



**BLESSED
TRINITY
RC COLLEGE**

YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2024

**A Guide for
Pupils and Parents**

Overview of Key Stage 4 Options 2024

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.

What does Key stage 4 look like?

Compulsory subjects	Optional subjects
32 lessons per fortnight are taken up with the compulsory subjects. All pupils study: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- English Language- English Literature- Mathematics- Science- Religious Studies- <i>PE – not examined</i> Compulsory subjects lead to 6 GCSEs for most pupils	18 lessons per fortnight are spent in your three optional subjects. These are the subject you have some choice about Optional subjects lead to 3 qualifications for most pupils

Compulsory Key Stage 4 Courses

In Years 10 and 11, all pupils study

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

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

*GCSE Science has 2 routes.

Most of our pupils take a Combined Science route (equivalent to 2 GCSEs) but our keenest scientists can also opt to take Triple Science and study for 3 separate science GCSE. Please your science teacher if you think that Triple Science might be an option for you.

Optional Key Stage 4 Courses

The majority of pupils choose 3 additional subjects to study. On page 6 you will find our options blocks and you now have to choose one subject from each block

We ask you to think carefully about which combinations of subjects will best suit your future plans and ambitions. There are two combinations to consider and they both require pupils to choose one or more EBacc subjects.

The EBacc Combination

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers.

The EBacc is:

- English language and literature
- Maths
- The Sciences
- Geography or History
- A language

The Core Combination

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

- Computer science
- Triple science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Other language

In terms of your choices, this means the following

Your optional choices	Ebacc	Core
1	Geography or History	Any Ebacc subject
2	Language	Free choice
3	Free choice	Free choice

Why are EBacc subjects important?

The government's ambition is to see 75% of pupils studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2022 and 90% by 2025. Here are some of the reasons why they think that this is important for your future.

- The EBacc is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors
- Research shows that the subjects pupil choose at GCSE determines their opportunities beyond school
- A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides pupils with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education.

Source: Department for Education (updated August 2019)

At Blessed Trinity, to reflect these principles of ambition and opportunity, we require 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.

• **Does everyone have to choose their 3 subjects in this way?**

A small number of pupils may be guided to choose optional subjects slightly differently. This included pupils:

- Recommended to follow the Future Successes Pathway
- OR
- Recommended to spend extra time in Key Stage 4 securing English and maths
- OR
- Who are able to study for an additional language

If you receive either of these recommendations then we shall give you further details about what is involved and how it affects your choices.

Subjects 2024

There are a wide range of optional subjects to choose from, which will be organised into blocks on the next page.

GCSE

- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Computer Science
- Triple Science
- Fine Art
- Photography
- Dance
- Drama
- Music
- Sociology
- Design and Technology
- Physical Education (GCSE)

Vocational

- Music Technology (NCFE)
- IT (Cambridge National)
- Health & Social Care (BTEC)
- Hospitality & Catering (WJEC)
- Sport and Coaching Principles (WJEC)

What are GCSE and Vocational subjects?

GCSE and Vocational 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. Vocational 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.

OPTION BLOCKS FOR 2024

Your online option form will ask you to pick one subjects from each of the following blocks.

Block 1	Block 2	Block 3
Computer Science	Computer Science	Computer Science
French	French	French
Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Triple science	Triple science	Triple science
	Fine art	Design & Technology
	Photography	Health & Social Care
	Design & Technology	Sociology
	Dance	Music GCSE
	Drama	Music Technology
	GCSE PE	GCSE PE
	Sport & Coaching principles	IT
	Hospitality & Catering	Hospitality & Catering
	Extra English & Maths	Extra English & Maths

You will also be asked to pick reserve subjects because it is not always possible to give every pupil their first three choices.

In 2024, the deadline for final choices is **Wednesday 27 March 2024**

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, look carefully at the subjects your teacher have recommended you for.

ARE THERE ANY SUBJECTS THAT 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 is 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 earlier in this booklet.

CORE SUBJECTS

<i>SUBJECT</i>	<i>CONTACT & EMAIL</i>
Religious Studies	Mrs R Thompson rthompson@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
English	Mr J Hartley jhartley@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Mathematics	Mr P Storah pstorah@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Science	Mrs H Hacking hhacking@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Physical Education	Mr N Stubbs 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.
- Explore religious teachings, practices and sources of wisdom and authority e.g. key texts
- Develop pupils' ability to put together well-informed and balanced written arguments.
- Provide opportunities for pupils to engage with important questions of belief and value, exploring the meaning and purpose of life.
- Challenge pupils to develop their own values and beliefs and help prepare them for adult life in a pluralistic society.

