



Subject Course Information Booklet



Subject Information 2024

GCSE Courses

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IT

MUSIC

SPORTS & COACHING PRINCIPLES



GCSE ART



The course is geared towards the requirements and demands of the AQA GCSE syllabus. Pupils are encouraged to respond to starting points with their own individual and personal ideas which they are to develop through sustained and independent study to a suitable outcome. Pupils are encouraged to work using their own initiative, utilising the skills and practises of the previous years in order that they become fluent in the art making process.

The practises of conducting independent research and recording ideas are vital, particularly in preparation for the art exam. Both skills are to be undertaken regularly as part of directed homework's and should be continued independently if pupils are to realise their full artistic ability.

Students will;

- Display an exhibition of their work
- Submit their portfolio
- Present their sketchbooks containing all their homework, annotations and ideas,
- Sit a 10-hour practical exam and include this final piece and its planning work in their exhibition.

Students should be aware that all work completed in year 10 is entered for the coursework component of the GCSE.

The coursework component makes up **60%** of an overall mark and the exam makes up **40%** of the mark.

“This course requires dedication and commitment and is very rewarding”



Information

This course is defined as that aspect of art, craft and design where work is developed primarily for aesthetic, intellectual or purely conceptual purposes rather than for purposes that have a necessarily practical function. This will also enable learners to progress to a higher-level qualification.

What do I need?

You have to be creative and willing to think outside the box. You will make good progress in this subject if you are self-motivated and self-analytical. You need to be able to demonstrate effective skill with your work.

GCSE ART



Pathways

Pupils who study Art usually go on to do A level Art, or progress at later stages to Graphics, Textiles and other areas of design.

Skills

You will develop skills in areas such as:

- Drawing
- Installation
- Lens and light-based media
- Mixed media
- Land art
- Printing
- Painting
- Sculpture.

Careers

Graphic design, Advertising, Fashion design, illustration, Printing, Artist, Photography.





GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE Computer Science is relevant to the modern, changing world of computing, it is designed to boost computing skills essential for the 21st century. The OCR Computer Science syllabus gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes' including computer programming. It's a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. Please note that there is a programming element to this course.

Aims of the subject:

- To develop Computational Thinking and Programming Skills;
- To foster an interest in, enjoyment of, and confidence in the use of computing;
- To develop the ability to solve problems using computing techniques;
- To develop an awareness of the place of computer science in society and issues that arise from computing;
- To gain a firm understanding of the basic techniques and knowledge required for computing applications;
- To develop a desire to use computers within other interest areas.

Assessment

This course is based upon two terminal exams (taken in Year 11) and a programming project (conducted in Year 11).

Comp 01: Theoretical Paper. This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. 50% of total marks.

Comp 02: Theoretical Paper involving aspects of computational thinking, algorithm design & interpretation. This written paper contains short-answer and structured questions. 50% of total marks.

Programming Project 03: The programming project is designed to allow students to learn about a high-level programming language and have the opportunity to show that they can use it to solve problems. It is a requirement of the course but does not contribute directly to the final marks

The course is by nature highly academic and will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming. In this respect, the course will make an excellent preparation for learners who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied.



Information

A qualification in Computer Science opens up an incredible world of opportunities for work within the fast-paced digital economy.

Students will learn about computational thinking and how to describe solutions in terms of efficient algorithms.

What do I need?

This is a highly academic GCSE and suitable for those students with a real enthusiasm for Computer science. It is recommended for those students in Maths set two or above.

As coding doesn't always go to plan, a determination and resolute attitude.



GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Pathways

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of Computer Science

Pupils can go on to further study IT in sixth form or Computing (possibly at other institutions).

Skills

With any computer or technology-based course, you're obviously going to develop some pretty solid practical skills.

Plus, it is great at helping you build project management and numeracy skills, and it will also encourage you to think logically in order to solve problems.

Careers

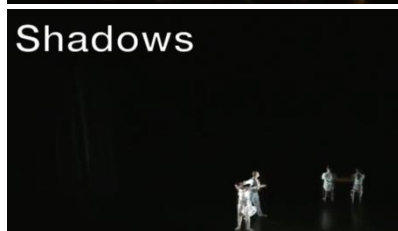
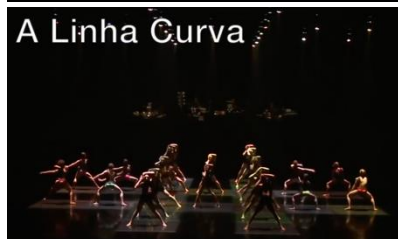
A GCSE in Computing can lead to a range of jobs such Programmers, Game Design, Web Application Design and Network Management to name just a few.

Computer Science is one of the highest paid graduate roles available.



GCSE DANCE

‘Chosen to inspire creativity and to support dance theory and practice’



Dance GCSE is an exciting opportunity for students to explore their talents and creativity through a course designed to meet the requirements of AQA GCSE.

Students will be encouraged to expand their imagination by exploring different stimuli to choreograph and perfect their own routine. Students will study set phrases and build an advanced skill set to meet the spatial and dynamic needs of contrasting works.

