

Courses for Years 9, 10 and 11

September 2017 - June 2020



Success for all through
Attainment, Resilience and Autonomy

2017-2020

A Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/Carers/Students

This is an exciting time in the life of a student, the first chance since starting school to make some choices about the subjects to study.

Our options process is designed to give students a range of subjects, ensuring they study what is vital for their future and also those they are passionate about and will achieve well in. We think this will ensure students leave school ready for their next stage in life. For most that will mean college, but it can also be an apprenticeship or employment with training.

We want to ensure you are able to compete against others your age for places on courses at college, university and future employment. Therefore, we have ensured the options process for your GCSEs gives you as much breadth as possible whilst also ensuring you have enough time in each subject area to master the content and achieve great results.

It is important that you think about what you might want to study at college. You need to have as much range as possible to your choices but will normally need a GCSE or other qualification in subjects you want to follow after school. If you do not get a grade 4 in English or maths, you may have to study these at college and retake the exams until you pass at a grade 4 or above. Hard work at school is more important than ever.

You will take some GCSE exams at the end of Year 10 and others at the end of Year 11. This will ensure your time for studies is used wisely and increase your chance of success in a broader range of subjects.

Please read this booklet carefully. It will help you make the best choice of courses for the next three years.

Please ask your Mentor, Subject Teachers, or Mr Bryce or Mr Grundy if you need more information. Please keep this booklet through the next three years so you can look up course details if you need them.

With best wishes,



Christopher Anders
Headteacher

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The Core Curriculum

1. English Language and English Literature

Success on this course means you will achieve two GCSE passes – one in English Literature and one in English Language. Your course will build on the skills you have been developing in years 7 and 8, ensuring you explore a wide range of texts from our literary heritage and developing your ability to read, analyse and write critically about them. You will develop your own writing for a range of purposes so that you are competent, accurate and engaging whenever you write.

2. Mathematics

This course continues the work of the past two years and leads to a GCSE examination. Your course continues to develop your ability to solve problems using mathematics. You will develop your understanding of shape, number, algebra, statistics, probability and ratio. A mathematics GCSE will support the work you will be completing in science as well as options such as computer science and technology.

3. Science

There are many exciting careers in science and many jobs and college courses insist on a science qualification. This is why science is compulsory. You will study to GCSE level and either receive three GCSEs by completing the separate subjects of biology, chemistry, and physics or receive two GCSEs in a double combined award. The school will decide on which is best for you.

4. Physical Education

All students will study core physical education, with the option to choose GCSE.

5. PSHE, Citizenship, Careers and Ethics & Philosophy Education

You will receive guidance in personal, health education, citizenship, careers, and ethics and philosophy education during Years 9, 10 and 11.

6. Work Experience

You should expect to go on work experience, probably during the summer of Year 10 for two weeks.

Making Choices for Year 9

What is this all about?

When you start Year 9 some courses that you study will be entirely new. In most subjects you will begin to work towards a GCSE or some other qualification for example a BTEC award

Many subjects you have to study by law. The law exists to make sure that you do not make a serious mistake that might affect your future career (these compulsory areas are listed on the previous page). There are some subjects, however, that you can choose to study.

The rest of this booklet is all about making these choices.

What will happen?

Using the information contained in this booklet, and after talking to your parents, your teachers and your mentor, you will fill in a form making your preferences. The final option courses you follow will be influenced by your preferences but also what we think you are best studying as well as what we can offer.

WARNING!

Sometimes, if too many or too few people choose a particular subject, we may have to ask you to reconsider a choice. For this reason, you are asked to think of reserve choices. PLEASE NOTE some subjects are very popular. If you put them as reserve you are less likely to get them, even if you put them as first choice you may get your reserve choice. Make sure you think carefully about all your preferences.

Advice on Making Choices

Who can help me?

- ▶ Your parents
- ▶ Your subject teachers
- ▶ Your mentor

How should I choose?

- ▶ Choose subjects that you are good at – talk to your teachers
- ▶ Choose subjects that you like
- ▶ Choose subjects that will help you in a future career

Warnings!

