



St John's Catholic

Comprehensive School



OPTIONS EVENING 2026/2027

CURRENT YEAR 8 STUDENTS

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Course Code	Course Name	Subject Leader	Page
C1	English Language	Ms Holmes	8
C2	English Literature	Ms Holmes	9
C3	Mathematics	Mr Acquah	10
C4	Combined Science	Mrs Elia	11
C5	Religious Studies	Mrs Baker / Mr Juma	12
C6	Physical Education	Mr Kyle	13
C7	PSHE	Mrs Donkor / Mr Ward	14

Students will study all of these Core subjects in Years 9, 10 and 11.

GCSE examinations will take place in the majority of these subjects at the end of Year 11 – see pages 3 to 6 for more details

Course Code	Course Name	Subject Leader	Page
EBACC Subjects			
E1	GCSE Geography	Mr Thilthorpe	15
E2	GCSE French	Miss Pizza	16
E3	GCSE History	Mrs Slingsby	17
E4	GCSE Spanish	Miss Pizza	18

Students are required to study one EBACC subject (Geography, History, French or Spanish) in Years 9, 10 and 11. Students may select an additional EBACC subject as one of their Key Stage 3 Foundation courses if they wish.

GCSE examinations will take place in each student's chosen EBACC subject at the end of Year 11.

Students are required to study two Key Stage 3 Foundation courses in Year 9.

These Key Stage 3 Foundation courses provide an excellent platform for BTEC or GCSE study in Years 10 and 11. Each of these courses will be available as Key Stage 4 Enrichment, BTEC or GCSE Option courses in Years 10 and 11.

Course Code	Course Name	Subject Leader	Page	Potential BTECs / GCSEs in Years 10 and Years 11
KS3 Foundation Options				
F01	Art and Design (Creative)	Mrs Stone	19	<i>Art & Design Arts Award, Art and Design GCSE Art & Design</i>
F02	Child Studies	Ms Bond	20	<i>BTEC Children's Play Learning and Development</i>
F03	Computer Science*	Mr Robinson	21	<i>GCSE Computer Science, BTEC Interactive Media (ICT)</i>
F04	Media Production	Mrs Stone	22	<i>BTEC Media Production</i>
F05	Dance (Creative)	Mrs Gibbons	23	<i>GCSE Dance, Dance Arts Award</i>
F06	Design and Technology (Creative)	Mr Ambrose	24	<i>DIY Skills, Motor Vehicle Studies, Technical Award in Engineering, GCSE Design & Technology</i>
F07	Digital Information Tech	Mr Robinson	25	<i>DIT (Technical Award)</i>
F08	Drama (Creative)	Mrs Gibbons	26	<i>GCSE Drama</i>
F09	Engineering	Mr Ambrose	27	<i>Technical Award in Engineering</i>
F10	Enterprise	Mr Karnovski	28	<i>BTEC Enterprise Tech Award Level 1, BTEC Enterprise Tech Award Level 2</i>
F11	Food and Nutrition	Miss Gosling	29	<i>Home Cooking Skills, GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition</i>
F12	Health Studies	Ms Bond	30	<i>BTEC Health and Social Care Level 1, BTEC Health and Social Care Level 2</i>
F13	Music (Creative)	Mr Farrelly	31	<i>GCSE Music</i>
F14	PE Foundation*	Mr Kyle	32	<i>Sports Leadership Award, BTEC Sport Activity and Fitness, GCSE PE</i>
F15	Photography (Creative)	Mr Buggs	33	<i>GCSE Photography</i>
F16	Psychology*	Mrs Hayden	34	<i>GCSE Psychology</i>
F17	Sociology*	Mrs Hayden	35	<i>GCSE Sociology</i>
F18	Textiles Design	Mrs Stone	36	<i>Art & Design Arts Award, GCSE Art & Design</i>

*Students must have met certain academic entrance requirements in order to study a course indicated with an asterix. Each student will receive a personalised letter at the KS4 Options Evening detailing which courses they are eligible to select.

It is vital you consider which Key Stage 4 Enrichment, BTECs or GCSEs you wish to study in Years 10 and Years 11 when choosing your KS3 Foundation Options.

Please note: Students that select a **KS3 Foundation "Creative"** option will be committed to studying the subject and the associated GCSE through years 9,10 &11. GCSE examinations will take place in each student's chosen subject at the end of Year 11.

Course Code	Course Name	Subject Leader	Page
KS4 Enrichment / Level 1 Courses			
E01	Art and Design Arts Award	Mrs Stone	37
E02	Child Development Level 1	Ms Bond	38
E03	Dance Leadership Award	Mrs Gibbons	39
E04	Digital Information Technology Level 1	Mr Robinson	40
E05	DIY Skills	Mr Ambrose	41
E06	Enterprise Tech Award Level 1	Mr Karnovski	42
E07	Health and Social Care Level 1	Ms Bond	43
E08	Home Cooking Skills	Miss Gosling	44
E09	Motor Vehicle Studies Level 1	Mr Ambrose	45
E10	Sports Leadership Award	Mr Kyle	46
E11	The Duke of Edinburgh's Award	Mr Kyle	47
KS4 BTEC Level 2 Courses – Equivalent to One GCSE			
B01	Child Development	Ms Bond	48
B02	C Media Production	Mrs Stone	49
B03	Digital Information Technology	Mr Robinson	50
B04	Engineering	Mr Ambrose	51
B05	Enterprise Tech Award	Mr Karnovski	52
B06	Health and Social Care	Ms Bond	53
B07	Sport, Activity and Fitness	Mr Kyle	54

Course Code	Course Name	Subject Leader	Page
KS4 GCSE Courses			
G01/G02	Art and Design (Creative)	Mrs Stone	55
G03	Citizenship Studies	Mrs Slingsby	56
G04	Classical Civilisation	Mrs Slingsby	57
G05	Computer Science	Mr Robinson	58
G06/G07	Dance (Creative)	Mrs Gibbons	59
G08/G09	Drama (Creative)	Mrs Gibbons	60
G10/G11	Design and Technology (Creative)	Mr Ambrose	61
G12	Food Preparation and Nutrition	Miss Gosling	62
G13/G14	Music (Creative)	Mr Farrelly	63
G15/G16	Photography (Creative)	Mr Buggs	64
G17	Physical Education	Mr Kyle	65
G18	Psychology	Ms Hayden	66
G19	Sociology	Ms Hayden	67

Students are required to select two of these Key Stage 4 (KS4) Option courses which they will then study across the entirety of Years 9 and 10.

External examinations in these courses will take place either during or at the end of Year 10.

Students will also have the opportunity to select up to two further KS4 Option courses at the end of Year 9. These further courses will then be studied across the entirety of Years 10 and 11 (If a student selects an additional EBACC subject as one of their KS3 Foundation Options, they will continue studying this subject in Years 10 and 11, and as such, will only choose one further KS4 Option course at the end of Year 9).

Students must have met certain academic entrance requirements in order to study the vast majority of KS4 Option courses. Each student will receive a personalised letter detailing which KS4 Option courses they are eligible to select.

A wider range of KS4 Option courses will be available for students to select from at the end of Year 9. Eligibility will be based up on academic performances in Milestone assessments throughout the remainder of Year 8 and Year 9. This is to ascertain which courses we feel are most suitable to you at this stage in your education and to help ensure you select courses that you can achieve well in (please see page 6 for further details).

Introduction

The aim of this prospectus is to give you and your parents as much information as possible about the Core (compulsory) courses you will be studying in Year 9 (and subsequently in Years 10 and 11), as well as the options process and the option courses that are on offer to you.

In Year 9, in addition to six Core (compulsory) subjects, you will have the opportunity to study one EBACC subject (either Geography, History, French or Spanish), either one additional EBACC subject and one KS3 Foundation Option or two KS3 Foundation Options, and two KS4 Options of your choosing. The information in this prospectus will support you in the decision-making process so that this next important stage in your education is challenging, rewarding and enjoyable.

Core (Compulsory) Subjects

Students will study six Core subjects in Years 9, 10 and 11. The majority of these subjects will be examined at the end of Year 11 and will lead to the award of either one or two GCSE qualifications respectively. English Literature is the only subject that will be examined at the end of Year 10, and Physical Education and PSHE are not examined subjects.

English	(Leads to GCSEs in both English Language and English Literature)
Mathematics	(Leads to a GCSE in Mathematics)
Science	(Leads to a Double GCSE in Combined Science Trilogy) (Triple Science will be offered to selected students during the Year 9 Options process)
Religious Studies	(Leads to a GCSE in Religious Studies)
Physical Education	
PSHE	

Subject	Qualification	Examination Date
English	GCSE English Literature GCSE English Language	GCSE Literature: Summer Year 10 GCSE Language: Summer Year 11
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics	Summer Year 11
Science	GCSE Combined Science Trilogy	Summer Year 11
Religious Studies	GCSE Religious Studies	Summer Year 11
Physical Education	---	---
PSHE	---	---

Pathway A or Pathway B

Students are required to select subjects from either Pathway A or Pathway B:

Pathway A (Language)

- **One Language Option: French or Spanish** (the language that your child has studied this academic year)
The subject selected will be studied throughout Years 9, 10 and 11. GCSE Examinations in the subject selected will take place at the end of Year 11.
+
- **Two KS3 Foundation Options** (These subjects are coloured green within the KS4 Option Prospectus, they include *Geography* and *History* for those students wishing to study a humanities subject along with a language subject). Your child is strongly advised to select subjects that they are interested in selecting as full KS4 Options in Years 10 and 11. For example, if they are hoping to study BTEC Enterprise in Years 10 and Year 11, they should select KS3 Enterprise as a **KS3 Foundation Option** now. *Students that select either Geography or History along with a language subject will be required to study the humanities subject throughout Years 9, 10 and 11. GCSE Examinations in the subject selected will take place at the end of Year 11.*
+
- **Two KS4 Options** (These subjects are coloured pink, blue, and orange within the KS4 Option Prospectus)
These subjects will be studied across the entirety of Years 9 and Year 10. The school has carefully looked at your child's academic progress to determine which KS4 subjects they can successfully study in Years 9 and 10 without having to first take a KS3 Foundation option in the subject. Examinations in these subjects will take place at the end of Year 10 (thus reducing the number of examinations students will be required to undertake in year 11).

OR

Pathway B (No Language + One (or more) Creative Subject)

- **One Humanities Option: Geography or History**
The subject selected will be studied throughout Years 9, 10 and 11. GCSE Examinations in the subject selected will take place at the end of Year 11.
+
- **Two KS3 Foundation Options** (These subjects are coloured green within the KS4 Option Prospectus, they include *Geography* and *History* for those students wishing to study both humanities subjects)
Your child is strongly advised to select subjects that they are interested in selecting as full KS4 Option in Years 10 and 11. For example, if they are hoping to study BTEC Enterprise in Years 10 and Year 11, they should select KS3 Enterprise as a **KS3 Foundation Option** now.
Students that select both Geography and History will study both of these humanities subjects throughout Years 9, 10 and 11. GCSE Examinations in the subjects selected will take place at the end of Year 11.
+
- **Two KS4 Options** (These subjects are coloured pink, blue, and orange within the KS4 Option Prospectus)
These subjects will be studied across the entirety of Years 9 and Year 10. The school has carefully looked at your child's academic progress to determine which KS4 subjects they can successfully study in Years 9 and 10 without having to first take a KS3 Foundation option in the subject. Examinations in these subjects will take place at the end of Year 10 (thus reducing the number of examinations students will be required to undertake in year 11).

Please see the next page for further information regarding Creative Subjects

Pathway B, further information regarding Creative Subjects:

- Please note in Pathway B, students must select ONE (or more) “Creative” subject.
- The “Creative” subject can be selected as a KS3 Foundation Option (to be studied as a 3 Year pathway, ending in a GCSE qualification) OR as a KS4 Option (to be studied as a 2 Year pathway, ending in a GCSE qualification).
- If the “Creative” subject is selected as a KS3 Foundation Option, the student will be required to also study the corresponding GCSE across Years 10 & 11 (hence making it a 3 Year pathway).
- If the “Creative” subject is selected as a KS4 Option, the student will study it across the entirety of Years 9 and Year 10, with the examinations in the subject taking place at the end of Year 10 (hence making it a 2 year pathway)
- Creative subjects are identified within the Options prospectus/portal by the word “CREATIVE”, and they are also listed on the following page for ease of reference.

