



Key Stage 4 Pathways 2019



Diverse Academies
Learning Partnership

Contents

- 05 Welcome
- 06 Frequently asked questions
- 08 Careers education, information, advice & guidance (CEIAG)
- 08 English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)
- 09 Separate sciences
- 09 Timeline and deadlines

Core subjects

- 12 English Language and Literature
- 13 Mathematics
- 15 Science

Optional subjects

- 18 Geography
- 19 History
- 20 Dance
- 21 Drama
- 22 Art and Design
- 23 Food Preparation and Nutrition
- 24 French
- 25 Health and Social Care
- 26 Information Technology
- 27 Philosophy and Ethics
- 28 Photography
- 29 Separate Sciences
- 30 Spanish
- 31 Sports Science

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

Malcolm X

Welcome

Welcome to the Year 8 pathways brochure. We are very proud of our students at Walton and their achievements. An important factor in our students' success is ensuring they choose courses best suited to them.

This is an important and exciting time for students as they look towards their Level 2 courses, consider their aspirations and start to plan their future. We hope this brochure will be informative and help students to think about and make choices in regard to their future pathways. Students will need to use this to make decisions regarding the courses they follow from Year 9.

We continuously review Walton's curriculum to keep up to date with current government, university and

workplace requirements, as well as providing for the wide range of interests and abilities of our students to ensure they are well placed to succeed in the future. We have an exciting range of qualifications on offer, in addition to those that are compulsory. The details of each qualification are outlined in the following pages and are also on our website at www.walton-ac.org.uk. The purpose of this section is to provide you with some more general information to help with the decision-making process.

Please encourage your child to:

Read this booklet and focus on courses they enjoy and excel in.

Speak with teachers and older students.

Carry out research into careers and what they need to go into them.

Speak with parents, carers, family and friends about what they would like to do in the future.



For further information or clarification please contact:



Mr Wright
Vice Principal
awright@walton-ac.org.uk



Mr Hoad
Assistant Principal
mhead@walton-ac.org.uk

Final student numbers will determine whether the qualifications offered in this booklet will be available.



Frequently asked questions

What will students study?

All students will follow a core curriculum:

Core subjects

- | English
- | English literature
- | Mathematics
- | Combined science*
- | Physical education (non-assessed)
- | Life skills and choices – delivered through ‘curriculum days’ and incorporating personal, social and health education (PSHE) as well as careers advice, information and guidance (non-assessed).

**Many students will take a qualification in GCSE combined science, covering biology, chemistry and physics, which has a weighting of two GCSEs. The most able students will have the opportunity to study for separate science qualifications in Years 9 to 11, offering the potential to gain separate qualifications in each of the three disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.*

How many optional subjects can students select?

From Year 9, students study an additional four qualifications, one of which will be history or geography.

How might students choose their optional subjects?

With so much to choose from it is important that students give careful consideration to what will work best for them over the next three years. It is worth keeping the following points in mind.

Students should:

- | Choose subjects they enjoy
- | Consider their preferred way of working. Is it more suited to the coursework style of BTEC or the final examination revision of GCSEs? Do they prefer a practical way of learning?
- | Keep in mind their eventual career aspirations and which subjects might help them achieve these goals
- | Find out what each qualification entails

What is the difference between GCSEs and BTEC/Cambridge National qualifications?

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education and is a Level 2 qualification. The government has introduced new GCSEs – your child will achieve qualifications graded from 9-1, where 9 is the highest grade.

BTEC and Cambridge National qualifications at levels 1 and 2 are equivalent to GCSEs. One of the main differences between them and GCSEs is the way they are assessed. GCSEs mainly involve study geared towards a few big examinations at the end of the course, whereas BTECs and Cambridge Nationals are continually assessed via coursework and practical projects. They are graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction*.

Careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG)

Walton has a comprehensive programme that ensures all students have opportunities to recognise their own strengths and values and take responsibility for developing employability skills.

