

Welcome to Year 9 Preferences 2026



Year 9 Preferences Assembly

- The two special assemblies this week are all about you and your future
- They are part of the process to help you to make informed decisions on the subjects you will study in Years 10 & 11
- You get to focus on the subjects that matter most to you in more depth and detail



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Secondary School

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The following subjects are compulsory:

- GCSE English Literature (in Year 11)
- GCSE English Language (in Year 11)
- GCSE Maths
- GCSE Science
- PSHE - Not a qualification
- PE - Not a qualification

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- You will receive an information booklet when you arrive for our preferences / parents evening on 23rd April
- There will be a presentation at 3:30 and another at 6:00 in this hall. You and your parent(s) will need to attend one of them
 - They are the same presentation!
- You will also receive your subject progress report
- The data reported by your teachers has been used by us to allocate you to a pathway which details the subjects you can and can't choose to study

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- Some of the preferences may not run due to staffing changes or numbers of students choosing it
- The deadline for completing your preferences is the 5th May
- You will receive a link to a Microsoft Form via your school email address
- These presentations will be available on our webpage

BTEC Tech Award Music



Benefits of Performing Arts

“I love performing arts, but it won't really help me in life!”

- Develops critical thinking and problem solving
- Emotional intelligence and empathy
- Self-Confidence
- Communication and presentation skills
- Enhanced memory function
- Imagination
- Cooperation and working with others
- Spontaneity - thinking on your feet

All very beneficial in any career pathway and quality of life!



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CAREERS IN MUSIC



- Music Producer
- Sound Engineer
- Sound Technician
- Record Producer
- Music Producer
- Songwriter
- Film Composer
- A&R (artist & repertoire) Manager
- Music Journalist
- Musical Director
- Music Therapist
- Tour Manager
- Luthier
- Session Musician
- Music Teacher
- Booking Agent
- Music Publicist



WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- **Year 10:**

- **Perform, compose** and **arrange** in a range of musical genres: Britpop, house music, film music, reggae, disco, African drumming, rock n' roll, EDM (electronic dance music), pop music, alternative rock, pop punk and loads more!
- Learn to **critically analyse** music and improve your understanding of these styles
- Use **music technology** to arrange and produce your own music
- Learn to use **recording studio** equipment to record your own music



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

1 Assessment in Year 10

- **Year 10 - Component 1:**
- Create 3 music products (**performance, studio recording, DAW project**)
- Produce a **written portfolio** that demonstrates your understanding 4 contrasting styles of music

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

- **Year 11:**

- Further refine your **instrumental skills** and work on your **stage craft** in a live performance setting
- Develop **professional** and **commercial** skills for the music industry
- Further develop your **recording** and **sound engineering** skills associated with live performance
- Learn how to respond to a **commercial music brief**



HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

2 Assessments in Year 11

- **Year 11 - Component 2:**
- Students plan and create **2 musical outcomes** in different musical areas (performance/ DAW project) in response to a theme that will develop professional and musical skills.
- As well as your completed products, students submit a **written portfolio/ project diary**.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Final Assessment in Year 11

- **Year 11 - Component 3: EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT**
- Students create **1 musical outcome** in their choice of musical area (performance/ DAW project) in response to a brief.
- You will be given a list of **10 songs** to choose from a range of musical genres and will have to **arrange** your chosen song into another style. You will then either perform or record your chosen song.

WHAT CAN I GO ON TO STUDY?

