

# The West Grantham Church of England Secondary Academy

Year 9 Option Choices

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## WELCOME

West Grantham Church of England Secondary Academy are delighted to present your son/daughter with their Key Stage 4 options for the 2021-2022 academic year. We recognise that this is a significant and important moment in their educational journey and trust that the information found in this booklet, alongside the expertise and support offered from staff, will guide them into making reasoned and exciting choices that will continue to support their development as learners. We also appreciate that this may well be rather daunting for many students and with that in mind, as always, please reach out in order for us to best support you with the process.

All staff, regardless of role, have a strong belief that all our students are unique and talented in a variety of different ways. As such, we believe that our curriculum offer has something to suit everyone and marks a very exciting time for both students and staff in the Academy. The curriculum is broad, but at the same time balanced, allowing students to continue to develop key subjects whilst at the same exploring courses that may ignite a passion or interest. Thought has also been given to next steps in reference to life beyond Key Stage 4 and certainly, with possible future careers in mind.

Please read through this booklet with your son/daughter before our remote Options' Evening on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. The information contained explains which courses are on offer and will ask relevant questions which all students will need to consider when deciding on their choices. We are all extremely proud of our students' resilience in these trying times and strongly believe that the choices they make here will have a positive impact on their futures.

All of us at West Grantham Church of England Secondary Academy look forward to working collaboratively with you and our students in order to best support their progress and achievement over the coming years.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### **What is the difference between a BTEC and a GCSE?**

The Business and Technology Education Council is the British body which awards vocational qualifications. Such qualifications are commonly referred to as 'BTECs'. BTEC qualifications are undertaken in vocational subjects ranging from business studies to engineering. BTECs are worth the equivalent of 1 GCSE 9-4 but are assessed differently. Awards are Pass (C grade), Merit (B grade) and Distinction/Distinction\*. If students study a Level 1 qualification then this is the equivalent of a 3-1 GCSE grade.

### **How do I choose the right course?**

Students are expected to discuss the courses that are of interest to them with teachers and parents, taking into consideration their areas of strength and interest. Staff will have more in-depth knowledge about the courses on offer and, if anyone needs more information than is contained in this booklet, we strongly encourage you to book appointments with relevant members of staff on our remote Options Evening on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021. The more information students have, the more able they are to make the choice that is right for them.

### **What are EBacc (English Baccalaureate) courses?**

The EBacc measures a student's academic performance in their eight best subjects (where they gain the highest grade). These subjects have to include maths, English and a minimum of 3 EBacc subjects which are science core, science additional, geography, history and a language. Achievement of these qualifications is considered an excellent pathway to A-Level and Level 3 qualifications.

### **Which courses are compulsory?**

The following subjects are compulsory to study: English, maths, science (trilogy or triple) and physical education. Completing a religious education GCSE will be an option this year, however all students will still have one lesson of compulsory religious education each week to support our own ethos as a Church of England school and in line with the expectations of the national curriculum.

### **How many courses should I choose?**

Students should choose 3 subjects in total. All students should choose 1 EBacc subject and those who wish to achieve the full EBacc qualification should include a minimum of 2 EBacc.

### **Can my child change options once they have started?**

No. The demand of level 2 qualifications is such that changing part way through would be too detrimental to their progress.

### **Are my choices guaranteed?**

Whilst we will do all we can to ensure that you get the choices that you want occasionally, if demand for a particular subject is too low to go ahead, then the course may be withdrawn from the curriculum. In addition, if demand is too high for a subject the Academy may need to interview students regarding their suitability for the subject, and other factors may need to be considered such as behaviour records and/or attendance.

## CONTENTS

• Science - overview of pathways	Page 5
• EBacc- French	Page 6
• EBacc - Geography	Page 7
• EBacc - History	Page 8
• Art	Page 9
• Automotive Engineering	Page 10
• Business Enterprise	Page 11
• Creative Media	Page 12
• Health and Social Care	Page 13
• Hospitality and Catering	Page 14
• Photography	Page 15
• Religious Education	Page 16
• Sport	Page 17

## NOTES

## Course Details - Science

Point of contact - Mr. Tom Butt - [tbutt@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:tbutt@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - AQA/GCSE

### **AQA Science (Trilogy)**

Trilogy is a double award and worth two GCSEs. This will cover a broad range of topics across all three areas of biology, chemistry and physics, giving students a good foundation in knowledge and develop fundamental skills.

