



The Kings of Wessex School

Dear Student

I am delighted to introduce this booklet which contains important information about the courses that are available for you to study in Years 10 and 11. The coming years are a crucial time in your education and will be important in shaping your future. You will have to make some important choices about the courses that you will study over the next two years. Key Stage 4 provides you with a new challenge in your education. Your education to date has been preparing you for this vital step. Please read this booklet carefully and invite your parents to do the same.

Many of the subjects that you will study at Key Stage 4 will already be familiar to you. Some of the subjects on offer will be new ones that you have not had the opportunity to study before. The range of subjects at Key Stage 4 is designed to ensure that you maintain a broad and balanced education through to the age of 16. These will equip you for life beyond school and provide a firm basis for any decisions that you make about your continued education in the Sixth Form. Although you are required to take many of the courses, you are also able to make a number of choices about the subjects you will study. There is also the chance to begin to specialise within one area or take a completely new subject.

Also available are BTEC First certificates which are more vocational and allow you to specialise in an area of your choice. There are important decisions to be made and you will need to think carefully before making your choices.

The information on each subject is set out so that you are able to look at the content and assessment demands for each subject.

We are unable to guarantee that you will get your first choice subject, so it is important to think carefully in making a positive second choice.

To help you plan your future, you will be discussing course choices in your Citizenship lessons. Your tutor will also be advising you about the opportunities available and the timescale for making your decisions. We will be inviting you and your parents to attend a Key Stage 4 Courses Information Evening and there will be a Parents Evening with your subject teachers. Please don't hesitate to ask if you are at all unsure or would simply like more information about a particular course. Your teachers will always be pleased to help.

The next two years will require a great deal of hard work and perseverance if you are to do well in your examinations. Teachers are firmly committed to helping you to get the best out of yourself and you can be assured of our full support. I look forward to hearing about your successes at Key Stage 4.

Yours sincerely

Barbara Marshall
Deputy Headteacher

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°Students may choose *either* GCSE Business Studies **OR** BTEC Business **BUT NOT** Both

• Students may choose *either* GCSE PE **OR** BTEC Sport **BUT NOT** Both

✖ Students may choose a maximum of two of the Creative Arts subjects

■ Students may choose a maximum of two of the Visual Arts subjects

INTRODUCTION

Key Stage 4 of the National Curriculum is taught within Years 10 and 11 at The Kings of Wessex. During this time you will be following courses which, in most cases, will lead to a GCSE or BTEC qualification.

The National Curriculum provides a broad and balanced programme of courses for students. There are areas in which you will be able to choose which subjects you wish to study. You will also be able to choose subjects which may be of particular interest to you or best suits your ability.

The overall provision of courses for all students is as follows:

CORE CURRICULUM

The core curriculum which everyone will study:-

- **English**
This leads to two separate GCSE qualifications in English and English Literature. A small number of less able students will take only English Language.
- **Mathematics**
This leads to one GCSE qualification. Some students will learn aspects of the first Mathematics AS module during Years 10 and 11 helping them to bridge the gap to A Levels in Y12.
- **Science**
This leads to two or three separate GCSE qualifications. You are presently studying Core Science GCSE. In Year 10 most students will study the content for Additional Science GCSE, while some will study Additional Applied Science. Most students will then proceed to study the triple sciences in Y11 while others will continue with Core and Additional or Additional Applied Science.
- **Technology**
This leads to one GCSE qualification in either Product Design or Food.
- **Information Technology**
This course leads to an Award in Digital Applications in ICT - equivalent to one GCSE
- **Religious Education**
This course leads to one GCSE qualification.
- **Additional Subjects**
In addition to the above courses, you will also follow non GCSE courses in Physical Education, Citizenship, Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) as well as a Work Related Learning programme.

THE ENRICHMENT CURRICULUM

You must choose **three** of the following subjects which all provide a course leading to a GCSE or BTEC First qualification.

Languages	Humanities	Physical Education	Creative Arts	Visual Arts
French	Geography	PE Studies	Drama	Art
German	History	BTEC Sport	Music	Photography
	Business Studies		BTEC Performing Arts	Textiles
	BTEC Business			
	Care & Health			
	BTEC Children's Care			

When you are making your choice, you should consider the following points. **Make sure you discuss these points with your parents.**

- At Key Stage 4 you have more choice in what you study. You have the opportunity to begin to specialise in a particular area. However, you should realise that dropping subjects now may affect what you can study after Year 11.
- For most of you, the best advice is to keep your studies as broad as possible. You should consider choosing your subjects from different areas in the list above.
- Only students with a very strong reason for doing so should choose all three subjects from one area.
- BTEC First qualifications are equivalent to 2 passes at GCSE at Grades A* - C. These courses provide a more vocational, practical approach to learning within the context of the 'real world' and the relevant theoretical background. BTECs are good for students who prefer continual assessment and coursework rather than a final examination. Due to the amount of coursework students are not allowed to take more than two BTEC courses.
- Please note that the following combinations are **not** possible:
 - GCSE Business **and** BTEC Business.
 - GCSE PE **and** BTEC Sport.
 - GCSE Drama **and** GCSE Music **and** BTEC Performing Arts.
- You may only take 2 from the Visual Arts: Art, Photography and Textiles as they follow the same syllabus, with simultaneous coursework commitments and simultaneous deadlines and exams.
- It is no longer compulsory to study a foreign language at GCSE. However, most of you would benefit from studying at least one foreign language. At the Kings of Wessex we offer French or German. If you are a particularly able or enthusiastic language student, you should consider studying both languages.
- You should choose three Subjects but take care with your reserve choices, we cannot guarantee that you will get your first three choices.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS

The course selection form at the back of the booklet outlines those areas where a subject choice is required. This should be completed and returned to the school office by **Wednesday 24th March 2010 at the latest**. You should make sure that it is named and has been signed by yourself and your parent(s).

Please read carefully the descriptions of the subjects that follow so that you know which subjects are offered and what each involves. It is important that you sit down together with your parents to discuss the subjects on offer and agree your choices. The work on career choice during Year 9 should have helped to guide you in your choice, along with your own awareness of those subjects which you are best at and which you like doing most. Please do not hesitate, however, to ask your Form Tutor, Subject Teacher or Year Leader if you feel you need any further advice. They will all be pleased to help you.