- ▶ Do not choose a subject because a friend has chosen it. That is their future not yours
- ▶ Do not choose a subject because you like a teacher. You may not be in his or her class next year
- ▶ Do not pick the same subject in different columns! There are some combinations you should not make e.g. dance and drama as they are similar. Likewise art and photography are very similar so do not choose more than one of these

Art

Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

Likely content of course:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and/or three-dimensional media, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies through project based work. Students will be encouraged to experiment with a range of materials and techniques demonstrating and documenting in sketchbooks the skills they are mastering linked with their chosen areas of study within art, craft and design.



Students will complete a minimum of 3 projects/workshops throughout the duration of the course which will involve:

- ▶ Researching existing photographers/artists with written and visual analysis
- ▶ Develop ideas visually and analytically through written word
- ▶ Experimenting and refining ideas through exploration of techniques
- ▶ Presenting a personal response to a theme or given starting point

Examples of the theme based projects that may be covered over the duration of the course for **Unit 1 (Portfolio):**

- ▶ Textures (materials, Processes and Techniques)
- ▶ Cultures (3D animal masks)
- ▶ Natural Forms (2D, mixed media)
- ▶ The World Goes Pop (Mock Exam)

Unit 2: Externally set assignment in Art and Design set by AQA.

Assessment methods:

Unit 1: Portfolio (60%) Teacher assessment and external moderation against four assessment objectives.

Unit 2: External exam (40%) Externally set paper with 10 hour controlled exam element – assessed by class teacher with external moderation.

Further study:

Level 2/3 BTEC National in Art & Design (College)

A-Levels Art & Design, Fine Art, Textiles, Graphics, Photography etc

Career opportunities:

Graphic designer, illustrator, packaging designer, architect, textile designer, fashion industry, magazine industry, teacher/lecturer and many more creative jobs.

Computer Science

Exam board: To be advised

Type of qualification: GCSE

Likely content of course:

Modules for exam:

- ▶ Fundamentals of computer systems
- ▶ Computing hardware
- ▶ Software
- ▶ Representation of data in computer systems
- ▶ Databases
- ▶ Computer communications and networking
- ▶ Programming

Learning how to programme through Python.

Assessment methods:

Investigation, programming task and written examination

Further study/Career opportunities:

Computer Science is in the background of our society, whether its games, films, mobile phones or washing machines. There are less and less jobs that do not have computers involved and knowing a bit about what goes on “under the bonnet” will help in many real life problems. Even the ability to fault find, which is at the core of programming, is an essential life skill whether with or without a computer.



Construction Skills

Type of qualification: Laser level 1 Certificate for Learning, Employability and Progression (LEAP)

What does the course involve?

Students will study and practice construction skills for three hours every week at our Apex centre in Leigh Park. This may involve times after the usual school finish.

What will I study?

Students will learn about various areas of construction through:

- ▶ Research
- ▶ Practical demonstrations
- ▶ Application

Units of study will include:

- ▶ Brickwork/ Blockwork
- ▶ Wallpapering
- ▶ Painting
- ▶ Carpentry
- ▶ Plastering
- ▶ Construction
- ▶ Health and Safety
- ▶ Measurements of distance and length

How will I be assessed?

Throughout the course students will create a portfolio of evidence to demonstrate their competency in the skills being learnt.

The portfolio will include written evaluations, observations by teachers and examples of work carried out.

Future career pathways:

This qualification could be used as a precursor to:

- ▶ Further study of a level 2 course at college
- ▶ General experience prior to beginning an apprenticeship



Dance

What does GCSE Dance involve?

GCSE Dance is a practical course designed for students who are enthusiastic about Dance. It is open to all students, although some prior experience of Dance is helpful. This is at present a draft specification which could be subject to change before September 2016.

Dance is an empowering and powerful form of non-verbal communication which enables the development of creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. Dance is a physical art form which gives students the opportunity to be creative as well as being challenged and given the opportunity to cover several different Dance styles.

What will I study?

The course is split into different components, comprising of Performance and Choreography as well as Dance Appreciation.

Component 1 - Performance and Choreography: -

Performance:

1. You will learn six set phrases of movement and perform three as a solo (approx. 1 minute)
2. You will learn or create a duet or a trio based on the set phrases (approx. 3.0-3.5 minutes)

Choreography:

1. You will create a solo or group choreography piece, of between 2-3 minutes. You will choreograph this in response to a range of stimuli chosen by the exam board. The practical component is marked out of 80 and is worth 60% of the overall GCSE grade.