Creative Subjects

KS3 Foundation Options	KS4 Options
Art and Design (Creative)	GCSE Art and Design (Creative)
Dance (Creative)	GCSE Dance (Creative)
Design and Technology (Creative)	GCSE Design and Technology Graphic Products (Creative) GCSE Design and Technology Product Design (Creative)
Drama (Creative)	GCSE Drama (Creative)
Music (Creative)	GCSE Music (Creative)
Photography (Creative)	GCSE Photography (Creative)

Further Option Choices at the End of Year 9

Students will have the opportunity to select either 0, 1 or 2 further KS4 Option subject(s) at the end of Year 9, which they will study across Years 10 and 11 (students will have the opportunity to select from a wide range of KS4 option subjects that they are well-suited to, based on their academic progress and interests). The choices a student makes now determines whether a student will have the opportunity to select 0, 1 or 2 further KS4 Option subject(s) at the end of Year 9. The tables below summarise this information:-

Pathway A (Language)	Number of KS4 Option Choices at the end of Year 9
Student chooses ONE Humanities subject now	1
Student chooses NO Humanities subject now	2

Pathway B (No Language + 1 or more Creative Subject)	Number of KS4 Option Choices at the end of Year 9
Student chooses ONE Humanities subject and ONE KS3 Foundation Creative subject now	1
Student chooses TWO Humanities subjects and ONE KS3 Foundation Creative subject now	0
Student chooses ONE Humanities subject and ONE KS4 Creative subject now	2
Student chooses TWO Humanities subjects and ONE KS4 Creative subject now	1

Humanities Subjects = Geography & History

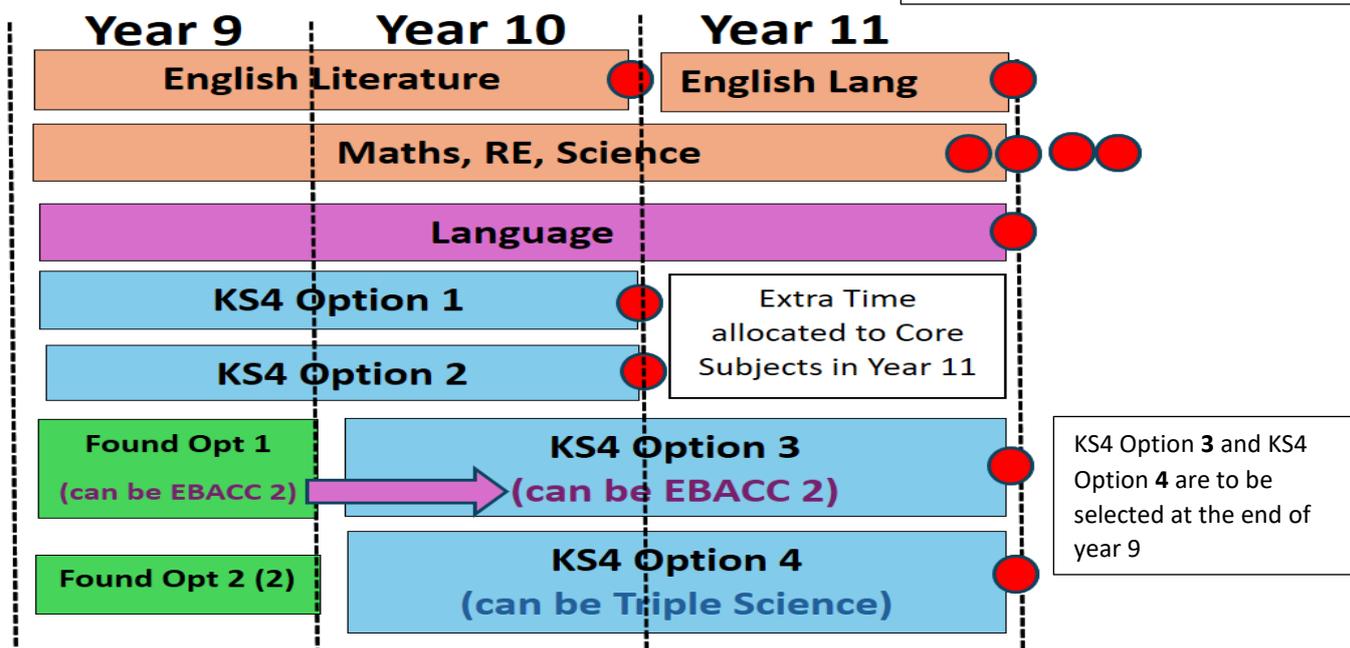
You are currently only required to select the two KS4 Option courses you wish to study across Years 9 and 10. You will be required to select the KS4 Option course(s) you wish to study across Years 10 and 11 at the end of Year 9.

A wide variety of Key Stage 4 Option courses are on offer, and they have been carefully chosen to cater for differing abilities and interests. Your academic ability and performances in Milestone assessments have been carefully analysed to ascertain which courses we feel are most suitable to you at this stage in your education and to help ensure you select courses that you can achieve well in.

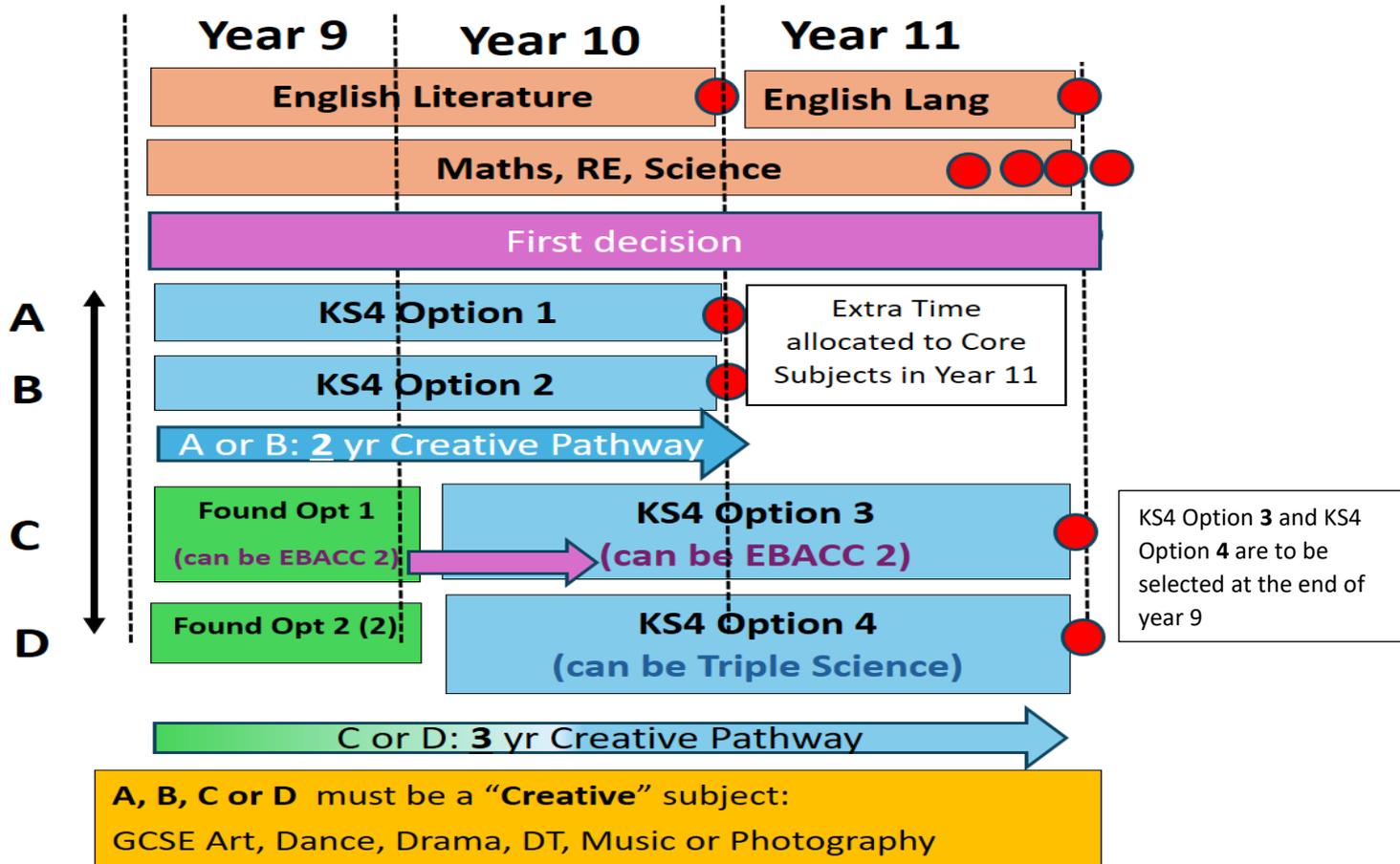
As you will be selecting either one or two further Key Stage 4 Option courses in a year’s time, there is an opportunity for you to demonstrate through forthcoming Year 8 and Year 9 Milestone assessments that you have the academic ability to access a wider range of Key Stage 4 Option courses in Years 10 and 11. As outlined in the KS3 Foundation Subjects section above, it is vital that students select Key Stage 3 Foundation courses that best prepare them for the KS4 Enrichment / BTEC or GCSE courses they are hoping to study in a years’ time.

Pathway A – Language as EBACC

● Indicates a course will be completed and externally examined in that academic year



Pathway B – (No Language + 1 (or more) Creative Subject/s)



The Options Process

Over the next few weeks you are required to carefully consider which Options you wish to select. It is vital that you select Option courses that you have a keen interest in. Your Form Tutor and Year Leader are available to support and guide you in the decision-making process and it is suggested you seek out the Subject Leader of any course you are interested in studying to find out further information about the course and your suitability.

You will be required to log in to the school's electronic Options Portal in order to submit your Option course selections. Details of the Options Portal, along with login information, will be issued to you via a letter.

When you log in to the school's electronic Options Portal you will be required to confirm your preferred and reserve Option choices.

We will endeavour to allocate your preferred courses, but this is not always possible due to timetabling restrictions and the fact that all courses are offered subject to sufficient uptake. In such instances, you will be allocated your reserve course.

Once you have logged into the school's electronic Options Portal and submitted your preferred and reserve courses you are committed to taking whichever of these courses you are allocated. Pupils will not be allowed to change their options after they have logged into the Portal and submitted their preferred and reserve courses.

The school will automatically allocate under-subscribed option courses to any student that does not submit their preferred and reserve courses by the **deadline date of Tuesday 20th April 2026.**

If you are unsuccessful in being allocated one of your preferred Key Stage 4 Option courses, we will endeavour to allocate this course to you at the end of Year 9, so that you can study the subject in Years 10 and 11, if you still wish to do so.

The Option process will be repeated next academic year, so you will have the opportunity to choose either one or two Key Stage 4 Option courses for Years 10 and 11 in twelve months' time.

We hope that you are happy with the information provided and with the wide range of choices open to you.

D Walton



Associate Head Teacher

S Atkinson



Assistant Head Teacher – Key Stage 4



Core Subject: English Language (AQA)

Course Content:

Explorations in creative reading and writing

- Reading of literature fiction texts to consider how established writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to capture the interest of readers.
- Writing your own creative text, inspired by a topic to demonstrate their narrative and descriptive skills in response to a written prompt, scenario or visual image.

Writers' viewpoints and perspectives

- Reading of two linked sources from different time periods and genres to consider how each presents a perspective or viewpoint to influence the reader.
- Producing a written text to a specified audience, purpose and form in which they give their own perspective on the theme.

Spoken Language

- Students will give a presentation in a formal context
- Students will respond appropriately to questions and feedback, asking questions themselves to elicit clarification
- Students will demonstrate the use of spoken Standard English.

Method of Assessment:

<p>Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing</p> <p>What's assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: one literature fiction text• Writing: descriptive or narrative writing <p>Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80 marks• 50% of GCSE	<p>Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives</p> <p>What's assessed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading: one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text• Writing: writing to present a viewpoint <p>Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 80 marks
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What will I gain from the Course?

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

This course will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysis of texts.

Find out more here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>



Course Content:

Shakespeare: Students will study *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare. In the exam, they will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then write about the play as a whole.

The 19th-century novel: Students will study either *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson or *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. In the exam, they will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then write about the novel as a whole.

Modern texts: Students will study *An Inspector Calls* by J.B. Priestley. In the exam, students will answer one essay question from a choice of two questions.

Poetry: Students will study the AQA *Power and Conflict Anthology*. In the exam, students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the Anthology.

Unseen Poetry: Students will study analytical techniques. In the exam, students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

Method of Assessment:

<p>Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel</p> <p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shakespeare - <i>Macbeth</i>• The 19th-century novel – <i>Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i> OR <i>A Christmas Carol</i> <p>Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 64 marks• 40% of GCSE	<p>Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry</p> <p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>An Inspector Calls</i>• <i>Power and Conflict Poetry Cluster</i>• Unseen poetry <p>Written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 96 marks• 60% of GCSE
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What will I gain from the Course?

The specification takes a skills-based approach to the study of English Literature that is consistent across the genres. The texts encourage students to explore inspirational literature and allow students of all abilities to achieve their best in every aspect of their exam.

A wide variety of texts means that there is something that will appeal to every student and inspire young readers.

The course of study offers excellent preparation for AS and A-level English Literature, as well as giving students a grounding in a wide variety of literature that will stay with them for life.

Find out more here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>



Core Subject: Mathematics

Course Content:

All students follow the National Curriculum for KS3 and are embedding essential skills so that they can begin their GCSE study in the following year. The new NC has three aims, namely, 'Develop Fluency', 'Reason Mathematically' and 'Solve Problems'. Through this, the curriculum is split into six core topics, 'Number', 'Algebra', 'Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change', 'Geometry and Measures', 'Probability' and 'Statistics'. Through their lessons and independent study, students will progress in all areas. Lessons will constitute a mixture of traditional teaching, group work, ICT and investigational problems. To aid their retention of facts they will revisit topics a number of times taking on small amounts each time so will look at a wide variety of topics across each term.

Method of Assessment:

Students are given numerical grades (1-9) twice termly as well as teacher comments through PM/PF/T.

Teachers also encourage students to peer assess each other's work as well as carrying out self-assessment to promote independent thinking and learning.

Students will complete assessments 6 times throughout the year based on recent topics and previous topics taught.

Expectations:

Students are expected to treat their Mathematics lessons with respect.

Students should come to ALL lessons with a Casio scientific calculator, geometry set and pen & pencil.

Homework forms part of their learning as it helps secure their understanding as well as giving spaced out practice to secure the knowledge in their long term memory and should be done with care and effort.

Given the breadth of topics covered it is important that students regularly recap topics taught - having a revision guide (CGP guides are available through parent pay) can be very useful as a checklist to keep returning to.

Calculators - Casio FX83GT CW/ FX991 cw ranges are the most suitable.



Core Subject: GCSE Combined Science Trilogy (AQA)

Course Content:

The course covers the topics identified below, allowing students to have a broad understanding of science in all three subject areas. The topics covered are listed below:

Biology

Cells and organisation, Disease and bioenergetics, Homeostasis and response, Biological responses, Genetics and reproduction and Ecology.

