

Year 8
Mini Option
Subject Information
Booklet

May 2024



Name: **Form:**

Contents

Introduction	3-4
Business Studies	5
Computer Science	6-7
Dance	8
Drama	9
Information Technology	10-11
Health & Social Care	12
PE	13
Example Option Forms	14-15
Student Copy Option Form	16

Introduction

We recently wrote to you to outline what to expect with the mini options process for September 2024. Our aim is for students to study a broad and balanced curriculum for as long as possible, developing their skills and knowledge across a wider range of subjects in Year 9 before making their final, and more informed, GCSE option decisions in Year 9. Students in Year 9 will, however, study two subjects of their choice and the process to select these begins now.

The diagram below outlines the subjects that all students will study (denoted with a ✓) and those which are optional.

	English	Maths	Science	Future Skills	History	Geography	Religious Studies	Modern Foreign Languages	Technology	Music	Art	Drama	Physical Education	Computer Science	Dance	Year 9* a choice of two option subjects comprising a single lesson in each across the 2-week timetable.					Year 10 & 11 Option choices		
																Business Studies	Health and Social Care	Computer Science	Drama	Dance		Information Technology	Physical Education
Year 7 & 8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Year 9*	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
Year 10 & 11	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓						✓										Option Block A Option Block B Option Block C Option Block D

A small cohort of students will continue to follow a slightly modified curriculum in Year 9; Miss Parker (SENCO) and Mr Ratcliffe (Head of Year 8) will contact the parents/carers of these students directly.

The information booklet enclosed is designed to help students make their choice of the **two** option subjects that they wish to study in Year 9. There will also be an assembly to further support students' decision-making process.

When students have made their final decisions, they must complete the options form on page 16 and show this to their parent and form tutor. Please follow the instructions carefully when this is completed. There are two completed example forms to guide students. Once their form tutor is happy the practice form is filled in correctly, the A4, blue school copy will be given to

the student to fill in.

The deadline for submitting the completed A4, blue school copy to form tutors is **Friday 17th May 2024**.

Should you have a question relating to a subject-specific option, the contact details of relevant Subject Leaders are shown below, along with Miss Parker, our SENCO. Should you have a wider curriculum query, I am happy to help.

Useful contacts:

Subject Leader of Business Studies, Mrs Cooper - aco@gilberd.com

Acting Subject Leader of Computing and IT, Mr Finch - mfi@gilberd.com

Subject Leader Dance / Drama Mrs Howard - cho@gilberd.com

Subject Leader Health & Social Care Ms Hughes - khu@gilberd.com

Curriculum Leader PE Mrs Pharaoh - cph@gilberd.com

SENCO, Miss Parker - lpa@gilberd.com

Head of Year 8, Mr Ratcliffe - tra@gilberd.com

Deputy Headteacher (Data, Timetabling and Options Process), Mrs Percival - vpe@gilberd.com

Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum), Miss Bird - abi@gilberd.com

Business (101)

Introduction

The Business 101 option is designed with both **practical and theory** elements.

Mandatory skills students need for this course include: **independence, creativity, resilience, current affairs knowledge of Business and Economics events, good numeracy, literacy and IT skills.**

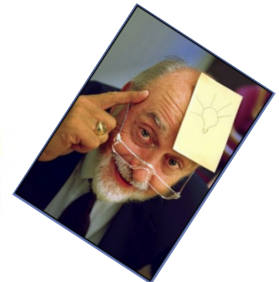


What will it be like?

Short tasks have been created focusing on key business topics that require students to **research, create, report** as well as be **assessed**

- Enterprise and entrepreneurs
- Obsolete, original and innovative ideas
- Add value to goods and services
- Risks and rewards
- Aims and objectives
- Financing a small business
- Branding, hidden messages and brands that failed
- The design mix– secret to success
- Ethics in business and USP (Unique Selling Point)
- Costs, revenue, profit (finance)
- Pricing strategies
- Taxes a small business pays
- Market research
- Market segmentation
- The marketing mix
- Research, create, brand, cost a product
- The apprentice challenge

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Computer Science

Introduction

Computing is of enormous importance to the UK economy. This option will teach students a broad range of Computer Science skills and key terminology. Students should be prepared to work both in teams and independently, be proactive and be keen to try new things. Students will learn computer systems theory, computational thinking and programming skills.

Who will want to do this course? This course is for those who enjoy coding and like problem solving or, put simply, love a computing puzzle.

What will the course involve?