The ability to interpret, analyse and evaluate work of their own and work of professionals is crucial and will be a thread throughout the course.

What will you do?

Component 1 = 60%

Performance

- A set phrase solo piece
- A professionally choreographed group piece

Choreography

- A solo OR group piece that will be choreographed by the student inspired by a stimulus.

Component 2 = 40%

Dance Appreciation

- A 1.5 hour written exam that will assess your ability to describe, analyse, interpret, evaluate and reflect on your own work and the study of a dance anthology.



Information

This specification focuses on the aesthetic and artistic qualities of dance and the symbolic use of movement to express and communicate ideas and concepts through the interrelated processes of performance, choreography and appreciation.

Dance is a powerful and empowering form of non-verbal communication, and it is both physical and expressive, which makes it similar to and different from other art forms and physical activities. Dance develops creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual

Is Dance right for me?

To make excellent progress in this subject you need to be committed to the rehearsal and performance process. You will need to be able to demonstrate a strong skill set through every task to demonstrate your appreciation of dance and the work of professionals. You must be motivated and interested by dance and be able to think creatively

GCSE DANCE

Expressive skills you will learn through the course

- Projection
- Spatial awareness
- Facial expression
- Phrasing
- Musicality
- Sensitivity to other dancers
- Communication

Physical skills you will learn through the course

- | | |
|----------|--------------|
| Posture | Alignment |
| Balance | Coordination |
| Control | Flexibility |
| Mobility | Strength |
| Stamina | Extension |

Technical Skills

- Action Content – travel, turn, elevation, gesture, stillness, floor work, transfer of weight
- Dynamic Content – fast/slow, sudden/sustained, acceleration/deceleration, strong/light, direct/indirect
- Spatial Content – Pathways, levels, directions, size of movement, patterns, spatial design



GCSE DRAMA

There has never been a better time to study Drama at GCSE level in Holy Family. Riding high on a wave of outstanding GCSE results last year, the new GCSE Drama specification is more exciting than ever giving pupils even more scope to develop as Drama practitioners. This new GCSE offers pupils the chance to watch an abundance of professional plays as well as giving them the opportunity to showcase their own talents, all the time increasing their confidence to perform in the presence of others.

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

Component 1: Understanding drama

What is assessed?

- 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

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Component 2: Devising drama (practical)

What is assessed?

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

How is it assessed?

- Devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total
- 40% of GCSE

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)

What is assessed?

Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer). Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.

How is it assessed?

- Performance of Extract 1 (25 marks) and Extract 2 (25 marks)
- 50 marks in total
- 20% of GCSE



Information

What the course will involve: Improvisation, Exploration of play texts, Rehearsal techniques, Script writing and devising, Technical skills – lighting, sound and set, Theatre visits to see professional productions, Group performances, Developing performance and interpretation skills

What do I need?

Students must have a very good attendance record, be enthusiastic and willing to work as part of a team. Extra-curricular commitment will be required for examination preparation and performance rehearsals.

GCSE DRAMA

Pathways

Many students continue their interest in Drama by taking BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts.

Skills

Drama inspires confidence and encourages creativity. Whatever your future career, Drama can help you to develop skills such as team-work and organisation that are valuable in further education and employment. Students will develop their acting, production skills and appreciation of theatre while learning how to express their feelings and ideas and become independent learners.

Careers

The course is good for anyone considering a career in the performing arts industry.



GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

The Eduqas GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life. This qualification in food preparation and nutrition will enable you to make connections between theory and practice so that you are able to apply your understanding of food science and nutrition to practical cooking.

What will I study?

- Principles of nutrition, looking at the key nutrients that are needed for good health.
- Diet and good health, looking at government guidelines for healthy eating and how to plan diets for people with specific dietary needs.
- The science of cooking food, looking at different methods of cooking foods and carrying out some scientific experiments, for example, looking at how yeast works.
- Food choice, looking at the range of factors that influence food choice including cultural, religious, ethical and medical.
- Food spoilage and food waste, looking at how to prevent food poisoning and also avoiding food waste.
- Food provenance, looking at where foods come from and the importance of food miles.
- Cultures and cuisines, looking at the different types of cuisines, key ingredients and popular dishes.

How will I be assessed?

There will be one exam for this qualification, which will assess your knowledge of the theory behind food preparation and nutrition. The exam will be 1 hour 45 minutes long. (50% of qualification)

The second part of the assessment will be non-examination assessment and will consist of two tasks, involving practical work.

Task 1: Students will carry out an investigation into the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food.

This task will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and practically apply your understanding of the science behind cooking. You'll practically investigate ingredients and explain how they work and why. (15% of qualification)

Task 2: Students will plan, prepare, cook and present a 3-course menu.

This task will provide you with an opportunity to cook up a storm and showcase your creativity and cooking skills. You might make a street food menu, create delicious tapas dishes or cook up a menu for a student on a budget. (35% of qualification)



Information

Students who opt to study Food Preparation & Nutrition master a variety of technical skills and become proficient in the kitchen. In addition, you'll develop an in-depth knowledge of food science, food safety, food choice, nutrition and health.

