



# Gateacre School



# Year 9 Options Booklet 2025

A guide to the courses and qualifications  
available to Year 10 and 11 students.



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# Gateacre School

Dear Students, Parents, and Carers,

Welcome to the Year 9 Options Booklet, an essential tool and guide designed to assist you in navigating the important decisions ahead. As the principal of our school, I want to emphasise that the choices you make during this pivotal time will influence your academic journey and future pathways into our Sixth Form and/or beyond .

This booklet serves not only as a resource for understanding the subjects available but also as a tool for reflection on your individual strengths and aspirations. It is crucial that each student takes the time to consider their own academic abilities and interests as they make these decisions. Choosing subjects that align with your strengths and ambitions will empower you to engage more deeply with your studies and lay a solid foundation for your future.

We encourage you to think critically about what excites you and what you envision for your future. These choices should be made for the right reasons— driven by your passions and goals, rather than external pressures or trends. By doing so, you will not only enhance your learning experience but also cultivate the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in your chosen path.

As you explore the options presented in this booklet, remember that your education is a personal journey. We are here to support you every step of the way, and we look forward to seeing you thrive as you embark on this exciting chapter of your academic life.

Ensure you ask as many questions as you need to clarify your understanding , in order to make a truly informed decision about your KS4 offer.

I'm excited for you and excited to take this first step, with you, towards becoming a Gateacre Great!

We are here with you and for you.

Best wishes ,

Mr N Jamil

*Principal*





## The Curriculum at KS4

### **Step 1:** Compulsory subjects

English Language and English Literature

Mathematics

Combined Science or Separate Sciences

*If you choose the Separate Sciences this will need to be one of your option choices in step 3.*

### **Step 2:** EBACC

You must choose one of the following.

- 1) Geography
- 2) History
- 3) Spanish

If you wish to do more than one, you must select in step 3.

*You will also be asked for a reserve.*





## Step 3: OPEN CHOICES

You can choose **three** other subjects from the follow list.

Art & Design

Engineering

Classical Civilisation

Graphic Design

Computing & IT

Health & Social Care

Drama

Music

Business Enterprise

Photography

Economics

PE and Sport

Separate Sciences

Sociology

Geography

History

Spanish

Religious Studies

Hospitality & Catering

*You will also be asked for a reserve.*



## OPTIONS OVERVIEW

**Step 1:** All pupils will take GCSEs in  
English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Science (Combined or Separate Science)

**Step 2:** Pick between Geography, History and Spanish.

**Step 3:** Pick 3 open subjects.

*You will also be required to select a reserve at step 2 and step 3.*

The following pages contain information about the subjects available at KS4. Use this information to inform your decision.



## Choosing your options

You are now at the start of a crucial time of reflection in your school career, thinking about which subjects have captured your interest this year and those you would like to study at a higher level. It is also time to consider a range of new subjects that may appeal to you.

It is essential that the choices you make now are considered and clear. Your teachers will be happy to answer your questions. Listen to their advice, discuss your options but ultimately ensure that the choices you make are right for you so that you are doing subjects that will give you fulfilments and success whilst you are studying them as well as providing you with a full range of options in the future.

Ensure that you read this booklet carefully. Use what is in it as the basis for discussion with your parents and teachers.

### Do choose...

- \* Subjects you like
- \* Subject you have done well in and gained good marks
- \* Subjects you feel would help you to be successful in whatever you choose to do after the end of Year 11

### Don't choose...

- \* Subjects that your friends are choosing (they may not be in your class)
- \* Subjects that your favourite teacher teaches (you may not be in their class)
- \* Subjects that you think other people would like you



## Frequently Asked Questions

### What are my choices?

In addition to your core curriculum subjects, which are mandatory, you will then choose Geography, History or Spanish and then three choices and reserves. Find out more about the subjects on offer inside this booklet.

It is important that you enjoy learning, so it is vital that you select course that you find interesting, play to your strengths and develop your skills. You should consider carefully how these choices will affect your future at Gateacre School and beyond. Many courses of study will link directly into sixth form courses.

### How many choices can I make?

In addition to core subjects, you will choose **one subject** from Geography **or** History **or** Spanish. You then have choose **three 'Open Choices'** and you must make reserve choices.

### How do I indicate my option choices?

This year, the options process will take place online, via EduLink. Carefully read the information contained in this booklet to support you in making your choices.

### Will I automatically secure a place on my first choice courses?

Not necessarily, for three reasons:

1. The range of subjects offered now, at the planning stage, may have to be modified because of staffing or other constraints.
2. It may be necessary to limit number for safety reasons and access to equipment.
3. A student's level of attainment and progression in Year 9 will be considered before confirming final choices.

You will be asked to give reserve choices on your Options form. It is important that you do this as some subjects may be under or over-subscribed, and therefore we will need to find an alternative option for you.



## Career's Advice

**Careers Leader:** Mrs J Boyd

**Gateacre have gained the Quality Award for Careers Guidance.**

Careers advice is available to students inside and outside of school. Careers advice is available every day at lunch time B402 from Mrs Boyd (Assistant Principal / Careers Leader).

