



# Options 2024-26



DARWEN  
VALE

# Principals Message



As you reach the end of Year 9, it is time to reflect on the subjects that have captured your interest this year and those that you would like to take on to a higher level of study. It is time to also consider a range of new subjects that may appeal to you.

Whilst you may not yet have clear ideas about which direction your future career might take, our advice is to keep your option choices as broad as possible, for example, a language, a humanities subject, a creative subject. You should be thinking about the kinds of working environment that you would feel happy in and those which are definitely not for you. This will help you decide on the range of skills that you are going to need in the future and which subject combinations will be most useful to you next year.

You will not have a completely free choice about the subjects that you study in Year 10 and 11. You will have to continue to study core subjects that are crucial in developing key skills you can use and these are highlighted on page 5 of this booklet.

You will also need to choose three further options which are clearly explained in this booklet. You may have heard of the prestigious English Baccalaureate, which comprises of achievements in Maths, English, Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and History or Geography. We have made it clear how this route can be followed if your child so wishes, for access to top colleges and universities.

The booklet is designed to give you an overview of the subjects that are on offer next year. It is important that you ask further questions of your teachers and subject leaders if you are considering a subject.

We will give you as much help and advice on these important decisions as you require.

Yours sincerely,

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# Introduction

This booklet has been designed to inform you about the next exciting phase in your child's education. You may have already been discussing this important step with your son or daughter for some time.

The deadline for making these important decisions is now approaching quickly. It is important that your child's future learning choices are made for the right reasons.

The courses that are followed throughout years 10 and 11 will influence your son or daughter's long term future. You and/or your child will be invited to an information session where you can discuss the options in lots of detail with the experts in school.



Thursday 22nd February	Options evening for parents, carers and pupils Options evening for parents, carers and pupils Options presentation (live event) 6:00pm till 8:00pm meet with subject leaders/teachers of the option subjects
Friday 8th March	Options deadline
From Monday 25th March	Individual choices interviews held with each student to discuss the suitability and viability of the choices made
June/July 2024	Letter sent home confirming courses for next year



We offer a great variety of courses and our aim is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum whilst still giving an individual a degree of choice.

This booklet provides a detailed outline of all the opportunities available to our students.

There have been a number of government-led changes that have gone out to national press and can sometimes be confusing. We aim to give practical and straight forward information that will guide and advise students to take courses that suit their aspirations.

We are aiming for excellence for all.

## Core subjects

Core subjects are studied by everyone and are outlined below:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Maths
- Science
- Physical Education

## Options

In addition to the core courses above, students are asked to make **THREE** choices from the options form, and **ONE** reserve subject. The option subjects will be given three periods each per week.

- Art and Design
- 3D Design
- Art photography
- History
- Geography
- French
- Triple Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Business - Enterprise & Marketing
- Computer Science
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Sport Science
- Hospitality & Catering (Food)

## Points to note

We will do our very best to satisfy the choices of all students. Please bear in mind that it is very difficult to timetable the hundreds of different combinations.

We will look very closely at the abilities and attitudes to learning of all our pupils against their choices and this will include interviews and coaching sessions with senior staff.

Careful consideration must be given to the size of teaching groups. We may not be able to allow certain courses to run if the number of students choosing that option is too low.

# English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate is made up of achievement at GCSE level in Maths, English, 3 Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language and History or Geography. We have the highest expectations of all our learners.

To qualify for the English Baccalaureate they must choose history or geography AND a modern foreign language. Both the compulsory Combined Science and the optional Triple award count towards the English Baccalaureate, as does Computer Science.

In the next few pages of this booklet, we will explain the subjects that are on offer.

The option form that your child must complete is towards the back of this booklet. However, there will be plenty of spares to hand on options evening.



## Note to students

It is important to stress that your future career options will not generally be affected by the choices you make at this stage in your education. Important considerations that should guide your choices are outlined on the next page.



## Do choose...

- Subjects you like
- Subjects you are good at
- Subjects you are particularly interested in
- Subjects you feel would help you in the general career area you are interested in or would help you progress to college or post-16 pathways

## Don't choose subjects because

- You like the teacher - as you might have a
- Your friends have chosen it - as they might be put in a different class  
You think they are easy - no subjects at GCSE are easy. They all require hard work and dedication to be different teacher successful.