What do I need?

Creative, adaptable, imaginative, practical, organised, good time management skills, innovative, risk taking, communication skills



GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Pathways

A Level courses for studying at an advanced level. Apprenticeships may also be available.

University courses are also available across a range of courses and institutions.

Skills

You'll develop transferable skills such as analysis, evaluation, communication skills, working independently, time management and the ability to interpret information and data.

Careers

A GCSE in Food Prep & Nutrition can lead to a range of jobs such as Chef, Food Technologist, Confectioner, Butcher, Food Scientist, Baker, Hospitality, etc.





GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Why you should choose Geography.

Geography is relevant to your everyday life: using maps, planning holidays, the rapid changes taking place in cities and the countryside, world weather, local flooding and food costs, multi-national companies and politics to name but a few. Choosing Geography will allow you to learn about local and global places and give you an opportunity to develop your sense of awe and wonder.

The Course

<p><u>Living with the physical environment</u> Section A The Challenge of Natural Hazards- earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK, climate change. Section B The Living world- ecosystems, tropical rainforest, cold environments Section C Physical Landscapes in the UK- coasts, rivers.</p>
<p><u>Challenges in the human environment</u> Section A Urban Issues and Challenges- urban cities and sustainability Section B The Changing Economic World- development and quality of life Section C The Challenge of Resource Management - food, water, energy.</p>
<p><u>Geographical Applications</u> Section A Issue Evaluation- students presented with a topic from any of the above. They evaluate the issue and develop critical thinking skills to solve problems. Section B Fieldwork- students MUST do a minimum of 2 days in two separate locations and collect primary data. Present this data and learn it for their exam.</p>
<p><u>Geographical Skills</u> Geographical skills- drawing and using a variety of maps, constructing and reading graphs, numerical and statistical skills, use data, formulate enquiry questions and argue for or against an issue.</p>

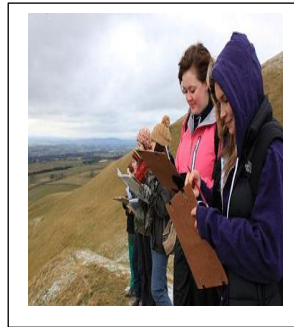
ASSESSMENT
Paper 1- Living with the physical environment 1 hour 30 mins. 35% of the GCSE
Paper 2- Challenges in the human environment 1 hour 30 mins. 35% of the GCSE
Paper 3- Geographical Applications/fieldwork exam 1 hour 15 mins. 30 % of the GCSE

Geography is a combination of science and art subjects and by choosing it to study to a higher level you are keeping your options open. The knowledge and skills which you will learn help you to understand topics in other subjects as well as being keenly sought by potential employers. Some jobs which prefer a GCSE in Geography include surveying, town and country planning, landscape architecture, transport and tourism, estate management and cartography. Geographers, however, can be found in all walks of life and students from this school, who have studied it at GCSE and Advanced level have gone on to become doctors and solicitors.



Information

This popular course offers: engaging and topical content; such as flooding in the UK and global food supply. It is both stimulating and contemporary as a subject. Students will be learning both physical and human Geography in self-contained topic areas, a focus on physical processes and factors that produce diverse and dynamic landscapes over time.



What do I need?

An interest in the world around you and an appetite to learn. A reasonable understanding of mathematics and an ability to work as part of a team completing fieldwork outside of school.

GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Pathways

A level Geography, Geology, Environmental studies and Economics all have strong links to Geography GCSE



Skills

Study of this course will give students of all backgrounds the opportunity to develop: communication skills/graphical and cartographical skills/technological skills including ICT and GIS/interpersonal skills through debate and discussion/problem-solving skills/entrepreneurial skills and awareness of career

Careers

A first degree in geography is an entry point to many careers, for example: town and transport planning, chartered surveying, land and water management, sustainability, environmental consultancy, development, tourism, conservation, demography, housing and social welfare, teaching, guide, travel writer, management.





GCSE HISTORY

Is this the right subject for me?

History GCSE has changed. Gone is the over-focus on the 20th century. Now you will study key historical features from the last 1,000 years. There is still a focus on the 20th century: you will get the chance to study Hitler & the Nazis! The new course, however, offers the chance to look at other interesting aspects of British history, from the Elizabethan period of the 16th century to the crimes of Jack the Ripper in 19th century London. The thematic unit on Crime and Punishment will show you how one aspect of British society has changed over 1,000 years. This has already been covered in Year 9, so if you pick History GCSE you have a head start.

What will I learn? You will learn about:

- International relations – what led to conflicts between countries?
- Key aspects of British (early English) history – looks at the Elizabethan period (Queen Elizabeth I) including the Spanish Armada & plots against Elizabeth.
- How historians use sources to find out about what happened – it could be people talking about their experiences in Whitechapel during the 19th century or life under the Nazis in Germany.
- How to justify your own opinions – using sources and key pieces of historical information to back up arguments.

How will I be assessed?