Assessment

The GCSE is assessed through three written examination papers:

Component 1: 1 hour 30 minutes: 37.5% of qualification

Component 2: 1 hour 30 minutes: 37.5% of qualification

Component 3: 1 hour: 25% of qualification

Component 1: Foundational Catholic Theology

- **Theme 1: Origins and Meaning;** explores religious and non-religious beliefs about the origins and value of the universe and human life.
- **Theme 2: Good and Evil;** consists of philosophical questions concerning the nature of good and evil and different religious answers to the problem of evil and suffering.

Component 2: Applied Catholic Theology

- **Theme 1: Life and Death:** explores beliefs about the nature of life and death.
- **Theme 2: Sin and Forgiveness:** consists of philosophical questions concerning the nature of criminality and the rationale for punishment. Questions relating to the justifiability of capital punishment.

Component 3: Study of a World Faith – Judaism

- **Theme 5: Jewish beliefs and teachings;** beliefs about God, Covenant, the Messiah, life on earth and the afterlife
- **Theme 6: Jewish practices;** worship in the synagogue and at home, rituals, daily life and festivals.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

AS/A/Degree Level Critical Thinking, Philosophy, Religious Studies, Ethics.
Advertising, Army, Caring Professions, Civil Service, Education, Human Resources, Law, Journalism, Media, Medicine, Police, Psychology, Publishing, Public Services, Social Services, Teaching, Tourism.

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.
- appreciate the importance of mathematics in their own lives and to society.
- improve their capability in the management of money.
- make informed decisions about the use of technology in mathematics and 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) is 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 minutes paper – 80 marks

Paper 2:

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

Paper 3:

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

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A Mathematics GCSE is vital for many lines of further study, including many not necessarily connected with the subject.

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

SCIENCE

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy – 2 GCSEs

All pupils have to complete Core Science. Pupils will have 9 lessons of Science over the 2-week timetable and will be taught on a half termly rotations. This means a different Science teacher depending upon their specialism will teach each half term pupils. Pupils can attain two GCSE's from Grade 9-1.

Assessment

Our AQA GCSE's in Science (9-1) are assessed through six equally weighted written exam papers across two tiers.

FOUNDATION tier Grades 1-5

HIGHER tier Grades 4-9

Paper 1:

Biology paper 1	– 16.6% of total assessment - 1 hour 15minutes – 70 marks
Chemistry paper 1	– 16.6% of total assessment - 1 hour 15 minutes – 70 marks
Physics paper 1	– 16.6% of total assessment - 1 hour 15 minutes – 70 marks

Paper 2:

Biology paper 2	– 16.6% of total assessment - 1 hour 15minutes – 70 marks
Chemistry paper 2	– 16.6% of total assessment - 1 hour 15 minutes – 70 marks
Physics paper 2	– 16.6% of total assessment - 1 hour 15 minutes – 70 marks

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

Pupils may choose the Triple Science pathway as an option subject, following a recommendation by their Science teacher and are on course to achieve a Grade 6 by the end of Year 9.

They will have 15 lessons of Science over the 2-week timetable and will have 3 specialist teachers. Pupils can attain 3 GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics from Grade 9-1.

Assessment

Our AQA GCSE's in Science (9-1) are assessed through six equally weighted written exam papers across two tiers.

Biology

Paper 1 – 50% of total assessment – 1 hour 45 minutes – 100 marks
Paper 2 – 50% of total assessment – 1 hour 45 minutes – 100 marks

Chemistry

Paper 1 – 50% of total assessment – 1 hour 45 minutes – 100 marks
Paper 2 – 50% of total assessment – 1 hour 45 minutes – 100 marks

Physics

Paper 1 – 50% of total assessment – 1 hour 45 minutes – 100 marks
Paper 2 – 50% of total assessment – 1 hour 45 minutes – 100 marks

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

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

Physical Education KS4

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

Core PE is highly valued area of the Key Stage 4 Curriculum and makes a significant contribution to each pupil's health, fitness and well-being.

There is no external assessment but pupils develop key skills such as leadership and teamwork which are extremely important in future employment and higher level study.

