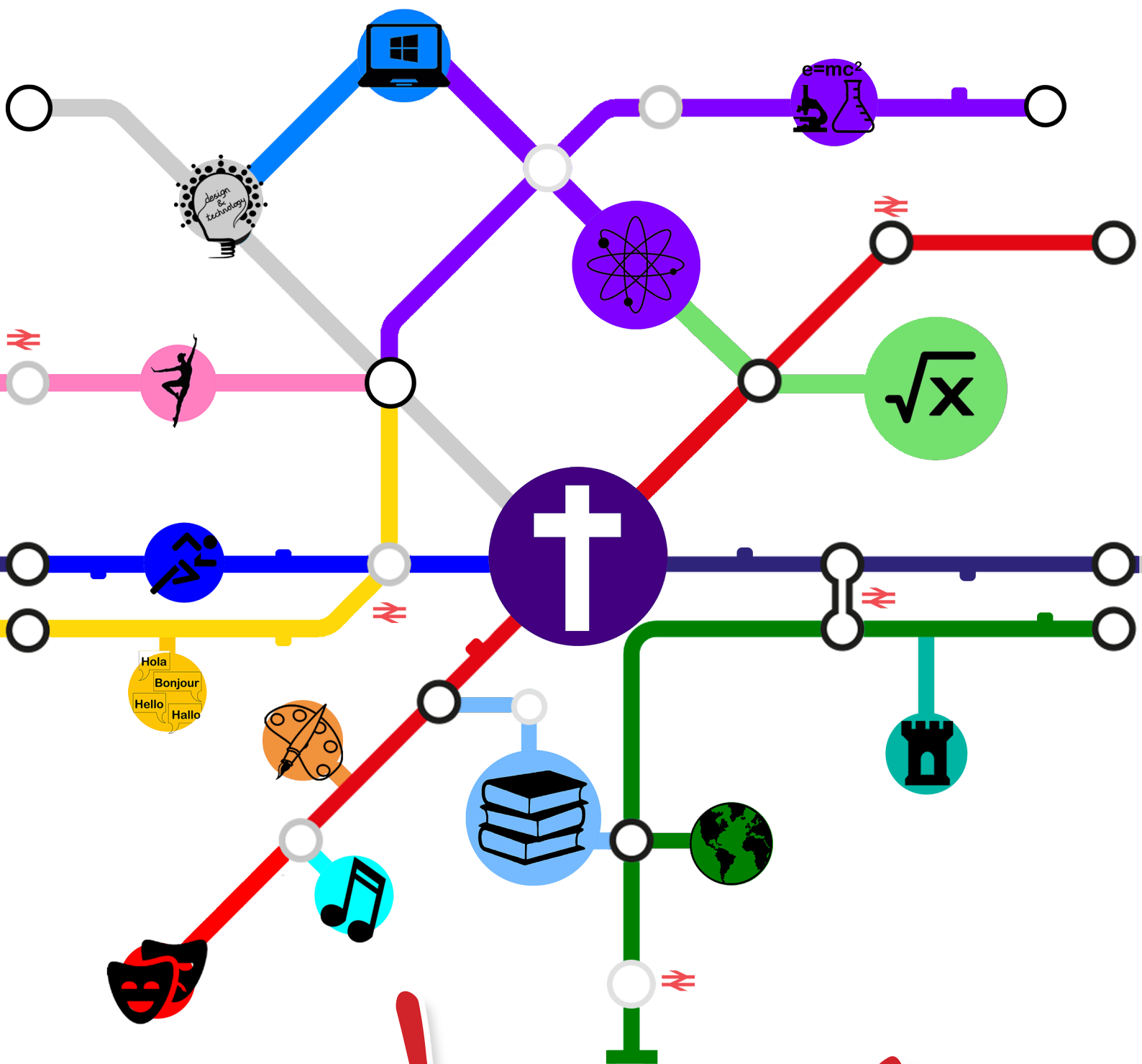




St Edmund Arrowsmith **Catholic**
High School



KS4

Options

Subject Information Booklet 2019



Contents Key Stage 4 Courses 2019

options

This booklet gives you information about the courses that are available at St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School for Key Stage 4 from September 2019.

Students and parents should read the information carefully and take time to decide on the best combination of subjects.

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Dear Parent/Carer,

options

We at St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High school understand the importance of supporting your child through the choices that will determine their journey through the next stage of their school experience. The option process has been designed to provide the structure, advice and guidance needed to make informed decisions about the qualifications that will be studied. We advise students to maintain a broad and balanced choice of subjects to ensure that future pathways are kept open. Although career direction and particular interests are important, we believe that studying subjects which students enjoy also plays an important role when making option choices. Students are more likely to succeed if they choose subjects that they enjoy and have a strong interest in.

It is important to realise that subject choices made now constitute a serious commitment for two years. We strongly advise that you and your child discuss the options process very carefully.

In years 10 and 11 there are four main curriculum pathways. These are designed to ensure a realistic and appropriate curriculum for every student. Each pathway contains the list of compulsory subjects and option blocks (choice of courses) and students will be asked to choose a course from each option block in their pathway. The school will inform you of the recommended pathway for your child. Pupils on ALL pathways will study English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Combined Science, RE and PE as their core subjects and will choose additional option subjects to study alongside their core subjects.

Green Pathway

Pupils following the green pathway will continue to study French/Spanish as one of their GCSE options. Pupils will make 3 option choices from the blocks on their pathway. Pupils can choose from a range of GCSEs and Technical awards.

Blue Pathway

Pupils will choose 1 EBacc (English Baccalaureate) subject from the first block and a further 3 option choices from the blocks on their pathway. Pupils can choose from a range of GCSEs and Technical awards.

Purple Pathway

Pupils will have a pre-selected option to enable them to spend more time developing their English skills following the EEC course. Pupils will choose 3 options choices from the blocks on their pathway. Pupils can choose from a range of GCSEs and Technical awards.

