



**Ark Boulton  
Academy**



**Ark Boulton Quality Curriculum 2020-2022  
Class of 2022 GCSE Options**

Humility

Honesty

## Dearest Year 9 Students, Parents & Carers

This is a hugely important time for students in the class of 2021. Students begin their transition to Key Stage 4 and GCSE study at this juncture. It will not be long at all before Year 9 students are taking their final GCSE examinations and preparing to take the next step on their individual journey, be that going-on to university or an apprenticeship or career of their choice. In doing so I know that our Year 9 students gain that passport of education that enables them to become a role model to their siblings, look after their parents and upskill our community.



## Year 9 options choices for our Quality Curriculum

At Ark Boulton Academy we know the value of high value qualifications and it is for that reason that the **depth for breadth** curriculum we offer students is designed to maximise opportunity.

In order to be successful in Key Stage 4, students need to demonstrate a high level of **commitment**. Alongside developing subject knowledge students need to possess good written and spoken communication skills, independent study and revision habits and the **self-discipline** to make sure they are preparing for assessments, meeting deadlines and striving to be the best versions of themselves.

It is only right then, that student's use **courage** to make the choices of which subjects will make up their curriculum. In the same way we guide and foster the development of subject knowledge and study skills, we will use **compassion** to guide students in the subject choices they make, supported as always by parents and carers.

This booklet will help you gain a better understanding of the course of study for Key Stage 4 at Ark Boulton, the key requirements for each subject as well as some broad indication of possible future opportunities that could be opened up to students who achieve the required grades.

Your child will have a series of information assemblies with subject leaders from each of the options and teachers have already discussed with students the subjects on offer and what will be covered during GCSE courses of study.

I know that all staff at Ark Boulton are looking forward to working with students, parents and carers on the pathway to Key Stage 4 and onwards to GCSE success at the end of Year 11.

Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs H K Channa JP FCCT  
**Principal**

## Ark Boulton Quality Curriculum for Year 10 in 2020/22

We love our students and believe they should have the opportunity to succeed in high value qualifications that will mean they can compete with peers from all backgrounds across the country to achieve the best grades. Our high expectations mean that we believe students should be challenged and because of commitment and hard work, achieve real success and are able to take a leading role in their community, the country and the wider world.

When making a decision about the subjects you will choose, it is important to think about your interests and thriving city.

### The English Baccalaureate

Students at Ark Boulton can study towards the EBacc. The English Baccalaureate, though not a qualification in itself, is a measure of success in core academic subjects; specifically English, Mathematics, History or Geography, the sciences and a language. These are the subjects most likely to be required or preferred for entry to university degree courses and that will open vast opportunities in the future. Universities like to see that a student has a broad range of subjects and would want students to achieve at least a grade 5 in most of the EBacc subject areas. The award is highly regarded and certifies the academic credentials of the students that achieve it. Students have already been advised by the school if they have been chosen to attain the EBacc award where French is compulsory.

### The Core Curriculum

All students will study these subjects and can achieve 5 GCSE qualifications

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Combined Science
3 hours per week	2 hours per week	4 hours per week	5 hours per week
1 GCSE Qualification	1 GCSE Qualification	1 GCSE Qualification	2 GCSE Qualifications
<b>Non-examined core curriculum</b>	Health & Wellbeing	Lead Learning Lesson	Virtues
	1 hour per week	2.5 hours per week	2 hours per week

### The Extended Core Curriculum (Option 1)

In addition to the core curriculum all students **must** choose to study either GCSE Geography, GCSE History for their first option. The inclusion of either of these subjects alongside a Modern Foreign Language will ensure that students can gain the Ebacc qualification.

If students would like to choose to study **both** Geography *and* History they can select the other subject as option 2 or 3.

GCSE Geography	GCSE History
3 hours per week	3 hours per week
1 GCSE Qualification	1 GCSE Qualification

## The Additional Curriculum

In addition to the Core Curriculum and the Extended Core Curriculum, students will choose to study two further subjects. This will result in a further two GCSE qualifications for students.

Please Note:

Ark Boulton will work to ensure all students are able to study the subjects of their choice however there are limited numbers of spaces for each class and the final decision as to the confirmation of choices will be by subject leaders based on a student's previous performance in the area. In addition, some subjects will include a pre-requisite (Psychology) only students with strong prior attainment in English and Maths will be prioritised.

