



Year 9 Guided Choices

2024/25

KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

Year 9 Guided Choices 2025

Thank you for taking the time to consider your choices for Year 10 and 11.

The Guided Choices booklet contains an outline of the process for this year and the course descriptors. The information contained here will give you the information to make the best decisions about your future study at Fakenham Academy.

The process this year might well be different from your experience of this process in the past.

Pre decision information

14th November - Careers event in school.

21st November - Parents' evening in school with teachers from 4.30 to 7pm.

Report in January.

Stage 1 – Thursday 30th January

Careers information guidance and advice evening.

Students will follow a program of Advice and Guidance during Enhancement time.

Stage 2 - 30th January to Friday 7th February

Survey to find out what course students are interested in us running.

Stage 3 – Wednesday 26th February to Thursday 6th March

Making your actual Choices via an electronic form.

Discussions in school to ensure that students have chosen the correct courses for them.

Stage 4 - by April

Receiving your offer by letter.

Stage 5 - by the end of May

Discussion with Senior staff to finalise the courses you will follow in Year 10 and 11.

In previous years we have followed government guidance on the number of students studying the English Baccalaureate (this includes a language and a humanity), to ensure that our students can compete with the very best in terms of employment, apprenticeships and university places.

The current government guidance is for 90% of students to study for the EBacc by 2025 but there is currently a governmental review of this position so we will be able to give you more details on this at the event on January 30th 2025.

At all stages staff will be on hand to answer questions and give guidance. By following this process, we are sure that all students will have a more personalised and appropriate curriculum at Fakenham Academy, leading to more and varied opportunities in the rest of their lives.



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

CONTENTS

5. **Film Studies**
6. **Art and Design**
7. **BTEC Digital Information and Technology**
8. **BTEC Tech Award Level 1&2 Sport**
9. **BTEC Tech Award Level 1&2 Travel and Tourism**
10. **Health and Social care**
11. **Business GCSE**
12. **Computer Science GCSE**
13. **Drama GCSE**
14. **Geography GCSE**
15. **History GCSE**
16. **Hospitality and Catering GCSE**
17. **Music**
18. **French GCSE**
19. **Spanish GCSE**
20. **Philosophy and Ethics**
21. **Science GCSE**



FILM STUDIES GCSE

It has been said that media literacy is as important to living in the 21st century as regular literacy was to the 20th century. Film Studies encourages young people to study a variety of film texts to help them explore how this important medium communicates, entertains and informs our lives.

Film Studies helps students to develop an important set of skills and will increase knowledge and understanding of a range of areas including:

Critical thinking.

Analysis.

Research.

Communication.

Creativity.

Design.

Technical skills.

What will be studied?

GCSE Film Studies gives students the opportunity to study a wide range of film texts from the UK, Hollywood and around the world. We will look at how they are constructed, how they make use of film language and how they represent people, places and issues. Special exam topics include US Contemporary and Independent film; Contemporary UK film; Global English language film and Global non-English language film. Students will study some films that are familiar as well as being introduced to new films which will challenge, stimulate and excite them. They will also have the opportunity to explore practical film-making which will allow them to develop both creative and technical skills.

How is the course assessed?

A coursework unit based around practical film production (30% of the final mark) and two written examinations (70% of the final mark).

How can parents help?

- Provide opportunities to experience a range of film texts



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

ART AND DESIGN GCSE

Through the Art and Design GCSE students will be encouraged to be adventurous and develop an enquiring approach. They will develop an understanding of past and contemporary art practice and be able to produce artwork that embraces a range of ideas.

The GCSE is made up of 2 components:

- Component 1 Personal Portfolio - 60%
- Component 2 Externally Set Assignment - 40%

What will be studied?

During the course students will learn a range of art skills and techniques, developed through thematic projects. This will be the basis for the personal portfolio needed for Component 1. They will have the opportunity to produce practical work in painting and drawing, sculpture, mixed media, textiles and photography. The course gives learners the opportunity to specialise in these areas or work in a variety of media.

How is the course assessed?

At present both components are assessed by the art teacher and moderated by a visiting assessor.

There are four assessment objectives:

- AO1 - Develop
- AO2 - Refine
- AO3 - Record
- AO4 - Present

How can parents help?

Parents can help by supporting students with their research, gathering resources and visiting galleries.

Where next?

After successfully completing the Art GCSE students can go on to study AS or A level in Art and Design or Photography. Once successfully completing a Level 3 course, students can apply for a wide range of art and design courses to study at degree level.



DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY BTEC

The qualification is designed to equip students with the skills to help them learn and cope with the demands of a sector which is forever changing. The course will ensure the:

- development of key skills that prove their knowledge in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data
- understanding of processes that look at effective ways of working, such as project planning, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct
- acquisition of knowledge that tackles effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as how different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

What will be studied?

Learners will study 3 components:

- Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques
- Component 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data
- Component 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices.

Component 3 requires learners to examine and explain information in relation to different scenarios and to draw on knowledge, understanding and skills such as the project planning process, interface design, collection and use of data, when making recommendations on working practices related to design, project organisation, cyber security and legal and ethical issues.

How is the course assessed?

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. These components will account for 60% of the final grade.

Component 3 is assessed through a 90-minute exam. This component will account for the remaining 40% of the final grade. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and applied to realistic contexts.

Where next?

This course will prepare you for work in the IT sector, or for Level 3 qualifications in IT related subjects.



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Sport

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. They will explore the different types and providers of sport and physical activity, as well as the equipment and technology available. Building on this, they will look at individuals' differing needs, to gain an understanding of how to increase participation in sport while further developing their knowledge and understanding of anatomy and physiology in a contextualised way. They will then apply their knowledge and skills to planning and delivering sports activity sessions for participants in practical sessions.

What will be studied?

Learners will study:

- Component 1: Preparing students to take part in sport and physical activity.
- Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance.
- Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity.

How is the course assessed?

Components 1 and 2, both 30% each, are assessed by internal assessments. These are set by the exam board, marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board. Component 3, worth 40%, is an external assessment set and marked by the exam board.

How can parents help?

- Encourage students to be involved in after school teams and clubs.
- Support students in the completion of homework and preparation of assignments.
- Support with revision for the exam.

Where next?

Level 3 courses, apprenticeships. Students will be able to access a range of jobs from coaching, sports therapist to fitness instructor or even working in 'non sports' related sectors such as sales and marketing.



BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism

This qualification is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSEs that will offer them a practical introduction to life and work in the dynamic travel and tourism industry, allowing them to make an informed decision about their future learning and career.

This course will give learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. They will develop key transferable skills through vocational contexts, by exploring products and services offered by different travel and tourism organisations, the features of popular tourist destinations, how organisations use market research and trends to identify and meet customer needs requirements, and the factors that influence global travel and tourism. The qualification enables learners to develop their transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements.

What will be studied?

Learners will study:

- Component 1: Travel and Tourism organisations and destinations
- Component 2: Customer needs in Travel and Tourism
- Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism

How is the course assessed?

Components 1 and 2, both 30% each, are assessed by internal assessments. These are set by the exam board, marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board. Component 3, worth 40%, is an external assessment set and marked by the exam board.

How can parents help?

- Support students in the completion of homework and preparation of assignments.
- Support with revision for the exam.

Where next?

Level 3 courses, apprenticeships. Students will also be able to access a range of jobs from cabin crew and holiday reps, Travel and Tourism can lead to a wide range of other careers in the areas of event & hospitality management, wedding planning, travel agencies, public relations, travel journalism and tourism marketing.



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE BTEC

The BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care will allow students to study a range of health, early-years care and education and social care issues.

This course involves the opportunity to learn about people with differing needs and to develop skills including research, communication and risk assessment.

Health and Social Care students could complete their Year 10 work experience in a health or social care setting.

What will be studied?

Learners will study:

- Component 1: Human Lifespan Development
- Component 2: Health and Social Care Values.
- Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

How is the course assessed?

Components 1 and 2 will be assessed by completing non-examined internal assessment set by Pearson, marked by the centre and moderated by Pearson. Component 3 will be assessed at the end of Year 11, through an exam, marked externally by Pearson, and is worth 40% of the course.

How can parents help?

Students can be helped in the following ways:

- discussing classwork and homework
- encourage organisation, attendance and completion of homework
- help with revision for the examination.

Where next?

Students have a wide variety of options including; Level 3 qualifications in Health and Social Care, Apprenticeships in a range of vocational areas and work based training, careers in the health and social sector include nursing, teaching and social work.



BUSINESS GCSE

Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multi-nationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behavior. Students will apply their knowledge and understanding to business decision making including:

- The interdependent nature of business activity, influences on business, business operations, finance, marketing and human resources, and how these interdependencies underpin business decision making.
- How different business contexts affect business decisions.
- The use and limitation of quantitative / qualitative data in making business decisions.

What will be studied?

