



**BLESSED
TRINITY
RC COLLEGE**

**YEAR 9
OPTIONS
2019**

**A Guide for
Pupils and Parents**

Overview of Key Stage 4 Options 2019

Welcome to the start of your Option Process. It is a very exciting time, as you are given more choices about the courses you want to follow in Years 10 and 11. However, with so many courses to think about and understanding the need to keep your options open with regards to your Post-16 opportunities, it can also seem a little daunting. Please remember that we are here to guide you every step of the way. So, let's start with a reminder of the key facts.

Compulsory Key Stage 4 Courses

These are the subjects which all pupils study in Years 10 and 11.

- GCSE Religious Studies
- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science

GCSE Science leads to one of two sets of qualifications:

- Triple Science Award, where you study for 3 separated GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- Combined Science GCSE, where you study Biology, Chemistry and Physics but receive a combined qualification equivalent to 2 GCSEs

The Science qualification you study is determined by the Science set you are in.

In addition to these GCSE subjects, all pupils continue to have core PE lessons, which are not examined.

Optional Key Stage 4 Courses

The majority of pupils now have to choose 3 additional subject to study. At this point we ask you to think carefully about the Key Stage 4 Pathway which best suits you and your future plans. There are two main pathways to consider:

- **The Ebacc Pathway** - a pathway to Post 16 options and all Universities
- **Core Pathway** - a pathway to Post 16 options and many Universities

The Ebacc Pathway

The EBacc (English Baccalaureate) describes a set of GCSE qualifications that include pass grades in:

- English (English Language **or** Literature)
- Mathematics
- 2 Sciences (GCSE Sciences **or** Computer Science)
- 1 Humanity (Geography **or** History)
- 1 Language

So if you decide that the Ebacc Pathway is the best one for you then your Options will be made up of:

- 1 Humanity
- 1 Language
- 1 Other Option

The Core Pathway

On the Core Pathway you must select ONE EBacc subject, that means ONE of the following:

- Computer Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Polish

So if you that decide the Core Pathway is the best one for you, then your Options will be made up of:

- 1 EBacc Subject
- 2 Other Options

Why are EBacc subjects important?

The study of EBacc subjects will be challenging for some pupils, but your efforts are rewarded by the high status of these subjects when it comes to choices for Post-16 courses and University. Research from the Institute of Education (2017) concluded that pupils aiming to progress to University are always well-served by these more traditional subjects. Their findings included the observation that, “**top universities** appear to prioritise those taking the **sciences, maths or languages**”. In addition, even when pupils intended to study vocational courses at University such as Law, Business or Accountancy, the survey found that there was little advantage to studying these courses at secondary, “they would be better off choosing core subjects ...such as **maths, science and history**”

At Blessed Trinity, we promote the study of EBacc subjects at GCSE so that you keep your options open for Post-16 choices and, if you choose, are able to compete nationally for the top University places and jobs. We shall also recommend a pathway to you. However, we know that Options choices are unique for each and every pupil and so this year we are allowing you to choose which of the two pathways is the best one for you. We will offer guidance and support you to be ambitious with your choices and goals, but ultimately you will decide.

- **Future Successes Pathway**

The Future Successes Pathway is our third pathway. We offer this route to a small group of pupils on an invitation only basis. On this pathway, pupils study the compulsory GCSE courses of RE, English, Maths and Science. Their Options however are very different and combine work experience with a range of vocational qualifications and leadership qualifications.

Optional Subjects 2019

There are a wide range of Optional Subjects to choose from. These will run in response to pupil demand. Here are your choices, sorted into GCSE and non-GCSE groups

GCSE

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Computing
- Art
- Photography
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Sociology
- Design and Technology
- PE

Non-GCSE

- Music Technology
- ICT
- Digital Art
- Health & Social Care
- Hospitality & Catering

GCSE and non-GCSE

GCSE and non-GCSE subjects carry equal weight in terms of points for progression to Post 16 and Higher Education. What is different is the style of assessment and learning involved in the course. All GCSE courses will have a minimum of 40% assessed by an external examination and many now have 100% assessment by written examination. Non-GCSE courses generally have a lower emphasis on written examinations and are suited to those who enjoy more continual assessment such as coursework and portfolio work. However, it will vary depending on the subject you choose so do talk carefully to you teachers about what is involved.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT

WHICH SUBJECTS DO YOU LIKE?

The advice from most experts is that your first option choice should be a subject you really enjoy and feel enthusiastic about studying.

WHICH SUBJECTS ARE YOU BEST AT?

