

Norton College Worcester

QUALIFICATIONS BOOKLET

2026



A guide to your options

This is a guide to the additional options that you can select as part of your qualification pathway at Key Stage 4. It enables you to recognise your interests, talents and spend time throughout your key stage to work towards qualifications in these areas. This helpful guide will give you an insight into the options available for your next two school years.



Andrew Moore

Quality of Education Lead

Our Curriculum Offer

Core Subjects

- English - Functional Skills/GCSE
- Mathematics - Functional Skills/GCSE
- Science - Entry Level/GCSE
- Digital Functional Skills
- PSHE
- Physical Education

KS4 Options

- BTEC Sports
- Art (Arts Award)
- Music (Arts Award)
- BTEC Cooking
- Duke of Edinburgh Award
- History - GCSE/Entry Level
- Geography - GCSE/Entry Level
- BTEC Construction
- BTEC Esports
- Drama (Arts Award)

BTEC Sport

Level 2

BTEC Sport Level 1/2 is a practical, hands-on course for learners who enjoy being active and want to develop their skills in sport. Students take part in a range of units, including Practical Sports Performance, where they build their ability across different sports, and the Unit 1 exam, which develops their knowledge of fitness and training.

They also complete Fitness for Sport and Exercise, designing and reviewing their own fitness programmes, and Sports Leadership, where they plan and lead activities for others.

Throughout the course, learners develop key skills such as teamwork, communication and leadership, preparing them for further study or careers in sport.

[Specification: Click Here](#)



Key Course Information

Course Length - 2 years

Course Structure - 4 Units

Assessment - 1 exam and 3 coursework units

Where this subject can take you

This BTEC is ideal for those interested in a career in sport. It can lead to Level 3 Sport, A Level Sport. Career options include personal training, coaching, teaching, sports events, physiotherapy and outdoor activities. University pathways include Sports Science, Sports Management, Psychology and Teaching.

Art

Arts Award Bronze/Silver



Arts Award Bronze and Silver help students develop creativity, confidence and independence through art. They explore a range of artists, styles and techniques while building practical skills in areas such as drawing, painting and graffiti.

Students create personal projects, research artists and arts opportunities, and learn to review and evaluate their work. They also share their creativity through presentations, exhibitions or workshops.

Silver further develops leadership and research skills. Ideal for students interested in art and the creative industries, these courses support creativity, communication and independent learning.

[Specification: Click here](#)

Key Course Information

Course Length - 1 Year for Bronze and 1 Year for Silver

Course Structure - 4 Units

Assessment - Portfolio based

Where this subject can take you

This course is ideal for students interested in a career in Art and Design. It can lead to Level 3 Art, A Level Art, Arts Award Gold or T Levels in Digital Production and Illustration.

Career routes include roles in media, advertising, publishing, journalism and animation.

University pathways include Fine Art, Graphic Design, Advertising, Set Design and specialist creative courses.

Music

Arts Award Bronze/Silver

In Music Arts Award, you'll explore, create and discuss all things musical while developing your performing, composing, listening and appraising skills. You'll study the work of a range of musicians, try different instruments and discover new styles of music you may not have heard before.

There will be opportunities to attend live performances both in school and at local venues, as well as plan and lead sessions to help other pupils develop their own musical skills. The course is flexible, inclusive and suitable for all musical interests, making it a fun and engaging way to learn about music. Alongside this, you can also work towards Trinity College music development qualifications—nationally recognised awards ranging from Entry Level 1 to Level 2.

[Specification: Click Here](#)



Key Course Information

Course Length - 1 Year for Bronze and 1 Year for Silver

Course Structure - 4 Units

Assessment - Portfolio based

Where this subject can take you

Music Arts Award can lead to further study in music or performing arts, higher Arts Award levels, and Trinity College exams, as well as college courses and careers in areas like performance, production or sound engineering, while building confidence and creativity for any future pathway.

