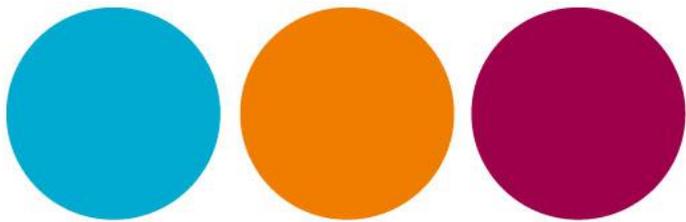


Key Stage 4 Choices Booklet  
2017/18



**The Birley Academy**  
**A L.E.A.D. Academy**



# Message from the Headteacher

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Dear Parent/Carer and Students

This booklet has been produced to help you make some very important choices at this crucial stage of your educational career. These are the first of many choices young people have to make during their educational development. Making decisions as to which subjects they take in Key Stage 4 is both a challenge and an opportunity for students to take greater ownership of their education. However, they will need help and guidance in deciding which opportunities are right for them.

Each student will be guided individually to ensure they select an appropriate learning pathway to meet their ability and personal preferences. The role of parents in this process is also very important. Advice will also be available from subject teachers and senior members of staff. Please discuss option choices with your son/daughter. You will find details of the subjects being offered within this booklet.

The school places great emphasis on ensuring each student is able to make informed decisions regarding their KS4 education.

Should you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

Yours faithfully,

Gina Newton

Associate Headteacher

## Useful Contacts

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Please see below for people to contact for more information in school:

Mrs. Newton – Associate Headteacher  
[gnewton@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:gnewton@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

Mr. Burnham – Deputy Headteacher  
[dburnham@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:dburnham@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

Mr Edwards – Student Support Coordinator  
[nedwards@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:nedwards@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# Key Stage 4 Curriculum

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At The Birley Academy we pride ourselves on our broad, balanced and exciting curriculum. We believe it is vital for a student to have a range of choices to choose from and not to narrow the curriculum down at the end of Y9.

Our curriculum model is made up of a core curriculum and an optional curriculum. All students follow the core curriculum, which consists of the following subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (2 GCSEs)
- PSHE
- Core PE

## **Optional subjects are:**

- Art
- Citizenship
- Computer Science
- Creative iMedia
- Drama
- DT Engineering
- DT Food
- DT Graphics
- DT Resistant Materials
- French
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sport Studies

Each student will have an individual interview with a member of our Leadership Team, which all parents are welcome to attend. Here, students will be guided towards some choices which we think are more appropriate and will offer the best chance of success both at The Birley Academy and in further education.

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# English – Core Subject

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>Everyone needs to be able to communicate effectively. This is why English is very important. GCSE English Language and Literature will develop your writing skills, your ability to read and increase your confidence in expressing yourself. Doing well in English will, therefore, help you make progress in other subjects and will be important when applying for college courses, training schemes and employment. You will also find the combination of writing and speaking elements in the course very enjoyable. They will certainly help you to be more confident and to communicate better in and beyond school.</p>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>There are two separate qualifications studied for through English lessons:</p> <p><b>GCSE English Language:</b> All students take this qualification in Y11. It is very important you achieve a grade 5 or above in this subject for your future education or career prospects.</p> <p><b>GCSE Literature:</b> Literature is assessed in Y10 and Y11. You will receive a GCSE qualification by studying such novels as 'Of Mice and Men', 'To Kill a Mockingbird', 'Lord of the Flies' or 'A Christmas Carol', as well as plays such as 'A View from the Bridge', 'Blood Brothers' and a range of poetry.</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do?</u></b></p> <p>During your two year course you will learn to use words in a variety of ways, from creative writing in stories and poems, to more formal writing based on non-fiction texts. To help you with this you will read a wide range of novels and non-fiction texts (e.g. newspapers, websites and blogs). You may also visit the theatre and watch adaptations of the stories you study in class.</p> <p>Another important part of the course is speaking and listening which you will receive a separate qualification for. You will take part in group discussions, role plays, give talks and interviews.</p>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p><b>GCSE English Language</b> 100% examination.</p> <p><b>GCSE English Literature</b></p> <p><b>Unit 1:</b> Formal examination of 'To Kill a Mockingbird' or 'Of Mice and Men' as well as a comparison of two poems.</p> <p><b>Unit 2:</b> Formal examination of 'A Christmas Carol' or 'Lord of the Flies' as well as 'Blood Brothers' or 'A View from the Bridge'.</p> <p><b>Unit 3:</b> Shakespeare and poetry comparison.</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>GCSE English Language is a basic requirement for virtually all courses and jobs. You will need at least a grade 5 in GCSE English Language to be accepted on a Level 3 course at college (these include A levels and National Diplomas) and a grade 4 for Level 2 courses. If you achieve a grade 6 or above, you might like to study A level English Language or Literature – even take a degree in this subject at university. Some careers specifically related to English include journalism, law, creative writing and teaching.</p>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mr Edwards – Curriculum Leader <a href="mailto:medwards@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">medwards@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# Mathematics – Core Subject