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

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

CONTACT & EMAIL

Computer Science	Mr C Blackburn	cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Dance	Mrs R Wright	rwright@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Design & Technology	Mr A Lee	alee@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Drama	Mrs R Wright	rwright@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Fine Art	Mrs K Palich	kpulich@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
French	Mrs K Mercer	kmercer@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Geography	Mr L Griffin	lgriffin@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Health & Social Care	Miss R Parveen	rparveen@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
History	Mr J Harwood	jharwood@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Hospitality & Catering	Mrs Z Mansfield	zmansfield@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
IT	Mr C Blackburn	cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Music	Mrs R Pagliuca	rpagliuca@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Music Technology	Mr R Hartnell	rhartnell@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Photography	Mrs K Palich	kpulich@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Physical Education (GCSE)	Mr N Stubbs	nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Sociology	Miss R Parveen	rparveen@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Spanish	Miss R Wiseman	rwiseman@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk
Sport and Coaching Principles	Mr N Stubbs	nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk

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.

Topics of study include:

Principles of Computer Science (50%) - Written exam

- Topic 1: Computational thinking - understanding of what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work; ability to follow, amend and write algorithms; ability to construct truth tables.
- Topic 2: Data - understanding of binary, data representation, data storage and compression.
- Topic 3: Computers – understanding of hardware and software components of computer systems and characteristics of programming languages.
- Topic 4: Networks – understanding of computer networks and network security.
- Topic 5: Issues and impact – awareness of emerging trends in computing technologies, and the impact of computing on individuals, society and the environment, including ethical, legal and ownership issues

Application of Computational thinking (50%) - Computer based python programming exam

- understanding what algorithms are, what they are used for and how they work in relation to creating programs
- understanding how to decompose and analyse problems
- ability to read, write, refine and evaluate programs

Assessment

Paper 1 – written exam (50%)

Paper 2 – computer based python programming exam (50%)

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

A Level Computing - Level 3 programming courses.

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

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:

- **Product Design**
 - Timbers and manufactured boards
 - Plastics
- **Graphics**
 - Paper and card
- **Textiles**
 - Natural and synthetic fibres and fabrics

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 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.

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 1 hour of 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
- explore artistic styles using a wide range of media
- develop observational drawing skills
- develop personal projects
- learn about artists and to be inspired by them
- lay the foundations for a career in Art and Design

Assessment

The scheme of assessment will comprise of:

- | | |
|---|-----|
| • Component 1 - Portfolio of work
(coursework) | 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 - **Theme 1:** People and lifestyle **Theme 2:** Popular culture **Theme 3:** Communication and the world around us.

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:

[Why study languages? - Association for Language Learning \(all-languages.org.uk\)](http://all-languages.org.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. The subject focuses on contemporary issues within both the natural and human world, and how these issues can relate to one another.

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, as well as building pupil's knowledge of the wider world.

What you will study (AQA Specification):

Unit 1 Living with the physical environment

Section A: The challenge of natural hazards

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

1.15 minutes 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 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

learn 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?

History is a popular GCSE option at Blessed Trinity and now more than ever we believe in the importance of learning from the past. Our specification enables our year 10 and year 11 pupils to study different aspects of the past so that they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understanding what drives change and how the past influences the present. Our topics are exciting and relevant to today's world, helping pupils to gain new insights into the world around them. A History GCSE will equip pupils with essential skills and prepare them for further study, including critical thinking skills, analysing sources and evidence, evaluation, and forming conclusions.

What do we study and how is it assessed?

Pupils will sit two exam papers at the end of the course. Paper One is about understanding the modern world, while Paper Two is about shaping Britain as a nation. Study for Paper One begins in Year 10 with a wider world depth study which looks at Conflict and Tension building towards and including the First World War. Secondly a period study in year 10 looks at democracy and dictatorship in Germany from 1890-1945. In Year 11 we conduct a thematic study which explores Health and The People from c.1000 to the modern day, before finishing with a British depth study of Elizabethan England, 1568-1603. Each of the exam papers is two hours long, and with only 10 questions on each, the exams place a heavy emphasis on being able to construct extended paragraphs and short essays using the skills and knowledge that have been gained throughout the two years of study.

What are your career and further study options?

