

Key Stage 4 Years 10 & 11 Curriculum

September 2025/6

Dear Student and Parent,

This booklet has been compiled to inform you about Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) at Wingate School. At the end of Year 9, just before Key Stage 4, students get some choices about which subjects to study. However, there are still compulsory subjects that we believe are important for all students to ensure a broad-based education.

Students must apply maximum effort, sustained over the two years, to achieve their full potential; homework is an essential part of their continued progress across both years.

Teachers will regularly assess students' academic progress, but Formal Reports are shared on the Parent Portal three times during Year 10 and twice during Year 11 which show academic attainment (levels), personal academic achievement, and effort. There is a Parents' Open Day in November and February when there is an opportunity for parents and students to discuss their progress with the Form Tutor, subject teacher, or any of the school leaders. You can, of course, book an online or face-to-face meeting with any teacher at any time through the office. Students will always be given opportunities to improve their level of performance.

From February in Year 10, we also provide a 'predicted grade' for their IGCSE subjects. In Year 10 this is a guide but just after Christmas in Year 11, students will sit the important '*mock*' IGCSE exams. These are crucial indicators for both us and your child. We provide a detailed Report in early February which shows these grades and comments from each subject teacher and a predicted grade. In April of Year 11, we will also provide a final 'predicted grade'. Naturally, we hope that their academic success at 16 will enable students to continue with their studies for AS/A Levels or BTEC courses here in our Wingate Sixth Form Study Centre.

I sincerely hope we can all work together to help support our students to achieve the very best that they can.

Mrs Colette Tolfrey
Head of Senior School

Mr Martyn Howells
Headteacher Wingate School

The Exams and What They Mean:

We use the Edexcel (now known as *Pearson*) Examination Board.

IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education). These are the international versions of the GCSE and are highly regarded academically inside and outside of Education. Grades range from 9 to 1 but grades 9 to 5 are considered a 'high-level pass' and **only** U a fail.

Some exams have tiered papers. The terms "Core" and "Foundation" tiers are used to describe exams in which the highest grade that can be gained is a 5. "Extended" and "Higher" indicate that grades 9 to 4 (or 0 below a level 4 so a fail) can be achieved.

BTEC qualifications offer an exam-free, assignment, and portfolio route to a qualification with some practical tasks and experience involved in the achievement of the course. BTEC awards are graded from 'P' (pass) 'M' (merit) 'D' Distinction. The grading system equates to D = level 7-9 at IGCSE, M = 4-6 at IGCSE, and P = 3-4.

What is required for an invitation into Wingate Sixth Form:

Students will need at least 5 grades 9 - 5 at IGCSE or the equivalent in BTEC to be considered for entry to the Sixth Form. However, in Sciences and Maths, level 7 is required as a minimum to continue onto AS & A level studies. Psychology, Art, IT Economics, and Business Studies do not require previous study, but at least a level 4 in First Language English Language and Maths will be needed. A-Level subjects are reviewed every year. Students must also display an aptitude and commitment to their studies, with excellent attendance.

Our suite of BTEC courses also offers a different way to learn and gives students the opportunity to gain the equivalent of 3 A-levels by completing and passing Level 3 BTEC courses, which will allow them entry to University.

What is needed to study for the *Bachillerato* in a Spanish school:

For studies to be equated to the Spanish Education system, students need to pass Homologación for their Wingate studies. This requires sufficient knowledge of Spanish as assessed internally and by the Spanish Authorities, along with 4 x level 4/5 (or higher) results at IGCSE, plus a pass in Social Sciences and First Language Spanish. The Social Sciences elements will be taught separately and are delivered in Spanish.

Social Science is compulsory for Spanish National students and only available to students studying in Set 1 of Spanish who wish for their results to be convalidated. More details are available on the school website or by contacting Sra Barrio.

Curriculum Subjects:

The curriculum is made up of **compulsory** and **optional subjects**. English Language, Literature, Maths, Spanish and Biology are compulsory subjects. Students will also have compulsory non-examined lessons on their timetable for Tutor time, PDP and sports. (IGCSE PE is an optional subject).

There are 3 option blocks. Students must choose only 1 subject from each block. Students are advised to read the information in this booklet and discuss the subjects they are interested in with the subject teacher, with Mrs Tolfrey, Mr Burgess and with their parents before making a final decision. BTEC award qualifications are available in IT, Art and Design or Performing Arts.