To help your parents to talk about your course choices with you, we will be holding a Key Stage 4 Courses Information Evening on **Wednesday 24th February 2010 at 7 p.m.** (which starts promptly in the School Hall); followed by a Parents' Evening with your teachers on **Wednesday 10th March 2010** between **5.00pm and 8.00 pm** (in the School Hall).

QUALIFICATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

GCSE Examinations

Most subjects at Key Stage 4 are studied through courses leading to the GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION (GCSE).

This examination provides a single system of assessment for you with a single scale of grades (A*-G). The examination is designed to stretch your abilities and to award grades accordingly. With most subjects there will be a choice of papers or questions and teachers will be able to guide you on which papers and questions to attempt.

Coursework assessment forms a significant feature of some GCSE examinations. This is work that is done throughout the course which counts towards your final examination mark.

Most coursework is spread over two years. This is a continuous indicator of how well you are doing and helpful to those who perform less well in examinations. It is also a good preparation for Post-16 work.

You will be given clear information on deadline dates for coursework in different subjects at the start of Year 10. *It is very important to keep to the deadlines set.* The subject information which follows indicates the specific requirements in particular areas.

BTEC(British Technical and Education Council)

BTEC Firsts are Level 2 Courses. Students completing a BTEC First Certificate course will receive a qualification by completion of ongoing coursework and assessment. There are no final examinations but you must be committed to a programme of continual assessment and coursework. You must be organised, completing work when it is set in order to meet the demands of the course. A BTEC First Certificate is equivalent to two GCSEs.

Please read all the information that follows carefully

Please ask if you want more information or advice

THE CORE CURRICULUM

■ **GCSE ENGLISH Language & Literature** (*precise GCSE specification to be confirmed*)

English is a National Curriculum core subject studied by all students

Aims

The course, which leads to two grades - one for English and one for English Literature – builds on the English work you have done so far, but brings it up-to-date by giving more emphasis to new forms of text, such as media and web based texts, and gives more importance to the study of spoken language. You will develop your reading, writing and speaking and listening skills. You will learn to read, understand and respond to a wide range of texts, both literary and non-literary; to appreciate ways in which writers achieve their effects and to write yourselves in a variety of styles for a range of purposes. You will develop your skills of personal expression and group discussion in formal and informal situations.

Content

For English Language you will study for three main units: English Today; The Writer's Voice and The Spoken Voice. For English Literature there are also three units to study: Understanding Prose; Understanding Poetry and Shakespeare and Contemporary Drama.

You will study a range of texts, both written and spoken, from traditional novels to web texts such as podcasts and websites. You will show your understanding by writing about the texts you have studied in short answers, in essays and by producing your own.

The course is active and busy. You will be encouraged to become independent readers and writers and will, where possible, be given the opportunity to see plays, enter competitions and attend courses.

Assessment

Assessment is by controlled assessment and examination, to be completed entirely in school. You will be entered for examined units and Controlled Assessment units in both Year 10 and in Year 11. There will be two tiers of entry for the examined units (Foundation, C-G, and Higher A*-D). Controlled assessment units are the same for all students.

*This course leads to two separate GCSE qualifications in
English Language and English Literature*

■ GCSE MATHEMATICS (*precise GCSE specification to be confirmed*)

Mathematics is a National Curriculum core subject studied by all students

Aims

This course aims to provide numerical, analytical and logical skills for all students. We also aim to provide levels of numeracy and qualification that will enable students to pursue careers in their chosen subjects.

Introduction

You will learn and be tested upon your ability to problem solve and your application of mathematics to real situations. Other skills include the use of calculators, written communication and the testing of Number and Algebra in all exam papers.

Content

The Mathematics GCSE course is arranged in two tiers; each with a maximum and a minimum grade. They are:

Foundation: This course provides a thorough grounding in Number, Algebra, Geometry, Measures, Statistics and Probability. The maximum grade is C. The use of a C grade by Universities and some employers as an entry criterion becomes an important factor for many students.

Higher: A demanding course involving advanced skills in Mathematics and giving grades A*-D. It is good for students wishing to study Mathematics and Science to Advanced Level and beyond.

Assessment

The exam consists of three separate exams, they are:

- **Unit 1 (Calculator Paper).** This paper will test Statistics and Probability, Number and Algebra, and Geometry and Measure and it is worth 30 % of the final GCSE exam. The current plan is for students to sit the Unit 1 exam paper in the November of Y10 (2010) - this will be confirmed at the beginning of Y10.
- **Unit 2 (Non Calculator Paper).** This paper will test Number and Algebra, and Geometry and Measure and it is worth 30 % of the final GCSE exam. The current plan is for students to sit the Unit 1 exam paper in the summer of Y10 (2011).
- **Unit 3 (Calculator Paper).** This paper will test Number and Algebra, and Geometry and Measure and it is worth 40 % of the final GCSE exam. The final exam will be sat in the summer of Yr11 (2012).

These courses lead to one GCSE qualification in Mathematics

■ SCIENCE

Science is a National Curriculum core subject studied by all students

Aims

During your GCSE Science course we aim to help you to learn the scientific skills of investigation and analysis and acquire the knowledge and understanding that will be useful in everyday life and in scientific work. You should also develop an informed point of view on important scientific issues. The course should help you to become a confident citizen in an increasingly scientific world.

Content

All students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics throughout Years 10 and 11 and will achieve two or three qualifications in Science at the end of the course, depending on their progress.

All students will have studied **Science** in Year 9. The majority of students will study **Additional Science** in Year 10, followed by the extension units for **Biology, Chemistry and Physics** in Year 11.

Some students will just study Additional Science without the extension units.

Some students will study Additional Applied Science rather than Additional Science.

There are **three** possible outcomes at GCSE, depending on your progress in Science:

1. **Separate Sciences** – You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics each at GCSE Level. This course will lead to Three separate GCSE qualifications in **Biology (AQA 4411), Chemistry (AQA 4421) & Physics (AQA 4451)** completed at the end of Year 11.
2. **Science (AQA4461) with Additional Science (AQA 4463)** – You will still study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate subjects through years 10 and 11 but will certificate for two GCSE qualifications, one in Science and one in Additional Science.

Both of these routes are good preparation for A level.

3. **Science (AQA4461) with Additional Applied Science (AQA 4863)** - The Applied course is more vocational in approach and is not suitable preparation for A level. A small group of students will be offered the opportunity to study the Applied Science course at the end of Year 10. You will study Food Science, Forensic Science and Sports Science through years 10 and 11, together with revisiting the Core Science course in Year 11.

