p><b>English Language Paper 2: Non-fiction.</b></p> <p>Students read and respond to two unseen extracts, one of which is a 19<sup>th</sup> century text. They show understanding by answering questions on information and ideas, language and structure, and critically evaluating the writer's methods.</p> <p>Students also have to undertake a task where they could be asked to Argue / Persuade / Advise / Explain or Instruct.</p> <p>Students will also complete a qualification in functional skills English, and some will sit the English Literature GCSE if appropriate.</p>
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	English Language is an entry requirement for all subjects at post-16 and plays a key role in developing readiness for work and apprenticeships.
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Your class teacher</li> <li>✓ Mrs Lee</li> </ul>

Subject	GCSE Maths
Exam Board:	AQA
Assessment structure:	100% exam 3 Papers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ One is a non-calculator paper</li> <li>✓ Two are calculator papers</li> </ul> All exams are 1hr 30 mins.
Topics covered in this course include:	All of the KS3 content covered, and many more new topics, taken from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Number</li> <li>✓ Algebra</li> <li>✓ Ratio and Proportion</li> <li>✓ Geometry</li> <li>✓ Statistics</li> </ul>
This course is ideal for:	All students of all abilities – students will take the foundation paper as well as the Entry Level Maths certification.
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Preparation for post-16 college courses</li> <li>✓ Preparation for apprenticeships</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;">Maths opens every door!</p>
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Your class teacher</li> <li>✓ Mr Devlin</li> </ul>

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Entry Level Science + Combined Trilogy (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)</b>
Exam Board:	AQA
Assessment structure:	<p>Students will complete the Entry Level Science qualification.</p> <p><b>Entry Level Science</b></p> <p>The Entry Level Science course is designed to prepare pupils for the GCSE in Science. It will cover all 3 disciplines of Science and allow pupils to engage with Science skills and develop their understanding of concepts. Pupils will not be examined at the end of this course, however they will complete in class assessments throughout. This course is designed to be a transition between KS3 and GCSE to help support pupils for the GCSE Science course.</p>
Progress from this course: (Key Stage 5 or possible careers)	The entry level course will provide pupils with the experience and skills that will allow them to move onto work within the Scientific community in a variety of roles, such as working in laboratories or working with animals.
For more information please contact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Your class teacher</li> <li>✓ Mrs Pascual (Head of Science)</li> </ul>

Subject	GCSE Combined Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)		
Exam Board:	AQA; Combined Science – Trilogy route		
Units and topics covered	Biology: 7 topics 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology	Chemistry :10 topics 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources	Physics: 7 topics 1. Forces 2. Energy 3. Waves 4. Electricity 5. Magnetism and electromagnetism 6. Particle model of matter 7. Atomic structure
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	Progress onto A-Level studies.  A-Level in Biology, Chemistry and Physics if they attain a <b>GCSE grade 6</b> or above by taking the <b>higher tier</b> assessment route.  Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science.  Science GCSEs are often part of entry requirements or essential qualifications for careers including Medicine, Veterinary Science and Engineering.		
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Your class teacher</li> <li>✓ Mrs Pascual</li> </ul>		

Subject		Core PE
Activities included in Core PE:	Students are asked to make a choice of one of the following <i>pathways</i> : Performance, Creative, Participation and Leadership. Within the chosen <i>pathway</i> , students select the activities to compete and participate in. We feel giving students a choice is essential, as this is an integral part of sustaining interest and a positive attitude towards being physically active. We hope this will represent the way they may approach physical activity outside of school and so encourage lifelong learning and participation.	
Skills developed in core PE:	Within Core PE, students will continue to develop their physical skills and the ability to perform within a range of sports and activities alongside developing their overall understanding of what it is to be fit and healthy for life. We also place a strong emphasis on a range of skills which include the ability to demonstrate leadership, resilience, working within a team and communication skills.	
The benefits of Core PE:	The list is numerous, none more so than the ability to understand and maintain a healthy lifestyle, which has numerous physical, social and mental benefits. Within a sporting environment and during physical activity students engage with a number of concepts and challenges that develop the whole person.	
Progress from this course:	Progress from Core PE develops into lifelong participation in physical activity. Overall the aim is to develop a person who can understand why it is important to lead a healthy lifestyle and how they can achieve this.	