Your GCSE in History will be decided by 3 exams, taken at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1	Paper 2	Paper 3
Thematic study: Crime and Punishment 1000-present	British study: Elizabethan England 1558 to 1588.	Modern World study: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939.
Historic Environment: Whitechapel 1870-1900. Crime, policing & the inner city	Period study: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991.	
<i>Worth 30% of GCSE 1 hour 15-minute exam</i>	<i>Worth 40% of GCSE 1 hour 45-minute exam</i>	<i>Worth 30% of GCSE 1 hour 20-minute exam</i>

Topic Areas:

- Unit 1 Crime and punishment over the last 1,000 years (including a focus on Whitechapel)
- Unit 2 Elizabethan England 1558-1588
- Unit 3 The Cold War 1941-1991
- Unit 4 Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

Next steps! If you are interested, start to find out more. Here are some ideas:

- look on the Edexcel website:
<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history-2016.html> There is a lot of useful information about what you will be studying and how you will be assessed.
- visit the BBC Bitesize website <https://www.bbc.com/education/examspecs/zw4bv4j>
- talk to your History teacher who will be able to describe the course in detail.
- talk to the current Year 10s and 11s taking History GCSE.



Information
EDEXCEL History course. Four topics covered, over a 1,000 year period. Final assessment based on 3 exams typically at the end of Year 11.

What do I need?
The ability to write accurately (in full sentences). The ability to construct arguments, backed up with relevant factual knowledge and source materials. To be able to recall and accurately use specific factual information (dates, terms and key events).



GCSE HISTORY



Pathways
A GCSE in History is very useful if you are planning on continuing to study History at A-Level. However, the skills you gain are useful for English courses and for the study of Politics and Law (especially the ability to construct an argument using source materials).

Skills
Throughout the course you will develop: The ability to construct an argument using primary and secondary sources to evaluate a time period.

You will also develop a chronological overview of a period.

You will be able to understand causes and consequences of events.

Careers
Popular career routes for History graduates include education, teaching, politics, law, business, social care, arts and museum work.



MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES – FRENCH & SPANISH

Overview

Living in today's global society means that we want our students to be able to embrace all the opportunities that life may bring their way. At Holy Family, we are passionate about the benefits learning a language can bring. We strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and something students should enjoy and find rewarding. Our objective is to enable students of all abilities to develop their Spanish and French language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge, ability and confidence to communicate in a variety of contexts. With over 300 million speakers worldwide, French is in the top 5 most spoken languages in the world, and it is the official language of 29 countries. Spanish is the fastest-growing language in the world with over 500 million native speakers, and is the official language of 21 countries. Just imagine the possibilities!

What is the value of studying languages?

Apart from being useful on holiday and whilst travelling in general, the main draw of studying a language are the job opportunities that it can create. In Britain today, there is an increasing shortage of modern linguists, and as a result, being able to offer a language significantly increases your chances of employability. For example, knowing one or several foreign languages is invaluable in business. Many companies operate from offices abroad or have their headquarters in another country. Therefore, in many sectors of the business world, being able to speak a second or third language is a major asset, and having a languages qualification can often give you the edge over other candidates at interview.

As well as international business, travel and tourism and teaching are also popular career choices for those students who study languages. Languages are also considered a good basis for many other degree courses, such as Law, and combine well with most subjects. In recent years, students from Holy Family who have gone on to do courses such as Medicine and Dentistry have studied a language alongside their science A-Levels, while others have followed language and business courses.

What does the GCSE course involve?

At Key Stage 4, you may continue with the study of either French or Spanish. As at Key Stage 3, all four skills – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing are assessed at GCSE and all are weighted equally (25% per skill). You will already be familiar with, and will build on the success criteria that you have acquired in Years 7-9. You have the choice of either Foundation or Higher tier entry in the final exam. Much of the work done in the GCSE course is a continuation of the topics and language studied in Key Stage 3, and there is a natural progression as you expand your knowledge and skills to a higher level.

A languages GCSE gives you a highly respected qualification which enables you to develop your communication skills, enhance your memory power, understand your own language much better, and at the same time opens up a whole new world of film, literature, music and much, much more for you to enjoy!



Information

You will study a variety of topics throughout the two-year course, ranging from fashion and technology to social issues such as poverty and discrimination. Built in to these topics are the grammatical structures, phonics and vocabulary required to both discuss and write about them.

What do I need?

In order to be successful at GCSE, you need to plan and organise your ideas in a clear and logical manner. You need to build on the foundation work done at Key Stage 3 and be able to link and sequence events, as well as to give your opinions and justify them.

GCSE FRENCH & SPANISH

Pathways

Pupils who study GCSE Languages can continue their studies here in the Sixth Form. Both languages are available at A-level at Holy Family.



Careers

Many students who have studied Languages at GCSE have gone on to study courses such as European Law and Business at university, whilst others have pursued careers in the travel industry, teaching and even engineering and dentistry.

Skills

The GCSE in Modern Languages tests all four skills areas – Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. You will listen to authentic materials and identify key points, read texts for both gist and specific details, have a conversation on a variety of different topic areas as well as write about those same topics.