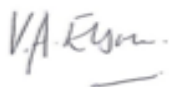
Orange Pathway

Pupils will have a pre-selected option to enable them to spend more time developing their English skills following the EEC course. In addition to this, pupils will take 1 Technical award and a further 2 option choices from GCSE and Technical award qualifications on their pathway.

Decisions about secondary education will probably be the most important decisions you and your child have yet to make in their school career. I hope that you will take advantage of the information provided so that together we can make the right decisions.

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr Reardon (Y9 Senior Learning Coordinator) on 01942 728651 at any time if you have any questions or if you require any help or advice about your child's options.

Yours sincerely



Mrs V A Elson
Deputy Headteacher

Guidance / Parents Evening

JANUARY

23

Wednesday 23rd January 2019

Form A-H 3:30pm - 6:30pm

JANUARY

24

Thursday 24th January 2019

Form L-W 3:30pm - 6:30pm

The Core Curriculum

options

You will already have realised that in years 10 and 11 the following subjects are compulsory:

Religious Education, English Literature and English Language, Mathematics, Combined Science, Physical Education and PSHE. All subjects apart from Physical Education and PSHE are studied to GCSE level and are taken by ALL pupils.

The core curriculum takes up 30 lessons per fortnight on the school's 2 week timetable leaving 20 lessons across the fortnight for you to choose the subjects you would like to study.

All other subjects are available as option choices – please see pathways for combinations available.

Choosing the right combination

The choices you make must be right for **YOU!** The subjects you choose will form the qualifications you leave St. Edmund Arrowsmith with in 2 years' time and should be subjects you find enjoyable and will achieve highly in. Choose a subject because:

- ☒ You are good at it
- ☒ You think you will enjoy the course
- ☒ It fits with your career ideas and plans
- ☒ It goes well with your other option choices
- ☒ It helps to give you plenty of choice post-16
- ☒ Your research shows that it will interest you and motivate you to learn

DO NOT choose a subject because:

- ☒ Your friends have chosen it
- ☒ You think it will be easy
- ☒ You think it's a good option for a boy/girl
- ☒ Someone else thinks it's a good idea
- ☒ You like the teacher you have now
- ☒ You did not do your research about your options properly

Restrictions

There are some subjects that you cannot take together. If you are taking a subject listed on the left of the table below you cannot take the subject shown on the right as well.

Travel and Tourism	Geography
Geography	Travel and Tourism
Physical Education	Sports Studies
Sports Studies	Physical Education



Key Stage 4 Course Combinations and Pathways

options

Core Subjects:

Core Subjects – **all students on all pathways** will take the following GCSEs:

Religious Education, English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, Combined Science and Core PE.

The English Baccalaureate

The Government is strongly encouraging pupils to study a combination of subjects which will gain them extra recognition as having studied the English Baccalaureate. **The English Baccalaureate consists of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Geography OR History and one Modern Foreign Language (MFL).**

As all pupils study **English Language, English Literature, Mathematics** and **Combined Science** then they would have to choose either Geography OR History and complete a MFL GCSE to have the full allocation of subjects for the complete English Baccalaureate. Pupils will also have to obtain a grade 9-5 in each of these subjects to achieve the English Baccalaureate.

Pupils aspiring to attend The Russell Group of Universities* are strongly recommended to study the complete English Baccalaureate subjects of English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science, Geography OR History and a MFL. These are called facilitating subjects and it is thought that they will help prepare pupils for a more traditional or academic university course.

** The Russell Group is a 'catch-all' term for a group of universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement – for further information www.russellgroup.ac.uk/*

Technical Awards

Technical awards are broad, high quality level 1 and level 2 qualifications that equip students with applied knowledge and associated practical skills not usually acquired through a general education. Technical awards have been redeveloped to be as rigorous, and carry the same value, as GCSE qualifications. They provide a practical, real-world approach to learning without sacrificing any of the essential subject theory. They can be taken alongside GCSEs and offer a natural progression route to further education including study at university.

We are dedicated to the highest possible academic standards and seek to ensure ALL students achieve an all-round education which ensures they are as well prepared as they can possibly be for the next stage of their education.

In an increasingly competitive market place, it is important that the options process is taken seriously to ensure that your child selects a combination of subjects that keeps their future options open and that they are not disadvantaged relative to students in other schools. We have produced 4 pathways to ensure your child is on a route where evidence suggests they will be successful, leading to an appropriate progression route for them.

It is important to remember that one of the option pathways will be MOST APPROPRIATE FOR YOU and we will give you advice to help you make your final decisions. The decisions you make now could affect the opportunities open to you in the future. Therefore, read this information thoroughly and think carefully about the choices you are going to make. Also, ask for advice from those in a position to help you – your parents, your teachers and the careers advisors. **We all want what is best for you!**

IMPORTANT!

The courses are all offered conditionally on achieving the appropriate number of students in a class. If you choose an option where there are less than 12 pupils opting for a subject it **WILL NOT GO AHEAD** and you will be given your reserve choice or asked to choose an alternative subject.

Advice and Guidance

- ✓ Read course descriptions
- ✓ Discuss your options with your parents/carers
- ✓ Ask your teachers for advice
- ✓ Please note it is the subject that is chosen and not the teacher
- ✓ Try to avoid similar subjects to ensure a breadth of choice



GREEN PATHWAY

Pupils following the green pathway will already be taking GCSEs in the following subjects:

English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, RE and Combined Science.