Assessment structure: 100% written examination (6 x written exam papers)

### **AQA Separate Science**

Nationally, the triple science program is regarded as being a demanding course which comprises of the combined science content offered to all students, with extension content. The extension content looks in more details at how our bodies are regulated, the energy changes in chemical reactions and the natural phenomena of how light behaves.

This demanding trio of GCSE subjects will enable students to demonstrate their academic ability and mastery of scientific concepts as well as developing fundamental skills in writing, mathematics, problem solving and practical activities.

Assessment structure: 100% written examination (6 x written exam papers)

### **AQA Science (ELC and Trilogy)**

Studying ELC science in conjunction with trilogy science helps build students confidence in the subject before sitting their final exams in year 11. There are additional practical assessments and on demand papers, so the students sit the papers when they are ready to keep them motivated.

Assessment structure (ELC): 6x written examinations + 6x practical assessments

Assessment structure (Trilogy): 100% written examination (6 x written exam papers)

### **Person specification - is this course right for you?**

Students should enjoy, and be committed to, both the theoretical and practical work in science.

Students who are part of this course should be prepared for a significant part of their timetable to be filled by science subjects (over 20% of all lessons, 5 lessons per week) and as such should display a strong passion for the subject.

### **Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?**

These courses support the transition from GCSE to A-Level biology, chemistry and physics. The additional topics introduced through separate science are picked up at the beginning of the A-Levels and enable students to be successful in their studies. Students can go on to pursue careers in medicine, engineering, conservation and ecology, scientific research and chemical engineering after taking GCSE science.

## Course Details - French

Point of contact - Mrs. Hannah Lines - [hlines@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:hlines@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - Edexcel/GCSE

At West Grantham we follow the Edexcel French GCSE course. The course will build on basic language skills and increase confidence. Students will complete 5 units of study:

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

All exams will be taken at the end of Year 11 in listening, speaking, reading and writing. All contribute 25% each to your final examination grade in French.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

Enjoyment of learning French or foreign languages

Enthusiasm and interest in the subject

A commitment to succeed

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

Various careers in travel, education, business, hospitality, construction, sport, amongst many others

Students choosing this subject will be able to attend trips abroad

Further education including study at university

The ability to speak a modern foreign language could provide opportunities for further study or employment abroad

Speaking a foreign language is an advantageous skill in today's society, whatever area of work you decide to go into.

## Course Details - Geography

Point of contact - Mr. Blair Coburn - [bcoburn@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:bcoburn@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - AQA/GCSE

GCSE (AQA) Geography at West Grantham Academy explores several geographical topics discovering both the geography of the UK and the rest of the world. Geographers will be encouraged to use enquiry learning to develop a deep understanding of the world around them.

### Unit 1- Living with the physical environment

The aims of this unit are to develop an understanding of the tectonic, geomorphological, biological and meteorological processes and features in different environments, and the need for management strategies governed by sustainability and consideration of the direct and indirect effects of human interaction with the Earth and the atmosphere.

### Unit 2- Living with the human environment

The aims of this unit are to develop an understanding of the factors that produce a diverse variety of human environments; the dynamic nature of these environments that change over time and place; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenge and opportunity for these environments.

### Unit 3- Geographical applications

The geographical applications unit is designed to be synoptic in that students will be required to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the full course of study.

