



The
Featherstone Academy



Options Booklet

Year 11 GCSE Prospectus

2022 – 2023



The Featherstone Academy

March 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Options Process

Your child is about to make their final choice of option subject to study during Key Stage 4. In order to support them in making this choice, we have created this booklet about each of the subjects we offer at GCSE.

We aim to ensure that the information and guidance provided will support your child through the options process. It is important that each student, with support from their parents/carers, understands their own strengths and weaknesses so that they can optimise their chances of success. We recommend that students select a course that they enjoy and that they may wish to study when they continue their education at either a college or sixth form.

Your child has already studied and sat one GCSE in Year 10 and will now choose another GCSE option in Year 11 to study and sit. They must make one 'open' choice and one 'reserve' choice. The list of subjects they can choose from is shown overleaf.

All choices should be completed on the SIMS Options website – [full instructions on how to do this are noted near the end of this booklet.](#)

Options should be chosen online by Thursday 7 April 2021.

If you have any queries or need further information, please do not hesitate to contact the academy on 01977 698000 or e-mail: admin@featherstone.academy

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Townshend'.

Ms Diana Townshend
Principal

Curriculum Structure

Core Curriculum (blue section)

Students will continue to study towards GCSEs in the following core subjects:

GCSE English Language
GCSE English Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Combined Science

Option Subjects (purple and green sections)

Students will continue to study the following subjects over the next year:

GCSE French
GCSE Geography **OR** GCSE History

Students will study one of the following in Year 11:

GCSE 3D Art*
GCSE Art and Design*
GCSE Business
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition
GCSE Geography**
GCSE History**
GCSE Media
GCSE Performing Arts
GCSE Physical Education

*only one can be studied in Key Stage 4

**must be different choice to their current purple option above

Get in contact: admin@featherstone.academy



Art and Design: 3D Design

This course is a 3D design course. Students will have the opportunity to study a variety of designers' and artists' work to inspire and develop their responses, usually from a given theme. Using a variety of 3D techniques and materials, students will learn how to develop ideas into an individual outcome. This course is primarily delivered through Product Design.

GCSE Students are encouraged to make their research personal, imaginative and exciting in order to promote independent work.

What will be studied?

Students will be taught how to study designers' and artists' work, developing ideas and samples using appropriate media. They will learn skilful recording of ideas through drawing, modelling and annotation. Through the experimentation of techniques learnt, students will be encouraged to develop a personal response. The exam is an opportunity to showcase skills and concepts learnt through the coursework, but with greater independence.

Course Structure and Assessment

Art and Design: 3D Design (AQA 8205)

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (100%)

Component 1

- Portfolio
- 60% of GCSE
- No time limit

Component 2

- Externally set assignment
- 40% of GCSE
- Preparation period followed by 10 hours of supervised time

Progression beyond GCSE

Students can progress from GCSE 3D Design to study a more advanced course, for example A level Art, Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles 3D Design and Photography at college or sixth form. Students may also pursue Design and Technology at a higher level. Alternatively students could progress to Level 3 BTEC course in order to access degree level qualification.



Art and Design

Students will have the opportunity to study a variety of artists' work to inspire and develop their responses, usually from a given theme. Using a variety of techniques and materials students will learn how to develop ideas into an individual outcome.

GCSE Art students are encouraged to make their research personal, imaginative and exciting in order to promote independent work.

What will be studied?

Students will be taught how to study artists' work, developing ideas and samples using appropriate media. They will learn skilful recording of ideas through drawing and photography. Through the experimentation of techniques learnt, students will be encouraged to develop a personal response. The exam is an opportunity to showcase skills and concepts learnt through the coursework, but with greater independence.

Course Structure and Assessment

Art and Design: Art, craft and design (AQA 8201)

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (100%)

Component 1

- Portfolio
- 60% of GCSE
- No time limit

Component 2

- Externally set assignment
- 40% of GCSE
- Preparation period followed by 10 hours of supervised time

Progression beyond GCSE

Students can progress from GCSE Art and Design to study a more advanced course, for example A level Art, Fine Art, Graphics, Textiles and Photography at college or sixth form. Alternatively students could progress to art college and study a Level 3 BTEC course in order to access degree level qualification.



Business

This is a Business course focusing on both the theoretical and practical aspects of establishing and running a business. GCSE Business allows students to understand the external influences that dictate whether a business succeeds or fails, such as political, economic, financial or environmental issues. Students are encouraged to look beyond the classroom, putting themselves in the shoes of an entrepreneur looking for the next big business opportunity.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: Topics such as enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective, and understanding external influences on business.

