



# New Rickstones Academy

To make our best better



## KEY STAGE 4 PROGRAMME OF STUDY 2011 – 2013



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Dear Parents

Welcome to the New Rickstones Academy Options Guide.

It is our aim at New Rickstones Academy to provide a broad, balanced and challenging education that prepares students for the 21st century and to become world class citizens. We encourage all students to develop an enthusiasm for learning and take an interest in the community and the world around them.

With this in mind you will see that this guide provides detailed information on a variety of courses, both vocational and academic that prepare students for their next steps at the end of Key Stage 4 whether that be New Rickstones Sixth Form, Further Education elsewhere, training or employment.

As part of this options process students should speak to subject specialists for further information, their tutor and Head of Year for guidance on choices, Mr Long or myself for advice and guidance where necessary.

We look forward to receiving your son/daughter's completed option form by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March as this is the deadline. Completed forms should be returned to your child's tutor.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact Mr Long on 01376 515756 Ext 274

Best Wishes

Debbie Bull  
Head Teacher



## WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Your son or daughter made important option choices last year. In the summer they will complete their GCSE or FCSE award in French and therefore a further option choice is available to them. Full details of this are provided in the booklet along with a list of courses which students are currently studying.

- Students will have had the courses explained to them in assemblies and in current lessons.
- There will be an opportunity at the Parents' Evening on **Thursday 17th February** for you to discuss your son's or daughter's current progress and their prospects in Years 10 and 11 with subject staff. The Connexions Service will be available on this evening and you will be able to book appointments if you would like to discuss any issues related to careers.
- Ms Bamigbele (Head of Year 9) and form tutors will also be available on this evening and will be able to offer advice and support right through until the final decision is made.
- **FRIDAY 4TH MARCH IS THE FINAL DEADLINE FOR THE RETURN OF OPTIONS FORMS TO FORM TUTORS**

At the back of this booklet you will find an Options Form. This is your copy so that you can plan your ideas in rough and keep a copy of your final decisions. Within this envelope you will find a blue copy of the option form. This is the final copy which needs to be handed in by **Friday 4th March**.

N Long, Vice Principal Curriculum

# **CURRENT COURSES STUDIED BY YEAR 9**

## **CORE SUBJECTS**

English Language GCSE (AQA)

English Literature GCSE (AQA)

Humanities GCSE (AQA)

Mathematics GCSE (AQA)

Science either Double Science or National Science (OCR)

Citizenship & PSHE Short Course GCSE (OCR)

Core Physical Education

Religious Education (covered within Humanities)

In addition for 2011-13 all students will study ICT National Award (OCR)

## **OPTIONAL SUBJECTS**

Art BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate (EDEXCEL)

Business Studies BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate (EDEXCEL)

Dance BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate (EDEXCEL)

Food & Nutrition GCSE (OCR)

ICT National Award (OCR)

Media BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate (EDEXCEL)

Music BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate (EDEXCEL)

Performing Arts BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate (EDEXCEL)

Resistant Materials GCSE (AQA)

Skills for Life (COPE and Public Services BTEC Extended Certificate)

# **OPTIONAL SUBJECT DETAILS: 2011 - 2013**

**DRAMA GCSE**

**GEOGRAPHY GCSE**

**HISTORY GCSE**

**LEADING IN LEARNING OCN DOUBLE AWARD**

**PUBLIC SERVICES BTEC EXTENDED CERTIFICATE**

**SPANISH GCSE**



# DRAMA

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**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**MR E HAKE**

**EXAMINATION BOARD**

**EDEXCEL**

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## **BREAKDOWN OF MARKS**

60% practical + written work completed under controlled conditions (*marked by your teacher*)

40% practical examination (*marked by a visiting examiner*)

## **CURRICULUM CONTENT**

This is a highly creative course which develops students ability to respond to stimuli (poems, images, props etc) in an imaginative way. Students respond, develop and evaluate their drama producing a wealth of performances.

