



**Ark Boulton
Academy**



**Ark Boulton Quality Curriculum
2022- 2024**

Class of 2023 GCSE Options

Dearest Year 9 Students, Parents & Carers

This is a hugely important time for students in the class of 2024. 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. We are here to help and **you will be invited to meet virtually** with your child's personal tutor and have the opportunity to discuss your child's pathway in to upper school and their options for studying GCSEs.

These meetings will take place via SchoolCloud on Tuesday 28th February. You will receive a letter detailing how to access these meetings.

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.

Mr D Richards
Head of School

Ark Boulton Quality Curriculum for Year 10

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.

In addition to the Core Curriculum subjects, students will choose to study three further subjects, one from each of the options groups. This will result in a further three GCSE qualifications for students.

How many GCSE Qualifications students will achieve in 2024?

The Ark Boulton Quality Curriculum will ensure that students gain a minimum of nine GCSE qualifications.

All students will study and be entered for GCSE exams in the **Core Curriculum**. Some students will study Triple Science based on their attainment in science however this will be communicated directly with relevant student and their parents. Moreover, a very small number of students will be entered for Functional Skills qualifications for English, Maths and Science - rather than the traditional GCSE – based on their current attainment. This will be communicated directly with relevant students and parents.

All students must study History or Geography as part of the **Extended Curriculum**. Students will be advised which choice may be most suitable for them based on their attainment in both subjects. Students can choose to study both History and Geography. They can do this by choosing the remaining subject as one of their **options**. For example, if a student chose History for their extended curriculum choice, they would then choose Geography as one of their options.

For their **Options**, students will study and sit GCSEs in an additional **two subjects**. Students will be informed if they **must select French** for one of their two options. Students will choose two subjects for their options, and must also select two reserve subjects.

The Upper School Curriculum

The Core Curriculum	All students will study these subjects, unless they are entered for Functional Skills Courses in English, Maths and Science	
	English Literature	Equivalent to 6 GCSE Qualifications (Seven if entered for Triple Science)
	English Language	
	Mathematics	
	Combined/Triple Science	
	BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology	

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Extended curriculum	Choice of either History or Geography <i>If a student wants to study both, they must do so by selecting the remaining subject as one of their two options</i>	1 GCSE Qualification
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Options	Choice of TWO option subjects. <i>Students must choose two subjects from below, and two reserve subjects</i>		2 GCSE Qualifications
	Geography	History	Religious Studies
	Physical Education	Art	Drama
	Psychology	Business Studies	Creative Imedia
	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Urdu	French

<p>A minimum of 9 GCSE Qualifications</p> <p>(10 qualifications if you study Triple Science)</p>

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 (Final exam) 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 and so you need to possess these skills.

Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:



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

Who can give you more advice?



Ms S Al-Hanoush (Director of the Arts Faculty): s.al-hanoush@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?

Ms K Muzondo (Head of Business): k.muzondo@arkboulton.org

Creative iMedia

This qualification will assess the application of creative media skills through 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 creativemedia 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 learnersthe freedom to explore the areas of creative media that interest them as well as providing goodopportunities 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 skillsthrough 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

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? Mr Wood – Head of Drama C.Wood@arkboulton.org

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. It aims to develop inquisitive and reflective learners who are committed to developing recipes and exploring the science behind cooking.

Subject Content

Students will be given the opportunity to unpick the foundational principles of nutrition and food preparation. They will learn the provenance of ingredients and use this to understand food choice. The subject content enables learners to analyse diets and apply health eating guidelines. They will develop and demonstrate skills in the food room, including food safety, which will allow them to become independent chefs.

In addition to an exam, students will be expected to complete two Non-Examined Assessments, both of which include written and practical elements. They will complete a food preparation task where they will research, plan and prepare cuisine for a specific audience. The second task is a scientific investigation where learners attempt to prove their hypothesis about the function of ingredients.

Examination Body & Style

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

Paper 1 – Food Preparation and Nutrition	50%
Non-Examined Assessment 1 – Food Investigation	15%
Non-Examined Assessment 2 – Food Preparation	35%

Choose this subject if...

You have an interest in science, a creative flare and want to develop the skills to make exciting and complex dishes. If you have a genuine interest in healthy eating and the impact it has on our community, this course is for you. You should consider this course if you have the ability to cook and are committed to becoming a skilled chef in the kitchen.

Career Opportunities with this GCSE include:

- Dietician
- Chef
- Nutritionist
- Catering Manager
- Food Critic/Blogger
- Food Scientist

Who can give you more advice?

Mrs L Huckstep - Director of Health and Wellbeing l.huckstep@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
- Pilots
- Lorry Drivers
- Medicine, Public Relations,
- Travel industry
- Law
- Hospitality
- Educatio

Who can give you more advice?

Mr Sadi (Director of Modern Languages) : 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?

Mr F Redfern (Director of Humanities) : f.redfern@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
- Legal Professions
- Teaching
- Business
- Academia (study Economics, Politics etc.)
- Marketing
- Government
- Public Services: e.g. Police
- Law
- Medicine

Who can give you more advice?

Mr F Redfern (Director of Humanities) : f.redfern@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 (Head of Psychology) : 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">• An individual sport.• A team sport.• A third sport either team or individual.• An analysing and evaluating performance task.	

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

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?

Mrs M Bird (Head of Religious Education and Citizenship) : m.bird@arkboulton.org

Urdu

Being successful at another language shows good communication skills and shows employers you are willing to learn new skills and welcome a new challenge. Learning any modern foreign language will help you to understand the way of life of people from different backgrounds and experiences, both abroad and those living in your community. At Ark Boulton, as part of our mission of upskilling the community, we are keen to give our students an opportunity to gain a qualification in GCSE Urdu.

Subject Content

GCSE Urdu allows you to broaden your knowledge of the world and the people around you. This qualification allows students to develop their ability to communicate with Urdu native speakers in both speech and writing. Studying Urdu can lead to careers in fields such as interpreting, teaching, languages, and community services which means you will be in a stronger position to get a job in companies with international links. 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: Pearson 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
- Diplomatic Service
- Pilots
- Medicine
- Public Relations
- Travel Industry
- Law
- Hospitality
- Education

Who can give you more advice?

Miss Javaid (Teacher of Urdu) : m.javaid@arkboulton.org