Assessment

The Separate Sciences, Science and Additional Science courses are assessed by tests/written papers (75%) and a Centre-Assessed Unit (25%). The Centre Assessed Unit involves a mixture of internally and externally set components, all completed during normal lesson time, for which you will have plenty of opportunities to practice and improve.

Students will sit their written exams in May/June of Year 10 and Year 11.

The Additional Applied Science course is assessed by written papers (40%) and portfolios (60%). Students studying this course will sit the exam in January to allow for the possibility of re-sitting this paper in June of Y10 possibly at a different tier. The portfolio work will be carried out in the remainder of the course, together with re-sits of the Core Science components.

■ TECHNOLOGY

*Technology is a National Curriculum core subject studied by all students.
Students are already studying either:*

1. **Product Design OR**
2. **Food Technology**

1. **GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – *PRODUCT DESIGN* (AQA 4557)**

Aims

The main aims of this course are to provide you with a creative opportunity to design and make quality products that can be manufactured in quantity. You will use paper, card, wood, metal, plastics, ceramics and textiles.

You will acquire the following skills:

- Analysing and evaluating products and processes.
- Be capable of demonstrating designing and making techniques.
- Develop ideas and planning.
- Consider how past and present design and technology, relevant to designing and making context affects society.
- Recognise the moral, cultural and environmental issues inherent in design and technology affect society.
- Opportunity to manufacture with Computer Aided Design /Computer Aided Manufacture (CAD/CAM).

Content

The two main areas of content are designing and making:

Designing: You will develop a better understanding of the design process and use computers and graphic techniques to present their design concepts.

Making: You will learn about the skills, processes and knowledge of a wide range of materials, and to have the opportunity to manufacture to a high standard.

Assessment

Assessment in Y9 (Skills based GCSE course)

You will be working towards their first examination which will take place in the Summer of 2010. You will produce a variety of products using wood, metals and plastics as well as modelling materials.

Assessment in Y10

This focuses on coursework (60%) and an examination (40%). The coursework mark will come from a combination of a major design-and-make project, which will be carried out in Y10. The examination will assess the knowledge of designing and making learnt throughout the course. There will also be an opportunity to retake their examination from Y9 if necessary.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Design & Technology – Product Design

2. GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY – *FOOD TECHNOLOGY* (OCR J302)

Aims

The main aims of this course are to provide you with the opportunity to:

- Design and make quality food products using a variety of ingredients and techniques.
- Develop designing and making skills.
- Understand how everyday food products are design and manufactured.
- Develop an understanding of food technology and manufacturing.

Content

The two main areas of content are designing and making:

Designing - you will develop a better understanding of the design process and learn how to use food creatively to meet different needs.

Making - you will learn about the skills, processes and knowledge of food in order to make quality products.

Assessment

Assessment in Y9

Students range of skills will work towards a design and make coursework task which will go towards their GCSE qualification (30%).

Assessment in Y10

An examined unit in January (20%) and a further examined unit in June (20%). The final 30% is coursework that is produced during Y10.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Design & Technology – Food

■ **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (Edexcel GADA)**
Award in Digital Applications

ICT is a National Curriculum core subject studied by all students.

The course allows you to use Video footage, sound recordings and other media formats to make up your project work. This course also reduces the amount of written work you have to complete leaving more time for you to learn new work based ICT skills.

Aims

The course aims to develop ICT skills, so that you can solve a range of problems, using different types of software, and to be critical of the strengths and weaknesses of these programmes. You will develop your knowledge of computers and will experience a wide range of uses of information and communication systems.

Content

The course involves the use of a variety of software packages, database, desk top publishing, spreadsheet, control and graphics. The use of the Internet and the creation of web pages are also covered. The topics that are studied include computer legislation, hardware, software, security and the social aspects of using computer systems. There is no exam for this course.

Coursework/Assessment

The coursework will comprise of one piece worth **100%** of the overall examination mark:

The coursework is all based on the Computer, in an e-portfolio. All the coursework assessment tasks will be completed in lessons with a substantial amount of background work completed at home (approximately 1 hour a week) this can be done online and on paper if required.

It will be helpful to have a computer at home but not essential as the school has over 500 computers available for use with a large percentage available during break, lunch and after school.

This course leads to an Award in Digital Applications in ICT - equivalent to 1 GCSE

■ GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES (WJEC Specification B Religious Studies (4450/01))

Religious Studies is a National Curriculum core subject studied by all students.

Aims

This course aims to develop a knowledge and understanding of the key beliefs, values and traditions of two major religions. It also aims to give an opportunity to consider religious and other responses to moral issues and to fundamental questions of life.

During the course of study you will -

- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.
- explore religions and beliefs, reflect on fundamental questions, engage with them intellectually and respond personally
- enhance your spiritual and moral development
- enhance your personal, social and cultural development, your understanding of different cultures locally, nationally and in the wider world, and contribute to social and community cohesion
- develop your interest in and enthusiasm for the study of religion, and relate it to the wider world
- reflect on and develop your own values, opinions and attitudes in light of your learning.

Content

Religion and Life (4451/01)

Looking for Meaning - Issues about God, life and death

Relationships - Issues of love, marriage and divorce

Our World - Exploring creation and our place in the world

Is it fair? - Issues of justice and equality

Assessment

Three pieces of work are assessed for each unit, one of which will include a full 'mock' GCSE exam question.

NB: The Religion and Life exam will be sat in the Summer of Y10 in a paper lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.

Religion and Human Experience (4452/01)

Religion and Conflict - Issues of peace, forgiveness and conflict

Religion and State/Authority - Issues of law and order in religion and society

Religion and Expression - Issues of expressing one's faith

Religion and Medicine - Issues of medical ethics and the sanctity of life

Assessment

Three pieces of work are assessed for each unit, one of which will include a full 'mock' GCSE exam question.

Religion and Human Experience GCSE will be sat in the summer of Y11 in a paper lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Religious Studies

ENRICHMENT SUBJECTS – Students will need to choose 3 Enrichment Subjects

■ MODERN LANGUAGES

GCSE FRENCH (AQA 4658) / GCSE GERMAN (AQA 4668)

Aims

Both French and German aim to develop your ability to use the language effectively for purposes of practical communication; to develop an awareness of the nature of language learning and to offer insights into the culture and civilisation of French/German speaking countries and to encourage positive attitudes to them.

Content

The four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing are taught through the following contexts:

- Lifestyle
- Leisure
- Home and Environment
- Work and Education.