Paper 2: Topics such as growing the business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions and making human resource decisions.

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Business (Edexcel 1BS0)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Investigating small business
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2

- Building a business
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

GCSE Business could lead to work in a Business-related profession such as Accountancy, Law, Marketing or the Leisure and Tourism industry. GCSE Business will support many jobs and post-16 course applications. Further qualifications in Business can open many doors and you can go on to study Business or Economics at A-Level.



Food Preparation and Nutrition

This course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and the encouragement that they need to cook. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

Students will be able to make informed decisions about a wide range of further learning opportunities and career pathways, and develop vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

What will be studied?

The areas covered are food preparation skills, food, nutrition and health, food science, food safety, food choice, food provenance, food preparation and cooking techniques.

Students will complete investigations into the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Their coursework will also involve preparation, cooking and presenting a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, as well as planning in advance how this will be achieved.

Course Structure and Assessment

Food Preparation and Nutrition (AQA 8585)

Examination (50%)

Paper 1

- Food preparation and nutrition
- 50% of GCSE
- 1 hour 45 minutes

Non-exam assessment (NEA)(50%)

Task 1

- Food Investigation
- 15% of GCSE
- 10 hours

Task 2

- Food Preparation
- 35% of GCSE
- 20 hours

Progression beyond GCSE

Food preparation and nutrition is valuable in any career that involves food, food retail and the hospitality industry. In addition, it will be relevant to careers in social care. For example caring for people with special dietary requirements. Further study may include Health Studies, Catering and Hospitality or Leisure and Tourism. It would support GNVQ, BTEC and NVQ Health and Social Care at post-16.



Geography

Geography will help students to be more aware of everyday situations and issues faced by the people who live around them and in other parts of the world. They will study the AQA GCSE Geography (8035) specification. Geography is a highly topical subject; ever changing as world events unfold. When students see newspaper articles or television reports about a potential cataclysmic 'super-volcanic' eruption in the USA, then Geography will help them make sense of what is going by making balanced judgements.

What will be studied?

Paper 1: The Challenge of Natural Hazards. The Living World. Physical Landscapes in the UK. Paper 2: Urban Issues and Challenges. The Changing Economic World. The Challenge of Resource Management. Paper 3: Issue Evaluation.

Fieldwork - Students need to undertake two geographical enquiries and show an understanding of both physical and human geography.

Course Structure and Assessment

Geography (AQA 8035)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Living with the Physical Environment
- 35% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 2

- Challenges in the Human Environment
- 35% of GCSE
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Paper 3

- Geographical Applications
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour 15 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

Geography would be useful if you were considering a career in town and transport planning, weather and climate, teaching, emergency management, natural disasters, engineering, tourism, nature conservation, local government, geology and many more.



History

History is a popular option subject and will be of interest to any student who enjoys finding out about the past and how the past affects the world we live in today.

Throughout the course, students study a range of History and will develop their ability to investigate and analyse in a historical context. Key skills include, inference, source work, extended writing and debate.

What will be studied?

Students will study:

- Germany, 1890–1945: Democracy and dictatorship
- Conflict and Tension: First World War 1894-1918
- Britain: Health and the people: c1000 to the present day
- Norman England, c1066–c1100

Course Structure and Assessment

History (AQA 8145)

Examination (100%)

Paper 1

- Understanding the Modern World
- 50% of GCSE
- 2 hours

Paper 2

- Shaping the Nation
- 50% of GCSE
- 2 hours

Progression beyond GCSE

History is a traditional academic subject with an excellent reputation with institutions of Higher Education and employers alike. History students are highly sought after by the legal profession, armed forces, management sector and even the entertainment industry due to the analytical skills developed by the study of the subject.

Options Booklet

Year 10 GCSE prospectus



Media

Students will develop their understanding of the ways media shapes and forms our perception of the world, and how it simultaneously shapes society whilst also reflecting the context it was created in. They will study the way the producers of various genres of media use language to create representations that can influence an audience's viewpoints. They will also explore the power of the media through its vast institutions.

What will be studied?

Learners study a range of media forms in terms of a theoretical framework which consists of media language, representation, media industries and audiences.