### Options 2 and 3

If students have been directed to study French in order to access E.Bacc status, one of their options MUST be GCSE French.

Students will choose TWO subjects from the options below as second and third options. In addition, they need to choose TWO subjects as reserves.

We will do our best to ensure pupils are able to study the subjects they want, but they have been informed that there are some constraints on the number of students who can study each option.

If they cannot study their chosen subjects then we will offer them their reserve subjects.

<b>Art</b>	<b>Business Studies</b>	<b>Citizenship Studies</b>	<b>Creative iMedia</b>
3 hours per week			
<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>	<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>	<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>	<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>

<b>Drama</b>	<b>French</b>	<b>Geography</b>	<b>History</b>
3 hours per week			
<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>	<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>	<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>	<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>

<b>Physical Education</b>	<b>Psychology</b>	<b>Religious Studies</b>
3 hours per week	3 hours per week	3 hours per week
<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>	<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>	<i>1 GCSE Qualification</i>

## How many GCSE Qualifications students will achieve in 2022?



The Ark Boulton Quality Curriculum will ensure that students gain 8 GCSE qualifications.

<b>The Core Curriculum</b>	English Literature	5 GCSE Qualifications
	English Language	
	Mathematics	
	Combined Science	

+

<b>The Extended Core Curriculum (Option 1)</b>	Geography	1 GCSE Qualification
	<i>OR</i>	
	History	

+

<b>Option 2</b>	Choice of ONE option subject	1 GCSE Qualification
<b>Option 3</b>	Choice of ONE option subject	1 GCSE Qualification

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<b>8 GCSE Qualification</b>
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## Art



Studying Art at GCSE teaches students how to develop the commitment, dedication and independence needed to master core skills and techniques enabling them to communicate using a visual language.

### Subject Content



The Art GCSE is designed to encourage learners to develop knowledge, skills, and understanding along with creativity and imagination. Learners show this through their responses to a range of visual and written stimuli. Our learners have the opportunity to develop a personal portfolio of work driven by their own choices and interests within the visual world. Learners have the opportunity to gain insight into the practices of individuals, organisations and creative and cultural industries.

### Examination Body & Style



Exam Body: OCR

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Portfolio of coursework      60%

Externally set task            40%

### Choose this subject if...



If you are the type of student who enjoys exploring process and materials creatively whilst mastering core skills and techniques.

Success in GCSE Art requires commitment, dedication and a passion to communicate visually.

### Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:



- Graphic Design
- Architecture
- Photography
- Animation
- Fashion
- Product Design

### Who can give you more advice?



Ms R Moseley (Head of Art) : [r.moseley@arkboulton.org](mailto:r.moseley@arkboulton.org)

## Business Studies

Students of Business learn not just how to navigate the world of commerce, but how to shape it. The sum of Business is far greater than simply its parts. All young people are stakeholders in society and as each individual enters the world of work, continues onto further education or even chooses to run their own business, all will take up their role in the global community.

### Subject Content

Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour.

- Investigate small businesses and the interdependent nature of business activity.
- Influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources.
- Business decision making how different business contexts affect business decisions.
- The use and limitation of quantitative and qualitative data in making business decisions.

### Examination Body & Style

Exam Body: AQA

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Paper 1      50%

Paper 2      50%

### Choose this subject if...

If you are interested in the role you could play in the world of business and all the associated industries such as human resources and business law. If you want to know how entrepreneurs can change simple ideas into profitable businesses. If you have a good head for numbers and are interested in current global economic news. If you want to become enterprising and think creatively and commercially to solve problems, then Business is right for you!

### Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:

- Commerce
- Financial Services
- Human Resources
- Law
- Trading Standards
- Banking
- Estate services
- Property Marketing
- Education
- Business Operations

### Who can give you more advice?

Mr D Richards (Senior Vice Principal) : [d.richards@arkboulton.org](mailto:d.richards@arkboulton.org)

## Citizenship Studies

The study of citizenship will motivate and educate students to become thoughtful, compassionate, courageous and active citizens who engage intelligently and enthusiastically with public life.

### Subject Content

Students gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and law, and develop skills to create sustained and reasoned arguments, present various viewpoints and plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society. They will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate argument, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.