# Art & Design

## Why?

- The opportunity to explore ideas and experiment with a wide range of media to produce creative art works, both individually, and in collaboration with other students.
- Broad-based projects which encourage imaginative work
- The chance to discover new ways of working.
- Introduction to a large and diverse range of artists and designers, both traditional and contemporary

You will explore and experiment with combinations of media such as:

- Painting
- Drawing
- Graphic design
- Textiles
- 3D sculpture
- Photography

## What will I learn?



### How is it assessed?

There is 1 exam, worth 40% of your final grade. 60 % is classroom-based assessment through a portfolio of work.

Art is all practical.

### Progression opportunities

- Continue to college or sixth form to study Art, Fashion, Photography, Media, Fine Art, sculpture, interior design.
- Careers within art and design:
- Teaching, professional artist, media, architecture, game design, fashion, interior design, broadcasting and many more!

*"Art gives me the freedom to express myself. I love the relaxed atmosphere in the art studio and enjoy exploring and experimenting with different media & techniques. I want to be a fashion designer so art was a great option for me. I was able to balance my academic subjects with more creative ones" - Year 11 Pupil*

See Miss Ramsey for more information

# 3D Design

## Why?

- The 3D Design course encompasses skills and knowledge learnt in Design & Technology and Art, you will be researching the work of designers to inform your ideas, experimentation with various materials, and processes such as 3D printing, CAD/CAM work (2D design and laser cutting), working in the workshop working with polymers, timbers and also art processes such as ceramics, modeling in card and paper. You will be drawing/designing and prototyping and evaluating as you progress, leading to constructing a model of your final design. The focus of this course is on training students to be designers.
- Please note you will be unable to choose both Art and Design GCSE and 3D Design - you will need to pick one.

## What will I be studying?

This course consists of coursework projects and an externally set examination task and you will follow the same format throughout the course in completing the work required to fulfill these elements. For example, you may design a new piece of architecture and so mind map ideas, research famous designers, and create inspirational mood boards, you will sketch lots of design ideas and develop rapid prototypes using card, blue foam, clay and 3D printed elements, evaluate your work and make changes to your prototypes until you end up with a final scale model of your intended design. Drawing forms, a crucial component of this course and you can expect to do lots of it. You will also use Photoshop and CAD software.

## What will I learn

## How is it assessed?

The GCSE has 60% of marks for coursework done and 40% for the 10 hour final exam. Your coursework will include your sketchbook, your prototypes and completed scale models. You will need to show rigorous development of ideas, investigation into famous designers, lots of drawing in traditional and digital media, prototyping using a range of materials and refined finished scale models. The externally set assignment is a 3D design topic set by the Exam Board which you begin in January of Year 11 and following a three month preparation period you have a 10hr examination supervised by invigilators. This task follows the same format of working as the previous coursework projects and students will be well versed in procedures by this stage.

## How will I learn



See Miss Ramsey for more information

# Art Photography

## Why?

- Discover new and exciting ways of working creatively
- Study from broad-based projects individually and in collaboration with other students
- Work with professional standard equipment such as DSLRs and Adobe Photoshop
- Experience working with traditional and contemporary technologies

All Art and Design courses are entirely practical with 60% of your grade coming from coursework and 40% from an examination.

This course offers the opportunity to select from a range of starting points including Portraiture, Landscape, Natural Studies, Documentary, Photojournalism and Moving Image and develop such skills and techniques as Macro Photography, Black and White Photography, Still life Photography, Photoshop editing and stop motion animation.

## Course Content

## Progression opportunities

- Progression from GCSE to A-Level photography
- BA (Hons) Degree; specialist areas include Photography, Film Studies, Media Studies and Animation
- Careers; Professional photographer (Editorial, Sport, Fashion, Wedding, portrait, Advertising, Forensics/Crime Scene, Journalism), Film and Television, Photo editor, Lecturer

## This course would suit you if...

- You are enthusiastic about photography
- You have some artistic skill
- You are creative and willing to explore
- You are receptive to the ideas of others
- You can work independently
- You are resourceful
- You are hardworking



See Miss Ramsey for more information

# History

## Why?

How did Hitler rise to power in Germany? What was lifelike living in Nazi Germany?

Why was Elizabethan England called the 'Golden Age'? These are some of the questions that we look at in GCSE History.