GCSE PE

(Please note – you will choose a ‘Sports Course’ option. The qualification you study will be determined as a class following assessment in December 2023)

For those of you who may be considering PE as an option please bear in mind that the demands of the written paper and the standards expected in the practical work are quite high. This option is well worth considering if you are anticipating a career in sports, recreation and leisure. It will also be of benefit if you enjoy participating in sport, have a keen interest in improving your level of fitness, and would enjoy the opportunity of combining an active lesson with theory work.

Aims of the course:

Learners will perform in different physical activities. They will develop skills and techniques, select and use tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas. Learners will develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport.

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Physical Education requires learners to:

- Develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance
- Understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance in physical activity and sport
- Perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas
- Develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance in physical activity and sport
- Understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people’s involvement in physical activity and sport.
-

Assessment:

Component 1: Introduction to physical education
Written examination: 2 hours
60% of qualification

Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The questions will be based on stimuli/sources.

Component 2: The active participant in physical education
Non-exam assessment
40% of qualification

This component is internally assessed and externally moderated.

Learners will be assessed in **three** different activities in the role of performer in at least **one** individual and **one** team sport. Learners will be further assessed through a written analysis and evaluation of their personal performance in **one** of their chosen activities.



Information

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. You can perform in one or all of the following roles: player/participant, leader or official.

What do I need?

You should have an interest in physical education and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy.

You should enjoy:

- sport and recreation
- developing knowledge and understanding through practical involvement
- learning about the benefits of sport and exercise
- improving your own performance in a range of sports roles

GCSE PE



Pathways

As well as being the ideal preparation for the A Level Physical Education course, GCSE Physical Education allows for progression to related vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Firsts and Nationals in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences.

Skills

Learners will take responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills that are essential for A-Level P.E. These skills include: teamworking; understanding the body in action and the health/fitness requirements of sport.

Careers

The course develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in areas such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry, the armed forces and the Civil Service.



SEPARATE SCIENCES (BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS)

As with combined Science (what you would study without choosing an option), you will study all three sciences. This will take up ONE of your option choices.

You will learn the same content as GCSE combined sciences across all three disciplines, but in greater detail and depth and with additional topics. This also provides an excellent route to A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What will I learn?

Biology

1. Cell biology
2. Organisation
3. Infection and response
4. Bioenergetics
5. Homeostasis and response
6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
7. Ecology
8. Key ideas

How is it assessed?

The subject is assessed via two written exams

Paper 1: Topics 1–4

Paper 2: Topics 5-8

Each exam is made up of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Chemistry

1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
3. Quantitative chemistry
4. Chemical changes
5. Energy changes
6. The rate and extent of chemical change
7. Organic chemistry
8. Chemical analysis
9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
10. Using resources

How is it assessed?

The subject is assessed via two written exams

Paper 1: Topics 1–5

Paper 2: Topics 6-10

Each exam is made up of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

Physics

1. Energy
2. Electricity
3. Particle model of matter
4. Atomic structure
5. Forces
6. Waves
7. Magnetism and electromagnetism
8. Space physics

How is it assessed?

The subject is assessed via two written exams

Paper 1: Topics 1–4

Paper 2: Topics 5-8

Each exam is made up of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.



Information
Students will need to have a strong interest in, and enjoyment of Science and possibly want to pursue a University course or a career in this area.

The course requires a high standard of both English and Mathematics.

What do I need?
These are highly academic GCSE's and are suitable for students with a real enthusiasm for Science and a willingness to be challenged. You will need good powers of expression and you must be resilient when challenged. You will need to enjoy solving problems and seeking logical conclusions to everyday events.



GCSE SEPARATE SCIENCES



Pathways
This course provides an excellent grounding for studying A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics. It also allows entry onto Applied Science courses in Sixth form.

Careers
GCSE separate Sciences can lead to a wide range of jobs including Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Engineering, Lab Technician and Research to name but a few! The skills you will learn are also highly sought after by potential employers. Science graduates are among the most highly paid.

Skills
Learners will have a lot of chances to partake in numerous practical experiments as a part of each of the areas of Science. They will be given the opportunity to attend a number of STEM activities to experience Science in action.



LEVEL 2 VOCATIONAL AWARD IN ENGINEERING (VOCATIONAL)

Engineering is a driving force in the UK’s economy, accounting for 21% of the UK’s GDP turnover. However, there is a considerable shortage of skilled workers in the engineering sector. The Vocational Award in Engineering has been designed to support pupils who want to learn about this subject and the potential it can offer them as a career or for further study.

The course consists of three Units.

Summary of Assessment
Unit 1: Making Engineering Products. Controlled assessment: 20 hours 40% of qualification, 80 marks
An assignment brief will be provided by the exam board that will include a scenario and several tasks.
Unit 2: Designing Engineering Products. Controlled assessment: 10 hours 20% of qualification, 40 marks
An assignment brief will be provided by the exam board that will include a scenario and several tasks.
Unit 3: Solving Engineering Problems. Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification, 80 marks
Questions requiring objective responses, short extended answers, based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

Unit 1 provides learners with the opportunity to interpret different types of engineering information in order to plan how to manufacture engineering products. Learners will develop knowledge, understanding and skills in using a range of engineering tools and equipment in order to manufacture and test an end product.

