GCSE Curriculum Choice
Information and Application Pack
2024-25

For Year 9 Pupils

Learn to succeed

Introduction

Welcome to the Year 9 Curriculum Choice booklet. The purpose of this booklet is to help students and parents/guardians decide which subjects to study in Year 10 and 11, as well as providing information about the curriculum as a whole.

In the following pages, each subject is explained in greater detail. Please read the information carefully and take the opportunity to ask any questions to subject teachers.

The decisions that you make now are important as they may affect the courses you wish to study once you leave Priory and may also influence your future career aspirations.

If you have any specific subject questions, please contact the relevant subject leader, whose email addresses are on the school website at

www.priory.lancs.sch.uk/parents/staff-contact-list

Regards

N R Gee

Mr N Gee
Assistant Principal

The National Curriculum

All students study the following subjects in line with statutory guidance:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Combined Science (Trilogy)

Other Compulsory Courses

As part of the education of the whole student, as well as in preparation for life beyond school, all students follow non exam courses in:

- Physical Education and Games
- RE
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- Citizenship
- Careers Education and Work Experience

The Curriculum Plan

Our aim is to provide an Access Driven Curriculum (Advance Learning) to raise standards (Aim for Excellence) for all our students, matching their individual ability and aptitude (Nurture the Individual) to the courses we deliver. Maximising aptitude and developing Independent Learning (Accept Responsibility) through a structured, student–led curriculum plan.

Monitoring Pupil Progress

Tutors and subject teachers will be keeping a careful track of pupils' progress throughout Year 10 and 11. However, it is essential that pupils monitor their own progress and have their own goals and targets.

All staff will continue to ensure that pupils make good use of the Arbor pupil app to record homework, record important dates and convey information between teachers and parents.

Parents can play a key role in ensuring children achieve their potential by taking an active interest in their child's progress.

When there is a particular matter of concern, or indeed special commendation, contact with home will be made on an individual basis.

What can parents/guardians to do help?

Although parents cannot sit exams for their children, the support of parents is often a crucial feature in the success, or otherwise, of their child.

Parents/guardians can help by:

- By constantly visiting the school website, Facebook page or school newsletter to keep up to date with all the latest information.

- By checking Mrs Cowell's half termly learning newsletter for helpful learning and revision tips, and homework on Teams/Arbor.

- By checking that sufficient time is allowed for homework, along with the other activities that the student does. This may mean checking homework before they go out with friends.

- By providing a quiet place in the home where students can do homework. Although some students may find it easier to work with music in the background, instrumental music is preferential, television and song lyrics can be distracting.

- By regularly checking the student's devices, asking where they record homework and asking them to show you examples of work they are doing.

- By talking about the progress of their work; encouraging them when it is difficult and helping when there are problems.

- By ensuring that deadlines are known and helping to plan in order to meet them.

- By encouraging students to produce the best possible work in terms of presentation, quality, quantity etc.

- By ensuring that students get enough sleep so that they are neither tired, nor late, for school.

- By providing basic equipment which can be used at home.

It is essential that parents/guardians do provide a high level of support, even if it is not always welcomed or accepted.

Remember, if you do have any concerns (subject specific or pastoral) we are here to help you. Do contact us sooner rather than after if you are anxious about any of your child's work.

If you cannot contact the member of staff concerned, please leave a message with the school office with an appropriate contact time and telephone number.

Making decisions

The decisions you will have to make about what to study at Key Stage 4 are very important. They will affect the rest of your life, so it is essential that you think very carefully about which subject to study.

Your choice should and will depend on your ability at various subjects, your interests and career intentions.

Things to remember

- Read through this booklet carefully.

- If in doubt, don't be afraid to ask the relevant members of staff for advice.

- Discuss your ideas with your parents.

- Choose subjects you are good at.

- Choose subjects you enjoy.

- Choose subjects you need for your career (if you aren't sure what you want to go on and do yet, we recommend studying a balance of subjects.)

Things not to do!

- Don't just pick a subject because your friends are doing it.

- Don't just pick a subject because you like the teacher (or don't like the teachers of the other subjects). Teaching staff often change what they teach in Years 10 and 11.

We try our best to give students what they want and need, but classes have minimum and maximum sizes and being offered a subject depends on numbers.

Students will not be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis but will be considered on their suitability for the course.

All students will have an interview with their Head of Year about their intended choices for GCSE.

Careers advice

The school's careers advisor, Ms Smith, arranges 1:1 career appointments with Year 9, 10 and 11 pupils.

Ms Smith offers professional, independent and impartial advice and guidance on a range of post-16 options including A-Levels, specialist vocational pathways, technical courses, employer apprenticeships, training and more.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc) at Penwortham Priory Academy

All pupils at Priory will study the following core subjects

- English language and English literature
- Maths
- Science – either combined science (trilogy) or three single separate sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) if chosen as an option
- In addition, all pupils will have to choose either French, Geography or History

Penwortham Priory Academy and the Department for Education believes choosing the Ebacc suite of subjects keeps the maximum amount of options open for all pupils. We therefore strongly recommend that all pupils study French and also choose either Geography or History as two of their three choices.