This, knowledge rich course, is challenging, interesting and rewarding. It will teach you life changing skills like the ability to construct your own argument, how to analyse and how to reach a judgement. You will refine and develop your source skills, look at interpretations and study the work of some of the world's leading historians.

1. Germany Democracy and Dictatorship 1890-1945
2. Conflict and Tension - The Interwar period 1919-1939
3. Health and the people: c1000 to the present day - a thematic study of medical development and public health.
4. Elizabethan England 1558 -1603

## What will I learn?

### How is it assessed?

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World- Conflict and Tension and Democracy and Dictatorship (50%) 2 hrs

Paper 2: Shaping a Nation- Public Health and the People and Elizabethan England (50%) 2 hrs

### Progression opportunities

- Lawyer
- Author
- Journalist
- Academic Researcher
- Politician
- Teacher
- Research and development
- Business and marketing
- Archaeology



See Mr Redfern for more information

# Geography

## Why?

Have you ever wondered why Climate Change is happened? Have you ever thought about why some parts of the world are wealthier

than other part? Have you ever considered why natural disasters like earthquakes or tsunamis occur?

If you've answered yes, then Geography could be the course for you! Studying Geography will teach you about the problems that the world faces today and help you understand issues that affect our day to day lives from farming to urbanisation. If you are curious about the world you live in, then Geography is for you.

You will look at a combination of human and physical geography. Below is a list of the topics that you will study.

### Physical Geography

- Natural Hazards
- Tectonic Hazards
- Weather Hazards
- Climate Change
- Ecosystems
- Tropical Rainforests
- Hot Deserts
- Cold Environments
- The UK Landscape (Coasts, Rivers

### & Glacial Landscapes)

### Human Geography

- Urban Issues & Challenges
- The Chanaina
- Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management
- Food
- Water
- Energy

## What will I learn?

## Progression opportunities

GCSE Geography prepares you to study A Level Geography or a Travel and Tourism Diploma. Careers using Geography:

Universities and Employers welcome this subject as a valuable qualification because of the range and variety of skills that a student develops over the two years.

- Weather reporter
- Park Ranger
- Pilot
- Travel Agent
- Teacher
- Surveying
- Planning
- Energy
- Environmental sustainability

## How is it assessed?

You will study 3 different units each with an exam at the end of Yr 11.

2 exams last 1 hour 30 minutes and the other lasts 1 hour 15 minutes.



See Miss Sri-Udom for more information

# French

## Why?

It's a multilingual world. 94% of the world does not speak English as their first language. 75% of the world does not speak English at all. The internet has brought everyone much closer together so chatting,

blogging and networking with people of different languages from all over the world is easy. Imagine all the other people you could communicate with and all the amazing places you could travel to or work at and all because you can speak their language. So log onto the world's real social network and learn languages at GCSE!

There are 128 million people in the world who speak French as their main language, 72 million who live in a country where French is spoken as a language and 110 million people who are or have learnt French - YOU are one of them. There are 33 French speaking countries. Many universities prefer undergraduates who have studied a language because fewer and fewer students have the skills which French gives you - listening, speaking, reading, writing, communication, knowledge and understanding of other countries and cultures. It is a subject which proves you have brain - it is an academic subject.

## Progression opportunities

- Translating
- Interpreting
- International finance
- International Law
- International Organisations such as the United Nations
- Teaching English as a foreign language
- Transport, tourism and leisure
- Anything, Anywhere in the World



*"I'm enjoying French at the moment because I like the group work and the way we're learning."* - Year 10 Pupil

*"Sofar it has been challenging but fun - I like that!"* - Year 10 Pupil

*"I believe taking French as a GCSE is a fantastic opportunity as it broadens your horizons. I enjoy learning the different topics and it's good fun!"* - Year 9 Pupil

All examined at the end of the course

## How is it assessed?

- 25% Speaking
- 25% Listening
- 25% Reading
- 25% Writing

See Miss Jones for more information

# Triple Science

## Why?

Triple Science (three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics) is an excellent pathway for those wishing to study Science to

a higher qualification level, for those wishing to follow on to a career with a scientific element in it or for those students highly inquisitive about the world around them.

For each separate GCSE you will take part in a large number compulsory practical investigations as part of the GCSE course.