You should pick subjects that will enable you to get good grades. Higher grades will always give you a wider range of choices when you move into Post 16 Education or training. So it is essential that you consider your Full Written Report and your Progress Report when you make your choices

WHICH SUBJECTS DO YOU NEED?

Have you any idea of a possible career? If so, you may need certain subjects as qualifications. Look into this with the support of the school careers advisor. If you are not sure about careers at this stage, then the best advice is to keep your options open. EBacc subjects, or a choice of subjects from a range of different areas, will serve you well.

WHAT ABOUT NEW SUBJECTS?

You will find that you have already studied many of the optional subjects during your first three years at school. There are, however, a number of new subjects available to you. Start researching these now by reading the information about new courses in this booklet. It's also essential to talk to your teachers about the new courses on offer.

WHAT SKILLS DO I NEED?

Different subjects help to develop different skills. That is why it is so important to do a mix of subjects. Employers and Colleges repeatedly ask for a wide skills base and some academic routes can require the 'English Baccalaureate', explained on the next page in more detail.

GETTING WHAT YOU WANT

Whilst we will strive to give everyone their first **three** choices in the Option process, this may not always be possible. For this reason, the Option form will ask pupils to select **six** subjects in rank order of preference.

The final pages of the booklet cover details about all the Key Stage 4 courses on offer and which teacher to contact if you want further information.

CORE SUBJECTS

SUBJECT

E-MAIL CONTACT

Religious Education

rkeighley@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

English

jhartley@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Mathematics

mgeoghegan@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Science

jtuohy@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Physical Education

nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

Religious Studies

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

All pupils will study for the EDUQAS Religious Studies GCSE (Route B) which aims to:

- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- Develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of religious beliefs, teachings, practices, and sources of wisdom and authority, including through their reading of key religious texts, other texts, and scriptures of Catholic Christianity and Judaism
- Develops pupils' ability to construct well-argued, well-informed, balanced and structured written arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of the subject
- Provides opportunities for pupils to engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life
- Challenges pupils to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contributes to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community.

Following this specification will enable pupils to:

Deepen their understanding of the relationship between people

Become informed about common and divergent views within traditions in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fact that religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian

Understand that religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse and include the following religions: Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, as well as non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism.

Assessment

All Pupils will study 3 Units:

Foundational Catholic Theology, topics include; Origins and Meanings and Good and Evil- This will be assessed with an external examination and will be worth 37.5% of the overall grade.

Applied Catholic Theology, topics include; "Life and Death" and "Sin and Forgiveness" - This will be assessed with an external examination and will be worth 37.5% of the overall grade.

A Study of Judaism, topics include; "Beliefs and Teachings" and "Practices" – This will be assessed with an external examination and will be worth 25% of the overall grade.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A/Degree Level Religious Studies, Priesthood, Religious Life, Police Force, Banking, Teaching, Social Services, Medicine, Caring Professions.

English Language and Literature

2 GCSEs

Subject Information

All pupils will follow two syllabi covering WJEC EDUQAS English Language and AQA English Literature, leading to the award of two GCSEs.

Pupils will study a wide range of materials including both non-fiction and fiction texts. Opportunities will be provided for pupils to respond creatively, as well as in response to information and ideas. Additionally, pupils will undertake a formal speech using spoken language.

The study of Literature will involve a wide range of texts covering a Shakespearean play, prose from the 19th Century, a modern text and poetry (seen and unseen).

EDUQAS English Language covers:

Component 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 40% of qualification.

Section A (20%) – Reading. Understanding of one prose extract (about 60-100 lines) of literature from the 20th century assessed through a range of structured questions.

Section B (20%) – Prose Writing. One creative writing task selected from a choice of four titles.

Component 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing

Written examination: 2 hours 60% of qualification.

Section A (30%) – Reading. Understanding of two extracts (about 900-1200 words in total) of high-quality non-fiction writing, one from the 19th century, the other from the 21st Century, assessed through a range of structured questions.

Section B (30%) – Writing. Two compulsory transactional/persuasive writing tasks.

Component 3: Spoken Language. A non-exam assessment (unweighted).

One presentation/speech, including responses to questions and feedback. Achievement in Spoken Language will be reported as part of the qualification, but it will not form part of the final mark and grade.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

English G.C.S.E Language and Literature are vital to all careers.

Higher level grades give a foundation to study AS/A Level English Language and Literature.

Mathematics

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

The Mathematics GCSE course aims to cover a broad, coherent and worthwhile course of study.

This should help to:

develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards mathematics.
to appreciate the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society.
to improve their capability in the management of money.
make informed decisions about the use of technology in mathematics
prepare for further learning opportunities and career choices.