Compulsory Subjects:

First Language English:

All students take Edexcel International GCSE English Language A or B. Assessment is a 100% examination and will be graded using the 9 to 1 grading system. We now have the option of modular assessment, where students sit Paper 1 in the summer of Year 10 and Paper 2 at the end of Year 11.

In Year 10, students prepare for Paper 2, 'Poetry and Prose Texts and Imaginative Writing' (1 hour 30 minutes), worth 40% of the total mark.

In Year 11, students will prepare for Paper 1, 'Non-fiction Texts and Transactional Writing' (2 hours and 15 minutes), worth 60% of the total mark,

Paper 1 consists of an anthology of engaging, contemporary non-fiction texts. Students will develop their skills of interpretation and analysis, enabling them to respond to an anthology text in the examination, as well as compare it with an unseen non-fiction text. Students will apply what they have learned about different text types to develop their transactional writing, practicing a range of non-fiction writing techniques, planning and proofreading skills.

For Paper 2, students will study and analyse a range of engaging fictional poetry and prose texts from the anthology in preparation for responding to one of the set texts in the examination. They will learn to apply what they have learned about the writer's craft in their reading of fiction to inspire and influence their imaginative writing and develop a range of creative writing techniques, planning, and proofreading skills.

Resources for preparing and practicing for each section of the exam, including videos, additional notes, study guides, past papers, and exemplar responses, are all available in the Google Classrooms to help students to study, learn, revise, and prepare for your qualification both in class and independently.

English Literature:

All students have the opportunity to prepare for the Edexcel International IGCSE English Literature examination, which will be graded using the 9 to 1 grading system. They will learn to read, critically analyse and respond to literary texts in depth (prose, poetry, and drama).

We now have the option of modular assessment, where students sit Paper 1 in the summer of Year 10 and paper 2 at the end of Year 11.

In YR 10, students will prepare for Paper 1: 'Poetry and Modern Prose' (2 hours), worth 60% of the total mark. This year of the course involves the study of the novel 'Of Mice and Men', a set poetry anthology, and a selection of unseen poems.

In YR 11, students will prepare for Paper 2: 'Modern Drama and Literary Heritage Texts' (1 hour and 30 minutes), worth 40% of the total mark. This year of the course includes the study of 'An Inspector Calls' for Modern Drama, and 'Romeo and Juliet' for Literary Heritage.

A wide range of resources for support for all sections of the examination, including videos, study guides, linked websites, past papers, mark schemes and exemplar responses, are all available in the Google Classrooms, allowing students to study, learn, revise, and prepare for their qualification in ways that suits their personal learning style.

Further details on any of the English subjects are available from Mrs Finnie.

Mathematics:

Students will continue to learn Maths in the same way as in Year 9. Use of a calculator is encouraged throughout the course and students are expected to bring one to every lesson, as well as their normal mathematical equipment (compass, protractor, ruler, etc).

Everyone will study number and number systems, sets, algebra, sequences, graphs, geometry, measurement, transformations, statistics, and probability. More able students will also study standard form, functions, calculus, and vectors.

The course is delivered at two levels, Higher and Foundation.

All students sit two x 2 hour papers. Calculators may be used on both papers.

Students will sit exams at the end of the course and be awarded a level from 9 to 1. Students aiming to study for an “A” level will be expected to achieve level 7 and most universities require a minimum of a level 5.

Further details are available from Mr Finnie.

Sciences

Here at Wingate, we feel it is very important that a Science subject is included in a young person’s broad base of education. Students have the opportunity to continue to study individual Sciences (see Blocks A & B below) but all students will follow the IGCSE Biology Edexcel syllabus. The Science department offers the Entry Level Certificate for Science, which is only available to a small number of students and is explained below.

Biology:

Biology is an interesting and inspiring course suitable for those wanting a final IGCSE qualification and those who require a sound basis for further study. The course includes aspects of modern Biology appropriate for the 21st Century. Students will learn about:

- The nature and variety of living things
- Structures and functions in living organisms
- Reproduction and inheritance
- Ecology and the Environment
- The use of Biological resources

There are two papers, one of 2 hours and a second of 1 hour 15 minutes.

Experimental work is carried out during the two year Biology course, but the final exams are theory papers. Students will sit exams at the end of the course and be awarded a level 9 - 1. Students aiming to study for an ‘A’ level will be expected to achieve level 6. Further details can be obtained from Miss Crane.