Chemistry

Atomic structure, The periodic table, Structure and bonding, Chemical calculations, Chemical changes, Electrolysis, Energy changes, Rates and equilibrium, Crude oil and fuels, Chemical analysis, The Earth's atmosphere and The Earth's resources.

Physics

Conservation and dissipation of energy, Energy transfer by heating, Energy resources, Electric circuits, Electricity in the home, Molecules and matter, radioactivity, Forces in balance, Motion, Force and motion, wave properties, Electromagnetic waves and Electromagnetism.

Method of Assessment:

There are six papers: two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics papers. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

- Each paper is 1hr 15mins, 70 marks and worth 16.7% of GCSE.
- Question type: Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Questions in the written exams will draw on the knowledge and understanding students have gained by carrying out the practical activities. These questions will count for at least 15% of the overall marks for the qualification. Many of the questions will also focus on investigative skills and how well students can apply what they know to practical situations, often in novel contexts.

What will I gain from the Course?

The course is equivalent to two GCSE's and will provide students with a broad understanding of the three sciences. There is an increased focus on student's practical understanding and skills. By focusing on the reasons for carrying out a particular practical, students will have the opportunity to understand the subject better, to develop the skills of a scientist and to master the manipulative skills required for further study or jobs in STEM subjects.

Find out more here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy-8464/specification-at-a-glance>

Core Subject: Religious Studies

Course Content Year 9:

Students will continue with the Religious Education Directory in Year 9. The whole of Year 9 deals with the mystery of the human person.

Covenant and Creation - Revisit the creation accounts, the belief that humans are imago Dei, the nature of human beings as sexual beings made for each other, forming the Church's teaching on marriage and the sacrament of matrimony.

Prophecy and Promise – Equality of men and women and the role of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the salvation history narrative.

Galilee to Jerusalem – Return to the Gospel of Mark and look at the call to discipleship and the relationship between discipleship and individual vocations. The sacrament of Holy Orders and the vocation to religious life.

Desert to the Garden- The mystery of redemption and how the Church explains the connection between Christ's sacrificial death and individual redemption from sin. The human person as one member of a community that spans both heaven and earth

Dialogue and Encounter – The Church as the 'communion of saints', the mystical Body of Christ. The study of Jewish beliefs and teachings.

Method of Assessment:

Students are assessed once a term answering GCSE questions. Grading reflects grades 9-1. Our aim is to prepare students successfully to build confidence which will help to ensure success in the GCSE in Year 11. The course is assessed through a 100% external examination which is sat at the end of Year 11.

The GCSE sat in Year 11 is outlined below:

The examination will involve students sitting three papers which are broken down in this way:

- **Paper One:** A 1Hr 45-minute paper on Catholic Christianity where students will have to answer questions which cover all four sections; beliefs, practices, sources of wisdom and authority and forms of expression/ways of life.
- **Paper Two:** A 50-minute paper on Judaism where you will have to answer questions covering the two areas; Judaism Beliefs and Judaism Practices
- **Paper Three:** A 50-minute paper on Themes where you will have to answer questions covering two areas; Philosophy & Relationships/Family Life in the 21st Century.

Expectations:

We would love you to have a growth mind-set showing willingness to learn from success and difficulties in learning, an open mind to explore religious concepts and beliefs and, finally, expect your best effort to make every lesson count. All work in books will be as neatly presented. Students will complete all tasks and complete further research at home as required. Dates and headings will be underlined, and diagrams clearly labelled. The Religious Studies teacher will periodically review work in books, encourage peer and self-assessment and follow up any issues from this. Teachers will mark key assessment pieces using comments relating to Progress Made & Progress Further

Most homework tasks will be set weekly based on exam questions, further reading and revision on an on-going basis. Pupil progress will be tracked, and the teacher will discuss this with students including rewards when appropriate.

Find out more here:

- [Edexcel GCSE Religious Studies A \(2016\) | Pearson qualifications](#) – shares the details of the course. We cover papers 1A, 2F and 3A.
- Purchasing a textbook would be an advantage as the content of the course is broad. The following link is for the Edexcel accredited textbook for the course: [GCSE Religious Studies for Edexcel A: Catholic Christianity with Islam and Judaism Student Book: Amazon.co.uk: Lewis, Andy, Rowan, Paul, Hobday, Cathy, Wood, Cavan: 9780198370468: Books](#)

Revision Book: Highly recommended: [My Revision Notes Edexcel Religious Studies for GCSE \(9-1\): Catholic Christianity \(Specification A\): Faith and Practice in the 21st Century: Amazon.co.uk: Watton, Victor W.: 9781510404809: Books](#)



Core Subject: Physical Education

Course Content:

Students learning will be focused on the development of their personal, social, cognitive and physical skills through sporting situations. This will include, but is not limited to Football, Netball, Rugby, Climbing, Cross-Country, Trampolining, Hockey, Cricket, Rounders and Athletics. Opportunities to undertake the role of performer, coach and official will ensure all skillsets are provided for. Students will also participate in inter-house competitions throughout the year.

Method of Assessment:

Students are assessed termly on their ability to demonstrate skills from the 4 areas of focus, in the activities listed above.

Students will be assessed in 3 roles: participant, coach, and official.

Expectations:

Students are expected to bring complete St. John's PE kit to every lesson, and participate fully in the lesson as a performer, coach or official.

Core Subject: PSHE

PSHE equips students with the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to make safe, informed and responsible decisions as they navigate adolescence. The curriculum is shaped by national PSHE, RSE and Health Education guidance from the Department for Education, which emphasises helping students understand risk, develop resilience, and prepare for life's social, emotional, and practical challenges.

Schools are expected to use PSHE education to enhance pupils' understanding of health, relationships and citizenship, building on statutory content in the national curriculum.

Themes for the course:

Health & Wellbeing

- Mental wellbeing, emotions and healthy coping strategies
- Physical health, sleep routines and lifestyle factors
- Identifying and managing stress
- Risks related to substances (e.g., alcohol, smoking), following PSHE health guidance [gov.uk]

Relationships (RSE) - In line with statutory requirements for secondary RSE and our catholic ethos, students will explore:

- Respectful relationships and positive communication
- Consent, personal boundaries and the law
- Recognising unhealthy or harmful behaviours (e.g., coercion, exploitation, harassment)
- Reporting concerns and accessing support
- Recognising criminal behaviours in relationships and staying safe online

Living in the Wider World

- Financial decision-making and understanding economic influences
- Online safety, digital footprints, indecent image sharing and online risks
- British Values and protected characteristics
- Rights, responsibilities and participation in society

Teaching and Learning

PSHE is taught through interactive, discussion-based lessons designed to support personal expression, critical thinking and the development of empathy. National guidance emphasises flexibility, enabling teachers to tailor content to meet the needs of their students while supporting safe, informed choices. [gov.uk]

Resources may include scenarios, multimedia, reflective tasks and guest speakers, helping students connect classroom learning to real-world contexts.

Method of Assessment:

PSHE is a non-examined subject. Although students are not formally assessed, teachers monitor engagement, participation and understanding through discussions, reflective activities and classroom tasks. This aligns with national expectations for PSHE as a non-statutory but essential subject supporting wider personal development.

What will I gain from the course

- A secure understanding of physical and emotional wellbeing, including how lifestyle choices affect health.
- Greater awareness of risks associated with relationships and digital life, including exploitation, harassment and indecent image sharing. [gov.uk]
- Critical thinking skills to evaluate online content, societal expectations and peer influence.
- Help-seeking skills, including knowing when, how and where to report concerns.
- Increased confidence and resilience when facing challenges or unfamiliar situations.
- Greater self-awareness and empathy toward others.
- A stronger sense of responsibility as digital citizens and members of the school and wider community.
- Respect for diversity, equality and British Values.

Options Subject: GCSE Geography (AQA)

Entry Requirements:

All students will have to select their EBACC subject/s, either GCSE Spanish, GCSE Geography or GCSE History, and they will continue to study the subject/s until the end of Year 11.

Course Content:

Unit 1 – Physical environment – Tectonic hazards, Tropical storms, Extreme weather, Rivers, Coasts, Tropical Rainforests, Hot Deserts, Climate change and sustainability.

Unit 2 – Human interactions - Population, Development (including a detailed case study of Nigeria), Urban areas (comparing Rio de Janeiro to the UK), Resources in the UK, Global food and sustainability.

Unit 3 – Geographical skills and issues - Maps, graphs, field trips, current issues

Method of Assessment:

(Paper 1) *LIVING WITH THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT* - 1.5 hours, 35% of GCSE

(Paper 2) *CHALLENGES IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT* - 1.5 hours, 35% of GCSE

(Paper 3) *GEOGRAPHICAL APPLICATIONS* - 1.15 hours, 30% of GCSE

(No paper) GEOGRAPHICAL SKILLS - sets out the geographical skills that the students are required to develop and demonstrate (assessed in all other papers)

What will I gain from the Course?

This exciting and relevant course studies Geography with a balance between both human and physical themes. In geography students will travel the world from their classroom. They will explore case studies in the United Kingdom and gain a deeper understanding of our planet by considering how our country compares to other parts of the world. Some of the areas that students will explore are Nigeria, Brazil, Philippines, Haiti, New Zealand, Pakistan and many others.

Some areas of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, the impact of TNC's, sustainable use of the planet and natural hazards. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. Students will also develop a variety of skills including: reading maps, analysis of data and information, comparing and contrasting case studies, planning of fieldwork and the use of ICT.

There are many careers that Geography links to and these include: Surveying, Planning, Teaching, Transport, Travel and Tourism, Landscape Architecture, Environmental Science, Conservation work, Water Industry, Meteorology, Oceanography and numerous Government departments. Many other occupations will also make use of the skills that students will learn during this course.

Expectations

Attitude to learning: Attitude to learning will be closely monitored for the students' performance from year 7 and 8. Students are expected to have an A2L of a 2 or higher to study Geography at KS4 (year 9) level.

Grades: All students will be welcome to choose this option as it caters exceptionally well for students of all abilities. Students who are currently achieving a score of 1- are on track to achieve a grade 4 (pass grade) if they continue with the same level of progress until the end of year 11. However, students are advised that this is a step up from KS3 level, so the content is more advanced, and the material covered will be more detailed.

Books: Exercise books will be brought to every lesson. All work in them will be as neatly presented as students can manage. Dates and headings will be underlined, and diagrams clearly labelled. In return, the Geography teacher will mark the book and follow up any issues from this.

EBACC Subject: GCSE French (AQA)

Entry Requirements:

All students will have to select their EBACC subject/s, either GCSE French, GCSE Spanish, GCSE Geography or GCSE History, and they will continue to study the subject/s until the end of Year 11.

Course Content:

You will work to develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through studying the following topic areas:

- People and lifestyle; Identity and relationships with others, Healthy living and lifestyle, and Education and work.
- Popular culture; Free-time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, and Celebrity culture.
- Communication and the world around us; Travel and tourism, including places of interest, Media and technology, and the environment and where people live.

You are expected to learn a wide range of vocabulary and to speak French in lessons to give you the best possible chance of success in the exams. You must complete homework on a regular basis.

Method of Assessment:

- **Paper 1: Listening** - 25% of GCSE - Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.
- **Paper 2: Speaking** – 25% of GCSE - Speaking using clear and comprehensible language.
- **Paper 3: Reading** – 25% of GCSE - Understanding and responding to different texts.
- **Paper 4: Writing** - 25% of GCSE - Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli.

What will I gain from the Course?

This course will encourage students to develop their ability and ambition to communicate with native speakers in speech and writing. The study of French should also broaden their horizons and encourage them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world.

There are many careers where a foreign language is a useful or even a necessary qualification; ranging from travel and tourism to business, IT and communications. A modern-language qualification has always been highly regarded and remains an obvious advantage when applying for university.

Expectations

You will be expected and encouraged to use the target language, French, as much as possible. It will be very important as well to have a positive attitude, to be curious about the subject and to be willing to complete all the homework set each week along with some independent work like the creation of vocabulary lists for each topic or the use of web links provided to practice your French vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar.

Find out more here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/french/gcse/french-8652/specification>

Options Subject: GCSE History (Edexcel)

Entry Requirements:

All students will have to select their EBACC subject/s, either GCSE Spanish, GCSE Geography or GCSE History, and they will continue to study the subject/s until the end of Year 11.

Course Content:

You will study four units:

1. **Thematic Study & Historical environment** - Medicine in Britain, c1250–present *and* The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches.
2. **Period Study** – The American West, c1835–c1895
3. **British Depth Study** -Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40
4. **Modern depth study** – Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919–1939 covering aspects of life in Germany for different groups of people in this period.

Method of Assessment:

The full GCSE History course is assessed by three different exam papers.

Paper 1: Thematic Study & Historical Environment assesses Medicine in Britain, c1250–present *and* The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches. Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes

30% of the qualification, 52 marks (16 for the historic environment, 36 for the thematic study).

Paper 2: Period Study and British depth study assesses The American West, c1835–c1895 and Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40. Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes, 40% of the qualification, 64 marks (32 for the period study and 32 for the British depth study).

Paper 3: Modern depth study assesses Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919–1939. Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes, 30%* of the qualification, 52 marks.

What will I gain from the Course?

History teaches you to think, to research and weigh evidence, to detect bias and to write and communicate your ideas clearly in an organised way. It helps you to understand more about the world in which you live and in which you will soon be working.

The skills required to do well in History make it a valuable qualification in the eyes of many employers, for careers as varied as the Law, Journalism, the Civil Service, Local Government and the Police Force. Also, many people choose to study history at GCSE because by doing so they can understand better the world in which they live. Every day we are bombarded with information about world events, both on television and in newspapers. Much of this is meaningless unless you know something about the historical background to what is happening.

This course also provides a solid learning base to progress to A Level History.