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>Because Mathematical thinking is important for all members of a modern society as a habit of mind for its use in the workplace, business and finance; and for personal decision-making.</p> <p>Mathematics is fundamental to national prosperity in providing tools for understanding science, engineering, technology and economics. It is essential in public decision-making and for participation in the knowledge economy.</p> <p>Mathematics equips students with uniquely powerful ways to describe, analyse and change the world.</p>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>You will get a GCSE in Mathematics</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do?</u></b></p> <p>This course is designed to reflect the change of emphasis in mathematics teaching set out in the revised Programme of study for key stage 4.</p> <p>This means an increased focus on applying mathematics in context problem solving reasoning the functional elements of mathematics.</p> <p>You will study areas such as number and algebra, geometry, measures, statistics and probability.</p>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p>The Scheme of Assessment comprises of 3 Linear exams, designed to be taken at the end of the course. There is no coursework element. Exams can be taken at either Foundation or Higher tier. Foundation Tier offers grades 1 to 5. The Higher tier offers grades 5 to 9.</p> <p>Paper 1 is worth one third of the final grade and is a calculator paper.</p> <p>Paper 2 is worth one third of the final grade and calculators are not allowed.</p> <p>Paper 3 is worth one third of the final grade and is a calculator paper.</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>You can go on to study Mathematics or Further Mathematics at Advanced Level.</p> <p>Mathematics A Level lends itself to many careers, and generally earns you more money than other qualifications!</p>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Kellett – Curriculum Leader <a href="mailto:bkellett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">bkellett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# Combined Science – Core Subject

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>Combined Science: Trilogy is a combined science course that covers the three disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.</p> <p>Science is suitable for all students and the course prepares students with the scientific knowledge and understanding needed to be successful in a rapidly advancing scientific world.</p> <p>The course also prepares students for progression to further scientific study post-16.</p>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>You will gain two GCSEs with Combined Science Combined Science: Trilogy. The grade awarded will be an aggregate of the performance in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.</p> <p>This can be extended by studying extra content to separate GCSE's giving a total of 3 GCSEs.</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do ?</u></b></p> <p>You will study Science over two years and cover a range of science topics including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Cell Biology</li><li>• Infection and response</li><li>• Bioenergetics</li><li>• Atomic structure and the periodic table</li><li>• Chemical changes</li><li>• Quantitative chemistry</li><li>• Forces</li><li>• Energy</li><li>• Magnetism and electromagnetism</li></ul>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics</li><li>• All the papers are 1 hour and minutes</li><li>• Foundation and Higher tiers of entry are available</li><li>• The papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks</li></ul> <p>There will be a range of question styles multiple choice, structured, closed, short answer and open response</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>In an ever changing modern world Science is a foundation that will help with study of many courses and careers after school. These courses include scientific careers such as Forensic Science, Sports Science, Science teaching, engineering, nursing, medicine and veterinary science.</p> <p>Science is also useful for anyone considering careers as an electrician, plumber, general teaching, working with animals or the hair and beauty industry</p>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Johnson – Curriculum Leader <a href="mailto:kjohnson@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">kjohnson@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

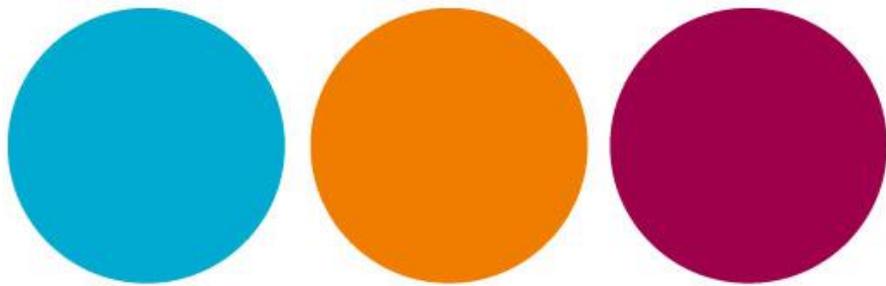
# PSHE – Core Subject

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<p><b><u>Studying this subject you will</u></b></p> <p>In Y10 some of the topics you will explore include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• -Healthy body, Healthy mind.</li><li>• Careers and personal skills.</li><li>• Get ready for the adult world</li><li>• Other young lives</li><li>• In Y11 some of the topics you will explore include;</li><li>• Get post 16 ready</li><li>• Healthy me</li><li>• Get in the real world</li><li>• Protect yourself, respect yourself</li><li>• 'Life through a lense'-an insight into what films can teach us</li></ul>	<p><b><u>What Skills will I get?</u></b></p> <p>The ability to manage and lead teams and the confidence to discuss, reflect and share views on a wide variety of topics.</p> <p>The ability to plan and research new topic.</p> <p>Overcome new challenges and learn about new options for post 16 success.</p> <p>Learn how to manage risks and think about possible problems and barriers whilst taking part in a range of activities, including work experience, voluntary work opportunities, peer mentoring, group projects, mock interviews and visits to post 16 education providers</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do ?</u></b></p> <p>PSHE is about enabling you to think for yourself about social, personal and moral issues. It is about you, your life and the issues you face as a young person and when you leave school and go into society as a confident and capable individual.</p> <p>If you enjoy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-exploring real facts and information about other people's lives and the world you live in.</li><li>-gaining an understanding of issues that are relevant to young people and the lives you lead.</li><li>- having the opportunity to explore your lives and the lives of others in a safe and questioning environment.</li><li>-being supported through various adult decision such as work experience and post 16 options.</li></ul>	<p><b><u>How will PSHE be assessed?</u></b></p> <p>Over the two years students will create a Personal, Learning and Thinking skills portfolio. This will be a two year piece of work and will evidence achievement of key skills including team work, self-management, creative thinking and extra curricular successes and achievements.</p> <p>This portfolio will go on to support students in Y11 and provide evidence for their Progress Files. In Y11 students will spend the first ½ term of PSHEe completing personal statements and applying for Post 16 options. This process is a crucial time and requires support both in school and from home.</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying PSHE?</u></b></p> <p>Some possible post 16 options are; Sociology, Law, Criminology, Politics, Religious Studies, Media Studies, Psychology</p>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Miss E.Bannister – Curriculum Leader</p> <p><a href="mailto:ebannister@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">ebannister@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# Optional Subjects