		Core Modern Studies
Activities included:	Students cover all the key aspects of their statutory entitlement in these subjects including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Sex and relationships</li> <li>✓ Online safety</li> <li>✓ Drug and alcohol awareness</li> <li>✓ Careers advice and post-16 planning</li> <li>✓ Religious views on controversial topics</li> <li>✓ Migration, identity &amp; religious beliefs</li> <li>✓ Core British Values</li> </ul>	
Skills developed:	PSHE, RE and Citizenship enable students to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to become informed, active citizens.	
The benefits of this course:	These subjects enable students to discuss issues within society and develop analytical skills. Students can also gain credits towards their Achieve Diploma.	
Progress from this course:	This course is particularly appropriate to studying Government & Politics and / or Philosophy & Ethics.	

Subject	Personal Development & Employability Skills (Achieve)
Exam Board:	Prince's Trust
Assessment structure:	100% coursework & project based  Students will achieve a Level 2 Diploma or Award depending on the number of units completed.
Topics covered in this course include:	The course aims to develop confidence and prepare students for work and further education.  Students can complete units in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Career planning</li> <li>- Managing money</li> <li>- Interview skills</li> <li>- Presentation skills</li> <li>- Leadership</li> <li>- Personal wellbeing</li> <li>- Teamwork</li> </ul>
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	Preparation for all Post-16 courses, skills for apprenticeships and employment. Development of life skills and confidence.
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mrs Kirby</li> <li>✓ Mrs Read</li> </ul>

Subject	GCSE Art & Design – Fine Art
Exam Board:	AQA
Assessment structure:	<p>The AQA GCSE Art &amp; Design (Fine Art) carries a 60% weighting for controlled assessment over two years. Students will carry out two broad units of work during this time. This is then followed by a 10 hour practical exam/controlled test after a given preparation time. This makes up 40% of the final GCSE grade.</p>
Topics covered in this course include:	<p>Students carry out a range of practical projects in two and three dimensions; learn about the creative process, and how to make decisions about the development and direction of their work. They will also need to be able to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of the work of other artists and craftspeople. This can be done in writing and annotating their own personal response to others' work and their own work also by a personal response through their own artwork.</p>
This course is ideal for:	<p>This course will appeal to students who enjoy Art, or who would like to consider a creative or design-orientated career.</p>
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	<p>Students who are considering further study at A-Level in Art and Design or are thinking of a career in any of the design areas below will need to take the GCSE Art &amp; Design course as they will be required to submit a portfolio of work at interview.</p> <p>There are numerous career opportunities in Art related fields such as architecture, product designer, window dresser, teacher, film or theatre set designer, web designer, game design, animation, graphics, textile design, fashion or costume design.</p>

For more  
information please  
contact:

- ✓ Your class teacher
- ✓ Mrs Hewitt

Subject	GCSE Art & Design - Photography
Exam Board:	WJEC/EDUQAS
Assessment Structure:	<p>Students following the GCSE Photography course will complete two main assessment portfolios.</p> <p><b>Component 1 (Portfolio)</b> This is worth 60% of the final mark and is a Personal Investigation exploring one major theme.</p> <p><b>Component 2 (exam topic)</b> This is worth 40% of the final mark. Students must respond to a title set by AQA during a 10 hour practical exam/controlled test after a set preparation time.</p>
Topics Covered in this course include:	<p>We begin the course by introducing students to different photographic styles and techniques, including landscape photography, sequencing, Photoshop editing and comic books. Students will produce a sketchbook of work in which they explore different photographers, experiment with editing techniques and refine their own photographic skills.</p>
This course is ideal for:	<p>GCSE Photography is suitable for Purple Route students specifically selected by the Key Stage team.</p>
Progress from this course: (Key Stage 5 or possible careers)	<p>BTEC Level 2 Qualifications or apprenticeships in Photography or Media Studies.</p>
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mrs Deacon</li> <li>✓ Miss Cooper</li> </ul>