Find out more here:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/Pearson-gcses/history-2016.html>

EBACC Subject: GCSE Spanish (AQA)

Entry Requirements:

All students will have to select their EBACC subject/s, either GCSE Spanish, GCSE Geography or GCSE History, and they will continue to study the subject/s until the end of Year 11.

Course Content:

You will work to develop your language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing through studying the following topic areas:

- People and lifestyle; Identity and relationships with others, Healthy living and lifestyle, and Education and work.
- Popular culture; Free-time activities, Customs, festivals and celebrations, and Celebrity culture.
- Communication and the world around us; Travel and tourism, including places of interest, Media and technology, and The environment and where people live.

You are expected to learn a wide range of vocabulary and to speak Spanish in lessons to give you the best possible chance of success in the exams. You must complete homework on a regular basis.

Method of Assessment:

- **Paper 1: Listening** - 25% of GCSE - Understanding and responding to different types of spoken language.
- **Paper 2: Speaking** – 25% of GCSE - Speaking using clear and comprehensible language.
- **Paper 3: Reading** – 25% of GCSE - Understanding and responding to different texts.
- **Paper 4: Writing** - 25% of GCSE - Writing text in the language in a lexically and grammatically accurate way in response to simple and familiar stimuli.

What will I gain from the Course?

This course will encourage students to develop their ability and ambition to communicate with native speakers in speech and writing. The study of Spanish should also broaden their horizons and encourage them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries and develop new ways of seeing the world.

There are many careers where a foreign language is a useful or even a necessary qualification; ranging from travel and tourism to business, IT and communications. A modern-language qualification has always been highly regarded and remains an obvious advantage when applying for university.

Expectations

You will be expected and encouraged to use the target language, Spanish, as much as possible. It will be very important as well to have a positive attitude, to be curious about the subject and to be willing to complete all the homework set each week along with some independent work like the creation of vocabulary lists for each topic or the use of web links provided to practice your Spanish vocabulary, pronunciation and grammar.

Find out more here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/spanish/gcse/spanish-8692/specification>



Option 2: KS3 Art and Design (Creative)

Course Content:

- You will explore a range of different processes and techniques including drawing, painting and printmaking.
- You will learn how to master the formal elements of Art and Design
- You will base your studies on the work of key artists and designers.
- You will learn how to address the key assessment objectives to prepare you for study at GCSE level. These are Develop, Experiment, Record and Present.
- You will learn how to show a creative journey from initial idea through to outcome.
- You will learn how to research in an independent manner.

Method of Assessment:

A NC level will be awarded according to National Curricular criteria. At the end of the course, students achieving well will be eligible to study GCSE Art in year 10.

Expectations:

Students will be expected to match their curricular time (90 minutes) with independent work at home.

- Students will be expected to keep a Journal of their work and progress.
- Students will be expected to keep a sketchbook to record their ideas and use it as a “visual diary”.
- Students will be expected to be open-minded to a range of experimental processes.

Students will be expected to research the work of relevant artists and designers in an independent

Option 2: KS3 Child Studies

Course Content:

This course will help students gain the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to care for their children in the future or children in a voluntary capacity, for example, work experience or baby-sitting. Furthermore, this course offers students development in both knowledge and skills in the theoretical and practical side to caring for children.

Students will have the opportunity to explore the following topics:

- Pregnancy and the growth and development of babies through the three trimesters of pregnancy.
- How children grow and develop in the main areas of development from birth to five years.
- Planning for the physical and emotional care needs of children, developing and learning practical skills such as how to change a nappy and make a baby's bottle.
- Communication: including the opportunity to make resources that aid communication.
- How play promotes development including reading skills in young children, including students producing their own story book.

Students will establish how to respect and value children as individuals, how to tell stories, how to support communication and understand how children grow and develop to reach the expected milestones.

This course will provide you with many of the skills needed to undertake BTEC Level 1 or 2 Tech Award in Child Development or BTEC Level 1 or 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care in the future.

Method of Assessment:

Each unit will be assessed and levelled following the BTEC Level 1 assessment criteria of pass or fail. The areas assessed will be based on the topics above.

Evidence produced by students will consist of posters, leaflets, presentations and they will take part in practical activities such as designing and making creative activities and educational books for children. Students will learn practical skills in relation to caring for babies such as changing a nappy, making a bottle and how to bath a baby.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend all lessons, present work neatly to the required standard and submit homework by the deadline set. In return, teachers will promptly mark work and will encourage progress through praise and feedback to students.

Option 2: KS3 Computer Science

Course Content:

Students will follow a selection of components taken from the EDEXCEL GCSE Computer Science course, albeit the study these at a slightly higher-level and slower pace than the GCSE course. The aim of this enrichment course is to build the student's general confidence in the subject and familiarity with the fundamentals of computer science and the software used for programming, in order to facilitate as seamless a transition as possible to studying the GCSE course in Years 10 and 11.

Areas of study:

- **Computational thinking** – understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to follow, amend and write algorithms; ability to construct truth tables.
- **Data** – understanding of binary, data representation, data storage and compression.
- **Computers** – understanding of hardware and software components of computer systems and characteristics of programming languages.
- **Problem solving with programming** - understanding how algorithms work in relation to creating programs. understanding how to decompose and analyse problems. ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs.

Method of Assessment:

Students will cover a broad range of Computer Science concepts in preparation for studying GCSE Computer Science in years 10 and 11

Students will undertake formative and summative tasks as they work through a mix of both teacher and self-directed learning. End of unit assessments will serve to inform student Milestone grades. Work completed will be assessed in line with National Curriculum levels and using the whole school marking policy: Feedback on 'Progress Made', 'How To Progress Further' and Tasks to respond to teacher feedback and help to embed and enhance learning.

Expectations:

Students are typically expected to be in Set 1 for maths or performing strongly in Set 2 and have a good overall attitude to learning. Students must attend all lessons, complete work to the best of their ability and hand in all homework by the deadline set. In return, teachers will promptly mark all work completed and will encourage progress by giving praise and feedback to students following the whole school marking policy.



Option 2: KS3 Media Production

Course Content:

- You will explore a range of different techniques using a variety of different software, including Illustrator and Photoshop.
- You will learn how to plan and communicate your ideas (verbally and written).
- You will produce products such as posters, packaging, magazine spreads, animations and websites.
- You will base your work on projects that will be used within the school.
- You will learn how to work towards key areas within media at level 2; these are research, communication skills, presentation skills, developing ideas and creating final outcomes.
- You will learn how to combine image and text to create Media work, such as posters, adverts and magazine layouts.
- You will learn how to research in an independent manner.

Method of Assessment:

An NC level will be awarded according to National Curricular criteria. At the end of the course, students achieving well will be eligible to study Level 2 Creative Media Production.

Expectations:

Students will be expected to match their curricular time (90 minutes) with independent work at home.

- Students will be expected to keep a Journal of their work and progress.
- Students will be expected to be open-minded to a range of experimental processes.
- Students will be expected to research in an independent manner.
- Students will be expected to store, organise and back up their digital images on Microsoft OneDrive

Option 2: KS3 Dance (Creative)

Entry Requirements:

Current Year 8's: Pupils must also be prepared to attend extra-curricular rehearsals and perform to a live audience.

Course Content:

- Street dance
- Contemporary dance
- Choreography
- Live performance skills
- Analysis of professional works

Method of Assessment:

Students will be assessed each lesson on their ability to rehearse, choreograph and work as part of a team or as an individual.

They will be assessed on some performances throughout the year, both in the studio and to live audiences.

Students will also be assessed on logbooks and the quality of the work they produce in research and self-evaluation.

Expectations:

- Students have a passion/interest in dance
- Full kit to be worn at all times
- Safety rules adhered to no jewellery, hair up, correct footwear.
- A willingness to attend after school rehearsals when necessary
- All work to be completed by the deadlines set
- A focused and positive attitude is displayed at all times



Option 2: KS3 Design and Technology (Creative)

Course Content:

The subject of Design & Technology enables students to develop a wide range of skills. These skills include problem-solving, creativity, independent learning, innovation, presentation, ICT and manufacturing skills. All these skills are an excellent preparation for the world of work and further studies. Over the course of the year, all students undergo a range of projects which cover a range of designing and technological skills which fully prepare the students for GCSE Design & Technology in year 10/11.

Throughout the year students will design and manufacture various projects.

Projects include:

- Health and Safety
- CAD/CAM – including using our 3D printers and laser cutter
- Resistant materials – hand skills and technical tools of Timbers and Polymers
- Packaging design and manufacture
- Material properties -Polymer, Timbers and Card
- Technical drawing
- Manufacture properties

Method of Assessment:

All students are assessed through a variety of assessment procedures and given a grade based on their completion of design work and a practical project.

Assessment procedures are:

- Design work completed in booklets
- Practical Outcomes

GCSE awareness taster projects are introduced throughout the year to raise student's awareness of Design & Technology as a GCSE option.

Expectations:

Successful completion of this course provides a suitable foundation for further studies within the sector through progression onto other Technology Courses. Examples include GCSE Design & Technology – Graphics/Product Design or WJEC Level 2 Tech Award in Engineering.



Option 2: KS3 Digital Information Technology

Course Content:

This enrichment course is designed to prepare students to undertake the full BTEC Technical Award in Digital Information Technology.

Students will be introduced to a broad range of IT concept and be given the opportunity to explore, develop and apply key skills such as data management and data protection, project planning and the design of user interfaces and dashboards as a way to present and interpret data.

Method of Assessment:

Students will undertake formative and summative tasks as they work through a mix of both teacher and self-directed learning, End of unit assessments will serve to inform student Milestone grades. Work completed will be assessed in line with National Curriculum levels and using the whole school marking policy: Feedback on 'Progress Made', 'How To Progress Further' and Tasks to respond to teacher feedback and help to embed and enhance learning.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend all lessons, complete work to the best of their ability and hand in all homework by the deadlines set. In return, teachers will promptly mark all work completed and will encourage progress by giving praise and feedback to students following the whole school marking policy – Progress Made, Progress Further and Tasks to respond to teacher marking



Option 2: KS3 Drama (Creative)

Entry Requirements:

Current Year 8's: Pupils must also be prepared to attend extra-curricular rehearsals and perform to a live audience.

Course Content:

- Development of performance skills such as Character Development, Devising, Exploratory Techniques and voice/movement.
- Study of key theatre practitioners.
- Study of live theatre performances.
- Working with and performing scripted text.
- Performances to target audiences.

Method of Assessment:

Students will be assessed at each Milestone by GCSE levels. They will keep a working diary, take part in several performances (some to an externally invited audience) and complete research projects into key practitioners and theories.

Theory and Practical work will be assessed on a half-termly basis providing “working at” grades in preparation for BTEC and GCSE.

Expectations:

- A willingness to engage with new ideas
- Able to perform to an audience
- Ability to independently research and apply theories studied in class
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Punctual, reliable and committed to all tasks.

Option 2: KS3 Engineering

Course Content:

The subject of Engineering enables students to develop a wide range of skills. These skills include problem-solving, creativity, independent learning, innovation, presentation, ICT and manufacturing skills. All these skills are an excellent preparation for the world of work and further studies. Over the course of the year, all students undergo a range of projects which cover a range of designing and technological skills which fully prepare the students for BTEC Engineering in year 10/11.

Throughout the year students will design and manufacture various projects. Projects include:

- CAD/CAM – including using our laser cutter
- Resistant materials – hand skills and technical tools of Metal
- Material properties – Metal and Polymers
- Engineering Drawings with Communication of Design
- Health and Safety
- The environment

Method of Assessment:

All students are assessed through a variety of assessment procedures and given a grade based on their completion of design work and a manufacturing project.

Assessment procedures are:

- Design work completed in booklets
- Manufacturing Outcomes

Engineering awareness taster projects are introduced throughout the year to raise student's awareness of Engineering as a BTEC option.

Expectations:

Successful completion of this course provides a suitable foundation for further studies within the sector through progression onto other Technology Courses. Examples include GCSE Design & Technology – Graphics/Product Design or WJEC/BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Engineering.



Option 2: KS3 Enterprise

Course Content:

This course is designed to equip young people with the right skills for the future and motivate young people to succeed in the changing world of work by equipping them with the work skills, knowledge and confidence they need.

To tackle today's skills gap, students will work on developing five key skills: communication, resilience, problem-solving, creativity and teamwork. This will ensure that young people are ready for the challenge of work when they finish education.

Through hands on practical activities, the course explores themes such as personal skills and talents, career choices, recruitment, job interviews, salaries, earnings, tax and the cost of living, financial planning and budgeting. Interactive activities provide students with the opportunity to learn about the job and career opportunities available, and to consider how their personal strengths and preferences may fit with different career paths.

Method of Assessment:

Students will undertake termly milestone assessments. The Students, as students will also be involved in assessment through peer and self-assessment. All other work will be marked using the whole school marking policy – Progress Made, To Progress Further and Tasks to respond to teacher marking.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend all lessons, complete work to the best of their ability and hand in all homework by the deadline set. In return, teachers will promptly mark all work completed and will encourage progress by giving praise and feedback to students following the whole school marking policy – Progress Made, To Progress Further and Tasks to respond to teacher marking.

Option 2: KS3 Food and Nutrition

Course Content:

Food and Nutrition for Year 9 will be a continuation from the lessons in Year 7 and 8. We will be looking to expand students' knowledge and cooking skills through a range of design and make tasks. Practical lessons take place on a fortnightly basis and a repertoire of quick cook, sweet and savoury dishes will be developed by students.

Termly themes will link closely to content in the GCSE and BTEC courses offered in the subject, providing a great foundation for future study. Topics studied include:

- Kitchen basics: a variety of practical skills and the use of utensils and equipment
- Food safety and hygiene: including knife safety and safe storage of foods
- Seasonality: seasonal ingredients, dishes and food linked to celebrations throughout the year
- Food, Nutrition and Health: portion sizes, using less fat and sugar, dietary related disease, current nutritional guidance
- Food choice: influences of the food we choose to eat – religion, dietary requirements, vegetarianism
- Food Provenance: farming, processing and manufacture of foods

Method of Assessment:

- Milestones – practical and theory based.

