



**BLESSED
TRINITY
RC COLLEGE**

**YEAR 9
OPTIONS
2021**

**A Guide for
Pupils and Parents**

Overview of Key Stage 4 Options 2021

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 many courses and decisions to think about, 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.

At Key Stage 4 you will study:

- **Compulsory course**

These are the courses that all pupils study in Year 10 and 11

At Blessed Trinity, compulsory courses lead to 6 GCSE qualifications

- **Optional courses**

These are the courses chosen by pupils,

At Blessed Trinity, the number of optional courses you choose does depend upon your Key Stage 4 Pathway, but for most pupils leads to 3 additional qualifications

Compulsory Key Stage 4 Courses

Our compulsory courses are listed below and make up 64% of your timetable:

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

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

You are still taught in sets for these subjects, but there is a change to how they are organised. Subjects are no longer banded together and instead set independently in Key Stage 4. This means that you can be in different sets for each one.

Science is a little different to the other subjects, Whilst the majority of pupils study the Combined Science GCSE course, where they work towards a qualification worth 2 GCSE grades, our keenest scientist may choose to study even more science and work towards the Triple Science qualification. This leads to 3 separated Science GCSEs and will take up one of your option choices.

Optional Subjects

Our Optional subjects are listed later in the booklet and make up the remaining 36% of your timetable.

Optional subjects are taught across the bands, so you will mix with a wider range of pupils. Additionally, most optional subjects are not taught in sets.

The Pathways

What is a pathway?

The pathway simply describes your combination of optional subjects

Who chooses the pathway?

We recommend a pathway to you. However, we know that option choices are unique for every pupil. So, whilst we shall offer guidance and encourage you to be ambitious with your choices, ultimately you will decide.

What are the different pathways?

- The Ebacc Pathway
- Core Pathway
- Invitation Pathways: Future Successes Pathway and Extra Maths and English

The Ebacc Pathway

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

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

If you decide that the Ebacc Pathway is the best one for you, your options will consist of:

- 1 Humanity
- 1 Language
- 1 Further option

The Core Pathway

On the Core Pathway, you must select one Ebacc subject. These are the Ebacc subjects: Computer Science

- Triple Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- Spanish
- Polish

If you decide that the Core Pathway is the best one for you, your options will consist of:

- 1 Ebacc subject
- 2 Further options

Why are Ebacc subjects important?

The study of Ebacc subjects can be challenging, but your efforts are rewarded by the high status of these subjects when it comes to choices for Post-16 courses and University. At Post-16 level, they are described as 'facilitating subjects', meaning that they fulfil entry requirements to many University courses.

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**". As an example, if you wish to study Economics at University, A Level Maths is often valued more highly than A Level Economics.

In summary, at Blessed Trinity, we promote the study of Ebacc subjects at GCSE level, so that you keep your options open for Post-16 choices and, further ahead, if you choose, enable you to compete nationally for the top University places and jobs.

Invitation Pathway 1: Future Successes Pathway

The Future Successes Pathway is our well-established vocational 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 functional skills and a range of vocational and leadership qualifications.

Invitation Pathway 2: Extra Maths and English

Each year, we identify a cohort of pupils who have the aptitude to reach grade 4 in maths and English but would benefit from additional work in these areas to ensure that this potential is realised. We know that standard pass grades in these 2 core subjects are essential for progression to many Post-16 courses and, further, that pupils who do not meet this standard will be required to re-take these qualifications. This cohort study extra maths and English as one of their options and then choose 2 further subjects.

The pathway is also by invitation, however following a year of educational upheaval in 2020, we shall also listen to requests from parents and pupils who would like to be considered for this option this year.

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. It is, therefore, essential that you consider your written report and teachers' comments 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. Remember, however, that 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'.

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 **5** 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.

Optional Subjects 2021

There are a wide range of optional subjects to choose from. Here are your choices, sorted into GCSE and non-GCSE groups

GCSE

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

Non-GCSE

- Music (BTEC)
- IT (Cambridge National)
- Digital Art (Cambridge National)
- Health & Social Care (BTEC)
- Hospitality & Catering (WJEC)
- Sport and Coaching Principle (WJEC)

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% assessment by external examination and many now have 100% assessment by external examination. Non-GCSE courses generally have a lower emphasis on written examinations. They suit 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.