BTEC Cooking

Level 1/Level 2



If you have a passion for cooking and want to improve your skills at home or pursue a career in the culinary industry, BTEC Cooking is the perfect choice for you!

This course will help you master a range of kitchen techniques and build a repertoire of reliable recipes to impress. As a formal cooking qualification, it provides a strong foundation for those looking to develop their skills further. With a dedicated weekly double session, you will refine your abilities, preparing you for the next step—whether that's advancing to professional food preparation and catering or enhancing your future employability within the hospitality industry.

[Specification: Click here](#)

Key Course Information

Course Length - Level 1 and Level 2 - Both 1 year

Course Structure - Level 1 - One dish + Theory Level 2 - Two dishes + Theory

Assessment - Portfolio based

Where this subject can take you

BTEC Home Cooking Skills can lead to further study in hospitality or catering, including progression to Level 2 and Level 3 courses or apprenticeships, as well as careers in areas such as catering, food production or becoming a chef, while also developing valuable life skills for independent living and healthy lifestyles.

Duke of Edinburgh

Bronze/Silver Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is a unique qualification that combines physical activity, voluntary work, and skill development into one comprehensive programme. Students have the freedom to choose their voluntary work, the skills they wish to develop, and the physical activities they want to take part in throughout the year. Activities may include rock climbing, sailing, canoeing, high ropes, archery, and more.

Assessment takes place throughout the year as students complete the three sections of the programme. The course concludes with an expedition, where students camp off-site with staff support, putting their skills to the test in a real-world setting. This award is a well-respected and well-known course across the country because of the number of skills students develop and the experience it provides.

[Specification: Click Here](#)



Key Course Information

Course Length - 1 Year for Bronze and 1 Year for Silver

Course Structure - 4 Units - Physical/Skill/Volunteering/Expedition

Assessment - Portfolio based

Where this subject can take you

Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE) can lead to a range of positive next steps, including progression through Bronze, Silver and Gold levels, and can support applications to college, apprenticeships, university and employment by developing key skills such as teamwork, leadership, communication and resilience. It is widely recognised by employers and education providers, helping you stand out, while also building confidence, independence and life skills that are valuable for any future pathway

History

Entry Level / GCSE



Entry Level and GCSE History give you the opportunity to explore key events, people and turning points that have shaped the world we live in today. You will build your understanding of how societies have changed over time, helping you make sense of current events and issues. The course develops a range of valuable skills, including analysing evidence, evaluating different viewpoints and writing clear, well-structured arguments.

History is designed to be engaging and accessible, allowing you to build confidence at your own level while developing your knowledge and independence. It also supports wider personal development by encouraging curiosity, empathy and an understanding of different cultures and perspectives

[GCSE Specification: Click here](#)

[Entry Level Specification: Click here](#)

Key Course Information

Course Length - GCSE = 2 years Entry Level = 1 year

Course Structure - GCSE = 4 units Entry Level = 3 units

Assessment - GCSE = Exam based Entry Level = Portfolio based

Where this subject can take you

Both Entry Level and GCSE History can lead to a wide range of future pathways by developing important skills such as analysis, research, communication and understanding different viewpoints. These support progression in education, including further study at college or A Levels, and open doors to careers across sectors such as teaching, law, business, media, and heritage, making History a valuable foundation for many future opportunities.

Geography

Entry Level / GCSE

Entry Level and GCSE Geography give you the opportunity to explore the world around you and understand how people, places and environments are connected. You will study a range of real-life topics such as climate change, natural hazards, population and global development, helping you make sense of current global issues. Through both courses, you will develop important skills including map work, data analysis, fieldwork, problem-solving and teamwork. The courses are designed to be engaging and accessible, allowing you to build confidence at your own level while developing independence. Geography also supports progression onto further study and links to a wide range of future pathways, particularly in areas such as the environment, business, travel and public services.