Learners will study six units of work

Business in the real world

Influences on business

Business operations

Human resources

Marketing

Finance

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed by two examinations at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity (Units 1, 2, 3 & 4)

- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity (Units 1, 2, 5 & 6)

- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE

How can parents help?

Parents should encourage an awareness of current affairs. They should ensure that they support students to access internet resources.

Where next?

After successfully completing a Level 2 course, students can choose GCE 'A' Level Business course (Level 3), investigate 'Apprenticeships' at Level 2 or 3 at local Colleges in a range of vocational areas.



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

What will be studied?

The course covers computer systems, networks, programming, software and hardware, data representation, as well as legal, ethical and cultural issues. The programming aspect of the course uses different challenges to help understand the theory and concepts.

How is the course assessed?

The current specification is split into two components:

- Component 01 – Computer Systems - focuses on Computer Systems, hardware, software, networks and the legal and ethical impacts of digital technology.

It is an examined unit and makes up 50% of the assessment total.

- Component 02 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming. Component 02 is a written exam, focused on computational thinking and algorithms. Students will read and correct small programs, design (but not code) a program from a flow chart, demonstrate knowledge of how computers sort data etc.

It is an examined unit and makes up 50% of the assessment total.

How can parents help?

It will be useful for students to have access to a computer so that they can practice their programming skills outside the classroom. There are excellent resources available on the Internet:

Codecademy - create a free account, follow tutorials, gain badges/trophies to show progress.

Go Code It – Follow tutorials and the tasks will auto mark your code.



DRAMA GCSE

A course in GCSE Drama will enable students to:

Develop as a performance practitioner, this will allow you to explore your practical and written ideas in a creative way.

Explore a range of themes and topics whilst developing your skills as an actor or theatre designer.

Showcase your talents during a performance exam, for this you will be filmed and perform in front of an examiner.

Develop transferable skills which can be applied to a range of employment opportunities in the theatre world.

What will be studied?

Over the duration of the course you will be performing in front of a live audience and examiner while performing your chosen script.

The GCSE Drama course is divided into Component sections as follows:

Devising - Create and develop a devised piece from a stimulus. Work as either a Performer or a Designer.

Performance from a Text - Students will either perform in and/or design for two key extracts from a performance text.

Theatre Makers in Practice - Bringing Texts to Life and Live Theatre Evaluation.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through a combination of practical assessments, coursework and a written exam:

Component 1 - Internally assessed and externally moderated. - 40%

Component 2 - Assessed by a visiting examiner. - 20%

Component 3 - Written examination. - 40%

Where next?

After successfully completing Drama GCSE students can go on to study A-Level Drama at Fakenham Sixth Form or Performing Arts Qualifications that can be found at several Drama schools in London. They could also study set, lighting and costume at Level 3. Being confident in front of an audience can be a valuable skill with positions such as film and television, retail, travel and tourism or sales and marketing.



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

GEOGRAPHY GCSE

The world in which we live is changing and is likely to change more in the next 50 years than it has ever done before. GCSE Geography explains why this is so and helps to prepare you for and understand these changes. It is about real-life issues which are impacting all of us, be it in north Norfolk, the United Kingdom, Europe or across the world.

GCSE Geography provides an excellent academic foundation for a range of future studies and careers, given its ability to develop and justify detailed, analytical explanations of the interconnections between complex issues facing the world at present and into the future. Studying Geography provides students with a plethora of skills. The subject links the arts and sciences and consequently combines well with many other GCSE options.

What will be studied?

The GCSE Geography course has three main units:

- Unit 1 - Living with the Physical Environment, includes studies on tectonic hazards, weather and climate, coasts, rivers, ecosystems including rainforests and cold environments.
- Unit 2 - Challenges in the Human Environment, includes urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and resource management.
- Unit 3 - Geographical Application is skills based, including an issue evaluation and fieldwork.

How is the course assessed?

Units 1, 2 and 3 will all be assessed through written examinations. There is no coursework element. Unit 3 will include questions on an issue contained within pre-release material, together with assessment of fieldwork based on the north Norfolk coast

Where next?

Many of our students go on to enjoy Geography at A level. It is included in the English Baccalaureate, providing a pathway and the skills necessary to progress through A-Levels onto university entry in a wide range of courses and providing the basis for an extensive array of career options.

Geography is also highly valued by employers, the range of transferable literacy and numerical skills studied in a real-world context, provide students an ability to empathise, analyse and evaluate information and make informed decisions.



