



CANSFIELD

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER

Cansfield High School

Year 9

GCSE Options Booklet

Introduction

Making curriculum choices in Year 9 is a very important and exciting part of your time in school. The options you choose for Year 10 and 11 will impact on the final two years of your school experience and will also influence your choice of pathway after Year 11.

Your subject teachers will be speaking to you about the courses in lessons over the coming weeks and videos will be posted on the school website with information regarding each subject. Mrs Daniels and I will also be hosting an Information Day and Evening to go through the process of selecting your options and what this will look like on Tuesday 5th March 2024, which will start at 2pm and will take place in school.

This booklet will give you an overview of the choices on offer and help you make these decisions. If you need any further help or guidance, please do not hesitate to contact me on l.archer@cansfield.wigan.sch.uk

The Curriculum

Cansfield provides all students with a broad and balanced diet of a wide range of subjects. We offer an exciting and wide-ranging curriculum which reflects our ever-changing world and provides students with choices of courses to study. These courses engage our students in learning and prepare them to be successful in society.

As well as taking the Core subjects of:

- *English*
- *English Literature*
- *Maths*
- *Science: Trilogy Award*

you will select four other subjects to study during Years 10 and 11.

Core PE is also taken once a week for all students. Students will also study RE and Life studies as part of the broad curriculum through an engaging programme of study. These are non-examined courses.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC) is achieved when a student opts for a language alongside the combination of qualifications that Cansfield provides. We do not make this compulsory, but recommend that those students who aim to take a solely academic pathway upon leaving Cansfield give serious thought to taking a language as an option. The Ebacc looks to break the link between pupils' backgrounds and GCSE choices ensuring options aren't narrowed in Post 16 education or employment. Russell Group universities look favourably on this route.

The Options Process

We endeavour to offer students the subjects they have chosen, however the options process is a '**best-fit**' approach and in some circumstances, reserves will have to be used. Students will complete the options process in March, and outcomes of the process will be shared in July. Whilst we will consider the possibility of option choice moves, we will only do this in a single window of time in September 2024. All students will be expected to continue with the options that they have been given for the first three weeks of the new academic year. If they want to change options after this, they need to complete an options change form and discuss this change with me before any amendments are made. Changes will always have to consider number of students in a group and other subjects' students are studying.

Lesley Archer

Deputy Headteacher

Choices

Please make sure you are selecting carefully

OPTION ONE:

ALL students MUST choose **ONE** of:

- *Geography*
- *History*

OTHER OPTIONS:

As mentioned previously, we would encourage students to select French, allowing them to achieve the EBACC and open up further opportunities when leaving Cansfield.

ALL students MUST choose **THREE** of:

- *Art and Design*
- *Creative iMedia*
- *Digital Information Technology*
- *French*
- *Geography* (if History has been selected in OPTION ONE)
- *Graphic Communication* [NOTE: this cannot be taken in addition to *Art and Design* as they both hold the same qualification code]
- *Health and Social Care*
- *History* (if Geography has been selected in OPTION ONE)
- *Hospitality and Catering*
- *Music*
- *Performing Arts*
- *Photography*
- *Religious Education and Philosophy*
- *Sport*
- *Travel and Tourism*
- *Triple Science* (by interview)

Although we always seek to meet the requests of all students, options is a **best fit process** therefore students **MUST** also select **THREE SECOND** choices as a reserve.

Key Dates:

Thursday 25th January: Parents' Evening. You can discuss any questions you have with your subject teachers.

Tuesday 13th February: GCSE Options information videos to be posted on the website. Heads of Faculty and subject leads will provide an overview of each subject in a video form. This will provide you a chance to review every subject on offer to support you to make an informed decision.

Tuesday 5th March: GCSE Options information day/evening. Mrs Daniels and Miss Archer will outline the process of choosing options. Heads of Faculty, subject leads and teachers will also be available with specific information on the option choices available and answer any questions parents and students might have.

Tuesday 26th March: Deadline to send attached options form back into school. – to be returned to Ms Fagan.

Pathways

Triple Science Route

1. Humanities OPTION – History or Geography
2. Option ONE – Triple Science
3. Option TWO – French
4. Option THREE – from the other options list

EBACC Qualification Route

1. Humanities Option – History or Geography
2. Option ONE – French
3. Option TWO – from the other options list
4. Option THREE – from the other options list
- 5.

Standard Qualification Route

1. Humanities Option – History or Geography
2. Option ONE – from the other options list
3. Option TWO – from the other options list
4. Option THREE – from the other options list

The options process is a **best-fit** approach and in some circumstances, reserves will have to be used.

Subjects

Art and Design

Exam Board: AQA

This highly creative qualification has been designed to allow students to develop knowledge and understanding during the course through a variety of learning experiences and approaches, including engagement with a range of artists and cultures. This will allow them to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate their own ideas. Students will demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording, realisation and presentation of their ideas through a portfolio and by responding to an externally set assignment.