Textbooks, magazines, audio and video material are used, and you are encouraged to develop your I.T. skills for homework and written assignments, as well as accessing appropriate web-sites for up-to-date news and information, as well as language practice. CD Roms offering practice in each of the language skills can be accessed via the school's Intranet. In addition the Faculty is building up a bank of resources on the school's Learning Platform.

Assessment

You will be assessed in four areas: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Each of the skill areas are attached the following weightings: Speaking and Writing (30%), Listening and Reading (20%).

For Listening and Reading two tiers of examination are offered: **Foundation** – targeting grades C to G, and **Higher** – targeting grades A* to D. Listening and Reading are assessed by an examination at the end of Year 11.

Writing and Speaking will take the form of controlled assessment. You will submit 2 written and speaking assignments from tasks set during Years 10 and 11. Speaking and Writing are un-tiered. Differentiation is by outcome.

You will not be allowed to use a dictionary in any of the examinations but you will have access to any resources for writing the coursework option.

The AQA French and German courses lead to a GCSE qualification.

■ HUMANITIES

1. GCSE HISTORY (OCR J417)

Aims

History at GCSE aims to get you to: be interested and enthusiastic about the past; gain knowledge and understanding of the past; investigate events, changes, people and issues from the past; understand that there are different interpretations of how and why things in the past happened; use a wide range of historical sources; and reach conclusions based on past events.

Content

The builds upon and complements areas covered at Key Stage 3. Topics taught include:

- ◆ International Relations 1919-1939 (A971) -Peacemaking 1919, the League of nations, causes of World War II
- ◆ Germany 1919-1945 (A971) - Weimar Germany and Nazi Germany
- ◆ Britain 1890-1918 (A972) - Britain in the 1890s, Founding the Welfare State, Suffragettes, how Britain was affected by World War I.
- ◆ Coursework (A973) - likely to be Russian Revolution and Stalin's Russia

Assessment

The course is assessed by examination (75%) and by coursework (25%). Paper one (A971) counts for 45% of the marks, and paper two (A972) for 30% of the marks. The coursework assignments (A973) are completed under controlled conditions in school. We anticipate entering students for paper one (A971) in the January of Year 11 and the other two units (A972 and A973) in the June of Year 11

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in History

■ HUMANITIES

2. GCSE GEOGRAPHY (AQA 4032)

Aims

Geography explores the relationship between people and the natural environment. It looks at issues including climate change and the need for sustainable development.

Content

In Y10, you will explore river valleys, coastlines and tectonics. You will look at their impact on people and investigate how we can protect ourselves against coastal and river flooding. You will study natural hazards like earthquakes and volcanoes and understand how people learn to live with the risks. The Y10 topics prepare you for the Unit 1 exam, Physical Geography.

In Y11, you will investigate differences between rich and poor countries and look at population themes including population growth and migration. You will also look at rural change including agriculture and its impact on the environment. A topic on tourism completes the Y11 course which will prepare you for the Unit 2 exam, Human geography.

Fieldwork visits are an important part of the course. You will become familiar with the use of spreadsheets and will use the Internet for researching some topics.

Assessment

Coursework has been replaced by a controlled conditions investigation in Geography. This will help you to develop skills in data collection and presentation of results. You will learn to interpret your findings and reach conclusions. Most of the investigation is completed in school under supervision and is based on fieldwork organised by the Geography department. Your investigation will be completed towards the end of Y10.

You will take an exam on Unit 1 topics in the summer of Y10. The Unit 2 exam is taken at the end of Y11. Some students may retake their Unit 1 exam in Y11 if necessary.

There are two tiers of entry in Geography: foundation tier is targeted at grades C and below and can offer a 'safer' route to grade C for those performing in the C/D borderline; higher tier is targeted at grades A*- C. You will be advised on the appropriate tier well before your exams.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Geography

■ HUMANITIES

3. GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES (AQA 4133)

Aims

The course will help you to understand the factors which might turn your own business idea into a commercial success. You will also gain the understanding and skills necessary to advise other businesses on action they should take. It splits into two sections, starting a business and growing a business.

Content

Starting a Business – Module 1

Here you will focus on your own business idea and other small business start ups. You will investigate the type of research needed to investigate things about customers in the market. You will make decisions about whether sole trader or partnership are best for the people and businesses concerned. You will learn how to judge what type of finance is best to set up the business. This module also covers how to use market research to help make marketing decisions for the business and how to recruit and motivate staff. We also look at how to make decisions about the operation of the business and the importance of monitoring quality and efficiency.

This module is examined at the end of Year 10 and is 40% of the course

Investigating Businesses– Module 2

This unit is called a controlled assessment unit. A task is issued by the exam board at the beginning of September. Students are then given time to collect information on the topic to be used and written up in the final assessment.

This coursework is carried out in the first term of Year 11 and is 25% of the course

Growing a Business - Module 3

This module is covered in Year 11. This follows on from Year 10 moving the focus on to growth. You will learn to assess the impact of growth on different businesses and judge the right conditions for growth to work. You will study the formation of limited liability companies and the impact that this different type of ownership can have on the control of a business. We look at aims and objectives and the importance of finding the correct location. You will consider the marketing mix in detail and study how the organisation of staff in a larger business can affect how well they work. You will also study modern methods used to improve efficiency in business, including lean production.

This module is examined at the end of Year 11 and is 35% of the course

Assessment

Pupils need to learn to justify their views about the actions a business should take. Assessment activities in class will involve activities that encourage students to do this. Students can expect to be asked to argue their ideas in both small groups and in whole class situations. There will be a competitive feel to many activities. These help to challenge students to develop their argument more thoroughly

This course helps to prepare students for A level Business Studies and other Level 3 e.g. National Diploma level.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Business Studies

■ HUMANITIES

4. BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN BUSINESS

Aims

The course aims to develop a wide range of work place skills through the study of Business. These skills include time management, working with others, argument, initiative and communication.

Content

Unit 1: Exploring Business Purposes

How does the UK economy work? What sort of business do people set up and how do they make them successful? You will also investigate a given business to see how their different departments and functions work together to make the business successful.

This unit will be completed in January of Year 10

Unit 3: Financial Control

You will learn how to forecast and manage cash-flow in a business. You will also gain an understanding of financial record keeping and why this is essential. We also look at how to calculate profit and consider how a business can increase its profitability.