Unit 2 allows learners to explore how an engineered product is adapted and improved over time, and it offers learners the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding to adapt an existing component, element, or part of the engineering outcome that they manufactured for Unit 1.

Unit 3 introduces learners to a range of considerations that impact on engineering design and how modern engineering has had an impact on modern day life at home, work and in society in general.

Engineering is a practical subject perfect for those of you who prefer a more hands-on approach to learning.

The course is 60% coursework meaning only 40% is external exam based.

If you require any further information, then please speak to Mr Bradley.



Information

The Level 2 Award in Engineering is a guided learning hour qualification which offers an opportunity for learners to experience a vocational qualification. This will also enable learners to progress to a higher-level qualification.

What do I need?

The course requires students to be good at problem solving, practical, innovative, and have an understanding of maths.

ENGINEERING

Pathways

Pupils who study Engineering may choose to become an engineering apprentice or further studies by completing a level 3 qualification.

Skills

You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a team which can be an exciting and rewarding way to learn that can help boost self-confidence and social skills. As part of the course, you will learn about a variety of different processes including using the laser cutter and lathe, emerging technologies, sustainable

Careers

Engineering is a vocational subject which means it has a direct link to the world of work. Even if you decide to you don't specifically want to be an engineer the course will allow you to develop practical, mathematical and logical skills which are transferable into other areas.



BTEC ENTERPRISE (VOCATIONAL)

Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise (603/7063/4), is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, behaviours and skills related to researching, planning, pitching and reviewing an enterprise idea as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification enables learners to develop their technical skills, such as market research skills, planning, promotional and financial skills using realistic work scenarios, and personal skills, (such as monitoring own performance, time management and problem solving) through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment.

Learners will acquire knowledge, understanding and skills to underpin their practical activities in assessment.

Course structure

Component No.	Title	Deadline
1	Exploring enterprises	In this component, you will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the different types of enterprise and their ownership, looking at the characteristics of, micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs with reasons for levels of success. You will understand the importance of having a clear focus on the customer and the importance of meeting their needs. Enterprises can struggle if they do not carry out market research. It is important for you to develop relevant skills in market research and to analyse and be able to interpret your findings to support your understanding of customers and competitors.
2	Planning and presenting a micro-enterprise idea	In this component, you will use the research knowledge gained from Component 1 to consider a number of ideas before developing a plan for a realistic micro-enterprise activity. You will have the opportunity to plan how best to set up the chosen enterprise and how to fund it. You will need to take responsibility for creating and then delivering a pitch for your developed idea to an audience using your knowledge of business, and demonstrating entrepreneurial characteristics, qualities and skills. In the final part of the component you will use feedback to review your plan and pitch for the micro-enterprise activity, reflecting on your plan, your pitch and the skills you demonstrated when pitching.
3	Marketing and finance for enterprise	In this component, you will assess and analyse financial information in an enterprise context to monitor the performance of an enterprise and strategies to improve its performance. You will investigate cash flow forecasts and statements, exploring the effects that positive and negative cash flow can have on an enterprise, and suggesting ways to improve them. You will consider the different elements of the promotional mix in order to be able to identify target markets and put forward strategies that enterprises can use to increase their success in the future.



How will I be assessed?

The course has 3 components. 2 controlled assessments and 1 examination. Each component will require you to complete a number of tasks based on the unit topic. All components will be graded at levels Pass, Merit and Distinction this will then be converted into a GCSE Level Grade 1 – 9. This is equivalent to 1 GCSE.

What do I need?

- You need to be able to:
- communicate and explain your ideas with clarity and justification
 - think creatively and make decisions in an entrepreneurial context
 - work with numbers to solve business problems including financial accounting
 - learn about the world of business through research and investigation, as well as through practical tasks

ENTERPRISE

Pathways

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- 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 Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, which prepares them to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the business sector.

Skills

Vocational qualifications are designed to provide a well-rounded education. You will be expected to develop key skills required in industry which include:

- Communication
- Financial accounting/numeracy
- Entrepreneurship
- Business language and terminology

Careers

A Business course could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry

More info

See Mr Kinsella in T2 for more information.



BTEC HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (VOCATIONAL)

Health and Social Care is a Level 1 / 2 vocational qualification that is equivalent to one GCSE. The concept of this course is that learners will gain the specialist knowledge and relevant skills that appear across the health and social care industry. This knowledge is gained through guest speakers, case studies and independent research. Students will study a programme that consists of 3 components over a 2-year period.