Each unit will be assessed and levelled against the School's Assessment for Technology that has been developed from the National Curriculum Assessment Guidelines. The areas assessed include Nutrition and Diet, Practical Skills, Characteristics of Ingredients and Evaluation.

What will I gain from the Course?

Studying this course will allow students to develop knowledge in nutrition, food safety, food choice and food provenance. A range of practical cookery skills will be gained, along side key skills such as communication, problem solving, organisation and team work. It is hoped this course will give students many of the skills needed to undertake BTEC Level 2 in Home Cooking Skills or GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition in the future.

Expectations:

Students should have a keen interest in food, nutrition and cookery. A good attitude to learning is essential. For practical lessons, students are expected to follow health, hygiene and safety guidelines whilst cooking. This course would be beneficial to any students considering the future study of BTEC Level 2 in Home Cooking Skills or GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition.

Please note that there will be an approximate cost of £60 per student for the school to purchase ingredients for the practical lessons. If required, support can be discreetly offered with ingredient costs, please see Miss Gosling for more information.

Option 2: KS3 Health Studies

Course Content:

This course will help students gain the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to care and support vulnerable individuals in our society. Furthermore, this course offers students development in both knowledge and skills in the theoretical and practical side to communicating, caring, supporting and planning care for individuals in need.

Students will have the opportunity to explore the following topics:

- The physical, intellectual, emotional and social development of different groups of individuals.
- Communication skills needed to develop positive relationships
- Devising health promotion resources to educate people to make healthy changes.
- The care values used in all areas of health and social care work.
- Mental health

Students will establish how to respect and value the needs of different individuals, how to communicate effectively, how to educate individuals to make healthier choices as well as the skills needed to be a health or social care professional.

It is hoped this course will give many of the skills needed to undertake BTEC Level 1 or 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care in the future or BTEC Level 1 or 2 Tech Award in Child Development.

Method of Assessment:

Each unit will be assessed and levelled following the BTEC Level 1 assessment criteria of pass or fail. The areas assessed will be based on the topics above.

Evidence produced by students will consist of posters, leaflets, presentations and they will take part in practical activities such as designing and making health promotion resources to educate individuals about positive health changes.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend all lessons, present work neatly to the required standard and submit homework by the deadline set. In return, teachers will promptly mark work and will encourage progress through praise and feedback to students.



Option 2: KS3 Music (Creative)

Course Content:

The KS3 option for Music allows students to develop their knowledge and skills in music performance and music theory. The course is designed for students that would like to extend their music education from years 7 and 8 and gain the skills needed to proceed to BTEC Music or GCSE the following year. The course gives students the opportunity to gain knowledge of some of the content covered in both the GCSE and BTEC courses. This gives them a foundation that allows them to get a head start with either the BTEC or GCSE option the following year.

Method of Assessment:

Students are assessed on their ability to demonstrate skills in performance, composition, and music theory. All three of these aspects are essential for further study of music and will prepare the students for the BTEC and GCSE. Grades are awarded based on the new GCSE 1-9 grading.

Expectations:

Before students choose the KS3 Music option, they must have a passion for the subject and be able to demonstrate this as an instrumentalist or singer. They must also be prepared to meet deadlines in terms of music theory coursework and homework. The most successful students on the course are those that choose the subject with the mindset to become an excellent musician.

Option 2: KS3 PE Foundation Course

Course Content:

All students wishing to study the full GCSE PE course in years 10 or 11 should complete the PE Foundation course. This course will provide students with a foundation understanding of theory content and the opportunity to develop practical sports for assessment during the full GCSE PE course.

This course comprises both theory (50%) and practical (50%) elements.

Practical: Some practical activities will be studied and assessed throughout the year. Students must demonstrate the ability to perform one sport in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or individual activity by the end of the course.

Theory: throughout the year, the following topics studied: Sports psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being and use of data

Method of Assessment:

Students will complete a combination of theory (examination papers) and practical (internal moderation of three practical sports) assessments.

Theory- Examination Paper (50%): Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport-
Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes - 50% of GCSE - Topics covered- sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being and use of data.

Practical (50%)- Practical performances in physical activity and sport - three sports are entered (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity). Students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and the full context (15 marks per activity). Students will be required to achieve an acceptable attainment level (in both theory and practical assessments) for progression to the full GCSE PE course in years 10 or 11.

What will I gain from the course?

Physical Education provides students with exciting opportunities to lead a healthy and active lifestyle by choosing from a variety of activities in which to perform in.

The content of the course is designed to provide the foundation knowledge required to progress to the full GCSE PE course. This, in turn, could lead to students completing Level 3 awards, and to higher education PE as well as related career opportunities.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend all lessons, present work neatly, to the required high standard and hand in homework by the deadline set. In return, teachers will promptly mark all work completed and will encourage progress by giving praise and feedback to students following the whole school marking policy – Progress Made, To Progress Further and Tasks to respond to teacher marking.



Option 2: KS3 Photography (Creative)

Course Content:

Students will produce a range of creative photo shoots in response to set themes and learn how to use the functions on their cameras. They will also learn how to document their ideas, progress and outcomes within their journals.

Students will gain a working knowledge of:

- Camera settings and controls (e.g. Shutter Speeds, Depth of Field, etc.)
- The formal elements of photography (e.g. Composition, light, etc.)
- Digital workflow and image manipulation
- Visual presentation skills

Method of Assessment:

A national curriculum level will be awarded at the end of each term relating to how well the students have documented their ability to:

- Research relevant photographers
- Record their ideas
- Experiment with a range of photographic techniques
- Quality of photographic outcomes and presentation

What will I gain from the course?

Students who complete the course will be able to access GCSE Photography qualifications for study in year 10/11. Students will also gain confidence in using the functions on their cameras and learn how to produce high-quality photographic outcomes.

Expectations:

- Students are required to have access to their camera, SD cards and a USB Flash Drive to complete homework photo shoots set each half term.
- Students will be expected to keep a workbook to record their ideas and use it as a “photographic visual diary”.
- Students will be expected to be open-minded to a range of experimental processes.
- Students will be expected to research the work of relevant photographers and artists in an independent manner.
- Students will be expected to be organised, storing and backing up their digital images.



Option 2: KS3 Psychology

Course Content:

Topics you will study:

- Research methods
- Aggression
- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

Method of Assessment:

Termly milestone assessments.

What will I gain from the course?

This introduction to Psychology will help you gain knowledge and understanding of key issues surrounding Psychology. It is an introduction to the 'study of the mind' as it helps us to understand people's behaviour and predict how they are likely to behave in different situations.

The job of a psychologist is to take ideas and test them scientifically. You will also find that people will sometimes do the opposite of what is predicted.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend all lessons, present work neatly, to the required high standard and hand in homework by the deadline set. In return, teachers will promptly mark all work completed and will encourage progress by giving praise and feedback to students following the whole school marking policy – Progress Made, To Progress Further and Tasks to respond to teacher marking.



Option 2: KS3 Sociology

Course Content:

Topics you will study:

- Relevant areas of social theory
- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social inequality
- The sociology of education
- Research Methods

Students will be expected to undertake a piece of individual research on a topic of their choice (from a selected listed of research titles).

Method of Assessment:

Termly milestone assessments.

What will I gain from the course?

This introduction to Sociology will help you to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. You will develop your analytical, assimilation and communication skills by studying a variety of social issues and consequently constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, you will also develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend all lessons, present work neatly, to the required high standard and hand in homework by the deadline set. In return, teachers will promptly mark all work completed and will encourage progress by giving praise and feedback to students following the whole school marking policy – Progress Made, To Progress Further and Tasks to respond to teacher marking.



Option 2: KS3 Textile Design

Course Content:

- You will explore a range of different processes and techniques including hand and machine based embroidery, applique, fabric printing and drawing for fashion design
- You will base your studies on the work of key textiles and fashion designers.
- You will learn how to address the key assessment objectives to prepare you for study at GCSE level. These are: Develop, Refine, Record and Present.
- You will learn how to show a creative journey from initial idea through to outcome. You will learn how to research in an independent manner.

Method of Assessment:

An NC level will be awarded according to National Curricular criteria. At the end of the course, students achieving well will be eligible to study GCSE Fashion and Textiles in year 10.

Expectations:

- Students will be expected to match their curricular time (90 minutes) with independent work at home alongside set homework.
- Students will be expected to keep a sketchbook to record their ideas and use it as a “visual diary”.
- Students will be expected to be open-minded to a range of experimental processes.
- Students will be expected to research the work of relevant artists and designers in an independent manner.



Options Subject: Art and Design Arts Award

Course Content:

To achieve Bronze, a Level 1 National qualification, you must take part in an art activity, go to an arts event, research your art inspiration and share your skills with others.

Silver Arts Award, a Level 2 qualification, has two units – Unit 1: art practice and Unit 2: arts leadership.

Studying at Silver Level involves achieving an art challenge, reviewing arts events, researching artists and arts organisations, and delivering an arts leadership project with other people.

With either level, you must plan your work with your teacher, and keep a record by creating your own Arts Award portfolio. This portfolio might be a folder, sketchbook, video diary or a website.

Method of Assessment:

There are no examinations in Arts Award, and you will be assessed on the evidence you produce throughout the course by the Trinity Guildhall College Moderators.

What will I gain from the Course?

You will be given the opportunity to explore different types of art forms and to improve your artistic skills. You will also experiment with art processes and different materials. You will be required to produce and present your work, and this may take the form of a sketchbook. You will also take part in a visit to explore other artist's work.

Find out more here:

<http://www.artsaward.org.uk>

Options Subject: KS4 Child Development (Pearson BTEC Tech Award Level 1)

Course Content:

This BTEC Level 1 Tech Award in Child Development covers three components, one component is externally assessed (exam) and the other two components are assessed by your teacher (internally assessed). Students must complete all components for a total of 120 GLH (guided learning hours).

This course gives you the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and understanding of child development and growth up to the age of five years old, how children learn through play and how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development, play and learning. This course offers a practical learning environment where you will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge in a range of areas, such as; the characteristics of children's development from birth up to five years, the importance of play and reasons why children may need support. This course uses a variety of case studies such as local early years settings and individual children to help you gain a more in- depth real-life understanding to the theoretical learning.

Unit	Unit Title	glh
1	Children's Growth and Development	36
2	Learning Through Play	36
3	Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop	48

Visits to early years settings, case studies, visiting speakers form an important part of the course.

Method of Assessment:

Each component has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. To pass each component, students must meet all the assessment criteria. All components are assessed as Level 1 Pass, Merit and Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Evidence produced by students will mainly consist of essay style writing but there will be other opportunities throughout the course to design leaflets and posters, give presentations and they will take part in practical activities such as role plays.

What will I gain from the course?

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to:

- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for working within the early years sector and successful performance in working life
- Provide a platform to develop the skills required in careers such as health visitor, paediatric nurse, child psychologist, midwife, social worker, teacher, paediatrician, children's worker.
- Progress to the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development and the BTEC Level 2 in Health and Social Care.

Find out more here: Further information about this qualification can also be accessed at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/child-development-2022.html>

Options Subject: KS4 Dance / Drama Arts Award – Level 1

Course Content:

Silver Arts Award gives young people the chance to take on an artistic challenge and a leadership role too. As well as being about creativity, it's about becoming a reviewer, researcher and project manager. Participants build a broad range of transferable skills as they complete their portfolio and gain a Level 2 qualification.

There are two strands to Silver Arts Award – one focusing on artistic practice and the other on arts leadership. Completing both successfully requires teamwork and independence, creativity and critical thinking, leadership and collaboration, confidence and communication.

Unit 1: Arts practice and pathways

- planning an arts challenge that develops their skills
- implementing and reviewing the success of their challenge
- reviewing arts events and sharing their views
- researching careers and future opportunities in the arts

Unit 2: Arts leadership

- identifying an arts leadership role and planning an arts project
- being an effective arts leader, including dealing with practical issues and working effectively with others
- reviewing their project and leadership abilities

Method of Assessment:

Students are required to complete a portfolio of evidence as well as video evidence of performances and events students have participated in.

What will I gain from the Course?

Silver Arts Award, equivalent to a Level 2 BTEC

Find out more here:

[Silver Arts Award](#)

Options Subject: KS4 BTEC Level 1 TECH AWARD in Digital Information Technology

Course Content:

- The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 90,000 jobs per week being advertised during 2025. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have good digital literacy.
- This course has a hands-on approach that allows students to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. Students develop skills, such as user interface (UI) design and development and learn how to develop a project plan for their own UI designs.
- The course is made up of 3 units:

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques - Students will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data – Students will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision-making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices - Students will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

Method of Assessment:

Component 1 – Internal Assessment - 6 hours

Component 2 – Internal Assessment - 6 hours

Component 3 – External Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes written paper

What will I gain from the Course?

- Students will have developed a practical understanding of the digital sector. The course can lead students to progress onto a a Level 3 programme, such as A Levels, T Level or a BTEC national, either on its own or in combination with A Levels.

Find out more here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/information-technology/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-digital-information-technology-spec.pdf>

Options Subject: KS4 DIY Skills (Enrichment)

Course Content:

This course is designed to engage and motivate students who are interested in learning about practical skills. The course will enable students with little or no experience in construction and DIY to learn a comprehensive range of skills that are useful, current and in demand, at work or on a home project.

This course gives students a broad introduction to the practices and processes. It covers basic knowledge, understanding and skills that are relevant to a wide variety of careers which have a hands-on approach. The students will gain experience and understanding of a range of potential careers in the Engineering/Technology sectors that will help students make more informed decisions about their post-16 option– this will take place by an external charity – The Construction Trust.

