

Year 8
Mini Option
Subject Information
Booklet

May 2025



Name: Form:

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Introduction

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

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

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

A small cohort of students will continue to follow a slightly modified curriculum in Year 9; Mr Auton (Assistant SENCO) and Mrs Wren (Head of Year 8) will talk to the parents/carers of these students separately.

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

When students have made their final decisions, they must complete the practice option form on page 15 and show this to their parent and form tutor. Please follow the instructions carefully when this is completed. There is a completed example form to guide students. Once their form tutor is happy the practice form is filled in correctly, the A4, blue school copy will be given to the student to fill in.

The deadline for submitting the completed A4, blue school copy to form tutors is **Friday 23rd May 2025**.

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

Useful contacts:

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

Subject Leader of Computing and IT, Mrs Oldham - mol@gilberd.com

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

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

Curriculum Leader PE, Mrs Pharaoh - cph@gilberd.com

Assistant SENCO, Mr Auton - sau@gilberd.com

Head of Year 8, Mrs Wren - jwr@gilberd.com

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

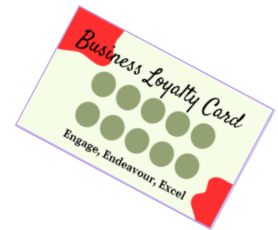
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum), Miss Bird - abi@gilberd.com

Business

Introduction

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

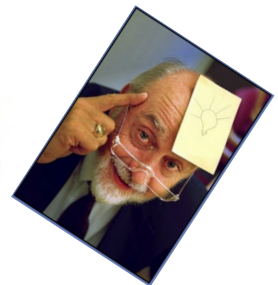
Mandatory skills students need for this course include: **independence, creativity, resilience, current affairs knowledge of Business and Economics events, good numeracy, literacy and IT skills.**



What will it be like?

Short projects have been created focusing on key business topics as well as IT skills

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



Computer Science

Introduction

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

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

What will the course involve?

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

Media Animation

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

Binary Representation going Audiovisual

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

National Challenges

- Isaac Computer Science National Competition, Alan Turing Cryptography.

What will it be like? - Option Computer Science

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

Physical Computing using Micro Bits

- Different hardware components of the microbit chips.
- Simple GPIO circuit board to code and display, writing a simple programme to display on 5x5 LED.
- Microbit connections to other external devices, including switches, speakers and a monitor.
- Radio antenna to send and receive radio messages.

Computer Science (cont'd)

Work on a Micro Bits Independent Project

Students will develop their programming skills. They will cover:

Python Challenges

- Programmes that display on screen, produce flowcharts and pseudocode.
- Basic 'Selection if Else' statements.
- Common mathematical operations in their coding.
- 'While loops' to demonstrate understanding of iteration.
- 'For loops' to demonstrate understanding of further iteration method.

Photoshop & GIMP | Image Skills

Students will cover editing images by applying:

- Layers
- Air brushing
- Adding text
- Cropping, blurring
- Distorting

Dance

Introduction

Dance is a dynamic practical option which enables students to develop their creativity and physical confidence. Dance is a fantastic way to strengthen the body and the mind through play and problem solving, developing skills for life.

Why should I choose Dance?

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

What will the course involve?

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

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

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

Drama

Introduction

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

Why Should I Choose Drama?

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

What will the course involve?

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

Information Technology

Introduction

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

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

What will the course involve?

House Design - User Interface Design Principles

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

You will cover:

- User interface design for individuals and organisations.
- Project planning techniques to plan and design a user interface.
- User interfaces.

Collecting, Presenting & Interpreting Data

You will cover:

- The impact of using data on one sheet and the effect it has on other worksheets.
- Dashboard creation using data Excel manipulation tools.
- Drawing conclusions and reviewing data presentation methods.

Sales Pitch Presentation

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

IT Theory

You will cover:

- The Impact of modern technologies.
- Threats to data.
- "Cloud Computing".
- "Ad hoc network".

Information Technology (cont'd)

- The prevention and management of threats to data.
- The responsible use, legal and ethical, and forms of notation.

Planning

You will cover:

- The analysis and evaluation of different GANTT charts.
- Designing your own GANTT chart and use it to schedule tasks.

Creating

You will cover:

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

Web Authoring using HTML

You will cover:

- HTML syntax.
- Creating web pages using HTML syntax. Apply colours, images and links to your pages.
- Adding CSS to work and apply a style sheet.

Sound Editing using Audacity

You will cover:

- Editing sound.
- Planning a podcast.
- Editing a podcast.

Health and Social Care

Introduction

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

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

What will the course involve?

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

1. **First Aid:** Sometimes a qualified first aider is not available, so it is useful for everyone to be aware of standard response procedures that should be followed to protect casualties, yourself and others. Basic knowledge of first aid procedures can make a big difference in any emergency situation. You will find out how to assess the scene of an accident and the different types of health emergency that can occur in health and social care. During the course you will develop an understanding of how to carry out basic first aid procedures and develop your confidence and understanding of what should be done if you ever experience an emergency situation. As part of this unit you will be completing a piece of coursework: this independent work based on the first aid that you have covered practically.
2. **Communication:** Effective communication is one of the important parts of caring for vulnerable people, as well as being relevant to our everyday lives. Some people struggle to communicate with others for a variety of reasons. During the course you will be looking at different methods of communicating — not just talking! Approximately 90% of our communication is non-verbal and we will be investigating how different methods of communication, such as Makaton, can support and improve our communication.

PE

Introduction

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

What will the course involve?

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

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

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

Individual Sports

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

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

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

Team Sports

- ➔ Handball
- ➔ Netball
- ➔ Basketball

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

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

Theory

Skeletal System

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

Muscular System

Muscles, muscular movements and sporting examples.

Components of fitness

Theory into practice approach

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

Testing ourselves in multiple components.

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

Example Option Form

Example of a completed form:

School Copy		
All students must choose either PE or Dance in Box A. Please note: all students will have 2 lessons of PE regardless of this decision.	Box A	Choice
	PE	
	Dance	Y
All students must choose three options from Box B numbering them from 1 (preferred option) to 3. Each student will study one of these 3 choices. Please note: if Dance was chosen in Box A, it <u>can</u> be chosen again in Box B or other subjects can be chosen instead. Please note: The school cannot guarantee that courses will run, or that there will be space for all students who wish to study a particular course.	Box B	Choice
	Information Technology	
	Health and Social Care	3
	Business Studies	
	Dance	2
	Drama	1
	Computer Science	
Student's Name: John Smith		
Form group: 8ABC		
Student's signature: <i>John Smith</i>		
Parent's signature: <i>Mrs Smith</i>		
Checked by Form Tutor: Miss ABC		
Date: 23rd May 2025		

Student Option Form

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

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

Student Copy															
<p>All students must choose either PE or Dance in Box A. Please note: all students will have 2 lessons of PE regardless of this decision.</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%; padding: 5px;">Box A</th> <th style="width: 30%; padding: 5px;">Choice</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">PE</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 5px;">Dance</td> <td style="padding: 5px;"></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Box A	Choice	PE		Dance									
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Box B	Choice														
Information Technology															
Health and Social Care															
Business Studies															
Dance															
Drama															
Computer Science															
Student's Name:															
Form group:															
Student's signature:															
Parent's signature:															
Checked by Form Tutor:															
Date:															

This is your copy – show the completed version of this to your form tutor to be given your A4, blue form. Please hand the A4, blue school copy of this form to your Form Tutor by the 23rd May.