

2015 Option Choices Booklet

Year 8



Section 1: Core subject information

This section details the course information for the core examined subjects:

- English and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science

All students also will have a core provision of Religious Education (RE) and Physical Education (PE) on their timetable.

English Language

English Literature

Course overview:

English Language is the study of all aspects of reading, writing and spoken communication.

As a core subject, English is compulsory for all students and is a key subject which is required for most Post-16 and University courses and a pre-requisite for many careers.

This is the final assessment of a student's progress over the eleven years of formal education that they have taken to this point and should not just be seen as a test of skills learned in Key Stage 4.

Along with **English Literature**, **English Language** is taught through the study of a wide range of printed and digital texts, including: newspaper and magazine articles; film, television and online resources; novels and plays. Skills such as grammar, spelling and structuring writing are taught explicitly and students develop key skills which will help them to communicate effectively throughout their lives.

Routes to university

A

minimum of a C grade in English is needed to access most degree courses.

Further study:

English Language and Literature	Drama	Theatre Studies
Media Studies	Film Studies	Journalism
Law	Philosophy	Ethics
Politics	Social Sciences	Education

Relevance to careers:

A good GCSE in English is expected for entry to most career paths.

Employers expect candidates to be able to demonstrate good standards of literacy and communication skills and the GCSE is seen as the minimum requirement for many careers.

Careers such as those listed below are particularly suited to students with good English skills:

Journalism
Teaching
Law
Social Sciences

For further information, please contact : **Miss Gillett (Amy.Gillett@oasisbrightstowe.org)**



Mathematics

Course overview:

GCSE Mathematics is the study of number, algebra, geometry, measures, working with data and probability.

The course is assessed through a final exam at the end of year 11 where you will sit a calculator paper and a non-calculator paper on separate days. Each paper is one hour and 45 minutes in length.

There will be a more demanding content at grade A and A* to better prepare you for taking Mathematics at A-Level and there will be more of an emphasis on memorising and recalling key formulae and facts at all grades.

Many students will take GCSE Statistics alongside their Maths GCSE.

Statistics

Course overview:

GCSE Statistics primarily focuses on the study of working with data and probability. There are many topics within this course which are also studied as part of the GCSE in Mathematics and as a result this course is very accessible. You will be assessed at the end of year 11 with a calculator paper which is worth 75% of your overall grade. The other 25% of your grade will be assessed through one controlled assessment piece. This will take place during either year 10 or year 11.

Students who have taken GCSE Statistics are very well prepared for research that will take place during their University career. There is research that supports the fact that students who do well in Statistics at GCSE produce better final dissertations that require quantitative analysis.

The course is comprised of the following topic areas:

- How to plan an investigation
- Collecting data
- Placing data into tables
- Drawing relevant graph and charts
- Analysis of data
- Probability

Routes to University:

The following are a selection of degrees at University which require a 'good' GCSE in Mathematics:

- Architecture
- Astronomy
- Business
- Computer Science
- Design
- Economics
- Electronics
- Engineering
- Psychology
- Sports Science
- Veterinary Science

Relevance to careers:

Mathematics and Statistics are used in many careers:

- Foresters & Conversation Scientists
- Geologists & Oceanographers / Meteorologists
- Astronomers
- Pilots & Flight Engineers
- Landscape Architects
- Pharmacists
- Surveyors
- Automobile Mechanics
- Electricians and Construction



Science

As a core subject, double science is compulsory for all students and constitutes two GCSEs. Two GCSEs in science are required for most Post-16 and University courses and are pre-requisite for many careers.

Whilst Biology and Chemistry are studied by all students, Physics will remain an optional subject. However, core aspects of Physics will be studied during Year 9.

All GCSE courses (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) follow a linear approach, which means there are exams only at the end of Year 11. There will no-longer be a course work component or an option to re-sit.



Course Details

GCSE Biology: The science of life and living organisms, including their structure, function, growth, origin, evolution and distribution. We explore 'Understanding Organisms', 'Understanding Our Environment', 'Living And Growing', 'A Green World', 'Living Body' and 'Beyond The Microscope'.