Pupils will be given the opportunity to work independently and in groups throughout the course. Emphasis will be given to their ability to communicate ideas and decisions clearly and concisely. Pupils will learn how to apply their mathematics to solve problems which may be unfamiliar or set in real world contexts.

GCSE Syllabus Content

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 follow the Edexcel Specification in Mathematics. The full course consists of 5 strands:

Number

Geometry & Measures

Algebra

Statistics & Probability

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of change

Assessment

Our Edexcel GCSE in Mathematics (9-1) will be assessed through three equally weighted written exam papers across two tiers.

FOUNDATION tier Grades 1-5

HIGHER tier Grades 4-9

Paper 1:

Written paper (Non-calculator) 33.3% of total assessment - 1 hour 30 paper - 80marks

Paper 2:

Written paper (Calculator) 33.3% of total assessment - 1 hour 30 paper - 80 marks

Paper 3:

Written paper (Calculator) 33.3% of total assessment - 1 hour 30 - 80 marks

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A Mathematics GCSE is vital to all careers

Higher level grades give a foundation to study AS/A Level Mathematics

Science

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy – 2 GCSEs

OR

GCSE Triple Award –Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSE's)

Subject Information

Most pupils undertake AQA Combined Science Trilogy. The course consists of 6 teaching units:

- Biology unit 1 & 2
- Chemistry unit 1 & 2
- Physics unit 1 & 2.

These teaching units are assessed at the end of year 11 and account for 100% of the overall GCSE Science grade. Pupils must also complete 16 required practicals which are assessed as part of the final exam. Grade 9 - 1 are available to pupils.

Pupils will be set according to ability, Using test data and Key Stag 2 SATs results.

Pupils in set 1 may follow the Triple Science pathway. Pupils study three units of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and can attain a GCSE in each Science. Pupils must also complete 27 required practicals which are assessed as part of the final exams.

Assessment

See above

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level - Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental Science, Psychology, Geology
Vocational Courses - Hairdressing, Laboratory Technician, Engineering etc

Physical Education KS4

Physical Education is a compulsory part of the National Curriculum throughout Key Stage 4.

In core PE pupils will learn about:

The importance of leading an active and healthy lifestyle whilst gaining the confidence and independence to manage and organise their own activities.
Skills, tactics and officiating in games, athletics, fitness and gymnastic activities.
How to improve personal fitness.
How to improve communication, organisational, problem solving and evaluating skills

In core PE pupils will learn by:

Practically participating in a variety of individual and team activities.
Increasingly becoming more independent and planning and organising competitions and tournaments
Taking on different roles such as officials, organisers and coaches

In core PE there is no external assessment.

Core PE will provide pupils with the experience, confidence and understanding to become a life-long participant in physical activity.
It will provide pupils with the knowledge and understanding of how to access and become involved in a number of different activities.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

SUBJECT

E-MAIL CONTACT

Computer Science	<u>cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Dance	<u>rwright@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Design & Technology	<u>alee@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Digital Art	<u>cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Drama	<u>rwright@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Fine Art	<u>sfox-kirk@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
French	<u>kmercer@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Geography	<u>amawson@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Health & Social Care	<u>rparveen@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
History	<u>cvoase@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Hospitality & Catering	<u>cgreen@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
ICT	<u>cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Music	<u>bmcardle@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Music Technology	<u>bmcardle@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Photography	<u>kpalich@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Physical Education	<u>nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Sociology	<u>amawson@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Spanish	<u>kmercer@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>

Computer Science

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Computers are everywhere and programming is at the heart of all computer based technology, this course offers pupils the opportunity to study how computer systems work, how networks communicate and understand what happens 'behind the scenes' with computer programming. It gives pupils the skills to be able to solve problems using a computer which many pupils find absorbing and engaging. It is an Ebacc subject and highly valued in the work place leading to many highly paid careers with skills in high demand globally.

It is the best option for pupils wanted to go into Engineering, Software, Games development, system analyst, system administration, network engineer, telecoms engineering, cyber security, and many more.

Topics of study include:

Theory (50%) - Exam

- ◇ Fundamentals of a computer
- ◇ Computing Hardware
- ◇ Software
- ◇ Representation of data in computer systems
- ◇ Databases
- ◇ Communications and networking
- ◇ Programming

Computational Thinking (50%) - Exam

- ◇ Pupils are given real world problems to solve and have to use logic and computational algorithms to solve them
- ◇ Flowcharts and pseudocode are used
- ◇ Highly valued software engineering discipline

Programming Skills

- ◇ Pupils must solve a given problems by using computing programming solutions.
- ◇ They will use python software to solve a exam board given problem
- ◇ This will be coursework done in class

Assessment

Course work – 60% (30% practical investigation, 30% programming project)
Examination - 40%

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A-Level Computing Level 3 programming courses

Gaming industry, computer programmer, cyber security, software developer, systems engineer.