HISTORY GCSE

History helps explain why the world is as it is and helps students understand this by studying the key events, achievements and individuals of past societies. It is highly regarded as an academic discipline and is excellent preparation for a variety of A-level and University courses. A qualification in History is also highly respected by employers; it is evidence of an ability to research and analyse evidence, successfully organise and communicate knowledge, think critically and deal effectively with complex issues and information.

There is a significant focus on reading source material, making detailed notes and constructing essay-style answers, so good literacy skills are essential for success.

What will be studied?

The Edexcel GCSE History Specification consists of four modules of study:

- Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588.

Medicine in Britain C1250-Present

- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939.

Superpower Relations and the Cold War 1945-1991

How is the course assessed?

Teachers mark and grade students' work, with focus on module assessments and mock examinations. Homework is set and is compulsory; this may take a number of forms such as research, revision or practice exam questions.

There are three examination papers taken at the end of Year 11, which focus on high value written answers.

There is no coursework.

How can parents help?

Parents can help by

- ensuring that students have the necessary books and equipment for every lesson
- discussing with students the work they have done
- Attending parents evenings and checking reports to keep up to date on progress being made, e.g. assessment marks, and attitude to learning grades
- encouraging students to complete homework on time.

Where next?

The transferable literacy and analytical skills which GCSE History develops are viewed as an asset in the complex world of employment today and can be used across a range of future jobs and careers. History is seen as a valuable academic subject, providing a pathway and the skills necessary to progress through A-Levels onto University entry and employment.



HOSPITALITY AND CATERING EDUQAS LEVEL 1/2

WJEC Eduqas Level 1/2 Vocational Awards in Hospitality and Catering allows learners to build knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the hospitality and catering sector. This qualification also supports learners to develop employability skills that are valued by employers and further and higher education.

What will be studied?

There are 2 units to study over two years:

- Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry. This includes an online or written examination to be completed in January/ June of year 11 and can be re-sat if necessary. It is eighty minutes long and is marked by the exam board. This unit is worth 40% of overall grade.
 - Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action. This unit includes one practical exam, a two-course meal with accompaniments and theory tasks set by the exam board. This whole unit is averaged across all total marks and worth 60% of overall grade. The weighting between written work and practical work for this component for examination is 50/50.
- Grades available from the award are: Level 1-Pass, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Distinction *, Level 2-Pass, Level 2 Merit , Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*.

How can parents help?

- Support students by providing ingredients and helping with finding recipes.
- Making sure students research or revise when necessary.
- Students will be required to purchase a uniform for working in a kitchen, costing approximately £25.

Where next?

After gaining this award students could take their skills further by taking Level 3 & 4 qualifications in the Hospitality and Catering Industry, which can be done either at College or while employed. Apart from working in hotels or restaurants, there are many career paths where this qualification could be useful, for example tourism management, armed forces catering, food safety supervision, environmental health, or teaching. Students will also be confident to cook for themselves healthy dishes when living away from home.



GCSE EDUQAS MUSIC

A GCSE music qualification allows students to explore their skills in Performing, Composing and Listening/Appraising, enabling students to understand and appreciate different styles of music. Students will engage actively in the study of music by developing musical skills and interests, including the ability to compose music and perform. GCSE Music is ideal for students who already play an instrument or sing, as this counts toward 30% of their overall qualification.

This course will enable you to:

develop an appreciation of music through an active involvement in music making, both as an individual and as a team player.

develop broader life skills, including critical and creative thinking, emotional awareness, cultural understanding, self-discipline and confidence.

increase your knowledge of music theory and the musical elements to accurately describe what you can hear.

extend instrumental skills in both solo and ensemble performance.

provide evidence to employers about your commitment, dedication and ability to work in a team.

Course content

The course is split into 3 sections:

Performance (30%) - By performing (either on an instrument or singing) both an ensemble and solo, you will show accuracy, expression and appropriate interpretation.

Composition (30%) - You will create compositions using instruments/voices through computer software, demonstrating an ability to create and develop musical ideas.

Listening/Appraising (40%) - You will identify music from different styles and traditions and evaluate them using appropriate musical vocabulary. The 4 main areas of study are:

AOS1 - Musical Forms and Devices

AOS2 - Music for Ensemble

AOS3 - Film Music

AOS4 - Popular Music

Special notes

If you study GCSE Music we strongly recommend that you are already taking weekly instrumental lessons (either using our in school instrumental teachers or external tutors). At the end of this course you will be expected to be around a grade 3 standard.

Post-16 courses available

Music A Level or other Level 3 courses within music production, technology and performance.



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

AQA GCSE French 2025

The French GCSE includes engaging and relatable content which is relevant to students current and future needs. The themes are based on content which will be interesting to students and that will inspire them to discuss and interact with the materials.