This unit will be completed in October of Year 11

Unit 4: Communication for Business Planning

Can you put a business plan together? Students are required to demonstrate communication skills in different situations to help them develop their own business idea. This will involve contact with customers, business advisors, presentations and interviews.

This unit will be completed by Easter of Year 11

Assessment

This course is 100% coursework. Students assignment work is assessed and verified by staff in the department. A sample of the students work will be externally verified by the exam board.

Students can expect to be assessed in a variety of ways. These might include taped interviews, recorded presentations, observed contributions in group work, role play, report writing, employer observations. The BTEC course is designed to assess students' understanding using methods which students would expect to encounter in the day-to-day workplace situation.

Progression

This course prepares student for the Level 3 BTEC National Award in different vocational areas. It may also satisfy entry requirements for A level courses.

*This Course leads to a BTEC First Certificate in Business Studies
This is equivalent to two GCSE qualifications*

Students can choose to take either GCSE or BTEC Business Studies

■ CARE AND HEALTH

BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN CHILDREN'S CARE, LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT (EDEXCEL)

Aims:

This course offers you the opportunity to gain an insight into children's care, learning and development, whilst obtaining a work-related qualification.

Compulsory Core units:

Unit 1	Understanding Children's Development*
Unit 2	Keeping Children Safe
Unit 3	Communication with Children and Adults**

*This unit requires 30 hours of work placement to be completed.

** This unit requires a further 30 hours of work placement to be completed.

All units are internally assessed and then moderated by the exam board. There are no external tests or final exams.

Learning styles:

This style of course will suit students who have a practical and independent approach to learning and who are more successful through portfolio style work than terminal exams. All work for this course will 'count' so you must be hard-working and be prepared to take all your work seriously from the start of the course.

You should:

- Have a keen interest in children's learning and development.
- Be interested in finding out about working in the Child Care Sector.
- Want to study a course that involves work experience in the Children's Care Sector.
- Want to move on to a related career or further education.

Assessment:

All units are assessed internally and then moderated by the exam board. There are no external tests or examinations.

*This course leads to a BTEC First in Children's Care Learning & Development
This is equivalent to two GCSE qualifications*

■ PHYSICAL EDUCATION

1. GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION (OCR J586)

Aims

The course followed leads to a GCSE qualification in Physical Education. This course enables you to improve your ability to plan, perform and evaluate physical activities and develop your knowledge, skills and understanding of a range of physical activities and related theoretical concepts.

Content

The course involves both theoretical and practical lessons. The theory component is divided into 2 Units:

1. An Introduction into Physical Education:
 - Key Concepts and Processes in Physical Education.
 - Opportunities, Pathways and Participation in Physical Education.
2. Developing Knowledge in Physical Education:
 - Skills, Techniques and Motivation.
 - Physical and Mental capacity.
 - Informed Decision Making using the Principles of Training and Safe Exercise.

The practical coursework component of the course will develop the practical performance of students in four sports. This will be divided into 2 sports being submitted for examination each year. In each sport your performance is assessed on your application of skills, technique and tactics in a game situation. Your knowledge of rules/regulation will also contribute to your practical performance scores. If you choose to, you can also be assessed as a coach or official in one sport, instead of a fourth practical performance. Every practical lesson will involve performances that will count towards your final coursework mark.

You will also have to complete 2 pieces of written coursework as part of your practical component, one piece in Year 10 and one in Year 11. This will involve the observation of a practical performance, identification of strengths and weaknesses and the creation of an action plan to improve the performer. This coursework will be carried out under controlled classroom conditions

Assessment

You will have 2 written examination papers which accounts for a total of 40%, of your final GCSE grade. One examination will take place at the end of Year 10 and one at the end of Year 11. The practical coursework component is made up of 50% performance and 10% written coursework.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Physical Education and is recommended to students who are considering studying PE at AS and A Level.

OR

■ PHYSICAL EDUCATION

2. BTEC FIRST CERTIFICATE IN SPORT

This is a new course for the school and the Physical Education Department and has been introduced to provide more opportunities for our students who have an interest in studying sport. This course is suited to the student who is **more participation minded than performance**, as practical ability is not assessed as part of the course.

Aims

The BTEC First Certificate in Sport has been developed to focus on:

- Providing opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.
- Specific education and training for those wanting to work in the sport sector.
- Providing opportunities for learners to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification to enter employment in the sport sector or to progress to further qualifications.

Content

You will study 3 of the modules listed below, over the 2 years of study.

1. The Body in Sport
2. Health, Safety and Injury in Sport
3. Planning and Leading Sports Activities
4. Practical Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

These modules will be delivered using a mixture of both classroom and practical lessons.

Assessment

There is **no final written examination** to assess students on this course. All modules are assessed by coursework, which will be an ongoing process during lessons and for homework over 2 years. Coursework will be in the form of written assignments and presentations. You will need to be organised as regular deadlines will be set each term for the completion of your work.

***This course leads to a BTEC Level 2 First Certificate in Physical Education
This is equivalent to 2 GCSE qualifications***

Students can choose to take either GCSE PE or BTEC Sport

■ VISUAL ARTS

Students may choose a maximum of 2 Visual Art Subjects

1. GCSE ART – Fine Art/ Unendorsed (AQA 4202/4201)

This course is for those who want to explore a variety of Art materials and processes. The course will include:

Aims

In Art the emphasis is on hands-on experience and the development of individual work. Preliminary studies and preparation, i.e. the processes of Art, are valued as well as the final product. Work is divided into the following areas:

- ◆ Research and investigation from a primary source;
- ◆ The development of ideas;
- ◆ Critical Studies relating ones work to that of another artist or craftsperson;
- ◆ Realisation in terms of the production and presentation of final work;
- ◆ Evaluation.

Throughout the course it is important that you understand the relationship of your own work to that of other students, Artists and Designers. Use is made of video/slides, ICT and the Learning Resource Centre. The course will also include at least one visit per year to a major Art Gallery.

Content

This course will provide you with a broad range of Art experiences: Drawing and Painting; Sculpture; Printmaking; Mixed Media and Textiles. Digital Photography and manipulation is also used as an Artistic tool. The development of drawing skills is the central core of this course.

Specialist Facilities

There are three purpose built Art classrooms, a kiln room, an Art shop and an Art ICT Suite.

Assessment

Coursework accounts for 60% of the final grade and consists of three units. A controlled test (40%) takes place over a period of time and involves the unaided completion of a unit of work in studio conditions (4 weeks preparation work and a 10 hours controlled test).