GCSE Chemistry: The science of the composition, structure, properties and reactions of matter at the atomic and molecular level. We explore 'Carbon Chemistry', 'Chemical Resources', 'Chemical Economics', 'The Periodic Table', 'How Much? (Quantitative Analysis)' and 'Chemistry Out There'.

Physics

GCSE Physics is an option available to students who have made strong progress in science and who are working to a 6b or above by the end of Year 8. Physics is the science concerned with the nature and properties of matter and energy which includes mechanics, heat, light and other forms of the electromagnetic spectrum; sound, electricity, magnetism and the structure and decay of atoms. We explore 'Energy For The Home', 'Space For Reflection', 'Radiation For Life', 'Living For The Future (Energy Resources)', 'Forces For Transport', and 'Electricity For Gadgets'.

Routes to University

As a core subject most further education courses will request a C grade in science. A minimum of a 2 Science qualifications will be needed to access most degree courses.

FE courses could include:

Sport science
Child Care/Healthcare/Nursing
Plumbing
Electrical engineering (electrician)
Mechanics

Relevance to careers

Health care, nursing and Medicine	Forestry	Engineering
Teaching	Computer science	Clinical trials Technician
Dental Nurse	Medical sales	Veterinary nurses
Environmental Health technician	Waste management technician	
Electrician	Sound engineer	Mechanics
Communications	Child Care (early years)	

For further information, please contact: **Mr Bark** (sam.bark@oasisbrightstowe.org)

Section 2: Option subjects

This section details the course information for the Optional subjects:

Students will need to select either 3 or 4 optional courses, depending on their pathway.

The questions to ask to help you decide your options are:

Pathway	Options
O	Combined Curriculum. Your options are specially designed for you as a combined set of qualifications. You are likely to be in Miss Robertson's English and Maths group. Please talk to Miss Snailham about this course
A	You are likely to have English classes in year 8 with Miss Gillett or Miss Lane and Maths classes in year 8 with Miss Parris or Mr Scudamore. You are recommended to choose 3 vocational courses. Your 4th option will be extra time with English and Maths in Year 9, to ensure you make enough progress to pass these core courses.
B	You will need to choose at least one Humanity (Geography, History) and one language (Spanish, French). You will need to choose 2 other options.
S	As for Option B, but you are also choosing Physics as a 3rd Science. You therefore have one other option to choose.

Do I have a job in mind / a career aim? What subjects do I need to take for this?

- Am I good at this subject already?
- Am I interested in studying this further? Will I enjoy the course?
- Can I do well at this course (for example, how much practical work is there, if I am better at this element; how many exam papers are there?)
- Will this course keep doors open for me for future study?
- Can I stick with this course for 3 years?

Subject teachers are available to discuss these questions with you during the Options process.

The Options are grouped in the rooms you will find them in during Options Evening:

H1 - Innovations Room	Spanish History Philosophy & Ethics /Religious Studies	French Physics	Geography
H2 - Drama Studio	Drama Health and Social Care Sport/PE		
Assembly Hall	Art and Design Information Technology Product Design Textiles	Catering Music Engineering	Combined Curriculum

Spanish

GCSE Spanish is a broad and exciting course that not only gives students the opportunity to learn Spanish, the third most widely spoken language in the world, but also allows for exploration of the vibrant culture and traditions of Spain and Latin America.

There are four primary skills which are developed throughout the duration of the course. These are

- Speaking
- Writing
- Reading
- Listening.



Speaking and writing are currently assessed through coursework carried out over the final two years of the course while reading and listening are assessed in exam conditions at the end of the course.

The curriculum is largely accessible to all and covers a wide variety of topics from social issues to health and lifestyle. Students will be required to translate short texts from English into Spanish, and there will be a greater focus on the culture and identity of countries where the languages are spoken.

Routes to University (relevant courses for further study).

A GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language is undoubtedly an asset when applying to any University course, in fact most Russell Group Universities expect applicants to have a C or above in a language at GCSE.

