

ST THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A GUIDE TO KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS
2018 – 2020



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CONTENTS

4	Introduction:
5	KS4 Courses
6	What You Need To Do
7	Examination Format
8	Making the Choice
9	Careers Education
10-11	Into the Sixth Form
12	Guide to KS4 Courses

13	The Core Curriculum:
14	English Language
15	English Literature
16	General Physical Education
17	Mathematics
18-19	Science
20	Religious Education

OPTIONAL COURSES

21	Vocational Courses:
22	Art (BTEC)
23	Business (BTEC)
24	Child Development (CACHE)
25	Creative Studies (NCFE)
26	Digital Applications (CiDA - Edexcel/Pearson) - Core subject for Pathway A students
27	Engineering (BTEC)
28	Health & Social Care (Cambridge National)
29	Music (BTEC)
30	Sport (BTEC)

31	GCSE Courses
32	Art
33	Business Studies
34	Computer Science
35	Drama
36	Engineering
37	Food Preparation and Nutrition
38	Geography
39	History
40	Modern Languages – French and German
41	Music
42	Physical Education
43	Product Design
44	Textiles Design

INTRODUCTION

ACHIEVING THE BALANCE

You are about to enter an important stage in your school life. Over the next two years you will be following a range of examination courses that will provide you with your first school certificates and, hopefully, lead to further success in the Sixth Form and beyond.

In our school we want to provide you with the best possible education. To do this, we set high standards and help you do the very best you can. Our students have enjoyed considerable success in their examinations in the past and we are confident this tradition will be maintained in the future.

Up until now you have been studying a wide range of subjects as part of a balanced curriculum that has provided you with a firm foundation for a good education.

Each of the subjects taught in Key Stage 4 has a specification which takes a certain amount of lesson time to get through. This makes it impossible to study an unlimited number of subjects in Years 10 and 11.

To reach the best possible solution we make sure you follow courses to fulfil the requirements of the curriculum and then we give you a choice of subjects to take up the rest of your time in school. Therefore, some of your subjects are '**compulsory**' and some are '**optional**'.

The subjects that you choose should allow you to achieve your full potential. We will work with you to ensure that the pathway you have chosen is appropriate and as such we may amend some student's choices.

All pupils in KS4 study a Core Curriculum. This comprises of English Language and Literature, Mathematics, Science, RE and PE.

At Key Stage 4, the year group is divided into two pathways A and B. This is to enable us to direct pupils to the most appropriate curriculum for them.

Pupils following Pathway B take French / German, History / Geography and select two additional subjects to study from the list provided. Pupils following Pathway A have an additional period for both English and Mathematics. They will study IT, History / Geography and select two additional subjects.

Students will be given a form detailing which Pathway they are on, and the optional subjects they can choose from.

KS4 COURSES

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

The courses that you must follow in Years 10 and 11 are:

- **English Language**
- **English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Combined Science (Dual Award) or Separate Sciences (Triple Award)**
- **Physical Education***
- **Religious Studies**

Dependent on your prior performance in KS3 Science you may be asked if you wish to study the three separate sciences in Year 10. If you wish to study separate sciences you will study these instead of one of your option choices.

All students will therefore complete a minimum of six compulsory GCSE courses.

* Please note that although all students will take part in Physical Education lessons and assessments as part of the core curriculum, only those students who choose Physical Education as part of their options will sit the GCSE examination.

Further information is available from Mrs A Moore, Deputy Head Teacher (Curriculum)

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

You will find information about each of the subjects in this guide.

Think about your own strengths and weaknesses, likes and dislikes, interests or career ideas. Seek advice if you need it. Once you have done that, tick the subjects you would most like to do and cross out the ones that do not interest you. Then begin to move towards your final decisions. It is important that you select a third 'back up' subject. Forms will be returned if they are not completed correctly.

When making your decisions about your choices:

Do:

1. Think carefully and consider all of your subjects. Make sure you have enough information about those subjects that you have studied before (Business Studies, Engineering etc.)
2. You know your own strengths and weaknesses – use this information
3. Speak to your teachers and parents / carers
4. Use the careers guidance available to you

Do not:

1. Choose a subject because your friend has, or you think you might get a particular teacher
2. Be put off a subject because your friend has not chosen it
3. Choose a subject because you think it is an easy option – all Key stage 4 qualifications are challenging and require a lot of hard work.

When you are happy with your choices you will be able to fill in an option form which must be handed in to your form tutor, who will give you details of what to do. The form will be checked to ensure that your chosen subjects are appropriate for you.

EXAMINATION FORMAT

VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

The Vocational Qualifications are recognised alternatives to GCSE qualifications. They are designed to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in broad vocational areas.

A Vocational course is intended to motivate young people of all abilities and help them achieve higher standards. Assessment is mainly by portfolio, but all subjects will have an externally assessed element worth at least 25%. Work is based in a vocational context and is enhanced by provision outside the classroom. The evidence suggests that all vocational students develop positive attitudes and behaviour and high levels of adaptability and self-reliance.

THE GCSE EXAMINATION

The General Certificate of Secondary Education, or GCSE, is the main means of assessing students at the end of Key Stage 4. All students in our school follow a programme of study leading to GCSE qualifications.

Final examinations are sat at the end of Year 11, with the exception of English Literature which is sat at the end of Year 10. You will find that the amount of controlled assessment varies from subject to subject.

In some subjects there may be a choice of examination papers to allow for students of different abilities. Your teachers will advise you on the best papers for you to take to achieve the best results.

The results of your GCSE examinations are reported as grades ranging from 9 – 1. Some GCSE's only have one tier of entry which means all pupils sit the same examination regardless of ability.

Further information is available from Mrs A Moore, Deputy Head Teacher (Curriculum)

MAKING THE CHOICE

WHO MAKES THE CHOICE?

At the end of the day, it is **your** choice. You will have had plenty of time to read, visit websites, think, ask, find out and take part in pastoral activities that are designed to help you make the right choice.

Take advantage of talking through your ideas with your form tutor or subject teachers. Work out for yourself what your best options are.

Choose a subject because you really want to do it and not just because your friends have chosen it. Remember, you may not be put in the same class as they are anyway.

Your parents play an important part in giving you support and guidance. They will have read your school reports and followed your progress very closely, so they are in a good position to give you unbiased advice.