It is an opportunity for students to show their breadth of understanding and an appreciation of the interrelationships between different aspects of geographical study. Students will complete two full days of fieldwork- one with a human focus about Nottingham, the other with a physical focus about the Holderness Coast, Yorkshire.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

Geography will appeal to students with a genuine interest in how the world works both in natural and human terms. If you want to understand the planet you live on and the impact it has on our lives, then geography is the course for you. Geography is also great for students who like to think critically and want to better understand the world they live in.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

Geography is increasingly recognised by universities and employers as the “must-have subject” as it is academically challenging and compatible with any subject combination. There is natural progression through to A Level and universities regard it as a “facilitating subject” for any degree course as geographers are highly skilled, versatile and globally aware. Directly linked degrees include Environmental Science, Urban Planning, Geology, Ecology, Earth Sciences, Anthropology, Archaeology, Economics and Politics. Career choices range from Environmental Consultancy, Town Planning, Transport Planner, Tourism, Market Research, Conservation, Environmental Law, Local Government and Green Technology. The list is endless as Geography will only ever create opportunities.



## Course Details - History

Point of contact - Mr. Callum Grady - [cgrady@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:cgrady@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - AQA/GCSE

This AQA History course is divided into four main study areas:

A thematic study of Health and the people circa 1000 to the present day.

A period study of Germany: Democracy and dictatorship 1890-1945.

A British depth study of Elizabethan England: circa 1568 to 1603.

Wider world depth study of Conflict and Tension: The First World War, 1894-1918.

### **Person specification - is this course right for you?**

History appeals to people who have an enquiring mind, who want to know about the lives of real people and how their actions have shaped the world we live in today. You will consider the impact and importance of many key historical figures and events and have regular opportunities to debate and discuss these. Lessons are engaging, challenging and fun and you are encouraged to develop your own opinions on key questions. You will also complete an in-depth study of an historic environment that is linked to the Elizabethan England Study.

### **Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?**

History develops many skills that impress employers. History students are able to reach independent judgements, ask important questions, weigh up the evidence presented to them and write and speak with confidence.

History can be studied in further education and can lead to a variety of careers. History students often go on to work in teaching, the media, museum and archive offices, journalism and law.

## Course Details - Art

Point of contact - Mrs. Jacqueline Pearson - [jpearson@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:jpearson@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - Edexcel/GCSE

This course gives students the opportunity to produce work that demonstrates the use of formal elements and creative skills.

Students' work will give form to individual thoughts, feelings, observations and ideas.

Students will study the work of others to support and develop their work.

60% coursework and 40% practical exam.

Units: A01 artist research, A02 media experimentation, A03 drawing skills and ideas, A04 final piece.

Drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture and mixed media.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

- A personal, creative and imaginative approach is needed.
- Enjoyment of practical activity is critical.
- Integration of some critical and historical knowledge is required.
- You must be willing to experiment and take risks in your work.
- You must be able to work to deadlines.
- Students will have an interest in studying and/or using art in the future.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

You might go on to study art and design-based subjects further including foundation and degree courses. There are hundreds of art-based career specialisms which can be used in a wide variety of jobs such as illustrator, fine artist, fashion designer, game designer, milliner, graphic designer, art teacher, sculptor, art specialist, gallery curator, art dealer or auctioneer or more general careers that require an element of artistic knowledge such as interior design, product development and visual merchandising.

## Course Details - Automotive Engineering

Point of contact - Mr. Stevie Thornton - [sthornton@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:sthornton@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - IMI Diploma in Service and Maintenance Engineering (VRQ)

The service and maintenance engineering course offers students the opportunity to gain an internationally recognised qualification with the IMI (Institute of the Mot Motor Industry) that will help them progress into further education and/or the workplace. They will have the opportunity to fix and restore motorbike/car projects whilst learning the theory of how the components and systems work. The course teaches a wide range of skills from basic tool handling to using up to date diagnostic tools.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

This course will appeal to people who have an interest in the automotive industry, who like working with their hands, problem solving and those who are practical learners.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

Students can continue into further education with this course to pursue a specialism.

There are some great opportunities to progress into apprenticeships within local and national organisations.

This is a good route if you are considering a career in the armed forces as the teamwork, communication and practical applications are all well-suited transferable skills.