OPTIONAL SUBJECTS

SUBJECT

CONTACT & EMAIL

Computer Science	Mr C Blackburn	<u>cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Dance	Mrs R Wright	<u>rwright@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Design & Technology	Mr A Lee	<u>alee@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Digital Art	Mr C Blackburn	<u>cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Drama	Mrs R Wright	<u>rwright@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Fine Art	Mrs S Fox-Kirk	<u>sfox-kirk@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
French	Mrs K Mercer	<u>kmercer@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Geography	Mr L Griffin	<u>lgriffin@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Health & Social Care	Miss R Parveen	<u>rparveen@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
History	Mr S Walker	<u>swalker@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Hospitality & Catering	Mrs C Green	<u>cgreen@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
IT	Mr C Blackburn	<u>cblackburn@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Music	Mr B McArdle	<u>bmcardle@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Music BTEC	Mr B McArdle	<u>bmcardle@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Photography	Mrs K Palich	<u>kpalich@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Physical Education	Mr N Stubbs	<u>nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Sociology	Miss R Parveen	<u>rparveen@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Spanish	Miss R Wiseman	<u>rwiseman@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Sport and Coaching	Mr N Stubbs	<u>nstubbs@btrcc.lancs.sch.uk</u>
Triple Science	Mrs H Hacking	<u>hhacking@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

2 examination papers each worth 50%

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 this 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 1 hour 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 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)

30-35 hours.

Pupils are given a contextual design challenge in which they develop their own design brief and context. Pupils apply their material knowledge and designing and making skills to develop and test a fully functional prototype that fulfils their design problem. This requires pupils to conduct independent research, develop, design, manufacture and test their product with confidence.

External Exam Assessment (50% of GCSE)

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 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 40% of GCSE

Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Component 2: Devising Drama (practical) 40% of GCSE

Devising log (60 marks),

Devised performance (20 marks)

This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical) 20% of GCSE

Performance of Extract 1 (25 marks) and Extract 2 (25 marks).

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

Success in language courses require a disciplined approach and consistent hard work. A willingness to participate in oral work is also very important. GCSE French assesses four main skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The exam is tiered and pupils will be entered for Foundation or Higher. The emphasis is on developing communication skills and understanding other cultures.

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 increasingly 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

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 is divided into topic areas - Identity and Culture, Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest, Current and Future Study and Employment.

Assessment GCSE (AQA)

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%

- **Speaking Exam**, the speaking exam involves role-play and general conversation. The test will last up to 12 minutes.
- **Writing Exam**, the written exam lasts up to 1hour 15 minutes. You will be required to communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes
- **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
- **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.

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.

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

Assessment

There are 3 written examinations:

Unit 1 Living with the physical environment	1 hour and 30 minutes
Unit 2 Challenges in the human environment	1 hour and 30 minutes
Unit 3 Geographical applications	1 hour and 15 minutes

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

- 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?

- 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, immigration into Britain, understanding of how the identity of the people of Britain has been shaped by their interaction with the wider world.
- Elizabethan England, the power, the people, the plots and the scandals.

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

Paper 2: 2 hour 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.

Information Technologies

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

This qualification

What you will learn

This course is designed to allow students to develop skills needs for a career in IT. They learn about data management issues and develop practical skills by planning and creating an integrated technological solution to communicate information.

R012: Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions

Written paper set by the exam board.

Students develop their knowledge and understanding of different hardware and software applications and the tools and techniques used to select, store, manipulate and present data. They also explore the various risks associated with the collection, storage and use of data, including legal, moral, ethical and security issues, and how such risks can be mitigated

R013: Developing technological solutions

Controlled assessment coursework.

Students create a technological solution that processes data and communicates information, following the phases of the project life cycle using different hardware and software technologies to create an integrated technological solution. They develop practical skills such as carrying out a SWOT analysis, creating GANTT charts, developing online surveys, and presenting data through web-based technologies.

Assessment

50% Examination

50% Controlled assessment coursework

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Office work, IT manager, Accountancy, graphics designer, Database administration, IT help desk, IT sales.

Music Technology

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Music

Subject Information

Music Technology is an exciting course that allows pupils who enjoy music and the technology involved to learn more about the industry.

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 and Assessment

You will study four units. 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. 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 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.