Many industry leaders and leading political figures have studied history. The analytical skills of a historian are ideal preparation for a number of careers including business, law, accountancy, management, economics, politics, journalism, and many more. Universities and Colleges highly respect History as an academic subject and emphasise its value in their prospectuses.

What do we expect from you?

History pupils need to be committed to success and excited by the pursuit of knowledge. Pupils must be willing to be independent learners and engage in the processes of reflecting, self-reviewing, evaluating, and adjusting to different learning strategies throughout the course. Many questions in history don't have a single, simple answer, so it is key that pupils are able to explain their thinking clearly and support it with knowledge that they have gained during the course.

Assessment

Paper 1: 2 hours containing a depth study (40 marks) and a period study (40 marks). This equates to **50%** of the GCSE.

Paper 2: 2 hours 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: 80 minutes

Number of marks: 80

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

Internal Controlled Assessment totalling 12 hours, working from a brief to complete a portfolio of written work and the production of two dishes.

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.

IT

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

This course will encourage pupils to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of IT
- understand, apply and use IT appropriately and effectively for the purpose and audience
- develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the IT sector and more widely
- plan, design, create, test and evaluate/review IT solutions and products
- understand the impacts of digital technologies on the individual, organisation and wider society.

COURSE UNITS

IT in the digital world - Pupils will learn the theoretical knowledge and understanding to apply design tools for applications, principles of human computer interfaces and the use of data and testing in different contexts when creating IT solutions or products. Pupils will understand the uses of Internet of everything, cyber-security, IT system legislations and the different types of digital communication

Data manipulation using spreadsheets - Pupils will learn the skills to be able to plan and design a spreadsheet solution to meet client requirements. Pupils will be able to evaluate their solution based on the user requirements.

Using augmented reality to present information - Pupils will learn the purpose, use and types of augmented reality (AR) in different contexts and how they are used on different digital devices. They will develop the skills to be able to design and create an AR model prototype, using a range of tools and techniques. Pupils will also be able to test and review their AR model prototype.

Assessment

Unit	Weighting	
IT in the digital world	40%	Written paper
Data manipulation using spreadsheets	30%	Coursework tasks
Using augmented reality to present information	30%	Coursework tasks

Post-16 course/Career opportunities

The IT industry is vast and provides work for a wide range of people across sectors, from those working as freelance IT consultants, right through to those in large or specialist IT teams in multinational companies. Job roles frequently overlap across multiple sectors as there are common aspects to inputs, processing and outputs of IT systems which can be used in many ways, from supporting the planning, designing and implementation of services or products to enhancing our daily lives in the digital world.

Music

Single Award - 1 GCSE

Subject Information

GCSE Music is an exciting course which allows you, the musician, to develop your composition, performance, listening and appraising skills. Through class work and coursework, you will develop independent thinking skills, be able to manage time more effectively and be a team player in addition to becoming a more rounded musician.

The course is broken down into 3 areas:

	<u>Understanding Music</u>	<u>Performing Music</u>	<u>Composing Music</u>
What's assessed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listening • Contextual understanding 	Music performance	Composition
How it's assessed	Exam paper with listening exercises using excerpts of music	As an instrumentalist and/or vocalist	Written compositions
Questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: Listening (68 marks) • Section B: Contextual understanding (28 marks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance 1: Solo performance (36 marks) • Performance 2: Ensemble performance (36 marks) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Composition 1: Composition to a brief (36 marks) • Composition 2: Free composition (36 marks)
The exam	1 hour 30 minutes	Coursework	Coursework
Weighting	40% of the GCSE (96 marks in total)	30% of the GCSE (72 marks in total)	30% of the GCSE (72 marks in total)

Assessment		
Coursework - Performance		30%
Composition		30%
Exam		40%

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities AS/A Level equivalent 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.

Music Technology

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Music Technology

Subject Information

Music Technology is an exciting course which allows pupils to explore music and the technology industry. Pupils thrive during this course, as they create their own music using the Mac computers, record in the recording studio, learn how to mix, produce, and create sounds and many more. There is no required performance aspect to the course, but the skills and knowledge learnt in 7-9 will significantly help you.

Course Content and Assessment

There are **5 content areas** to the course, which is divided and learnt in the first year of the course.

Content area 1: Introduction to Music Technology and the music business.

This content area will be visited throughout the first year and you will gain an introduction to music technology and the music business. You will look at roles and responsibilities, the development of music technology, the music business, marketing, promotion and selling and distributing music.