Dance

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Why choose GCSE Dance?

In the course you will learn to perform, choreograph and analyse dance. As a performer, you will develop confidence and self-esteem, as well as sensitivity to others and team working skills. As a choreographer, you will use the skills of creativity and problem solving to come up with some imaginative ideas for dances. As a critic, you will be able to make informed decisions about the dances you see.

By opting for GCSE Dance, you will be taking part in a physical activity that promotes fitness and wellbeing. You will find that by studying dance you will improve your creative skills as well as physical skills - that is what makes dance unique!

Course content

1. Performance
2. Choreography
3. Dance appreciation

Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Performance- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration).

Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes in duration)

Choreography- Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes)

Component 2: Dance Analysis

Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills

Critical appreciation of own work

Critical appreciation of professional works

Assessment

Component 1-Performance 30% Choreography 30% internally marked and externally moderated
Component 2-Written exam 1hour 30 minutes 40%

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level Dance, AS/A Level Performing Arts, BTEC National Certificate/Diploma in Performing Arts, Creative and Media Diplomas

Design and Technology

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare pupils to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Pupils will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Our GCSE requires pupils to study a wide range of material outcomes, but then gives the opportunity to study a specialist technical principle in greater depth by choosing a material area of expertise – these include:

- Timbers and manufactured boards
- Metal
- Plastics
- Paper and card
- Concrete
- Textiles

These material areas can cover a broad range of design topics such as:

- Product designing in any material area to fulfil a contextual design challenge
- Mini projects on jewellery making
- Mini projects on casting and moulding in concrete.
- Mini projects with regards to producing garments, embellishing garments and producing fabric.
- Use of CAD/CAM equipment such as laser cutters and 3D printers.

What's assessed?

Non Exam Assessment (NEA) = 50% of GCSE

Pupils will be given a contextual design challenge in which they must develop their own design brief and context. Pupils must then apply their material knowledge and designing and making skills to develop and test a fully functional prototype that fulfils their design problem. This will require pupils to conduct independent research, develop, design, manufacture and test their product with confidence. The time allowed for NEA is 30-35 hours.

External Exam assessment = 50% of GCSE

Written exam: 2 hours

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical principles.

Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks)

A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Pupils can complete A Levels, BTECs and foundation courses in all specialist areas of Design and Technology. Career options include: fashion, engineering, design, architecture, construction, interior design, project development, advertising, creative arts, project managing.

Digital Art

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Creative iMedia

Subject Information

Digital Media is a key part of many areas of our everyday lives and vital to the UK economy. Production of digital media products is a requirement of almost every business so there is huge demand for a skilled and digitally literate workforce. This qualification will help pupils develop specific and transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts. The qualification's hands-on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

This course includes two compulsory units and additional optional units. The two compulsory units include an exam and a unit on creating digital graphics.

Assessment

25% Exam

75% Coursework

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

OCR nationals Level 3, A-Level ICT, A-Level Art

Gaming industry, office work, graphic designer, web design, animation industry, TV, media, graphic design, advertising, marketing

Drama

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Drama GCSE is for those pupils who want to study a subject that is both practical and creative. Candidates must be committed, enthusiastic and enjoy working as part of a team, as Drama involves a lot of group work. Pupils will have many opportunities to develop their confidence and presentation skills and will experience live theatre as part of this programme. The programme will develop acting techniques, whilst learning about aspects of technical theatre.

Course content

Component 1: Understanding drama

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

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

Process of creating devised drama
Performance of devised drama (pupils may contribute as performer or designer)
Analysis and evaluation of own work

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)

Performance of two extracts from one play (pupils may contribute as performer or designer)

Assessment

Component 1: Understanding drama- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes 40% of GCSE

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)- Devising log (60 marks), Devised performance (20 marks) 40% of GCSE. This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)- Performance of Extract 1 (25 marks) and Extract 2 (25 marks) 20% of GCSE. This component is marked by AQA.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level in Drama and Theatre Studies, BTEC National Cert/Diploma in Performing Arts. Careers in the theatre, jobs e.g. retail, travel and tourism, sales/marketing.

Fine Art

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

The course will include a range of areas and approaches in Painting and Drawing. For example; oil pastel, chalk, ink, charcoal and modroc. It is important that the pupil enjoys experimenting and is keen to use a wide range of media.