Throughout the course students will design and make various projects.

Projects may include:

- Health and safety
- Tools and equipment training
- Construction Trust sessions
- Bird house design and manufacture project
- CAD/CAM project
- Electronic circuits project
- Recyclable/reusable project
- Home development skills, eg wall papering

Method of Assessment:

This is a non-accredited course, there will be no formal assessment, but you will be advised of your progress throughout and given clear direction.

What will I gain from the Course?

Successful completion of this course provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector through progression onto other Technology subjects or college.



Options Subject: KS4 Enterprise (Pearson BTEC Tech Award Level 1)

Course Content:

Component	Components	Assessment method	GLH
1	Exploring Enterprises	Internal	36
2	Planning for and pitching an Enterprise	Internal	36
3	Promotion and finance for Enterprise	External (synoptic)	28

Method of Assessment:

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to relate to achievement of application of the conceptual underpinning for the enterprise sector through realistic tasks and activities. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice. The components focus on:

- the development of core knowledge and understanding, including the range of enterprises and the key features and factors that contribute to an enterprise's level of success;
- the development and application of skills such as analysing research, information, planning and financial forecasting, communicating and problem solving;
- reflective practice through pitching an idea for an enterprise activity that allows learners to reflect on their own communication skills and the viability of their enterprise activity following feedback.

Internal assessment is through assignments that are subject to external standards verification by the examination board.

Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise requires learners to analyse and interpret information in relation to an enterprise and to make recommendations on strategies to use to improve the performance of the enterprise. The external assessment is based on a context that requires learners to demonstrate that they can identify and use effectively an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge from across the whole qualification in an integrated way. The design of this external assessment ensures that there is sufficient stretch and challenge, enabling the assessment of knowledge and understanding at the end of the learning period.

What will I gain from the Course?

You will become highly knowledgeable regarding what goes on in the world of enterprise and will grow in confidence regarding the concept of entrepreneurship. The underpinning knowledge and understanding, practical and vocational skills gained will also provide you with an excellent platform for entry on to a range of Level 3 courses in enterprise such as BTEC Level 3 or AS/A2 Applied Enterprise/Business. This qualification is a great starting point for future job opportunities in finance, human resource management, production, marketing, retail, customer services, sales or starting up your own enterprise! This qualification in enterprise will provide you with the fundamentals and skills needed for any job connected to enterprise/business and will also provide you with the key skills needed for your future career path within this sector of the economy.

Find out more here:

[BTEC Tech Awards Enterprise | Pearson qualifications](#)

Options Subject: KS4 Health and Social Care (Pearson BTEC Tech Award Level 1)

Course Content:

This BTEC Level 1 Tech Award in Health and Social Care covers three components, one component is externally assessed (exam) and the other two components are assessed by your teacher (internally assessed). Students must complete all components for a total of 120 GLH (guided learning hours).

This course will help students gain the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to progress into the health and social care sector. This qualification has been designed to help students understand the skills and knowledge needed to work in this sector and to develop practical skills in preparation for employment or progression within education. This course gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major lifechanging events like marriage or parenthood. You will learn how people adapt to these changes as well as the types of support available to help them. You will also learn about the different health and social care services, and about 'care values' and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need. You will be able to demonstrate these care values practically. You will develop skills in interpreting data about someone's state of health in order to design a plan that will allow them to improve their health and wellbeing.

Unit	Unit Title	glh
1	Human Lifespan Development	36
2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	36
3	Health and Well-being	48

Visits to health and social care settings, work placements, visiting speakers and groups of service users form an important part of the course.

Method of Assessment:

Each component has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. To pass each component, students must meet all the assessment criteria. All components are assessed as Level 1 Pass, Merit and Distinction, Level 2 Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Evidence produced by students will mainly consist of essay style writing but there will be other opportunities throughout the course to design leaflets and posters, give presentations and they will take part in practical activities such as role plays.

What will I gain from the course?

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to:

- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for working within the health and social care sector and successful performance in working life
- Provide a platform to develop the skills required in careers such as health visitor, registered nurse, healthcare assistant, residential care manager, midwife, nursery nurse, physiotherapist, radiographer
- Progress to the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care or BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development.

Find out more here: Further information about this qualification can also be accessed at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care.html>



Options Subject: KS4 Home Cooking Skills (Pearson BTEC Level 1 Award)

Course Content:

This course consists practical and theory lessons. The main vision of the course is that being able to cook is an essential life skill. Through termly themes, such as breakfast, quick cook meals and baking, learners will develop practical skills by cooking a range of sweet and savoury dishes. The theory lessons will link to the practical dishes made each term and cover a range of areas, for example:

- Kitchen basics: what equipment you need and the best way to stock your store cupboard, fridge and freezer
- Food safety and hygiene: knife safety, fridge management and rotation
- How to shop wisely: shopping lists, seasonal food, planning ahead
- Ingredients: correct storage, preparation, methods of cooking
- Nutrition: Healthy eating guidelines, understanding nutrition labels, key nutrients, and their functions

Method of Assessment:

Students will be assessed internally and externally, both on their practical skills and on their understanding of course content, through a series of assignments designed to meet the assessment criteria and develop knowledge and understanding of the course. To pass each unit, students must meet all the assessment criteria, and each unit is assessed as Pass or Fail.

What will I gain from the Course?

Successful completion of the course will provide students with the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Award in Home Cooking Skills and help prepare them for the GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition course; should they wish to continue to study the subject at a higher level.

The course has been designed to give students the opportunity to develop:

- The knowledge, understanding and confidence to cook meals at home
- An understanding of how to economise when planning a meal
- Ability to transfer practical skills learnt to different recipes
- How to safely and hygienically organise a home kitchen
- Nutritional knowledge
- Knowledge of food provenance

Students will cook on a fortnightly basis; please note that there will be an approximate cost of £60 per student per year of study, for the school to purchase ingredients for the practical lessons. If required, support can be discreetly offered with ingredient costs, please see Miss Gosling for more information.

Find out more here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-entry-level-level-1-and-level-1-introductory/btec-home-cooking-skills.html#tab-Level2>

Options Subject: KS4 Motor Vehicle Studies Level 1

Course Content:

This Level 1 Award in Automotive Studies has been developed to provide an introduction to the automotive sector. The structure and nature of the qualification provides the ideal route for learners to progress from the automotive studies course to a higher level of study and skills acquisition, such as automotive apprenticeships, as well as employment.

You will study the following 4 mandatory components in this qualification:

- Working in an automotive industry environment
- Using engineering materials and skills
- Remove and re-fit mechanical components
- Introduction to basic automotive electrical principles

This course is designed to engage and motivate students who are interested in learning about the maintenance of motor vehicles and the various roles that are available in the retail motor industry.

The practical content of the course includes basic servicing, replacement of service parts, fault diagnosis, M.O.T. preparation/inspection, and minor repairs.

Method of Assessment:

The content of the qualification will support you to develop and expand your automotive skills, knowledge and understanding, at level 1. You will produce a portfolio of evidence for example; observations, witness statements, group discussion observation sheets, case studies, reports/notes. This contributes 60% of the overall grade. The remaining 40% of the grade is achieved via an on-line Multiple-Choice Test which will synoptically assess the knowledge that you have developed during the course.

What will I gain from the Course?

This qualification will provide the basic training required to begin employment within the automotive industry. The types of job this could lead to are:

- Service Technician
- Vehicle Fitter

The Level 1 Award in Automotive Studies will give learners a broad understanding of the automotive sector whilst developing the numeracy, literacy and science knowledge to the industry. This can be further enhanced by progressing onto the Level 2 and 3 automotive courses at college or within an apprenticeship.



Options Subject: KS4 Sports Leadership Award – Level 1

Course Content:

This qualification teaches generic leadership skills such as organisation, planning, communication and teamwork through the medium of sport. It is a fun and practical qualification with no entrance requirements or final examinations to sit. All candidates must complete an hour leadership assessment within the school environment.

In this one-year course, you will be required to complete small written tasks within each unit and will then be assessed in practical situations using your newly-acquired skills. You will have both theory and practical lessons, with the practical lessons focusing on how to become an excellent leader. Please note that the practical lessons will not be based around playing the sport.

Method of Assessment:

You will study the following units, and be assessed in your delivery and planning of a sports lesson

Unit	Unit Title	Guided Learning Hours
1	Establishing leadership skills	10 hours
2	Plan, assist in leading and review sport/physical activity sessions	19 hours

What will I gain from the Course?

This course is suitable for those wishing to pursue a career in a coaching or sporting context. It is also highly suited for those wishing to enter further education in any subject, as it develops a variety of desirable qualities.

This course gives you the opportunity to become

More employable

More active in your community

More confident in your abilities

More focused on your own development

More valuable to others

Someone who stands out from the crowd

Find out more here:

<http://www.sportsleaders.org/new-courses/level-1/>

Options Subject: The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Award

Course Content:

The Duke of Edinburgh (DofE) Award is a structured personal development program designed to challenge students and enhance key life skills. Participants complete activities in four key areas: **Volunteering**, **Physical Skills**, and **Expedition**. The Volunteering section involves giving back to the community, while the Physical section encourages engagement in sports or fitness activities. The Skills section focuses on developing a new ability or enhancing an existing one, and the Expedition involves planning and completing a self-sufficient journey in a team, learning navigation, teamwork, and resilience.

Students can complete the award at Bronze, Silver, or Gold levels, with each level requiring a greater time commitment and level of challenge. The program is flexible, allowing participants to tailor their activities to their personal interests and goals. Support is provided through school staff or external mentors, guiding students through their chosen activities.

Method of Assessment:

Assessment is based on participation, commitment, and personal progress rather than formal exams or tests. Each section requires students to set goals and demonstrate consistent engagement over a set period, verified by an Assessor—a teacher, coach, or community leader familiar with the activity. Assessors provide feedback and confirm completion via an online eDofE record.

A final assessment is done through a **residential over night stay** where students need to navigate an area as well as set up camp and cook for themselves over a 48 hour period

The Expedition section is assessed by an accredited supervisor who ensures students meet safety and navigation requirements, demonstrate teamwork, and successfully complete their journey. Successful completion of all sections leads to the achievement of the award, which is nationally recognized and celebrated at special ceremonies.

What will I gain from the Course?

Completing the DofE Award equips students with valuable skills such as resilience, teamwork, leadership, and problem-solving, which are highly regarded by universities and employers. The experience fosters confidence, independence, and a strong sense of responsibility, as students must plan and manage their own activities.

The award also provides practical benefits, including improved fitness, new friendships, and a deeper connection to the community. Those who complete the Gold Award receive an invitation to a royal ceremony, recognizing their dedication and achievements. Overall, the DofE Award is a prestigious and rewarding experience that helps students grow personally and prepare for future academic and career opportunities.

Find out more here:

[What is the DofE? - The Duke of Edinburgh's Award](#)

Options Subject: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development

(Pearson)

Course Content:

This BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development covers three components, one component is externally assessed (exam) and the other two components are assessed by your teacher (internally assessed). Students must complete all components for a total of 120 GLH (guided learning hours).

This course gives you the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and understanding of how children grow and develop up to the age of five years old, looking at the different factors that may impact on children's development such as poverty and stress. Through your lessons you will gain a greater insight into how children learn through play, the different stages of how children play and the different ways that children can be supported in their play to support their different, for example, considering a variety of play opportunities and how children can learn from these. For the last component, you will start to think about how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development, play and learning. You will explore how each child is unique, have differing needs and how these can be supported in order for them to thrive in a safe environment. You will also gain knowledge of the important measures that can be put in place to keep children safe when in an early years setting. This course offers a practical learning environment where you will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge in a range of areas.

Unit	Unit Title	GLH
1	Children's Growth and Development	36
2	Learning Through Play	36
3	Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop	48

Visits to early years settings, case studies, visiting speakers form an important part of the course.

Method of Assessment:

Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. To pass each component, students must meet all the assessment criteria. All components are assessed as Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction and Level 1 Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Evidence produced by students will mainly consist of essay style writing but there will be other opportunities throughout the course to create and give presentations and they will take part in practical activities such as role plays.

What will I gain from the course?

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to:

- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for working within the early years sector and successful performance in working life
- Provide a platform to develop the skills required in careers such as health visitor, paediatric nurse, child psychologist, midwife, social worker, teacher, paediatrician, children's worker.
- Progress to the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care.

Find out more here: Further information about this qualification can also be accessed at:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/child-development-2022.html>



Options Subject: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Media Production (Pearson)

Course Content:

Students will get the chance to develop valuable skills and techniques in different disciplines, produce a practical response to a digital media brief, and explore potential careers in the industry. As the BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, students can explore the sector while:

- The development of core knowledge and understanding, including the range of different types of media products, production processes and techniques
- The development and application of skills such as research skills and stylistic and practical skills
- Reflective practice through the refinement of learners’ own media products that allows them to respond to feedback and identify areas for improvement.

The course has two internally assessed components, and one that's externally assessed:

Component		GLH	Assessment
1	Exploring media products	36	Internal Assessment with 2 tasks. Externally moderated.
2	Developing digital media production skills	36	Internal Assessment with 2 tasks. Externally moderated.
3	Create a media product in response to a brief	48	External synoptic task. Externally marked.

Method of Assessment:

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. The non exam internal assessment for these components has been designed to demonstrate application of the conceptual knowledge underpinning the sector through realistic tasks and activities. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice.

Component 3 provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2 and enables learning to be brought together and related to a real-life situation.

What will I gain from the Course?

This BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Digital Media Production aims to provide education and training for those who are intending to work in the Digital Media industries. It gives opportunities for those who are intending to work in the Media sector to achieve nationally recognised Level 2 vocationally specific qualification or to progress to vocational qualifications such as the Pearson BTEC Level 3 National in Digital Media. It also aims to give students the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Find out more here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/creative-media-production-2022.html>

Options Subject: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology (Technical Award)

Course Content:

- The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 90,000 jobs per week being advertised during 2020. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have good digital literacy.
- This course has a hands-on approach that allows students to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. Students develop skills, such as user interface (UI) design and development and learn how to develop a project plan for their own UI designs.
- The course is made up of 3 units:

Component 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques - Students will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

Component 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data – Students will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision-making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

Component 3: Effective Digital Working Practices - Students will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

Method of Assessment:

Component 1 – Internal Assessment - 6 hours

Component 2 – Internal Assessment - 6 hours

Component 3 – External Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes written paper

What will I gain from the Course?

- Students will have developed a practical understanding of the digital sector. The course can lead students to progress onto a Level 3 programme, such as A Levels, T Level or a BTEC national, either on its own or in combination with A Levels.

Find out more here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/information-technology/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-digital-information-technology-spec.pdf>

Options Subject: WJEC Level 2 Tech Award in Engineering

Course Content:

Our Technical Award in Engineering will develop students' knowledge and understanding of the engineering sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills. It covers manufacturing engineering products, designing engineering products and solving engineering problems which focuses on how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general.

The Level 2 Technical Award is a work-related course. You will learn by completing projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands. It introduces you to the employment area you have chosen and provides a good basis to go on to a more advanced work-related qualification such as the Level 3 Engineering in Extended Certificate/Diploma or apprenticeship.

Students will be given the opportunity to partake in a 3-day residential visit to Disneyland, Paris, to see how the rides are design, developed and maintained and why the park develops new technologies to support the environment.

Method of Assessment:

Unit	Core Components
1	Manufacturing Engineering Products – Coursework / Controlled Assessment -40% of qualification: Students will develop the skills needed to work safely with a range of engineering processes, equipment and tools. With these skills, students will acquire knowledge of a range of engineered processes that are fit for purpose for manufacturing a product. Students will learn how to test their product against the information given in the technical information to ensure that they have met the given standards of the assigned brief.
2	Designing Engineering Products - Coursework / Controlled Assessment - 20% of qualification: This allows students to experience and gain understanding of how an engineered product is adapted and improved over time. The unit is linked to the engineered product manufactured during Unit 1. It will require the students to work to a given brief to adapt an existing component, element or part of the engineering outcome that they manufactured.
3	Solving Engineering Problems - Written examination - 40% of qualification: This introduces students to how engineering design is impacted by a range of external considerations such as the properties of materials, both traditional and smart developing materials, as well as methods of manufacturing in both the traditional and new and emerging technologies. Also gives the students the opportunity to explore how engineering achievements have had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general. Finally, the unit allows students to develop an understanding of skills which can assist them in the solving of engineering problems.

What will I gain from the Course?

There are a variety of routes you can take when you complete this course. If you wish to further your studies the course provides an excellent platform for the BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate or Diploma offered at St John's or A Level Product Design. You may wish to go into employment with an engineering company – apprenticeship, where you will be able to continue with training, potentially on a day-release basis.

Find out more here:

https://www.edugas.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-engineering/#tab_keydocuments

Options Subject: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise (Pearson)

Course Content:

Component	Components	Assessment method	GLH
1	Exploring Enterprises	Internal	36
2	Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise	Internal	36
3	Promotion and Finance for Enterprise	External (Synoptic)	48

Method of Assessment:

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to relate to achievement of application of the conceptual underpinning for the enterprise sector through realistic tasks and activities. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice. The components focus on:

- the development of core knowledge and understanding, including the range of enterprises and the key features and factors that contribute to an enterprise's level of success;
- the development and application of skills such as analysing research, information, planning and financial forecasting, communicating and problem solving;
- reflective practice through pitching an idea for an enterprise activity that allows learners to reflect on their own communication skills and the viability of their enterprise activity following feedback.

Internal assessment is through assignments that are subject to external standards verification by the examination board.

Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise requires learners to analyse and interpret information in relation to an enterprise and to make recommendations on strategies to use to improve the performance of the enterprise. The external assessment is based on a context that requires learners to demonstrate that they can identify and use effectively an appropriate selection of skills, techniques, concepts, theories and knowledge from across the whole qualification in an integrated way. The design of this external assessment ensures that there is sufficient stretch and challenge, enabling the assessment of knowledge and understanding at the end of the learning period.

What will I gain from the Course?

You will become highly knowledgeable regarding what goes on in the world of enterprise and will grow in confidence regarding the concept of entrepreneurship. The underpinning knowledge and understanding, practical and vocational skills gained will also provide you with an excellent platform for entry on to a range of Level 3 courses in enterprise such as BTEC Level 3 or AS/A2 Applied Enterprise/Business. This qualification is a great starting point for future job opportunities in finance, human resource management, production, marketing, retail, customer services, sales or starting up your own enterprise! This qualification in enterprise will provide you with the fundamentals and skills needed for any job connected to enterprise/business and will also provide you with the key skills needed for your future career path within this sector of the economy.

Find out more here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/enterprise/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/60370634-btec-tech-award-enterprise-2022-spec.pdf>

Options Subject: BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care

(Pearson)

Course Content:

This BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care covers three components, one component is externally assessed (exam) and the other two components are assessed by your teacher (internally assessed). Students must complete all components for a total of 120 GLH (guided learning hours).

This course will help students gain the skills, knowledge and understanding needed to progress into the health and social care sector. This qualification has been designed to help students understand the skills and knowledge needed to work in this sector and to develop practical skills in preparation for employment or progression within education. This course gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major lifechanging events like marriage or parenthood. You will learn how people adapt to these changes as well as the types of support available to help them. You will also learn about the different health and social care services, and about 'care values' and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need. You will be able to demonstrate these care values practically. You will develop skills in interpreting data about someone's state of health in order to design a plan that will allow them to improve their health and wellbeing.

Unit	Unit Title	GLH
1	Human Lifespan Development	36
2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	36
3	Health and Well-being	48

Visits to health and social care settings, work placements, visiting speakers and groups of service users form an important part of the course.

Method of Assessment:

Each unit has specified learning outcomes and assessment criteria. To pass each component, students must meet all the assessment criteria. All components are assessed as Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction and Level 1 Pass, Merit and Distinction.

Evidence produced by students will mainly consist of essay style writing but there will be other opportunities throughout the course to create and give presentations and they will take part in practical activities such as role plays.

What will I gain from the course?

This course is designed to give students the opportunity to:

- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for working within the health and social care sector and successful performance in working life
- Provide a platform to develop the skills required in careers such as health visitor, registered nurse, healthcare assistant, residential care manager, midwife, nursery nurse, physiotherapist, radiographer
- Progress to the BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Child Development.

Find out more here: Further information about this qualification can also be accessed at:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care.html>



Options Subject: BTEC Sport Tech Award

Course Content:

The course comprises 3 components:

Component	Title		Assessment Method
1	Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity	Mandatory	Internal
2	Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance	Mandatory	Internal
3	Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity	Mandatory	External

Method of Assessment:

Components 1 and 2 are both internally assessed and are made up of between 2 and 4 assignments evidenced via coursework. These are provided to in the form of Learning Aim asks, however the method by which each assignment is required will vary in form (e.g. a poster, a leaflet, a written report or log or a practical performance).

It is essential that deadlines are met to achieve a Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* within each component and the course as a whole.

Component 3 is assessed externally, this is done in the form of a test out of 60 and marked by Pearson.

What will I gain from the Course?

This course builds on learning from Key Stage 3, allowing students to explore a vocational route through Key Stage 4. The award enables students to:

- Develop personally through practical participation and performance in a range of sports and exercise activities
- Gain a wider understanding and appreciation of health-related fitness, sports and exercise
- Develop their people, communication, planning and team-working skills
- Develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life

Find out more here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/sport-2022.html>

Options Subject: GCSE Art and Design (Creative) (AQA)

Course Content:

This is a very broad course which allows you to experiment with a wide range of materials and techniques within the discipline of Fine Art (Drawing, Painting, Printmaking and mixed-media)

- You will be set a theme to respond to using a wide range of techniques and processes
- You will learn a wide range of drawing skills
- You will be expected to keep a sketchbook where you will record the development of your ideas in response to the brief
- You will research artists and designers relevant to the brief.
- You will produce a portfolio of experimental work plus one sustained project leading to a high-quality outcome.

Method of Assessment:

Portfolio of work (60%), externally set assignment set as a 10-hour examination (40%).

Four assessment objectives are each worth 25%:

- Develop ideas informed by research on relevant artists and designers
- Refine ideas by experimenting with materials and developing proficient technique
- Record ideas in visual form
- Present an outcome showing analytical and critical understanding

What will I gain from the Course?

This course builds on learning from Key Stage 3, allowing students to explore visual communication and personal creativity through Key Stage 4. The award enables students to:

- The ability to communicate via visual expression
- An understanding of the formal elements of Art and Design
- Knowledge about key artists and designers
- How to sustain and refine an idea over an extended period
- Enjoy the satisfaction of creating quality creative outcomes
- Confidence when using a wide range of different materials and techniques

Find out more here:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF>

Options Subject: GCSE Citizenship Studies (Edexcel)

Course Content:

Theme A: Life in the UK

- What are the challenges to society, values and human rights in modern Britain?
- Why is diversity, mutual respect, identity, respect and tolerance important in modern society?

Theme B: Democracy

- Democracy, political ideas and parties;
- How government, politics and parliament work together in the UK to make laws?
- How the government collects tax and allocate budget and resource across the UK?

Theme C: Law and Justice

- How civil law and criminal law works in the UK, and the UK's criminal court system;
- What are crime rates like in the UK and how can we prevent it from rising?

Theme D: Power and Influence

- What influences the UK government's decision making process?
- How does the UK influence the rest of the world? How is the UK involved in world conflicts?

Theme E: Taking Citizenship Action

Method of Assessment:

Exam:

- Paper 1: Themes A/B/C – 1 hour + 45 minutes [50% of the total GCSE]
- Paper 2: Themes D/E – 1 hour + 45 minutes [50% of the total GCSE]

Themes are transferrable and students can refer to different themes within parts of their exam.

Exam skills will be a mix of: multiple choice, reading comprehension, short and extended responses, case studies, and writing well-balanced debate essays;

What will I gain from the Course?

GCSE Citizenship is a course that will engage you with current affairs that impacts modern Britain, preparing you for the next steps in today's global world. The aim of this course is for you to gain an appreciation and understanding of how the UK government works, how legislations in parliament respond to ongoing issues, and applying your knowledge to understand the 'big picture' in British society.

You will develop critical thinking and analytical skills in ongoing discussions, and contribute to debates, making persuasive and strong arguments, showing your understanding of different viewpoints, evaluate information, with the aim of improving society and contribute to democracy.

This course provides a good pathway to history, politics, law, criminology, economics, and sociology.

Find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-citizenship-studies>

Options Subject: GCSE Classical Civilisation (OCR)

Course Overview:

This course provides a broad and rewarding exploration of the ancient world, utilising both literature and visual resources. We explore both Ancient Greece and Rome across two key modules, allowing students to develop their analytical skills, gain a range of cultural insights, and discover how classical sources reflect issues relevant to modern society.

Course Content:

Module A: Myth and Religion

- Explore the ever-popular myths of the Ancient World such as Hercules and the role of the gods & heroes in founding Greece and Rome.
- Learn about the gods from both cultures and their roles within the home and wider society, as well as major festivals such as The City Dionysia and The Lupercalia.
- Journey to the Underworld, a key feature of classical stories, and explore the portrayal of characters and the challenges faced.
- Learners will study how to make informed comparisons between the two civilisations and reflect on their impacts on culture, and explore how myths are a symbol of power as well as something to celebrate.

Module B: War and Warfare

- Explore the purposes, conduct and effects of war in the Ancient World, as well as how the military interacted with, and impacted, society.
- Learn how major events were presented in contemporary literature, from glorification to depictions of tragedy, including through Homer's *The Illiad* and Virgil's *Aeneid*.
- Study Sparta and Athens; how the military systems worked, the impact upon society and politics, and key battles.
- Study Imperial Rome and military tactics, the construction of Roman forts, and key battles that defined the era.

Method of Assessment:

Two exams (1 hour 30 minutes); one on Myth and Religion, and one on War and Warfare.

Exam skills will be a mix of: reading comprehension, source evaluation, short and extended responses, and writing well-balanced essays.

What will I gain from the Course?

GCSE Classical Civilisation will allow you to explore your passions in history and the Ancient World through fascinating themes linked to modern society. The course provides an excellent foundation for our increasingly popular A-Level in Classical Civilisation, and is a springboard into History, Politics, Law, and Archaeology.

You will develop critical thinking and analytical skills in ongoing discussions, make persuasive and strong arguments, show your understanding of different viewpoints, evaluate information – all essential skills for the workplace.

Find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/gcse-classical-civilisation>

Options Subject: GCSE Computer Science (Pearson)

Course Content:

- **Paper 1: Computer system:**
 - **Systems architecture** – exploring the CPU and the different computer systems.
 - **Memory and storage**- exploring the different types and need for primary and secondary storage. We explore the units and how different data is stored.
 - **Computer networks, connections and protocols**- exploring how computers are connected and the hardware necessary to achieve this.
 - **Network security** – exploring the threats to a computer system and measures to prevent and mitigate against these.
 - **Systems software**- exploring the role of the operating system and utility software in a computer system.
 - **Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology**- exploring the impacts of digital technology on wider society and relevant legislation.
- **Paper 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming**
 - **Algorithms**- exploring modes of designing writing and refining algorithms and the principles of computational thinking. We also look at common searching and sorting algorithms.
 - **Programming fundamentals**- Python is our programming language of choice and we develop skills to create solutions to a range of programming tasks.
 - **Producing robust programs**- exploring the need and methods of testing techniques and features of strong programs.
 - **Boolean logic**- exploring truth tables and logic diagrams
 - **Programming languages and integrated development environments**- exploring the features of high and low level languages and common tools in programming IDEs.