Pupils following the green pathway will automatically take the following:

Pre-Selected Option:

French/Spanish

Pupils should choose **3 options** from the following block:

Pupils may choose 3 GCSE subjects **OR** 2 GCSE subjects and 1 Technical award

Select 3 from the lists below:

QUALIFICATION TYPE

GCSE

Art
Computer Science
Dance
Design & Technology
Drama
Food & Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Music
Physical Education
Spanish
Statistics (Maths sets 1-4 only)
Triple Science (Science sets 1&2 only)

TECHNICAL AWARD

Children's Learning & Development
Health & Social Care
Information Technologies
Music Production



BLUE PATHWAY

Pupils following the blue pathway will already be taking GCSEs in the following subjects:

English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, RE and Combined Science.

Pupils should choose 1 option from the following block:

Select 1 from the list below

French, Geography, History, Spanish

Pupils should choose **3 options** from the following block:

Pupils may choose 3 GCSE subjects **OR** 2 GCSE subjects and 1 Technical award

Select 3 from the lists below:

QUALIFICATION TYPE

GCSE

Art
Computer Science
Dance
Design & Technology
Drama
Food & Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Music
Physical Education
Spanish
Statistics (Maths sets 1-4 only)
Triple Science (Science sets 1&2 only)

TECHNICAL AWARD

Children's Learning & Development
Health & Social Care
Information Technologies
Music Production
Sports Studies
Travel & Tourism



PURPLE PATHWAY

Pupils following the purple pathway will already be taking GCSEs in the following subjects:

English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, RE and Combined Science.

Pupils following the purple pathway will automatically take the following:

Pre-Selected Option:

EEC – Enhanced English Course

Pupils should choose **3 options** from the following block:

Pupils may choose 3 GCSE subjects **OR** 2 GCSE subjects and 1 Technical award **OR** 1 GCSE subject and 2 Technical awards **OR** 3 Technical awards.

Select 3 from the lists below:

QUALIFICATION TYPE

GCSE

Art
Computer Science
Dance
Design & Technology
Drama
Food & Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Music
Physical Education
Spanish

TECHNICAL AWARD

Children's Learning & Development
Health & Social Care
Information Technologies
Music Production
Sports Studies
Travel & Tourism



ORANGE PATHWAYS

Pupils following the orange pathway will already be taking GCSEs in the following subjects:

English Literature, English Language, Mathematics, RE and Combined Science.

Pupils following the orange pathway will automatically take the following:

Pre-Selected Option:

EEC – Enhanced English Course

Pupils should choose **1 option** from the following block:

Select 1 from the lists below:

QUALIFICATION TYPE

TECHNICAL AWARD

Children's Learning and Development
Health & Social Care

Information Technologies
Music Production
Sports Studies
Travel & Tourism

Pupils should choose **2 options** from the following block:

Select 2 from the lists below:

Pupils may choose 2 GCSE subjects **OR** 1 GCSE subjects and 1 Technical award
OR 2 Technical awards

QUALIFICATION TYPE

TECHNICAL AWARD

Art
Computer Science
Dance
Design & Technology
Drama
Food & Nutrition
French
Geography
History
Music
Physical Education
Spanish

Children's Learning & Development
Health & Social Care
Information Technologies
Music Production
Sports Studies
Travel & Tourism



Will the work be very different from Key Stage 3?

Project homework and independent learning has given excellent preparation for work in years 10 and 11 as students are expected to take more responsibility for organising and completing their work to meet deadlines.

Excellent grades are achieved with hard work, dedication and by those who take responsibility for organising and completing their work.

How important is attendance?

At Key Stage 4, attendance is important throughout the two years for all courses. In every lesson, key subject information is delivered to ensure pupils get the highest grades in the subject. In some subject areas, module tests are held, which count toward the final grade, during normal lesson time. If any of these tests are missed, the students' final grades will suffer. It is also important that students do not miss any of the topic work covered during lesson time as it may be covered in the final examination.

- **If long term absence through serious illness is unavoidable, parents must contact the Senior Learning Coordinator to ensure that work is sent home.**
- **Attendance is looked at in detail when applying for jobs and further education; we are asked to comment on this when writing references.**
- **90% attendance means that one day per fortnight is being missed. All students must keep their attendance above 95%**

To the student...

The subjects chosen can be important in influencing which careers can be followed when leaving education. Advice is available to help you make the right choice.

- A personal meeting with the Year 9 team to discuss choices and pathways
- Lesson time – subject teachers can provide information advice and guidance about your suitability to undertake such subjects.
- Tutor time – students can discuss options with their tutor and additional information from the Careers Service in school or online.
- Options market place- a chance to talk to Year 10 pupils who are already undertaking subjects you may be considering.
- Options lessons- designed to help you really 'unpick' the choices available.
- College talks- a range of speakers from different local colleges will come in to school to speak to the year group about the importance of options in relation to college applications.

CAREERS

The Careers Service can offer help, support, advice and guidance to young people aged 13-19 on life decisions, including education, employment and training options and help you overcome some barriers you may face as you move on. We have a careers adviser in school and appointments can be made with Jane Clarke up in the Careers Department. The Careers Service works closely with other organisations to offer the best possible service to meet young people's needs.



The courses you choose for the next two years should be enjoyable, but they should be the subjects that you will perform the best in. Work in lessons, visits to local colleges, work experience, visiting speakers, careers interviews etc., all help you to gain the knowledge and skills needed for your next major decision when leaving St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High school.

Will I get my first choice of subjects?

It is hoped that most students will get their first choice of option subjects, but with a large number of students all choosing different subjects, it is impossible to give everybody their first choices. **You should therefore make sure that all of your choices are subjects that you definitely want to study, because it may not be possible to change afterwards.**

The timeline to find out as much information about each of the subjects is as follows:

Tuesday 8th January 2019 – Thursday 24th January 2019

Specific lessons regarding making option choices, college talks and presentations.

Wednesday 23rd January 2019 Forms A-H

Face to face guidance meetings with a member of the senior leadership team, pupil and parents

Thursday 24th January 2019 Forms L-W

Face to face guidance meetings with a member of the senior leadership team, pupil and parents

Y9 Parents evening Thursday 31st January 2019

Subject specific information and performance information will be shared by subject teachers

OPTION CHOICES DEADLINE **Friday 15th February 2019**

These should be completed online via the student portal and then signed off by parents by logging on to the parent portal.