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# GCSE DT: Food

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## Why should I study this course?

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

## What qualifications will I get?

A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition

## What will I do?

You will be learning about;

- **Food preparation skills** (you will make mostly savoury food products using a wide variety of skills, techniques and finishes)
- **Food, nutrition and health** (you will learn how the foods you make effect the body and mind)
- **Food science** (how do ingredients work and react together (scientifically) and what are these functions in food)
- **Food safety** (how to prepare food safely and hygienically)
- **Food choice** (learn about an array of target markets and what effects their food choices)
- **Food provenance** (Food and how it effects social, moral and environmental issues)
- **Food preparation and cooking techniques**

## How will the course be assessed?

50% Exam on the five areas composed of:

- Multiple choice questions (20 marks)
- Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

50% Coursework

- Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks)  
Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients.
- Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks)  
Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.
- Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

## What could I do after studying this course?

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

## Who should I contact for further information?

Mr Gillett – Curriculum Leader

[dgillett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:dgillett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# GCSE DT: Graphics

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>Visual Communication is an exciting and creative course which focuses on <u>practical tasks</u> to ensure students have the core skills to apply to a range of different graphical tasks.</p> <p>This course will allow you to practice, develop and master a range of different graphical skills from technical drawing to web design in order to gain an a qualification and open the door into future courses and education.</p> <p>This course is ideally suitable to learners with a preference for practical skills and have a focus on creativity.</p> <p>This course fulfils entry requirement for academic and vocational study post-16 and will count as equivalent to one GCSE.</p>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>Level 1/2 Technical Award: Visual Communication</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do ?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Technical Drawing</li><li>• Digital Editing</li><li>• Web-Based Design</li><li>• Printing</li><li>• Colour Theory</li><li>• Typography</li><li>• Image Manipulation</li><li>• Sublimation Printing</li><li>• CAD/CAM</li><li>• Rendering</li><li>• Publishing</li></ul>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p><b>UNIT 1: Skills Demonstration (30%)</b></p> <p>Students will carry out 12 bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competence in the 12 core skills.</p> <p><b>UNIT 2: Extended making project (30%)</b></p> <p>Students will undertake an extended project that showcases the skills they have developed in unit 1.</p> <p><b>UNIT 3: Exam-Visual Communication (40%)</b></p> <p>Students will study the fundamentals of the Visual Communication, industry, materials and processes.</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>Students can progress onto Technical Certificates and other Level 3 Vocational qualifications such as BTEC Extended Level 3 Diploma in Graphic and Interactive Design or A-Level Product Design.</p>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mr Gillett – Curriculum Leader</p> <p><a href="mailto:dgillett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">dgillett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# GCSE DT: Resistant Materials

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## Why should I study this course?

Materials Technology is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical tasks to ensure students have the core skills to apply to a range of different workshop tasks.

This course will allow you to practice, develop and master a range of different workshop skills from hand tools to machining in order to gain an a qualification and open the door into future courses and education.

This course is ideally suitable to learners with a preference for practical skills and have a focus on creativity.

This course fulfils entry requirement for academic and vocational study post-16 and will count as equivalent to one GCSE

## What will I do ?

Develop skills and knowledge in

- Hand tools
- Measuring/marking out
- CAD/CAM
- Forming
- Casting/Moulding
- Joining techniques
- Machining and Power Tools
- Finishing techniques
- Quality Control/Quality Assurance

## What could I do after studying this course?

Students can progress onto Technical Certificates and other Level 3 Vocational qualifications such as NVQ Carpentry and Manufacturing or A-Level Product Design.

## What qualifications will I get?

Level 1/2 Technical Award: Materials Technology



## How will the course be assessed?

### **UNIT 1: Skills Demonstration (30%)**

Students will carry out 12 bite-sized projects to demonstrate their competence in the 12 core skills.

### **UNIT 2: Extended making project (30%)**

Students will undertake an extended project that showcases the skills they have developed in unit 1.

### **UNIT 3: Exam-Visual Communication (40%)**

Students will study the fundamentals of the Materials Technology.