Component Two: Dance Appreciation: -

What is assessed?

1. Knowledge and Appreciation of choreographic processes and performance skills.
2. Critical Appreciation of your own work.
3. Critical Appreciation of professional dance works.

40% of the overall GCSE grade is assessed through a 90 minute written exam which is based on the above 3 sections.

Students will be expected to attend theatre trips offered by the school to see professional works and will be encouraged to attend at least one extra curricular activity each term as a way of supporting their class work. Study clubs will be available for students to extend their knowledge further.

Drama

Exam board: OCR

Type of qualification: GCSE

Likely content of course:

This exciting new specification for GCSE Drama gives students the opportunity to explore the subject from a range of perspectives by devising their own, original work; by bringing to life the work of a playwright; as theatre reviewers, developing their own thoughts on what makes drama and theatre successful; and as creative artists building and bringing a character to life through exploration and rehearsal.

This course is suitable for anyone with a commitment to drama and a strong team ethos. Students should appreciate that there is an expectation for preparation and rehearsal outside of lessons.

Assessment methods:

Component 1 – Devising Drama (60 Marks)

Students will create a devised performance in groups. They will be able to select a starting point from a range of stimuli provided by the exam board.

All performances will be supported by a portfolio which is evidence of the student's devising process.

Component 2 – Text Performance (60 Marks)

Students will perform two extracts from a selected text, as part of a group.

Students will be required to produce an accompanying document which outlines their intentions for the performance.

Component 3 – Written Examination (80 Marks)

In Section A students will be asked about preparing and performing a text. They will draw on the experience of studying a whole text during the course from a list set by the exam board.

Section B asks the students to review a performance they have seen on their course.

Further study:

AS/A Level Drama and Theatre Studies

AS/A Level Performance Studies

BTEC Performing Arts

BA Drama / Performing Arts

Career opportunities:

Actor, public speaking, technician.



Food and Catering

Exam board: Likely to be AQA

Type of qualification: Technical Award

Likely content of course:

Food and Catering covers the skills needed to work in the food preparation and catering industry. The students will study all aspects of preparing and cooking food, developing skills and understanding different cooking methods during a weekly practical session. Pupils will gain an understanding of the functions ingredients provide within a dish, and begin to learn how dishes are created in a catering environment. There is a keen focus on practical work as students will be required to demonstrate that they can cook a variety of ingredients showing their skill and precision.



Students will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing, evaluation and communication. During the theory session's pupils will develop an understanding of career prospects for the industry, HACCP food safety and hygiene, nutrition and the work of the EHO and the Safety at Work Act.

This Technical Award in Food and Catering will equip learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food nutrition and healthy eating.

Assessment methods:

Skills demonstration in the form of 12 mini projects showing the core knowledge of ingredients and cooking methods.

There will be an extended making project that will show of the skills that students have learnt from the skills demonstration section.

There will be a written exam at the end of the course.

Further study/Career opportunities:

Any aspects of the catering, food preparation or nutritional industries.

AS level Food and Nutrition

Note: After school attendance and home cooking is expected.



French

Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

Content of course:

Building on work introduced in KS3

- ▶ ***Identity and culture***
Me, my family and friends
Technology in everyday life
Free time activities
Customs and festivals in French-speaking countries/communities

- ▶ ***Local, national and global areas of interest***
Home, town, neighbourhood and region
Social issues
Global issues
Travel and tourism

- ▶ ***Current and future study and employment***
My studies
Life at school/college
Education post-16
Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Assessment methods:

Examinations in listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Further study/Career opportunities:

Entry qualification for many top universities and colleges.

Useful with other subjects, particularly for:

Business / services / museums and libraries / tourism / media and publishing;
science, engineering and technology / transport and logistics / charity and voluntary
work / teaching and education / government and public administration.

As this is one of the designated e-bac subjects particular students will be *expected* to continue it into KS4. For others it will be recommended.

In normal circumstances students will continue with the language studied in years 7 and 8.