[GCSE Specification: Click Here](#)

[Entry Level Specification: Click Here](#)

Key Course Information

Course Length - GCSE = 2 years Entry Level = 1-2 years

Course Structure - GCSE = Exam based Entry Level = Coursework based
Assessment - Exam/Portfolio based

Where this subject can take you

Geography can lead to further study at college or apprenticeships, and helps develop useful skills like problem-solving and teamwork.

It can lead to careers in areas such as travel, environment, business, construction or public services, with further study opening pathways into roles like planning, teaching or environmental work.

Construction

BTEC Level 1



This course is a hands-on, practical pathway into the construction industry, perfect for learners who enjoy learning by doing. Students experience a wide range of construction activities, helping them discover their strengths and interests within the trade.

Blending elements of art, maths and science, the course builds a strong link between academic learning and real-world skills. Learners get the opportunity to develop their abilities in bricklaying, woodwork, and painting and decorating, gaining valuable experience that prepares them for further training or a future career in construction.

[Specification: Click here](#)

Key Course Information

Course Length - Award - 1 year Certificate - 2 years
Course Structure - Award: 2 units Certificate: 5 units
Assessment - Portfolio based

Where this subject can take you

A BTEC Level 1 in Construction provides a strong starting point for further study or a career in the construction industry. It can lead to Level 2 courses, apprenticeships or entry-level roles, with opportunities to progress into trades such as bricklaying, carpentry or plumbing and, over time, into more skilled or supervisory roles.

BTEC Esports

Level 2

This qualification allows students to explore their creativity in the digital world. They will learn about what it takes to build a gaming organisation and have the opportunity to plan/develop their own Esports brand. In today's rapidly evolving digital age, gaming companies are constantly striving to provide users with the most immersive experiences possible. Students will study emerging trends in gaming, including the rise of online gaming and streaming, and examine their impact on the industry.

As we move into the next academic year, Norton will be welcoming a brand new Esports gaming suite, giving pupils the opportunity to be immersed in the Esports world.

[Specification: Click Here](#)



Key Course Information

Course Length - 2 years

Course Structure - 2 units

Assessment - Coursework based

Where this subject can take you

A BTEC Level 2 in Esports can lead to further education, apprenticeships or careers in the growing digital and media industries. Students can progress onto Level 3 courses, or move into pathways such as digital media, IT, business or creative qualifications. The course helps develop skills in teamwork, communication, organisation and technology, which can support future roles in areas such as event planning, marketing, content creation or IT support.

Drama

Arts Award Bronze/Silver



Arts Award is a nationally recognised qualification where students develop their drama skills through performance, theatre visits and exploring the work of practitioners. They build a portfolio to record their work and progress.

At Bronze, students take part in drama activities, review performances and share their skills. At Silver, students work more independently, completing a drama project and taking on a leadership role.

The course builds confidence, creativity, communication and teamwork, supporting progression into further study in Drama.

[Specification: Click here](#)

Key Course Information

Course Length - Bronze = 1 year Silver = 1 year

Course Structure - 4 units

Assessment - Portfolio based

Where this subject can take you

Arts Award (Drama) can lead to further study in GCSE Drama, Performing Arts or Creative Media, as well as continuing on to Silver or Gold Arts Award. It also helps build skills that are useful for future pathways in the creative industries, including theatre, media, events and production, while developing confidence, communication and leadership for a wide range of careers.

Your Choices

Please select 5 options

Please select five options carefully. Your first choice should be the subject you want to study the most. Due to the demand for certain subjects, it may not always be possible to receive your top choice, so ensure you provide a second, third, fourth, and fifth preference. Please remember that these options will cover the entirety of your KS4

1st Choice:.....

2nd Choice:.....

3rd Choice:.....

4th Choice:.....

5th Choice:.....

Please complete and return this form by 1st June 2026, or email below with your choices. If you would like any further information about the available options, please feel free to contact us by email or phone.

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