Frequently Asked Questions

Should I choose the same subjects as my friend?

No! You need to think very carefully about the subjects that you want to study. There is no point choosing a subject you do not like, just because your friend wants to do it. The way the timetable works out, you may not even end up in the same group as your friend anyway! Choose the subjects that suit you and that you know you will do well at.

Should I choose the subject because I like my teacher?

No! That teacher may not be teaching you next year.

How will I be examined?

This will depend on your choice of subjects and this information is given on each subject page in this booklet.

Study this booklet carefully to find out what each subject has to offer and listen to all the help and advice, so you can make informed decisions



To the Parents...

options

Parents can talk to their children about the courses which they will be studying from September to explain exactly what is involved. Parents will be informed four times throughout the year regarding their child's progress in their academic work. Please help and encourage your child when making their option choices and feel free to ask the school or careers adviser for help and advice. However, please remember that it is your son or daughter who has to actually study the subject for the next two years and choices made unwillingly are likely to be problematic.

We would ask parents to give us their support if any issues arise.

Please encourage your child to attend as many after school sessions, where they are available, as possible. These extra classes have proven to increase grades.

We would also ask that parents ensure that attendance is at 95-100% throughout Key Stage 4, as research proves that anything below 95% has a serious impact on the grades achieved.

We greatly value our partnership between school, parents and pupil and that how when all work together it will produce the best possible educational outcomes. We look forward to working with you towards that goal.

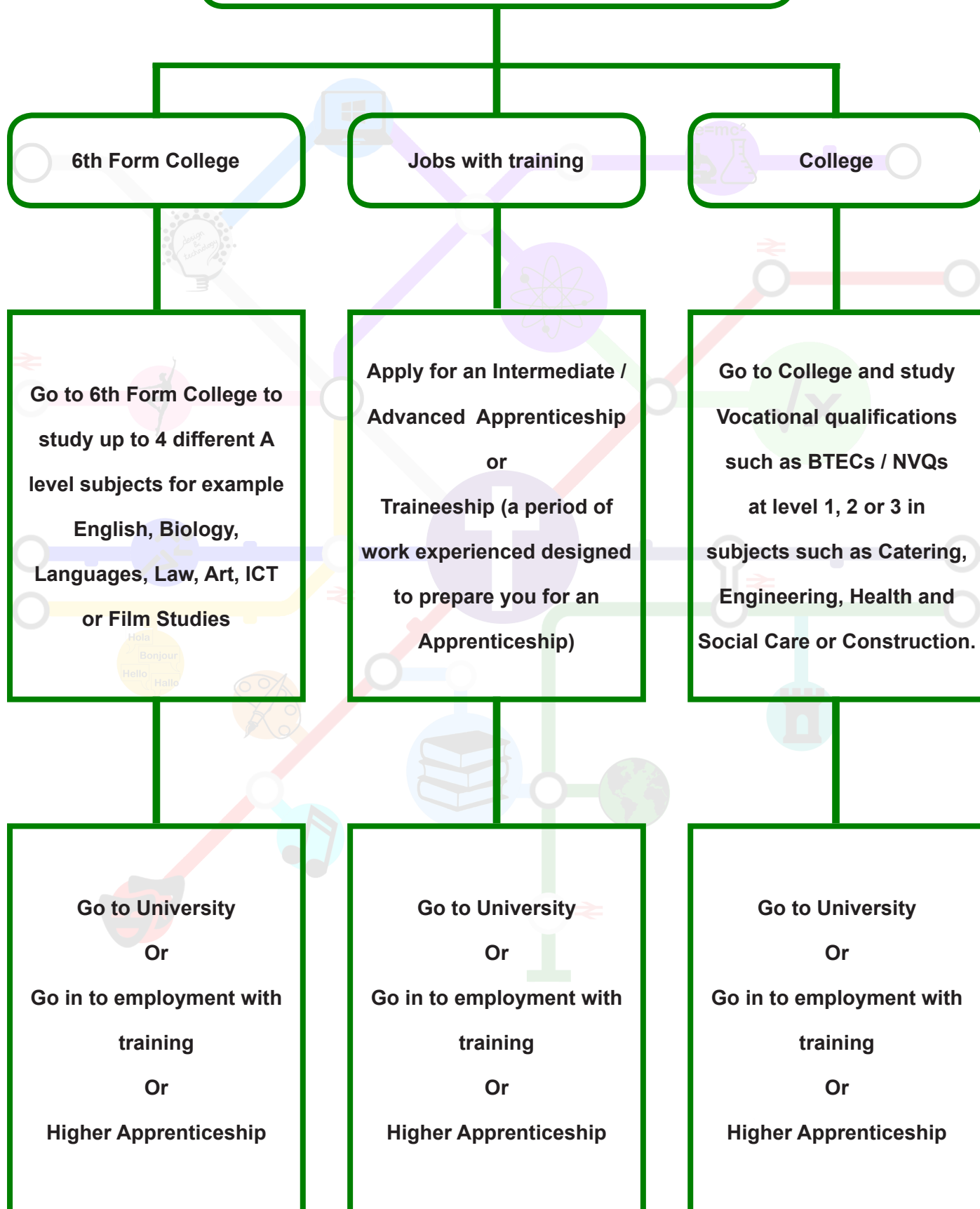
Advice and Guidance

- ✓ Read course descriptions
- ✓ Discuss your options with your parents/carers
- ✓ Ask your teachers for advice
- ✓ Please note it is the subject that is chosen and not the teacher
- ✓ Try to avoid similar subjects to ensure a breadth of choice



options

Routes and choices after Year 11





options

Further Frequently Asked Questions

Will I receive all my first option choices?