What is the EBacc?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBaac Future-Proofs Your Child's Prospects

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

Languages Give Young People A Competitive Edge

Languages are an important part of the EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments. If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities. What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes.

Choosing the EBacc at Penwortham Priory Academy

To choose the EBacc at Priory, your son/daughter has to simply choose GCSE French and either GCSE History or Geography. They then have one further option choice where they can choose any option subject.

Compulsory Subjects

Course Information

All students at Priory will study GCSE English Language following the Eduqas specification. The course requires students to demonstrate an ability to read and understand texts exploring both explicit and implicit information; form and opinion (or line of argument and prove it); write in a variety of forms to fit a given audience, purpose and format. The course is split into two main sections: fiction and non-fiction. It is designed to allow students to engage with a range of texts while developing critical skills in reading, writing and spoken language.

For the fiction element, students will read and respond to questions about a short story before choosing one of four given titles/opening/ending lines to compose a narrative of their own.

In the non-fiction element, students will be required to read and respond to questions about a 19th Century and a 21st Century text on a given topic before comparing them. They will then be asked to write two transactional texts (text with real world purpose) which can be in any of the following formats (specified in each question) letter, article, speech, review, report.

Students are also required to demonstrate their ability to give a formal presentation to an audience of their choosing.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Two Written Exams

Paper 1: 20th Century Literature Reading and Creative Prose Writing – 1hr 45mins (40% of final mark).

Paper 2: 19th and 21st Century Non-Fiction Reading and Transactional/Persuasive Writing – 2hrs (60% of final mark).

Spoken Language Assessment – reported as: pass, merit or distinction.

While this does not form a part of the overall GCSE grade, it is a compulsory national requirement of all GCSE English Language courses.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

GCSE English Language provides a base for further studies at A Level and beyond. The course develops a number of key skills which are valued by employers such as: evaluation skills, research skills, summary skills and the ability to communicate clearly and for purpose both in written formats and orally. Students can look to a range of careers, including but not limited to, those in fields such as journalism, marketing, advertising and publishing. Top universities value English Language studies highly and the subject is viewed as beneficial when applying to read for degrees in the areas of Law, History and Politics among others.

Subject Leader Name

Miss S Beswick (s.beswick@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

English Language

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Course Information

All students at Priory will study GCSE English Literature, alongside GCSE English Language following the Eduqas specification. The course requires students to explore critically acclaimed texts and follow and form their own interpretations of writers' ideas and intentions. While the course is challenging, as it requires knowledge of a number of different texts, it also provides students to explore human experiences beyond those in their own sphere/daily lives.

Students will study a play by Shakespeare, works from both J B Priestley and Charles Dickens alongside the set poetry anthology. They will also be expected to apply the interpretative skills that they acquire throughout the course to two poems which are 'unseen' (ie, they have not been formally studied prior to the exam).

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Two Written Exams

Paper 1: Shakespeare and Poetry – 2hrs (40% of final mark).

Paper 2: Post 1914 Prose/Drama, 19th Century Prose and Unseen Poetry – 2hrs 30mins (60% of final mark).

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

GCSE English Literature provides a base for further studies at A Level and beyond. The course develops a number of key skills which are valued by employers such as: close reading, research skills, evaluation skills, interpretative skills and the ability to form a clear, cogent and reasoned argument. Students can look to a range of careers, including but not limited to, those in fields such as journalism, marketing, advertising and publishing. Top universities value English Language studies highly and the subject is viewed as beneficial when applying to read for degrees in the areas of Law, History and Politics among others.

Subject Leader Name

Miss S Beswick (s.beswick@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

English Literature

Learn to succeed

Course Information

Students at Priory study all elements of the OCR GCSE in Mathematics, including numbers and the Number System, Algebra, Statistics & Probability, Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change, Shape, Space and Measures.

The specification blends knowledge of Mathematical techniques with their application to help solve problems, both within the classroom and in the outside world.

Students will progress from GCSE grades 1 up to 5 (1 to 9 for the higher tier) and will be assessed regularly to check knowledge and understanding. Pupils will receive detailed feedback on their areas of strength and weakness, with additional work and guidance provided to improve outcomes.

Students at Priory make the use of technology for learning and intervention, including instructional videos and interactive games to provide a rounded package of support before, during and after lessons.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

One non-calculator paper and two calculator papers, each 1hr 30mins in duration, 100 marks per paper.

This course is 100% examination based. The exams comprise a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Students who enjoy Mathematics can continue to study the subject at college, taking Core Maths or A-Level Maths. Mathematics and Numeracy are essential for many careers, including medicine, engineering, defence, education, accountancy and careers in the financial sector.

Subject Leader Name

Mr P Kenrick (p.kenrick@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Mathematics

Learn to succeed

Course Information

GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy) is studied by all pupils at Key Stage 4. It contains elements of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and is equivalent to two GCSEs.

Pupils will sit six papers where both practical skills and subject knowledge will be tested. The exam papers consist of a mixture of multiple choice, structured and closed short answer and open response type questions.

There is no controlled assessment or coursework.