There will be a parents' evening before you make your final choices. Your parents are, of course, welcome to contact the school if they really need to. If this is necessary they should contact your Head of House. The Heads of House are:

Miss K. McNeil	- St Bernadette
Mr R. Lennox	- St Catherine Labouré
Mr W. Burdon-Taylor	- St John Fisher
Mrs D. Ashdown	- St Therese

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

When you have finally made up your mind about which subjects to take, you will be asked to complete an option form. You must return this to your form tutor by the deadline given to you.

All of the option forms are then processed and the lists are given to the Heads of Department who will decide which class you will go into if there is more than one class.

Sometimes there is a situation where too few, or too many, students choose a particular subject. If we do not have enough resources to put on extra classes we may be forced to ask you to change one of your choices. This happens on very few occasions and we try as far as possible to give you what you ask for. There will be a space on your option form to put on a 'back up' subject.

Further information is available from your Head of House

CAREERS EDUCATION

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

In Year 9 you are asked to make choices about which subjects to study in Year 10 and 11. You may not have decided on a career path yet and find making your option choices difficult. Do not worry about this. You are not alone. There are students in schools across the country who are in the same situation. Even if you have a good idea now about a future career you may find that you change your mind in the months to come.

In our school we help you through this time in two ways. We have designed the option system in such a way that it will give you a balanced choice of subjects that will let you take different career paths in the future even if you do change your mind. Secondly, we provide you with ongoing careers education throughout school (Year 7 – 11) and further guidance and support into Sixth Form.

Careers advice in school is in place to help you think realistically about yourself, what would suit you and broadening horizons for your future. Pastoral tutors, subject teachers, and careers staff are there to help you with the decisions. You may also research in the Careers Library, which contains information on a whole range of occupations, education, training and other published materials. This can be found in the careers office.

Ms Trotter is the Careers Education, Information and Guidance (CEIAG) Co-ordinator within school. She is available to help with this process by meeting with pupils and offering any required support and guidance.

Further information is available from Ms B Trotter (CEIAG Coordinator)

INTO THE SIXTH FORM

PROGRESSION BEYOND KEY STAGE 4

The school has enjoyed considerable success in attracting the vast majority of students to stay on after KS4 and enter the Sixth Form by providing an excellent learning and caring environment, along with a range of courses which meet the needs of students entering post-16 education. We feel it is important therefore to give a brief outline of the opportunities available to you after completing your KS4 courses.

The majority of students will follow one of two routes in the Sixth Form:

THE GCE ROUTE

Students will normally follow three subjects at A Level in Sixth Form. These are two year linear courses with all examinations at the end of Year 13.

THE VOCATIONAL ROUTE

Vocational courses differ from GCE Advanced levels in that:

- They place a greater emphasis on coursework and assignments produced over a period of time
- Learning is related to the world of work
- Work experience is an integral part of the course
- A Double Award Applied A-level or a National Diploma is the equivalent to two GCE A-level passes
- A Single Award Applied A-level or a National Certificate is the equivalent of one GCE A-level pass

INTO THE SIXTH FORM

If you wish to study GCE Advanced Levels you would normally be expected to achieve Grade 9 - 5 in all of your GCSE subjects, with a minimum of 6 at Grade 6 standard. In some cases no previous study is required although you would still need to achieve good grades in all of your other subjects.

To gain a place on the Vocational courses you would normally be expected to achieve at least six GCSE passes at Grade 5 or above, or to have completed successfully a Vocational course in Year 11 to merit standard. Please note a Grade 5 in Mathematics is needed for the Engineering course.

It is possible to combine Advanced GCE and Level 3 Vocational courses.

GCE Advanced Level

Art & Design (Fine Art)	French / German
Art & Design (Textile Design)	Further Mathematics
Biology	Geography
Business Studies	History
Chemistry	Mathematics
Computer Science	Music
Design Technology (Product Design)	Music Technology
Drama and Theatre Studies	Philosophy and Ethics (RE)
Engineering (Design Engineering)	Psychology
English Language	Physical Education
English Literature	Physics

Additional Advanced Level

Core Maths
Extended Project Qualification

Vocational Courses

Business (OCR)
Engineering (BTEC)
Health and Social Care (OCR)
ICT (OCR)
Sport (BTEC)

Successful completion of any post 16 course provides entry to Higher Education or directly into employment.

GUIDE TO KS4 COURSES

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

The following pages give you the details of all of the courses that are available in Years 10 and 11.

CORE SUBJECTS

- English Language
- English Literature
- General Physical Education
- Mathematics
- Science
- Religious Education

VOCATIONAL COURSES

- Art (BTEC)
- Business (BTEC)
- Child Development (CACHE)
- Creative Studies (NCFE)
- Digital Applications (CiDA - Edexcel/Pearson) - Core subject for Pathway A students
- Engineering (BTEC)
- Health & Social Care (Cambridge National)
- Sport (BTEC)
- Music (BTEC)

GCSE COURSES

- Art
- Business Studies
- Computer Science
- Drama
- Engineering
- Food Preparation & Nutrition
- Geography
- History
- Modern Languages – French and German
- Music
- Physical Education
- Product Design
- Textiles Design

N.B. Please note that all courses (with the exception of the Core Curriculum) are subject to uptake, and course structure may be amended. Please speak to the relevant Head of Department for further information.

THE CORE CURRICULUM

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

For English Language at GCSE level, you will continue to develop skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing which you have been building throughout Key Stage 3. English is invaluable for your future, no matter what you are aiming for.

Your reading will cover a wide range of stories, poems and plays which were written in the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries as well as a range of non-fiction texts such as biographies, letters and high quality journalism.

Your writing will be in a variety of forms for different audiences and for purposes such as descriptive, narrative or from a specific viewpoint.

You will need to demonstrate skills in speaking and listening in a variety of contexts, including independently, in groups or in pairs.

Everyone will be entered for English Language and Literature. There are no options to do different routes according to ability and there are no tiers (Higher or Foundation).

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Pupils will sit two examination papers, as outlined below,

Assessments

All texts in the examination will be unseen.