Not necessarily. It is impossible to give every pupil what they request due to staffing, room and timetable limitations.

Why can I not study all EBACC or no EBACC subjects?

Think about how your timetable will be constructed, make sure you keep as many routes open as possible as well as including some subjects that you really enjoy. Due to the emphasis on EBACC subjects by the Government the option subjects must include some EBACC subjects.

Can I change my option choices once I have handed them in?

It may be possible for you to change one or more of your option choices if there is a space. This will only be known once all the option choices have been processed.

Can I change my option choices in September when I start Year 10?

It simply may not be possible but we will do our best to accommodate your requests. **A grace period of four weeks** from the start of term will be given to possibly change your option choices. After this date, changes will not be permitted.

Home learning and non-examined assessment

During Year 10 and 11 students will be set home learning on a regular basis. This gives them regular practise in organising their own work and in working independently. It provides opportunities for students to consolidate work started in class, to prepare for future tasks and to carry out research. It also helps staff to find out how well students understand what they are learning.

Considering University

It may seem like a long time away, but if you are considering applying to a prestigious university, and especially a competitive course at such a university, it is important that you consider all the aspects of the entrance criteria, including the GCSE requirements.

An example below gives an idea of the GCSE requirements that you might come across for certain degree courses. Remember, though, that these are only examples. It is important to check university websites for detailed requirements before applying.

- **Applicants to study Medicine are usually required to have very good GCSE results in Maths, Science and English.**
- **For a degree in English, universities often look for applicants to have a GCSE in a Modern Foreign Language.**
- **A grade B in Maths and sometimes Science is often required for a degree in Psychology.**



options

Year 9 - Option Timeline for 2019

Guidance meeting letter sent to parents – week commencing 4th December 2018

Year 9 Option lessons, college talks and presentations – commencing 8th January 2019 for a period of 2 weeks.

Face to face guidance evenings:

Forms A-H

Wednesday 23rd January 2019
3:30pm – 6:30pm

Forms L-W

Thursday 24th January 2019
3:30pm – 6:30pm

Teacher Q and A in-class subject sessions - week commencing 14th January 2019.

Year 9 Parents evening – Thursday 31st January 2019

ALL Option choices to be completed and signed off by parents by – Friday 15th February 2019

Options outcomes sent to pupils and parents - week ending 15th March 2019

Guidance / Parents Evening

JANUARY
23

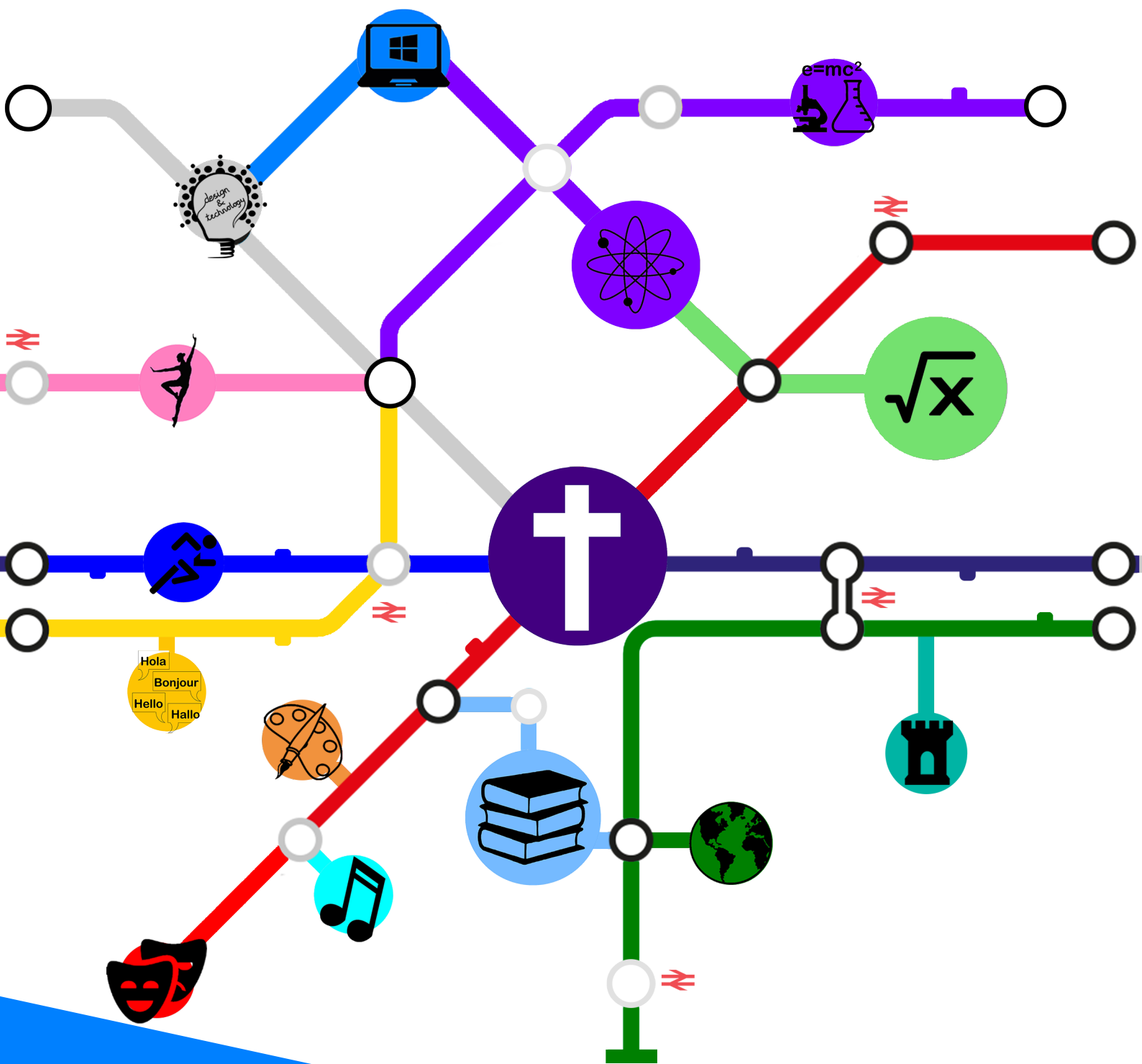
Wednesday 23rd January 2019
Form A-H 3:30pm - 6:30pm

JANUARY
24

Thursday 24th January 2019
Form L-W 3:30pm - 6:30pm

JANUARY
31

Thursday 31st January 2019
All Forms 4:30pm - 7:30pm



KS4
Core Subjects



“

Learning about the English language improves your communication and prepares you for life after school.