**Access to independent careers advice** is provided by Career Connect. Students at Gateacre **receive impartial independent careers advice** with qualified Careers Advisor, Leanne Morrey who work in school each Thursday

Our Students also have **access to out of hours careers advice** with a dedicated portal and helpline to help them when they are out of school. We also work with the **National Careers Service** and students are shown how to access the National Careers Services facilities so that they can speak to advisor and gain information on jobs, vacancies and up to date labour market information wherever they are.

### **Careers Information Advice and Guidance focus events**

During year 9 students **explore careers software and IAG websites to support them in their transition to Key Stage 4**. Prior to choosing options our students have the opportunity to spend time **focussing on Future Career Opportunities/paths** in order to help with their choices. Also, students have access to a variety of different **software tools to explore the world of work and employment**. Further, students work with other year 9 students and are **supported through the process by their Academic Tutor**.

Students carry out job studies looking at the skills and qualities required and the entry routes into careers of their choice to help them **make informed decisions**. They will also have the opportunity to **work with staff** and other students to look at ways of **making informed decisions about their options**.



EBACC  
SUBJECT

## Geography (Edexcel A)

### What does the course offer me?

The GCSE Geography course aims to stimulate students' interest in Geography; develop a sense of place and an appreciation of the environment; and help them to act in an informed and responsible way. Students acquire knowledge and understanding of a range of places, environments and geographical patterns, and develop their understanding of the physical and human processes, including decision-making, which affect their development. You will acquire a range of skills through field, map and atlas work using IT, graphic and presentational work, discussion and group work using a number of different resources.

### What does the course involve?

#### Component 1: The Physical Environment

- Topic 1—The changing landscapes of the UK (including sub topics which students choose 2 from three: 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes, 1B: River landscapes and processes or 1C: Glaciated upland landscapes and processes)
- Topic 2—Weather hazards and climate change
- Topic 3— Ecosystems, biodiversity and management

#### Component 2: The Human Environment

- Topic 4—Changing cities
- Topic 5—Global development
- Topic 6— Resource management including sub-topics from which students choose 1 from 2: 6A: Energy resource management or Water resource management

#### Component 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

- Topic 7—Geographical investigations—fieldwork
- Topic 8—Geographical investigations—UK challenges

GCSE

Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- Physical Environment exam paper: 1 hour 30 minutes worth **37.5% of grade**
- Human Environment exam paper: 1 hour 30 minutes worth **37.5% of grade**
- Geographical Investigations exam paper: **1 hour 30 minutes worth 25% of grade.**

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Careers Opportunities

Geography is a multi-disciplinary course that includes science and maths. It can lead to many careers in/as: Cartographer • Development and Global Field • Marketing • Travel/Tourism • Urban Planning • Data Analyst • Environmental Scientist • Ecology/Marine Biologist • Public Services • Conservation • Teaching

### Next Steps

**Study:** A Level Geography;

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme





EBACC  
SUBJECT

## History (Edexcel)

### What does the course offer me?

History will develop a depth of knowledge that links to the modern world. Importantly it allows students to deepen a range of highly valued skills that support many other areas of study. For example, studying history helps develop:

- A range of communication skills including debate and persuasion.
- The range of communication skills including debate and persuasion.
- The ability to organise and categorise.
- Decision making skills.

Students will have the opportunity to learn in well resourced environment. In recent years there have been a number of enrichment opportunities. For example, the History Department has conducted trips to destinations linked to topics of study including the First World War battlefield sites in Belgium and France, the UK Parliament, Krakow and Berlin.

Learning is supported by the fact that many students have found the topics to be interested and relevant. Some questions raised during studied History GCSE include:

- Why did Elizabeth I have her cousin murdered?
- How has medicine enabled us to live so much longer than our recent ancestors?
- Why was the USA so divided in the late 20th Century?
- Why did political ideology increase global tensions after World War Two?

### What does the course involve?

In History we work in a variety of ways in order to develop core knowledge and subject skills. These include independent research, oral presentations, debate and discussion, ICT, and the study of filmed events including newsreels, documentaries and feature films.

GCSE

Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The History course is divided into three units:

#### Paper 1

**British Thematic Study with Historical Environment (30%) (1hr 15min)**

- Medicine in Britain, c1250 - present.
- Medicine on the Western Front, 1914-18.

#### Paper 2

**A period study and British depth study (40%) (1hr 45min)**

- Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-91.
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558—1588.

#### Paper 3

**Modern Depth Study. (30%) (1hr 20min)**

- The USA, 1954-75, conflict at home and abroad

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Careers

History develops many skills such as research, examining evidence and presenting an argument. Therefore, it is useful for many careers such as: Archaeology • Business • Historian • Journalist • Lawyer • Museum Curator • Police • Politician • Researcher • Teaching • Tourism •

### Next Steps

**Study:** A Level History

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



EBACC  
SUBJECT

## Spanish (AQA)

### What does the course offer me?

Learning a language opens doors to lots of opportunities such as travel, work opportunities, promotion and further study. The course we offer gives students the chance to see progress quickly and gain the confidence to communicate effectively in a variety of situations. Successful linguists are good communicators, problem solvers and intelligent thinkers.

### What does the course involve?

#### Topics covered are:

Health	Home and local area
Relationships and choices	Environment
Free time and the media	School and future plans
Holidays	Current and future jobs

GCSE

Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are **two tiers of entry**:  
**Foundation—grades 1-4**  
**Higher—grades 4-9**

All four skills:

**Listening**  
**Speaking**  
**Reading**  
**Writing**

All are assessed by terminal exam at the end of year 11.