Creative iMedia

Exam Board: OCR Cambridge Nationals

Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce. This qualification will help students develop specific and transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts. The qualification's hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

Digital Information Technology

Exam Board: Pearson

Digital Technology looks at how companies use digital systems and to understand the wider implications associated with their use within industry. This is a highly relevant course for today's digital workplace. Key topics include cloud storage, data protection, and the impacts of technology, especially given the significance of Artificial Intelligence today. This is a course for learners who have an interest in digital skills and how these skills can translate to purposeful real-life information and technological outcomes.

Geography

Exam Board: EDUQAS (SPECIFICATION B)

The Geography course studied at Cansfield incorporates both human and physical geographies and is structured in such a way. There are three themes that cover multiple topics in each. Theme one focusses on human geographies, covering concepts such as urbanization, global cities and global development. Theme two focuses on physical geographies. Students will study climate change, fluvial and coastal environments and extreme weather. Theme three looks at environmental issues fusing both human and physical geography together. Students will experience two field visits as part of the course and the assessment in split into three examinations; a core knowledge paper, a decision-making paper and a field skills paper.

French

Exam Board: EDUQAS

Learning a language is without doubt one of the most rewarding GCSE courses, and we encourage everybody to continue with their language, regardless of their ability level. Whilst we obviously do everything we can to prepare students for the final exams, we never lose sight of the fact that the purpose of language learning is to help to shape engaged linguists and active global citizens. Lessons remain engaging, active and continue to build cultural awareness. There are a range of topics including: Identity and culture (Hobbies, Health, Modern Technology); Local, National and International Issues (Town, Holidays, Environment) and Current and Future Study & Employment (School & Work). All the four key skills are examined equally – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Graphic Communication

Exam Board: AQA

This highly creative qualification has been designed to allow students to develop knowledge and understanding during the course through a variety of learning experiences and approaches, including engagement with a range of Graphic Designers. This will allow learners to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate their own broad range graphical outcomes and ideas. Students will demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording and presentation of their ideas through a digital portfolio and by responding to an externally set assignment. This course is relevant to a vocational pathway in all elements of digital design and graphic design outcomes.

Health and Social Care BTEC Tech Awards

Exam Board: Pearson

The BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care links to Life Studies in Key Stage 3 by emphasising personal development, relationships, health awareness, and social care, which are fundamental aspects of Life Studies. It fosters skills in critical thinking, empathy, and understanding societal issues, aligning with Life Studies' goal of developing well-rounded, socially aware individuals.

Regarding its connection to the humanities faculty, this BTEC Tech Award intersects with subjects like Geography and History through its focus on societal structures, cultural diversity, and human behaviour. It complements humanities by providing practical, real-world applications of theoretical knowledge, such as understanding social dynamics and human interactions within historical and geographical contexts. This integration supports a comprehensive understanding of human society and health, essential in humanities education.

The Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care focuses on personal development, health, and social care sectors. It includes understanding personal development and relationships, exploring health, social care, and early years provision. The course aims to develop critical and analytical problem-solving skills and examines issues affecting human life, including cultural and diversity considerations. It comprises both externally and internally assessed units involving multiple-choice questions, case studies, and scenarios. The Double Award version extends learning opportunities, emphasising health and wellbeing influences and support mechanisms.

History

Exam Board: AQA

By choosing History GCSE, you will prove your ability to develop your knowledge of key events in History and evaluate how they have shaped the world that we live in today. You will learn to unlock the answers to understand key events, places, themes, societies in both national and world History. At Cansfield we complete the following topics: Conflict and Tension: World War One; Democracy and Dictatorship: Germany 1918-1945; Thematic study: Britain, Health and the people and Depth Study: Elizabethan England. Through these choices of topic, we have developed a broad scope of knowledge in the curriculum, which will help you either with further study in History, and allow you to see your own place in history and how you fit into the world around you. The transferrable skills you will develop are in communication, writing, constructing an argument, research and problem solving, investigation and analytical skills.

Hospitality and Catering

Exam Board: EDUQAS

Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. There is also the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety

Music BTEC TECH Award

Exam Board: Pearson

This qualification is for students aspiring to gain an insight into what it is like working in the Music sector- a vibrant, exciting, and competitive industry that offers many different and exciting new work opportunities. The course encourages students to explore a variety of musical styles and the musical theory and techniques that underpin them and develop technical and practical skills through workshops and classes. It is a great steppingstone into further vocational or academic study in the Music sector. In component 1 students will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles. Component 2 allows students to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks whilst documenting their progress and planning for further improvement. Finally, in component 3 students will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a brief. Pupils are encouraged to opt for this subject if they play a musical instrument and enjoy making music.

