



Year 8 Options Booklet

OUR | **WORLD READY**
VISION | **CAREER READY**

OUR | **DETERMINATION**
VALUES | **RESPONSIBILITY**
ADAPTABILITY
CURIOSITY
RESPECT

Welcome to your Year 8 Options Booklet which will support you in taking your first steps into your KS4 courses.

During your first three years at Bow, all students have followed the same curriculum. In KS4 that changes.

There are some subjects that you have to study, for example English, Maths, Science, Religious Studies and Core PE, but you also have an element of choice about the other subjects you study.

What is changing?

From September 2026, you will begin one GCSE option in Year 9. You will then choose your remaining two options during Year 9 (for study in Year 10 and Year 11).

Year 8 Options (choose one):

3D Design, Art, Drama, BTEC Music, Creative iMedia, BTEC Sport

It is very important that you think carefully about your choice so that it supports your interests, strengths and future opportunities. This booklet has been designed to complement the other information we provide to help you make an informed decision.

If you have any questions, speak to your Form Tutor, Class Teachers, Head of Year or a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

Happy reading and start planning for the next exciting steps in your Bow School career.

Year 8

Option Subjects

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Art & Design

Art & Design at Bow helps students to develop an enquiring mind and the technical skills to express themselves confidently and creatively; with feelings and imagination.



Potential Careers

Graphic designer
Textile designer
Interior Designer
Architect
Animator
Illustrator
Film maker
Theatre Designer
Influencer
Web Designer

Course Content:

60% Controlled assessment & 40% external component

Unit 1 (60%)

Personal Portfolio

Two units of coursework:

1. Natural Forms
2. Me, Myself and I

Unit 2 (40%)

Externally set theme

Eight week preparation then
10 hour exam

“I enjoy Art and Design because it allows me to express myself using a range of different forms” Year 11

Who is this course suitable for?

Students who enjoy making artwork

Students who are self motivated, enthusiastic and willing to work extra hours after school to develop their practical work
Students who enjoy taking part in artist workshops and visiting galleries and museums

3D Design

Three-dimensional Design at Bow helps students to develop practical design and making skills, creative problem-solving and confidence when working with a wide range of materials and processes. Students learn how designers and makers develop ideas from initial concept through to final outcome, while exploring real-world applications such as architecture, interiors, product design and sculpture.



Potential Careers

Architect
Interior Designer
Product Designer
Set and Exhibition
Designer
Sculptor / Ceramic Artist
Furniture Designer
Model Maker
Designer for Theatre,
Film and TV

Course Content:

60% Controlled Assessment
40% Externally Set Assignment

Component 1 (60%) – Personal Portfolio

- Teacher-set themes
- Researching designers, artists and architects
- Exploring materials, techniques and processes
- Developing ideas through making and experimentation
- Recording work through sketchbooks, models and drawings

Component 2 (40%) – Externally Set Assignment

- Externally set theme
- Eight week preparation then 10 hour exam

Who is this course suitable for?

Students who enjoy:

- Working with materials and making things
- Creative, hands-on learning
- Solving problems through design
- Developing ideas visually and practically

Students who:

- Are interested in design, architecture or creative industries

Creative iMedia

Will inspire and equip students with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the digital media. You'll design, plan, create and review digital media products to meet client and target audience demands



Potential Careers

Web Developer
Business Intelligence Analyst
Software Developer
Database Administrator
Network Systems administrator
QA Analyst

Course Content:

Rog3: Creative iMedia in the media industry (exam)

Rog4: Visual identity and digital graphics (coursework)

Rog7: Interactive digital media (coursework)

“iMedia is a creative subject which uses new software. There is a huge demand in social media, thus learning digital software will prepare you for the real world.” Year 9



Who is this course suitable for?

Pupils who have a keen interest in using computers

Pupils who are creative

Pupils who have interest in web technologies

Design Technology

Design and Technology at Bow will produce designers and engineers of the future, equipped with the skills to make products that will improve people's lives.



Potential Careers

Product designer
Furniture Design
Industrial Design
Architecture
Engineer
Joinery
Carpentry
Mechanics

Course Content:

50% controlled assessment and 50% exam

Unit 1 (50%) Coursework

Consisting of: research, design development, planning, making, testing & evaluating

Unit 2 (50%) Exam

Consisting of questions relating to Design & Technology. Maths, science and Engineering

“DT gives students a good insight into what making and designing a product in the real world/ a real company is like. It develops their creative skills”.