Y10 and 11's course structure

Component	Title	Assessment
Component 1:	Human Lifespan Development.	In this component, you will study how people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to old age, this includes physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development, and the different factors that may affect them. An individual's development can be affected by major life events, such as marriage, parenthood or moving house, and you will learn about how people adapt to these changes, as well as the types and sources of support that can help them.
Component 2:	Health and Social Care Services and Values.	For this component, you will explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. You will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care that are important because they enable people who use these services to get the care they need and to be protected from different sorts of harm
Component 3:	Health and Wellbeing. (exam)	In the final component, you will explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators and what they mean for a person's state of health. You will also learn how this information is used to recommend appropriate actions for improving a person's health and wellbeing. Additionally, you will explore the difficulties an individual may face when trying to make these changes.

How can I find out more about the course?

Speak to the Health and Social Care teacher. They will be located in the rooms in which the subject is taught this includes T13 and T12. Also speak to the Subject leader of Health and Social Care (Mr Kinsella) who is based in T12 and is happy to answer any questions that students may have.



Information

BTEC Tech Awards are vocationally related qualifications that take a practical approach to learning and assessment. The award is the same size as a GCSE. Internal and external assessment occurs throughout the course.

What do I need?

Important skills for Health and Social Care include good organisational skills, the ability to keep to deadlines and being adaptable.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Pathways

The BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care will offer you the opportunity of further and higher education.

At Holy Family we also offer the further study of Health and Social Care at Level 3.

Skills

BTEC Tech Award in Health and Social Care provides students with essential knowledge in the sector and transferable skills to improve learning in all subjects. Examples include: Research skills, developed writing techniques and insight into the vocational sector.

Careers

BTEC Tech Awards in Health and Social Care lead to a variety of careers in health, social work, teaching and the early years sectors.



ICT (VOCATIONAL)

Are you passionate about technology? Do you like solving problems? Are you curious about all things digital, and want to learn some fantastic new skills? If so, it's time to uncover your potential.

ICT usage is becoming increasingly widespread in day-to-day life, as people become progressively dependent on their digital devices. In the workplace, ICT is also vital for the smooth running of many everyday tasks. There are a number of key skills that employers look for which centre around the practical ability to use, a range of computer programmes, software and other applications.

This qualification is weighted more towards a coursework unit if you feel you are more suited to coursework content.

Assessment

Unit	How assessed	Unit description
Unit 1 - ICT in Society	External assessment	<p>This unit allows learners to explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society. They will investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and home use.</p> <p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society • Investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and homes. • Environmental impacts of IT and the need for cybersecurity. <p>This unit is externally assessed through a written examination. Duration: 1 hour 20 minutes. This assessment contributes 40% to the overall qualification grade.</p>
Unit 2 - ICT in Context	Coursework	<p>This unit enables learners to gain a broad working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images and to apply their knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings. This unit will allow you to show off your practical IT skills</p> <p>You will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gain a working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images in photoshop • Learn to apply your knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings <p>This unit is internally assessed through controlled assessment. This assessment contributes 60% to the overall qualification grade.</p>



Information

ICT skills are essential for success in Employment and Higher Education, and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. These skills will be delivered across a range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all students to achieve.

What do I need?

As you will be completing an exam unit and a coursework unit, you will need to be organised, have a good work ethic and the ability to work independently.



ICT

Pathways

ICT supports a number of pathways and could form a basis for progression into BTEC Level 3 IT (Holy Family). Pupils could also go onto employment where they can take further training in such areas as Multimedia, Web Development, game Development and Computing.

Skills

You will develop knowledge and understanding of the way ICT is being used and develop a number of skills which are valued by college and employers. These skills include: Communication, Designing Skills, Problem Solving and Critical Thinking.

Careers

You can use this qualification to go into a number of different things. Specific careers could be: Games Design, Games Testing, Website Design, Graphics Designer, Computer Programmer Cyber Security and Ethical Hacking



BTEC LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD in MUSIC PRACTICE (VOCATIONAL)

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice is for learners who enjoy the practical elements of music including performing and composing. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. This qualification requires learners to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the musical elements, musical contexts and musical language and allow learners, where appropriate, to apply these to their own work when performing and composing. These areas have been covered in Music lessons from Year 7.

COMPONENTS

Learners are required to complete and achieve all the components included in the qualification.

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice				
Component number	Component title	GLH	Level	How assessed
1	Exploring Music Products and Styles	36	1/2	Internal
2	Music Skills Development	36	1/2	Internal
3	Responding to a Commercial Music Brief	48	1/2	External Synoptic

ASSESSMENT

The three components in the qualification give learners the opportunity to develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the music industry, specialist skills and techniques in music practice, and how to respond to a commercial music brief. This promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice.

The components focus on:

- the development of core knowledge and understanding of music styles and techniques used in a range of music genres
- the development and application of skills such as practical, musical rehearsal and performance
- reflective practice through the development of skills and techniques that allow learners to think about the development of their idea from the initial plan to the final musical product.

Component 3 provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 3 builds directly on Components 1 and 2. Component 3 requires learners to apply musical skills and techniques in response to a brief to produce a music product.



Information

In the course you will:

- Learn about all aspects of music. Where it comes from, why it was composed.
- Learn about how to analyse music. Looking at structure, melody and much more.
- Learn about the recording studio. How to record and enhance music through music technology effects.
- Improve your performance skills, whether that is learning an instrument or continuing to develop your skills on your chosen instrument.
- Learn how to create your own music with the help of our music computer software Cubase and Sibelius.