Geography

Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

Likely content of course:

This course is an issue-based, investigative approach to geography. The emphasis is on problem solving and enquiry throughout the teaching and learning. The specification provides coverage of physical, environmental and human aspects of the subject and the linkages that exist between them. Examples of topics to be covered are: natural hazards (earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes etc.), glaciation, ecosystems and biodiversity, population, development, migration, and global resources. There is an expectation that students will attend regular study clubs and read around the topics in addition to set homework.



Assessment methods:

Final examinations – knowledge, case studies and ‘decision-making’ questions.

Students will complete compulsory fieldwork that will be examined at the end of the course.



Further study:

Geography is a valuable subject on its own or in combination with a variety of other subjects: English, history, art, maths, languages, business studies, sociology and psychology.

Career opportunities:

- ▶ Air traffic control
- ▶ Environmental careers e.g. forestry, nature/wildlife conservation
- ▶ Public service jobs, for example social work and sports instruction
- ▶ Management, for example personnel and recreation management
- ▶ Science, for example meteorology and veterinary studies
- ▶ The armed forces – Army, Navy and RAF
- ▶ Teaching
- ▶ Business
- ▶ Pilot and air crew
- ▶ Law

History

Exam board: Edexcel

Type of qualification: GCSE

Course content:

What is the worst punishment for a crime in history? Who was Jack the Ripper? How close did we come to a nuclear war? What was it like living in Hitler's Germany? Was Harold really shot in the eye at the Battle of Hastings?

Our GCSE History course offers you the chance to study these fascinating topics that we all want to know more about. Develop your critical thinking and historical understanding with this challenging and interesting GCSE.

You will study:

- ▶ Anglo-Saxon and Norman England (1060-88)
- ▶ Superpower relations (1941-1991)
- ▶ Nazi Germany (1918-1939)
- ▶ Crime and Punishment throughout history (1000-present), including a study of Whitechapel in Victorian London (1870-1900)

Course expectations:

- ▶ Regular independent research and enquiry
- ▶ You will need to read around the subjects studied to gain a deeper understanding

Assessment methods:

Written exam.

Further study:

A level and degree

Career opportunities:

Historian, archaeology, law, media, the military services, police, teaching and museums.

Horticulture

Exam board: Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) or Edexcel pending RHS validation

Type of qualification: RHS Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture (or GCSE)

Likely content of course:

- ▶ Preparing soil for sowing and planting
- ▶ Soil testing
- ▶ Assist with the propagation of plants from seed
- ▶ Assist with the vegetative propagation of plants
- ▶ Assist with planting and establishing plants
- ▶ Identification of a range of common garden plants, weeds pests and diseases



Assessment methods:

Assessment is by means of a range of practical activities timetabled and assessed based on the RHS success criteria.

Further study:

The RHS Level 1 Award in Practical Horticulture qualification has been approved within the Qualifications and Credit Framework. As part of the Foundation Learning tier this qualification provides a new and flexible learning programme for young people working at level 1. It helps learners to develop their horticultural potential and prepares them to progress towards level 2 qualifications offered by RHS Qualifications and other awarding organisations.

Career opportunities:

The horticultural industry is one of the largest employers in the UK. A career in horticulture could mean anything from a hands-on gardener to a research scientist. There are many, many opportunities out there:

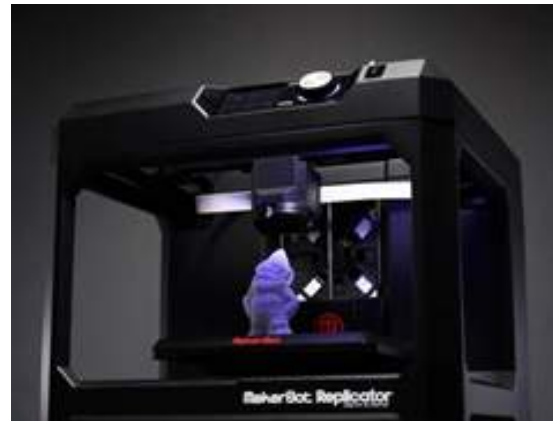
- ▶ Green-keeper
- ▶ Garden designer
- ▶ Gardener / Horticulturalist
- ▶ Arboriculturist
- ▶ Florist
- ▶ Environmental scientist
- ▶ Horticultural journalist
- ▶ Garden centre manager
- ▶ Landscape contractor
- ▶ Landscape architect
- ▶ Park ranger
- ▶ Plant breeder
- ▶ Soil scientist
- ▶ Vegetable grower

Materials Technology

Exam board: Likely to be AQA

Type of qualification: Technical Award

Materials Technology students will study materials in a practical way and understand the working properties of woods, metals and polymers. It will enable students to work in a hands-on way to develop the core skills to make high-quality products using these materials.