Content area 2: The Digital Audio Workstation (DAW).

Pupils will be taught how to use music technology software, looking at both hardware components and software functions and creating audio using a DAW. Pupils will be taught how to edit, create, and mix using the Mac suits.

Content area 3: Musical elements, musical style and music technology.

Pupils will be taught the musical elements, including form, structure, melody, harmony, rhythm and instrumentation in a practical and engaging way. Pupils will engage in several musical styles and technologies.

Content area 4: Sound creation

Sound creation is a fantastic module which engage learners using many forms of media, from video games, to films and their underscores. Pupils look at sound effects, how they're created in media, and will chose their own moving image to add exciting and fun sound effects too. Pupils record, manipulate and create their own effects, and learn how to arrange and export them on the audio work station.

Content area 5: Multitrack recording

Pupils will look at how to record several different instruments at the same time using the appropriate equipment; PA systems, microphones, mixing desks, XLR leads. Pupils learn how to use a recording studio, and will record sessions, musicians in the school and create podcasts where more than 1 microphone is being used.

The course is assessed with a final exam of knowledge acquired and pupils will take part in a synoptic assessment, where they are given a Music Industry brief to respond to exhibiting their accumulated knowledge of the 5 content areas. This will take place over a half term.

Unit	Weighting	
Synoptic assessment (Music Industry Brief)	60%	Coursework
Music Technology Paper	40%	Written exam

Post-16 course/Career opportunities

A Level and Vocational Level 3 courses are available in Music, Music Technology, Performing Arts and Popular Music, developing the skills to progress straight into the music industry, alternatively, learners can progress to higher education courses such as degrees in music, music technology, and music business. Employment opportunities are extensive to areas such as producer, composer, entrepreneur or industry professional. Employment opportunities in the music industry are centred on self-employment or small-team operations as well as contracted employment with large companies and organisations.

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 1 hour of 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% |

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 30 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 45 minutes and all pupils will sit the same exam.

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 – **Theme 1:** People and lifestyle **Theme 2:** Popular culture **Theme 3:** Communication and the world around us.

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 reading aloud and discussion around provided visual material. There is 15 minutes preparation time and the test will last up to 15 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 and complete a dictation task.

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 and complete a translation task.

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 Spanish teacher or visit: [Why study languages? - Association for Language Learning \(all-languages.org.uk\)](http://all-languages.org.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.

Sport and Coaching Principles

WJEC L1/L2 Vocational Award

This qualification is for learners aged 14 - 16 who wish to develop knowledge, understanding and experience of a practical application of skills in sport and coaching.

What you will learn

This course is designed to provide insight into the sports performance and coaching sectors. The qualification includes the aspects of sports performance and methods for improvement, identifying fitness for health and performance and the science of sports coaching. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding in how to analyse performance, create an action plan and evaluate improvements across all three units, providing a clear grounding in the sectors for those learners that may choose to enter into related jobs or further education and training.

The course consists of 3 units

WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Sport and Coaching Principles				
Unit Number	Unit Title	Assessment	Mandatory/Optional	GLH
1	Fitness for Sport	External	Mandatory	40
2	Improving Sporting Performance	Internal	Mandatory	25
3	Coaching Principles	Internal	Mandatory	35

Unit 1 Fitness for Sport enables learners to gain knowledge and understanding of how to plan a fitness training programme in order to meet the needs of individuals. This unit also includes how to assess components of fitness through testing, understand how to improve the components of fitness using different methods of training and apply the principles of training.

Unit 2 Improving Sporting Performance is based around the individual and is focused on performance analysis, self-assessment, and the creation of an action plan and then the evaluation of any impact on performance.

Unit 3 Coaching Principles is designed to equip the learner with the necessary skills to enter the sector of sports coaching. The learner will develop the science behind sports coaching; styles and types of coaching, roles and responsibilities of the coach. The learners will plan, deliver and evaluate a coaching session, specific for a sporting activity and group.

Assessment

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Sport and Coaching Principles qualification is assessed through a combination of one written examination, set and marked by WJEC and two centre-marked assignments, moderated by WJEC.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

BTEC Nationals/Diplomas in Sport and Recreation, Careers in the Armed Services, Police, PE Teaching, Sports Coaching, the Leisure Industry.



Love God
Serve others
Work hard
Value all