Pupils will study the following topics (as set out in the AQA specification):

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology
- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources
- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and electromagnetism

All pupils considering post-16 science courses (A-Levels, BTECs, etc) are strongly advised to select the Separate Science option. While this is not always a requirement for these courses, the broader understanding will help to better prepare you for post-16 study and make the transition from Priory to college easier. This is particularly true for those considering careers in medicine or veterinary fields.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

6 x written exams, each 1hr 15mins long and worth 17.5% each.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Sciences is regarded as a vital subject by the majority of employers and all colleges and universities. The skills and knowledge gained are a foundation for many A Level subjects, not just the traditional Sciences, and provide an essential grounding to ensure pupils are prepared for the changing needs of a modern economy.

Subject Leader Name

Mr D Bedford (d.bedford@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Combined Science (Trilogy)

Learn to succeed

Optional subjects

Technical Awards

Throughout the option booklet you will see a range of BTEC and V Cert qualifications. These qualifications are generally referred to as Technical Awards.

Technical Awards are broad, high-quality Level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills. They focus on the applied study of an industry sector or occupational area, or the acquisition of practical and technical skills.

Technical Awards will fulfil entry requirements for both academic and vocational study post-16, alongside GCSEs.

All Technical Awards will count as equivalent to one GCSE in the Key Stage 4 performance tables.

Technical Awards

Learn to succeed

Course Information

During the two-year GCSE Art, Craft & Design course, you will have three lessons a week and build upon your Key Stage 3 (Year 7-9) learning. This broad-based course offers the opportunity to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding using practical skills, whilst developing an understanding of the wide-ranging areas of art, craft and design.

You will have the opportunity to study from a range of options to suite your interests. You must work in two or more titles from those listed in bold below. You may work in an area(s) of study within and/or across titles.

- **Fine Art**: areas of study such as drawing, painting, printmaking, or sculpture

- **Graphic Communication**: areas of study such as illustration, packaging, or advertising

- **Photography**: areas of study such as location or studio, moving image

- **Textile Design**: areas of study such as printed and digital textiles, stitched and/or embellished textiles, or fashion design

- **Three-dimensional Design**: areas of study such as ceramics, product design, or jewellery

- **Critical and Contextual Studies**: areas of study such as artistic movements, popular culture, natural forms

The GCSE in Art, Craft and Design is made up of two components. Both components are essentially made up of practical responses and practical study. This will be set out and guided by the school.

Component 1 (60%) – this is the portfolio where you will develop, explore and record your ideas. You will learn skills, whilst developing your knowledge and understanding. You will have the opportunity to create a personal response to starting points which can be visual or written and you will work in a range of chosen traditional and/or digital media.

Component 2 (40%) – you will get an early release paper from which you will be able to choose a starting point either visual or written to develop a response using the skills, knowledge and understanding you have gained through your chosen course of study. You will be given a period of preparation then a 10-hour period of sustained focussed study in which to realise your intentions.

Both components will be marked internally by your teacher and moderated externally by the awarding organisation, OCR.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Coursework: 60%

One project in Year 10 and Year 11 Autumn term covering all 4 assessment objectives.

Externally Set Project: 40%

One project in one term. One 10-hour exam to create the final piece (over two days).

(All work is assessed by Priory staff and moderated by OCR)

Learn to succeed

Art, Craft & Design

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Art, Craft and Design builds skills to enable progression to any of the GCE AS and A level Art and Design courses. It also enables progression to a range of vocational courses including apprenticeships.

Subject Leader Name

Mrs L Shaw (l.shaw@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Art, Craft & Design

Learn to succeed

SEPARATE SCIENCES

Course Information

Pupils can opt to study more science and take three GCSEs in the separate sciences - GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Pupils will continue to study the Combined Science (Trilogy), which is compulsory (see page 10 where the topics are outlined) but will have a further three hours to cover additional content. The pupils study these topics in greater depth and in GCSE Physics there is an additional Space topic.

Pupils will sit two papers per subject and where both their practical skills and their subject knowledge will be tested. The exam papers consist of a mixture of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response type questions.

There is no controlled assessment or coursework.

All pupils considering post-16 science courses (A-Levels, BTECs, etc) are strongly advised to select the Separate Science option. While this is not always a requirement for these courses, the broader understanding will help to better prepare you for post-16 study and make the transition from Priory to college easier. This is particularly true for those considering careers in medicine or veterinary fields.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

2 x written exams, each 1hr 45mins long and worth 50% for each subject.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

All three Sciences are regarded as vital subjects by the majority of employers and all colleges and universities. The skills and knowledge gained are a foundation for many A Level subjects, not just the traditional Sciences, and provide an essential grounding to ensure pupils are prepared for the changing needs of a modern economy.

It is strongly encouraged that any pupils thinking of post-16 Science take the separate option. This will give them a much broader and deeper understanding of the background science needed to be successful on post-16 courses. This additional knowledge will make the transition from GCSE to post-16 courses more accessible and manageable.

Subject Leader Name

Mr D Bedford (d.bedford@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Biology Chemistry & Physics

Learn to succeed

Course Information

Introduction

This qualification has been designed to give learners hands-on experiences and use knowledge and practical enterprise tools to prepare them for business. They will develop significant personal and vocational business skills that can be transferred to further study or employment.