## Who should I contact for further information?

Mr Gillett – Curriculum Leader

[dgillett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:dgillett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# BTEC Engineering

<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Highly suitable for Girls and Boys.</li><li>• Available to any pathway students.</li><li>• People who have good practical skills.</li><li>• People who have a strong passion to follow and Engineering career in the future.</li><li>• Supports progression into a level 3 vocational, academic course or an apprenticeship.</li></ul>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>BTEC Level1/Level 2 First Award in Engineering</p> <p>Grades are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*</li><li>2. Passing BTEC Engineering at Level 2 is the same as achieving 1 GCSE at grade C</li></ol>  <p>Supporting Youth Projects in the Community</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do?</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A mixture of theory lessons and practical skills.</li><li>• You learn practical workshop skills and make products in a range of materials</li><li>• You learn about real life engineering.</li><li>• Like modern day engineers, you will use computers to design and manufacture products</li><li>• You will cover 3 units of work over two years.</li></ul>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. 25% external examined assessment</li><li>2. All units are assessed by your teacher. Unit 2: Investigating Engineering Unit 3: Health and Safety in Engineering Unit 5: Engineering material and processes.</li></ol>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Level 3 BTEC in Engineering then a Degree at university.</li><li>2. Previous pupils have gained successful apprenticeships. Some students are now working at Gripple.</li><li>3. Apprenticeships combined with further qualifications at College</li><li>4. On the job training as an operator/craftsperson/technician</li></ol>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mr Gillett – Curriculum Leader</p> <p><a href="mailto:dgillett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">dgillett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# GCSE History

## Why should I study this course?

The department's results are among the best in the school. Many students exceed their target grades.

History is fun. You'll enjoy looking at the past and throughout the course you will be taught in different ways, e.g. opportunity to visit WW1 battlefields in Belgium, visit museums and theatres.

Studying History could help you get on the course you need beyond GCSE. Colleges and Universities value History very highly. **Which Subject, Which Career?** (book) said: "Studying history is an excellent preparation for very many jobs."

## What will I do ?

Topic 1: Thematic Study – The People's Health c1250 to present. We will look at medical developments over time such as the Black Death, Cholera epidemics, development of plastic surgery in WWI and AIDS

Topic 2: The Norman Conquest 1065-1087

Topic 3: History Around Us. This unit will be based on a historical building in the local area.

Topic 4: The Making of America, 1789 -1900. We will look at the Native Americans traditional way of life before looking at the first settlers and how the two groups clashed.

Topic 5: Living Under Nazi Rule, 1933-45. We will be looking at how Hitler became Fuhrer and what changes he made to Germany.

## What could I do after studying this course?

GCSE History is highly prized by colleges, universities and employers. Oxford and Cambridge universities view History as one of the most desirable qualifications a student can have.

History is an excellent qualification to have when trying to pursue particular jobs, e.g. Law, Journalism, Business, Media work, Politics, Researcher. History graduates provide more leading directors in Britain's top companies than any other subject!

## What qualifications will I get?

A full GCSE in History



## How will the course be assessed?

The course is linear and there will be 3 exams.

There are 2 exams which are 1 hour and 45 minutes each and another exam which is an hour long.

Exams are taken at the end of Y11.



## Who should I contact for further information?

Mr G Townsend – Curriculum Leader

[gtownsend@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:gtownsend@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# GCSE Geography

## Why should I study this course?

Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant, it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems (hurricanes, flooding, migration) boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. (Michael Palin)

Geography is a subject which can form part of the Ebacc. It is a solid academic subject and well respected by universities and employers alike. Geography covers many different skills including map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, role play and video work.

You will improve your literacy through your written work and extensive use of specialist vocabulary and make practical use of your numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

## How will the course be assessed?

### Component 1: Investigating Geographical Issues

Written Exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

40% of the qualification

This will assess the 3 themes that students study:

Theme 1: Changing Places-changing economies

Theme 2: Changing Environments

Theme 3: Environmental Challenges

### Component 2: Problem Solving Geography

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

30% of the qualification

This will present students with a geographical issue which they must solve using their knowledge and understanding from across the 3 themes.

### Component 3: Applied Fieldwork

Written exam 1 hour 30 minutes

30% of the qualification

Students will assess different approaches to fieldwork in investigating a geographical issue and will then justify the decisions they have made in their proposed method of investigation.

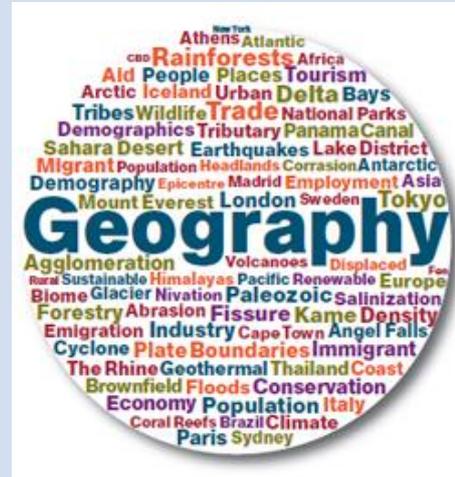
## What could I do after studying this course?

You might choose to do A level Geography and then a degree in Geography at University. You could become:

- ✚ Architect
- ✚ Urban Planner
- ✚ Recycling officer
- ✚ Forestry management
- ✚ Environmental consultant
- ✚ Housing manager

## What qualifications will I get?

A full GCSE in Geography.