A GCSE in Spanish will be advantageous if not necessary to access courses such as:

- Modern Foreign Languages
- History
- International Relations
- Politics
- Journalism
- Business
- Education

Relevance to careers

The ability to understand and communicate in a foreign language will be an asset when pursuing any career. Currently British students are losing out on jobs to other Europeans because not enough of us can speak a second language.

A GCSE in Spanish will give you a distinct advantage when applying for any job at home or abroad.

Careers where language skills have a direct application include but are not limited to:

- Translator/interpreter
- Tour guide
- Pilot
- TV presenter
- Entrepreneur
- Football coach
- Customer service personnel
- Teacher
- Marketing executive
- Diplomat



For further information, please contact : **Ms Burke (Ann.Burke@oasisbrightstowe.org)**

French

French GCSE gives students a broad and varied knowledge of everyday language through studying a variety of topics such as healthy lifestyle, holidays and travel, the world of work and the environment. Each topic is studied with a focus on vocabulary and improving the four skills (reading, writing, listening and speaking).

Topics are broken down into easy to understand sections and grammar is mainly taught through the use of authentic French resources and cultural topics. The aim of the course is to give students an excellent understanding of both French language and culture.

Studying French can act as a basis for learning any Latin based language.

Routes to University:

Modern Languages (French and other foreign languages)
Translating and Interpreting
Society and culture degrees
Literature
International development
International relations
Teaching

If you wish to study languages at A-level and later at university it is necessary to obtain a good GCSE grade (B or above) and a top grade at A-level (B or above).

French GCSE is relevant to all university courses and many Russell Group universities expect students to have a C or above in a modern foreign language at GCSE level.



Relevance to careers:

Careers which are suited to people with French language skills are:

Broadcast journalist
Diplomatic Services operational officer
English as a foreign language teacher
Event organiser
Logistics and distribution manager
Marketing executive
Patent examiner
Retail buyer
Sales executive
Solicitor
Tour manager



French speaking countries are particularly the following fields of business:

Genetics, television, tourism, cars, aerospace, physics

If you wish to work in one of the above fields speaking French would be advantageous.

As well as the careers mentioned here, studying French GCSE gives you transferable communication and problem solving skills which can be applied to any career.

strong in

For further information, please contact: **Ms Burke (Ann.Burke@oasisbrightstowe.org)**

History

General Information:

Studying History at GCSE is both exciting and an opportunity to gain valuable skills that will be essential for your future careers. You will learn how to interpret and evaluate sources, analyse arguments and importantly your literacy will improve significantly. History is about people – real people whose lives were sometimes thrilling, like travelling across the Wild West in a wagon train, and sometimes frightening, like having a hole drilled in your head to cure you of headaches or epilepsy. Whatever their lives were about, there are often fascinating and sometimes tragic stories behind them – and you'll discover some of these on this intriguing course.

Unit 1

Medicine through time: In this unit, pupils will explore the way medicine and health progressed and in some cases got worse. We start examining the Prehistoric period and finish at the present day. Overall, the course focusses on a key set of questions; What caused people to be healthy or unhealthy? What ideas did people have about the causes of illness? Who provided medical care? How far did new ideas and treatments affect the population?

Unit 2

The America West, 1840-1895: This study in depth allows students to investigate what it was like to live as a Native American. We will then examine how the Westward movement of the Europeans affected the lives of the Native Americans and the clash of the two cultures. Students will learn about the movement of groups like the gold miners, the Mormons, cowboys and homesteaders. The unit ends after we study some of the most infamous battles of the time.

Unit 3

Students complete a piece of controlled coursework on Berkeley Castle. We will visit this brilliant Medieval castle and have a guided tour, discovering who was murdered there and when the castle was attacked. Students will also study how the castle has changed from a fortress to a family home.

For further information, please contact: **Miss Norman** (emma.norman@oasisbrightstowe.org)



Geography

Geography is the study of the world around us and equips you with the essential skills to succeed in many careers. In fact, geography students are among the most employable graduates around, with 93% currently in jobs – out of all subjects this puts Geography behind only sports science and law!