The study of business and enterprise involves understanding key business and enterprise areas such as, legal structures, marketing, market research, operations management, resource planning, human resources, funding, finance and business and enterprise planning. The qualification focuses on an applied study of the business and enterprise sector and learners will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of working in the sector.

Pupils will study the following topics

Component 1: Exploring Enterprises
Learners will explore different enterprises to develop their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs to be successful. Learners will explore how enterprises use market research to find out about their customer needs and competitor behaviour and how internal and external factors may affect enterprises.

Component 2: Planning and Presenting a Micro-Enterprise Idea
Learners will generate two realistic ideas for a micro-enterprise and choose one of these to plan within budget. They will individually present their business plan for their idea and review the production and delivery of their presentation to make recommendations for improvements.

Component 3: Marketing and Finance for Enterprise
Learners will explore how marketing is used by enterprises and the factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market. Learners will complete financial documents and statements and explore how to use them to monitor and improve the performance of an enterprise in order to make decisions and recommend strategies for success.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Component 1 - Internal Assessment (30%)
Component 2 - Internal Assessment (30%)
Component 3 - Written exam– 1 hour 30 minutes (40%)

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

• A Level in Business. This will support progression to higher education.
• Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship.

Typical jobs in the sector include; Accounting, Accounting and Business, Business Administration, Business and Enterprise, Customer Service Operations, Business Support, Marketing, Human Resources

Subject Leader Name

Mrs S Qadri (s.qadri@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Business & Enterprise
BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise

Learn to succeed

Course Information

Introduction

This Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development has been designed for learners with an interest in child development and care. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of learners who wish to be introduced to childcare and development of children aged 0-5 years. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles and assists in developing their ability to study

Aims

This qualification will enable you to develop significant transferable knowledge and study skills that will support progression to further learning, including:

- an awareness of learning styles
- an introduction in to working with children in a variety of settings
- an understanding of roles and responsibilities when working in a setting
- an understanding of Equality and Diversity within a childcare setting
- an understanding of the stages and sequence of child development
- an introduction to observing children and how it supports development
- an introduction to the influences that affect holistic development
- an introduction to everyday care routines and the types of activities that can support the development of independence
- an introduction to supporting children through transition.

Qualification Structure

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 9 content areas of this qualification.

Content

Content area 1: Child development

Content area 2: Factors that influence the child's development

Content area 3: Care routines, play and activities to support the child

Content area 4: Early years provision

Content area 5: Legislation, policies and procedures in the early years

Content area 6: Expectations of the early years practitioner

Content area 7: Roles and responsibilities within early years settings

Content area 8: The importance of observations in early years childcare

Content area 9: Planning in early years childcare

Child Development

Learn to succeed

Assessment

The qualification has two assessments externally-set by NCFE:

- One non-exam assessment - 14 hours non-exam assessment - synoptic project - Externally-set, internally marked and externally moderated - 50% of overall mark.
- One written examined assessment - 1 hour 30 minutes examined assessment, externally set and marked – 50% of overall mark.

Methods of Learning

Where possible a practical approach to learning will be undertaken, this will be followed up with classroom based evaluations and portfolio work, where students will have the opportunity to work both individually and in groups, working on research projects, presentations, discussions, reading and note-making, extended writing, creativity and problem-solving.

Progression Opportunities

The NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development will enable progression to further study, training or employment, and enable students to make informed choices with regards to a career in the childcare industry.

Subject Leader Name

Mrs A Holland (a.holland@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Child Development

Course Information

Introduction

GCSE Computer Science is a subject that will enable pupils to develop skills in:

• Problem solving

• Computational thinking

• Analytical thinking

Students are introduced to core principles of computer science and develop skills in problem solving and computational thinking. Following on from more visual programming environments, programming skills are further developed using high-level textual programming languages. Students develop knowledge and understanding of how technology can be used to help proactively with current issues that impact on modern society, preparing them for their next steps in today's global world.

Pupils will study the following topics

• Algorithms & Decomposition
• Programming
• Binary
• Logic & Truth Tables
• Data Representation
• Data Storage & Compression
• Programming Languages
• Hardware
• Software
• Networks and Network Security
• Cyber Security
• Environmental, Ethical & Legal Issues

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Written Exam (Paper 1) – 1 hour 30 minutes (50%)

On Screen Programming Exam (Paper 2) – 2 hours (50%)

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Further study for Computer Science at A Level and university degrees.

Typical jobs in the sector include; application analyst, cyber security analyst, computer hardware engineer, data analyst, database administrator, forensic computer analyst, fame designer, games developer, IT consultant, multimedia programmer, software engineer, systems analyst, web designer, web developer.

Subject Leader Name

Mrs S Qadri (s.qadri@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Computer Science

Learn to succeed

Course Information

This course involves exploring ideas, thoughts, and feelings through choreography and by evaluating other people's work.

You will learn what techniques are best to employ in different situations, then learn how to communicate what you have discovered to an audience, thinking about elements such as lighting, sound, and costume.

You will also learn how to take movement and choreography and turn them into engaging pieces of theatre.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Component 1 – Exploring the performing arts

Assessment: this is an internal assessment, which is worth 30%.

Aim: get a taste of what it's like to be a professional dancer across different styles.