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing	+	Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives	+	Non-examination Assessment: Spoken Language
What's assessed Section A: Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one literature fiction text Section B: Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> descriptive or narrative writing 		What's assessed Section A: Reading <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text Section B: Writing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> writing to present a viewpoint 		What's assessed (AO7–AO9) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> presenting responding to questions and feedback use of Standard English
Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks 50% of GCSE 		Assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> teacher set throughout course marked by teacher separate endorsement (0% weighting of GCSE)
Questions Reading (40 marks) (25%) – one single text <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) 2 longer form questions (2 x 8 marks) 1 extended question (1 x 20 marks) Writing (40 marks) (25%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) 		Questions Reading (40 marks) (25%) – two linked texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 short form question (1 x 4 marks) 2 longer form questions (1 x 8, 1 x 12 marks) 1 extended question (1 x 16 marks) Writing (40 marks) (25%) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 extended writing question (24 marks for content, 16 marks for technical accuracy) 		

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Ms L Ford (Head of English)

ENGLISH LITERATURE

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

We enter all Year 10 pupils for their English Literature examination at the end of Year 10, having begun many of the topics at a foundation level in Year 9. We believe the breadth of content of these examinations requires pupils to focus solely on the Literature course, thus allowing them to use Year 11 to focus on English Language.

In English Literature you will be required to read a Shakespeare text, a 19th century novel, a modern text, and a range of poetry.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Pupils will sit two examination papers, as outlined below;

Assessments

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.

All assessments are compulsory.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel	+ Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry
<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakespeare • The 19th-century novel 	<p>What's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Modern texts • Poetry • Unseen poetry
<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 64 marks • 40% of GCSE 	<p>How it's assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • written exam: 2 hour 15 minutes • 96 marks • 60% of GCSE
<p>Questions</p> <p>Section A Shakespeare: students will answer one question on their play of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the play and then to write about the play as a whole.</p> <p>Section B The 19th-century novel: students will answer one question on their novel of choice. They will be required to write in detail about an extract from the novel and then to write about the novel as a whole.</p>	<p>Questions</p> <p>Section A Modern texts: students will answer one essay question from a choice of two on their studied modern prose or drama text.</p> <p>Section B Poetry: students will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from their chosen anthology cluster.</p> <p>Section C Unseen poetry: Students will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.</p>

All examinations are 'closed book', meaning you will need to know all the texts we read very well as you will not be allowed copies in the examinations.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Ms L Ford (Head of English)

GENERAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Physical Education is part of the curriculum for every student in the school.

For many students, Physical Education lessons provide a welcome break from the classroom and offer the opportunity to take part in a wide range of physical activities. Students are encouraged to develop their skills in both traditional and modern sports along with a healthy attitude towards exercise.

The school has developed a tradition of sporting success at both local and national level in a wide range of team sports including athletics, cross-country, football, cricket, rugby and netball. The school has also produced a number of outstanding individuals who have made their mark in both county and national teams. Much of this success stems, of course, from the initial interest and enthusiasm shown in Physical Education lessons.

The vast majority of students are able to take part in activities that they will enjoy. In Years 10 and 11 boys participate in football, rugby, athletics, table tennis, Health Related Exercise (HRE) and cricket, whilst girls participate in trampolining, dance, netball, HRE, rounders and athletics.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed in each of the activities you participate in where you will receive a grade based on your achievements between 1-10. This is so that we can effectively track and monitor your progress and to implement effective strategies and practices in lessons which will develop your practical ability. You will not receive a formal qualification however we do encourage pupils to try their best and to enjoy their activities.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Health and leisure are playing an increasingly bigger role in our lives. You only need to look at what is going on in your local community to see that it is part of daily life. You will be able to find fitness classes, sports clubs and activities for all age groups. We have excellent links with many local clubs including rowing, tennis, cricket and athletics.
- Your PE lessons will give you an ideal opportunity to get involved and take part in a range of different physical activities.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs C Brown (2nd in PE)

MATHEMATICS

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Mathematics is a highly successful course that caters for students of all abilities.

The course will continue to develop your knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change
4. Geometry and Measures
5. Probability
6. Statistics

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

You will be entered for examinations to suit your ability. There are two levels of examination which are called Foundation and Higher. The level of entry is decided by your teachers at an appropriate point on the course.

There are three examination papers for each of the two tiers:

Paper 1 (Non-calculator) 33% %	Paper 2 (Calculator) 33% %	Paper 3 (Calculator) 33% %
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DID YOU KNOW?

- All students must follow a course in Mathematics because it is a core subject in the National Curriculum.
- Successful students can go on to study A Levels in Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs L Dodd (Head of Mathematics)

SCIENCE

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Science is a core subject and all students will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics throughout Years 10 and 11. At Key Stage 4, students will have the choice between two different routes; a Combined Science GCSE or three Separate Science GCSEs.

GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE – DUAL AWARD

The Combined Science GCSE programme is an accessible course designed to be suitable for the majority of students up to and including those who wish to go on and study A Levels in Science. The Combined Science course enables students to study all three science subjects and attain two GCSE grades from a combined score. The combined approach brings science to life whilst enabling students to develop their scientific knowledge, understanding and skills.

Through the study of Biology students will learn all about cells, genetics, natural selection, the structure & functions of plants, homeostasis, transport and control systems within animals, health and disease and the development of medicines.

In Chemistry students study atomic structure, the periodic table, ionic and covalent bonding, states of matter, separating and purifying techniques, acids, obtaining and using metals, electrolytic processes, reversible reactions and equilibria, alkali metals, halogens and noble gases, rates of reaction, fuels, heat and energy in reactions, earth and atmospheric science.

In Physics students will learn about waves, particles, energy, electricity and magnetism and radioactivity.

GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES – TRIPLE AWARD

The separate science route allows students to study the scientific disciplines as three separate subjects gaining a separate GCSE in each. The separate science route is suitable for students who have a real passion for science and wish to study the three science subjects in more detail and depth. The separate science course is more demanding than the combined approach and students will be required to have a high Stage 4 or Stage 5 in their end of Key Stage Three assessment in order to take this route. The separate science course provides an excellent route for students considering A Levels in science. Students opting for the separate science route will study all the subject content within the combined GCSE program and in addition to this:

- The Biology GCSE covers the same topics as the combined course, but in much greater depth and detail giving students a more advanced and compressive understanding of animal and plant biology.
- The Chemistry GCSE includes the following additional topics: transition metals, alloys and corrosion, dynamic equilibria calculations involving volumes of gases, chemical cells and fuel cells, tests for ions, hydrocarbons, polymers, alcohols and carboxylic acids, bulk and surface properties of matter including nanoparticles.
- The Physics GCSE contains additional topics in astronomy, space and static electricity, but otherwise covers the same topics as the combined course though in much greater depth and detail giving students a more advanced and compressive understanding of physics.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

For both routes examinations will all occur at the end of Year 11. Examinations follow the 9-1 grading system with 9 being the top grade. Grade 4 is similar to a Grade C from the old specification and a Grade 7 is similar to a Grade A. The new benchmark for a higher grade will be a Grade 5.