Likely content of course:

This specification requires students to develop their knowledge of traditional skills and also modern technologies. There will be a focus on how products are made and testing with the expectation to be at industry standards.

You will be learning about the design process, from a given design brief through to product manufacture and evaluation. Within this specification you will be learning about drawing techniques, smart materials, CAD design using different software and CAM manufacture using laser cutters and 3D printers. Sustainability will be a key issue for students to discuss and promote whilst developing a product for a variety of people from a range of backgrounds. There will be a focus on modern designers being able to think about environmental issues when designing products for the future.

Assessment methods:

Skills demonstration in the form of 12 mini projects showing the core knowledge of materials, products and tools.

Controlled assessment practical application of technical principles and designing and making principles activity.

There will be a written examination at the end of the course.



Further study/Career opportunities:

Any design career including graphical design, computer gaming, carpentry, product engineering or mechanical design engineering and trade careers.

Note: After school attendance is essential for practical application of designing and making principles.

Music

Exam board: OCR

Type of qualification: GCSE

Course Content:

GCSE Music is a course that gives students who are passionate in playing an instrument or singing, opportunities to develop their skills. The course is designed for students to perform in a band and as a soloist. Exploration in composing songs and using ICT for club dance are examples of creating your own music.

This is a course for those who are committed to becoming an accomplished musician and dedicated in practising their instrument outside of lessons.

Assessment methods:

Component 1 – Integrated Portfolio (30%)

1. Students will perform a solo on their chosen instrument.
2. Students will create a composition for their instrument.

Component 2 – Practical Portfolio (30%)

1. Students will participate in an ensemble performance.
2. Students will create a composition based on a range of stimuli set by the exam board.

Component 3 – Written Examination (40%)

Written exam – students will sit a formal exam, responding to questions on a wide range of musical genres.

Students will be expected to attend a variety of musical experiences featuring the styles that are covered in the syllabus.

Further study:

BTEC Music

BTEC Music Technology

AS/A Level Music

Career opportunities:

Musician

Composer

Note: Skills in Music are important before starting the course

PE

Exam board: Subject to syllabus release- OCR GCSE PE or Edexcel/Pearson

Type of qualification: Subject to syllabus release - GCSE PE or Btec First Award Level 2 in Sport

There is an expectation that students opting into examination PE must have shown their commitment to after school clubs and fixtures throughout their time at school. They will need to continue to attend these each week throughout the course. Pupils will have shown the ability and ambition to perform competitively.

Students who will succeed within examination PE will be driven sportsmen/women who enjoy being active and who are also doing well in science. Examination PE would best suit students who are members of sports clubs/teams and regularly participate.

Likely content of course:

Students will study a course which incorporates both theory work and practical sport. They will investigate to the rules and regulations of many sports and report on the similarities and difference. Students will also work on their precise application within practical sport and develop their analysis techniques. Throughout the course students will enhance their understanding for components of fitness, principles of training and methods of training. Students will complete work on energy systems as well as effects of exercise on the various body systems, this will be used to design, implement and review intense 6-week personal exercise programme.

Topics include:

Antimony, physiology, aspects of psychology and sociology.

Assessment methods:

GCSE- Written exam 60%, controlled assessment 10%, practical performance 30%

Btec Sport Level 2- Controlled assessments 90%, practical performance 10%.

Further study:

Btec Sport level 3/A level PE
Sports and exercise science
Personal trainer course

Career opportunities:

Sports coach
PE teacher
Personal trainer



Note: After school attendance to both theory and practical sessions will be essential throughout the course to enhance work and develop the mastery of practical elements.