## Who should I contact for further information?

Mr Townsend – Curriculum Leader

[gtownsend@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:gtownsend@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# GCSE Art and Design

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>This is an exciting and very popular broad based course exploring practical and contextual work through a range of 2D and 3D processes and new media technologies.</p> <p>It is an unendorsed course where you can work with a wide range of art materials and techniques. You will have the opportunity to take part in gallery visits to study the work of artists and enrich your portfolio.</p>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>GCSE Art and Design</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do ?</u></b></p> <p>In Year10 you will work towards building a portfolio of coursework by continuing to develop your drawing, painting and practical skills linked to the theme of <b>The Natural World</b>. This will require creative research skills and a passion to learn new skills and techniques.</p> <p>In Y11 your work will be inspired through exploring a wide range <b>Architecture and Ancient civilizations</b>. For both projects you will need to evidence research, development work, final designs and an individual personal response.</p> <p>After Christmas term in Year 11 you will receive an <b>External Set Task</b> examination paper and preparation time to research, design and make a Final Piece. You will be given 10 hours of supervised time to complete this task.</p>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p>The exam board requires you to provide evidence towards four coursework Assessment Objectives.</p> <p>Research skills (20 marks) Development of ideas (20 marks) Final informed design work (20 marks) A personal outcome (20 marks)</p> <p><b>60%</b> of your coursework marks will be awarded on the quality of your coursework presented inside your <b>Portfolio</b>. <b>40%</b> will be awarded for the quality of your <b>External Set Task</b>. This will include your preparation work and final 10 hour personal outcome.</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>There are many fantastic jobs you could consider after studying Art and Design.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Animator</li><li>- Illustrator</li><li>-Graphic Designer</li><li>- Marketing-TV&amp; Radio</li><li>-Photographer</li><li>- Prop designer</li><li>-Fashion designer</li><li>-Artist</li><li>-Teacher</li><li>-Set designer</li><li>-Architect</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mrs Jackson – Curriculum Leader for Art</p> <p><a href="mailto:hjackson@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">hjackson@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# GCSE Drama

## Why should I study this course?

GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations. You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people. There will be an opportunity to perform outside school as part of the course. This has, in the past, involved taking part in the Shakespeare in Schools festival, as well as seeing live theatre as part of the course both in Sheffield and at the West End in London. You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. You may have done some acting before or helped out backstage on a production. You may have always wanted to have a go at making a play, performing, making costumes, building a set or operating the lights but never had the chance. You will enjoy this course if you enjoy working as part of a team as Drama involves a lot of group work.

## What will I do ?

The Eduqas GCSE Drama specification is designed to give learners a broad and balanced experience of drama. The specification is designed to integrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed across a range of dramatic activities. Across the three components learners will study:

- **one** complete performance text
- **two** extracts from a second contrasting performance text placed within the context of the whole text
- **either** the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner **or** the characteristics of a genre of drama.

Learners will have the opportunity to work practically as designers **and/or** performers on:

- **one** devised performance using the techniques or characteristics of their chosen theatre practitioner or genre
- **one** performance based on the second contrasting performance text using sections of text from the **two** extracts.

## What could I do after studying this course?

There are many things you can go on to do with a GCSE in Drama including acting on stage and screen, media and special effects.

You could go on to take an AS or A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies, or a Vocational A Level in Performing Arts or a BTEC National Certificate or Diploma in Performing Arts or Performance Design and Technology.

You may wish to take a GCSE in Drama for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest or as part of a range of other subjects.

Or you might wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of Drama, or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in such fields as retail, travel and tourism, sales and marketing or any career that involves meeting people face to face. The study of Drama can help you develop transferable skills which you can take into any career or job.

## What qualifications will I get?

### Component 1 – Devising

Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated  
40% of qualification

### Component 2 – Performance from a Text

Non-exam assessment: externally assessed by a visiting examiner  
20% of qualification

### Component 3 – Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes  
40% of qualification

## How will the course be assessed?

- AO1** - Create and develop ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance  
**AO2** - Apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance  
**AO3** - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed  
**AO4** - Analyse and evaluate their own work and the work of others.  
The table below shows the weighting of each assessment objective for each component and for the qualification as a whole.

## Who should I contact for further information?

Miss Wallbank – Curriculum Leader

[fwallbank@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:fwallbank@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# BTEC Sport

## Why should I study this course?

You should study this course if you enjoy sport and would like to further explore this as an option.

Students that have enjoyed PE in KS3 will be able to continue their learning and gain a valuable qualification in sport.

## What qualifications will I get?

You will get a BTEC level 2 qualification.

The final grade will be a pass, merit or distinction.

This BTEC qualification gains the equivalent points of 1 GCSE A\*-C grades.



## What will I do ?

You will have two or three lessons per week to complete this course.

You will cover the following potential modules:

1. Fitness for Sport and Exercise
2. Practical Sports Performance
3. The Sports Performer in Action
4. Leading Sports Activities

## How will the course be assessed?

The course is a vocational course so the majority of the course is coursework based.

There is an exam as part of the course. This is a requirement to pass to achieve a level 2 pass.

All other work is coursework based and will be graded at pass, merit or distinction.



## What could I do after studying this course?

Students could go on to third level education at either 6<sup>th</sup> form or College and study a level 3 qualification.