**Each skill is worth 25% of the final grade.**

### SKILLS INVOLVED



**Extended Writing**



**Working with my Hands**



**Using Numbers**



**Performing Activities**



**Design & Create Projects**



**Using ICT (Not Gaming)**



**Short Written Tasks**



**Speaking in front of Others**

### Future Career Opportunities

Employers and businesses seek applicants who can navigate the modern global economy; so Spanish is great for a number of careers such as: Cabin Crew • Journalist • Immigration Officer • Lawyer • Pilot • Public Services • Travel/Tourism • Teacher • Translator/ Interpreter

### Next Steps

**Study: A Level Spanish**

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme





## Art & Design (AQA)

### What does the course offer me?

Is art something you enjoy? Do you like practical activities that allow you to show off your individuality? If so you would be choosing the right option in Art. Art as an option is fantastic as it allows you to creatively express yourself. It gives you the chance to experiment with new media, learn and develop new skills and produce personal responses along the way. Ultimately Art provides you with a creative outlet.

### What does the course involve?

#### What will you be studying for Art GCSE?

The course runs over two years and is comprised of three projects. During lessons, students are actively encouraged to explore a wide range of materials, techniques and processes which include clay, textiles, drawing, painting, printing, mixed media, digital and many more. Throughout the GCSE art course, students will develop confidence and independence by exploring and developing their art skills, creating a personal portfolio which showcases the artwork and projects they have completed.

Students will have the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to respond to a subject, theme or task in a creative and personal way, preparing them for the externally set which forms the third and final project.

Art is an irreplaceable way of understanding and expressing the world!

**N.B. you cannot choose both Art & Graphics**

### GCSE

### Option

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The has two components:

#### Coursework (60%)

This is broken into **2 main projects**:

**Project 1: Sweets and Treats**

**Project 2: Personal Response**

**Exam (Externally Set Assignment)**

#### 'Seen' exam (40%)

Students respond to an exam question **set prior to the exam at least six-eight weeks before**. The exam is then **completed over 2 days** and takes **10 hours** to complete.

*In the art department we pride ourselves on the excellent GCSE exam results achieved year upon year. If you are interested in further information about this, please feel free to speak to any member of staff and/or our GCSE students.*

#### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

#### Future Career Opportunities

Artist • Teacher • Curator • Art • Fashion Designer • Clothing/Textile Technologist • Colour Technologist • Interior and Spatial Designer • Textile Designer

#### Next Steps

A Level Art, Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships-  
**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



EBACC  
SUBJECT

## Classical Civilisation

### What does the course offer me?

The ancient world is a fascinating place to spend time. In this GCSE you will be introduced to some new aspects of the past - such as the Bronze Age settlements of ancient Greece, the lives of women in Greece and Rome. T

his subject is for you if you would like to improve your historical knowledge and enjoy looking at a wide variety of material.

The course would suit a student who takes an interest in Classical Civilisation and you will be required to write essays and memorising information, so you need to make sure your skill-set or interest match that. Material is stimulating and usually memorable, and many people enjoy reading about the adventures of Odysseus or learning about the scandals of Claudia and Cleopatra.

### What does the course involve?

You will develop your analytical skills. By studying a wide range of evidence - literature, archaeological remains, visual arts - you will learn to draw conclusions about the lives of people who were sometimes similar to, and sometimes very different from ourselves.

GCSE

Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The Classical Civilisation course is assessed by written examinations. There is no coursework.

There are modules such as

- The Homeric Word (Study of the Bronze Age and Odyssey of Homer)
- Women in the Ancient world (In which we study the lives and expectation of women in Greece and Rome)

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Careers

Although the subject does not lead to any one career in particular, Classicists are highly adaptable, because they have learned to analyse, evaluate and articulate their thoughts. It is a highly sought after subject by some of the top Universities and employer because of its transferrable skills.