Equipment

Before the start of Y10 students will be expected to buy a Starter Equipment Pack from the department which will contain: A1 folder, sketchbook, drawing pencils, watercolour paints, paint brushes, oil pastels as well as other essentials such as mount boards. The price for this pack will be £40 and is at a greatly reduced rate to the prices that you would find in the shops.

In Year 11 students will buy a Top Up Equipment pack which will contain: sketchbook, mount boards and other materials needed for the year. The cost for this pack will be £25.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Art

■ VISUAL ARTS

2. GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY (AQA 4206)

This course is for those who want to specialise in Photography. The course will include:

- ◆ Portraiture, documentary and/or photo-journalism
- ◆ Environmental photography
- ◆ Experimental photography
- ◆ Working from objects, still life and/or from the natural world
- ◆ Candidates may use digital and/or chemical (silver halide) techniques to produce images.

You are required to work in one or more area(s) of Photography such as those listed above. Students may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

Content

Within the course students develop as a photographer; experience the creative process by using film SLR cameras and darkroom processes, and by using digital cameras and experiencing digital image making through the use of Photoshop. Students will gain inspiration from the historical and contemporary practice of black and white photography, colour and digital photography.

Specialist Facilities

The department has two classroom, two fully working black and white darkrooms, a colour darkroom, a professional photographic studio with infinity curve wall and professional lighting, computers equipped with Photoshop and digital drawing tablets.

Assessment

Coursework accounts for 60% of the final grade and consists of two units. A controlled test (40%) takes place over a period of time and involves the unaided completion of a unit of work in studio conditions (with a minimum of 4 weeks preparation work and a 10 hour controlled test).

Equipment:

Before the start of Y10 students will be expected to buy a Starter Equipment pack from the department which will contain: A1 folder, hardback photographic sketchbook, darkroom photographic paper, digital photographic paper, gold and silver pens, 1x 100 ISO film, 1x 400 ISO film, as well as other essentials such as mount boards. The price for this pack will be £60 and is at a greatly reduced rate to the prices that you would find in the shops. (For example, the photographic paper alone would cost over £70).

In Y11 students will buy a Top Up Equipment pack which will contain: sketchbook, mount boards and other materials needed for the year. The cost for this pack will be £30.

It is not necessary to own a camera to start with, but some students may wish to purchase their own during the course. Second hand SLR film cameras can be purchased from sites such as Ebay for as little as £10.

Additional materials may be purchased throughout the year if required from the department shop at a reduced rate.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Photography.

Remember - Students may choose a maximum of two Visual Art Subjects

■ VISUAL ARTS

3. GCSE TEXTILES (AQA 4204)

This course is for those who want to specialise in Textiles. The course will include:

- ◆ Feltmaking;
- ◆ Batik;
- ◆ Transfer printing, mono printing and lino printing techniques;
- ◆ Embellishment and surface pattern design;
- ◆ Paper making;
- ◆ Machine + hand embroidery – onto a range of surfaces including dissolvable fabric;
- ◆ Manipulation of fabrics and other materials;
- ◆ Drawing and the creation of tactile surfaces;
- ◆ Fashion;
- ◆ Three dimensional textile structures

Content

You may choose to work in one or more of the following areas of textiles: dyed; printed; stitched; constructed. You may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas. This course is an Arts based Textiles course and its focus is on the creation of fabrics and not primarily on the production of garments.

Specialist Facilities:

Textiles has its own classroom with a variety of sewing machines and specialist equipment housed within it to enable students to do a large variety of Textile and Art techniques.

Equipment:

Before the start of Y10 students will be expected to buy a Starter Equipment pack from the department which will contain: A1 folder, sketchbook, pins and needles, threads, transfer paper, dissolvable fabric, as well as other essentials such as mount boards. The price for this pack will be £40 and is at a greatly reduced rate to the prices that you would find in the shops.

In Year 11 students will buy a Top Up Equipment pack which will contain: sketchbook, mount boards and other materials needed for the year. The cost for this pack will be £25.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Textiles

REMEMBER – Students may choose a maximum of two of the Visual Arts Subjects

■ CREATIVE ARTS

1. DRAMA (Edexcel GCSE 2DR01 and Edexcel AS Level 8DR01)

Aims

The **GCSE and AS Level Drama** course aims to give you the opportunity to develop the following skills:

- ◆ Creative skills
- ◆ Communication skills
- ◆ Inter-personal skills
- ◆ Acting or design skills
- ◆ Evaluative skills

Content

In Year 10

You will study **GCSE Drama**. This one year course is all about acting and communication skills. Most lessons will be practical. You will produce 2 pieces of coursework over the two years made up of practical and written work and various performances in preparation for your final examination. Although this course is mainly about acting, student with a desire to study technical aspects should also consider this course.

In Year 11

You will study **AS Level Drama**. This one year course is about the art of performance and understanding theatre. Most lessons will be practical. You will study 2 plays for coursework and study a performance of live theatre. The examination will be in two parts; a monologue or duologue and a group piece which will be twice as long as the GCSE performance.

Assessment

GCSE

This course consists of three components. Two of these are practical and written coursework units and are each worth 30% of the total mark available. The remaining 40% of the marks come from an externally assessed practical exam which takes place at the end of Year 11.

THERE IS NO WRITTEN EXAM IN GCSE DRAMA

AS Level

Coursework is worth a total of 40%, split between the study of two plays practically and through a portfolio of written notes. The examination is worth 60%, 30% each for the two performances.

THERE IS NO WRITTEN EXAM IN AS LEVEL DRAMA

*This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Drama
And an AS Level in drama and Theatre Studies*

Students may choose a maximum of 2 of the 3 Creative Art Subjects

■ CREATIVE ARTS

2. BTEC First Certificate and First Diploma in Performing Arts (Edexcel Performance Level 2 BTEC)

Aims

The BTEC First Diploma and Certificate in Performing Arts (Performance) aims to give you the opportunity to develop the following skills:

- ◆ Creative skills
- ◆ Communication skills
- ◆ Inter-personal skills
- ◆ Performance skills
- ◆ Evaluative skills

Content

The course is divided into three subjects to make up the 'Performance' course. They are as follows:

- DANCE
- DRAMA
- MUSIC

Students will need to complete 6 units to pass the Diploma and 3 units to pass at Certificate Level. The units studied include; Musical Theatre, Performing Dance, Performing as a Musical Ensemble, Understanding Drama, Understanding the Performing Arts Business and the Production Process.