”

Megan Bragg
Year 11

English is a core subject at school, which you must all study at least to GCSE level. Most employers and universities will want you to have a grade 5 in English and maths at GCSE, so it is essential that you work as hard as you can at these subjects.

Employers say that one of the most valuable things they look for in the people who work for them is good communication skills and this means writing and presentation as well as talking. Being able to write a good cover letter, which is free from mistakes, can also be key to getting that job in the first place.

Essentially, whenever you need to persuade, inform or connect with someone, English is your best friend.

Across the two English Language components, you will study the following:

Reading:

- Critical reading and comprehension
- Summary and synthesis
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, text type, grammar and structure
- Comparing texts.

Writing:

- Producing clear and coherent texts
- Writing for impact.

As well as this, your course also includes Spoken Language assessment. This is not an exam. Instead you will be completing one formal presentation or speech where you will be:

- Presenting information and ideas
- Responding to spoken language
- Expressing ideas using Standard English

There are two exams in English Language which both have reading and writing sections. Overall, the reading and writing sections are equally weighted, which means they are worth 50% each to make up the whole GCSE.



Ultimately, the study of English will help you through your life in any situation involving language and communication. As a result, there are numerous professions that require advanced communication skills and a good result in English is essential to allow prospective employers to recognise this skill. More specifically, English can lead directly into careers such as: journalism, teaching, law, advertising, business, marketing, creative industries, and many more...

Studying English Literature also has many benefits. It helps to sharpen your analytical skills. If you can take a text and find the themes plus connect it with other texts, theories and historical events, you are showing that you can handle complex ideas, search for patterns and interpret information in a wider context.

You will also develop your planning and research skills as well as gain knowledge of history, culture, philosophy and even human behaviour.

Across the two English Literature components, you will study:

- A Shakespeare play
- An anthology of poetry
- Post -1914 prose or drama
- A 19th century novel
- Unseen poetry

You will learn:

- How to analyse the way writers have created meanings
- How to show an understanding of the relationships between some of the texts and their contexts
- How to compare poems.

There are two exams in English Literature, covering the five different equally weighted sections above. Each section is worth 20%.

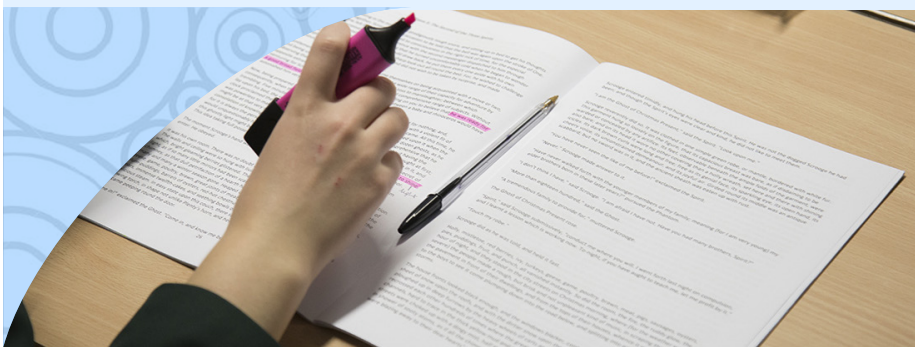


“

*English Literature is really enjoyable because you learn about social history through reading texts.
#Bloodbrothers rocks!*

”

Jamie O'Hare
Year 11



The 'Russell Group' (the top universities in the UK) has highlighted English Literature A' Level among its 'facilitating' A' Levels. This means the subject has been selected as one that will allow you to have the widest options of degree courses open to you in Higher Education.



“

Maths is vital for everyday life. There will never be a day you won't use Maths and it opens the door to many career choices and life opportunities. It plays a large part in many other subjects, so it is crucial you study Maths. Simple number and algebra skills will stay with you all your life making Maths one of the most important subjects. The logic applied will help you no matter your future or other option choices, so these valuable lessons should not be taken for granted.

”

Rachel Thorpe
Year 11

Maths is a core subject and all pupils study Maths throughout their school career. Just as languages provide the building blocks and rules we need to communicate, Mathematics uses its own language, made up of numbers, symbols and formulas, to explore the rules we need to measure or identify essential problems like distance, speed, time, space, change, force and quantities.

Maths helps us find patterns and structure in our lives. Practically, Maths helps us put a price on things, create graphics, build websites, build skyscrapers and generally understand how things work or predict how they might change over time and under different conditions.

Maths is one of the best subjects to develop your analytical, research and problem solving skills. Not only will studying maths give you the knowledge to tackle scientific, mechanical, coding and abstract problems, it will also help you develop logic to tackle everyday issues like planning projects, managing budgets and even debating effectively.