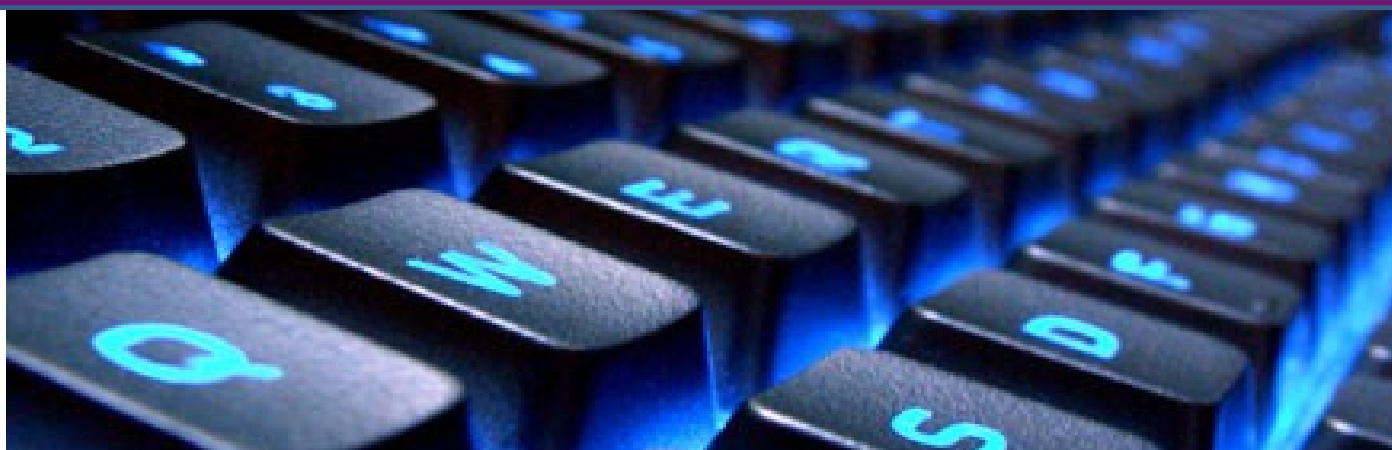
### Next Steps

Study: A Level Classical Civilisation

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme





## Computing and IT

### What does the course offer me?

This exciting and new qualification will inspire you with confidence to learn and use new Computing skills that are crucial to the world of IT. Some of the topics you will study are:

- Augmented Reality - real world and computer generated content!
- Cybersecurity;
- Mobile Apps;
- Internet of Everything (smart devices e.g. Amazon Alexa);
- Cloud technology ; How 4G/5G and WIFI work
- Hacking, DOS, DDOS, Malware, Trojan Horse, Worms and Viruses

### What does the course involve?

**What you will study:** R050 : IT in the digital world (written exam)

- Human Computer Interface (HCI)
- Cybersecurity, digital communications, data, legislation
- Digital devices, hardware, software, smartphones, laptops

R060 : Data manipulation using spreadsheets (coursework)

- Planning and creating the spreadsheet solution
- Testing and reviewing the spreadsheet solution

R070: Using Augmented Reality to present information (coursework)

- What is Augmented Reality (AR)
- Planning and creating an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype
- Testing and reviewing your Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype

**Camb. Nat.**

**Option**

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

- **Centre-assessed 60%** - this is marked by your teacher in class and checked by the exam board. (R060 and R070)
- **Exam 40%** - this is a written exam which is externally assessed by the exam board. (R050)
- This course is equivalent to one **GCSE**. It is a new, engaging and practical IT course.
- You can work in the IT rooms and the IT pods throughout the 2 years to complete and improve your work/grades.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



**Extended Writing**



**Working with my Hands**



**Using Numbers**



**Performing Activities**



**Design & Create Projects**



**Using ICT (Not Gaming)**



**Short Written Tasks**



**Speaking in front of Others**

### Future Careers Opportunities

The knowledge and skills learned on this course are useful for many careers such as: CAD Designer • Computer Programmer • Cyber Security Analyst • Data Analyst • Day Trader • Digital Media Analyst • Engineer • Games Developer • Programmer • Software Developer •

### Next Steps

**Study:** A Level /L3 Computing;

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



## Drama (AQA)

### What does the course offer me?

In our state of the art theatre, you will be taught how to:

- Express yourself in an active and exciting way
- Work in a group
- Contribute your ideas and take on board those of others
- Explore ideas by putting yourself in other people's shoes
- Play many parts in different imaginary situations;
- Create your own drama work
- Study plays written by other people

GCSE Drama encourages students to develop critical thinking skills and become effective and independent learners. With the focus on working imaginatively, collaborating creatively and communicating effectively, GCSE Drama provides a solid foundation for further academic studies as well as vocational opportunities.

### What does the course involve?

You will create and develop characters, explore fascinating themes and topics, devise your own plays and explore the importance of backstage roles. You will learn how drama is created from an actor, director and designer perspective. You will learn how to create a character and put it into a performance. You will learn many skills that are very important in all walks of life and how to develop confidence and present yourself in public. The department runs several theatre and residential trips a year and regularly invites professional actors and theatre companies to come and work with our GCSE students. There is also the opportunity to participate in showcase events, backstage events, school productions and theatre in education projects.

### GCSE

### Option

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

##### Component 1: Understanding Drama (40% of GCSE)—

Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre —**1hr 45 min exam**

##### Component 2 (40% of GCSE) —

Process of creating devised drama; **performance of devised drama** (students may contribute as a performer or a designer); complete an analysis of own work—the resultant performance is marked by our teachers and moderated by the AQA.

##### Component 3 (20% of GCSE) —

**Performance of two extracts** from one scripted play (students may contribute as a performer or a designer)- marked by AQA

**Follow us on Instagram**  
**@GateacreDrama**

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

The skills you gain from drama can lead to careers in: performing art, media, business, law, sales, hospitality and tourism. Specific Jobs include: Actor • Singer • Producer • Director • Choreographer • Stage Manager • Lighting Technician • Theatre Manager • Arts Marketer • Presenter • Teacher

### Next Steps

**Study:** A Level Drama; L3 Performing Arts;  
**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships  
**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



# Gateacre School



## Business Enterprise Tech Award Level 1/2 (Pearson Btec)

### What does the course offer me?

Studying Business Enterprise will allow you to develop a broad range of skills and explore a variety of topics including: How businesses are run, considering both internal and external influences. An awareness of the opportunities and needs of different markets. The skills to create your own business in the future or study further business-related courses. Develop a skillset that employers see as essential.