Students will sit a total of six examinations, two papers in each science subject. For the combined approach, each examination contains 60 marks and lasts for 70 minutes. For the separate science approach each exam contains 100 marks and lasts 105 minutes. There is no internally assessed controlled assessment component, although there is a strong practical element built into the course with 17 core practicals within the combined course, and 25 across the three sciences in the separate science course. 15% of each GCSE will assess the practical knowledge and skills gained from completing the core practicals.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mr M McAuley (Head of Science)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Religious Education is an interesting and challenging course that caters for students of all abilities. Religious Education plays an important part in the whole life of our Catholic School. You will find that learning about and discussing the ethical and philosophical issues that affect our lives and concern us all in today's world will give you a deeper understanding of religion, faith and prayer and the part it plays in our daily life.

We aim to promote an enquiring, critical and sympathetic approach to the study of religion and to develop the skills you will need to do that in a mature, sensible and thoughtful way.

We will help you identify and explore questions about the meaning and purpose of life. You will be asked to explore questions of faith and ethics; to examine various issues surrounding them, and to make informed judgements based on your study.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

EDUQAS ROUTE B

Route B takes a distinctive issues-based approach to the study of Catholic Christianity. It integrates a 75% study of Catholic Christianity, with a 25% study of Judaism. Component 1 is entitled Foundational Catholic Theology and Component 2 is entitled Applied Catholic Theology. The thematic material serves as the entry point for the study of Catholic Christianity in each of the two components. The thematic study part of each component will also require learners to contrast Catholic responses to philosophical and ethical question with answers given by other Christian denominations and answers given by those subscribing to non-religious world views. The course will enable learners to gain knowledge and understanding of two religions: Catholic Christianity and Judaism.

This is a 2 year linear course, and all students will sit the examinations at the end of this time. This examination will be graded from 9 to 1. There is no coursework element to this course.

DID YOU KNOW?

- All students follow the same single tier entry GCSE course in Religious Education in our school: everyone can do well!
- The course provides an excellent foundation for those students who want to go on to study Philosophy and Ethics at A Level.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Ms B Rutherford (Head of Religious Education)

VOCATIONAL COURSES

ART (BTEC)

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

If you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in Art and Design, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively – then this is for you!

The course allows you to work with a wide variety of materials and techniques. You will be able to study the work of other artists. You will be able to develop your skills, knowledge, and understanding of art, craft and design that will prepare you for entry into related careers.

You will be able to explore a wide range of topic areas including fine art, 3D design, graphic design, surface design, photography, multimedia and design crafts. You will also learn how to work to a set brief to create and display art, craft or design work.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The combination of core, mandatory and specialist units ensures that you will develop areas of essential art and design knowledge.

75% of the work is set and assessed by your teacher in school.

25% of the work is assessed outside of school. This work includes examination work, assignments, and case study work.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Success in this vocational course is equivalent to 1 GCSE at Grade 9 – 5.
- Success can lead to study on the A Level Art & Design course.
- There are a wide range of career opportunities available in areas such as graphic design and advertising, fashion, textiles or clothing design, interior design, photography, and much more.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs A Wood (BTEC Course Leader Art & Design)

BUSINESS (BTEC)

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This course involves the study of business organisations. Many of the people that you see every day are going to work in a business organisation – offices, shops, banks and factories are all examples of business organisations. A business can be a firm of solicitors, an estate agent, a garage, a football club, a hotel, a farm, or a local council. Even your local charity shop is part of a larger organisation run in a similar way to a commercial business. Our school can also be described as a business organisation. All of these organisations employ people with business qualifications.

The study of business involves considering organisations, such as those above, and finding out:

How these organisations are set up	What these organisations actually do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their structure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Their structure
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they communicate, within and outside of the business 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they promote their products or services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they control the money being spent and being made 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they find and retain their staff
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How they keep their customers happy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The laws that affect businesses and their customers

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

75% of the final grade comes from coursework units, completed over the 2 years of the course:

- Enterprise in the Business World
- Recruitment, Selection and Employment
- Introduction to Retail Business

25% of the final grade comes from an examination, in the form of an online test:

- Finance for Business

This qualification is the equivalent of 1 GCSE Grade 9-5.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Most students who study Vocational Business stay on in the sixth form and then go on to University. Some students go to college or straight into employment at the end of Year 11.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mr J Sorrell (Head of Vocational Business Studies)

CHILD DEVELOPMENT (CACHE)

NCFE CACHE LEVEL 2 AWARD IN CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This course is the equivalent of one GCSE. Over the 2 years you will have a basic introduction to the following topics:

Working with children in a variety of settings	Understanding of Equality and Diversity within a childcare setting	Observing children and how it supports development	Everyday care routines and the types of activities that can support the development of independence.
Understanding of roles and responsibilities when working in a setting	Understanding of the stages and sequence of child development	The influences that affect holistic development	

You will study 3 units and you will have to pass all units.

Unit 1 - An introduction to working with children aged 0-5 years

This is an introductory unit designed to give an overview of the types of settings and local provision for children. You will learn how to prepare for working in settings and the responsibilities of early years workers. You will also gain an insight into your preferred learning style and develop your ability to study

Unit 2 - Development and Well-being 0-5 years

This unit focuses on holistic development and factors that affect development. You will be introduced to ways of observing children so that you can support development through appropriate activities and care routines. You will also learn how to work with children when they move from one setting to another.

Unit 3 - Child Care and Development 0-5 years

This unit will assess your knowledge about the development of children aged 0-5 years. You will be expected to know about the different types of care settings and your responsibilities if you were learning how to work with children. You will need to show that you understand how children develop, what can affect their development and the individual needs they may have. You will need to show that you know ways to care for them and simple activities that help them to develop in a healthy and safe way. You will also need to show that you understand the ways that can support your own learning.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1 – Coursework Unit 2 – Coursework Unit 3 – Multiple Choice Examination

DID YOU KNOW?