During Component 1, you will observe and reproduce existing repertoire, as well as explore:

- Performance styles, creative intentions and purpose.
- Performance roles, responsibilities and skills.
- Performance techniques, approaches and processes.
- How practitioners create and influence what is performed.

Component 2 – Developing skills and techniques

Assessment: this is an internal assessment, which is worth 30%;
Aim: develop skills and techniques in the chosen discipline of dancing.

During Component 2, you will:

- Gain physical, interpretative, and rehearsal skills during workshops and classes.
- Apply their technical, stylistic and interpretative skills in performances.
- Reflect on their progress and use of performance, as well as how they could improve.

Component 3 – Performing to a brief

Assessment: externally assessed task where students work in groups of between 3 and 7 members to create a performance based on a set brief and is worth 40%.

Aim: consider how practitioners adapt their skills for different contexts and put this into practice in a performance.

To do this you will:

Use the brief and what you've learned to come up with ideas for the performance.

Choose the skills and techniques you'll need.

Build on your skills in classes, workshops, and rehearsals.

Review the development process within an ideas and skills log.

Perform a piece lasting 10-15 minutes (which is filmed) to your chosen target audience.

Reflect on the performance in an evaluation report.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Students with a Pass – Distinction* in BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance) can expect to be looked on favourably by colleges and employers who are keen to work with people who have the confidence and inter-personal skills the subject affords them.

Employers are now looking for learners with creativity, this course lends itself to you having one of the most desired skills employers are looking for in the 21st century.

The transferable skills of cooperation, commitment, communication, and confidence are highly sought after and BTEC Dance equips you with these.

There are A-Levels and BTEC Dance courses available at the likes of Runshaw, Cardinal Newman and Preston's College and can lead to places at performing arts colleges, theatre schools and more.

Subject Leader Name

Miss F Howell (f.howell@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Please note, pupils cannot choose to study both Performing Arts (Drama) and Performing Arts (Dance), you can only choose one of these.

Dance
BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Dance)

Learn to succeed

Course Information

This qualification is designed for learners who want an introduction to all aspects of engineering that includes a vocational and project-based element.

Students will study mechanical engineering, electrical engineering, aerospace engineering, communications engineering, chemical engineering, civil engineering, automotive engineering, biomedical engineering, and software engineering – with opportunities to specialise in Year 11.

The NCFE Level 2 Technical Award in Engineering complements GCSE qualifications and is graded Level 2 Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5–1).

What will the learner study as part of this qualification?

This qualification shows learners how to:

- understand engineering disciplines
- understand how science and maths are applied in engineering
- understand how to read engineering drawings
- understand properties and characteristics of engineering materials and know why specific materials are selected for engineering applications
- understand engineering tools, equipment and machines
- produce hand-drawn engineering drawings
- produce Computer Aided Design (CAD) engineering drawings
- demonstrate production planning techniques
- demonstrate processing skills and techniques applied to materials for a manufacturing task
- understand how to create, present and review art and design work

What knowledge and skills will the learner develop as part of this qualification and how might these be of use and value in further studies?

Learners will develop skills and knowledge:

- in adapting their own ideas and responding to feedback
- in evaluating their own work
- analysing data and making decisions
- that are essential for the engineering sector, such as understanding how to read drawings; responding to data; independent working; working to deadlines; efficient use of resources
- practical application of tools and machinery, whilst adhering to health and safety legislation and guidance

Exam/Coursework Requirements

The course consists of four internally assessed coursework units, and one externally assessed exam.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Further Education Routes:
- A Levels in Maths, Further Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Design and Technology.
- Learners could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship in any area of the engineering sector.
- This qualification will also prepare learners for recruitment into the armed forces in the Army, Royal Air Force or the Royal Navy.

Subject Leader Name

Mrs S Lawe (s.lawe@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Design & Technology (Engineering)

Learn to succeed

Course Information

This course involves exploring ideas, thoughts, and feelings through making and performing drama and by evaluating other people's work.

You will learn what techniques are best to employ in different situations, then learn how to communicate what you have discovered to an audience, thinking about elements such as lighting, sound, and costume.

You will also learn how to take words on a page and turn them into engaging pieces of theatre.

On this specific course you can choose several routes:

Acting | Musical Theatre | Lighting | Costume | Make-up | Set design

These will all follow the same components.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Component 1 – Exploring the performing arts

Assessment: this is an internal assessment, which is worth 30%.

Aim: get a taste of what it's like to be a professional actor across different styles.

During Component 1, you will observe and reproduce existing repertoire, as well as explore:

• Performance styles, creative intentions and purpose.
• Performance roles, responsibilities and skills.
• Performance techniques, approaches and processes.
• How practitioners create and influence what is performed.

Component 2 – Developing skills and techniques

Assessment: this is an internal assessment, which is worth 30%; Aim:
develop skills and techniques in the chosen discipline of acting.

During Component 2, you will:

• Gain physical, interpretative, vocal and rehearsal skills during workshops and classes.

• Apply their technical, stylistic and interpretative skills in performances.

• Reflect on their progress and use of performance, as well as how they could improve.

Component 3 – Performing to a brief

Assessment: externally assessed task where students work in groups of between 3 and 7 members to create a performance based on a set brief and is worth 40%.