In this subject, students study marketing and enterprise elements of business, these include:

1. Understanding how to target a market
2. Making products financially viable
3. Product and brand development
4. Attracting and retaining customers
5. Ownership and capital involved in setting up a business
6. The risks and rewards of being an entrepreneur

## What will I learn?

## Progression opportunities

Triple Science is strongly recommended if you are considering studying Science at A-level or are considering a career that uses Science. There is a demand for Scientists in the UK job market and employers are crying out for candidates with science-based skills. Triple Science will set you on the right path for your career and is looked upon more favourably by colleges, universities and employees.

### Careers using Science:

- Careers in medicine, e.g. Doctor
- Chemist
- Climate change analysts
- Meteorologist
- Nuclear power operator
- Chemical Technician
- Veterinary Science
- Pilot

## How is it assessed?

For each of the separate GCSE's you will sit two 1 hour and 45 minute exams worth 50% each.

There is no controlled Assessment.



See Mrs Marsland, Mr Tattersall or Mrs Padmore for more information

# Business Enterprise & Marketing

## Why?

Business is a perfect opportunity for students to study things that are relevant to the society that we live in. Anything is possible in Business

such as becoming the next Mark Zuckerberg or starting up your own unique company. Either way you will be prepared for the world of work and gain a competitive advantage in competitive careers. Although an academic subject, it is practical, applied and exciting.

Every day you shop and use certain brands. You will address questions such as...

- Who is Nikes target customer?
- Starburst used to be called Opal Fruits...why?!
- How does Coca Cola remain such a successful brand?
- How does Facebook make a profit?
- Why do we pay high prices for brands such as North Face?

In this subject, students study marketing and enterprise elements of business, these include:

1. Understanding how to target a market
2. Making products financially viable
3. Product development
4. Attracting and retaining customers
5. Things to consider when starting a new business
6. Functional activities of start-up businesses

## What will I learn?

### How is it assessed?

- One Written exam paper 1 hour 15 minutes
- Two Coursework/ moderated controlled assessments

This course is chosen to offer pupils a course which is heavily based on coursework, completed during lesson time.



### Progression opportunities

- Graphic design
- Data controller
- ICT technician
- Gaming
- Gaming art
- Digital media
- Working in TV and film
- Network manager
- Level 3 creative courses

See Mrs Kenyon, Mr Miele or Mrs Cull, for more information

# Computer Science

## Why?

We are now living in a digital age and the digital age needs computer scientists...

Computing is part of everything we do and studying computer science at GCSE is a start to enabling you to solve complex, challenging problems in a real world context.

Computing offers many benefits to school graduates. It's a highly paid, rewarding career path and offers people great life opportunities

Challenge yourself - choose Computer Science

You will learn all about the different principles and concepts of computer science. This includes:

1. Systems architecture
2. Storage
3. Networking
4. System Security
5. Systems software
6. Computational thinking
7. Programming fundamentals
8. Producing robust programmes

## What will I learn?

## How is it assessed?

2 externally sat exams worth 50% each (Computer systems and Computational thinking, algorithms and programming). These are 90 minutes each.

You will also get the opportunity to complete a practical programming task using Python software.

- Web developer
- Games programmer
- Code analyst M15
- Software developer
- IT Technician
- In fact, anything involving computers is possible

## Progression opportunities



See Miss Kenyon, Mr Miele or Mrs Cull, for more information

# Drama

## Why?

In a society in which effective communication is vital, the study of drama develops verbal and non-verbal, individual and group communication skills which are skills for living. Drama enhances students' artistic and creative abilities and gives them a better understanding of themselves and their world.

This course is an extremely varied one which introduces you to most, if not all, aspects of Theatre. From acting and directing through to devising and designing original pieces of theatre. GCSE Drama is a fantastic way of learning and applying both subject specific and easily transferable skills.

Throughout the course you will continue to develop your acting skills, including the use of; voice, physicality, characterisation and improvisation. Lessons are very practical and involve a great deal of collaborative work, though there are also possibilities to create solo work if you wish. The course is very flexible and offers options for not only actors, but also those wishing to explore design elements, including lighting, sound, costume, set, and even hair & make-up!

## What will I learn?

1. Exploring the Performing Arts – You will research different styles of theatre and choose one to research for your coursework. Even though you are assessed by coursework, you will rigorously explore these styles practically in lesson. As Drama leads by the belief that practical knowledge and skills can help assist with theory-based work.
2. Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts – For this component you will develop your skills either as a performer or designer (costume, set, lights, sound, hair & make-up, props) which will then be shown through the realisation of a performance from a script.
3. Responding to a brief – You will devise your own performance in response to a stimulus. With 12 weeks to develop your performance you will consider – staging, style, techniques, characterisation, intent/impact.