- Upon successful completion, this course can be the foundation for further study in 6th Form or progression onto apprenticeships and work in many different settings including nurseries, hospitals, primary schools, special schools, mental health services, art therapy, to name a few.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs Archer (Head of Health and Social Care, Child Development, and Food)

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: CREATIVE STUDIES (NCFE)

LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN CREATIVE STUDIES: MAKING

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

In this new qualification students will have the opportunity to develop a broad understanding of a range of making skills using a variety of tools and materials. When responding to design briefs students are encouraged to experiment with materials and techniques, communicating their ideas through a range of media. The course looks at environmental and sustainable issues and helps to develop a positive attitude to teamwork which is an essential skill for any career. It also aims to develop the design and making interests and strengths of students without the worry of an exam at the end of the course.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The course consists of four coursework units where students create internally assessed portfolios of evidence. Three of these portfolios are worked on and developed throughout the course and then externally assessed by a moderator. The final fourth portfolio is in response to a set design brief and students have 30 hours to complete it. This portfolio is then assessed by an external moderator.

There is no written exam for this course.

Course grades are from a pass up to distinction*.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Skills learnt in this qualification are easily transferable to other disciplines and are good preparation for further education courses in Product Design, Interior Design, Architecture, Engineering, Jewellery Making, Furniture Making, Textiles, and many more.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs J Jennings (Head of Technology – Product Design)

DIGITAL APPLICATIONS / ICT (CiDA)

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This qualification is designed to engage, enthuse and equip you with a wide range of knowledge and skills that you will need to design and make a number of effective digital products. These skills include graphic design, app development, website construction and structuring computer games, enabling you to create graphical artwork, design your app, build a website or design a computer game.

This course gives you the skills you need to support future learning and to exploit employment opportunities in the fields of creative I.C.T, that will be on offer to you as you grow up in an increasingly digital age.

The course is equivalent to 1 GCSE and the content is driven by an increasing digital consumer consumption of media. Media content is increasingly delivered to users through emerging technologies such as apps, the web, multimedia messaging, and social media. This is reflected in the range of skills, knowledge and understanding that this course covers.

The course comprises of a written examination, together with three coursework units. In total the examination is worth 25% of the course and the coursework projects are worth 75%. The coursework element gives you the opportunity to work to a brief and be creative in your design and presentation of your digital media products. This creative independence encourages you to produce and strive for excellence.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

You will undertake a 2 hour on-screen examination, where you will be expected to construct a website to a given design brief and in addition you will produce electronic coursework portfolios assessed in school and moderated by the examination board. The exact brief of this coursework is set by the examination board. The course is graded A* - C.

Unit 1	Developing Web Products	Examination: 2 hours	40% of Qualification
Unit 2	Art Working and Imaging	Coursework: 30 Guided Learning Hours (GLH)	60% of Qualification

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please talk to Mr Strachan (Head of IT and Digital Strategy), or any other member of the I.T staff. You can also visit the Pearson BTEC website. If you own a smartphone, please scan the QR code at the bottom of the page to find out more. <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/digital-applications-cida-dida/cida-2012.html>



ENGINEERING (BTEC)

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This course is for students who have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in making engineering products, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate ideas effectively. The BTEC First Award in Engineering is made up of 3 units (2 core units and 1 specialist unit), these include:

Core Units	Specialist Units
Unit 1 The Engineering World*	Unit 7 Machining Techniques
Unit 2 Investigating an Engineering Product	
(* Assessed Externally)	

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The course uses a combination of internal and external assessment. The internally assessed units are assignment based and marked by your teachers. There is one unit assessed externally. All units are graded and once the course is completed an overall grade for the qualification is awarded. You can pass the course at three levels – Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

DID YOU KNOW?

- If you successfully pass the course you can enrol to do a BTEC National Engineering course or apply to become an Engineering Modern Apprentice.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mr N Makepeace (Head of Engineering)

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL)

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Unit R021: Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings – Assessed by examination (25%)

In this unit you will gain an understanding of how to provide quality care for individuals, helping them to achieve their goals and how to apply the values of care so that individuals feel valued. You will also have gain an understanding of how regulatory frameworks aim to protect both individuals and care workers in settings and how procedures that are in place in care settings, aim to promote standards of hygiene and maintain safety and security for all who use or work within the setting.

Unit R022: Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings – Assessed by coursework (25%)

In this unit you will learn how to appreciate how the way you communicate and the personal qualities that you utilise when working with individuals in a health, social care or early years setting will have an impact on the care of those individuals. You will be able to demonstrate that you have those effective communication skills that are needed to work in a health, social care or early years setting. You will be able to plan effectively for interactions in a health, social care and early years setting.

Unit R023: Understanding body systems and disorders– Assessed by coursework (25%)

In this unit you will learn and develop your knowledge and understanding of the importance of the body systems, structure, function and disorders that can affect the individual within health, social care and early years settings. You will also learn how to measure and interpret data obtained from various relevant body functions

Unit R031: Using basic first aid procedures – Assessed by coursework (25%)

In this unit you will learn how to assess the scene of an accident in health, social care and early years settings for risks and continuing dangers. You will also learn about what information is needed when contacting the emergency services. You will learn and be able to perform a variety of basic first aid procedures that could occur in a range of health, social care and early years settings.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Each unit represents 25% of the qualification as shown above. You will be assessed in a variety of ways including oral presentations, individual and group work, written work and role plays. You will also be able to have some experience in work placement during your course, to help build an understanding of what it is really like to work in health and social care settings.

DID YOU KNOW?

- There are many parts to this course that would provide you with skills for the future in any career you choose. Communication skills are needed in every job, respecting and recognising that others may have differing opinions and beliefs is essential for you to work effectively with others. Or do you want to work in the future in a health or social care setting, from care homes to hospitals, paramedic services to dental nursing, from nursery nurse to midwife, primary school to special needs then this could be ideal for you.
- This qualification can be studied further in 6th Form, and lead onto University or into an apprenticeship in the future, or even directly into a job. So sign up and learn how you could make a positive impact on the people you meet and work with in the future.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs Archer (Head of Health & Social Care, Child Development, and Food)

MUSIC (BTEC)

EDEXCEL BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD

If you are interested in learning about the music industry, developing skills using music technology, performing or composing contemporary music, then this course is for you!

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will study two compulsory units, and then choose the pathway that suits you most: Music Technology, Performing, or Composing.

Compulsory Units:

The Music Industry (25%) - Learning about job roles in the music industry.

Managing a Music Product (25%) - Designing and producing either a CD or concert.