Entry Level Certificate in Science:

The Entry Level Certificate in Science has been designed by Edexcel to provide a progression route for lower attainers. It is an option we use at Wingate for pupils whom we believe will not pass the IGCSE Biology. It helps build confidence and engagement with Science and allows pupils to leave with a Science qualification.

The course consists of a total of six modules; two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Pupils are taught each module separately and then sit an exam when the teacher feels they are ready; this can be at any point in the year. Pupils may repeat the same exam to improve on their grade.

Spanish:

The year group will be divided between Advanced, Intermediate and Beginners. In the Advanced set, Spanish is taught as a first language but all students will sit the Edexcel Spanish GCSE Higher paper. Advanced students will follow a more challenging course that includes aspects of the GCE A level; covering both Spanish Language and Literature. First-language Spanish students will also sit the internal First Language exam needed to pass Homologación.

Students in the Intermediate and Beginners classes will sit their Spanish IGCSE at the end of Year 11.

All students will have the opportunity to develop their skills in four areas: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They will be able to understand and use the language in formal and informal situations. Reading books and oral

presentations will be part of the course. They will learn more about grammar and literature. Students will also gain insight into the culture and civilization of the countries where Spanish is spoken.

Social Science:

Social Science in KS4 is taught in Spanish and focuses on Modern and Contemporary times. Social Science provides students with the opportunity to study the Geography, History, and Art of Spain. Studying Social Science alongside Spanish as a first language will make students eligible for Homologación. This means that Wingate School students can have their studies recognised by the Spanish Department of Education. The course is compulsory for all Spanish citizens, but we encourage students with a high level of Spanish to take advantage of this opportunity. It can open doors to the Spanish higher education system and other career pathways.

Students planning to study Spanish Sixth Form will find that the subject covers topics that will be studied then. Social Science will help the students in the development of their writing skills and critical thinking, Social Science students will expand their vocabulary and gain an understanding of the fundamentals of Spanish politics and culture.

Students have the opportunity to study a range of topics using a variety of learning techniques and styles: presentations, speeches, videos and written exams.

PDP

This subject is non-examinable but compulsory for all students. It is designed to help students develop as individuals. It covers personal development, career education, health education, study skills, skills for independent living, target setting, and ‘Education for Employability’. The school has invested in ‘Unifrog’ software which helps guide students in careers and pathways to Higher Education. The flexible nature of the subject allows content to be negotiated to suit individual and group needs. Students will work in groups as well as individuals and make use of the computer to provide information. Students will be encouraged to take part in discussions and learn how to explain their points of view. The subject is taught as suggested by the UK National Curriculum guidelines.

Sports

Sport and physical activity are considered important at Wingate. Lessons of sports are timetabled each week where students will develop their performance in various sports including football, rounders, athletics, and netball amongst others.

IGCSE PE is a separate optional subject for those who would like a formal qualification in “Physical Education”.

Optional Subjects:

There are three option blocks and students choose 1 subject from each block:

Block A	Block B	Block C
Geography <u>or</u> BTEC ICT <u>or</u> History <u>or</u> PE	Physics <u>or</u> Psychology <u>or</u> BTEC Art and Design <u>Or</u> French	Chemistry <u>or</u> BTEC Performing Arts <u>or</u> Business studies <u>or</u> BTEC Creative Media

An options form is found at the end of this booklet

Option Block A

You may only study **one** of these subjects: Geography, BTEC IT, History or PE

Geography:

The course focuses on a two-paper model allowing students to focus on physical and human geography: Students follow the IGCSE Modular examination where they study for and sit Paper 1 in the summer of Year 10 and Paper 2 in the summer of Year 11.

Paper 1

- Section A - brings together physical geography and people-environmental processes and interactions where we study in depth Coastal, Hazardous Environments and fieldwork at a Coastal location.

Paper 2

- Section A - brings together human geography and people-environment processes and interactions where we study Economic Activity and Energy, and Rural Environments.
- Section B - Geographical enquiry
- Section C – students are required to apply their knowledge and understanding of human and physical geography to investigate broader global issues.

In both papers, students undertake geographical investigations involving fieldwork and research.

There are two exams: Paper 1 is 1 hour 10 minutes, and Paper 2 is 1 hour 45 minutes.

BTEC IT Certificate

Through a combination of practical experience and written assignments, this vocational qualification will provide learners with the knowledge, skills, and understanding needed for a career in the sector and begin their development as IT professionals. All work is by assignment and assessment. There are no exams. This course consists of the following modules:

- The online world
- Technology systems
- A digital portfolio
- Creating digital video
- Database development
- Computer network
- Software development
- Website development.