- BTEC Level 3 Music or Music Technology
- RSL Level 3 Extended Diploma for Music Practitioners
 - Music Performance
 - Music Technology
 - Composition
 - Music Business
- A Level Music or Music Technology
- Vocational Music Performance & Technology (Triple Award)



Year 9 Options Roadshow

BTEC Tech Award in Dance



Careers in Dance

- **Dancer**
- **Choreographer**
- **Dance Teacher**
- **Dance Critic**
- **Educational Dance Workshop Organiser**
- **Educational Dance Workshop Leader**
- **In House Dance Residence**
- **Community Dance Practitioner**
- **Dance Movement Therapist**
- **Dance Journalist**
- **Dance Lecturer or Academic Researcher**
- **Dance Photographer**
- **Dance Project Coordinator**
- **Dance Producer**
- **Notation/Choreology Pilates/Yoga Instructor**
- **Talent Agent**
- **Fitness Coach**
- **Specialised Dance Teacher**
- **Dance/Arts/Culture Officer**
- **Dance Company Education Specialist**
- **Dance Film Maker**

What will I Study in the Btec Tech Award in Dance?

You will study 3 Units:

- **Component 1 – Exploring the Performing Arts**

This means you will learn dance technique and choreography from different dance styles and professional dance works.

- **Component 2 – Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts.**

This means you will develop your own technical dance and performance skills resulting in a performance to a live audience.

- **Component 3 – Responding to a Brief**

This means you have to make up a 7-15 min Dance piece in a group based on a set theme given by the examination board.

What does the course look like?

You will have practical lessons where you will explore different dance styles and technique as well as lessons in an IT room whereby you will research and learn about famous dance choreographers. You will have the opportunity to be a **Dancer, Choreographer and Dance Critic!**

You will complete Component 1 in Yr. 10.

You will complete Component 2 and 3 in Yr. 11.

You do not have to sit any written exams however you do have to produced detailed written coursework for each component.

How am I assessed?

Component 1 – You must produce a 20-page PowerPoint based on a professional dance work.

Component 2 – You must perform a Dance piece to a live audience, write a rehearsal log and complete an evaluation.

Component 3 – You must perform a 7-15min Dance and complete three written tasks under exam conditions.

Each Component is moderated and sent to an external examiner. You will receive a grade for each component. The three grades are then added together to make your final mark.

What Performing Arts courses can I go on to study?

- Vocational Level 3 Courses in Dance, Drama, or Musical Theatre
- A Level Dance, Drama, Film Studies
- Level 3 Course in Theatrical Hair and Media Make Up
- Dance and Musical Theatre Triple Award Diploma
- Level 3 Diploma in I.S.T.D Dance
- Anatomy and Physiology (A&P) Level 3 Certificate
- Production Arts Level 3 Diploma – Lighting/Stage Management/ Set Construction/Prop Making

Year 9 Options Roadshow

GCSE Drama



Careers in Drama

- Actor
- Director
- Producer
- Stage Manager
- Costume Designer
- Set Designer
- Playwright
- Lighting Designer



- Lighting Technician
- Dramatic Sound Design
- Sound Engineer
- Props Designer
- Stage Crew
- Marketing Manager
- Sales Manager



What will I study at GCSE Drama?

Component	Component 1
Title of Component	Devising
Assessment	Performance of a devised piece and a portfolio about the process Internally assessed/ externally moderated



**As an Actor or through
Lighting and Sound Design**

What will I study at GCSE Drama?

Component	Component 1	Component 2
Title of Component	Devising	Performance from text
Assessment	Performance of a devised piece and a portfolio about the process Internally assessed/ externally moderated	Performance of two extracts from a text Externally assessed by a visiting examiner



**As an Actor or
through
Lighting and
Sound Design**

What will I study at GCSE Drama?



Component	Component 1	Component 2	Component 3
Title of Component	Devising	Performance from text	Theatre makers in practice
Assessment	Performance of a devised piece and a portfolio about the process Internally assessed/ externally moderated	Performance of two extracts from a text Externally assessed by a visiting examiner	Written exam Externally assessed

How is GCSE Drama different to KS3?