Optional Units (you will choose two of these) (25% each)

Music Sequencing - Develop skills using music technology software to create a piece of music.

Music Recording - Learn how to use recording equipment to create your own multi-track recording.

Performing - Develop your skills either singing or playing an instrument.

Composing – Learn about a range of techniques for composition and respond to brief, e.g. compose music for a TV advert.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Compulsory Units:

The Music Industry (25%) - 1 hour external exam

Managing a Music Product (25%) - Internal Assessment

DID YOU KNOW?

- In order to study this subject you need to:
 - Have an interest in either performing, composing, or using music technology
 - Be organised and able to work with others as a team on projects
 - Have an interest in the music industry
- A qualification in music can lead to a whole range of exciting careers! As well as being a professional performing musician or composer, you could also go into the following careers:
 - Sound Technician / Recording Engineer
 - Arts Administrator
 - Events Organiser
 - Radio Producer
- Universities also really value music qualifications; it shows that you have an interest outside of more academic subjects that is very attractive to universities and employers.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Miss S Caffull (Head of Music)

SPORT (BTEC)

EDEXCEL BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 First Award in Sport is taught over 120 Guided Learning Hours (GLH). It has core and optional specialist units. Students will study four units over the course of the two year programme. You will study 2 compulsory units of:

Unit 1 - Fitness Testing and Training	Unit 2 - Practical Sports Performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know about the components of fitness and the principles of training • Explore different fitness training methods • Investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports • Practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports • Be able to review sports performance

You will study 2 optional units of:

Unit 3 – The Mind and The Sports Performer	Unit 4 – The Sports Performer in Action
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate personality and its effect on sports performance • Explore the influence that motivation and self-confidence have on sports performance • Know about arousal and anxiety, and the effects they have on sports performance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know about the short-term responses and long-term adaptations of the body systems to exercise • Know about the different energy systems used during sports performance
Unit 5 – Training for Personal Fitness	Unit 6 - Leading Sports Activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design a personal fitness training programme • Know about exercise adherence factors and strategies for continued training success • Implement a self-designed personal fitness training programme to achieve own goals and objectives • Review a personal fitness training programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the attributes associated with successful sports leadership • Undertake the planning and leading of sports activities • Review the planning and leading of sports activities

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The BTEC First Award has units that the school assesses (internal) and a unit that Edexcel sets and marks (external) which consists of a 1 hour exam completed via an onscreen test. Each unit will have up to 4 tasks for students to complete, which will be graded at either a Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs C Brown (2nd in PE Department)

GCSE COURSES

ART

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This course provides students with a range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore interest in Art and Design in ways that are relevant and developmental.

Skills students develop include:

- Creativity
- Imagination
- Research
- Investigation and experimentation
- The development of ideas from first-hand and secondary sources.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Portfolio

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

96 marks, 60% of GCSE

Component 2: Externally set assignment

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.

Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time

96 marks, 40% of GCSE

DID YOU KNOW?

- Art and Design is
 - a chance for you to develop your Art skills
 - creative and stimulating
 - a chance to try new craft areas
 - a chance to specialise in one particular area that you are strong in
 - an excellent foundation if you are looking for a career in Art and Design

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs A Wood (Head of Art)

BUSINESS STUDIES

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

If you want to find out more about the world of business then this is the course for you. You will learn about business concepts, business terminology, business objectives, how business is integrated into society and the impact this has on individuals and wider society.

You will learn about contemporary business issues and different types and sizes of businesses in local, national and global contexts. These will include businesses ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals.

You will develop as an enterprising individual with the ability to think commercially and creatively to demonstrate business acumen and draw on evidence to make informed business decisions and solve business problems.

You will investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues to construct well-argued, well-evidenced, balanced and structured arguments.

You will study 10 topic areas over the 2 year course and will sit 2 examinations in the final year.

Theme 1: Investigating small business (This is studied in Year 10)

- Topic 1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Topic 1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
- Topic 1.3 Putting a business idea into practice
- Topic 1.4 Making the business effective
- Topic 1.5 Understanding external influences on business

Theme 2: Building a business (This is studied in Year 11)

- Topic 2.1 Growing the business
- Topic 2.2 Making marketing decisions
- Topic 2.3 Making operational decisions
- Topic 2.4 Making financial decisions
- Topic 2.5 Making human resource decisions

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Theme 1: Investigating small business

Written examination: 1 hour, 30 minutes
50% of the qualification, 90 marks

Theme 2: Building a Business

Written examination: 1 hour, 30 minutes
50% of the qualification, 90 marks

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs Fiona Maguire (Head of Business Studies)

COMPUTER SCIENCE

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This course will give you a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from both school life and at home. However, this course will give you an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including the absorbing topic of computer programming.

This course provides an excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area.

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving you a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course provides excellent preparation for those who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed through a written 1 hour 30 minutes examination paper worth 40% of your final grade along with two controlled assessments, both worth 30% of your final grade.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information please talk to Mr Strachan (Head of IT and Digital Strategy), or any other member of the IT staff. Alternatively visit the following website:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/computer-science-2016.html>

You can also scan the QR code with your mobile device:



DRAMA

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that is both practical and creative, and if you enjoy working as part of a team as there is a lot of group work.

The methods offered in the course are Devising and Scripted Performance. As well as actually applying the methods, you will reflect upon them and be able to evaluate your handling of them. A key focus of the GCSE Drama course centres on developing each student's ability to work independently, as part of a team and to develop the confidence to present themselves in a public forum. Alongside developing their knowledge of theatrical performance, it gives students the opportunity to push themselves out of their comfort zone by exploring essential cross-curricular skills of cooperation, communication and creativity.

To get the most out of this course you will be expected to be committed and serious in your approach and demonstrate a degree of maturity that is required in this type of study.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

	What's assessed	How it's assessed
Component 1 - Understanding Drama (40% of final grade)	Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. Study of one set play from a choice of six. Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.	Written exam: 1 hr 45 mins Open book 80 marks
Component 2 - Devising Drama (40% of final grade)	Process of creating devised drama. Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer). Analysis and evaluation of own work.	Devising log (60 marks) Devised performance (20 marks) 80 marks in total
Component 3 - Texts in Practice (20% of final grade)	Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer). Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.	Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks) 40 marks in total

DID YOU KNOW?