Method of Assessment:

- **Paper 1: Computer Systems**

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes (80 marks / 50% of the qualification)

- **Paper 2: Computational Thinking, algorithms and programming**

Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes (80 marks / 50% of the qualification)

What will I gain from the Course?

This course will help students to enhance and develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills. For many, studying Computer Science will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. However, this is not a course that suits every student, even if they ordinarily enjoy using computer devices. Strong mathematical skills are essential, and the course content is aimed at students who are curious about how computer devices and networks 'work' as opposed to using them for creative, education, entertainment and other purposes. Students interested in developing their skills for the aforementioned purposes, should consider the BTEC Creative Media course.

As information technologies continue to have a growing importance, this means there will be a bigger demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. If students want to pursue further study and employment in the field of Computer Science, they will find that this course provides a superb stepping-stone.

Find out more here:

[GCSE \(9-1\) Computer Science J277 Specification \(ocr.org.uk\)](https://www.ocr.org.uk)

Options Subject: GCSE Dance (Creative) (AQA)

Course Content:

This course is a mix of practical and theoretical work which allows you to explore a variety of styles as well as choreograph, perform and evaluate your work.

Students will:

- Set phrases through a solo performance
- Duet/trio performance
- Solo or group choreography – a solo or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes)
- Develop knowledge and understanding of dance and technique.
- Study of set anthology of professional dance works

Method of Assessment:

- Component 1: Performance & Choreography: Practical Exam: 60% of GCSE
- Component 2: Dance appreciation: Written Exam: 40% of GCSE

What will I gain from the Course?

- The ability to communicate via performance art
- An understanding of the formal elements of dance
- Knowledge about key choreographers and professional works.
- How to refine an idea over an extended period?
- Enjoy the satisfaction of creating quality outcomes
- Confidence when using a range of different styles and techniques

Find out more here:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/dance/specifications/AQA-8236-SP-2016.PD>

Options Subject: GCSE Drama (Creative)

Course Content:

This course is a mix of practical and theoretical work which allows you to explore a variety of genres as well as devise, perform and evaluate your work.

Students will;

- Attend acting workshops, developing movement, use of voice, character and other acting skills.
- Study influential drama practitioners such as Brecht and Stanislavski to develop your own acting styles.
- Develop knowledge and understanding of Drama and Theatre through studying one set play and live theatre performances.
- Create and perform devised practical pieces whilst developing a devising log throughout the process.
- Perform two extracts from one play.

Method of Assessment:

- Component 1: Understanding drama- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes – 40% of Overall grade
- Component 2: Devising drama- Devising log, Devised performance- 40% of Overall grade.
- Component 3: Texts in practice- Performance of extract 1, Performance of extract 2- 20% of Overall grade

What will I gain from the Course?

- An understanding of the formal elements of drama
- Knowledge and understanding key script writers and professional works.
- How to refine an idea over an extended period of time to create and develop performances.
- Enjoy the satisfaction of creating quality outcomes
- Confidence when using a range of different styles and techniques developed through exciting and interesting workshops.

Find out more here:

<http://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/drama/specifications/AQA-8261-SP-2016.PDF>

Options Subject: GCSE Design & Technology (Creative) (AQA)

Course Content:

This course has been designed to encourage students to be able to design and manufacture products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. Students will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities possible. A working knowledge of woods, plastics & composite materials will be required, but other materials may be used in addition. The use of new technologies is also encouraged in this course.

Design Technology is a practical subject area which requires the application of knowledge and understanding when developing ideas, planning, producing products and evaluating them.

Design & Technology encourages students to be inspired, moved and challenged by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and gain an insight into related sectors, such as manufacturing and design. It prepares students to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices. Computer Aided Design and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAD/CAM) also play an important role within Design & Technology and this will be encouraged throughout the course using our 3D printers and laser cutter.

Students will be given the opportunity to partake in a 3-day residential visit to Disneyland, Paris, to see how the rides are design, developed and maintained and why the park develops new technologies to support the environment.

Method of Assessment:

Theory – Written Examination, 50% of qualification

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 100 marks – 60 marks for specialism section/40 marks for core principles
- 50% of GCSE

Section A – Core technical principles, Section B – Specialist technical principles, Section C – Designing and making principles

Practical – Contextual challenge, 20-page portfolio and manufacture of a prototype, 50% of qualification

- Non-exam assessment (NEA)
- 100 marks
- 50% of GCSE

The portfolio and prototype will be assessed in 6 areas of design - identifying and investigating design possibilities, producing a design brief & specification, generating design ideas, developing design ideas, realising design ideas and analysing & evaluating.

What will I gain from the Course?

Achievement at GCSE provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector through progression on to other A Levels or Level 3 Vocational qualifications. Examples include BTEC Level 3 National Qualification in Engineering (Extended Certificate/Diploma/Extended Diploma) or A Level Design and Technology-Product Design. Employers value a GCSE Design & Technology qualification as it develops creative, technical and problem solving skills. Possible career paths could be architect, furniture, car, jewellery or CAD designer, product design with digital links, product development & design and exhibition designer, as well as specialist engineering and manufacturing careers.

Find out more here:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552

Options Subject: GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

Course Content:

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition combines the development of practical cooking skills alongside a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance.

This course ensures students' have the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and be able to apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. Students will learn to make the connections between theory and practice, to apply their understanding of food and nutrition to practical preparation. There are 12 food preparation skills students need to master in the practical element of the course, including knife skills, sauce making and use of different cooking methods.

Method of Assessment:

The course is split into 50% written exam and two coursework tasks (NEA) which total 50%. The written exam is one hour and 45 minutes long and covers the five main topics above. This is taken at the very end of the two-year course.

The NEA is divided into two tasks, the first is worth 15%. This is studied in the first term of the second year of the course. It is an investigation which examines the students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this task. It will involve writing a 1,500-2000 word report on their investigation. This is a heavily scientific based element of the course and students need to be aware they need to have a good basic knowledge from their KS3 Science lessons, as well as from this course.

The second NEA is worth 35% and is studied in terms 3 and 4 of the second year of the course. This assesses the students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to a chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. A supplementary portfolio of research, menu planning, dish evaluation and dish analysis will support the practical assessments for this NEA.

What will I gain from the Course?

Studying this course will open opportunities to a world of career opportunities and giving you the confidence to cook with ingredients from across the globe. 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.

Please note that there will be an approximate cost of £60 per student per year of study, for the school to purchase ingredients for the practical lessons. If required, support can be discreetly offered with ingredient costs, please see Miss Gosling for more information.

Find out more here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/food-preparation-and-nutrition/gcse/food-preparation-and-nutrition-8585/specification>

Options Subject: GCSE Music (Creative)

Course Content:

Component 1 - Understanding Music

Students will study a range of musical styles throughout history. The four areas of study can also provide a rich source of material for students to work with when developing performance and composition skills: 1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910, 2. Popular music, 3. Traditional music, and 4. Western classical tradition since 1910. The 1½ - hour exam at the end of the second year of the course will consist of listening to different styles of music and answers questions on elements of that genre.

Component 2 - Performing Music

This area of the course allows students to perform music as an instrumentalist or a vocalist. One performance will be as a soloist and one piece will be as part of an ensemble lasting a combined minimum of four minutes. This will give the students an excellent opportunity to develop their performing skills.

Component 3 - Composing Music

Students will learn how to develop musical ideas, including extending and manipulating musical ideas, and compose music through two compositions. One must be in response to an externally set brief (Composition 1) and the other a free composition (Composition 2). This area of the course will not only allow the students to develop their knowledge of music theory, but also apply it creatively.

Method of Assessment:

Component 1 – Understanding Music Component 1 is assessed through a 1½ hr exam paper with listening exercises and written questions using excerpts of music. This component is worth 40% of the course.

Component 2 – Performing Music Component 2 is assessed through two performances – one solo, and one ensemble. This component is 30% of the course.

Component 3 – Composing Music Component 3 is assessed through two compositions. Composition one will be in response to a brief, and composition two will be a free composition. This component is 30% of the course.

What will I gain from the Course?

Music is constantly evolving, inspiring creativity and expression in a way that no other subject can. That's why we have chosen a relevant and contemporary GCSE qualification that offers the students the chance to study a wide range of musical genres, with more opportunities for practical learning. The GCSE brings theory, listening and composition to life in new and engaging ways. The students will gain essential knowledge and skills needed for further study at Level 3 and also higher education courses at university.

Find out more here:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.html>

Options Subject: GCSE Photography (Creative) (AQA)

Course Content:

Students will produce work journals showing their investigations and responses to set coursework and exam themes featuring a range of key photographers. The students will document and produce personal photoshoots for:

Summer Project – Students will complete a minimum of 5 photoshoots over the summer break.

Study Visit with Location Photoshoots – Students will experience a full day of location photography related to the set themes.

Personal Project - Students will set themselves a project based on their area of interest in photography.

Alternative Photography Workshops: Students will respond creatively to workshops on traditional photographic methods such as darkroom photography and cyanotypes.

Studio Photography: Students will learn and document how to set up a photographic studio.

Method of Assessment:

Students will be assessed on the following two bodies of work:

- Portfolio of work (60%) consisting of personal responses, and research, to the summer project, study visits and personal project.
- Externally set assignment (40%) consisting of personal responses, and research, to set themes and the second study visit.

Both units are assessed by the students' responses to the four Assessment Objectives each worth 25%

- Develop ideas informed by research on relevant photographers
- Refine ideas by experimenting with materials and developing proficient photographic techniques
- Record ideas in visual form by frequent photo shoots
- Present an outcome showing analytical and critical understanding

What will I gain from the Course?

Students who complete the GCSE photography course will be able to study photography at A-level. They will also gain a working knowledge of:

- Visual language of photography
- Digital workflow and image manipulation skills
- Studio Photography skills
- Alternative Processes skills
- Visual presentational skills
- Location photography skills

Find out more here:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/specifications/AQA-ART-GCSE-SP-2016.PDF>

Options Subject: GCSE Physical Education (AQA)

Course Content:

This course comprises both theory (60%) and practical (40%) elements.

Practical: All practical content is delivered on **a Friday afterschool 3.20pm-4.30pm. Attendance is compulsory.**

Practical activities will be studied and assessed throughout the year. The three highest-scoring activities, selected by the teacher, comprise the practical element. Students must perform one sport in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or individual activity. Some of these activities will be moderated externally, upon request by the examination board.

Theory: Every timetabled lesson will be theoretical, and throughout the year, the following topics are studied:

Applied anatomy and physiology, Movement Analysis, Physical Training, Use of data, Sports Psychology, Socio-cultural influences, Health, fitness and well-being

Method of Assessment:

Theory (60%)- 2 Examination Papers

- Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport - Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes -30% of GCSE - Topics covered: applied anatomy & physiology, movement analysis, physical training & use of data.
- Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport - Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes- 30% of GCSE - Topics covered- sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, health, fitness and well-being and use of data.

Practical (40%)- Practical performances in physical activity and sport

Three sports are entered (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).

For each of their three activities:

- Students will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and the full context (15 marks per activity).
- Students will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.
- Some sports will be externally moderated (sports moderated are chosen by AQA examination board)

What will I gain from the Course?

GCSE Physical Education provides students with exciting opportunities to lead a healthy and active lifestyle by participating in a range of physical activities. The content of the course is designed to provide a route to study Level 3 awards and to higher education PE as well as related career opportunities.

Find out more here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>



Options Subject: GCSE Psychology (AQA)

Course Content:

This Qualification introduces student to the fundamentals of Psychology, developing critical analysis, independent thinking and research skills.

Paper 1: Cognition and Behaviour

If you have ever wondered why you can remember some things and not others, or what the difference between perception and sensation is, or why and how we develop in the way in which we do they you will enjoy studying this paper. In paper 1 you study the following topics: Memory; Perception; Development; Research methods.

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour

Ever wonder why you could seem to be one person with a certain group of people (family) and then someone different with another group (friends)? Or how our brain develops and how we research the brain? In this paper you will find the answers to these questions as you will study the following topics: Social Influence; Language, thought & communication; Brain & neuropsychology; Psychological problems.

Method of Assessment:

Two exams, both one hour and 45 minutes. Both exams are sat in the summer exam period (May/June).

This course is 100% exam based with no coursework/controlled assessments.

You will be regularly assessed in class, but no class grade counts towards your end grade at GCSE.

What will I gain from the Course?

The course will introduce you to a variety of factors which shape and influence human behaviour, how we develop and change (or not so) throughout life as well as looking at how our brains process and take in information. Much of what you learn in Psychology you can apply to yourself or those around you. Psychology is a fascinating subject with so many different and varied topics within; there is something for everyone. You will also develop skills in communication, maths and data analysis, work with others, problem-solving, evaluation and independent thinking skills.

Find out more here:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182>

Options Subject: GCSE Sociology (AQA)

Course Content:

Paper 1: The sociology of families and education: What you will study:

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Paper 2: The sociology of crime and deviance and social stratification: What you will study:

- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Students will be expected to draw on knowledge and understanding of the entire course of study to show a deeper understanding of these topics.

Method of Assessment:

Both paper 1 and paper 2 are exactly the same i.e.

- The written exam is 1 hour 45 minutes
- Each paper is worth 100 marks
- Each paper is worth 50% of the total GCSE

Each exam paper questions are as follows:

- Section A has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.
- Section B has two multiple choice questions followed by a range of short and extended responses.

What will I gain from the Course?

GCSE Sociology will help you to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification. You will develop your analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, you will also develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and make deductions
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world.

Find out more here:

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/sociology/gcse/sociology-8192>