Pupils will study the work of artists and designers from various periods and cultures and will demonstrate how their work has been influenced or inspired by such studies. The pupils will write about artists including their thoughts and feelings about the art work. In addition, they will analyse and evaluate their projects.

Observational drawing is of paramount importance as it is the building block of all project work. Pupils should be prepared to spend long periods of time working on detailed observational drawings. In addition, the pupils will research topics and themes in order to plan and develop projects.

They are expected to work independently and they should aim to produce original and personal outcomes.

Homework allows for the practice of skills and development of original ideas. This should be an enjoyable part of the course. A minimum of two hours Art homework per week is essential in order to complete all course work and gain access to the higher grades.

Why study Art and Design?

Art and Design enables the pupils to use their imagination and express their feelings and ideas in a dynamic manner.

The pupil can use a wide range of media.

The satisfaction of developing observational drawing skills.

To be able to develop personal projects.

To learn about artists and to be inspired by them.

To prepare for a career in Art and Design.

Assessment

The scheme of assessment will comprise of:-

- Component 1 - Portfolio of work (course work) 60%
- Component 2 - Externally set assignment
(preparatory work and a 10 hour piece) 40%

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level and equivalent courses are available which can lead to Degrees in Fine Art, Art and Design, The History of Art, Architecture etc. Employment opportunities are varied.

French

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

All language courses require a disciplined approach and consistent hard work if success is to be achieved. A willingness to participate in oral work and a good memory are very important. GCSE French assesses four main skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The emphasis is on developing communication skills and understanding other cultures.

What sort of activities will I be doing in class?

Lessons will be similar to those in Years 7, 8 and 9 with listening, speaking, reading and writing tasks, pair work or group work. The work will be divided into topic areas - Identity and Culture, Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest, Current and Future Study and Employment.

What will the final examination be like?

There are final examinations in each of the skills, weighted as follows:

Listening	-	25%	Speaking	-	25%
Reading	-	25%	Writing	-	25%

For the **Speaking Exam**, there will be a final speaking exam involving role play and general conversation. The test will last up to 12 minutes.

For the **Writing Exam**, there will be a final written exam lasting up to 1 hour 15 minutes. You will be required to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

For the **Listening Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 45 minutes. You will be required to understand and respond to different types of spoken language

For the **Reading Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 60 minutes. You will be required to respond in French and English, to different types of written language.

Look to the future!

Studying Languages enables you to enjoy the advantages of gaining qualifications in subjects respected by all educational institutions, and also to become proficient in a very practical skill. Having a qualification in a foreign language (or even two!) is very impressive when filling in application forms.

A GCSE Language is an essential component of the English Baccalaureate. Languages are becoming more and more important and not just in careers such as teaching or translating. They can be used in many different jobs such as work in Travel & Tourism, Journalism, Football, Police, Hairdressing, Law, Medicine, Sales and so on. The list is endless. And what's more - research has discovered that employees who can speak another language at work earn between 8 –10% more than their colleagues. Research has also found that people who can speak a foreign language use more of their brain than those who don't!

To find out more about how languages can work for you, talk to your French teacher or visit: www.whystudylanguages.ac.uk

Assessment

GCSE (AQA) See above

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A GCSE in MFL is an advantage when applying for numerous degree courses including: Law, Medicine, Engineering, Politics and of course European Studies. It is also an essential qualification for the English Baccalaureate.

Geography

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Geography is a popular and relevant subject which studies the physical environment in which we live and the varied human interactions with this environment. Such a people-environment theme has been adopted throughout the geography specification to highlight the importance of this interaction in our ever changing and developing world.

The course delivers a sound understanding to the pupils of geographical themes, issues and skills. Case studies and examples are studied throughout the course at a variety of scales and in differing environments in order to make the themes studied more meaningful and relevant.

What you will study:

Unit 1 Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazard

Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK

Section C: The living world

Unit 2 Challenges in the human environment

Section A: Urban issues and challenges

Section B: The changing economic world

Section C: The challenge of resource management

Unit 3 Geographical applications

Section A: Issue evaluation

Section B: Fieldwork

Geographical skills

3.4 Geographical skills

Assessment

Three written exams:

1.30 minutes Unit 1

1.30 minutes Unit 2

1 hour Unit 3

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A2 Level Geography, vocational/pre-vocation (i.e. Travel and Tourism) at post 16+, leading to higher education.

Careers in teaching, climatology, travel agent, town planning, research opportunities, the Environment Agency, and many, many more.