What do I need?

Students must have a very good attendance record, be enthusiastic and willing to work as part of a team. We ask that students can play an instrument or sing. Students must be able to meet deadlines. Extra-curricular commitment will be required for examination preparation and performance rehearsals.

Careers

The course is good for anyone considering a career in the performing arts industry.

**BTEC LEVEL 1/2
MUSIC PRACTICE**

Pathways

Many students continue their interest in Music by taking A Level Music or BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts/Music.



Opportunities

Students will be offered the opportunity to attend a trip to Manchester, take part in music workshops delivered by professional musicians and experience live orchestral music throughout the 2-year course.

Skills

Music is a challenging and enjoyable subject. Students will develop listening skills that will enhance the aural perception needed in language examinations, give you more confidence performing to an audience and is highly regarded by higher education establishments.



WJEC SPORT & COACHING PRINCIPLES (VOCATIONAL)

(Please note – you will choose a ‘Sports Course’ option. The qualification you study will be determined as a class following assessment in December 2023)

The Vocational Award in Sport and Coaching Principles is designed to encourage and inspire learners into following a worthwhile qualification that provides insight into sports performance and coaching. It is designed to develop independent learners that can make informed decisions about further learning opportunities or continue into related career choices. Learners develop both a critical and analytical approach to problem solving whilst gaining an understanding of sports performance, fitness and coaching principles.

The qualification is designed to include a variety of aspects of Sport and Coaching including improving their own and others performance, how to assess needs and identify actions plans to develop physical fitness for sport or health, and how to coach different groups with different needs. The knowledge and skills gained provide a clear grounding within the sport and sports coaching sectors for those learners that may choose a career in sport, leisure, fitness instruction and coaching.

THE COURSE IS NOT A PHYSICAL EDUCATION COURSE. It is, however, sport based with coursework centred on the focus of each unit.

Overview of course content:

Unit 1 Improving Sporting Performance

Unit 2 Fitness for Sport

Unit 3 Coaching Principles

Please note that there will be times when students are expected to stay behind after school to complete assignments, particularly when students do not have access to a computer at home or are in danger of missing a deadline.



Information

BTEC Firsts in Sport provide a practical, real-world approach to learning and develop specific knowledge and skills learners need to work successfully in the industry, such as developing project-/self-management and independent-learning skills, by investigating opportunities for employment in the industry, as well as exploring trends which affect participation in sport of the business community

What do I need?

Skills such as team working and communication skills by organising as you will be leading sports activities and events and carrying out a variety of roles within a team
Learners will also need to be able to present their work in a variety of ways, including:
Written reports, graphs, posters
practical demonstrations
verbal or online presentations.



SPORT & COACHING PRINCIPLES



Pathways

The BTEC First in sport leads onto the Btec national award at level 3 which is an A level equivalent course.

Skills

Learners will take responsibility for their own learning and to develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. These skills include: teamworking; working from a prescribed brief; working to deadlines; presenting information effectively; and accurately completing administrative tasks and processes.

Careers

BTEC Sports Studies will prepare you to become a coach, fitness instructor, centre manager, P.E. teacher or personal Trainer.



Pathways

Subjects	Ebacc Pathway	Non Ebacc Pathway
Mathematics	Y	Y
English Language & Literature (2)	Y	Y
Combined Science (2)	Y	Y
RE	Y	Y
PE (Core)	Y	Y
Personal Development/PSCHE	Y	Y
Option 1	French or Spanish	One from: French, Spanish, Geography or History
Option 2	History or Geography	Any option subject
Option 3	Any option subject	Any option subject



Option Choices

Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Reserve
French	French	French	French
Spanish	Spanish	Spanish	Spanish
Geography	Geography	Geography	Geography
History	History	History	History
	Computer Science	Computer Science	Computer Science
	Engineering*	Engineering*	Engineering*
	Separate Sciences	Separate Sciences	Separate Sciences
	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Food Preparation & Nutrition	Food Preparation & Nutrition
	Dance	Dance	Dance
	Art & Design	Art & Design	Art & Design
	Music*	Music*	Music*
	Drama	Drama	Drama
	Business Enterprise*	Business Enterprise*	Business Enterprise*
	Health & Social Care *	Health & Social Care *	Health & Social Care *
	PE/Sports Studies *	PE/Sports Studies *	PE/Sports Studies *
	IT*	IT*	IT*

- Denotes a vocational qualification equivalent to a GCSE



Support & Next Steps

1st, 2nd and 3rd March
Options presentations to year groups from Mr Symes Optional subject presentations from all Subject Leaders
Monday 6th March and Thursday 9th March
Information booklets, Personal Development lesson, Parents Option Evening
Tuesday 14th March
Parents' Evening for subjects
Week beginning 20th March
Consultations with students and parents
Thursday 30th March
Deadline for submission of option choices

Option choices are made via our online form. Click the below link or use the QR code.

<https://forms.office.com/e/Tq4eFm8vt0>