**PLEASE NOTE - PLACES ON THIS COURSE ARE VERY LIMITED AND MAY INVOLVE AN INTERVIEW**

## Course Details - Business Enterprise

Point of contact - Mrs. Kirsty Kuffour - [kkufffour@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:kkufffour@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - TBC/BTEC

This qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE and is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about enterprise and entrepreneurship. You will learn about the ideas, mindsets and successes of enterprises and entrepreneurs. You will learn about planning and finance, including cash flows, and how to take a product to market. You will develop an idea for a small enterprise of your own and plan how best to set it up and fund it. You will work with others in order to run a small enterprise, using your knowledge and building your business skills. During the course you will also develop important skills that are useful in any industry, such as problem solving, decision making, innovation, project management, team working and communication.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

You will carry out tasks or assignments throughout the course. These will be marked by your teacher and so you will receive regular feedback as to how you are progressing. Towards the end of the course, you will carry out one larger task using the knowledge, skills and techniques you have learned to run a small enterprise and assess its success. All of the work that you do throughout the course, including the tasks or assignments, will prepare you for the final task. As well as carrying out tasks, your knowledge and understanding of finance and aspects of business and enterprise (including marketing and market research) will be assessed through an exam.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

When you have completed the qualification, you will have developed a practical understanding of the enterprise sector. You will also have developed useful skills that are not generally covered in GCSE courses. This will give you a better idea of whether the business enterprise sector is for you and whether it is an area you would like to study further. After you have finished the course, you may want to go on to further study such as A-Levels, BTECs or a mixture of both, in areas such as business, enterprise and entrepreneurship, marketing, computing or IT.

## Course Details - Creative Media

Point of contact - Mr. George Mole - [gmole@bluecaotmeres.co.uk](mailto:gmole@bluecaotmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - Edexcel/BTEC

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:  
Development of key skills that prove your aptitude in creative media production such as investigating and developing ideas through pre-production, production and post-production of media products  
Process that underpins effective ways of working in creative media production, such as responding to briefs and feedback, planning and generating ideas.

Attitudes that are considered most important in creative media production, including personal management and communication

Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as production processes and techniques.

### **Person specification - is this course right for you?**

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by applying the learned knowledge and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating media products as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden the learners experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

### **Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?**

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:  
A-Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects  
Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Media, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the media sector.

## Course Details - Health and Social Care

Point of contact - Ms. Deborah Dort - [ddort@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:ddort@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - WJEC/GCSE

The WJEC GCSE in Health and Social Care, and Childcare equips learners with knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of individuals throughout the life cycle from conception to later adulthood.

Learners have the opportunity to develop their understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. They will also gain an understanding of the social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs of people who use care and support services and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

It is most suitable for students as a foundation for further study, providing students with a core depth of knowledge and a range of general and specialist knowledge and understanding that will support progression to further learning and future employment.

This course will appeal to students with an interest in health and social care and an ability to be willing to help others.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

By studying Health and Social Care, learners will be able to:

- Develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of health and social care, and childcare contexts.
- Actively engage in the study of health, social care and childcare to develop as effective and independent learners.
- Act as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds appreciate a range of perspectives on the impacts of health and social care, and childcare.

## Course Details - Hospitality and Catering

Point of contact - Ms. Deborah Dort - [ddort@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:ddort@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - WJEC/BTEC

The course structure has been designed to develop in learners the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they need to take into account to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, learners will also have the opportunity to develop their food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

It is most suitable for students as a foundation for further study, providing students with a core depth of knowledge and a range of general and specialist skills that will support progression to further learning and future employment.

This course will appeal to students with an interest in catering and cooking, who are willing to work at a fast pace, are well organised and can work independently.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

Hospitality and Catering is paramount in the development of life skills that will equip students with the ability to provide a better quality of life for themselves. Many of the skills learned are also useful to employers as students must be able to demonstrate responsibility and independence in their approach.

Career opportunities include areas such as Hospitality Catering establishments, Food Manufacture and Product Development, Buying, Retail, Environmental Health, Food Science, Marketing, Teaching, Dietary Advisor and Food Microbiology.