- At Key Stage 3 you have focussed on practical **Performance Skills, Directing** and **Drama Vocabulary**
- GCSE will require you to learn about Drama and Theatre at a more advanced level. You will be expected to demonstrate and write as if you were an **Actor, Director** and **Designer**
- Components of **Design**: Lighting, Sounds, Set Design, Props and Stage Furniture, Costume.
- **30%** of the marks for Drama GCSE are for Practical Performance or the Demonstration of Technical Skill (Operating the sound or Lighting during a performance)
- **70%** of the marks achieved for Drama GCSE are assessed through your written work. A 2000-word Portfolio and a Written Exam Paper.
- Practical work is used as a teaching tool to help us learn to **be Actors, Directors and Designers**



COULD I HAVE A CAREER IN THE PERFORMING ARTS INDUSTRY?

- If you want a career that is emotionally fulfilling, constantly varied, artistically, creatively and technically challenging then ask yourself:
- Can I thrive in a highly competitive environment?



- Am I adaptable, enterprising, persistent, resilient and determined to succeed?
- For more information about the course or any of these careers please ask a member of the Performing Arts team.



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Food Preparation & Nutrition



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Why choose this course?

- Develop **practical cooking and food preparation skills**
- Learn how **food science and nutrition** affect what you eat
- Make **healthier, informed food choices** for yourself and others

Possible careers include:

- Food and nutrition careers
- Hospitality and catering roles
- Further study in **food, health or science-based subjects**



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What will you study on this course?

- Different **food groups and ingredients**
- The **principles of nutrition** and healthy eating
- How **diet affects health and wellbeing**
- The **science behind food**, including how ingredients work
- **Where food comes from** and how it is produced
- **Cooking and food preparation skills**



What skills will you develop?

- **Safe and confident cooking skills**
- Understanding how **food works**, including science and nutrition
- Making **informed, healthy food choices**
- Understanding how **diet affects health and wellbeing**
- Exploring how **culture, cost and the environment** influence food choices
- Working with a range of **ingredients and cuisines** to develop and improve recipes

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How will I be assessed?

- The course is assessed through a **combination of practical work and one written exam**
- **50% exam** on food preparation, nutrition and food science
- **50% coursework**, including:
 - a food investigation task
 - a practical food preparation assessment

Most of the course focuses on **practical cooking skills**, supported by written and investigative work.



What you need to know about this course

- You will learn through **both cooking and theory work**
- Practical lessons are supported by **written tasks and coursework**
- There is **one exam** at the end of the course

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This course is right for you if...

- You enjoy **cooking, adapting recipes and improving your results**
- You are happy to **work independently and think creatively**
- You are interested in **food, nutrition, catering or hospitality**
- You want to develop **practical life skills** alongside theory

Engineering



Cambridge National: Engineering and Design

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Why should I choose this course?

- Develop **creative and practical skills** for the future
- Learn how to **solve real-world problems** through design
- Design and develop products using **tools and CAD software**

The **Cambridge National in Engineering and Design** could lead to:

- **A Levels**, including Design & Technology
- **Level 3 engineering or design qualifications**
- An **engineering or design apprenticeship**

Areas of the industry to consider:

- Engineering and design industries
- Automotive, aerospace and transport
- Energy and renewable technologies
- Product design and manufacturing

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What skills will you develop?

- Develop useful skills that can be applied in further study and future careers
- Build practical and design skills through hands-on learning
- Learn how to solve problems using tools, materials and technology
- Plan and manage tasks, including time, resources and improving ideas



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ASSESSMENT

The course is assessed through a **combination of written and practical work**.

- **1 written exam** on engineering and design principles
- **2 coursework units (NEA)** based on practical design projects

Most assessment is **practical**, allowing students to demonstrate skills through design and making.

Coursework is submitted at set times during the course.

This course is ideal if you enjoy practical, hands-on learning and want to develop creative problem-solving skills.



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“Life is a mountain of solvable problems, and I enjoy that.”

James Dyson

Carpentry



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Why should I choose this course?

- Learn **practical carpentry** skills by working with wood and tools
- Design and make **real products** in the workshop
- Develop skills for **apprenticeships, college or future work**

What could this course lead to?