### Examination Body & Style

Exam Body: AQA

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Paper 1: 50%  
Section A: Active Citizenship                      Section B: Politics and Participation

Paper 2: 50%  
Section A: Life in Modern Britain                      Section B: Rights and Responsibilities

### Choose this subject if...

You are interested in rights and responsibilities have a voice and want to have a broad base of knowledge to inform your opinions. If you want to learn about how society works and what your role will be now and in the future in shaping the society that you live in and contribute to. You will learn about the law, how government works, the economy and public services.

### Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:

- Education
- Local Government
- Civil service
- Law
- Public Services: e.g. Police
- Social work
- Journalism
- Media
- Conservation
- Town Planning
- Surveying

### Who can give you more advice?

Ms R Byrne (Head of Religious Education) : [r.byrne@arkboulton.org](mailto:r.byrne@arkboulton.org)

## Creative iMedia

This qualification will assess the application of creative media skills through their practical use. It will provide learners with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve their learning in other subjects with the aims of enhancing their employability when they leave education, contributing to their personal development and future economic well-being

### Subject Content

The qualifications will encourage independence, creativity and awareness of the digital media sector. The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will equip learners with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. The qualification design, including the range of units available, will allow learners the freedom to explore the areas of creative media that interest them as well as providing good opportunities to enhance their learning in a range of curriculum areas.

### Examination Body & Style

Exam Body: OCR

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Paper 1 (Pre-production skills):	25% of GCSE
Compulsory Centre Based assessment (Creating Digital Graphics):	25% of GCSE
Option 1 Centre Based assessment:	25% of GCSE
Option 2 Centre Based assessment:	25% of GCSE

### Choose this subject if...

You are interested in the digital world and creating media platforms including gaming, social media and developing digital characters. You will develop your skills through course-work and be able to use your current knowledge of media to extend your learning.

### Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:

- Digital marketer
- Media buyer
- Media planner
- Media researcher
- Music Producer
- Runner broadcasting/ film/video
- Social media manager
- Web content manager

### Who can give you more advice?

Mr D Richards (Senior Vice Principal) : [d.richards@arkboulton.org](mailto:d.richards@arkboulton.org)

# Drama



Drama encourages students to build their courage using performance along with developing their compassion and humility for students who may be struggling or make mistakes during performance, we believe that these mistakes are a part of learning and developing so students can become the best versions of themselves.

## Subject Content



Students will engage with a wide range of topics and scripts throughout the drama GCSE. Students will start by looking at a stimulus where they will devise their own performance. Students then move onto look at different plays, which help them create a performance, using the dialogue and stage directions to help them create their own version of the script. For the final part of the course, the students will study ‘An Inspector Calls’ and ‘The Woman in Black’ on which the written element of the examination is based. Students will study both of these plays theoretically and practically to grasp a clear understanding of how to perform and why the author says to perform in specific ways. They will also have the opportunity to go to London to see ‘The Woman in Black’, which will support the requirements of the examination specification.

## Examination Body & Style



Exam Body: Edexcel

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Component 1: Devising

Performance exam 10% of GCSE

Portfolio, written coursework 30% of GCSE

Component 2: Performance from text

Performance exam 20% of GCSE

Component 3: Theatre makers in practice

Written examination 40% of GCSE

## Choose this subject if...



You enjoy performing, are a creative person or you enjoy expressing yourself through theatre and performing arts. You are a confident person or want to develop your confidence by performing in front of other people. You may also have a natural flare for the performing arts this will be nurtured and we will build on your already developing drama knowledge.

## Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:



- Teacher
- Actor
- Theatre Technician
- Set design
- Set up a theatre company
- Stage Manager

## Who can give you more advice?



Mrs S Georgiou (Head of Drama) : [s.georgiou1@arkboulton.org](mailto:s.georgiou1@arkboulton.org)

# French



Being successful at another language shows good communication skills and shows employers you are willing to learn new skills and welcome a new challenge. This is a unique selling point when applying for jobs or universities.

## Subject Content



GCSE French allows students to develop their ability to communicate with French native speakers in both speech and writing. This course will also allow them to develop their key skills such as independence, general reading and mental skills, innovation. Students will study a variety of contexts relevant to their age and interests and will develop a greater awareness of culture of French-speaking communities and countries.