Aim: consider how practitioners adapt their skills for different contexts and put this into practice in a performance.

To do this you will:

Use the brief and what you've learned to come up with ideas for the performance.

Choose the skills and techniques you'll need.

Build on your skills in classes, workshops and rehearsals.

Review the development process within an ideas and skills log.

Perform a piece lasting 10-15 minutes (which is filmed) to your chosen target audience.

Learn to succeed

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Students with a Pass – Distinction* in BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Acting) can expect to be looked on favourably by colleges and employers who are keen to work with people who have the confidence and inter-personal skills the subject affords them. Students can be fully prepared for interviews and/or any future public speaking.

Employers are now looking for employees with creativity, this course lends itself to you having one of the most desired skills employers are looking for in the 21st century.

The transferable skills of cooperation, commitment, communication, and confidence are highly sought after and BTEC Performing Arts equips you with these.

There are A-Levels and BTEC Performing Arts (Level 3) courses available at the likes of Runshaw, Cardinal Newman and Preston's College and can lead to places at performing arts colleges, theatre schools and more.

Subject Leader Name

Miss F Howell (f.howell@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Please note, pupils cannot choose to study both Performing Arts (Drama) and Performing Arts (Dance), you can only choose one of these.

Drama
BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts (Acting)

Learn to succeed

Course Information

AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

Exam/Coursework Requirements

These elements are undertaken in Year 11.

1x Written Exam (1hr 45m) worth 100 marks and 50% of the GCSE

1x Food Investigation Task worth 15% of the GCSE

1x Food Preparation Assessment worth 35% of the GCSE

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

A food qualification can lead to a range of career opportunities within the food industry, such as food technologist, dietetics and sports nutrition, hotel and catering management, retailing as well as the many careers related to food production.

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, embark on apprenticeship programmes or full time careers in the catering or food industries.

It will also train students in a variety of skills from decision making, to problem solving, to team work - all of which are important life and employment skills.

This course can be continued at local colleges where catering and chef diplomas may be taken.

Subject Leader Name

Mrs E Lockwood (e.lockwood@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Food Preparation and Nutrition

Learn to succeed

Course Information

Introduction

The new GCSE French qualification is focused on the important ways that languages foster communication, broaden perspectives, introduce new cultures and develop students into global citizens.

At Priory, we are passionate about the benefits that learning a language can bring. We strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and something students should enjoy and find rewarding.

There are six broad thematic contexts to provide a focus for the teaching and learning of the vocabulary and grammar listed:

1. My personal world
2. Lifestyle and wellbeing
3. My neighbourhood
4. Media and technology
5. Studying and my future
6. Travel and Tourism

The aims of this qualification are to:

- provide a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study.

- develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, French and to recognise the importance of languages.

- provide a strong linguistic and cultural foundation for students who go on to study languages at **a higher level post-16.**

- develop students' ability and ambition to communicate independently in speech and writing with speakers of the language for authentic purposes.

- develop students' ability to communicate independently about subjects that are meaningful and interesting to them

- build students' confidence and broaden their horizons, enabling them to step beyond familiar cultural boundaries, develop new ways of seeing the world, and better understand relationships between the foreign language and the English language.

- enable students to become familiar with aspects of the contexts and cultures of the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

The Pearson Edexcel qualification consists of:

- three externally-examined papers assessing separately listening, reading and writing

- one speaking assessment set by Pearson and conducted by a teacher.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

The course can lead to further studies in French and to have a second language on your CV can improve employment prospects. The study of a language can also open many doors into international employment.

Subject Leader Name Mrs A Scully (a.scully@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

French

Learn to succeed

Course Information

GCSE Geography helps you to develop knowledge of issues, places and environments around the world as well as within the UK and more locally based geography.

Being a geographer allows you the luxury of knowing and understanding your physical landscape and the urban environment in which most of us live today. It is a dynamic subject that can be both current and rapidly changing as the world's population continues to increase so quickly.

You will improve your skills and understanding of maps, Google Earth and a range of problem solving skills as your studies take place both inside and outside the classroom - so you must be willing to work outdoors, enjoy travel and working in groups!

It is a traditional academic course that will equip you with skills that are needed to explain the world around you, as well as providing you with a GCSE that is acknowledged as great preparation for College and University courses.

The course is based on eight units which are assessed by three end of course exams worth 100% of the qualification. There are also fieldwork days, including trips to Bowness, Blackpool, Liverpool, Formby, Heysham, Wycoller and more. Some of these fieldwork trips take place during school time and some either after school or at weekends (they are also compulsory.

Please ensure you want to come into school for extra days in your own personal time before choosing Geography, however these trips and extra sessions are fun and usually free!

Classes are three, one hour classes per week and units range from rivers and flooding, to the urban world we live in, to weather, to changing rural environments to tourism and more!

Exam/Coursework Requirements

3 x exams

Paper One: Physical Geography (1 hr 30 mins)

Paper Two: Human Geography (1 hr 30 mins)

Paper Three: Skills Geography (1 hr 30 mins)

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Geography can lead you to study Geography and Geology at A Level, BTEC Leisure and Tourism and Public Services.