Sport Studies can be a good starting part for students who are interested in a career in in sports and leisure, such as a fitness trainer, sports coach, PE teacher, physiotherapist, sports psychologist and a nutritionist.

## Who should I contact for further information?

Mr Cronin – Curriculum Leader for PE

[kcronin@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:kcronin@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# GCSE French

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>The GCSE course aims to build on prior learning and extend students language beyond the basic skills. Students will be challenged through a variety of learning activities, enabling them to feel competent in real life language situations. The ability to communicate in another language is an extremely valuable life skill – both professionally and socially. In today’s global economy employers are keen to have people with language skills working for them. People who can offer language skills in addition to their specialist knowledge are very much in demand in the competitive job markets of today. Students will also build up an extensive cultural awareness of French speaking countries.</p>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>A GCSE in French: grades range from 9 to 1</p> <p>A grade 9 to 5 will count towards your EBACC qualification</p> <p>The ability to discuss on a variety of issues and topics in another language</p> <p>The ability to communicate in a foreign language in real-life situations.</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do?</u></b></p> <p>Y10 and Y11: Over the course of Year 10 and Year 11, students will study 3 themes: Identity and Culture (Family, Technology and Freetime), Local, national, international and global issues (Home town, Health and the Environment), and Current and Future study (Life at school, Future plans)</p> <p>Students will practise the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing through these contexts to gain a higher level language capability.</p>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p>Students are assessed through the AQA exam board and the course is made up of 4 Exams; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Students will complete these exams at the end of Y11. Each of these skills is worth 25%. All of these exams are differentiated by Foundation and Higher tier and students can be entered for a combination of different tiers.</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>Many students go on to study languages Post-16. King Edward VII, All Saints and Silverdale offer excellent teaching in AS and A2 French. Some students even go on to study French at degree level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GCSE French contributes to the E-baccalaureate, an additional qualification, which some sixth-forms and universities require.</li><li>• “Modern linguists earn more than graduates from any other discipline except medics, architects and pharmacologists.”</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Miss Mason – Curriculum Leader for MFL</p> <p><a href="mailto:kmason@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">kmason@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# GCSE Spanish

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## **Why should I study this course?**

The GCSE course aims to build on prior learning and extend students language beyond the basic skills. Students will be challenged through a variety of learning activities, enabling them to feel competent in real life language situations. The ability to communicate in another language is an extremely valuable life skill – both professionally and socially. In today’s global economy employers are keen to have people with language skills working for them. People who can offer language skills in addition to their specialist knowledge are very much in demand in the competitive job markets of today. Students will also build up an extensive cultural awareness of Spanish speaking countries.

## **What qualifications will I get?**

A GCSE in Spanish: grades range from 9 to 1

A grade 9 to 5 will count towards your EBAC qualification

The ability to discuss on a variety of issues and topics in another language

## **What will I do?**

Y10 and Y11: Over the course of Year 10 and Year 11, students will study 3 themes: Identity and Culture (Family, Technology and Freetime), Local, national, international and global issues (Home town, Health and the Environment), and Current and Future study (Life at school, Future plans)

Students will practise the skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing through these contexts to gain a higher level language capability

## **How will the course be assessed?**

Students are assessed through the AQA exam board and the course is made up of 4 Exams; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Students will complete these exams at the end of Y11. Each of these skills is worth 25%. All of these exams are differentiated by Foundation and Higher tier and students can be entered for a combination of different tiers.

## **What could I do after studying this course?**

Many students go on to study languages Post-16. King Edward VII, All Saints and Silverdale offer excellent teaching in As and A2 Spanish. Some students even go on to study Spanish at degree level.

- GCSE Spanish contributes to the E-baccalaureate, an additional qualification, which some sixth-forms and universities require.
- “Modern linguists earn more than graduates from any other discipline except medics, architects and pharmacologists.”

## **Who should I contact for further information?**

Miss Mason – Curriculum Leader for MFL

[kmason@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:kmason@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# GCSE Citizenship

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>Citizenship is the study of how society is organized and how we experience life. You will gain a range of very valuable skills. You will learn how to work independently. You will learn how to find information, extract what is important from it and turn it into an argument.</p> <p>Citizenship is exciting, interesting and relevant to students' lives.</p> <p>You will try to address questions such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who lives in poverty and how can it affect your life?</li><li>• What are schools for?</li><li>• Why do people truant and what can we do about it?</li><li>• How does the media portray teenagers?</li><li>• Why do men commit more crime than women?</li><li>• Do computer games make people more violent?</li></ul>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>GCSE Citizenship</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do?</u></b></p> <p>You will investigate topical issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Education</li><li>• The Family</li><li>• Social Research</li><li>• Inequality</li><li>• The Media</li><li>• Crime and Deviance</li></ul> <p>We will look at a lot of real life and media examples to help us investigate these topics including films and documentaries as well as reading newspaper articles and official reports.</p> <p>This qualification will develop your literacy skills as there is a lot of writing and a lot of specialist vocabulary to learn.</p>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p>40% Examination</p> <p>60% Controlled Assessment</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>You can continue to study Politics or Sociology at A level and degree level. It will also help with studying A level Psychology or Media Studies</p> <p>What kind of employment could it lead to?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Law</li><li>• Police</li><li>• Journalism</li><li>• Social and welfare work</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mr Casey – Assistant Headteacher</p> <p><a href="mailto:dcasey@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">dcasey@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# GCSE Leisure & Tourism