## How is it assessed?

Exploring the Performing Arts –  
Coursework 30%

Developing skills and techniques  
in the Performing Arts –  
Performance 30%

Responding to a brief –  
Performance 40%

## Progression opportunities

After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. Or you might want to find work in performing arts, as an actor, apprentice, or a trainee. Which option is best for you will depend on both the grades you achieve in this qualification and in other qualifications you have taken. In addition to the obvious career progressions, Drama offers valuable employability skills all colleges, universities and businesses look for in candidates:

Initiative, Organisational skills,  
Communication skills, Teamwork, Problem  
solving, Creativity, Motivation and  
enthusiasm.

See Mr Bebro for more  
information

# Music

## Why?

If you like to perform, compose and listen to music then choose this subject!

It will help you take responsibility for your own learning and support you in other areas of your study. It helps sharpen your memory and concentration, helps in the study of languages, improves your IQ and emotional intelligence and teaches you self-discipline.

This course would suit you if:

1. You play an instrument or sing (compulsory requirement)
2. You are creative
3. You relish a challenge
4. You enjoy listening to music
5. You want to work both individually and as
6. Part of a group
7. Composing music is an interest
8. You enjoy experimenting with new ideas
9. You want a creative subject to balance your choices

## What will I learn?

## How is it assessed?

- Performing 25%
- Composing 25%
- Exam 25%
- Compulsory Module 25%



## Progression opportunities

Music helps to develop personal skills essential for success in examinations, job interviews and so on. It is desirable for anyone wanting to be a performer, composer or Music teacher. The skills and dedication required to achieve in Music are held in high regard by colleges and future employers.

See Mr Bebro for more information

# Sport Science

## Why?

For sports lovers and budding physiotherapists, future professional footballers or someone who is enthusiastic about health and fitness, this is the subject for you!

Sport Science helps students appreciate how sport science underpins sport at all levels. Pupils learn about injury prevention, improving personal fitness through appropriate training and how athletes require a balanced diet to be able to perform

1. Reducing the risk of sports injuries (Written Exam) 40%
2. Applying principles of training (Coursework) 40%
3. Sports nutrition (Coursework) 20%

## What will I learn?

## How is it assessed?

There are 3 individual units that are assessed. The grade is determined by an accumulation of points across these 3 units which result in an end grade:

- Pass (4)
- Merit (5.5)
- Distinction (7)
- Distinction \* (8.5)

## Progression opportunities

Sport Science is the ideal preparation for further education in Sport and Exercise Sciences. The course develops your knowledge of a healthy active lifestyle, diet and nutrition, and dealing with sporting injuries

Typical jobs taken by people who study the Sport course are: physiotherapist, sports coach, fitness instruction and personal trainer, strength and conditioning coach, nutritionist, PE teacher as well as being a professional athlete or in the Armed Forces.



See Mr Baines for more information

# Hospitality & Catering

## Why?

This course enables students to gain an insight into The Hospitality and Catering Industry, the 3rd largest sector in the UK. Students will learn

how this multi-billion-pound sector works and what makes businesses within it successful.

Students will gain knowledge of customer care, the operation of a restaurant kitchen, the front of house service area, food preparation time management and food presentation skills.

A genuine interest in cooking is essential as students will undertake numerous practical tasks during the course. A commitment is needed for the buying of ingredients and students must be willing to undertake written and practical homework tasks

The course is split into 2 units:

1. **UNIT 1: The Hospitality & Catering Industry** - this involves studying the make-up of the industry and the types of business that operate within it. It includes health & safety, food safety legislation, food ill-health & allergies, and environmental issues.
2. **UNIT 2: Hospitality & Catering in Action** - this involves the study of nutrition, menu planning to suit dietary needs, cooking methods and presentation techniques.

## What will I learn?

## Progression opportunities

In addition to the obvious career progression into the Hospitality & Catering industry, this course is suitable for those students interested in other areas such as nutrition, diet, and the tourism & travel industries. It is also ideal for those simply interested in cooking and food, providing them with useful knowledge of healthy eating and food preparation for later on in life.

## How is it assessed?

Unit 1 - externally assessed written exam - 40%.