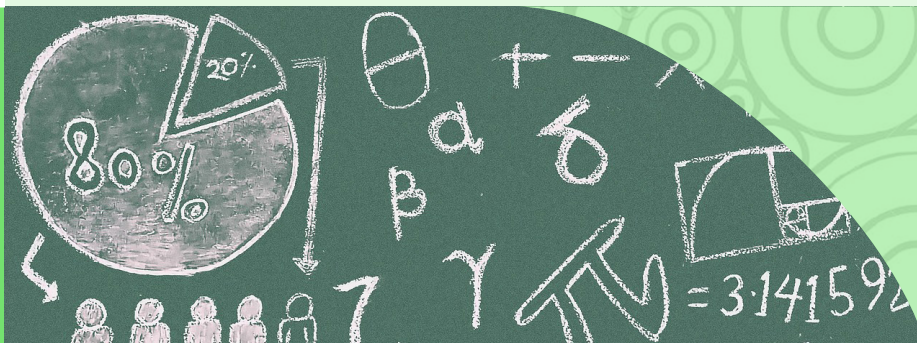
The course is divided into five areas of study:

* Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change, Geometry and Measures and Statistics.

Pupils will follow the Edexcel Linear 1MA1 GCSE Maths specification. There are two tiers of entry: Foundation and Higher. Pupils will be entered at the level most appropriate for their proven ability and always with the determination that they achieve the best grade possible. Foundation tier allows Grade 1 to 5 to be awarded while the Higher tier awards Grade 4 to 9.

Pupils are assessed through three 1hr 30min exams taken at the end of Y11, one without a calculator and two with a calculator, with each paper being worth 80 marks.

The main reason for studying Mathematics to an advanced level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. You will find all these aspects in an A level or university degree course.



Those who qualify in Mathematics are in the fortunate position of having a wide range of career choices. The abilities to use logical thought, to formulate a problem in a way which allows for computation and decision, to make deductions from assumption and to use advanced concepts, are all enhanced by a Mathematics degree course. It is for this reason that mathematicians are increasingly in demand. The most recent surveys show graduates in Mathematics and computer science at the top of the learning lists six years after graduation.

It is a subject which enables pupils to develop many key skills necessary for further study or skills that can be utilised in the work place. These skills include:

- An understanding of people's beliefs and values
- The ability to evaluate the effectiveness of arguments
- To be able to empathise with others
- To be a reflective and analytic person
- To be able to express one's opinions clearly
- To be able to interpret and apply evidence from sources of information

Pupils will follow AQA's Specification B Syllabus, this will include a study of Roman Catholic Christianity, Judaism and Philosophical and Ethical themes.

Roman Catholic Christianity:

Catholic beliefs, teachings, practices, sources of authority and forms of expression in relation to six topics:

- Creation
- Incarnation
- The Triune God
- Redemption
- Church
- Eschatology

Judaism:

The beliefs, teachings and practices of Judaism and their basis in Jewish sources of wisdom and authority in relation to:

- The nature of God
- The synagogue and worship

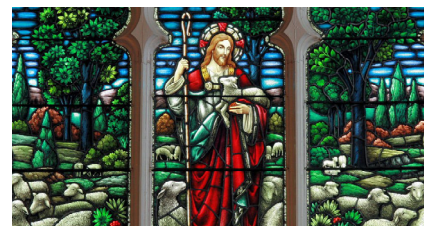
Philosophical and Ethical themes:

Pupils will study issues that are connected to two themes:

- Peace and conflict
- Religion, Human Rights and social justice

How will I be assessed?

Two exams at the end of Year 11, both lasting 1hr and 45 minutes.



Religious Education is a unique opportunity for you to learn about Judaism, to have a more in depth knowledge of Christianity and its teachings and develop your skills for example evaluating arguments.. Even though we are only part way through the course we have enjoyed R.E. so far: Our favourite parts have been Christian concepts through religious art (in the Catholic Unit) and Stewardship and our duty to look after the environment (in Ethics). We are both looking forward to studying more topics.



**Abigail Donlon &
Isabelle Farrimond**
Year 11



Studying Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at A Level is a very popular choice, all Local Further Education Colleges offer these courses. It is respected as an academic subject that will lead to many degree courses.



“

When I was in Year 9, I chose not to take triple science as I had many other subjects in mind for my options, which I knew would help to support me in my plans for the future. While I loved science, I was fully aware that taking combined science would not hinder me in anyway as I do not plan to study A-level science in the future. I feel I made the right choice as I am still learning a lot about biology, chemistry and physics and so do not feel I am missing out in any way. All of my lessons are fun and exciting and I feel that the knowledge and understanding I am gaining through studying Combined Science will be very useful to me in my future career, whatever that may be.

”

Chloe Stowell
Year 11

Combined Science is a core subject at GCSE. Pupils studying Combined Science will have nine lessons of science a fortnight; three with a specialist biology teacher, three with a specialist chemistry teacher and three with a specialist physics teacher. Pupils will be awarded the equivalent of two GCSEs in Combined Science.

The study of science gives us a greater understanding of the world around us and allows us to develop analytical and problem solving skills which will help to support pupils across their other subjects and in their everyday life.

Studying Combined Science builds upon and deepens pupils' understanding of the ideas developed at key stage three. It provides the foundations for a deeper understanding of the natural world and will enhance the lives of pupils in an increasingly technological society. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and all students should be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science.

The following topics will be studied as part of the Combined Science GCSE

Biology Topics

1. Cell Biology, 2. Organisation, 3. Infection & Response, 4. Bioenergetics, 5. Homeostasis & Response, 6. Inheritance, Variation & Evolution, 7. Ecology

Chemistry Topics

1. Atomic Structure & the Periodic Table, 2. Bonding, Structure & the Properties of Matter, 3. Quantitative Chemistry, 4. Chemical Changes, 5. Energy Changes, 6. The Rate & Extent of Chemical Change, 7. Organic Chemistry, 8. Chemical Analysis, 9. Chemistry of the Atmosphere, 10. Using Resources