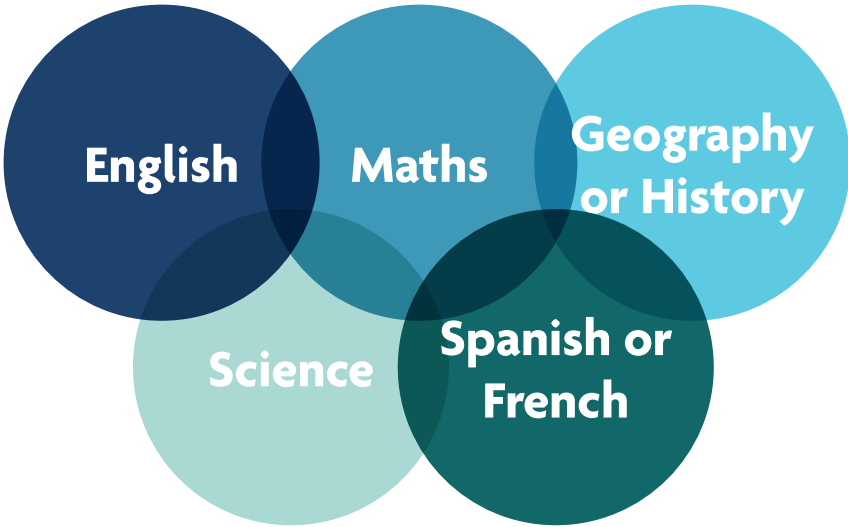
Mrs Etherington, careers leader, can be contacted by email: jetherington@walton-ac.org.uk or phone: 01476 563251

Mrs Etherington is available in school from Monday to Wednesday. A drop-in service operates at break times, lunchtimes and after school. The careers room is located in the corner of the foyer.

Throughout their time at Walton, students participate in CEIAG activities during their lessons, form time and life skills days, which help to develop employability skills and prepare them for the world of work. They learn where to look for careers information and develop the confidence to make informed decisions. Students will gain an understanding of the different options that are available to them, both now and in the future.

English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)

The English Baccalaureate, commonly referred to as the Ebacc, is a performance measure and not a standalone qualification. The measure shows where students have secured a grade 4 or above across a core of academic subjects, which at Walton include: English, maths, two sciences, a modern foreign language and either history or geography. Our subject blocks ensure that students who wish to can follow this academic pathway which is strongly recommended.



Separate sciences

For students considering studying A Levels in science in our Sixth Form, and at university, or those who have a real interest and aptitude for science, we strongly recommend they choose to follow the separate sciences. Students will need to choose separate sciences as one of their optional subjects.

Students expressing an interest in this course must seek advice from their science teacher or the faculty leader for science, Mrs J Wright.

Timeline and deadlines

Thursday 7 February	Subject choices launch during life skills and choice days
Wednesday 27 February	Subject choices information evening
Wednesday 13 March	Deadline for subject choices
Summer Term	Final confirmation of subject choices by letter

Core subjects

12 English Language and Literature

13 Mathematics

15 Science



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

EXAM BOARD	AQA	“The English language exerts hidden power like the moon on the tides.” <i>Rita Mae Brown</i>
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE	
CONTACT	Mrs Lindley llindley@walton-ac.org.uk	

Students will be assessed for two GCSEs in English: English language and English literature. Language is the study of different text types and takes into consideration accuracy of writing and comprehension skills. Literature is the analysis of different books and writing throughout history.

What will be studied?

Language

There will be a mixture of different text types which focus on improving skills such as location and retrieval, inference, deduction, analysis and comparison. Students will also be taught how to successfully write in many different forms, such as: letters, speeches and articles. They will also develop creative writing skills to enable them to construct engaging narratives and descriptive pieces.

Literature

Students will explore a wide variety of texts ranging from a Shakespeare play, An Inspector Calls, Jekyll and Hyde and an anthology of poetry.

Why study English?

Studying English improves the ability to communicate, which is a vital skill for any career. It helps students to understand characters from different backgrounds and countries, which helps them relate to people from across the world. English language and literature will introduce students to a variety of different texts, promoting reading skills such as skimming and scanning.

Future pathways

Studying English helps students to succeed in all their other subjects. They will be more confident in communicating through their writing and structuring text for any purpose or audience, such as essay writing, writing a persuasive letter or a newspaper article.

Each year English literature proves to be one of the most popular A Level subjects at Walton. It could help students on their way to studying journalism, creative writing, script writing, English literature or English language at university.

Assessment

These qualifications are assessed by written examinations at the end of the course. There are no tiers of entry.

Student comment

‘English is not only a subject in itself but supports understanding and the ability to analyse across all other subjects.’

Career opportunities

English GCSEs will be relevant to any future career, as all jobs need clear reading and writing skills.

- Journalism
- Writer (author, playwright, poet etc.)
- Teaching (in the UK or abroad)
- Public relations
- Law
- Advertising

MATHEMATICS

EXAM BOARD	AQA	“Mathematics is the most beautiful and powerful creation of the human spirit.” <i>Stefan Banach</i>
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE	
CONTACT	Mrs Owen lowen@walton-ac.org.uk	



Future pathways

Studying mathematics demonstrates that students can think logically and are capable problem solvers. A mathematics GCSE would lead to A Level mathematics and university degrees as well as aiding the understanding of science, psychology and geography A Levels.