Questions across all four language skills are set in common contexts, addressing a range of relevant contemporary and cultural themes. They are organised into five themes, each broken down into topics and sub-topics. The five themes are:

- Identity and culture.
- Local area, holiday and travel.
- School.
- Future aspirations, study and work.
- International and global dimension.

## Examination Body & Style



Exam Body: Edexcel Read the subject specification [here](#).

Paper 1: Listening and understanding	25% of GCSE
Paper 2: : Speaking	25% of GCSE
Paper 3: Reading	25% of GCSE
Paper 4: Writing	25% of GCSE

## Choose this subject if..



You are organised, enjoy a challenge and want to learn and hone academic skills that prepare you for university or work. This is definitely a subject where revising and practising little but often is better than doing a lot in one go and then leaving it for a period of time.

## Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:



- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| • Interpreters                | • Travel industry |
| • Pilots                      | • Law             |
| • Lorry Drivers               | • Hospitality     |
| • Medicine, Public Relations, | • Education       |

## Who can give you more advice?



Mr Sadi (Director of Modern Languages) : [d.sadi@arkboulton.org](mailto:d.sadi@arkboulton.org)

## Geography

In Geography we aim to raise awareness of interrelationships between human activity, the environment and economic development. We are dedicated to identifying our geographical place and geographical issues both locally, nationally and globally and our role in creating a sustainable future.

### Subject Content

In Geography we will study both physical and human geography. You will investigate the link between the two themes, in particular the impact of human activity, and approach and examine the conflicts and challenges between the man-made and natural worlds.

Topics include natural hazards, rivers, coasts, tropical rainforests, the urban environment, economic development and resource management. You will complete at least one day of fieldwork investigation related to small scale ecosystems and regeneration of an urban environment.

### Examination Body & Style

Exam Body: AQA                      Read the subject specification [here](#).

Paper 1 - Physical Environments	35%
Paper 2 - Human Environment	35%
Paper 3 - Geographical applications	30%

### Choose this subject if...

You are interested in the world around you and the impact we have as humans on the human and physical world. We will explore current developments in the natural and human world in both the UK and globally, widening your knowledge of environmental, social, economic and political issues of today's world.

### Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:

- Tourism
- Town Planning & Architecture
- Public Services: e.g. Police
- Education
- Conservation
- Surveying

### Who can give you more advice?

Mrs Hudson (Director of Humanities) : [v.hudson@arkboulton.org](mailto:v.hudson@arkboulton.org)

# History



History is an important part of any curriculum because it provides scholars with the knowledge and skills to understand societies and themselves. The knowledge gained through our History curriculum enriches students sense of identity. Students of History become proficient at analysing evidence and building convincing arguments skills, which are highly valued in various professions.

## Subject Content



‘Medicine through Time 1250c-present’ is the study is the story of how, from 1250 to the present day, improvements in science and its place in British society led to changes in healthcare.

- The ‘Superpower relations’ study is the story of changing tensions between the USA and the Soviet Union that were created by ideological and military confrontation and played out during the Cold War.
- The ‘Anglo-Saxon and Norman Britain’ study is the story of how the death of the weak king, Edward the Confessor, led to the foreigner William conquering Britain by defeating Harold at Hastings and it is the story of the methods he used to establish Norman control.
- The ‘Nazi Germany’ study is the story of how, between the First World War and the Second World War, a democratic Germany

## Examination Body & Style



Exam Body: Edexcel

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Paper 1 - Medicine in Britain 1250-present	30%
Paper 2 - Superpower relations and the Cold War & Anglo-Saxon and Norman England	40%
Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany	30%

## Choose this subject if...



If you possess a thirst for learning about the past and enjoy using evidence to draw conclusions about significant people and events that have shaped our world, then GCSE History is for you.

## Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:



- |   |                              |
|---|------------------------------|
| Journalism                                | Marketing                    |
| Legal Professions                         | Government                   |
| Teaching                                  | Public Services: e.g. Police |
| Business                                  | Law                          |
| Academia (study Economics, Politics etc.) | Medicine                     |

## Who can give you more advice?



Miss P Gordon (Head of History) : [p.gordon@arkboulton.org](mailto:p.gordon@arkboulton.org)

# Psychology

The study of psychology is a fascinating journey through the 'how and why' of the mind and human behaviour. Psychologists are 'Always Learning' as they observe and conduct experiments to find out more about the way people act and interact. They try to understand what motivates, challenges or changes us.