The **Carpentry course** could lead to:

- **Further construction or carpentry courses** at college
- **Level 3 qualifications** in carpentry, joinery or construction
- A **carpentry or construction apprenticeship**

Areas of the industry to consider:

- Construction and housebuilding
- Carpentry and joinery trades
- Property development and refurbishment
- Construction and building services

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What career opportunities are there?

- Carpentry or building trades
- Construction and building services
- Site or project management (with experience)
- Further study towards architecture or teaching



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What will you study within this course? What skills will you develop?

The course is made up of practical and design-based learning, including:

- Learning how to **work accurately with wood and materials**
- Developing **practical carpentry skills** using tools and equipment safely
- Completing **design-and-make projects**, responding to given briefs

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When and how will I be assessed?

- Most assessment is practical, based on carpentry projects
- You will complete coursework tasks during the course
- There is one final written exam at the end of Year 11

Assessment focuses on skills, accuracy and quality of work, as well as safe use of tools and materials.



GCSE Art, Craft and Design

GCSE Photography

GCSE Textiles



GCSE Art, Craft and Design – focuses on:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Sculpture

GCSE Photography – focuses on:

- Digital photography
- Digital editing
- Physical editing





GCSE Textiles – focuses on:

- Pattern design
- Sewing
- Textures
- Fabrics and Fibres



GCSE Art, Craft and Design

GCSE Photography

GCSE Textiles

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Course Structure

Unit 1 – Portfolio - Two separate projects

Yr 10 and Term 1 – Yr 11

- 60% of final grade.
- Two bodies of work
- Coursework themes are pre-set

Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment

- 40% of final grade.
- This is set by the exam board
- Paper given to you in January, Yr 11
- 10 -12 weeks to produce evidence
- 10 hours to create a final outcome

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What skills will I develop and how will I be assessed?

AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4
Investigating – researching themes and the work of other artists	Developing ideas – experimenting with art techniques and materials	Recording – drawing, photography, experimenting with materials, techniques and processes	Response – Personal and meaningful work of your own

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Why should I choose this course?

- It is **exciting** and **fun!**
- You will explore **new materials**, **techniques** and **process** you've not yet had the opportunity too
- Every lesson has **practical** elements
- **Transferable employability** skills such as problem solving, meeting client needs, meeting deadlines, creativity, individuality.

What further study opportunities are there?

You could progress to:

- A Levels
- Further advanced vocational qualifications at Level 3
- An apprenticeship

Areas of the industry to consider:

- Prop and set designers
- Illustrators
- Costume designers
- Concept artists
- Media Make-up