### What does the course involve?

#### Component 1 – EXPLORING ENTERPRISES

Students will gain an understanding of the sector. You will - Find out what the business and enterprise sector is all about, what it's like to work in the sector, what skills they need to work in this sector.

You will investigate a local business and find out their Aims, Size and the Characteristics of the Entrepreneur who started the Business are. Carry out and Learn about Market Research. Look into External Factors that will affect the Enterprise, e.g. Inflation, Cost of Living Crisis.

#### Component 2 – PLANNING AND PRESENTING A MICRO BUSINESS IDEA

Students develop knowledge, skills and best practices. You will - Choose an idea and produce a plan. Present a plan with a view to gaining investment or a loan to get your enterprise idea started. Review the Presentation and make improvements.

#### Component 3 – MARKETING AND FINANCE FOR ENTERPRISE

Students apply knowledge, skills and best practices in promotion and finance. You will:

Apply what you have learned to tasks based on real life scenarios.

Learn about Marketing activities – Target market, Product, Price, Promotion and Place.

Learn about Financial Documents and Statements – Payment methods, Revenue and Costs, Profit and Loss, Cash flow, Sources of Finance, Budgeting.

**Btec**

**Option**

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Component 1 Coursework:** Focuses on the main skills and practices in Enterprise, what an entrepreneur is and what makes them successful.  
30% of Overall mark.

**Component 2 Coursework:** You will write a business plan and pitch & present a business idea - similar to Dragon's Den. 30% of Overall mark.

**Component 3 Exam:** Focuses on skills and practices key to the sector. It takes the form of a written exam.  
40% of Overall mark.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

This subject develops analytical, presentation and communication skills; problem solving and the ability to think logically and can lead to careers such as: Entrepreneur, Management, Accounting, Marketing, Human Resources.

### Next Steps

A Level Business Studies;

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships





## Economics (OCR)

### What does the course offer me?

When students understand how markets and economies work, they will develop an economic awareness to benefit them personally and professionally for years to come. GCSE Economics develops communication, critical thinking and analytical skills through tasks based on anything from how to cut the budget deficit, to weighing up the pros and cons of inflation or being part of a free-trade agreement.

### What does the course involve?

Students have to complete two core Units.

#### Micro Economics:

- Introduction to Economics
- The role of markets and money

#### Macro Economics:

- Economic objectives and the role of government
- International trade and the global economy

GCSE

Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The examination structure is as follows:

Each unit is assessed through an external exam to be taken at the end of Year 11.

Both exams are for 1 hour and 30 minutes and have equal weightings.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

Economics will equip you for a career in a wide range of industries, as economics underpins more or less any job you might have in the future; from starting work for a large multinational company to working for the Government.

### Next Steps

Study A Level Economics.

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



## Engineering (WJEC: L1/L2 Vocational Award)

### What does the course offer me?

"As engineers, we were going to be in a position to change the world – not just study it." - Henry Petroski

Do you ever look around your home and think of handy products that could improve people's lives or get amazed by amazing feats of engineering all around you? Are you creative and want to start building skills you will need for a successful career in industry?

Engineering is a large and growing sector of employment in the UK with almost half a million people currently working as engineers in the UK, and millions more worldwide. It is an interesting, and well-paid job with opportunities across the globe in a wide range of disciplines.

### What does the course involve?

Unit 1: Manufacturing engineering products

- Interpret different types of engineering information to plan how to manufacture engineering products
- Develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment to manufacture and test a final product

Unit 2: Designing engineering products

- Explore how engineered products are adapted and improved over time and apply your knowledge to adapt a product you will have manufactured in Unit 1.

Unit 3: Solving engineering problems

- You will learn about a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering impacts on everyday life.

### Vocational

### Option

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed by a **mixture of exams and project work.**

**Unit 1** will involve producing a manufacturing product that is worth **40%**. This product will need to be developed over 20 hours.

**Unit 2** is assessed through project work that is worth **20%**. Here you will apply your problem-solving skills to answer a brief and produce a solution. You will produce this solution over 10 hours.

**Unit 3** will involve 1 exam that lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes. This is worth **40%** and is made up of multiple choice questions and short and extended answers.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

There are a wide range of opportunities within the field of engineering, for example: Aerospace Engineer; Bio-medical Engineer; Civil/Structural Engineer; Computer Engineer; environmental Engineer; Mechanical Engineer; Product Engineer

### Next Steps

**Study A Level /level 3 Engineering; A Level/Level 3 Design Technology; Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships **Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme





## Graphic Design

### Graphic Design (AQA)

#### What does the course offer me?

Do you consider yourself an "ideas" person? Do you like working towards a brief? Do you want to use your artistic skills in a business and industry environment? If so, opting for GCSE Graphic Design would be a perfect fit for you. Graphic Design allows you to use all of your creative thinking, art work and personal ideas to produce amazing, professional work that meets the needs of a client. Graphic Design could be a stepping stone onto many different career pathways. This option would fit perfectly with GCSE Photography.

#### What does the course involve?

##### *What will you be studying for Graphic Design GCSE?*

The course is run over 2 years and is comprised of a minimum of three projects. We complete two projects which are marked as coursework; these allow students to learn the basics of a wide variety of skills within Graphic Design including: Advertising, Logo Design, Multi-media, Interactive Design and Typography. Within the second project and the exam project we then encourage students to build on these skills and enhance their portfolio with illustration and layout design.