Assessment

This course is Unit based and each Unit is made up of several schemes of work that go toward the BTEC qualification. The work is made up of practical performance work and written evaluation. There is no examination as such as each Unit is assessed as each piece of work is completed.

If students pass all 6 units they will achieve Diploma level, if they pass three or more units, they will achieve Certificate level.

***This course can lead to a BTEC 1st Certificate in Performance Arts (Performance)
This is equivalent to two GCSE qualifications***

***It can also lead to a BTEC 1st Diploma in Performance Arts (Performance)
This is equivalent to four GCSE qualifications.***

Students may choose a maximum of 2 of the 3 Creative Art Subjects

■ CREATIVE ARTS

3. GCSE MUSIC (AQA 4272)

Aims

This course encourages you to develop as independent learners and reflective thinkers through the process of music study. It helps to develop your own musical interests and skills through performing and composing music both individually and in groups.

Content

You will complete four units:

Unit 1 Listening & Appraising Music 20%	Unit 2 Composing & Appraising Music 20%	Unit 3 Performing Music 40%	Unit 4 Composing Music 20%
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Unit 1 – This is a one hour listening exam completed at the end of Year 11. The questions are based on musical elements and three topics, The Western Classical Tradition, Popular Music of the 20th & 21st Century & World Music.

Unit 2 – you will compose one piece based on two or more musical elements. This work is done under controlled conditions in lesson time – no work may be completed at home. There is a two hour exam where you reflect on and appraise your own work.

Unit 3 – you will perform both individually and as part of a group. You need to be able to play an instrument or sing to take GCSE, extra marks are available for performing at grade 3 standard or higher.

Unit 4 – You will compose a second piece which is completed under controlled conditions in lesson time. You must produce both a good quality recording and a musical score.

All students wishing to take GCSE must be able to play an instrument already or be willing to take one up at the beginning of Year 10 as performance coursework forms 40% of the course. Voice is also a valid instrument, all singers are welcome! While it is not compulsory for students to have private instrumental lessons those who do benefit greatly. Students must be prepared to perform in class at regular intervals.

All composition coursework (20% + 20%) must be completed under controlled conditions in lesson time but you should be completing research in your own time as well as listening to a diverse range of styles, you need to be open minded and interested in all styles of music to succeed.

Assessment

The Listening paper (20%) will be examined in May 2011 and will require you to be aware of the musical facts and to be able to hear specific features in the types of music from Unit 1.

All performing (40%) and composing (20% + 20%) coursework will be completed over the both Year 10 & 11 and will be submitted to the exam board in the summer of 2011.

GCSE Music is for those students who really enjoy making and listening to a wide range of music outside the classroom as well as in school. It is a very practical and enjoyable course but it is also hard work.

This course leads to one GCSE qualification in Music.

REMEMBER - Students may choose a maximum of 2 of the 3 Creative Art Subjects

ADDITIONAL COURSES

ALL students take the following additional courses *which are not examined*:

■ PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All students study the core Physical Education course as part of the National Curriculum at Key Stage 4. You have the opportunity to indicate a preference for activities that you wish to study in Years 10 and 11. The activities offered will include Athletics, Swimming, Dance and a range of games. Each activity will occupy about 7 weeks. The content of these activities will be mainly practical and will involve the students in developing their selection and performance of acquired skills, improving their knowledge of rules, tactics, health and fitness and adopting a variety of different sports leadership roles to include planning, performing and evaluating.

This course is not examined

■ PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION AND CITIZENSHIP

Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) and Citizenship takes place both during tutorial time and a single lesson once a week. The content of the course will be varied and wide-ranging but will certainly focus on Careers Education and Guidance, Health Education, including Sex Education and Drugs Education, as well as a selection of topics on issues which are relevant to life in our society. During PSHE/Citizenship you will be encouraged to participate positively in group discussions as a valuable method of formulating your ideas on the important issues which are covered. Other elements of Citizenship include The Law, Politics, Democracy, Financial Literacy and Parenthood.

This course is not examined

WORK RELATED LEARNING

Kings students follow a careers education and guidance curriculum as part of their Citizenship programme. All students spend one week during the Summer Term of Year 10 on Work Experience. This is considered to be an essential element in all students' programmes and preparatory and follow-up work is undertaken in Citizenship lessons. You will attend a one-day Key Skills Conference prior to going on placement. This is run by representatives from many different areas of industry, commerce, administration and the armed forces. It is intended to develop communication, problem solving and team working skills. Students who wish to have more individual advice or guidance may make an appointment with Dr Lisa Hall, our Careers Advisor.

GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT

Your personal tutor will continue to provide help, guidance and support. Your tutor will also monitor your progress throughout the school and provide an important link between home and school. Confidential support and help are always on hand from the Year Leader who has a wide experience in helping students who have encountered difficulties.

ACHIEVEMENT FILE

All students are presented with a record of achievement at the end of Year 11. The document includes details of examination successes but aims to record, in addition, a wide range of individual achievements including your involvement in any aspects of school life, work experience and service to the community. The Achievement File remains yours to develop as you progress to Sixth Form education or employment.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The school offers a wide variety of opportunities of which you can take advantage:

- Sporting activities
- Drama productions
- Musical events, groups and activities
- Christian Union and related events
- Charity events
- Community service
- Young Enterprise
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- Theatre events
- House activities
- Study support

Involvement in such events brings a lot of personal pleasure and satisfaction to individual students; it also adds immensely to the overall ethos and life of the school.

SIXTH FORM

The majority of students choose to remain at The Kings of Wessex School in the Sixth Form. A wide range of courses are on offer in the Sixth Form for students of varying abilities and interests. We are justly proud of the success of the Sixth Form in providing good academic qualifications and opportunities for the personal development for our students.

The main courses offered in the Sixth Form are Advanced (AS and A2) Levels and BTEC First Diploma in business.

You will, of course, receive more information on this during Year 11. In the meantime, however, it is important to see that your work in Years 10 and 11 will be laying the foundations for your future studies and your career.

In many ways, the next two years are arguably the most important in your school life.

SUBJECT CHOICE FORM – *STUDENT COPY*

*Please copy your choices on the form opposite, and
keep this one for your records.*

Indicate your choice of **three** additional enrichment subjects on the table below

You will study three of these Enrichment Subjects. Mark your first three choices **1-3** and your two reserve subjects **4** and **5**.