Year 11

Who is this course suitable for?

Anyone enthusiastic about Design & Technology
Students that like practical skills as well as writing and designing
Those who like to problem solve and create!
Those with a good knowledge of Science and Maths

Drama

Drama at Bow School enriches, excites and challenges. Our dramatists learn about drama through practical exploration in the classroom, as well as through external opportunities to experience live theatre.



Potential Careers

Actor
Theatre Technician
Script Writer
Public Relations
Director
Journalist
Teacher
Marketing
Manager
Arts Administrator
Youth and Community
Worker

WJEC Eduqas GCSE (9-1) in Drama

Course Content:

60% controlled assessment and 40% exam

Component 1: (40%) Devising Theatre:

- A realisation of their piece of devised theatre
- A portfolio of supporting evidence
- An evaluation of their final performance or design
Internally assessed, externally moderated.

Component 2: (20%) Performing From A Text:

- Study two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the centre
- Participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts (Externally assessed by a visiting examiner).

Component 3: (40%) Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes

- A series of questions on one set text
- One question on a live theatre production

“Before taking GCSE Drama I found myself often feeling nervous when speaking to people and always avoided public speaking. Now I can perform in front of total strangers! I feel so much more confident in every day life as a result of taking GCSE Drama!” Year 10 Dramatist and National Youth Theatre actor.

Who is this course suitable for?

If you enjoy :

Creating characters; learning about new performance skills; have an interest in technical aspects, such as lighting and sound or just want to gain more knowledge and experience of drama, then this is the course for you!

Tony Little, the former Headmaster of Eton College, has spoken about the enrichment and value of drama within a curriculum.

Remember, companies are looking for employees with good verbal and visual presentation skills – Drama GCSE really improves these exact skills!

BTEC Music

Music at Bow inspires and enthuses learners to consider a career in the music industry. The course encourages students to be creative and reflective, through performance, production and written work. They will be supported by an additional instrumental lesson each week.



Potential Careers

Performer
Record Producer
Music Promotion
Publisher
Teacher
Music Therapist
DJ
Music Industry Management
Stage manager
Record Sales
Venue Management
Music Journalist
Radio Producer
Musical Theatre Performer

Course Content:

Component 1 – Exploring Music Products And Styles – 30%

Learners will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles

Component 2 – Music Skills Development - 30%

Learners will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, whilst documenting their progress and planning further improvement.

Component 3 – Responding To A Music Brief – 40%

Learners will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief.

The course is suitable for students who are interested in learning about music in a practical, hands-on way. It's ideal for those who enjoy performing, creating, and exploring different aspects of the music industry. This course is great for students who want to:

- Develop their skills in playing instruments or singing
- Learn about the business side of music, like managing events or understanding music marketing
- Work on real-life music projects and collaborate with others
- Explore different genres and styles of music
- Build a career in music, whether that's performing, producing, or working in the music industry

It's perfect for students who are passionate about music, want to gain practical experience, and are looking to build skills that could lead to further study or a career in the music industry. Employers value musicians for their creativity, discipline, teamwork, and problem-solving skills, which are highly transferable to many different work environments.

BTEC Sport (Tech Award)

PE at Bow helps our students develop their physical, emotional and mental well-being. It educates them on how to refine skills and techniques in a variety of sports but also challenges them mentally through problem solving.



Potential Careers

- PE Teacher
- Physiotherapy
- Sports Coach
- Sports Development
- Sports Nutritionist
- Sports Scientist
- Professional athlete

Course Content

60% controlled assessment and 40% exam
12% Practical sport, 12% practical delivery of a warm up, 12% delivery of a sports session.
The rest is written coursework and exam.

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity

Component 2: Taking part and improving others sporting performance

Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants in sport and physical activity

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Written coursework, PowerPoint presentation, practical leading a warm up

Component 2: Practical performance, practical leadership, written coursework, PowerPoint presentation

Component 3: Exam

“The course has really helped me understand sport in more depth. I am no longer just a player but also an official but I have learnt about how the body works and what it is made up of. I can plan a session plan and work on my leadership which helps me in life outside of school. I also like the different ways I am assessed as it’s not just an exam at the end of Y11”

Who is this course suitable for?

Suitable for someone who has a very keen interest in sport, not only performing but the theoretical aspect of developing sports performance, including how to lead younger students, what happens to the body when we exercise and what skills we need to perform a sport well.