Health & Social Care

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care

BTEC Tech award in health and Social Care is a brand new level 2 qualification we have started teaching. The award gives pupils to develop sector specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The knowledge and skills gained are relevant and transferable to many sectors and not just a health and social care setting.

You will study

Human Lifespan Development

- **explore** how individuals develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually over time
- **investigate** how various factors, events and choices impact individuals' growth and development
- **discover** how people adapt to life events and cope with making changes.

Services and Values

- identify why people might need to use these services
- discover who's involved in providing these services
- explore what might stop people from accessing the services they need
- look at the care values the sector has to make sure people get the care and protection they need.

Health and Wellbeing

earn what 'being healthy' means to different people

- explore the different factors that might influence health and wellbeing
- identify key health indicators and how to interpret them
- assess an individual's health using what they've learned
- create a health and wellbeing improvement plan for that person, which includes targets and recommendations of support services available
- reflect on the potential challenges the person may face when putting the plan into action.

Assessment

Human Lifespan Development

- Internally assessed assignments
- 30% of the total course

Health and Social Care Services and Values

- Internally assessed assignments
- 30% of the total course

Health and Wellbeing

- Externally assessed task
- 40% of the total course

Post 16 courses/Career opportunities

A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects- study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Health and Social Care

History

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

Why study History?

Learn about people.

Find out about major events that have shaped your life. Train your mind for a wide variety of careers.

Develop insights into understanding people, and the world in which you live.

What do you do?

In Years 10 and 11 the periods you will study are wide and varied. Some of these areas could include:

American history, boom, bust and the modern revolution

The First World War

An overview of changes to a particular theme, for example, medicine through time, changes in power and the way the country is run

Elizabethan England, the power, the people, the plots and the scandals.

The wars in Korea and Vietnam and the impact they had on the countries involved.

How do you do History?

You will be encouraged to form your own opinions, based on facts, and put them forward in a convincing way.

You will be expected to write in various ways – from short answers and paragraphs to extended essays – about the topics you have studied. A number of the topics will be related to source material and will require you to make deductions from the evidence given and not just from memorised notes.

If you do all this, then History at GCSE develops a wealth of transferable skills which will be useful outside school and at work.

Assessment

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes containing a depth study (40 marks) and a period study (40 marks). This equates to 50% of the GCSE

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes containing a thematic (broad look at a long period) study (40 marks) and a British depth study (40 marks). This equates to 50% of the **GCSE**.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level History leading to a BA Degree. Careers in law, journalism, the civil service, teaching, the armed forces, banking and many more.

Hospitality & Catering

WJEC (Eduqas) Level 1 / Level 2 Hospitality and Catering Course Outline

What you will learn

The course has been designed to develop knowledge and understanding related to a range of topics including hygiene and safety, roles and responsibility of the EHO, food laws and regulations and food allergies and intolerances. You will also learn about the job roles in the hospitality and catering industry as well as the structure of the front and back of house in catering establishments.

There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, you will also develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem-solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

The course is split into two sections

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40% of overall grade)

External Exam

Duration: 90 minutes

Number of marks: 90

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action (60% of overall grade)

Internal Controlled Assessment totalling 9 hours and production of a portfolio of work

How you will be graded?

L1 Pass, L2 Pass, L2 Merit, L2 Distinction, L2 Distinction*

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Successful completion of this qualification could lead to a number of possibilities. There are many local colleges that provide advanced qualifications in food, catering and hospitality e.g. apprenticeships and Level 1 to 3 courses.

You could progress into careers like a chef, dietetics, health and social care, food technologist, nursing, food production and manufacture, nutritionist, hospitality, food product development and child care.

ICT

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

Subject Information

Data Manipulation and Project Management are vital skills for success in employment and higher education and are among the key transferable skills required by employers. This course in Information Technologies develops pupils understanding of these skills through the development of creative products to solve real world data problems. Taking this qualification will prepare your child for a career in a data driven future.

The qualification is made up of two units that everyone takes.

– Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions • Knowledge of hardware and software applications. • Data Manipulation tools and techniques. • Project Life Cycle • Risks, legal moral, ethical and security issues.

– Developing technological solutions • Focus on the use of skills to develop a creative technological solution to a real world problem. • Follow a project life cycle and demonstrate skills such as SWOT analysis, GANTT charts, data collection and presenting data. • Use hardware and software to create an integrated technological solution.

Assessment

25% Exam

75% Coursework

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

OCR nationals Level 3, A-Level ICT, A-Level Computing.