Assessment

The qualification is assessed in three written examination papers at the end of the course. Examinations are entered as Higher or Foundation tier.

Student comment

‘Maths is challenging but when you get help from the teachers, it actually becomes fun. With problems you have to stick to the rules to fix them. That’s the fun bit when everything broken is finally fixed.’

GCSE mathematics lessons build on the mathematical ideas and learning skills acquired in earlier years, whilst new topics of a more advanced level are introduced.

What will be studied?

This is determined according to the tier of entry and covers five main areas:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry and measures
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Probability and statistics

Why study mathematics?

The importance of mathematics in society and employment is recognised by all. Employers consider a GCSE grade in mathematics to be vital.

Career opportunities

- Accountancy
- Engineering
- Teaching
- Market research
- Banking
- Computer programming



SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
CONTACT	Mrs Thomas-Wright jthomas-wright@walton-ac.org.uk

“Science is more than a body of knowledge. It’s a way of thinking.”
Carl Sagan

The majority of students will undertake the equivalent of two GCSEs in science during Key Stage 4 as part of the core curriculum. Some students will choose separate sciences as part of their subject choices which will lead to three separate science GCSEs, in biology, chemistry and physics (see separate sciences page for details).

What will be studied?

The course incorporates a range of biology, chemistry and physics topics. These include how we inherit different characteristics, chemical analysis – finding out what substances are present in mystery chemicals – and how radiation is used in medicine.

Why study science?

The science curriculum teaches students to question ideas and theories. It develops problem-solving skills ensuring that students acquire a transferable skill set that prepares them for whatever pathway they choose to move onto following GCSEs.

Future pathways

Science prepares all students for life in a scientific and technologically-based society. GCSE science offers valuable support to those going on to study A Level science, applied science, social sciences such as criminology and sociology and also vocational courses such as animal care.

Assessment

Students are examined by written examinations in biology, chemistry and physics. Required practical work is an essential part of the curriculum and knowledge of practical skills are examined as part of the written assessments. Examinations are entered as higher or foundation tier.

Student comments

‘Science is amazing. My teachers are enthusiastic and inspiring’
‘I find science fascinating, it helps me to understand the world around me’

Career opportunities

- Medicine and pharmaceuticals
- Forensic science
- Engineering
- Astronomy – the sky really is the limit!

Optional subjects

- 18** Geography
- 19** History
- 20** Dance
- 21** Drama
- 22** Art and Design
- 23** Food Preparation and Nutrition
- 24** French
- 25** Health and Social Care
- 26** Information Technology
- 27** Philosophy and Ethics
- 28** Photography
- 29** Separate Sciences
- 30** Spanish
- 31** Sports Science



GEOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD
QUALIFICATION TYPE
CONTACT

Pearson
GCSE
Mr Tudor
jtudor@walton-ac.org.uk

“Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future.”
Michael Palin

Geography helps students to understand the world they live in through studying people and places and how they interact. It incorporates a wide range of academic skills that are useful in a number of different subject areas.

What will be studied?

Paper 1 Global geographical issues: Topics in this unit include plate tectonics, tropical storms, a study of India and its development, and a study of urban and development issues in Lagos, Nigeria. This unit focuses on a mix of physical and human geography from around the world.

Paper 2 UK geographical issues: Studies of coastal and river landscapes, changing inner cities and changing rural landscapes, as well as two separate fieldwork investigations. Many of these issues are linked to everyday experiences of students. Fieldwork will require students to attend two different visits.

Paper 3 People and environment issues: This includes people and the biosphere, forests under threat and consuming energy resources. This unit particularly focuses on how humans can damage but also protect natural environments. Climate change, deforestation and conservation of wild habitats feature heavily in this unit.

Why study geography?

This subject is a fun and engaging subject due to a wide variety of topic areas covered during the course. The content is taught through a variety of engaging approaches.

This subject develops students’ understanding of current affairs and helps them make sense of the world they live in. It offers two separate fieldtrips as set out by the examination board which allow students to develop their enquiry skills.

Future pathways

Due to the wide range of skills that students will develop, geography opens up a variety of potential career paths.

Assessment

Three written examinations are taken at the end of the course. There are no tiers of entry.

Student comment

‘I’ve really enjoyed studying geography at Walton, there’s lots of variety in the topics and the teachers always make it interesting!’