## Subject Content

Cognition and behaviour

- A. Memory
- B. Perception
- C. Development
- D. Research Methods

Social context and behaviour

- A. Social influence
- B. Language, thought and communication
- C. Brain and Neuropsychology
- D. Psychological problems

## Examination Body & Style

Exam Body: AQA

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Paper 1 Cognition and behaviour 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour 50% of GCSE

Questions will be a mixture of multiple choice, short answers and extended writing.

## Choose this subject if...

Psychology is a highly challenging yet fascinating course, ideal for enthusiastic and self-motivated students who enjoy reading and researching new information. You need to be able to read and summarise theories, identify their strengths and weaknesses, and be confident in sharing your ideas with your peers. You can expect to study a variety of human behaviours and you will gain a very valuable insight into the workings of the human mind. Students need a good grounding in English, Maths and Biology to succeed in this multi-disciplinary subject.

## Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:

- Criminal Psychology
- Educational Psychology
- Therapist, Psychologist
- Counselling
- Medicine
- Public Services: e.g. Police
- Education

## Who can give you more advice?

Mrs S Sagoo (Psychology Teacher) : [S.Sagoo@arkboulton.org](mailto:S.Sagoo@arkboulton.org)

## Physical Education

Physical Education encourages students to build their discipline and resilience in sport through learning to adhere to rules and regulations of sport as well as overcoming challenges to become successful. Physical Education will also allow students to develop transferable skills including: decision making, psychological understanding of people, independent thinking, problem solving and analytical skills as well as thinking, acting and reacting under pressure.

### Subject Content

The emphasis throughout the course is on introducing the concepts with Physical Education and relating these to performance whilst developing knowledge, competence and confidence in a wide variety of skills that will enable you to confidently move forward in life. The theoretical side of the course is complemented by the practical element where you will get to put this newly learned theory into practice and improve and develop in your chosen activities. It is essential that students are already taking part in regular sport both in academy teams and outside of the academy. This will support you in being successful in all aspects of the course.

### Examination Body & Style

Exam Body: OCR

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Component 1: Exam – Physical factors affecting performance	30%
Component 2: Exam – Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology	30%
Component 3: Non – Exam Assessment (includes below:)	40%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An individual sport.</li><li>• A team sport.</li><li>• A third sport either team or individual.</li><li>• An analysing and evaluating performance task.</li></ul>	

### Choose this subject if..

You are passionate about learning more about how the body and mind functions in sport and have a desire to keep learning about the science behind sport. You should choose Physical Education if you currently participate in academy sport or sport outside of school and are committed to continuing to perform in a range of sporting activities.

### Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:

- Teacher
- Physio- therapist
- Sports therapist
- Coach
- Sports scientist
- Nutritionist

### Who can give you more advice?

Mrs L Huckstep (Director of Health & Wellbeing) : [l.huckstep@arkboulton.org](mailto:l.huckstep@arkboulton.org)

## Religious Studies

Religious Studies is an insightful subject where students can explore the faiths Christianity and Islam in a wider context. Students are able to express their own opinion and discuss the ethics behind each topic. In our lessons, we value honesty and compassion as everyone has different beliefs and practices and we should be respectful towards others.

### Subject Content

Religious Studies is an insightful subject where students can explore the faiths Christianity and Islam in a wider context. Students are able to express their own opinion and discuss the ethics behind each topic. In our lessons, we value honesty and compassion as everyone has different beliefs and practices and we should be respectful towards others.

Christianity:  
Christian Beliefs  
Marriage and the Family  
Living the Christian Life  
Matters of Life and Death

Islam:  
Muslim Beliefs  
Crime and Punishment  
Living the Religious Life  
Peace and Conflict

### Examination Body & Style

Exam Body: Edexcel

Read the subject specification [here](#).

Paper 1 Written Examination paper 50%  
Paper 2 Written Examination paper 50%

### Choose this subject if...

You enjoy having discussions; you are able to analyse texts and you enjoy extended writing pieces.

### Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:

- Higher education lecturer
- Advice worker
- Charity fundraiser
- Counsellor
- Civil Service
- Administrator
- Public services
- Community Work
- Social Services

### Who can give you more advice?

Ms R Byrne (Head of Religious Education) : [r.byrne@arkboulton.org](mailto:r.byrne@arkboulton.org)