GCSE Geography is an exciting and inspiring course which allows you to understand how key processes on planet Earth are likely to change over the next 50 years. We will study the following topics:

Volcanoes, Earthquakes and Tsunamis

Life in the City

Coasts and Rivers (including devastating floods!)

Population, Migration and China's one-child policy

Tourism – in the UK and abroad

There will also be **trips!**

Lots of fun trips, including Cabot Circus and Weston-super Mare (including the Grand Pier!) will be running – possibly with even more to come!

...so if you've enjoyed Geography in year 8, carry on studying it!

Routes to University:

A minimum of a C grade in GCSE Geography is required to study the subject at A Level.

Most universities request at least a C grade at A Level for further study of geography at university.

GCSE Geography also supports the following courses at A Level:

Law

Politics

Business and Economics

Citizenship

Religion and Ethics

English

Mathematics

Relevance to careers:

Geography is the key to your future! It opens a huge number of doors to future careers, such as:

Volcanology

Seismology (the study of earthquakes and tsunamis)

Flood management

Tourism

Environmental management

Climate scientist

Meteorology (the study of the weather)

Pollution manager

Journalism

Accountancy

Nature conservation

Teaching

Business and Economics

Traffic management

Youth and community worker

Environmental Scientist

Town planner

Law



For further information, please contact: **Dr Murray** (steve.murray@oasisbrightstowe.org)

Drama

Do you enjoy:

Expressing yourself in an active and exciting way?

Working in a group?

Creating your own drama work?

If yes, then this GCSE Drama course is ideal for you.

What do I need to know before, or be able to do, taking this course?

- You will have had experience of drama in Drama lessons and in English lessons.
- You may also be a member of a drama club or have taken part in drama performances and plays.
- You will develop your improvisation and acting skills to a higher level.
- You will also look at plays in more detail and at different ways of bringing a script to life on stage.
- If you are more interested in the technical aspects of drama (for example set design or lighting) you could focus on these for part of the course.



What will I learn?

You will learn how drama is created, including all the acting and staging skills that are needed to put a piece of drama on to the stage. You will learn how to create a character and play this character in a performance.

What can I do after the course?

- GCE Drama & Theatre Studies
- GCE Performing Arts (Acting)

Careers in which Drama training is useful include:

Law, Psychology and the Caring Professions, Media Journalism, Advertising, Business – Public Relations, Teaching and the Performing Arts Industry.



For further information please contact :

Miss Grainger Maria.Grainger@oasisbrightstowe.org

Health and Social Care

In Health and Social Care, you will study:

Human Lifespan Development: In this unit, you will gain an understanding of lifespan development, which is essential when working in health and social care, as you will be able to appreciate the care needs of individuals at different life stages.

Health and Social Care Values: Overall this unit will enable you to understand the high standards that are expected in health and social care, in order to safeguard the wellbeing of individuals who use health and social care services.

Effective Communication in Health and Social Care: The aim of this unit is to enable learners to explore the knowledge and skills related to health and safety issues, including legislation in health and social care environments, risk assessment and the actions that are necessary to minimise potential hazards and risks. It is important that learners develop knowledge of hazards and risks, relevant legislation and the use and process of risk assessment.

The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing: This unit will not only help to prepare you for a career in health and social care, it will support your own nutritional choices and contribute to your own health and wellbeing.

General Information:

This BTEC First Award course is based around 120-guided-learning-hours and consists of two mandatory units, one of which is an externally assessed written examination, plus two other optional units. The optional units selected for study this year are Units 3 and 6. There is a practical element that helps to re-enforce the learning taking place. Each unit will require students to produce various written assignments that will be assessed and graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction. Each unit is then converted into a point score. Students will need to secure 48 points or more to gain a pass grade at level 2. Students who are not successful can still gain a Level 1 provided enough points are secured (24 points).

Routes to University

A grade B or above in Health & Social Care will be required to study the following courses, which can then lead to study at Higher Education;

A level Health & Social Care: Applied

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Health & Social Care

Relevance to careers

BTEC Health & Social Care can be used to gain access, through study at Further Education and Higher Education, to the following careers;

Nursery workers

Nurses

Social Worker

Youth workers

Counsellors

Community carers.