Career opportunities

- Nature conservation officer
- Tourism officer
- Transport planner
- International aid/development worker
- Landscape architect
- Market researcher
- Cartographer
- Environmental consultant
- Geographical information systems officer
- Planning and development surveyor

HISTORY

EXAM BOARD
QUALIFICATION TYPE
CONTACT

Pearson
GCSE
Miss Wells
rwells@walton-ac.org.uk

“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.”
Marcus Garvey

During the autumn and spring term of Year 9, students will study the following topics: civil rights in the USA, votes for women and World War One. There will be a specific focus on developing certain historical skills such as source analysis and historical enquiry, forming and supporting historical arguments and writing clear and well-structured explanations and judgements.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment: Students will explore medicine in Britain, c1250–present. They will also study the British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches. This is worth 30% of the final qualification and is assessed by a 1 hour 15 minute examination.

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study: Students will complete an in-depth study on Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88, and a period study option on The American West, c1835–c1895. This is worth 40% of the final qualification and is assessed by a 1 hour 45 minute examination.

Paper 3: Modern depth study: Students will study Weimar and Nazi Germany from 1918–39. This is worth 30% of the final qualification and is assessed by a 1 hour 20 minute examination.

Why study history?

Studying GCSE history helps students to answer important questions such as:

- Why do wars happen?
- Why do we have a welfare system?
- How have we come to live in a multi-cultural society?

Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow students to understand how the world got to the point it is at now and how it will continue to develop in the future.

Future pathways

History is a solid basis for many A Level subjects. Students who have done well in history often study higher qualifications in subjects such as politics, law, economics, and sociology. History also goes well with subjects such as English and languages. Many people working in law and accountancy have studied history because of the skills that can be developed in reasoning and arguing a point.

Assessment

The GCSE is linear and therefore all examinations will be taken at the end of the course and there are no tiers of entry. Some questions are compulsory but students will also be given choice for various parts of the examination.

Student comments

‘Studying history has opened my eyes to a fascinating range of ideas and opinions, and made me think hard about lessons we should learn from mistakes in our past.’

‘GCSE history has helped me to develop important skills such as debating, analysing and forming convincing arguments.’

Career opportunities

- Travel and tourism
- Museums
- Finance
- The media industry
- Journalism
- Law
- Government research
- Teaching

DANCE

EXAM BOARD	Pearson	“Dance is the hidden language of the soul.” <i>Martha Graham</i>
QUALIFICATION TYPE	BTEC Tech Award	
CONTACT	Mrs Gleave mgleave@walton-ac.org.uk	

Dance is an exciting practical course that will develop performance, choreography and appreciation skills.

What will be studied?

Three components will be covered during the course.

Component 1: Students will practically and theoretically explore performance styles, creative intentions and purpose. They will investigate how practitioners create and influence performance as well as discover performance roles, skills, techniques and processes.

Component 2: Students will take part in workshops, classes and rehearsals to develop physical and interpretative skills. This will be applied through performance in front of a live audience. They will be given the opportunity to reflect on their process, the performance, and how they could improve.

Component 3: Students will respond to a set examination brief by creating, rehearsing and performing a devised group piece to a live audience. They will reflect on their performance in a typed evaluation report completed under examination conditions.

Why study dance?

Dance encompasses many skills such as working as part of a group and improving interpersonal expertise. Students will also develop their ability to be creative through improvisation. Communication, evaluative and problem solving will be enhanced, all of which are important in employment. Dance will improve confidence, presentation and personal fitness, which will allow them to be stretched academically and physically to reach their full potential.

Future pathways

A BTEC in dance is an excellent basis from which to enter the world of work and progress to further education including university and vocational training. Walton's Sixth Form offers a highly successful and popular Level 3 course as part of a qualification in musical theatre.

Assessment

Component 1: Internally assessed (30%)

Component 2: Internally assessed (30%)

Component 3: Externally assessed (40%)

Student comment

‘I have always enjoyed dance, both in lessons and in activities outside of school. I knew this would be a subject I would enjoy taking a qualification in and would hopefully open doors for me later in my career.’

Career opportunities

- Education (teacher of dance)
- West End performer
- Freelance dance teacher
- Health and fitness instructor
- Holiday/cruise ship entertainer
- Dance therapy
- Community dance artist

DRAMA

EXAM BOARD	Pearson	“Drama is exposure; it is confrontation, it is contradiction.” <i>Peter Brook</i>
QUALIFICATION TYPE	BTEC Tech Award	
CONTACT	Mrs Leonard jleonard@walton-ac.org.uk	

Drama is an ideal qualification for those who enjoy being creative and have a passion for performing, the theatre and different styles of acting.