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>Leisure and Tourism is the ideal course for anyone with an interest in developing their understanding of the world and one of its most rapidly growing industries. It investigates what people do and the exciting places they visit. You will learn about the types of places people visit both in the UK and overseas, how people travel to these places and the impacts of tourism on destinations. You will also learn about different leisure and tourism organisations and how they are run.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to research leisure facilities and tourism destinations for yourself as well as getting the opportunity to visit some of the destinations and attractions that you study. The course offers a mixture of theory and practical work which is assessed by 60% portfolio work (coursework) and 40% examinations.</p> <p>Why would you study Leisure and Tourism?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>•Mainly coursework rather than exam based assessment</li><li>•To pursue an interest in Leisure and Tourism</li><li>•You want a more practical and active style of learning with the opportunity to work at your own pace</li></ul>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>A GCSE in Leisure &amp; Tourism.</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do?</u></b></p> <p><b>We study:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Leisure and Tourism organisations and facilities</li><li>• Customer needs</li><li>• Employment opportunities in Leisure and Tourism</li><li>• Different types of Leisure and Tourism Destinations and their appeal</li><li>• Why people travel and types of transport</li><li>• Types of holiday</li></ul>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p>Controlled Assessment 60% of the final grade</p> <p>1 x ½ hour exam</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>You might choose to continue onto College to Aviation, Travel and Tourism, Hospitality and then on to University to do a vocational degree like Events Management.</p>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mr Townsend – Curriculum Leader</p> <p><a href="mailto:gtownsend@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">gtownsend@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# GCSE Computer Science

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## Why should I study this course?

Students studying this course get to delve inside of computer architecture and discover how they work on an electrical level. Computer Science is about more than just using computers; it is a technical course aimed at logical thinkers, or those wanting to develop logical cognitive ability. Students study things such as software development and computational logic, as well as looking at how binary converts everything we use in the real world into the virtual world which we all have come to use on a daily basis. An ability in maths is essential in order to succeed at GCSE Computer Science.

## What qualifications will I get?

A GCSE in Computer Science ( graded 1 to 9)



## What will I do?

The course consists of 3 modules; component 01, 02 and 03.

Component 01 systems architecture, memory, storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, protocols and layers, system security, system software, ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

Component 02 includes algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of languages, data representation

Component 03 includes programming techniques; analysis, design, development, Testing and evaluation and conclusions

## How will the course be assessed?

Components 01 and 02 are externally examined components, weighted at 40% each. This equates to 2 X 1.5 hour exams.

Component 03 is a non-exam assessment weighted at 20%, and is assessed by the centre and externally moderated by OCR.

## What could I do after studying this course?

Students who study Computer Science at GCSE level usually go onto to study A Level Computer Science, successfully offered by nearing Post-16 sixth form schools. Some students also go onto to study other A Level ICT qualification variants. Many students who study Computer Science go onto study it at Degree Level, with many variations of Computer Science Degrees

## Who should I contact for further information?

Mr Treadwell (Curriculum Leader of Computer Science)

[ptreadwell@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:ptreadwell@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)

# GCSE Music

## Why should I study this course?

- Performing is a big part of the course
- You get to make your own music
- In music you listen to many different types of music broadening your musical tastes
- This course builds confidence used in all areas of life
- Music demands self-discipline and promotes independent learning
- Music is a course that helps you display your creativity
- Music requires you to work in a group for some elements of the course focusing on collaboration

## What will I do ?

**There is an expectation that as a student studying GCSE music you MUST practice at *least* 3 hours a week outside of the classroom environment and the student is already confident with their chosen instrument, be it voice or any other instrument.**

Perform – As a part of a band and as a solo musician.

Compose – two songs. One is a free composition where you can create a piece that suits your musical tastes. The other is written to a chosen brief.

Listen and appraise – You will be studying a wide variety of musical genres and discussing the pieces in an analytical way using various musical vocabulary.

## What could I do after studying this course?

The UK's creative industries are generating approximately £71.4 billion of value to the UK economy. This means that there are lots of routes you could decide to take in a very big industry.

Study music – classical music – music technology – Jazz – rock and pop – song writing – performance etc. courses at some of the world's best music colleges and universities

## What qualifications will I get?

You will receive a GCSE in Music.

Alongside the GCSE some students opt to do graded exams for their selected instruments.

There are also opportunities to sit exams in music theory.



## How will the course be assessed?

There are 3 main components to the GCSE music syllabus.

1 – Performance: There will be two assessed performances. One SOLO and one ENSEMBLE performance. You will select two songs and perform one as a solo (with a backing track) and the other as an ensemble (with a group of musicians).

2 – Composition: You have two compositions. One is a free composition where you can write in any style you prefer. The other composition is written to a brief determined by the AQA exam board. An example of this could be to 'compose a piece of world music.'

3 – Listening and Appraising: You will sit an exam at the end of year 11 where a cd will be playing various songs and you will need to answer questions on them.