BTEC Sport / PE

BTEC Sport involves the study of the following units:

Fitness for sport & exercise

In learning aim A you will cover the components of physical and skill-related fitness and the principles of training. Learning aim B explores different fitness training methods for developing components of fitness, and for learning aim C you will gain knowledge and skills in undertaking and administering fitness tests.

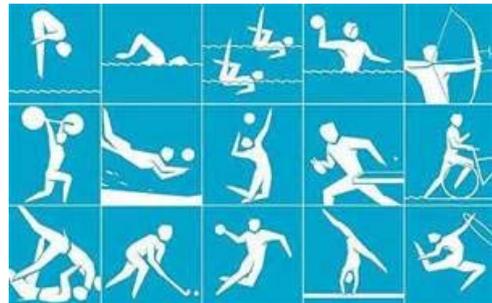
This unit is particularly relevant if you would like to work in sports coaching, elite sport or personal training.

Practical sports performance

This unit focuses on developing and improving your own practical sports performance. This is achieved through your active participation in practical activities and reflection on your own performance and that of other sports performers. This unit introduces you to a variety of different sports and, through participating in different sports, it is expected that you will develop knowledge of the associated rules, regulations, scoring systems, skills, techniques and tactics.

Training for personal fitness

Learning aim A takes you through the stages of designing a personal fitness training programme, where you can select any appropriate method(s) of training to improve or maintain your fitness levels safely. For learning aim B, you will gain awareness of personal exercise adherence factors and strategies, i.e. important knowledge to help you keep to your training schedule. For learning aim C, you will implement your personal fitness training programme, maintaining a training diary. Finally, for learning aim D you will review your programme looking at strengths, areas for improvement and suggesting recommendations for future training and performance.



Leading sports activities

This unit introduces you to sports leadership, enabling you to start on the ladder of leadership and coaching, through delivering components of sports sessions and whole activity sessions. You will be introduced to the basics of sports leadership and then will be required to plan, deliver and evaluate your ability to lead a sports activity session or component of a session.

General Information:

This BTEC First Award course is based around 120-guided-learning-hours and consists of two mandatory units, one of which is an externally assessed written examination, plus two other optional units. There is a large practical element that helps to re-enforce the learning taking place. Each unit will require students to produce various written assignments that will be assessed and graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Routes to University

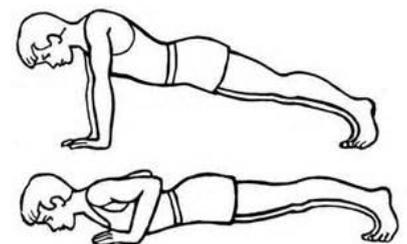
A grade B or above in Health & Social Care will be required to study the following courses, which can then lead to study at Higher Education;

A level PE

BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Sport

Relevance to careers

BTEC Sport can be used to gain access, through study at Further Education and Higher Education, to the following careers; PE teacher, Sports coach, personal trainer, Sports Development Officer



For further information please contact: **Mr Robottom** (karl.robottom@oasisbrightstowe.org).

Art and Design

Course content

Unit 1: Coursework 60% of final grade

Portfolio: The portfolio of work is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Students will complete 3 units of work based on different themes in which they will use a variety of 2D and 3D media and materials including watercolours, acrylics, oil paints, clay and modroc.

Students will research the work of Artists and Art movements relevant to the units of work.

The portfolio of work submitted for moderation must include at least 2 projects and should consist of the student's best work.

Unit 2: Exam 40% of final grade

The exam is internally assessed and externally moderated.

The GCSE exam paper is released on 1st January. Students are given 6 weeks preparation time from the issue of the exam paper. They choose 1 question to answer from a selection. They have 10 hours in which to complete the GCSE exam.

Students are required to produce a personal response, and work submitted can take any appropriate form.