Students are given set briefs to respond to as they would in industry for a client; however students are encouraged to make this work personal and bring their own creative flair and ideas. As part of the course, students will have the opportunity to partake in trips to gather research for the set briefs they are responding to.

Why not pick an option where you are not only completing a GCSE qualification, but you are also building practical skills which can be used in industry and a portfolio of work to showcase your skills, ready for employment.

*"Graphic Design is thinking made visible."*

**N.B. you cannot choose both Art & Graphics**

#### GCSE

#### Option

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course breakdown:

##### · Coursework 60%

This is broken into 2 main projects:

Project 1: "Music Festivals"

Project 2: "Magazines"

##### · Exam 40%

The exam is 10 hours and normally runs over 2 days. The exam generally takes place on computers, but would suit the skill set of the individual student.

**The exam paper is given at least six weeks prior to the exam, to allow the students to complete prep work in the lead up to their exam.**

*Graphic Design is housed within the Art Department and we pride ourselves on the excellent GCSE exam results achieved year upon year. If you are interested in further information about this, please feel free to speak to any member of staff and/or our GCSE students.*

#### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

#### Future Career Opportunities

This subject teaches you to communicate, work as a team and develop your graphic communication. It can lead to many careers, such as: Graphic Designer • Packaging Designer • Illustrator • Advertising • Video Games Development • Concept/Prop Design • Animator • Interior Designer

#### Next Steps

Study A Level Graphic Design. **Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships **Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme





## Health & Social Care (BTEC)

### What does the course offer me?

To apply health and social values to everyday situations, and to develop an understanding of the part that health and social care plays to the world around us and how people should be treated fairly and equally. To solve problems, present solutions clearly and to demonstrate the ability to handle tasks with confidence. You will gain valuable skills such as communication, team and interpersonal skills, problem solving, planning and organisation as well as time management.

### What does the course involve?

The course will involve you working individually, in pairs and in groups to research, present and demonstrate a wealth of knowledge about people and their roles and needs in our society.

The areas you will study are:

- Human Lifespan Development—internal assessment
- Health & Social Care Services and Values— Internal assessment
- Health and Wellbeing—External assessment

### BTEC

### Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

#### Coursework (60%):

Coursework will be completed during lessons. Coursework assessment can take the form of posters, essays, presentations, photographs, observations, role plays and leaflets etc.

#### Final examination (40%):

You will be given two scenarios and questions relating to them. These are designed so that you can demonstrate and apply your health and social care knowledge to different situations. This exam will be taken in May of the final year, at the end of the course.

We aim to have a variety to suit all learners.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

The knowledge skills you learn in Health & Social Care can be useful for a number of careers such as: Care Assistant • Counsellor • Dental Nurse • Health Promotion • Nursing • Mental Health Worker • Paramedic • Radiographer • Social Work • Youth Worker

### Next Steps

BTEc Health & Social Care

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



It must be stressed that the principal qualifications for success in this subject are enthusiasm and hard work. *It is not necessary to have started learning an instrument before starting the course* and whilst the school cannot provide instruments, **free** lessons with a peripatetic specialist are provided. It should also be noted that voice is regarded as an instrument, though you **do not** have to sing as part of the course. The GCSE course allows students to pursue their own musical interests-be it a particular instrument, a love of certain genre or musical style or an interest in composition using music ICT-and all GCSE students are actively encouraged to participate fully in this lively department and to take advantage of the many opportunities available.

<b>GCSE</b>	<b>Option</b>
<b>HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?</b>	
<p><b>Performing—30%</b>          Students select and record two pieces; one solo and one group performance. These may be recorded at any time during the course.</p> <p><b>Composing—30%</b>          Students compose two pieces; one piece of descriptive music using Music ICT and the other in a style or genre of their choice.</p> <p><b>Listening exam—40%</b>  <b>1 hour 30 minute</b> listening exam covering a wide range of music. Students listen to musical excerpts and answer questions in a booklet.</p>	

## SKILLS INVOLVED



## Working with my Hands



## Using Numbers



## Performing Activities



## Design & Create Projects



### Using ICT (Not Gaming)



## Short Written Tasks

## Future Career Opportunities

GCSE Music can lead to many careers such as: Band Manager • Classroom Teaching • Composer • Event Manager • Instrumental Teacher • Music Performer • Musician • Musical Historian • Music Journalist • Music Therapist • Sound/Light Technician • Sound Engineer • Teacher

## Next Steps

**Study A Level Music; BTEc Music Technology**  
**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships  
**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



## Photography (AQA)

### What does the course offer me?

Do you love showing off your individuality? Do you like using new technology and media to create artwork? Do you love telling stories, in a visual way? If so, opting for GCSE Photography would be a perfect fit for you. Photography is so much more than taking photos, it is about independent work, your own ideas and working to deadlines. Photography unlocks a variety of doors in the creative job sector.

### What does the course involve?

#### *What will you be studying for Photography GCSE?*

The course is run over 2 years and students will complete a minimum of three projects. We complete two projects which are marked towards coursework. Within these projects we give students opportunities to experiment with digital and light-based photography processes. Within school we have access to digital SLR cameras and even a dark room! Our second project and our exam project give students the opportunity to develop their skills and progress into a chosen specialism, for example; photo-journalism, landscape photography, editorial photography and moving image.