Unit 2 - internally assessed NEA (Non-examined assessment) - 60%.

The NEA takes place during Year 11 and requires students to nutritionally plan, prepare and cook a variety of dishes for a given customer group or dietary need. The project consists of both written work and a 4-hour practical exam which assesses their practical skills.



See Mrs Walsh for more information

# Dance

## Why?

- Dance is both powerful and empowering as a form of non-verbal communication, and supports learning across a range of subjects;
- Dance promotes fitness and wellbeing.
- Students develop confidence and self-esteem through performing, as well as promoting determination to succeed and improve.
- Sensitivity to others and team-working skills are developed in group performance and choreography.
- As choreographers, students employ the skills of problem-solving and creativity.
- They develop their knowledge and understanding of a range of dance styles through the interrelated processes of performing, creating and appreciating dances.
- As critics, students make informed decisions and articulate opinions about the dances they see, they develop as effective and independent learners and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- Viewing professional works develops a critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts.
- As dancers, students develop their physical, technical and expressive skills as well as their individual qualities as performers.

1. Exploring the Performing Arts
2. Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts
3. Responding to a brief

## What will I learn?

### Progression opportunities

After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. Or you might want to find work in performing arts, as an apprentice or a trainee. Which option is best for you will depend on both the grades you achieve in this qualification and in other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and any advice you can access about the further learning and training opportunities available in your area.

### How is it assessed?

You will carry out tasks or mini-projects throughout the course. Your teacher will mark these, which will give you an idea of how you are getting on.

Towards the end of the course you will do one larger project in acting, dance or musical theatre, where you use the knowledge, skills and techniques you have learned to devise and deliver a workshop performance to a specific audience from a brief that will be given to you.

All the work you do through the course prepares you for this larger project, which is sent away to be marked.

See Mr Baines for more information



# Pioneer (SEN Support)



Pioneer is our dedicated Special Educational Needs provision, and we are committed to providing tailored support to students throughout Key Stage 4; ensuring every individual can thrive academically and personally.

Our team specialises in supporting exam access arrangements, including offering accommodations such as extra time, rest breaks, or the use of a scribe, to ensure all students can demonstrate their true abilities during assessments.

In-class provision includes personalised learning strategies, targeted student passports & ILPs, differentiated materials and one-to-one support to help students engage with the curriculum effectively.

Additionally, we offer innovative interventions like Lego therapy, which promotes social interaction and communication skills development.

The Key Stage 4 Homework Club provides a supportive environment where students can receive guidance and assistance with assignments, fostering independent learning skills. We offer a bespoke Key Stage 4 Retreat, providing a safe and nurturing space during social times, as well as access to the Library, literacy & reading interventions to help promote a love of reading and improved reading ages and comprehension.

Our counselling services and Mental Health escalation process provide emotional support and guidance, helping students navigate challenges and build resilience. For those who benefit from sensory stimulation, our sensory room offers a calming space equipped with various sensory tools to aid relaxation and concentration.

At Pioneer, we're dedicated to empowering every student to reach their full potential, ensuring inclusivity and success for all.



# Careers

Students that achieve a grade 4 or higher at GCSE have achieved a Level 2 qualification in the British Education system. This prepares them to go onto to post-16 provision to study at Level 3 and beyond at Colleges, Universities and on Apprenticeships.

The Parents' Guide to [www.theparentsguide.co.uk](http://www.theparentsguide.co.uk)

Level	Qualification / educational route		
8	Doctorate (PhD)		NVQ 8
7	Masters degree (MA)		Degree apprenticeship / NVQ 5, 6, 7
6	Bachelors degree BA or BSc		
5	Foundation degree FdA or FdSc	Higher National Diploma (HND)	
4	Higher National Certificate (HNC)		Higher apprenticeship / NVQ 4
3	A levels Grades A-E	International Baccalaureate	T Levels
3	BTEC diploma BTEC certificate		Advanced apprenticeship / NVQ 3
2	GCSE Grades 4-9 (C, B, A or A*)		BTEC first diploma
2	Intermediate apprenticeship / NVQ 2		
1	GCSE Grades 1-3 (D, E, F or G)		Foundation diploma / entry level qualifications
1	Traineeship / NVQ 1		
	Academic route	Vocational route	Applied / work route

This will be launching in September 2024 and be well established by the time students in Year 9 are selecting their post-16 place of study. For more information go to [www.Darwen6.com](http://www.Darwen6.com)

Our Careers Programme helps students to prepare to make informed choices about their next steps. This includes several opportunities including: Work place visits

CV Writing  
 Personal Statement Writing  
 Mock Interviews  
 Careers Fairs  
 Speed Networking Events  
 College Taster Days  
 University Visits  
 The Access Project

1-1 Independent Careers Advice for every student in Year 11

Subject Field Trips  
 Local Labour Market Information  
 Industry Guest Speakers

As part of our commitment to support our students we have also joined in a collaborative venture with our local Aldridge schools to create D6 (Darwen 6th Form).