The thematic contexts that students will study are:

Theme 1 – People and lifestyle

Identity and relationships

Healthy living and lifestyle

Education and work

Theme 2 – Popular culture

Free time activities

Customs and festivals

Celebrity culture

Theme 3 – Communication and the world around us

Travel and tourism

Media and technology

The environment and where people live

The qualification consists of four papers and each paper is available at both Foundation and Higher tier, with students entering all four papers at a single tier.

Paper 1 – Speaking in French 25%

Paper 2 – Listening and understanding in French 25%

Paper 3 – Reading and understanding in French 25%

Paper 4 – Writing in French 25%



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

AQA GCSE Spanish 2025

The Spanish GCSE includes engaging and relatable content which is relevant to students current and future needs. The themes are based on content which will be interesting to students and that will inspire them to discuss and interact with the materials.

The thematic contexts that students will study are:

Theme 1 – People and lifestyle

Identity and relationships

Healthy living and lifestyle

Education and work

Theme 2 – Popular culture

Free time activities

Customs and festivals

Celebrity culture

Theme 3 – Communication and the world around us

Travel and tourism

Media and technology

The environment and where people live

The qualification consists of four papers and each paper is available at both Foundation and Higher tier, with students entering all four papers at a single tier.

Paper 1 – Speaking in Spanish 25%

Paper 2 – Listening and understanding in Spanish 25%

Paper 3 – Reading and understanding in Spanish 25%

Paper 4 – Writing in Spanish 25%



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS GCSE

The Philosophy and Ethics course has discussion and argument at its heart. Students are able to consider the different reasons for people's actions and how it links to their personal beliefs and values. If you have opinions of your own and are interested in those of others, look no further! The course looks at a range of philosophical and ethical dilemmas and issues that affect us within the world today such as:

- Should the death penalty allowed?
- How should we respond in war?
- Is there a preferred family dynamic?
- How should we treat the environment and animals?

What will be studied?

The Philosophy element will cover beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Islam. This is paper 1.

The Ethics element will consider:

- Theme A: Relationships and Family.
- Theme B: Religion and life.
- Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict.
- Theme E: Crime and Punishment.

How is the course assessed?

There is no coursework for this subject, both exams are taken at the end of year 11.

How can parents help?

Parents can help best by listening to their child explain philosophical ideas and by asking questions. Having someone with whom to debate and discuss moral issues is invaluable to help learners to develop their argument. Watching the News as well as films and literature which cover the themes that we study help to develop a broader understanding of the topics. Check the revision books that are provided to students and discuss ideas with them.

Where next?

A-level courses possibly leading on to degree level qualifications. Like other humanities subjects, it is valued by employers as it fosters skills in analytical thinking and communication that are useful in a variety of careers, from law to business to working with people. Having the ability to discuss ideas and understand different point of views enables full consideration of multiple views and encourages a positive community.



SCIENCE

All students will study Science during Key Stage 4. Most students will do Combined Science that will lead to two GCSEs in Combined Science. This will include an equal amount of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Pathway one students will have the opportunity to apply for Triple Science. This means they will study for a GCSE in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

This choice will be made with guidance from their Year 9 teacher and the Head of Science. Please note that you do not need to study all three sciences to study science at A-Level or at University.

Pathway two students will be doing Combined Science.

What will be studied?

Cell biology, transport systems (blood and circulation), health, disease and the development of medicines, coordination and control, photosynthesis, ecosystems, inheritance, variation and evolution, atomic structure and the periodic table, structure, bonding and the properties of matter, chemical changes, energy changes in chemistry, the rate and extent of chemical change, chemical analysis, chemical and allied industries, Earth and atmospheric science, energy, forces, forces and motion, waves in matter, light and electromagnetic waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, the particle model of matter and atomic structure.

You will need to carry out at least 16 practical tasks (24 for Triple Science). There will be questions on these in the exam.

How is the course assessed?

Assessment is by exam only. All of the exams will take place at the end of Year 11. Each exam will count equally towards the final grade. There will be six exams; two in biology, two in chemistry and two in physics. If you take Triple Science the exams are slightly longer.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Where next?

All of these courses lead on to A-Level sciences and science related subjects at university such as Engineering and Forensic Science, as well as apprenticeships and scientific careers.

How can parents help?

The science department offers the chance to purchase revision guides and workbooks at a much reduced rate. Letters will be given out in the September of Year 10.



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED



KIND

AMBITIOUS

DETERMINED