Routes to University

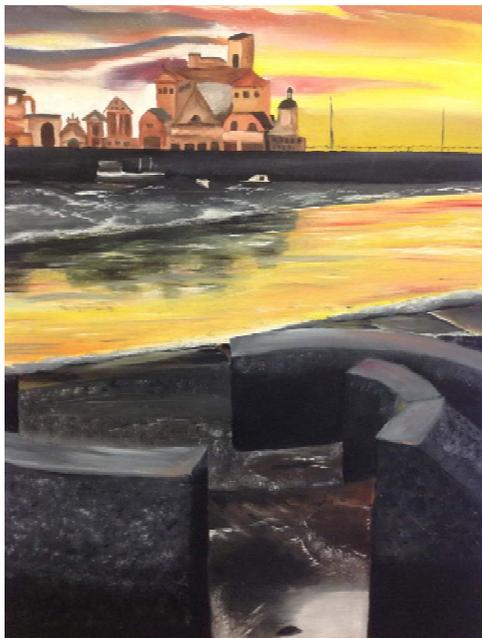
Many students go on to study A level Art, photography or BTEC before completing an Art Foundation course followed by a degree in a specialist area.

Relevance to careers

This course offers a wide range of creative opportunities.

Jobs within the field of Art and Design include Animation, Game Design, Fashion Design, Photography, Television production and Fine Art, Textiles design, Jewellery Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Art Teacher etc.

For further information, please contact: **Mrs Iredale** (rhian.iredale@oasisbrightstowe.org)



Catering

The Catering course offers a unique opportunity for candidates to develop their knowledge and extend their skills within a vocational context. It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress to further education. It will offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work.

The course encourages the investigation and study of catering in a variety of contexts and uses a range of assessment techniques to enable the candidate to respond through practical and investigative work.

Areas of study:

- The industry – food and drink
- Job roles, employment opportunities and relevant training
- Health, safety and hygiene
- Food preparation, cooking and presentation
- Nutrition and menu planning
- Costing and portion control
- Specialist equipment
- Communication and record keeping
- Environmental considerations



Students will develop skills in the selection, storage, preparation and serving of:

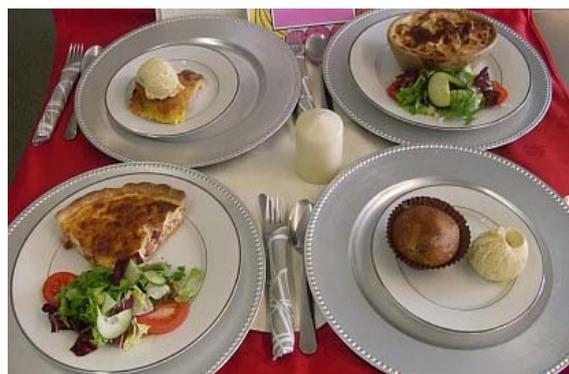
- Meat, poultry, fish, eggs, dairy products, cereals, flour, rice, pasta, vegetables, fruit, convenience products, sauces, basic dough products, basic pastry products, cakes, sponges and scones

To pass the exam, students need to complete both practical cookery tasks, and written papers with short answer, structured and free response questions.

Relevance to careers:

This course would be of interest to anyone that has aspirations to work in the catering industry. There are excellent routes to college courses at Level 3 in Catering and Hospitality.

For further information please contact: **Ms Booker (April.Booker@oasisbrightstowe.org)**



Information Technology



We are offering a computing / Information Technology course for year 9 students.

The final course available may depend on students' abilities, but we intend to offer a combination of IT or Computer Science.

The world around us is becoming increasingly underpinned by the use of computer systems which now influence almost every aspect of our lives. The study of Computing will help provide you with the creativity, logical thinking, programming and technical skills that you will need to be an active participant in this exciting and dynamic world.

Computing is of enormous importance to the economy and the course will teach computer technologies that are relevant in the modern world. The role of Computing as a discipline and as an 'underpinning' subject across the curriculum is increasing rapidly.