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Harry Potter

007



GCSE Art, Craft and Design

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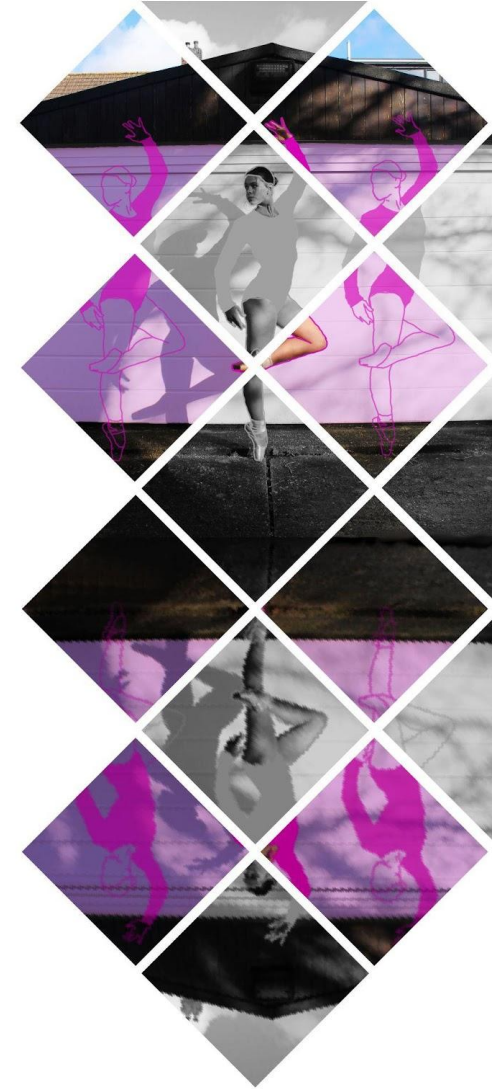
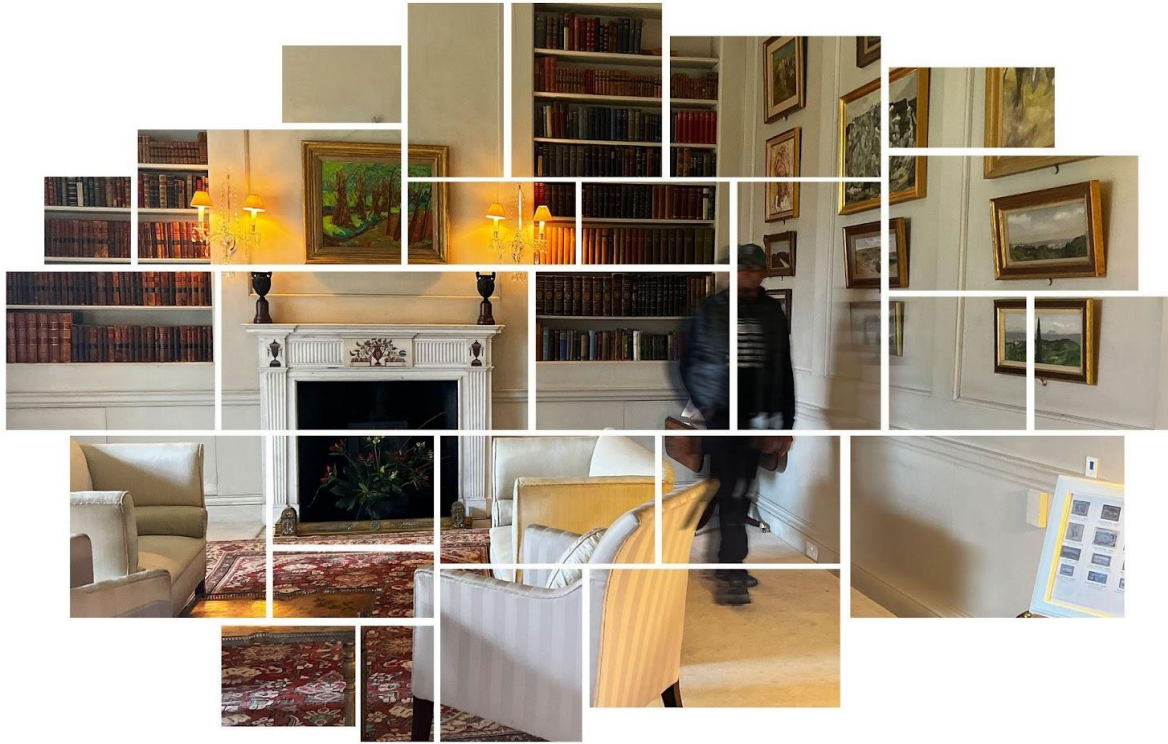
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GCSE Photography