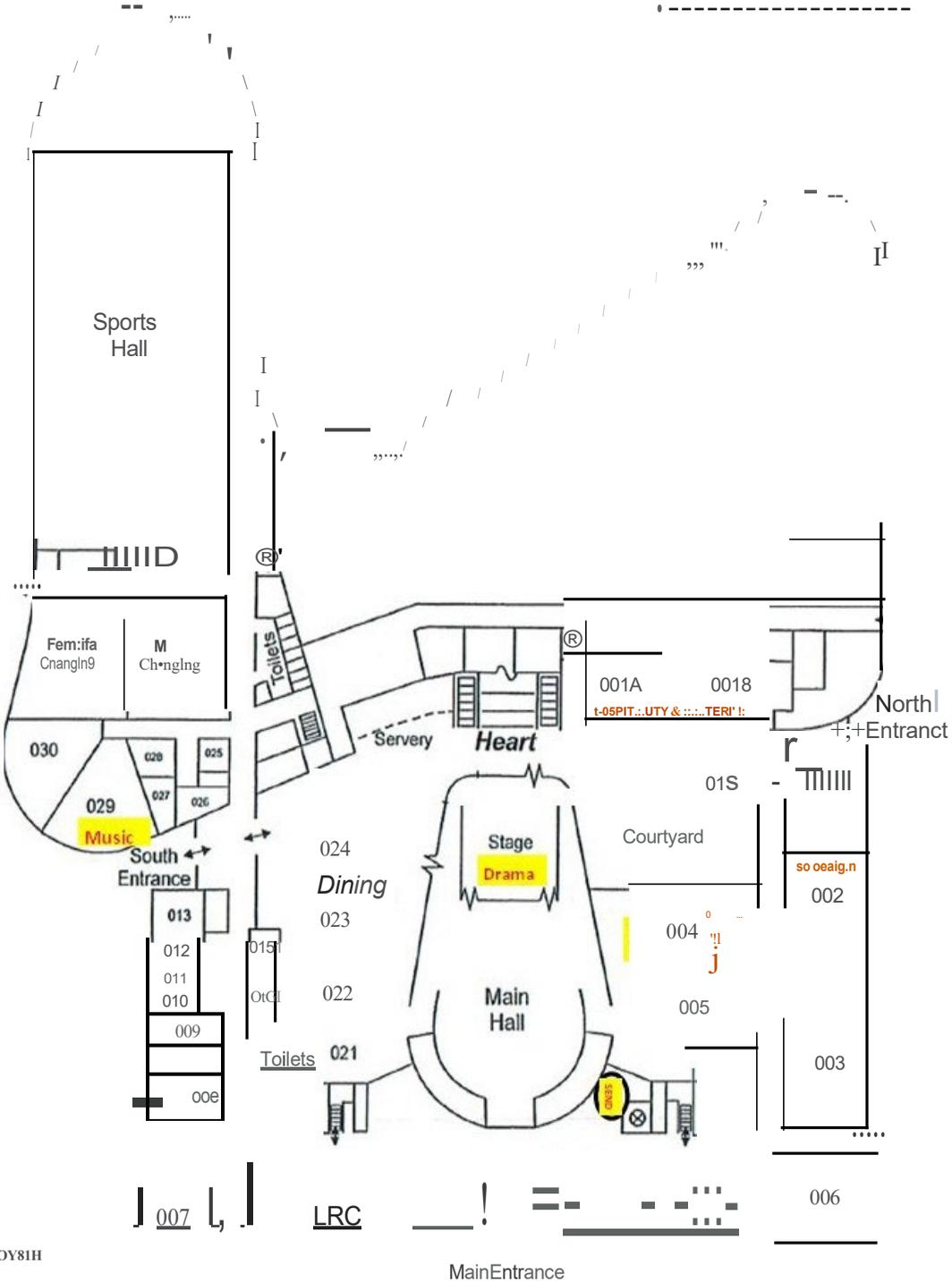






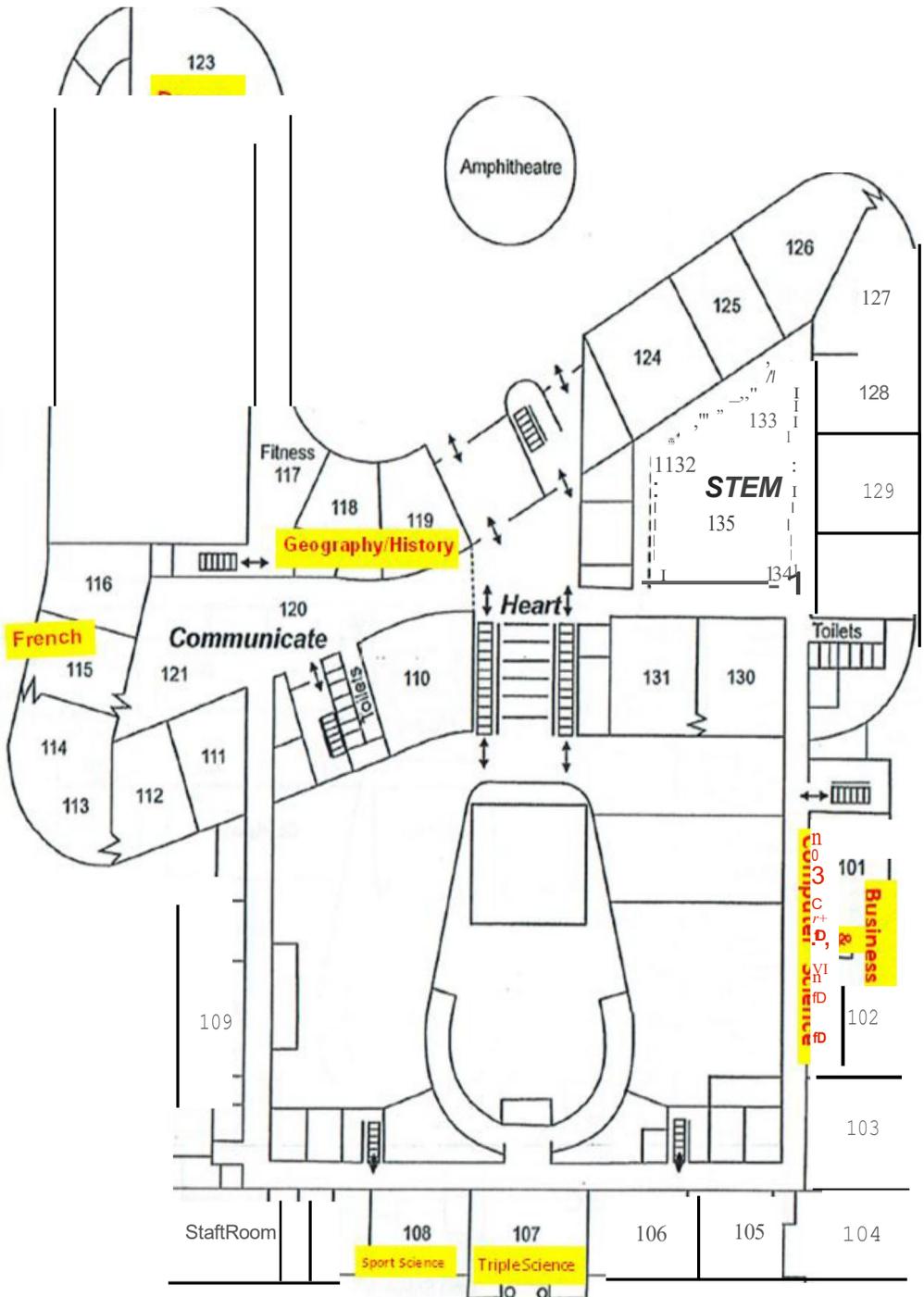
# Floor Zero

Subjects Room Map:



# Floor One

## Subjects Room Map



**IT'S  
YOUR  
CHOICE**

**IT'S  
YOUR  
PASSION**