Students will have a range of stimulus materials to respond to and the course provides opportunities for each student to recognise and develop their own creative ability and to appreciate the relevance of Photography to everyday life and the wider environment. As part of the photography course, students can expect to partake in a variety of trips to various locations to obtain the best photographs possible.

Practical skills and creative flair go hand-in-hand with this option which is a perfect fit for you if you are creative, expressive and have lots of your own ideas. This option would fit perfectly with GCSE Art or GCSE Graphic Design.

*"Photography is the only language that can be understood anywhere in the world."*

### GCSE

### Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The course breakdown:

#### · **Coursework 60%**

This is broken into 2 main projects:  
Project 1: "Portraiture"  
Project 2: "Texture"

#### · **Exam 40%**

The exam is 10 hours and normally runs over 2 days. The exam generally takes place on computers, but would suit the skill set of the individual student.

The exam paper is given at least six weeks prior to the exam, to allow the students to complete prep work in the lead up to their exam.

***Photography is housed within the Art Department and we pride ourselves on the excellent GCSE exam results achieved year upon year. If you are interested in further information about this, please feel free to speak to Miss Cullen and/or our GCSE students.***

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

You develop a mixture of creative and technical skills in this subject and it can lead to careers such as: Commercial Photographer • Graphic Designer • Freelance Photographer • Magazine Features Editor

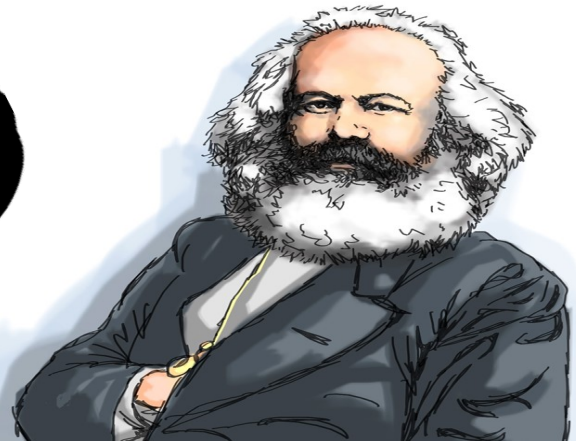
### Next Steps

Study A Level /BTEc Photography

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements) ; Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme





## Sociology (Eduqas)

### What does the course offer me?

Sociology is one of the most interesting and relevant of all GCSE subjects as it is the study of people and the world we live in. A sociologist seeks to explain why people think and act in the way they do.

In sociology, you will develop an understanding of society and how society works. You will be able to understand and reflect on your role in the society and will begin to understand how and why society

### What does the course involve?

**Cultural Transmission:** You will study how we learn our culture and develop a sense of identity. You will question whether human behaviour is inherited through our genes or nurtured by our upbringing. You will examine children brought up by animals and analyse identical twin studies. We will also look at how sociologists carry out research.

**Families:** You will study the importance of the family and how it can shape a child's personality. You will look at how the family has changed over the years, the types of relationship we have and examine who holds power in the home - do we really have equality between men and women?

**Education:** You will examine why we have an education system and evaluate how successful and fair the education system has been. You will examine the impact of setting and labelling in school. You will also look at patterns of educational achievement (e.g. why do richer people do better than the poor and why do girls outperform boys in exams?).

**Social Differentiation:** Sociologists study inequality in society - its causes and consequences. You will study the way societies are divided by money, power and status. You will also examine forms of social difference in Britain (such as social class, gender, ethnicity and age) and how they can impact on a person's chances to do well in life.

**Crime & Deviance:** Sociologists investigate the causes of crime and deviance. You will study who commits crime and why. You will also study how the government and the police try to reduce the level of crime, how accurate official statistics on crime are and what factors effect your chances of becoming a victim of crime.

### GCSE

### Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

There are **two exams**. Both exams last one hour and thirty minutes. There is **no coursework**.

#### Unit 1 Exam (50%):

1 hour, 45 minutes

⇒ Cultural Transmission

⇒ Families

⇒ Education

#### Unit 2 Exam (50%):

1 hour, 45 minutes

⇒ Social Differentiation

⇒ Crime and Deviance

⇒ Research Methods

⇒ Crime and Deviance

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

You will develop a range of skills including critical thinking. This can lead to many careers such as: Charities Administrator • Civil Servant • HR Officer • Journalist • Lawyer • Marketing • Politician • Police Officer • Teacher • Solicitor • Youth Worker

### Next Steps

**Study:** A Level Sociology

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme



## PE and Sport

### What does the course offer me?

If you enjoy participation in Physical Activity and Sport and the Theory behind this one of these two course could be for you.

Please note: We will be advising students as to the appropriate PE course for them if they select this

### What does the course involve?

#### Sports Science:

- Reducing the risk of sports injuries
- Applying principles of training
- The body's response to physical activity
- Sport psychology

#### GCSE Physical Education:

- Practical Performance
- Health and fitness and wellbeing
- Physical Training
- Socio-Cultural Influences
- Anatomy and Physiology

Camb. National

Option

#### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

GCSE PE is a combination of practical assessment, written examination and coursework.