Gaming industry, office work, graphic designer, web design, animation industry, computer programmer, data manager, IT technician, marketing

Music Technology

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Music

Subject Information

Music Technology is an exciting course which allows pupils who enjoy music and the technology involved to learn more about the industry, the software involved and how to use it. Through class work and coursework you will develop independent thinking and group-work skills, be able to manage time more effectively and get experience in planning real life performances. You will create your own music using the Mac computers and record other pupils in the recording studio.

Course Content

There are four units to be studied. Unit 1 and 2 are compulsory units. Units 6 and 7 have been picked from an optional list to best suit the style of course and facilities available in school.

Unit 1: The Music Industry

This unit will allow you to gain a good understanding of the scope of the music industry with a view to getting work in and using the organisations that exist. You will investigate music organisations to find out about the work they do and how they relate to and rely on one another. You will also be given the opportunity to find out about the people who work in these organisations, from performers to people who work in technical, production and administrative roles.

This unit is worth 25% of the course and is assessed through a 1-hour exam.

Unit 2: Managing a Music Product

This unit will enable you to manage the planning, delivery and promotion of a live concert, CD, or other music product. The success of your music product will rely heavily on the planning and development process. It is important that different types of audience are understood and successful promotion is able to effectively engage these audiences. Your research should introduce you to elements of industry practice.

This unit is worth 25% of the course and is assessed through coursework.

Unit 6: Introducing Music Recording

You will record from audio sources such as acoustic instruments, amplified instruments, electronic instruments and vocals. You will learn how to control the input signals from real sound sources using gain and microphone placement. Once the tracks have been recorded successfully, you will mix these sounds together into a finished recording using some basic processing such as reverb, chorus and EQ.

This unit is worth 25% of the course and is assessed through coursework.

Unit 7: Introducing Music Sequencing

You will learn how software is now capable of producing high-quality music that even recently was only possible with large and expensive hardware-based systems. For instance, mobile devices contain more powerful music creation software than was commercially available even a decade ago. You will learn how to create music using a variety of sources, including loops and software instruments. You will edit your music by the application of different processes such as quantisation, looping and note editing, and enhance the sound by the addition of appropriate plug-in effects such as reverb, delay and distortion.

This unit is worth 25% of the course and is assessed through coursework.

Post-16 course/Career opportunities

A Level and BTEC Level 3 courses are available in Music, Music Technology, Performing Arts and Popular Music. These can lead onto a wide variety of degree courses. Employment opportunities are extensive, particularly helped through the 'The Music Industry' unit.

Photography

Subject Information

The course will include a range of areas and approaches in Photography. For example; portraiture, location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, documentary photography, photo-journalism and fashion photography.

Throughout the course, pupils will learn about a variety of photographic media, techniques and processes. They will also use computers for Photoshop and Digital Media, utilising these techniques and equipment, to make brilliant images. Sketchpads and workbooks will demonstrate all practical learning, ideas development and critical analysis.

Pupils will study the work of artists and photographers from various periods and cultures and will demonstrate how their work has been influenced or inspired by such studies. The pupils will annotate their work and ideas by adding their thoughts and feelings about their photographs. In addition, they will analyse and evaluate their projects.

Pupils will be using a SLR digital camera to ensure they have the best quality photographs. Although there is no formal requirement to have studied Photography before embarking on a GCSE course, it helps to have an interest in the subject. (Pupils will not be required to purchase their own camera).

Homework allows for the practice of skills and development of original ideas. This should be an enjoyable part of the course. A minimum of two hours Art homework per week is essential in order to complete all course work and gain access to the higher grades.

Why study Photography?

Photography jobs are as vast as the medium is visible in the world. This course will make pupils great creative thinkers and they will be able to construct photographic images so that they contain high visual appeal. In this way they will be able to carve out their desired career in photography.

It enables the pupils to use their imagination and express their feelings and ideas in a dynamic manner.

To be able to develop personal projects.

To learn about photographers and designers and to be inspired by them.

Assessment

The scheme of assessment will comprise of:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| a) Component 1 - Portfolio of work (course work) | 60% |
| b) Component 2 - Externally set assignment
(preparatory work and a 10 hour piece) | 40% |

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level and equivalent courses are available which can lead to Degrees in Photography, Art and Design, Graphic design, Architecture etc. Employment opportunities are varied. Careers in photography include Art careers, Advertising, Commercial work, Editorial, Fashion, Film, Food, Forensic, Industrial, Architectural, Ariel, Portraiture and Wedding photography, Sports and Travel etc. Photographs are visible everywhere because we love the photographic representation of ourselves and our world and therefore there is a huge market for photographic work.

Physical Education

Single Award - 1 GCSE - Edexcel Board

Subject Information

This GCSE in Physical Education will equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Pupils will also gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and wellbeing.