By studying and pursuing Geography, it can lead to careers in Travel, the Emergency Services, Leisure, Tourism, Armed Forces, Weather, Environmental Agencies, Geology, Natural Sciences, Water, GIS Systems, Transport and more.

What Our Past Pupils Think

"GCSE Geography at Priory opened up many doors for me. The breadth of content enabled to me to continue my love for Geography to A Level at college. The teachers in Geography are always supportive and offered their time and skills to really support me if I ever struggled. Geography at Priory was both fun and interesting and I am truly happy I chose this GCSE option"

Priory Pupil 2020

Subject Leader Name

Mr P Metcalfe (p.metcalfe@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
GCSE Geography	Edexcel	Spec A 1GA0	https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses.html

Geography

Course Information

GCSE History is a demanding subject. This course has been devised to allow pupils to study interesting historical subjects which have a relevance to the world that we live in today.

The study of History at GCSE level develops skills in pupils and equips them for adult life. Pupils will develop the ability to think critically, to formulate ideas, evaluate evidence and communicate clearly. Many pupils taking GCSE History at Priory choose to study further at A-Level.

Pupils will study History for three periods per week and will study four main topics that will be assessed at the end of Year 11 across two examination papers.

The course believes in the importance of learning from history, not being bound by our past but learning from it. The new specification enables students to study different aspects of the past, so they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understand what drives change and how the past influences the present.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Year 10	Year 11
Paper 1	Paper 2
USA 1920 - 1973	Health & People (History of Medicine) c.1000 – present day
Conflict & Tension 1918 - 1939	Elizabethan England c. 1568-1603

Students will complete two exams at the end of the course. Each paper is weighted to 50%.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

History is positively welcomed by many employers and the subject should be considered by those interested in careers in Law, Archaeology, Journalism, Economics and Politics to name a few.

Local colleges consider a GCSE in History as a rigorous, academic qualification and it shows that a pupil is highly literate, articulate, thoughtful and able to see two sides of an argument.

What Our Past Pupils Think

"I chose History at GCSE because I enjoy learning about history. I like that the exam allows me to analyse sources but also give accounts of what I've learnt. The four modules also give a variety of History to learn about."

Priory Pupil 2020

Subject Leader Name

Mr A Eccles (a.eccles@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Course Title	Exam Board	Specification Code	Website
GCSE History	AQA	8145	www.aqa.org.uk

Learn to succeed

Course Information

Introduction

Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. This course will equip pupils with a range of creative digital media skills and provide opportunities to develop desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

The Technical Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts.

Pupils will study the following topics

Component 1 – Exploring User Interface Design principles and Project Planning Techniques

Learners will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

Component 2 – Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

Learners will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

Component 3 – Effective Digital Working Practices

Learners will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Component 1 - Internal Assessment (30%)

Component 2 - Internal Assessment (30%)

Component 3 - Written exam– 1 hour 30 minutes (40%)

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects

- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

Employment within the information technology and/or areas within the creative industries, such as electronic publishing or multimedia production.

Typical jobs in the sector include; Advertising Manager, Animator, Digital Graphic Designer, Digital Video Editor, Marketing Expert / Manager, Multimedia Designer, Photographer, Project Management, Radio Producer, Social Media Content Manager, Technology Support Specialist, Web Developer / Manager.

Subject Leader Name

Mrs S Qadri (s.qadri@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

ICT
BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Learn to succeed

Course Information

The GCSE Music course centres around preparation for the final listening exam and ongoing composing coursework, interspersed with performance workshop sessions. It is imperative that the GCSE Music candidate is working with their specialist instrumental teacher over the course of the two years in order to receive targeted and specialist support in the performance element to dovetail with their classroom work which will be mainly listening and composing.

The new specification has raised the proportion of the GCSE Music listening exam to 40% which will centre around correct application of subject specific vocabulary and a broad listening experience to music across both genre and time. This will be through both studying set works and responding to unfamiliar music.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Listening Exam: 68% Unfamiliar Music, 32% Study Pieces.

1.5 hour final exam equalling 40% of total marks.

Vocal or instrumental performance: 4mins minimum in total.

Two performances — One solo and one ensemble.

Coursework preparation and recorded in the final year.

Total 30% of final marks.

Composition.

1.   To a brief

2.   Free composition

Total 30% of final marks.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Continued musical study could open doors to careers throughout the musical arts, including performer, composer, musicologist, Radio or TV presenter, music teacher, musical director, recording engineer, music therapist, choreographer, musical producer, DJ, conductor and more.

Subject Leader Name

Mr A Taylor (a.taylor@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Course Information

The OCR GCSE PE syllabus has been developed to provide students with the exciting opportunity to gain an understanding of the amazing world of sports performance.

Students will learn the reasons why and how we do things, why some athletes outperform others both mentally and physically. They will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

The main change has been to the percentage of marks allocated to the theory and practical elements of the course. The theory component now forms 60% of the final grade, the practical element (3 separate performance grades) forms 30% and the final 10% being awarded for the completion of a coursework task (Analysing and Evaluating Performance). As a direct result there will be increased emphasis on the time spent in the classroom to cover all of the theory content.