What will be studied?

Three units are covered during the course.

- Unit 1: exploring the performing arts
- Unit 2: developing skills and techniques in performing arts
- Unit 3: performing to a brief

Lessons will be highly practical. There will be a range of group and individual work which maximises opportunities for students to develop skills and deepen understanding of various acting styles and practitioners.

Why study drama?

This course allows students to develop and refine their practical performance skills, as well as explore their understanding of acting and performance. Drama is not just about improving acting skills or fulfilling dreams to appear on stage, it includes many other skills such as interpersonal and group working skills, creative and improvisational skills, communication, evaluative skills and problem solving skills.

Future pathways

Drama is an excellent basis from which to enter the world of work, progress to further education or access university. Walton Sixth Form offers a highly successful and popular Level 3 course in musical theatre, a natural next step for most students of drama.

Assessment

Unit 1 is assessed through practical workshops, workshop style performances and presentations on practitioners.

Unit 2 is assessed through practical rehearsals, milestone and final performances and a written log book which includes analysis and evaluation of the work created.

Unit 3 is assessed through a devised group piece which is developed, rehearsed and performed, as well as a timed response to a written question.

Units 1 and 2 are internally assessed, Unit 3 is externally assessed.

Student comment

‘Drama is awesome because it gives you the opportunity to develop your performance skills but to have fun and be creative at the same time. I also like how practical the lessons are.’

Career opportunities

- The media
- Theatre
- Television
- Radio
- The film industry
- Arts administration
- Drama therapy
- Education

ART AND DESIGN

EXAM BOARD	Pearson
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
CONTACT	Miss Volley lvolley@walton-ac.org.uk

“If I could say it in words there would be no reason to paint.”
Keith Haring



Art is all about experimenting and having fun with ideas and materials. We are passionate about students expressing their thoughts and ideas through art.

What will be studied?

Through responding to the work of creative practitioners and the wider world around them, students will develop ideas for projects. Students can use a variety of sources for inspiration, from film to a simple walk in the countryside. In order to develop these ideas further students will explore many materials and media including fabrics, wire, paint, photography and drawing media to create interesting and imaginative work. They will then make creative final pieces which conclude their project.

Why study art and design?

Students typically take a qualification in art and design if they are creative and imaginative, love making things and looking at art work, or want to try new things and take risks. The course particularly suits students who prefer to be assessed through their work on projects rather than examinations.

Future pathways

Every year many students choose to continue studying this subject at A Level at Walton's Sixth Form. As the creative field in the UK continues to grow, there are hundreds of careers opportunities in a diverse range of creative industries.

Assessment

The qualification is split into two parts: a coursework project worth 60% of the qualification and an examination project worth 40%. The examination project is a sketchbook-based project which is completed during class and homework time, which has a theme set by the examination board.

Student comment

'I love the opportunities that art and design gives me to develop my own ideas and skills. I enjoy exploring a wide range of media and techniques'

Career opportunities

- Photographer
- Car designer
- Fashion and textiles designer
- Fashion buyer
- Interior designer
- Animator
- Video games designer
- Make-up artist
- Web site designer
- Architect

Course requirements

Students will be required to print a significant amount of resources and collate them in variety of ways throughout each project. We therefore ask that each student purchases a pack of art equipment from the academy, which includes a sketchbook and paint.

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
CONTACT	Miss Elson jelson@walton-ac.org.uk

“I believe no chef becomes what he becomes without having many people influence him.”
Jose Andres

Students will learn how to prepare, cook and present a wide range of dishes with varying skills for a variety of people's food needs. This includes healthy eating and some fun food science experiments.

What will be studied?

The course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and motivation they need to cook in real life situations. They will study a vast range of culinary techniques, as well as knowledge of nutrition, food traditions and kitchen safety. Students will develop skills in meat and fresh fish preparation, sauce making, pastries and breads as well as sweets and cake making.

Students will experience a mixture of theory and practical lessons to learn the key points and skills for success in food preparation and nutrition. There will be mini assignments which include relevant practical work to enhance and demonstrate key skills. There will be short tasks and group work to develop the highest possible skill level.

Why study food preparation and nutrition?

This course helps students to develop a whole range of useful skills for life, including how to be a wise consumer to their nutritional needs. Students will further develop their independence – a very valuable skill for future careers and in life. It is an ideal opportunity for students to explore their creativity, be adventurous and try new things by experimenting and trialling ideas.

Future pathways

With a qualification in food and nutrition, students often find an apprenticeship with a major food manufacturer or gain a vocational qualification in food manufacturing and science or catering.