Sports Science is a combination of a written examination and coursework

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Physical Activity

### Future Career Opportunities

This can lead to careers as a: Armed Forces • Fitness Instructor • Outdoor Pursuits Instructor • PE Teacher • Physical Therapist • Personal Trainer • Public Services • Sports Coach • Sports Journalist • Sports Retail Manager • Leisure Centre Manager • Sporting Industry

### Next Steps

Study A Level/BTEc PE

Combine work and study: Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships  
Work: Supported Internship; school leaver scheme.



## Religious Studies (WJEC)

### What does the course offer me?

If you are naturally curious and a little argumentative then this course should suit you, as it gives an opportunity to examine subjects which affect us all in a little more depth with discussions, research and a chance to evaluate the influence of the media on our understanding. **The course encourages you to consider an issue from many sides and understand the beliefs and experiences that lie behind people's opinions.**

A qualification in Religious Studies is a good foundation, particularly if you are looking to work within healthcare, law or the media. It helps you develop the ability to consider a range of ideas and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of your conclusions.

### What does the course involve?

The course is based around two units which explore **ethical and philosophical themes**. This means you discuss the rights and wrongs and the meanings and beliefs around issues such as: **Good and Evil; Life And Death; Relationships and Human Rights**. Each of these topics is considered from a **secular, Christian and Muslim perspective** and you will gain a valuable insight into **the core beliefs and practices** of these religions. It's also a good opportunity to address common misconceptions about world religions.

GCSE

Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

**Examination (100%)  
(2hrs)**

You will sit two papers:

- Religion and Ethical Issues
- Religion and Philosophical Themes.

There is no coursework in this subject.

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

RS deepens your knowledge of the world around you and can lead to careers such as: Activist • Author • Charity Coordinator • Entrepreneur • Human Rights Advocate • Lawyer • Human Resources • Social Worker • Teaching • Youth Worker

### Next Steps

A Level RS; A Level Philosophy

**Combine work and study:** Vocational & Higher Technical Qualifications (HTQs, VTQs); T Levels (industry placements); Apprenticeship; Traineeships

**Work:** Supported Internship; school leaver scheme





# Gateacre School



## Hospitality and Catering (WJEC L1/2 Technical Award)

### What does the course offer me?

This course offers the perfect opportunity for you to develop your food & cookery skills ready for further study at college or an entry route into the industry.

The course will teach you many new advanced skills alongside the science behind them. This will result in being able to create successful dishes every time and will give you the opportunity to design food products for specific customers. You will also be required to plan your cooking for a specific outcome/event.

Alongside the practical element of the course you will gain a valuable insight into the world of hospitality. You will understand where food comes from, food laws and what a food business should be doing to protect its staff and customers. Perfect preparation for further study and entry into the industry.

### What does the course involve?

The course has 2 units

- 1) Unit 1 The hospitality and catering Industry. Students will gain a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety . This unit is externally assessed
- 2) Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in action. Unit 2 enables students to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively . Unit 2 is an internally assessed unit

### Technical

### Option

### HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

The main assessment for this course comes in the second year.

You will sit a paper **examination worth 40%** of the overall qualification. This assessment **covers theory which is taught during year 1.**

There is also an NEA (**non exam assessment**). This is **project based** and is worth **60%** of the overall qualification. This project will involve both **practical skills and elements of food science/theory.**

### SKILLS INVOLVED



Extended Writing



Working with my Hands



Using Numbers



Performing Activities



Design & Create Projects



Using ICT (Not Gaming)



Short Written Tasks



Speaking in front of Others

### Future Career Opportunities

Careers include: Agricultural Engineer; Baker; Barista; Butcher; Chef; Farmer; Food Factory Worker; food Manufacturing Inspector; Food Packaging Operative; Food Scientist; Head Chef; Hotel Manager; Meat Process Worker; Nutritionist; Nutritional Therapist; Packaging Technologist; Restaurant Manager; Teacher-

### Next Steps

Study A Level ; T Level in Catering, Level 3 Applied Certificate/Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition, or an Advanced Technical Diploma in Professional Cookery Apprenticeships/Traineeships/Internships: as a production chef, commis chef or chef de partie.



# Gateacre School

GATEACRE  
SCHOOL

SIXTH  
FORM



## Welcome to Gateacre Sixth Form

Although sixth form may seem distant during Year 9, it is never too early to start preparing—it will be here before you know it.



‘Staff go above and beyond to help my daughter and are approachable and supportive.’

**Year 12 Parent**

An inclusive and aspiration education for our students, with a full range of enrichment activities.



Visit our website to find out more about Gateacre Sixth Form on our school website.

<https://www.gateacre.org/sixth-form-home/>





# Gateacre School



[www.gateacre.org/sixth-form-home](http://www.gateacre.org/sixth-form-home) 0151 363 1111



GATEACRE  
SCHOOL  
SIXTH  
FORM





Department  
for Education

# HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- **English language and English literature**
- **Maths**
- **Science**  
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- **History or Geography**
- **A language**  
Ancient or modern

## WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

### EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies,  
August 2017

# LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

**"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."**

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

**The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities.**

(The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

**"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."**

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

## WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

**Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.**

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017



## Further Information

Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information.

You should also get in touch with your child's school directly — they will be able to tell you about their specific GCSE and EBacc offer and explain all of your child's options.



# Gateacre School