Photography

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Qualification: GCSE



Likely content of course:

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of lens-based and light-based media, techniques and processes, including both traditional and new technologies. Students will complete a minimum of 3 projects throughout the duration of the course which will involve;

- ▶ Researching existing photographers/artists with written and visual analysis
- ▶ Develop ideas visually and analytically through written word
- ▶ Experimenting and refining ideas through exploration of techniques
- ▶ Presenting a personal response to a theme or given starting point

Examples of areas of photography that might be explored;

- ▶ Portraiture
- ▶ Landscape photography (working from the built or natural environment).
- ▶ Still Life photography, (working from natural or manufactured objects).

Assessment Methods:

Unit 1: Portfolio (60%)

Teacher assessment + external moderation against four assessment objectives.

Unit 2: External exam (40%)

Externally set paper with 10 hour controlled exam element – assessed by class teacher with external moderation.

Further Study:

There are opportunities to further develop your interest in photography by studying the subject at A-Level, where you will get more in depth training in the use of analogue (film-based) and digital photography.

Career Opportunities:

The types of jobs that photography might lead to include: commercial photographer (sport, fashion, product, photo reporter), artist, 3D animator, web or graphic designer, picture researcher or archivist, image editor, etc. Since many industries rely on generating visual imagery for advertising, the market is very versatile.

Note: There is an expectation that you will be committed to attending after school sessions and producing work in your own time in order to develop skills to the high level required for this GCSE course.

Religious Studies

'Does evil exist in the world? Can a person be 'evil'? Do we really have free will or are our lives and even our choices already planned out for us? Should we bring back the death penalty? Should the rich have to pay more to society and should the media be controlled? These are just some of the questions that will be explored through this course.

Religious Studies is about tackling some of the big unanswered questions about the place of human beings in the world and how we should live. You will have the opportunity to explore and debate many of these while investigating and challenging the views of others from both religious and non-religious standpoints. Through this course you will gain an insight into Christian, Hindu and non-religious perspectives such as Humanism; but fundamentally it is about using these perspectives as a starting point for your own exploration of these issues. If you like debate and are interested in the world and people around you, then this is the course for you.'

Exam board: EDUQAS

Type of qualification: GCSE

Likely content of course:

Component 1 (50%):

Unit 1 – Relationships: Issues of love, marriage and divorce, gender equality and same-sex relationships.

Unit 2 – Life and Death: Questions about life after death, abortion and euthanasia.

Unit 3 – Good and Evil: Investigate issues such as the nature of human evil, crime and punishment, suffering and the challenges this poses to belief in God.

Unit 4 – Human Rights: An examination of what sort of world we want to live in from the role of the media to extremism, prejudice and the use of money.

Component 2 and 3 (25% each):

A depth study of core Christian and Hindu beliefs. This will involve an exploration of these two contrasting systems and how they make sense of the world and our place within it.

Assessment methods:

Two written exams.

Further study/Career opportunities:

This course is relevant for a number of further courses including humanities subjects (Geography and History); the social sciences (Sociology, Psychology, and International Relations); Politics; Theology; Religious Studies and English literature and Language.

Career opportunities:

Police; counselling; social services and care work; psychology and psychiatry; journalism; local government; the armed forces; the intelligence services; creative professions (such as Matt Groening, creator of the Simpsons) and any job involving working with the public.



Spanish

Exam board: AQA

Type of qualification: GCSE

Content of course:

Building on work introduced in KS3

▶ ***Identity and culture***

Me, my family and friends

Technology in everyday life

Free time activities

Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries/communities

▶ ***Local, national and global areas of interest***

Home, town, neighbourhood and region

Social issues

Global issues

Travel and tourism

▶ ***Current and future study and employment***

My studies

Life at school/college

Education post-16

Jobs, career choices and ambitions

Assessment methods:

Examinations in listening, speaking, reading and writing

Further study/Career opportunities:

Entry qualification for many top universities and colleges.

Useful with other subjects, particularly for:

business / services / museums and libraries / tourism / media and publishing;

science, engineering and technology / transport and logistics / charity and voluntary

work / teaching and education / government and public administration.



Notes

Notes

Notes

much
more than
just a **school**

This booklet was printed by Park Design and Print
Established to give young people real life work experience

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