Subject	Level 1/2 Cambridge National Award/Certificate in Engineering Design
Exam Board:	OCR
Assessment structure:	<p>Pupils will complete this GCSE over the course of the two years. They will be continuing with the work they have studied in Year 9 during their Engineering lessons.</p> <p>During Year 10 / Year 11 pupils will undertake the Engineering Design Award/Certificate which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Design briefs, design specifications and user requirements - Written paper OCR set and marked 1 hour – 60 marks.</li> <li>✓ Product analysis and research - Centre-assessed task, OCR moderated.</li> <li>✓ Developing and presenting engineering designs - Centre-assessed task, OCR moderated.</li> <li>✓ 3D design realisation - Centre-assessed task, OCR moderated.</li> </ul>
Topics covered in this course include:	<p>Engineering design is a process used to develop and enhance new products and systems as a response to market opportunities. This qualification is an opportunity for you to develop a design specification and study the processes involved in designing new engineered products. You will use practical skills such as drawing, computer modelling and model making to communicate design ideas. The qualification will also encourage you to consult with a client and, with its practical focus, will engage you in producing, testing and evaluating a prototype in the form of a model.</p>
This course is ideal for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Students who like to design a variety of products using their imagination.</li> <li>✓ Students who like to think outside the box and explore their creative side.</li> <li>✓ Students who like to work with different materials to construct a chosen design they might have come up with.</li> <li>✓ Students who like to learn about how different techniques can be applied to materials to enhance their looks/performance.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Students who like to work with a range of tools and machinery to construct various prototypes that they have designed.</li> <li>✓ Students who are able to work with a client to assist them in the development/testing of their product.</li> </ul>
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	<p>A-Level in Product Design or other Technology subjects, Apprenticeships, college courses in Electronics, Plumbing, Plastering, Construction and Engineering.</p> <p><u>Future Prospects:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ industrial design</li> <li>✓ interior design</li> <li>✓ graphics design</li> <li>✓ computer game design</li> <li>✓ automotive design</li> <li>✓ architecture, product design</li> <li>✓ theatre design</li> <li>✓ textile design</li> <li>✓ engineering</li> </ul>
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Your class teacher</li> <li>✓ Mr Ramsden</li> </ul>

Subject	GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition
Exam Board	WJEC
Assessment structure:	<p>Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes. 50% of the final mark</p> <p>Internal Assessment: 50% of the final mark</p> <p>Assessment 1. Food Investigation Assessment- 15% (8 hours)</p> <p>Assessment 2. Food Preparation Task- 35% Investigate, prepare, cook, serve and evaluate a menu of 3 dishes for a set theme(12hrs)</p>
Topics covered in this course include:	<p><u>Component 1</u>: Principles of Food Preparation and Nutrition. (Written exam)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Food commodities</li> <li>✓ Nutrition, diet and good health</li> <li>✓ The science of food</li> <li>✓ Where food comes from</li> <li>✓ Cooking and food preparation</li> </ul> <p><u>Component 2</u>: Food Preparation and Nutrition in Action. This is assessed through 2 exam board set assessments</p> <p><u>Assessment 1</u>: (15%) An example of a task might be to practically investigate the effects of using different ingredients in shortcrust pastry and to produce a report to evidence your findings.</p> <p><u>Assessment 2</u>: (35%) An example of this task might be to research, prepare and cook three dishes to promote the cuisine of a specific country or region that could be served on a themed menu for a local restaurant's International Week.</p>
This course is ideal for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Students learn through practical experimentation and skills development</li> <li>✓ Practically increasing knowledge, skills and confidence in working with a wide range of foods and preparation and cooking methods. Developing high level practical making skills.</li> <li>✓ Developing an understanding of food and health so that pupils can look after their own needs and those of others (life-skill)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Developing an understanding of factors that influence the foods that we eat e.g. environmental, ethical, economic, social</li> <li>✓ Exploring and understanding a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions</li> <li>✓ Being creative with food and enjoying working with and developing new recipes</li> </ul>
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	<p>Level 2 and 3 courses in Catering and Hospitality</p> <p><u>Future prospects</u></p> <p>Food scientist, product development, hospitality and catering, dietician, sports nutrition, health promotion</p>
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Your class teacher</li> <li>✓ Mr Ramsden</li> </ul>