Areas of the framework are studied in the following way across the three components:

- Exploring the Media - understanding of the use of media language used to create meaning and representations in a range of print media texts. It also assesses pupils' knowledge of media industries and audiences for the following media forms: film, newspaper, radio, and video games
- Understanding Media Forms and Products - all areas of the media framework: media language, representation, audience and media industry in relation to television and music video
- Creating Media Products - Pupils create an individual media production in response to a choice of briefs set by the exam board, applying knowledge of media language and representation

Course Structure and Assessment

GCSE Media

Component 1:

Exploring the Media

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
40% of qualification

Component 2:

Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
30% of qualification

Component 3:

Creating Media Products

Non-exam assessment
30% of qualification

Progression beyond GCSE

This qualification would allow you to progress to study the AS Level in Media. Many students will then go on to university to study media or pursue a career in the media industry such as a journalist, editor, film maker or any other role within the film industry.



Performing Arts

This course allows you to study acting and/or musical theatre giving you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. Students will work individually and as part of small groups to create their own drama pieces and to interpret scripts written by a range of playwrights. They will also learn about theatrical techniques and styles.

Students will study texts in detail and will watch live theatre performances by professional actors.

What will be studied?

Topics include:

- Devising drama: responding to a stimulus (for example, a photograph, a newspaper report or a piece of music) to create a performance in a small group.
- Performing texts: a performance of two extracts from the same play, showing that you can learn lines, perform confidently and interpret the playwright's meaning.
- A study of a play in order to answer exam questions about style, technique and background.

Course Structure and Assessment

Drama(GCSE)

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (60%)

Component 1 and 2

- Devising Drama
- 30% of GCSE
- No time limit

Component 3

- Performing and presenting texts
- 30% of GCSE
- No time limit

Examination (40%)

Component 4

- Drama performance and response
- 40 % of the course
- 1 hour 30 minutes

Progression beyond GCSE

The course would be useful if you were considering a career in theatre performance or design, cultural industries or a job which requires you to present or speak to an audience. The course will support you studying Theatre Studies, Music, Dance and Performing Arts Post 16.



Physical Education

The initial theory aspect of the course will include an introduction to Physical Education looking at key processes, key concepts and the opportunities for participation. Students will participate in a range of individual and team sports to develop their basic skills, comprehension and tactics/awareness. To be successful, students will need to be competent at a wide range of sports. This will include entering the course with at least three sports that could be used for the practical assessment.

What will be studied?

Topic areas of study include:

- Bones and muscles
- Feedback, motivation and goal setting
- Media and sponsorship
- Participation
- Government initiatives
- Nutrition
- Injuries and hazards
- Healthy lifestyles

Course Structure and Assessment

Physical Education (OCR J587)

Examination (60%)

Component 1

- Physical factors affecting performance
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour

Component 2

- Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology
- 30% of GCSE
- 1 hour

Non-exam assessment (NEA) (40%)

Component 3

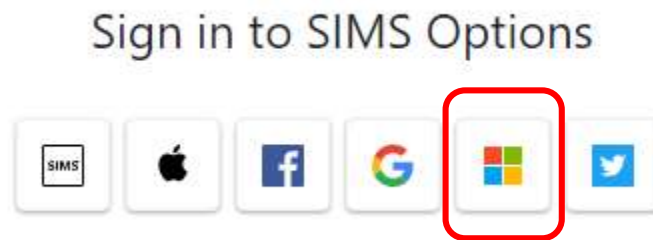
- Performance in physical education
- 40% of GCSE
- No time limit

Progression beyond GCSE

This qualification would allow you to progress to study the AS Level in Physical Education or the BTEC National Award in Sport. Many students will then go on to University to study Physical Education, Sports Science or pursue a career in the sport industry such as a PE teacher, sports coach, sports scientist, physiotherapist, sports psychology or fitness instructor.

How to use SIMS Options Online

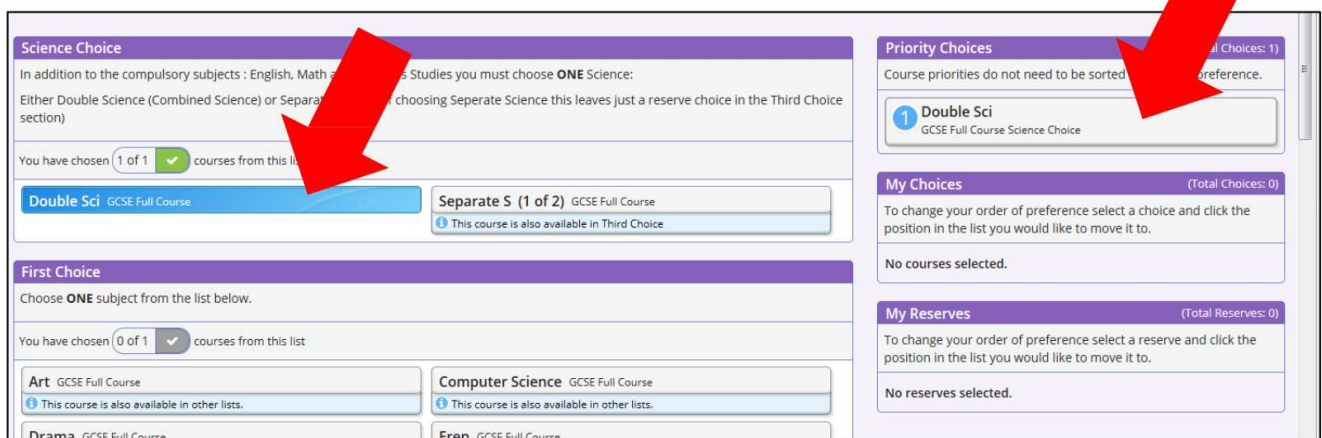
Go to www.sims-options.co.uk and click on the Office365 logo as indicated below:



Log in using your school email address and password.

Making your Option Choices

Click on the name of the subject you wish to choose, do not click on the reserve button yet. A selected choice will be highlighted in blue and appear in the list of choices on the right hand side of the screen:

The screenshot shows the 'Science Choice' section of the SIMS Options Online interface. It includes instructions on choosing one science subject. The 'Double Sci' button is highlighted in blue. On the right, the 'Priority Choices' section shows the selected 'Double Sci' option. Below, the 'First Choice' section lists other subjects like Art, Computer Science, Drama, and French. The 'My Choices' and 'My Reserves' sections on the right show the current selection status.

Making your Reserve Choice

Once you have made your choice, you need to select your reserve choice in the Second Choice Option. To do this, click on the "Reserve" button beside the subject you wish to pick. Reserve choices appear in orange and appear in the "My Reserves":

Choose **ONE** subject from the list below.
 If you have picked Separate Science in Science Choice only choose ONE from the list below and this will act as your reserve choice.
 If you have picked Double Science please choose a third choice **AND** a reserve from the list below.
Please be aware the some combinations of subjects are not possible and whilst all efforts are made to fulfil requests the school reserves the right to place students appropriately.

You have chosen 1 of 1 courses and 1 of 1 reserves from this list

Art GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Biology GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Computer Science GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Drama GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Fren GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Geog GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Hist GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Key Skills GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Media Studies GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Music GCSE Full Course	Reserve
PEGCSE GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Separate S (1 of 2) GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Span GCSE Full Course	Reserve	Tec D & T GCSE Full Course	Reserve
Tec Food GCSE Full Course	Reserve	VOCICT GCSE Full Course	Reserve

Priority Choices (Total Choices: 1)
 Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.
 1 Double Sci
 GCSE Full Course Science Choice

My Choices (Total Choices: 3)
 To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.
 1 Geog
 GCSE Full Course Second Choice
 2 Tec D & T
 GCSE Full Course Third Choice
 3 Fren
 GCSE Full Course First Choice

My Reserves (Total Reserves: 1)
 To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.
 1 Hist
 GCSE Full Course Third Choice

Adjusting Orders of Preference

Options choices and reservations appear in the order they have been selected by default. If you wish to emphasise that one option is preferred. To alter the order, click on the option you wish to move:

Priority Choices (Total Choices: 1)
 Course priorities do not need to be sorted by order of preference.
 1 Double Sci
 GCSE Full Course Science Choice

My Choices (Total Choices: 3)
 To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.
 1 Geog
 GCSE Full Course Second Choice
 2 Tec D & T
 GCSE Full Course Third Choice
 3 Fren
 GCSE Full Course First Choice

My Reserves (Total Reserves: 1)
 To change your order of preference select a reserve and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.
 1 Hist
 GCSE Full Course Third Choice

1. Click on D&T

My Choices (Total Choices: 3)
 To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.
 1 Geog
 GCSE Full Course Second Choice
 Click to move Tec D & T here.
 2 Tec D & T
 GCSE Full Course Third Choice
 Click again to deselect or click another course to change preference.
 3 Fren
 GCSE Full Course First Choice
 Click to move Tec D & T here.

2. Click on the green box for the new position for D&T, in this case top.

My Choices (Total Choices: 3)
 To change your order of preference select a choice and click the position in the list you would like to move it to.
 1 Tec D & T
 GCSE Full Course Third Choice
 2 Geog
 GCSE Full Course Second Choice
 3 Fren
 GCSE Full Course First Choice

3. The new order of preference will be displayed, showing D&T on top.

Saving Your Choices

It is vital you press the save button at the top of the screen otherwise the choices will be lost when you close the browser.

Save **Show Notes** **Hide Notes**

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