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, including on mobile devices, is now capable of producing high-quality music that even recently was only possible with large and expensive hardware-based systems. 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 comprises:

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 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

GCSE Spanish assesses four main skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. The exam is tiered and pupils will be entered for Foundation or Higher. The emphasis is on developing communication skills and understanding other cultures.

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 increasingly important and not just in careers such as teaching or translating. 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

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 is divided into topic areas - Identity and Culture, Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest, Current and Future Study and Employment.

Assessment GCSE (AQA)

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%

- **Speaking Exam**, the speaking exam will last up to 12 minutes.
- **Writing Exam**, the written exam lasts up to 1hour 15 minutes.
- **Listening Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 45 minutes.
- **Reading Test**, you will complete a final exam paper lasting up to 60 minutes.

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. Languages can also 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.

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.

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	Improving Sporting Performance	Internal	Mandatory	36
2	Fitness for Sport External	External	Mandatory	48
3	Coaching Principles	Internal	Mandatory *	36

Unit 1 Improving Sporting Performance is based around the individual and is focused on performance analysis, self-assessment, and the creation and evaluation of an action plan.

Unit 2 Fitness for Sport requires learners to plan a fitness training programme 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 3 Coaching Principles is designed to develop understanding of: 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.

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.

Triple Science

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

There is the opportunity for some pupils to study the three separate sciences, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Two subjects will be studied in core science time and one as an **option subject**.

This course will lead to 3 separate GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All three separate sciences must be studied to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum. There are a number of compulsory practicals to be completed in Years 10 and 11. These will be assessed in the final examinations. Pupils need have a teacher recommendation to be considered for this option.

Assessment:

6 written examinations: 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics.
Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.
Each of the papers are 1 hour 45 minutes in length and are worth 16.7% of the GCSE.

Post-16 courses/Career opportunities

Progression routes for science GCSEs are widespread. Suitable grades allow progression onto: 'A' level Biology, Chemistry and Physics or related Engineering or Sports qualifications leading onto degrees.

The qualification also supports pupils looking to go into Science, engineering based apprenticeships, or applied Science A-Levels. Potential career options beyond this could include Doctor, Pharmacist, Marine Biologist, Structural engineer, Chemical engineer and a whole other range of STEM disciplines.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS

SUBJECT

CONTACT & EMAIL

Religious Education

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English

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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 is assessed by an external examination and is worth 37.5% of the overall grade.

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

A Study of Judaism, topics include; "Beliefs and Teachings" and "Practices" This is assessed by an external examination and is 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.

AQA English Literature covers:

A wide range of texts.

Paper 1: a Shakespearean play & prose from the 19th Century.

Paper 2: a modern play 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 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 – 1.5 hours – 80 marks

Paper 2:

Written paper (Calculator) 33.3% of total assessment – 1.5 hours - 80 marks

Paper 3:

Written paper (Calculator) 33.3% of total assessment – 1.5 hours - 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

All pupils study science for a minimum of 20% of curriculum time. There are two pathways our pupils can take.

- Combined Science Trilogy - 2 GCSEs
- Triple Science - 3 single GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics

As Science is compulsory at Key Stage 4, we guide pupils in their choice of the most appropriate pathway. Our decision will be made in the best interests of each pupil and supports them in achieving the highest grade they can, to ensure that post 16 opportunities remains open.

Pupils who wish to study Triple Science will need to choose it as one of their three optional subjects. Information about Triple Science is included in the optional subject Sections. In addition, they will need to secure a teacher recommendation

GCSE Combined Science Trilogy – 2 GCSEs

Subject Information

The majority of pupils study the AQA GCSE Combined Science Trilogy. This is a double award leading to 2 GCSEs and pupils will be awarded two grades e.g. 8-7, 7-7, 7-6 etc.

Practical work is at the heart of science and is placed at the heart of this specification. Questions in the written exams will draw on the knowledge and understanding pupils have gained by carrying out the practical activities. There are a minimum of 21 required practical tasks that the pupils will need to complete in this course. This specification content consists of one third Biology, one third Chemistry and one third Physics

Assessment:

6 written examinations: 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics.
Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.
Each of the papers are 1 hour 30 minutes in length and are worth 16.7% of the GCSE.

KS4 Core PE

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 that are transferrable to all future employment and areas of 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.
- 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.