Students work on continuous, practical assessments as well as personal portfolios, all tailored to the wider business world or pathways to Level 3 Media Design or IT. This is a flexible course aimed at the IT enthusiast or those wanting to expand their IT knowledge.

History

The Edexcel IGCSE in History consists of 4 diverse key topics, covering a wide range of interesting and relevant issues relating to the modern world. IGCSE also allows students to follow the modular system where Paper 1 is sat in the summer of Year 10 and paper 2 at the end of Year 11. Topics include the study of Medicine during the 19th and 20th centuries, the development of Nazism in Germany after World War One, the Cold War, and the USA during the 1920s and 1930s. The qualification will help students to develop the following skills:

- acquire knowledge and understanding of key historical events which have shaped the modern world.
- use historical sources critically, in context, recording significant information and reaching conclusions.
- develop essay writing skills by producing balanced and informed responses to historical questions.
- draw conclusions and make historical judgments that are supported with evidence.

The assessment comprises two exams:

Paper 1 (written paper)

Students complete two in-depth studies:

- Development of Dictatorship: Germany 1918 - 45
and
- A world divided: Superpower Relations 1943 - 75

Paper 2 (written paper)

Students complete one historical investigation and one breadth study:

- The USA 1918 - 41
and
- Changes in Medicine c1848 - c1948

GCSE Physical Education:

The Edexcel GCSE PE has both practical and theoretical components. Students will develop their performance in various sports: basketball, football, athletics and netball (whilst other individual and team sports may be included)

The theory part of the course covers aspects of sport and fitness, factors affecting performance, safety in sport and the physiology of the body.

Students will sit two written exams:

- Fitness and Body Systems - 1 hour and 45 minutes (36% of the final grade)
- Health and Performance - 1 hour and 15 minutes (24% of the final grade)
- Practical Performance (30% of the final grade)
- Personal Exercise Program (10% of the final grade)

Further details can be obtained from Mr. Gill

Option Block B

You may only study one of these subjects: Physics, Psychology or BTEC Art and Design or French

Physics:

Physics will be taught as an exciting practical subject. It is ever more important that young people know how the physical world around them operates. Physics is the key to being confident in handling the environment as an adult.

Students will learn about:

- Forces and Motion
- Electricity
- Waves
- Energy resources and energy transfer
- Solids, liquids and gases
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Radioactivity and particles
- Astrophysics

All topics will be taught with direct relevance to the everyday lives of our future citizens, as well as a foundation for further study. There are two exam papers, one of 2 hours and one of 1 hour 15 minutes. Students will sit exams at the end of the course and be awarded a level 9–1. Students aiming to study for an “A” level will be expected to

achieve level 6.

Further details can be obtained from Mrs. Butler.

Psychology :

The Psychology course provides students with the knowledge and understanding of the key features of the following core areas: Biological, Cognitive, Social, Developmental, and Individual Differences. To study these core areas, the following topics will be studied:

- Development - How did you develop?
- Memory - How does your memory work?
- Psychological problems - How would psychological problems affect you?
- The brain and neuropsychology - How does your brain affect you?
- Social influence - How do others affect you?
- Criminal psychology - Why do people become criminals?
- Sleep and dreaming - Why do you need to sleep and dream?
- Research methods - How do you carry out psychological research?

There are two examination papers, one of 1 hour and 45 minutes and a second of 1 hour and 20 minutes. Students will sit exams at the end of the course and be awarded a level 9 -1.

Further details can be obtained from Mrs Jobling.

BTEC Art and Design Certificate

This course will give students the chance to develop their art and design skills, working on projects to showcase their emerging talents. There is a flexible element to this course where students can focus on their personal skill set to create a portfolio, furthering their career in Art and Design, Fashion, or Creative Media. This course is the perfect pathway to Level 3 advanced Art and Design.

Students will be given the opportunity to:

- Work with photography
- 2D and 3D design
- Digital art,
- Classic and fine art techniques
- Fashion Design & Textile

This qualification is delivered through assignment briefs and assessments. There are no exams. Speak to Miss Healey for more information.