Assessment is through a combination of controlled assessment that is completed individually in class and a written examination at the end of the course

For further information please contact: **Mr Simmons** (simon.simmons@oasisbrightstowe.org)



Music

Music is alive and all around us in everything we do. We dance to music, we sing to music, we play music and we hear music on the radio and TV every day. Taking part in Music at Brightstowe at KS4 opens up a wealth of opportunities. You can learn to play an instrument, go on subsidised trips to concerts and work with real musicians as well as performing on the big stage, small stage or composing music of your own.

What will the course involve?

Music at KS4 will involve some performance, some listening and some composition.

Performing: You may perform on an instrument of your choice or you may sing. You will receive lessons in your chosen instrument. All instruments are included! If you do not play a specific instrument you could choose to do the music technology performance option.

Composing: Using the brand new Mac suite and the skills you started to develop at KS3 you will learn how to compose pieces of music of your own. The compositions could be performed by live musicians or recorded and performed at music events throughout the year.

Listening: A complete range of musical genres are studied at KS4 included are Popular styles, RnB, Dance, Reggae, Jazz and Blues, African Drumming, Samba, Electronic Music, 20th Century Music, Musical theatre, Gamelan, Samba, Classical, Romantic, Baroque, Folk Music, Indian Classical Music, Musical fusions (i.e. Bhangra). There is something for everyone. The listening skills you will develop will also support your learning in other areas of the school curriculum.

You will also get an opportunity to take the internationally recognised exams of the ABRSM in theory and practical music, as well as working towards gaining an Arts Award.

Relevance to careers

There are many careers in which Music is directly relevant including sound engineering and a range of jobs in theatres. If you wish to become an actor, voice training is very helpful and singing will enhance the range of roles available to you as an actor. You could play in a band, play in an orchestra, go into music publishing, advertising, software/game development, journalism, teaching, concert and event management (such as planning music festivals), composing, performing and many others.

Having a KS4 qualification in Music will also help you to stand out from the crowd in professions not directly linked to Music. The confidence, teamwork and performance skills you will develop during the three year course are used in virtually every work place and are valued by every employer.

Further Study

Following your KS4 course you can go on to study A Level Music or do a course at ATM (Access to Music). From there the world is your oyster including further study of Music or Music technology at university or a prestigious a Music college.

For further information please contact: **Mrs Steier** (katherine.steier@oasisbrightstowe.org).



Textiles



GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles Technology helps students develop their creativity in designing and making items using a variety of materials.

The GCSE in Design and Technology: Textiles Technology enables students to:

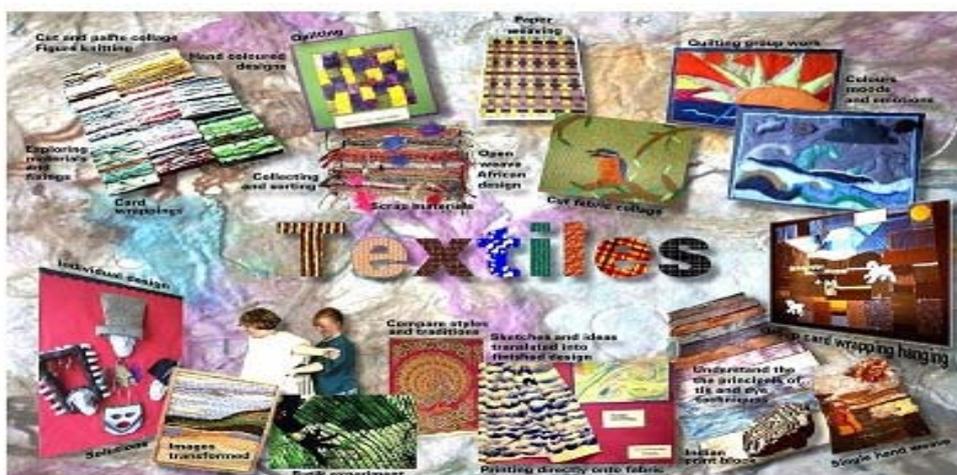
- actively engage in design and technology
 - make decisions, consider sustainability and combine skills with knowledge and understanding in order to design and make quality products
 - explore ways in which aesthetic, technical, economic, environmental, ethical and social dimensions interact to shape designing and making
- analyse existing products and produce practical solutions to needs, wants and opportunities, recognising their impact on quality of life
 - develop decision-making skills through individual and collaborative working
 - understand that designing and making reflect and influence cultures and societies, and that products have an impact on lifestyle
 - develop skills of creativity and critical analysis through making links between the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge

Relevance to careers

Textiles provides a good foundation and pathway to further studies at A-Level or for those who wish to pursue a career in a variety of jobs including:

- Fashion
- Art and Design
- Interior Design
- Jewellery Design
- Costume and Theatre Design
- Knit, weave and print design

For further information please contact: **Mr Simmons (Simon.Simmons @oasisbrightstowe.org)**



Combined Curriculum

The Combined Curriculum will provide students with at least 3 qualifications by the end of year 11. From year 9—11 students will study a range of subjects and learn practical and useful skills that they can go on to study at college and university. Combined curriculum also provides literacy intervention lessons to help students feel more confident with reading, writing and understanding texts. This will help students to access more subjects across the school. Below is a list of some of the courses offered in Combined Curriculum.

Curriculum overview:

VCERT Business Studies

This qualification primarily focuses on the study of business structures, marketing, finance, recruitment and enterprise. Students will be able to take part in enterprise projects that will provide them with a range of transferable skills. The BCERT is made up of 4 units:

Unit 1: Setting up a business —coursework

Unit 2: Marketing —exam unit

Unit 3: Finance —coursework

Unit 4: Business Enterprise —participating in a project

Catering

Students will study qualifications such as level 1 and 2 home cooking and catering. In these qualifications students learn how to prepare and cook a range of meals from different cuisines. Students will have to learn about food hygiene and health and safety in the kitchen. Assessment is made up of practicals, coursework and if taking a GCSE, the exam.

BCS Level 2 (IT)

This qualification is broken into 4 units that focus on helping students become confident in Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Students learn to be proficient in useful software that will enable them to work within a range of different job roles or go onto further study at college.

VCERT Music Technology

This qualification explores the skills involved in composing music using our brand new Apple Mac suite. Students will study a range of musical genres and also learn how to set up and use a recording studio.

For further information, please contact: **Miss Snailham (Lucy.Snailham@oasisbrightstowe.org)**



2015 Option Choices: Next Steps

Options Process: Term 3

Year 8 have already attended a Careers Fair and an assembly about careers opportunities and the importance of choosing good options. The next steps are as follows:

- Options Evening - 22.01.2015
- Talk to teachers, parents, carers to help you make up your mind
- Request an interview with an Assistant Principal if you are still confused. These interviews are available for two weeks after the Options Evening, after school, and we welcome parents/carers along as well. You can book your interview at Reception.
- Hand in your form to Reception by **Friday 6th February**. Please remember this is the LAST date to hand it in. You can always hand it in earlier.



Options Process: Term 4

- Mrs Hinchliffe will check your Options forms and identify which of your first choice options are available. Last year, over 90% of all students gained their first choices.
- If we need to use a second choice option, then we will arrange to talk this through with you.
- If we are concerned with your options, for example if not enough students choose an option and it cannot run, or you have selected options which are not your strengths, Mrs Hinchliffe will meet with you to discuss this.
- Your Head of House/House Intervention Manager receives an Agreed Options form. They meet with you to confirm your chosen options. A copy is sent home.

Options Process: Terms 5 and 6

- We look at the progress you are making in your courses this year, and your reports. If you are struggling in a subject, for example if you chose Physics and do not achieve a minimum of 6b by the end of Year 8, then alternative options will be identified.

Useful Websites for Post-16 and Careers

www.careerpilot.org.uk

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk>

www.nbp16c.org.uk (Redland/Cotham North Bristol Post 16 Centre)

<https://cityofbristol.ac.uk> (City of Bristol College)

www.sgscol.ac.uk (South Glos and Stroud—Filton College)

<https://www.gov.uk/further-education-skills/apprenticeships>