Assessment

There are three assessments in this qualification.

Paper 1: Food preparation and nutrition

50% of the GCSE with 100 marks and a written examination for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Task 1: Food investigation

One practical investigation of 1500 – 2000 words including practical food experiments.

Task 2: Food preparation assessment

Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes which will be cooked in one session of three hours. This includes a portfolio of work with photographs to demonstrate practical skills.

These two tasks are worth 50% of the final qualification.

Student comment

'I really enjoy studying food as most of the learning is through practical lessons and we cover a wide range of foods.'

Career opportunities

- Product developer
- Nutritionist
- Dietician
- Personal trainer
- Animal nutritionist
- Food marketing or sales
- Teaching

FRENCH

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
CONTACT	Mrs Byrne sbyrne@walton-ac.org.uk

“One language sets you in a corridor
for life. Two languages open every
door along the way.”
Frank Smith



GCSE French helps students develop their French language skills in a variety of contexts. It broadens students’ understanding of the culture of countries and communities where French is spoken, and encourages them to enjoy learning new languages.

A qualification in French or Spanish is required to qualify for the EBacc.

What will be studied?

Students explore all of the following themes:

- Theme 1:** Identity and culture
- Theme 2:** Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3:** Current and future study and employment

Why study French?

Students who are able to use a second language at work have the potential to increase their salary by 8 to 20%. Learning a language helps students to develop their memory, creativity, listening skills and self-confidence. By taking a language qualification students learn about other people, countries and cultures, making it an interesting and varied subject.

Studying a language is proven to help students increase their success in other subjects, as learning a new language strengthens memory.

Future pathways

Natural progression is from GCSE to an A Level in French. This opens doors to a wide variety of careers before or after university.

Assessment

Students are assessed at the end of the course by speaking, listening, reading and writing examinations.

Student comment

‘I decided I wanted to study French at GCSE because I wanted to broaden my knowledge and understanding of other cultures. I also think that it will make me stand out from the crowd when applying to university and for jobs.’

Career opportunities

- Journalism
- Travel and tourism
- Teaching (in the UK or abroad)
- Public relations

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

EXAM BOARD	Pearson
QUALIFICATION TYPE	BTEC
CONTACT	Miss Hare rhare@walton-ac.org.uk

“The best way to find
yourself, is to lose yourself
in the care of others.”
Mahatma Ghandi



A qualification in health and social care is ideal for students who are interested in helping the elderly, working with children and young people or supporting individuals with needs. It is one of the most rewarding careers as it means contributing in a worthwhile way to making life happier and enjoyable for others.

What will be studied?

The course consists of topics such as human lifespan development, health and social care values, and health and wellbeing. A wide range of concepts and topics will be covered through research, practical activities and visits. Outside speakers often visit during the course to help students gain valuable real world experience and insights from the sector.

Why study health and social care?

This qualification develops key skills which are vital for future careers. For example, communicating, working as individuals and as teams, the use of ICT and problem solving.

Future pathways

Further study is available up to Level 5 Masters. Students often take this qualification at Level 3 in Walton’s Sixth Form, which continues to be both successful and popular.

Assessment

Students will produce work that evidences their understanding of a range of concepts within each unit. Each unit is graded as a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade. There is also a written examination.

Student comment

‘Health and social care is really interesting and makes me think a lot about how we are shaped by so many different things as we discuss lots of topics and issues.’

Career opportunities

- Adult nurse
- Ambulance care assistant
- Ambulance paramedic
- Anaesthetist
- Art therapist
- Audiologist
- Care assistant
- Care home advocate
- Early Years practitioner
- Teaching

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

EXAM BOARD	Pearson
QUALIFICATION TYPE	BTEC
CONTACT	Miss Justice rjustice@walton-ac.org.uk

“The digital revolution is far more significant than the invention of writing or even of printing.”
Douglas Engelbart



This qualification is aimed at students who want to find out more about how IT skills are used in the real world. It will provide a practical introduction to life and work in the IT industry.

What will be studied?

Component 1: Design principles and project planning techniques. Students will explore user interface design and development principles, discover how to develop and review a digital user interface and investigate how to use project planning tools to manage a digital project.

Component 2: Collecting, presenting and interpreting data. Students will explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations; develop a dashboard and make recommendations on data intelligence.

Component 3: Effective digital working practices. Students will explore how modern information technology is evolving; discover what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it. They will also debate the legal and ethical issues of data and information sharing.

Why study IT?

IT is an essential skill in today’s world and it is crucial that every individual has the ability to work with the wide range of technology available to them and understand how to use a range of devices and software.