Subject	Level 1 and 2 Technical Award Health & Social Care
Exam Board:	OCR
Assessment structure:	<p>There are four units. Three units are coursework based and cover the topics of communication, Life Span Development and First Aid. The First Aid unit is a practical unit and you will be assessed on your First Aid skills. In addition, you will receive a First Aid Certificate. The coursework is worth 75% of the overall grade. There is a written exam- which is one- hour long. You can retake the exam and improve your coursework. and the highest score will be the one counts!</p>
Topics covered in this course include:	<p>Communication Skills- These cover verbal, written and electronic. You will also participate in assessed interactions.</p> <p>Life Span Human Development- You will cover how people develop from birth to old age and how to support people with various needs.</p> <p>First Aid- You will be assessed on your skills to carry out: DR ABC, bandaging and other wounds.</p> <p>Working in Health and Social Care- This unit focuses on the skills required to work in Health and Social Care, along with the procedures that we must follow.</p>
This course is ideal for:	<p>Students who have a desire to provide care for vulnerable people in society and want to understand key principles that underpin why and how this should be done.</p>
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	<p>Level 3 Health/Social Care related courses/Sociology/Psychology/A-Level Science/Biology. NVQ and Apprenticeship route</p> <p>Careers: Paramedic, nurse/midwife, mental health worker, childcare worker, occupational therapist, counsellor, radiographer plus many, many more.</p>
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Miss Heydon</li> <li>✓ Miss Marriott</li> </ul>

Subject	Performing Arts
Exam Board:	Pearson BTEC Technical Award (Level 1/2)
Assessment Structure:	<p>Component 1 &amp; 2 are internally assessed coursework units.</p> <p>Component 3 is an externally assessed performance unit.</p>
Topics Covered in this course include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Examine live and recorded performances</li> <li>✓ Learn about professional roles in performing arts</li> <li>✓ Look at different performing styles</li> <li>✓ Consider techniques and skills used in performances</li> <li>✓ Create your own performances and develop your skills as a performer in your preferred area (dance, drama, musical theatre).</li> <li>✓ Develop skills in theatre design.</li> </ul>
This course is ideal for:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Students who enjoy performing and are interested in a career in Performing Arts</li> <li>✓ Those who want to build confidence and teamwork skills within an Arts context</li> <li>✓ Students keen to have a creative outlet</li> </ul>
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	<p>Level 3 Dance, Drama or Performance Studies courses.</p> <p>Former students now have careers in performance, teaching, sales, marketing and design.</p>
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mrs Kirby</li> </ul>

Subject	BTEC Sport
Exam Board:	Edexcel
Assessment structure:	25% external exam 75% internal controlled assessment
Topics covered in this course include:	Fitness for Sport and Exercise, Practical Sports Performance Training for Personal Fitness Leading Sports Activities
This course is ideal for:	Students who wish to pursue a career in the sports industry. They will develop an interest in sport, training and fitness and will enjoy taking part in physical activity. Students will also need to complete write ups of practical work and complete a controlled assessment based on what they have learned.
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	A BTEC First in Sport will aid progression to further study and prepare students to enter the workplace in due course. Typical employment opportunities may include working as a coach or as a fitness instructor. A BTEC First will allow students to gain an introductory understanding of a vocational area. It is a good stepping stone into higher level courses, as there is a clear progression route to A-Level course, which can be studied at Bramcote College, or an apprenticeship
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Your class teacher</li> <li>✓ Mr Warner</li> </ul>

Subject	BTEC Travel & Tourism
Exam Board:	Pearson
Assessment structure:	30% external exam 70% internal controlled assessment
Topics covered in this course include:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Travel &amp; Tourism Organisations and destinations</li> <li>• Influences on Global Travel &amp; Tourism</li> <li>• Customer needs in Travel &amp; Tourism</li> </ul>
This course is ideal for:	<p>Students who wish to pursue a career in the travel industry, or any other business and customer service industry.</p> <p>Those who are interested in learning about the world as well as how business, tourism and travel work.</p>
Progress from this course: (KEY STAGE 5 or possible careers)	<p>A BTEC Tech award in Travel &amp; Tourism will aid progression to further study and prepare students to enter the workplace in due course. Typical employment opportunities may include working in hospitality, a travel agency, airport or any other customer-facing role. A BTEC will allow students to gain an introductory understanding of a vocational area. It is a good stepping stone into higher level courses, as there is a clear progression route to Level 3 BTEC courses as well as apprenticeships.</p>
For more information please contact:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Mr Morton</li> <li>✓ Mrs Read</li> </ul>