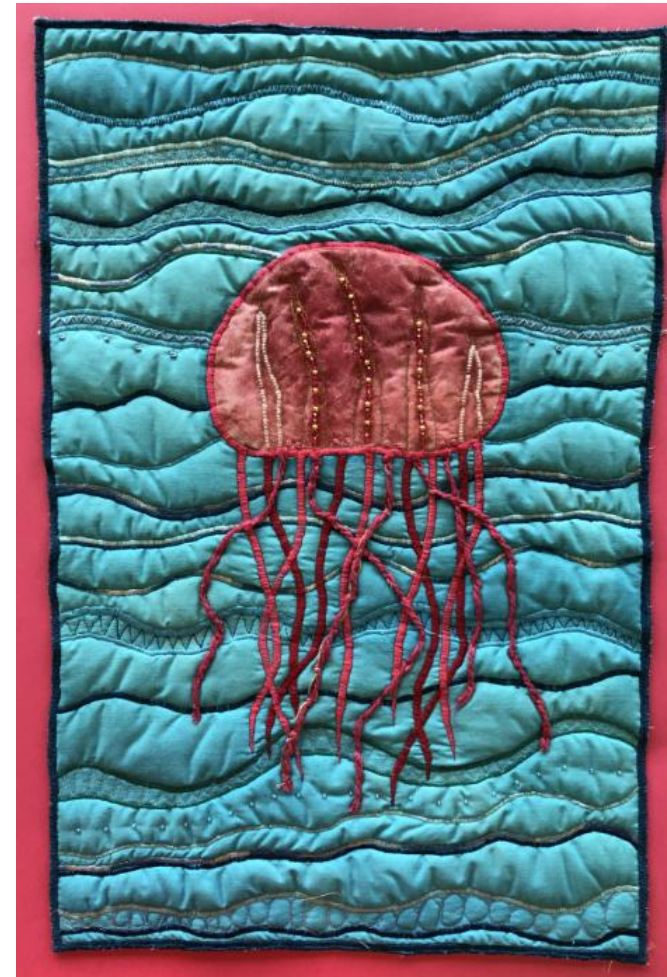
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GCSE Textiles

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You should consider art, photography or textiles as an option for GCSE if ...

- You enjoy responding to a brief, creating work that **responds to a given theme**
- You are a **self-motivated, independent, committed student** who can **met deadlines**.
- You are **resilient** – you will be told when and how to improve you work
- You are **responsive** – you will accept this critical feedback ad act upon it, making improvements to your work
- You are interested in **further study** and possibly a **career in the visual industries**

GCSE Art, Craft and Design

GCSE Photography

GCSE Textiles

Similar but Different!

Child Development



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Why should I choose this course?

- Provides you with the foundation knowledge and skills that lead you into the following careers

What career opportunities are there?

- Pediatric nurse
- Midwife
- Early years practitioner
- Child therapist
- Teacher
- Head teacher!
- Special educational needs educator
- Sports coach
- Speech and language therapist



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What will you study within this course? What skills will you develop?

Component 1: Children's Growth and Development

- explore children's growth and development aged birth to five years and understand expected patterns of development for children of different ages
- investigate the factors affecting growth and development of children from birth to five years old.

Component 2: Learning Through Play

- develop an understanding of how play activities can influence children's learning between the ages of birth and five years old
- consider the different types of play in which children engage, and how activities can support children's learning and progress across the five areas of development.

Component 3: Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop

- develop an understanding of the impact of individual needs on a child's learning and development
- investigate the role of an adult in play activities and how to adapt activities to promote the learning and support the inclusion of all children in play.

When and how will I be assessed?

Component 1: Children's Growth and Development	Component 2: Learning Through Play	Component 3: Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spring Y10• Exam board set assignment – Case studies x 3• Typed reports• 30% of final grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Autumn Y11• Exam board set assignment – Case studies x 3• Typed reports• 30% of final grade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Y11• Externally set exam – 120 minute paper• 40% of final grade

You should consider Child Development as an option for if ...

- You enjoy exploring **real world case studies**, learning new child development and educational **theories**, investigating **how child grow, develop and learn**.
- You are a **self-motivated**, independent worker and thinker, **compassionate about others** needs, individual situations and life circumstances.
- You are interested in **further study** and possibly a **career** in **midwifery, pediatric nursing, early years educator, primary school teacher, speech and language therapist**.

Questions?

Please pop and see Mrs SavageBlack or Mrs Kaye to discuss.

Come along to parents evening, there will be displays of student work to inspire you!

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- Thank you for listening today
- Wednesday Period 4 for more subject presentations
- Make sure parents are aware and have booked up for Parents and Preferences Evening