- Drama give you the opportunity to be creative, active and develop improvisation skills
- You will get a chance to work on your own and with a team
- You could take part in drama workshops or get the chance to visit the theatre.
- GCSE Drama follows on from work you did in Key Stage 3 Drama

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs S Olsen (Head of Drama)

ENGINEERING

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This qualification introduces you to a wide range of vibrant engineering sectors. You will develop a range of transferable engineering skills that will form a foundation for future learning and progression.

This course is designed to be interesting and relevant to modern engineering. You will be introduced to a wide range of new technologies, helping you to gain practical skills. It will particularly appeal to those who enjoy being creative, with an affinity for drawing, design, maths and problem solving. The successful completion of this course will open up a wide range of educational, training and career opportunities.

SUBJECT CONTENT:

- Engineering materials
- Engineering manufacturing processes
- Systems
- Testing and investigation
- The impact of modern technologies
- Practical engineering skills

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Written Examination (60% of GCSE)

The examination will assess all the subject content above and aspects of the practical contexts. The examination will consist of multiple choice, short and extended response questions.

Practical (40% of GCSE)

Students will produce engineering drawings and schematics to communicate a solution to a brief set by the examination board and an engineering product that solves a problem.

DID YOU KNOW?

- If you successfully pass the course you can enrol to do an Engineering Level 3 course or apply to become an Apprentice Engineer.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mr N Makepeace (Head of Engineering)

FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

What do you really know about the food you eat? Where it comes from? How is it grown? What goes into it? How it is processed? Ever thought about what type of food we might eat in the future? Could you plan a 3 course meal for a special occasion? Could you plan and make a meal on a budget? Have you ever wondered what would happen if you changed the ingredients in a recipe? Are you interested in sport? Would you know what the best foods are to help your body work efficiently? Could you make a meal for a friend who has an allergy to milk or gluten? Do you care about animals and the environment? Do you know how they are treated or affected during food production?

If you answered yes to any of these questions then this course is for you! This is a new, creative course focussing on practical cooking skills whilst developing a thorough understanding of nutrition, food origin and the working characteristics of ingredients.

SUBJECT CONTENT:

The core topics are as follows:

- Cooking and Food Preparation
- Food Commodities
- Principles of Nutrition, Diet and Good Health
- Food Science
- Food Provenance

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Unit 1: 50% (100 Marks) are through assessment by written examination – **1 hour 45 mins**

- Section A - Question based on stimulus materials
- Section B - A range of question to assess knowledge of food and Nutrition

Unit 2: 50% (100 Marks) Non Examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.

- Assessment 1: Food Investigation Assessment (15%)
- Assessment 2: Food Preparation Assessment (35%)

DID YOU KNOW?

- Successfully completing this course will not only enable you to plan and cook healthy and imaginative meals for yourself and your family, but could be a step into careers such as a Food Scientist, Sports Nutritionist, Dietician, Chef and Food Product Development.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs C Archer (Head of Health and Social Care, Child Development, and Food)

GEOGRAPHY

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This is an exciting new course that investigates both the human and the physical world and examines the links between them. The study of Geography in schools is more relevant in today's fast changing world than at any time in the past. Through this course there will be the opportunity to study more about the physical and human environment that we interact with each day, whilst also studying the far reaching places of our planet. The course content covers 3 main themes:

Living with the physical environment	Challenges in the human environment	Geographical applications, including skills
The challenge of natural hazards; The Living World and Physical landscapes of the UK.	Urban issues and challenges; The changing economic world; The challenge of resource management	Issue Evaluation, Decision Making skills, Fieldwork

Through these themes you will learn about the effect of the environment on people, the issues caused by our use and misuse of the environment and about the need for a sustainable approach to management. These issues affect all of us in our daily lives and some, like climate change, could have a devastating impact on our future. You will also be given the opportunity to carry out some fieldwork outside of the classroom and develop your data collection, problem solving and decision making skills. These skills are not only useful in Geography but transcend other subjects and are increasingly in demand by employers.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

All GCSE exams are now linear and will be assessed at the end of the course. Fieldwork will also be assessed as part of the third exam.

Living with the physical environment	Challenges in the human environment	Geographical applications, including skills
Written exam 1.5hrs. 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG). 35% of the GCSE	Written exam 1.5hrs. 88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG). 35% of the GCSE	Written exam 1.25hrs 76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG). 30% of the GCSE Part of this exam will be based on a pre-released resource booklet

DID YOU KNOW?

- Geography is an academic subject and well respected by universities and employers alike. It provides the opportunity to pursue a broad range of careers, including Environmental and Scientific Research, Planning, Leisure and Tourism, Landscape Architecture and Management, International Charities, Teaching and many more areas.
- Geography allows you to find a career that is right for you and helps develop those skills crucial in creating a rounded scholar.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Ms G Devlin (Head of Geography)

HISTORY

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This GCSE course will take both thematic and depth study approaches to History and cover a wide range of Historical periods. The course will include:

Thematic Study - 'The People's Health' c.1250 to present
British Depth Study - Early Modern History, the Elizabethans (1580 – 1603)
History Around US - Local site study, currently we are using Prudhoe Castle
Period Study - America 1789-1900
World Depth Study - Life under Nazi rule from 1933 to 1945

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

At GCSE we follow the School's History Project with OCR examination board. There is no longer a controlled assessment for History; a local study will be examined at the end of the course. Each unit has equal weighting of 20% and the units test a full range of historical skills.

- **THEMATIC STUDY** - The thematic study forms the first half of the British History paper and is worth 20% of the GCSE. The examination requires learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of 'The People's Health' c.1250 to present, within the context of wider changes to society. There is an emphasis on historical knowledge and conceptual understanding.
- **BRITISH DEPTH STUDY**- The British Depth Study forms the second half of the British History paper and is worth 20% of the GCSE. This examination is focused on assessing a learner's ability to analyse, evaluate and make substantiated judgements about historical interpretations. This component will fulfil the requirement to study some Early Modern History, exploring the Elizabethans (1580 – 1603).
- **HISTORY AROUND US** - This is a local history site study which is assessed in a separate examination and is also worth 20% of the GCSE. The examination requires learners to use the remains of a local history site along with supporting sources and contextual knowledge to answer key questions. Currently we are using Prudhoe Castle as the basis for our site study.
- **THE PERIOD STUDY** - The period study forms the first half of the World History paper and is worth 20% of the GCSE. This component requires the demonstration of knowledge and understanding as well as explanation, analysis, evaluation and judgement. The period we will be studying will be America 1789-1900.
- **THE WORLD DEPTH STUDY** - The final component of the course, also worth 20% is a World Depth Study in which we will focus on life under Nazi rule from 1933 to 1945. The focus of this paper will be analysis and evaluation of historical sources and interpretations and students will reach substantiated judgements in response to views.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs C Lennox (Head of History)

MODERN LANGUAGES

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Modern Languages offers courses in French and German in Years 10 and 11. Everyone has the chance to study one Modern Language and some to study both. Whichever course you choose you will be able to develop and build on the skills of reading, writing, speaking and listening that you have worked on up to now. Both languages use methods that have a proven record of success. The work you have completed in Year 9 provides an excellent foundation for success in a GCSE course. Modern Languages appear in two of the groups of optional subjects. They are taught as separate subjects.