Future pathways

All jobs will require students to use technology in some form. Students may choose to follow a career within the information and technology sector. After the completion of this course there are a range of qualifications available for further study, such as A Levels, BTECs, or a mixture of both, in areas such as computing, IT, engineering, design and science. There are also many opportunities for work-based learning in an IT sector as an apprentice or a trainee.

Assessment

This qualification is assessed through written assignments and examinations.

Student comment

‘This course has really helped me to improve my IT skills; I enjoy working with computers.’

Career opportunities

- Network manager
- IT technician
- Database designer
- Website designer
- Teaching

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

EXAM BOARD	Eduqas
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
CONTACT	Mrs McKeown cmckeown@walton-ac.org.uk

“God has no religion.”
Mahatma Ghandi

This subject is suitable for anyone who enjoys thinking critically, playing with abstract concepts and challenging received wisdom. Philosophers ask fundamental questions about our own nature, and of the world we live in. It is an exciting process, helping students to grow and develop intellectually while developing valuable and transferable skills in analysis, imagination, problem solving and communication.

What will be studied?

Component 1: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world

Theme 1: Issues of relationships

Theme 2: Issues of life and death

Theme 3: Issues of good and evil

Theme 4: Issues of human rights

Component 2: Study of Christianity

Students will learn about the belief, teachings and practices of Christianity, and explore practices such as pilgrimage, evangelism and the work of the world church. Views will be explored such as beliefs about creation, salvation and the afterlife.

Component 3: Study of Judaism

Views within Judaism in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed will be included throughout the course of study. This will include practices such as festivals and life cycle rituals and beliefs such as the covenant and the chosen nation.

Why study philosophy and ethics?

The study of philosophy and ethics is fascinating and excellent preparation for a wide range of A Level courses and at degree level. Highly regarded by universities, this subject involves a study of philosophical, theological and ethical theories which underpin and structure our world today.

Future pathways

An understanding of philosophy and ethics is essential to an engagement with key themes in politics, law, medicine, education, human rights and religion. Every year many students choose to continue studying this subject at A Level at Walton’s Sixth Form.

Assessment

Students will be assessed at the end of the course by written examinations.

Student comment

‘I have found philosophy and ethics to be one of my favourite subjects. I find some of the topics really thought provoking.’

Career opportunities

- Journalism
- Publishing
- Law
- Teaching
- Psychotherapy and counselling

PHOTOGRAPHY

EXAM BOARD
QUALIFICATION TYPE
CONTACT

AQA
GCSE
Miss Williams
nwilliams@walton-ac.org.uk

“What you have caught on film is captured forever... It remembers little things, long after you have forgotten everything.”
Aaron Siskind



Photography is all about learning how to compose a striking and creative photograph. Students develop their ability to express thoughts and ideas through this art form.

What will be studied?

Through responding to the work of creative practitioners and the wider world around them, students will explore ideas for projects which will develop a wide range of skills. They will learn how to use a digital camera and how to edit photographs using a range of techniques, including Photoshop. Students will produce three major projects during the course:

- 1 – The formal elements of photography
- 2 – Developing a creative project
- 3 – The examination project, in response to a theme set by the examination board

Why study photography?

This course suits students who are creative, imaginative and love documenting the world around them. Students will grow their confidence in taking risks and trying new things. This course suits students who prefer a project-based approach to their learning.

Future pathways

Every year many students choose to continue studying this subject at A Level at Walton's Sixth Form. As the creative field in the UK continues to grow, there are hundreds of careers opportunities in a diverse range of creative industries.

Assessment

The qualification is split into two parts: a coursework project worth 60% of the qualification and an examination project worth 40%. The examination project is completed during class and homework time, which has a theme set by the examination board.

Student comment

'I love photography as it gives me the opportunity to explore lots of challenging issues in a creative way, and I have really grown my confidence.'

Career opportunities

- Photographer
- Film maker
- Graphic designer
- Fashion buyer
- Web designer
- Make-up artist
- Curator

Course requirements

Students will be required to print a significant amount of resources and collate them in variety of ways throughout each project. We therefore ask that each student purchases a sketchbook and contributes £10 towards their academy printing allowance.

SEPARATE SCIENCES

EXAM BOARD
QUALIFICATION TYPE
CONTACT

AQA
GCSE
Mrs Thomas-Wright
jthomas-wright@walton-ac.org.uk

“The science of today is the technology of tomorrow.”
Edward Teller



The separate sciences course is comprised of three GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics.

What will be studied?