French

French IGCSE course has no coursework and the linear courses assess the four language-learning skills (speaking, listening, reading, and writing) in a balanced way. The course is designed to help students develop their ability to use French for practical communication i.e. to speak French, to understand spoken and written French, and, where appropriate, to write in French. In addition, the ability to use a foreign language, and gain a recognised qualification, will be an asset for employment in a wide range of jobs. This is particularly important given the increased competition for vacancies and the contact with Europe in the worlds of work and leisure. There are oral exams as well as written exams at the end of the course.

Option Block C

You may only study one of these subjects: Chemistry, BTEC Media , BTEC Performing Arts or Business Studies

Chemistry:

The Chemistry course is comprehensive and relevant to modern life. It is suitable for those wanting a final qualification and those who require a sound basis for further study in Sixth Form and possibly university courses. Students will learn:

- The principles of Chemistry
- Inorganic Chemistry
- Physical Chemistry
- Organic Chemistry

There are two examination papers, one of 2 hours and a second of 1 hour and 15 minutes. Students will sit exams at the end of the course and be awarded a level 9 - 1. Students aiming to study for an "A" level will be expected to achieve level 6. Further details can be obtained from Ms Duncan.

BTEC Performing Arts Certificate

The BTEC Level 2 in Performing Arts course is a practical qualification assessed on coursework created for performance and production projects. This is achieved by developing the relevant knowledge, skills, and behaviours required for building a career in the performing arts industry. Students will explore the wider industry, employment opportunities, and progression options throughout their studies. This will include employment opportunities in theatre, TV, radio, performing arts production, and theatre management. Students studying performing arts can be both new to the subject or already established as performers. Any students with previous experience in areas including drama, music, dance, movement, etc. will have the opportunity to continue to build on these skills and embrace outside achievements as part of their coursework portfolio. Students new to the subject will gain a strong fundamental understanding of a range of skills enabling them to produce high-quality work. Students will have access to our widening professional local, national, and international partners.

Business Studies

Edexcel IGCSE Business is accepted by universities and employers as proof of an understanding of business concepts and techniques across a range of different types of businesses. Learners will be able to:

- understand different forms of business organizations, the environments in which businesses operate and business functions such as marketing, operations and finance
- appreciate the role of people in business success. They will also gain lifelong skills, including:
 - o the ability to calculate and interpret business data
 - o communication skills needed to support arguments with reasons
 - o the ability to analyse business situations and reach decisions or judgements

The programmes balance a thorough knowledge and understanding of the subject and help to develop the skills learners need for their next steps in education or employment.

There are two written exams each 1hr 30 mins with equal 50% loading.
For more information see Mr Gill

BTEC Creative Media

You'll learn how to plan and produce film, radio shows, print-media as well as getting taught in how the various media industries are structured and your best strategies for getting your foot in the door of media corporations, as well as how to develop your own work on an independent basis. Through a mix of written assignments, practical work and observational assessment you'll develop not only the skills and knowledge you'll need to progress onwards in media education, but also the ability to start making your own media productions.

Thinking about University?

It is not too soon to be thinking about University, and Wingate School is a natural route to University entrance. There are many courses and career paths available, and we can advise on which courses would best suit each student during Years 12 and 13. However, some idea of what you may want to study at university is useful - though not

essential, in choosing your options.

'A Levels' and BTEC's are also accepted for entrance to Spanish Universities. The current minimum requirement is 3 A-level passes. Ask Sra. Barrio for more information.

Exam Costs

Families will be charged an examination fee for each of the subjects taken. Before a student is entered for an external exam, we will tell families the cost and ask for their signed agreement. This takes place in late January and early February of Year 11 as the Exam Boards require registration well in advance. BTEC programs need registration at the beginning of the course, and parents will be sent the charges to pay before the deadline of registration date.

Thank you for reading this document and for your interest in Wingate School for KS4 studies.

Option Choice Form for September 2025

Name: Class

For each block tick show your **1st Choice** and **2nd Choice**. We will make every effort to give you your first choices in every block, however, sometimes this may not be possible. ***If you do not have a second choice, one will be selected for you.***

Advice* Choose subjects you like, not by a teacher or to be with friends. This is **your** academic future!

Block A	1st Choice	2nd Choice
Geography or		
BTEC IT or		
History or		
PE		
Block B	1st Choice	2nd Choice
Physics or		
Psychology or		
BTEC Art and Design Or		
French		
Block C	1st Choice	2nd Choice
Chemistry or		
BTEC Media or		
BTEC Performing Arts or		
Business Studies		

Signature of student:Signature of Parent.....Date.....