If you have studied both languages in Year 9 you could choose: **French or German**

Or if you have studied French only then your Modern Language option is: **French**

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

In both French and German you will be assessed at the end of each module of work so you will be able to keep track of your own progress.

The course is assessed in all 4 skills; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. All skills are assessed at the end of Year 11. They are each worth 25% of the final grade.

A good grade in the GCSE examination can lead to study at AS and A2 Level and beyond.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Some universities will not consider applications from students who do not have a Modern Language GCSE
- Many North-East Companies are losing business due to a lack of modern language skills. The two most sought after languages in this area are French and German
- An ability to use Modern Languages will become more important as the European Union continues to develop
- If you have a talent for Modern Languages you should seriously think about studying both French and German, to enhance your CV and career prospects at home and abroad
- To obtain the English Baccalaureate you have to complete a GCSE language

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs S Underwood (Head of French) & Mrs H Mackie (Head of German)

MUSIC

“Where words fail, music speaks” Hans Christian Andersen

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Music combines academic study with extensive practical music-making. There are three main components: Performing, Composing, and Listening.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Performing (30%) - you will perform one solo and one ensemble piece in Year 11. You can choose to do this performance on any instrument of your choice, or by singing. You do not need to continue the instrument you played at Key Stage 3, although many pupils do choose to do this.

Composing (30%) - you will compose two pieces of music in a style of your own choice. Many pupils write pop songs, film music, or more traditional music for their own instrument.

Listening (40%) - you will study 8 pieces of music, and answer questions about these pieces in a written examination of 1 hour 45 minutes at the end of the course. These pieces include the Star Wars film soundtrack, songs from Wicked, and Killer Queen.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In order to study this subject it would help if you:
 - Have instrumental or singing lessons and be committed to practicing and performing regularly
 - Be able to read music at a basic level
 - Have an interest in music of lots of different styles
 - Join at least one of the extracurricular ensembles in the music department
- A qualification in music can lead to a whole range of exciting careers! As well as being a professional performing musician or composer, you could also go into the following careers with a degree in music:
 - Music Therapist
 - Sound Technician / Recording Engineer
 - Arts Administrator
 - Events Organiser
 - Radio Producer
- Universities also really value music qualifications; it shows that you have an interest outside of more academic subjects that is very attractive to universities and employers

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Miss S Caffull (Head of Music)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

This is an optional subject which is offered in addition to compulsory Physical Education. The course will enable students to further their understanding of the subject through application. Students will be encouraged to engage in physical activity and sport by contextualising the theory and applying their knowledge to their practical performance. Students will receive a well-rounded and full introduction to the world of PE, sport and sport science by developing an understanding of how the mind and body work in relation to performance in physical activity.

The Theory of Physical Education (60%)	
Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems	Component 2: Health and Performance
Applied Anatomy & Physiology Movement Analysis Physical Training Use of data	Health, Fitness and Wellbeing Sport Psychology Socio Cultural Influences Use of Data

Performance in Physical Education (40%)	
Component 3: Practical Performance (30%)	Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) (10%)
One team activity, one individual activity and a free choice from the list published by the DFE Skills in isolation Skills in competitive/ formal situation	Aim and planning analysis Carrying out and monitoring the PEP Evaluation of the PEP

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed in three practical performances, a Personal Exercise Programme (PEP) and two externally examined papers. The papers have a range of question types - multiple choice, short answer, and extended answer questions which are accessible to candidates of all abilities.

Component 1: 1 hour 45 minute written examination (90 marks)

Component 2: 1 hour 15 minute written examination (70 marks)

Component 3: Internally marked and externally moderated. (35 marks per activity)

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs C Brown (2nd in PE)

PRODUCT DESIGN

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

Product Design affects everyone and at every stage in our lives and Great Britain has a worldwide reputation for nurturing some of the best designers in the world. Many of these designers start by studying Design Technology at school. At present the design world and industry are crying out for young designers and can offer promising and rewarding careers.

The course is intended to develop your understanding of design through a range of practical design and make projects. The sustainability of products and manufacturing in the real world is also an important consideration. Workshops with local designers and Product Design companies are also included.

Understanding and applying iterative design processes, students will use their creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes solving real problems covering the needs and wants of themselves and other people. Students are encouraged to experiment with a range of materials and manufacturing processes using both hand skills and CAD / CAM.

SUBJECT CONTENT:

- Core technical principles
- Specialist technical principles
- Designing and making principles

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

The course consists of two parts:

Part 1: Written 2 hour Exam, 100 marks, 50% of the GCSE covering the above three sections

Part 2: Non-Exam Assessment. Coursework solving a task through investigation, designing and making. Portfolio and practical based, 30 – 35 hours, 100 marks, 50% of the GCSE.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Product Design could take you into a number of career paths. Of course there's product or automotive design. But what about computer generated cartoons? Or maybe CAD if industry appeals to you more? This course could take you into architecture, teaching, manufacturing, advertising or engineering.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs J Jennings (Head of Technology – Product Design)

TEXTILES DESIGN

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY?

The Textile design course investigates the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles that might have a functional or non- functional purpose. Areas of study could include art textiles, costume design, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles, surface pattern, stitched and embellished textiles, soft furnishing, digital textiles, fashion design illustration.

HOW WILL YOU BE ASSESSED?

Component 1: Portfolio

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

96 marks, 60% of the GCSE

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.

Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time.

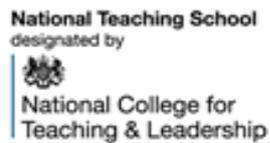
96 marks, 40% of the GCSE

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from Mrs A Wood (Head of Art)



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