They extend their improvisation, characterisation and role play skills. The study and interpretation of play texts is a key element of the course.

Coursework:

Unit 1: Drama Exploration  
(30%) 6 hours practical drama response to stimuli  
Written portfolio

Unit 2: Exploring Play Texts  
(30%) 6 hours of exploration of a chosen play  
Written portfolio

Unit 3: Drama Performance  
(40%) Perform in a 15-30 minute drama piece to a visiting examiner.  
This is a group piece and can be devised or scripted.

All candidates must visit the theatre and review a live performance during the course as part of the written portfolio. There will be some cost involved.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

This course compliments the BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate in Performing Arts.

Students will be able to develop their skills in this curriculum area further in the Sixth Form by studying BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Performing Arts (Performance).

# GEOGRAPHY

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**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**MR C DOBSON**

**EXAMINATION BOARD**

**OCR/WJEC**

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## **BREAKDOWN OF MARKS**

The scheme of assessment will consist of:  
75%, external assessment through two written exam papers.  
25%, two internally controlled assessments under timed conditions.

## **CURRICULUM CONTENT**

The course is split into 3 main themes:

Theme 1: Challenges of living in a built up environment. (Quality of life, urban/rural development, problems of leisure and the environment).

Theme 2: People and the natural world interactions. (Climate change, changing ecosystems, and environmental interactions).

Theme 3: People work and development: a cross-unit problem solving exercise. (Employment, development and international trade).

In addition students complete 2 tasks:

Task A is a Geographical Enquiry worth 15%. This is a research task based on fieldwork and supportive secondary data and completed as an illustrated report.

Task B which is worth 10%, is based on an issue in which students explore differing geographical viewpoints and perspectives. This task will be called 'The Issue' and will be completed as a presentation.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Each exam paper has two tiers.

Higher Tier targeting grades A\* - D 1 hour (Higher A\*, A, B, C, D)

Foundation Tier targeting grades C - G 1 hour (Foundation C, D, E, F, G)

Students can pursue their interest in Geography by taking a OCR National Award Course in Travel and Tourism in the Sixth Form.

# HISTORY

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**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**MR C DOBSON**

**EXAMINATION BOARD**

**AQA**

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## **BREAKDOWN OF MARKS**

25% controlled assessment

75% final examination (*2 papers*)

## **CURRICULUM CONTENT**

Throughout the entire GCSE History course there will be an emphasis on the skills of evaluation, analysis and understanding rather than on learning factual detail. The course is designed to stimulate interest in all areas of History and the related skills and would provide excellent foundation skills for those students wishing to continue on to A Levels in years 12 and 13.

### **Unit One: Conflict & Peace in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century – 37.5% of final grade**

For this unit we will be covering three topics centring around the use of sources, covering the outbreak of the Second World War (1933-39), the origins of the Cold War (1945-1955) and the crises of the Cold War (1955-1970).

### **Unit Two: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Depth Studies – 37.5% of final grade**

For this unit we will be covering three topics in depth: roaring twenties in USA (1919-1929), Hitler's Germany (1929-1939) and the USA and Vietnam (1964-1975).

### **Unit Three: Controlled Assessment (40 marks) – 25% of final grade**

Controlled assessments are the replacements exam boards are offering instead of coursework. AQA focus their assessments on British history either during or after wartime. The assessment is done in the form of an open exam where two questions are answered under exam conditions but students will have access to the material they have researched.

#### **Additional Information**

The study of history provides the skills necessary for a wide range of careers such as law. Successful students each progress to A level within the Witham Sixth Form.

## **LEADING LEARNING: OCN Level 2 (worth 2 GCSEs at A\*-C)**

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**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**MR M BRAYLEY**

**EXAMINATION BOARD**

**OPEN COLLEGE NETWORK**

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### **BREAKDOWN OF MARKS**

The course is entirely portfolio assessed through a range of evidence produced by students as they work. Their evidence will be built up online over the two years. There is no examination.