Pupils selecting this subject need to be performing to a good level in at least two practical activities, be committed to attending extra-curricular activities and the ability to learn and apply theoretical concepts.

GCSE Physical Education consists of two externally-examined papers (60%) and two non-examined assessment components. (40%).

Component 1: Fitness and Body Systems - Written examination - Paper 1

Topic 1: Applied anatomy and physiology

Topic 2: Movement analysis

Topic 3: Physical Training

Topic 4: Use of data

Component 2: Health and Performance - Written examination - Paper 2

Topic 1: Health, fitness and well being

Topic 2: Sport psychology

Topic 3: Socio - cultural influences

Topic 4: Use of data

Component 3: Practical Performance – internally marked and externally moderated

Three physical activities from a set list

One must be a **team** activity

One must be an **individual** activity

Component 4: Personal Exercise Programme - internally marked and externally moderated

Aim and planning analysis

Carrying out and monitoring the PEP

Evaluation of the PEP

Assessment

Two written examinations – 60% of GCSE Full Course.

Multiple choice, short answer questions and extended writing questions.

Paper 1 - Fitness and Body Systems - 1 hour and 45 minutes

Paper 2 - Health and Performance - 1 hour and 15 minutes

Two non-examined assessments - 40% of GCSE Full Course

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A Level Sports Studies; BTEC Nationals; Diplomas in Sport and Recreation Careers in the Armed Services, Police, PE Teaching, Sports Journalism, Coaching, the Leisure Industry.

Sociology

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

What is GCSE Sociology?

Have you ever wondered:

- Why some people commit crimes?
- Why girls do better than boys in education?
- What effect violence on TV has on us?
- Where all those statistics on the news come from?

If so, then Sociology is the subject for you. Put simply, Sociology tries to understand society and our place in it. We are all brought up in some kind of family, all go through education, and are all influenced by the society around us.

Subject Content

1. The sociological approach
2. Social structures, social processes and social issues
3. Families
4. Education
5. Crime and deviance
6. Social stratification
7. Sociological research methods

Assessment

Pupils sit two exams at the end of Year 11:

Unit 1 exam

The sociology of families

The sociology of education

Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Unit 2 exam

The sociology of Crime and Deviance

The sociology of Stratification

Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Both exams last 1 hour and 45 minutes and all pupils will sit the same exam.

The exams are worth a total of 100% of the final GCSE mark.

There is no coursework.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Sociology is widely acknowledged as an academic subject and will be an asset for many professional or career choices, including entry into Higher Education.

Spanish

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

All language courses require a disciplined approach and consistent hard work if success is to be achieved. A willingness to participate in oral work and a good memory are very important. GCSE Spanish contains four main skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The emphasis is on developing communication skills and understanding other cultures.

What sort of activities will I be doing in class?

Lessons will be similar to those in Years 7, 8 and 9 with listening, speaking, reading and writing tasks, pair work or group work. The work will be divided into topic areas— Identity and Culture, Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest, Current and Future Study and Employment.

What will the final examination be like?

There are final examinations in each of the skills, weighted as follows:

Listening	-	25%	Speaking	-	25%
Reading	-	25%	Writing	-	25%

For the **Speaking Exam**, there will be a final speaking exam involving role play and general conversation. The test will last up to 12 minutes.

For the **Writing Exam**, there will be a final written exam lasting up to 1 hour 15 minutes. You will be required to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes

For the **Listening Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 45 minutes. You will be required to understand and respond to different types of spoken language

For the **Reading Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 60 minutes. You will be required to respond in Spanish and English, to different types of written language.

Look to the future!

Studying Languages enables you to enjoy the advantages of gaining qualifications in subjects respected by all educational institutions, and also to become proficient in a very practical skill. Having a qualification in a foreign language (or even two!) is very impressive when filling in application forms.

A GCSE Language is an essential component of the English Baccalaureate. Languages are becoming more and more important and not just in careers such as teaching or translating. They can be used in many different jobs such as work in Travel & Tourism, Journalism, Football, Police, Hairdressing, Law, Medicine, Sales and so on. The list is endless. And what's more - research has discovered that employees who can speak another language at work earn between 8–10% more than their colleagues. Research has also found that people who can speak a foreign language use more of their brain than those who don't!

Assessment

GCSE (AQA) See above

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A GCSE in MFL is an advantage when applying for numerous degree courses including: Law, Medicine, Engineering, Politics and of course European Studies. It is also an essential qualification for the English Baccalaureate.

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Love God
Serve others
Work hard
Value all