## Course Details - Photography

Point of contact - Mrs. Jacqueline Pearson - [jpearson@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:jpearson@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - Edexcel/GCSE

This course gives students the opportunity to produce photography as a journey through the process of lens-and light-based media. This could include work created using film, video, digital imaging or light sensitive materials. Students will also understand that Photography practitioners may work to client commissions within a commercial photography studio or work as free- lance photographers.

60% coursework and 40% practical exam.

Units: A01 photographer/ artist research, A02 media experimentation, A03 photography skills and ideas, A04 final piece.

You must choose at least one area of study; documentary photography, photo-journalism, studio photography, location photography, experimental imagery, installation and moving image, film, video or animation.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

- A personal, creative and imaginative approach is needed.
- Enjoyment of practical activity is critical.
- Integration of some critical and historical knowledge is required.
- You must be willing to experiment and take risks in your work.
- You must be able to work to deadlines.
- Students will have an interest in studying using photography in the future.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

You might go on to study photography-based subjects further including foundation and degree courses. Photography based career specialisms which can be used in a wide variety of jobs such as wildlife, wedding, portraiture, family, studio, action photography, film, video or animation and graphic design, product development and visual merchandising.



## Course Details - Religious Education

Point of contact - Mr. Stevie Thornton - [sthornton@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:sthornton@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - Edexcel/GCSE

Perhaps more important than ever in an ever changing and turbulent society, we are pleased to introduce Religious Education as an option subject. This course seeks to look at the belief, interpretation and practice of Christianity and Islam, whilst also seeking to develop, enthuse and challenge students on philosophical and ethical issues and debates within our society today.

Students will also be needed to explore both Humanist and non-religious beliefs on a number of topics including different ethical issues such as euthanasia and abortion, crime and punishment and matters of life and death.

Students will complete two external assessments at the end of Year 11 including specific reference to Christian and Muslim beliefs and practice as well as the application of ethical issues.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

There is no need to be a religious believer to enjoy and be successful at Religious Education. What you will need however, is the ability to express your own opinions, backed by evidence and to be able to empathise and appreciate other perspectives and points of view. Very rarely do qualifications allow you an opportunity to express your own views, argue with your teachers and be rewarded! If you are someone with an open mind, an interest in big questions and a desire to learn about the people that make up our society, this course may well be right for you.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

In addition to possible studying a combination of religion, theology and philosophy at A-Level, knowledge of other cultures and world religious beliefs can be useful in many jobs where you are working with the public or communities. These could include counselling and social services, marketing, sales and advertising, catering and hospitality, leisure, sport and tourism, retail sales and customer services, education and training, medicine and nursing, and service sector roles such as the police.

## Course Details - Sport

Point of contact - Mr. Alastair Weir - [aweir@bluecoatmeres.co.uk](mailto:aweir@bluecoatmeres.co.uk)

Exam board and qualification - TBC/BTEC

The course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that's externally assessed.

The course is run in a three-component structure. Explore, develop and apply. This allows students to build and embed their knowledge, grow in confidence and then put into practice what they have learnt.

- Component 1 - Understanding the body and supporting technology for sport and activity. The aim of this component is to explore the body systems, common sports injuries and technological advances in the sports sector. This component is internally assessed with assignments. It makes up 30% of the course.
- Component 2 - The principals of training, nutrition and psychology for sport and activity. The aim of this component is to explore how training, nutrition and psychological factors contribute to engagement in sport and activity. It is externally assessed and makes up 40% of the course.
- Component 3 - Applying the principals of sport and activity. The aim of this component is to understand the attributes of a successful sports leader and plan and lead an engaging activity session. It is internally assessed and makes up 30% of the course.

### Person specification - is this course right for you?

The BTEC Tech award in sport, activity and fitness will appeal to students with recognisable sporting ability and an interest in physical activity. You must enjoy taking part in a wide range of physical activities to gain access to this course. However, students must also be prepared to spend substantial time in the classroom studying the theory of PE & sport. Lessons are active, challenging and fun.

### Further progression - what opportunities could this course offer you?

PE & sport students often go on to study related subjects in further education with many opportunities for careers in the sports industry including coaching and teaching, sports development, gym instruction, physiotherapy, sports journalism and many more.

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SECONDARY ACADEMY