### **CURRICULUM CONTENT**

The award is designed to enable students to become leaders of literacy. During the course they will have the opportunity to enhance their own literacy skills through teaching other students and developing interactive resources using new and emerging technologies.

Learners will work with teaching staff across all subject areas in this role. They will develop an understanding of the stages in literacy development, the use of appropriate teaching and learning activities, factors that affect children's development and the use of emerging technologies.

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The qualification is aimed at 14-19 learners who wish to develop leadership skills. It is also beneficial for those wishing to progress to A level English or interested in a career in child care, teaching or management/leadership. A level English can be studied within the Witham Sixth Form.

# PUBLIC SERVICES

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**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**MR C DOBSON**

**EXAMINATION BOARD**

**EDEXCEL**

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## **BREAKDOWN OF MARKS**

The Public Service course is a BTEC Level 2 Extended Certificate. This consists of four units, each of which is assessed by staff in the Academy and verified by Edexcel. There is no final examination. Students can achieve Pass, Merit or Distinction grades and the course is the equivalent of two GCSEs at A\* - C.

## **CURRICULUM CONTENT**

The course is split into 4 main units:

### **BTEC UNIT 1 - Public Service Skills (Mandatory)**

The aim of this unit is to enable learners to develop an understanding of public service skills and a variety of methods of instruction. Learners will also explore teamwork and communication skills via hands-on activities enabling them to meet the needs of public expectations.

### **BTEC UNIT 5 – Improving Health and Fitness for Entry to the Uniformed Public Services**

This unit aims to enable learners to gain a knowledge of major body systems and an understanding of the effects of basic nutrition and lifestyle factors for entry into the uniformed public services. It also develops learners' skills in taking part in fitness tests and improving their personal health.

### **BTEC UNIT 10 – Land Navigation by Map and Compass**

The aim of this unit is to allow learners to acquire knowledge in relation to land navigation with map, compass and route card, and to demonstrate these skills practically in a safe manner.

### **BTEC UNIT 15 – Expedition Skills in Public Services**

The aim of this unit is to develop learners' knowledge and understanding of the skills needed in planning for an expedition, including the equipment required. Learners will also be able to plan and carry out an expedition in a public service context.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Public Services is designed to equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required for success when moving towards a career in the uniformed and non-uniformed services, for example, Police, Emergency Fire Services, Security, Prison Services or the Armed Services.

# SPANISH

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**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT**

**MISS C JOSSELIN**

**EXAMINATION BOARD**

**EDEXCEL**

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## **BREAKDOWN OF MARKS**

Final examinations in Listening and Reading account for 40% of the marks (20% each), and speaking and written work completed under controlled conditions and marked by teachers, account for the other 60% (30% each).

## **CURRICULUM CONTENT**

The course is comprised of four main topic areas:

1. Media & Culture
2. Sports & Leisure
3. Travel & Tourism
4. Business, Work & Employment

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

The final examination has entry either at Foundation Tier (Grades G – C) or Higher Tier (Grades D – A\*).

This is a full, two year GCSE course which does not require any previous experience or knowledge of Spanish. Successful students can progress to A level Spanish within the Witham Sixth Form.

NAME ..... TUTOR GROUP.....

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM VERY CAREFULLY - ASK FOR HELP IF YOU ARE IN ANY WAY UNCERTAIN

<p>You should choose one from :</p> <p>DRAMA GEOGRAPHY HISTORY LEADING &amp; LEARNING PUBLIC SERVICES SPANISH</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="560 1272 874 1373"><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr></table>							<p><b>PLEASE NOTE:-</b></p> <p>WHILE EVERY EFFORT WILL BE TAKEN TO RUN THESE COURSES, THE ACADEMY RETAINS THE RIGHT TO CHANGE OR DELETE COURSES AS NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE THE MOST EFFECTIVE USE OF RESOURCES.</p>

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE .....	PARENT'S SIGNATURE .....
FORM TUTOR'S SIGNATURE .....	DATE RECEIVED BY TUTOR .....