All students will have one lesson of Computer Science a fortnight, they will cover:

Media Animation

- Introduction to 3D media animation.
- Modelling techniques to build realistic models on “Cubes and Cylinder”.
- Render their film, using “Lights, Camera, Render”.

Binary Representation going Audiovisual

- Produce a digital mosaic artwork using binary digital image representation.
- Describe how colour can be represented and compute the representation of a colour image.

National Challenges

- Cyber Start for Girls Challenge, UK Bebras Challenge, Alan Turing Cryptography.

What will it be like? - Option Computer Science

Those studying the mini option will develop their skills further. They will:

Physical Computing using Micro Bits

- Explore the different hardware components of the microbit chips.
- Use simple GPIO circuit board to code and display, writing a simple programme to display on 5x5 LED.
- Connect microbit to other external devices, including switches, speakers and a monitor.

Computer Science (cont'd)

- Use the radio antenna to send and receive radio messages.

Work on a Micro Bits Independent Project

Students will develop their programming skills. They will:

Python Challenges

- Write programmes that display on screen, produce flowcharts and pseudocode.
- Learn basic 'Selection if Else' statements.
- Use common mathematical operations in their coding.
- Use 'While loops' to demonstrate understanding of iteration.
- Use 'For loops' to demonstrate understanding of further iteration method.

Dance

Introduction

Dance is a dynamic practical option which enables students to develop their creativity and physical confidence. Dance is a powerful form of non-verbal communication and a fantastic way to develop the body and the mind through play and problem solving.

Why should I choose Dance?

- It promotes a healthy mind and body.
- It develops independent and collaborative learning.
- It helps you to develop empathy, and critical thinking.
- It enables you to develop your physical and expressive skills and individuality as a performer.
- It expands your understanding of yourself and the wider world.
- It builds self-confidence and social and emotional awareness.

What will the course involve?

Students will develop skills in three areas - creating, performing and appreciating dance through exploration of the following topics:

- Dancer in Action – Introduction to physical and expressive skills and basic anatomy through technique classes and creative tasks.
- Exploring Dance Styles – Practical workshops in the dance styles; Hip Hop, Jazz and contemporary.
- Choreography Lab – Developing choreographic skills in response to a stimulus to create work which communicates meaning.

Students will be exposed to a broad range of professional dance works to engage and inspire their own work and practice.

Drama

Introduction

Drama is a dynamic option which gives students the opportunity to further develop their creativity, communication skills and confidence which are essential skills for life-long learning. In drama students are encouraged to be inquisitive in order to develop a better understanding of themselves and the world around them.

Why Should I Choose Drama?

- It helps you develop your problem solving skills and self-discipline as a performer, director and designer.
- It develops critical thinking skills.
- It fosters self-confidence and teamwork.
- It enhances verbal and non-verbal communication skills.
- It supports literacy.
- It's fun.

What will the course involve?

- Devising Theatre – Students will work as an ensemble to explore different stimuli and learn techniques which can be used to communicate meaning to an audience.
- Character Development – Exploring a range of different scripts, students will learn how to create and develop a character.
- Live theatre review – This will allow students to have access to professional productions to inspire their own work.
- Design – Exploring other ways we can enhance meaning when creating theatre through lighting, set and costume.

Information Technology

Introduction

If you are interested in developing your skills in information technology but don't want to do programming or if you want to increase your knowledge of the application of IT then this course is for you.

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 1.46 million people working in digital companies and around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries; almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy.

What will the course involve?

House Design - User Interface Design Principles

You will be using IT knowledge and software to plan your dream house.

You will:

1. Investigate user interface design for individuals and organisations.
2. Use project planning techniques to plan and design a user interface.
3. Develop and review a user interface.

Collecting, Presenting & Interpreting Data

You will:

1. Investigate the impact of using data on one sheet and the effect it has on other worksheets.
2. Create a dashboard using data Excel manipulation tools.
3. Draw conclusions and review data presentation methods.

Sales Pitch Presentation

You will present and pitch your solution to the Grand Design building team so that they can build your house.

IT Theory

You will also develop the theory of IT in the following ways.

- Discuss the Impact of modern technologies.
- Discuss threats to data.
- Explain the term "Cloud Computing".
- Explain the term "ad hoc network".

Information Technology (cont'd)

- Examine the prevention and management of threats to data.
- Learn about the responsible use, legal and ethical , and forms of notation.

Planning

- Analyse and evaluate different GANTT charts.
- Design your own GANTT chart and use it to schedule tasks.

Creating

- Use Sketchup software to design and model your dream house.
- Use 'push', 'pull', 'eraser', 'orbit' and more to bring your house to life.