The theoretical component is more sports science based and includes the compulsory study of: Applied Anatomy and Physiology, Physical Training, Sports Psychology, Socio-Cultural Influences & Wealth and Fitness and Wellbeing.

The practical component is now performance based only. The roles of coach/leader and official have been removed. Students will be assessed in three separate sports as players (one individual, one team activity/sport and one additional individual/team sport).

It is important to note that this new GCSE PE course places increased emphasis on high level technical practical performance. This would therefore suit students who currently play a wide range of sports at a good/high level.

All students who pick GCSE PE will be expected to attend both lunchtime and after-school clubs to raise practical grades in sports such as badminton, handball and trampolining. Anyone who fails do do so will find their place on the course under review.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

Component 1: Physical Factors Affecting Performance is assessed via a 1 hour written examination worth 30% of the final grade.

Component 2: Socio-Cultural Issues and Sports Psychology is assessed via a 1 hour written examination paper worth 30% of the final grade.

Component 3: Performance with Physical Education is assessed through a practical performance in three activities weighted at 30% of the final grade, alongside coursework worth 10% of the final grade.

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

The award is designed to provide a broad foundation for pupils to progress onto A-level or sport-related courses at college. The content covered leads well into the A-level route as it covers Sociology, Psychology as well as Physiology which are core elements of the course.

Subject Leader Name

Mr M Bullock (m.bullock@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Please note, pupils cannot choose to study both PE (GCSE) and Sport (Health and Fitness), you can only choose one of these.

GCSE PE

Learn to succeed

Course Information

Students will complete a study of Christianity and Islam focusing on beliefs and tradition as well as practices within the two principle faiths.

Students will also study the following four themes of Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World.

Theme 1:   Issues of Relationships

Theme 2:   Issues of Life and Death

Theme 3:   Issues of Good and Evil

Theme 4:   Issues of Human Rights

The component consists of debating philosophical and ethical themes focusing on the impacts and beliefs of several groups within society including those of faith and those without.

Exam/Coursework Requirements

The courses consists of 3 examination as follows:

Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World

50%   2hr examination

Study of Christianity

25%   1hr examination

Study of Islam

25%   1hr examination

Progression (Where can the course lead?)

Community development work

Youth worker/social work

Work within the public sector such as police, nurse etc

Subject Leader Name

Mrs K Ham (k.ham@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Religious Education

Learn to succeed

Course Information

Introduction

This V Cert Level 2 qualification is designed for learners with an interest in sport. It will provide learners with experience of using different training techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will also provide them with the opportunity to develop and experience their own fitness programme.

Aims

- Focus on an applied study of the health and fitness industry sector
- Offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a significant core of knowledge and theoretical content with broad-ranging applicability
- Provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills

Course Content

Unit 01 Principles of health and fitness
Unit 02 Healthy lifestyles
Unit 03 Preparing and planning for health and fitness
Unit 04 Develop a personal health and fitness programme

Assessment

Externally set and marked written examination (Unit 02) 40%

Internally assessed portfolio of evidence (Units 01, 03, 04) 60%

Methods of learning

Where possible a practical approach to learning will be undertaken, this will be followed up with classroom based evaluations and portfolio work, where students will have the opportunity to work both individually and in groups, working on research projects, presentations, discussions, reading and note-making, extended writing, creative and problem-solving relating to the leisure industry.

Progression opportunities

A V CERT Level 2 Certificate in Sport (Health and Fitness) will enable progression to further study, training or employment, and enable students to make informed choices with regard to a career in the sport and leisure industry. They may progress to study further qualifications such as BTEC Level 3 in sport and progress into Higher Education.

Subject Leader Name

Mr M Bullock (m.bullock@priory.lancs.sch.uk)

Please note, pupils cannot choose to study both PE (GCSE) and Sport (Health and Fitness), you can only choose one of these.

Sport (Health & Fitness)

Learn to succeed

YEAR 9 OPTIONS

Deadline Saturday, 22 February 2025

All pupils will make their option choices using an online form (see link/QR code below) which will be live from Saturday, 1 February until Saturday, 22 February. Please note, this form cannot be accessed before the options parents evening.

https://forms.office.com/e/k8Gh5rmPrC

ALL PUPILS WILL STUDY GCSES IN:

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science (Trilogy),

IN ADDITION ALL PUPILS WILL STUDY THE FOLLOWING NON EXAM SUBJECTS:

Core PE and RE

OPTION CHOICES

Pupils will have to choose ONE subject from this section

GEOGRAPHY
HISTORY
FRENCH

Pupils will have to choose TWO subjects from this section plus TWO reserve subjects.

ART, CRAFT & DESIGN
SEPARATE SCIENCES (BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS)
CHILD DEVELOPMENT
BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE
COMPUTER SCIENCE
PERFORMING ARTS (DANCE)**
PERFORMING ARTS (ACTING)**
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY ENGINEERING
FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION
FRENCH
GEOGRAPHY
HISTORY
ICT (Digital Information Technology)
MUSIC
GCSE PE**
RE
SPORT (HEALTH & FITNESS)**

**Pupils cannot study both Performing Arts (Dance) and Performing Arts (Drama). Pupils cannot study both GCSE PE and Sport (Health & Fitness).