ENRICHMENT SUBJECTS	Mark Choices 1-3 and Reserves 4&5
Modern Foreign Languages	
GCSE French	
GCSE German	
Humanities:	
GCSE History	
GCSE Geography	
GCSE Business Studies °	
BTEC Business °	
Care & Health	
BTEC Children’s Care Learning & Development	
Physical Education •	
GCSE PE	
BTEC Sport	
Creative Arts ✕	
GCSE Drama	
GCSE Music	
BTEC Performing Arts	
Visual Arts ■	
GCSE Art	
GCSE Photography	
GCSE Textiles	

° Students may choose *either* GCSE Business Studies **OR** BTEC Business BUT NOT Both

• Students may choose *either* GCSE PE **OR** BTEC Sport BUT NOT Both

✕ Students may choose a maximum of two of the Creative Arts subjects

■ Students may choose a maximum of two of the Visual Arts subjects

SUBJECT CHOICE FORM – SCHOOL

**TO BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY NO LATER THAN
WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010.**

STUDENT'S NAME _____ TUTOR GROUP _____

Please indicate your choice of **three** additional enrichment subjects on the table below

You will study three of these Enrichment Subjects. Mark your first three choices **1-3** and your two reserve subjects **4** and **5**.

ENRICHMENT SUBJECTS	Mark Choices 1-3 and Reserves 4&5
Modern Foreign Languages	
GCSE French	
GCSE German	
Humanities:	
GCSE History	
GCSE Geography	
GCSE Business Studies °	
BTEC Business °	
Care & Health	
BTEC Children's Care Learning & Development	
Physical Education •	
GCSE PE	
BTEC Sport	
Creative Arts ✕	
GCSE Drama	
GCSE Music	
BTEC Performing Arts	
Visual Arts ■	
GCSE Art	
GCSE Photography	
GCSE Textiles	

° Students may choose *either* GCSE Business Studies **OR** BTEC Business BUT NOT Both

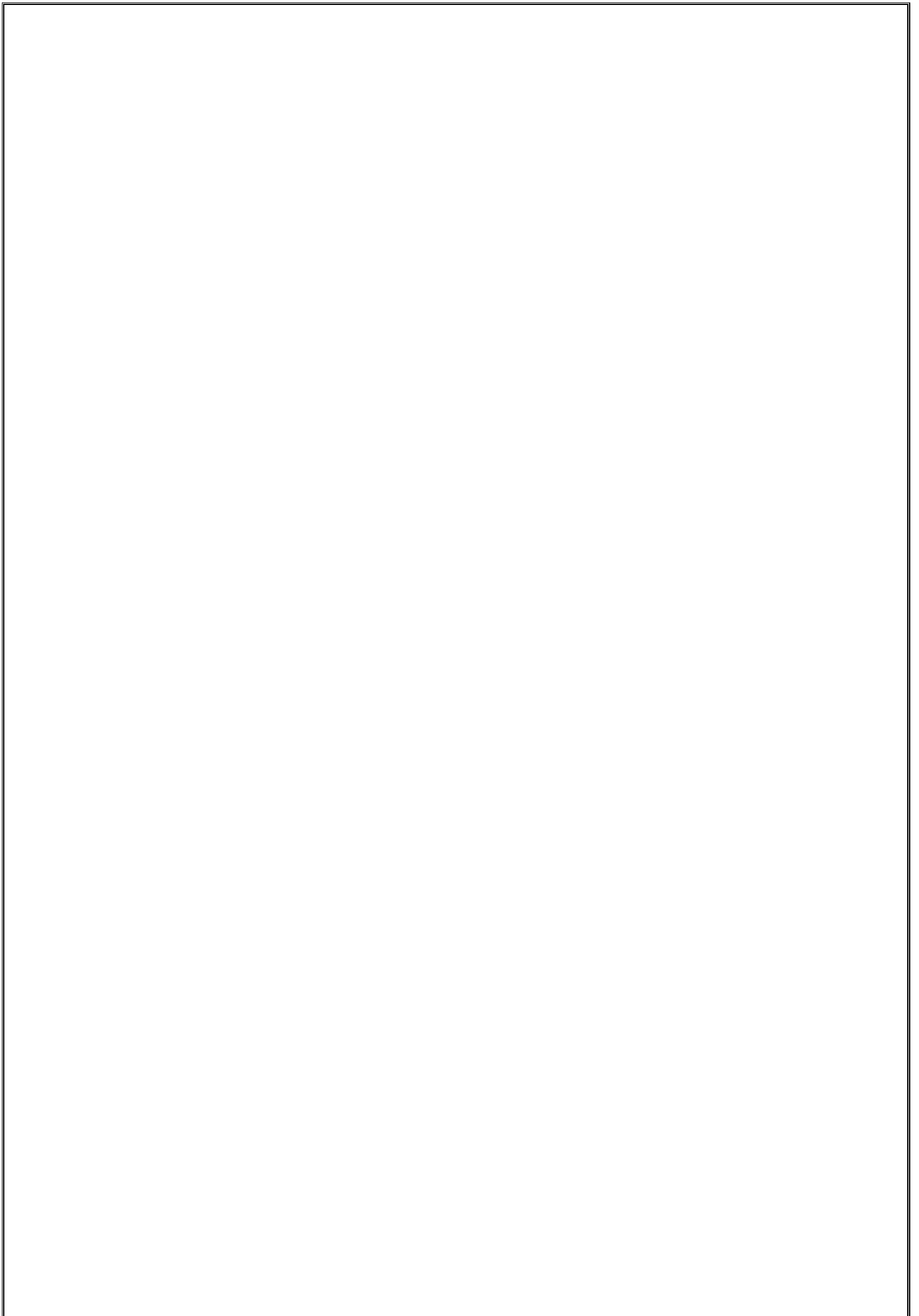
• Students may choose *either* GCSE PE **OR** BTEC Sport BUT NOT Both

✕ Students may choose a maximum of two of the Creative Arts subjects

■ Students may choose a maximum of two of the Visual Arts subjects

Student Signature: _____ Date : _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date : _____





THE KINGS OF WESSEX SCHOOL
A Church of England Foundation School
Specialist Technology College

“Getting the best out of everyone”

KEY STAGE 4 COURSES
2010 – 2012

THE KINGS OF WESSEX SCHOOL



**Station Road
Cheddar
Somerset
BS27 3AQ**

Telephone: 01934 742608
Email: office@kingsofwessex.somerset.sch.uk
Web: www.kowessex.co.uk

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