Health and Social Care

Introduction

This subject is about issues facing the general population, and how to meet the demands society places upon the health and well-being of the population.

Students who choose this option are interested in health and human behaviour, and will want to improve the lives of others. This course will especially be relevant to those students who are interested in a career working in the health care, social care, early years and public service professions, or any profession where a knowledge of working with others is important.

What will the course involve?

The course will be concentrating on health issues facing society today.

1. **Public Health Challenges:** It is important for us to know how public health impacts individuals and society. One of the main concerns is mental health. Poor mental health is linked to social inequality, discrimination, social exclusion and the experience of traumatic events. Mental health is having a huge impact on society. We will be looking at current mental health promotion campaigns and the effects that they are having on physical, intellectual, emotional and social development. During this part of the course you will be planning and promoting your own campaign.
2. **First Aid:** Sometimes a qualified first aider is not available, so it is useful for everyone to be aware of standard response procedures that should be followed to protect casualties, yourself and others. Basic knowledge of first aid procedures can make a big difference in any emergency situation. You will find out how to assess the scene of an accident and the different types of health emergency that can occur in health and social care. During the course you will develop an understanding of how to carry out basic first aid procedures and develop your confidence and understanding of what should be done if you ever experience an emergency situation.

In addition, both units aim to develop students' communication skills.

PE

Introduction

In PE you will cover a wide range of practical and theoretical aspects of this subject. If you have a genuine interest and enjoyment of sport and PE, this is the option for you!

What will the course involve?

The PE option is split between theoretical knowledge & understanding and practical sport & performance.

The practical content will cover a variety of team and individual sports and will focus on developing performance through competitive situations. We have many opportunities in school for you to work on your sporting ability, plus the addition of an extra PE lesson if you choose this option.

The theory content helps you to understand how your body works in order to be the best at your sport. For example, understanding how our bones, muscles and joints work together to create movement and perform sporting actions.

Individual Sports

- ➔ Badminton
- ➔ Table Tennis
- ➔ Climbing (Extra Curricular)

As part of the PE course you will be required to undertake at least one individual sport

Sports will be based around a competitive element with skills being taught and modified game play.

Team Sports

- ➔ Handball
- ➔ Netball
- ➔ Basketball

As part of the PE course you will be required to undertake at least one team sport

Range of skills / Quality of skills / Physical attributes / Decision making

Theory

Skeletal System

Bones, Movements, functions of the skeleton and joint types.

Muscular System

Muscles, muscular movements and sporting examples.

Components of fitness

Theory into practice approach

Looking at sporting activities which relate to different components of fitness.

Testing ourselves in multiple components.

Creating a training programme in the fitness suite to work on these.

Example Option Forms

Example of a completed form:

When Dance is chosen in Box A

Remember if you choose Dance in Box A you must choose it as your 1st choice in Box B.

School Copy															
<p>All students must choose either PE or Dance in Box A. Please note: all students will have 2 lessons of PE regardless of this decision.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Box A</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Choice</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dance</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Y</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Box A	Choice	PE		Dance	Y								
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<p>All students must choose three options from Box B numbering them from 1 (preferred option) to 3. Each student will study one of these 3 choices.</p> <p>Please note: if Dance was chosen in Box A, it must be chosen as 1 in Box B.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Box B</th> <th style="background-color: #e0e0e0;">Choice</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Information Technology</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health and Social Care</td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Business Studies</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dance</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Drama</td> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Computer Science</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Box B	Choice	Information Technology		Health and Social Care	3	Business Studies		Dance	1	Drama	2	Computer Science	
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Student's Name:	John Smith														
Form group:	8ABC														
Student's signature:	<i>John Smith</i>														
Parent's signature:	<i>Mrs Smith</i>														
Checked by Form Tutor:	Miss ABC														
Date:	17th May 2024														

Example Option Forms

Example of a completed form:

When PE is chosen in Box A

Remember if you choose PE in Box A you can not choose Dance as one of your choices in Box B.

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Student Option Form

Please complete this form as a copy for you to remember what you chose.

Please complete the same information on the School Copy which has been given to you on a separate sheet.

Student Copy															
<p>All students must choose either PE or Dance in Box A. Please note: all students will have 2 lessons of PE regardless of this decision.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 80%;">Box A</th> <th style="width: 20%;">Choice</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>PE</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dance</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Box A	Choice	PE		Dance									
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This is your copy– show the completed version of this to your form tutor to be given your A4, blue form. Please hand the A4, blue school copy of this form to your Form Tutor by the 17th May.