Biology, chemistry and physics units cover diverse topics such as how embryos are cloned to cure diseases, how scientists use data to look for links between air quality and illnesses, and what we know about the rest of the Universe.

Why study separate sciences?

The separate sciences course is suitable for those students who love sciences and are considering A Level science.

By studying the separate sciences, students develop an even deeper understanding of each branch of science, which prepares them well for life in a scientific and technologically based society. The qualifications support students going on to study A Level science, applied science as well as social sciences such as criminology or vocational courses, for example, animal care.

Future pathways

Every year many students choose to continue studying biology, chemistry and physics at Walton's Sixth Form. Science is an increasingly popular university choice for Walton students, as are science based vocational courses.

Assessment

Students are examined at the end of the course by written examinations in biology, chemistry and physics. Required practical work is also an essential part of the curriculum and knowledge of practical skills are examined as part of the written assessments.

Student comments

'Science is my favourite subject. It allows me to study the subject in more depth and I now feel prepared for A Level.'

'I really enjoy the wider range of practical work that we get to do and the additional topics like space.'

Career opportunities

- Medicine and pharmaceuticals
- Forensic science
- Engineering
- Ecology and environmental sciences
- Cosmetics industry
- Astronomy – the sky really is the limit!

SPANISH

EXAM BOARD	AQA
QUALIFICATION TYPE	GCSE
CONTACT	Mrs Byrne sbyrne@walton-ac.org.uk

“A different language is a different vision of life.”
Federico Fellini



GCSE Spanish helps students develop their Spanish language skills in a variety of contexts. It develops their understanding of the culture of countries and communities where Spanish is spoken, and encourages students to enjoy learning languages.

A qualification in Spanish or French is required to qualify for the EBacc.

What will be studied?

Students explore all of the following themes on which assessments are based.

- Theme 1:** Identity and culture
- Theme 2:** Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Theme 3:** Current and future study and employment

Why study Spanish?

Students who are able to use a second language at work have the potential to increase their salary by 8 to 20%. Learning a language helps students to develop their memory, creativity, listening skills and self-confidence. By taking a language qualification students learn about other people, countries and cultures, making it an interesting and varied subject.

Studying a language is proven to help students increase their success in other subjects, as learning a new language strengthens memory.

Future pathways

Natural progression is from GCSE to A Level in Spanish. This opens doors to a wide variety of careers before or after university.

Assessment

Students are assessed at the end of the course by speaking, listening, reading and writing examinations.

Student comment

‘This course has helped me to develop a much better understanding of different cultures and really built my confidence, which has been useful for my other subjects.’

Career opportunities

- Journalism
- Travel and tourism
- Teaching (in the UK or abroad)
- Public relations

SPORTS SCIENCE

EXAM BOARD	OCR
QUALIFICATION TYPE	Level 2 Cambridge National
CONTACT	Miss Sandell ksandell@walton-ac.org.uk

“Every champion was once a contender who refused to give up.”
Rocky Balboa



The Cambridge National offers students the opportunity to study key areas of sport science. This includes anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance, the science of training and application of training principles, and psychology of sport and sports performance.

What will be studied?

Theory

Students will learn about various sectors of PE and sport including sports injuries, principles of training, the body’s responses to physical activity and sports nutrition.

Practical

Students will not be assessed on their practical ability. However, being able to apply theoretical knowledge to practical sport is essential.

Why study sports science?

Students should choose this qualification if they have a love of being active and enjoy sports. They must have an interest in learning about the many theoretical factors that contribute to a successful sporting performance.

Future pathways

Every year many students choose to continue studying this subject at Walton’s Sixth Form. Students can progress from this subject into further study of PE and sport at Level 3, an apprenticeship or employment in the sports sector.

Assessment

Students will be required to complete one written examination and three units of assessed coursework.

Student comment

‘This course has enabled me to learn about sport in more detail and I enjoy the variety of both the practical and theory lessons.’

Career opportunities

- PE teaching
- Sports nutrition
- Sports psychology
- Sport and exercise science
- Sports coaching
- Physiotherapy/sports therapy



Harlaxton Road | Grantham | Lincolnshire | NG31 7JR
Phone: 01476 563251 | Email: enquiries@walton-ac.org.uk

www.walton-ac.org.uk

Diverse Academies Learning Partnership – a partnership between the Diverse Academies Trust (Marnham Road, Tuxford, Newark NG22 0JH; registered company number 07664012) and the National Church of England Academy Trust (Annesley Road, Hucknall, Nottingham NG15 7DB; registered company number 07708713). Not for profit charitable trusts with exempt charity status, registered in England and Wales.