Performing Arts BTEC TECH Award

Exam Board: Pearson

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas: aptitude in performing arts, such as reproducing repertoire and responding to stimuli, processes that underpin effective ways of working in the performing arts, such as development of ideas, rehearsal and performance, attitudes that are considered most important in the performing arts, including personal management and communication, knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as roles, responsibilities, performance disciplines and styles. This Tech Award is ideal for students who love Drama and/or Dance, you can participate in different types of performance activities, with the opportunity to practically apply knowledge and skills through project work, such as developing ideas and performing for specific audiences.

Pupils are encouraged to opt for this subject if they have a love of performing in front of an audience.

Photography

Exam Board: AQA

This highly creative and engaging qualification has been designed to allow students to develop knowledge and understanding during the course through a variety of learning experiences and approaches, including engagement with a range of Photographers and cultures. This will allow them to develop the skills to explore, create and communicate their own ideas. Students will demonstrate these skills through the development, refinement, recording, realisation and presentation of their ideas through an online portfolio and by responding to an externally set assignment.

Religious Education

Exam Board: AQA

Do you ever find yourself wondering about life's big questions? Why are we on earth? What is the purpose of life? Is there really such a thing as good and evil? Is forgiveness possible? How can religious people believe in a good God if He allows suffering? These are just some of many topics you will have the chance to explore. In Religion and Philosophy, you will advance to skills such as critical thinking and reasoning. You will develop a stronger sense of empathy, understanding, tolerance and emotional maturity through being encouraged to participate through in-depth debates. By studying Religion and Philosophy, it helps us to understand other people's beliefs, morals and ethics, what their beliefs and values are and why they do the things they do.

Sport BTEC TECH Award

Exam Board: Pearson

This course is for students interested in taking a hands-on course alongside their GCSE's that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the sector. They will develop sector specific knowledge and skills through realistic contexts. Students will develop essential skills such as leadership, communication, planning, time management and teamwork. In component 1 our students will explore the different types and provision of

sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these. They will research technological advances in a chosen sport/activity and how to prepare their bodies for participation in sport and activity. Component 2 encourages students to investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance. They will explore the role of officials in sport and learn to coach other participants effectively. Finally, in component 3 students will be introduced to different types of fitness and how to develop and test these in order to improve. Component 1 and 2 are internally assessed and they have both a written and practical element and component 3 is a written assessment that is 1.5 hours long.

Travel and Tourism BTEC TECH Award

Exam Board: Pearson

Studying the BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism offers students an engaging introduction to the industry. It's a practical course that combines learning about different types of travel and tourism organizations, global influences on travel, and customer service. This course is ideal for students interested in a career in this dynamic sector or looking to continue their studies in this field. It also contributes to their broader understanding of the world, enhancing cultural awareness and business insights. This qualification is valued in secondary education and provides a strong foundation for future academic and career pursuits in travel and tourism.

The BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism is a dynamic course for Key Stage 4 students, blending practical skills with academic learning. It consists of three components: exploring travel and tourism organisations and destinations (30% of the course), investigating global travel and tourism influences (40% of the course), and understanding customer needs in travel and tourism (30% of the course). This course prepares students for various career opportunities in the travel and tourism sector and provides a solid foundation for further study. It is recognised in the Progress 8 'open group' category, highlighting its relevance and value in secondary education.

Triple Science

Exam Board: AQA

The Triple Science pathway is a challenging course recommended for students who intend to pursue Science subjects beyond GCSE level. Triple Science students study all three Science disciplines: Biology, Physics and Chemistry and at the end of the course are awarded three separate GCSE qualifications. Students sit two papers per discipline: Paper 1 and Paper 2, each 1 hour and 45 minutes long. Triple Science is taught in eight Science lessons per week with students studying everything contained within the Combined Science course. The additional 'Triple only' content is inserted at the appropriate points in the curriculum sequence. Each of the Triple Science courses includes 'Required practical' activities that students carry out over the duration of the course. The content and skills covered in these practical's are assessed in the exam and often require the students to write a method for a practical, evaluate a method or equipment, interpret data and draw conclusions or require the students to apply their knowledge to similar practical investigations. Due to the demand of the mathematical content within the Triple Science course, students must be Higher tier for Mathematics.



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Year 9 Option Form

On this form, you need to state the option subjects that you wish to choose. Please indicate your first choices in each basket as well as your 2nd choices (reserves). Please give your reserve options equal consideration.

It is important to note that there are no guarantees regarding option changes. It is largely dependent on the spaces available and the rationale behind the decision.

Student Name		Form:
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	First choice	Reserves
Option One	1	NA
Open Option	1	1
	2	2
	3	3

Student signature: _____

Parent signature: _____

The options process is a **best-fit** approach and in some circumstances, reserves will have to be used.