## Who should I contact for further information?

Mr Lee – Assistant Curriculum Leader

[mlee@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:mlee@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)



# GCSE Religious Studies

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>Religious Studies is an opportunity for you to study, assess and evaluate faith in God. It is a unique chance for you to formulate an opinion about belief whilst learning to understand the beliefs and values of others.</p> <p>Religious studies will develop many skills including debate, tolerance, evaluation and your literacy.</p> <p>The course is a detailed study of social issues and the way that Christians and Muslims deal with these challenges. It allows you to understand and engage with huge topics including the existence of God, the reasons for war, the changing nature of the family, criminal activity, abortion and euthanasia to name but a few. For each topic you will gain a detailed understanding of how different religious groups deal with these issues as well as forming your own opinion on the subjects.</p> <p>The course includes units on war and peace, crime and punishment, marriage and the family life and many more interesting and engaging units.</p>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>The course is a full GCSE</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do?</u></b></p> <p>You will study a variety of diverse subjects from sex and relationships to environmental issues.</p> <p>The two religions we focus upon are Christianity and Islam.</p> <p>You will discuss the beliefs of these two religions in relation to the topic we are studying along with your own beliefs.</p> <p>Religious Studies is a unique subject as it allows you to discuss your views and beliefs openly and honestly regardless of what they may be.</p> <p>You will have two religious studies lessons a week taught by Mr Puckett.</p>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p>The course is assessed over 2 exams that last for an hour and a half each.</p> <p>There is no coursework module in Religious Studies</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>Many students that have studied RS at Birley have gone on to do A level religious studies.</p> <p>An RS GCSE qualification is desirable when applying for courses such as law, psychology, philosophy, sociology, citizenship, any social care role (nurse, doctor, midwife), criminology, teaching or journalism.</p>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mr Puckett – Curriculum Leader</p> <p><a href="mailto:tpuckett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">tpuckett@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# Creative iMedia

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<p><b><u>Why should I study this course?</u></b></p> <p>Students studying this course get to delve inside of digital media and the skills needed to access a career in the digital market. The course has a very much hands on approach, utilising specialist hardware such as graphics tablets and digital audio recording equipment, as well as specialist software such as Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Flash, Adobe Dreamweaver, Audacity, and even games development software!</p>	<p><b><u>What qualifications will I get?</u></b></p> <p>A Level 2 GCSE equivalent qualification graded Pass @ L1 to Distinction* @ L2.</p>
<p><b><u>What will I do?</u></b></p> <p>The course consists of 4 modules; 2 are compulsory and 2 selected from a range of offered modules.</p> <p>R081: Pre-Production Skills and R082: Creating Digital Graphics are compulsory modules.</p> <p>There will be a choice of 2 other modules to be selected by the teacher. The group may have some involvement with which modules get taught. These are:</p> <p>Creating 2D and 3D digital characters   Storytelling with a comic strip   Creating a multipage website   Creating a digital animation   Creating interactive multimedia products   Creating a digital sound sequence   Creating a digital video sequence   Digital photography   Designing a game concept   Developing digital games</p>	<p><b><u>How will the course be assessed?</u></b></p> <p>R081 is an externally examined written paper worth 25% of the final grade, and is compulsory</p> <p>R082 is NEA (non-examined assessment) which is done in class as coursework worth 25% of the final grade, and is compulsory</p> <p>The candidate will also have to cover 2 more modules from the selection @ 25% each which are all NEAs (non-examined assessments) (coursework) making up 25% each of the final grade</p>
<p><b><u>What could I do after studying this course?</u></b></p> <p>Students who study Creative iMedia usually go onto take digital media courses or other ICT / business variants at A-Level or (equivalent), or apprenticeships, successfully offered by nearing Post-16 sixth form schools and local colleges. Many students who study OCR iMedia go onto study relative subjects at Degree Level.</p> <p>Students lead onto potential careers in business &amp; marketing, digital media authoring, the media sector or other relative roles.</p>	<p><b><u>Who should I contact for further information?</u></b></p> <p>Mr Treadwell (Curriculum Leader of Computer Science &amp; Digital Media)</p> <p><a href="mailto:ptreadwell@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk">ptreadwell@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk</a></p>

# Options Choices at Birley

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## Key Dates

Below are some key dates in the options process this year.

- KS4 Pathways Evening – 7<sup>th</sup> March
- Information assemblies – week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> March
- Individual Interviews – Wed 8<sup>th</sup> March to Wed 6<sup>th</sup> April
- Deadline for handing in Choices forms – 8<sup>th</sup> April

# Contact Details

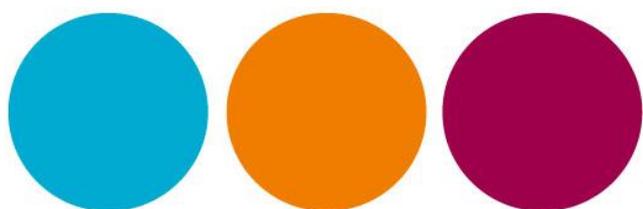
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If you wish to contact school then you may do so using the contact details below:

The Birley Academy  
Birley Lane  
Sheffield  
S12 3BP

Tel: 0114 239 2531

Email: [enquiries@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@birleycc.sheffield.sch.uk)



# The Birley Academy

## A L.E.A.D. Academy