Physics Topics

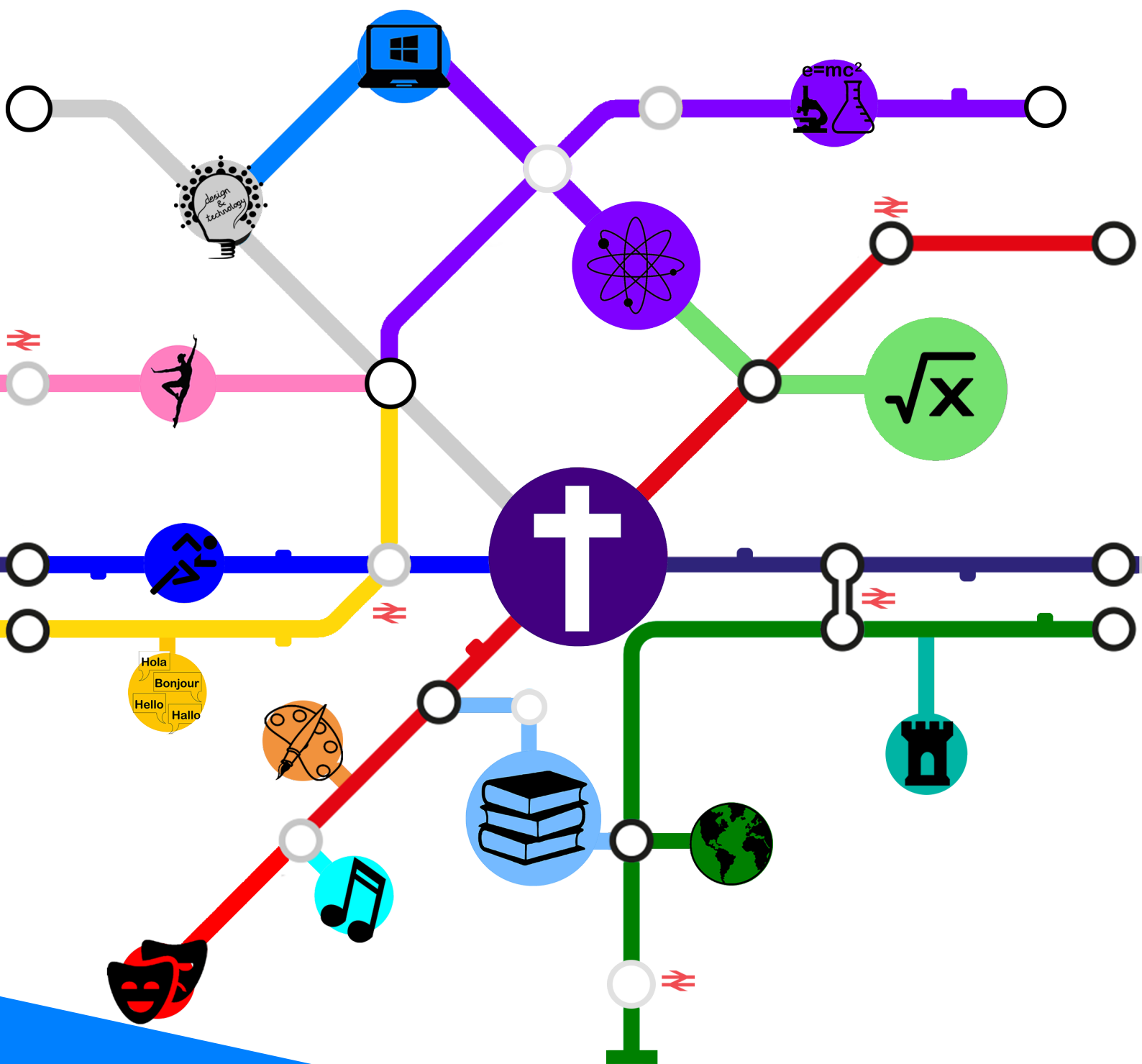
1. Forces, 2. Energy, 3. Waves, 4. Electricity, 5. Magnetism & Electromagnetism, 6. Particle Model of Matter, 7. Atomic Structure

For the Combined Science GCSE pupils will be assessed by six written examinations; two in Biology, two in Chemistry and two in Physics. Each examination will be one hour and fifteen minutes and will be worth 16.7% of the GCSE grade.



Studying Combined Science can help to support a number of future career paths. Careers in medicine, engineering, forensics, astronomy, physiotherapy, veterinary care, psychology and the environment are all supported by qualifications in science.

Studying Combined Science can also help to support pupils with a number of apprenticeship courses; from the NHS, such as dental nursing, or a practical apprenticeship from Rolls Royce in electrical engineering.



KS4
GCSE Course



“

I chose to do art as a GCSE because I have always enjoyed it throughout the lower years in school. One reason that I love doing art is because it allows me to be creative in a relaxed, fun atmosphere with the help from my teacher and from the art department.

”

Isabella Parsons
Year 11

Why Art?

The most important factor in GCSE Art is a sense of enjoyment and enthusiasm for the subject. If you wish to improve your existing ability and would like a chance to express yourself artistically then this is the subject for you.

You will need to work hard as students are expected to produce at least one page of drawing or design work each week. An obvious talent for art is clearly an advantage but any pupil willing to listen and work hard with an interest in the subject is capable of achieving in art.

What will I study?

The first involves you working in a number of different areas, for example pottery, drawing and digital art or mixed media work. This fulfils the syllabus requirements but also allows you to find out what can do and which areas you enjoy most.

The second part (Year 11) is when you will be expected to gradually direct yourself more and take more responsibility for what you do and how you do it.

You will also be required to be critical in a constructive way in the study of works of Art whether inside or outside the classroom and also review your own work so that you can modify and improve it as each project progresses.

How will I be assessed?

All work done on the course is aimed at producing an exhibition at the end of Year 11, which will comprise:

Coursework 60%
Practical Exam 40%



Creative industries in the United Kingdom are set to grow at double the rate of the economy and have been quoted as forming over 50% of new jobs during the next decade. Art will help equip you with the skills required to find gainful employment in creative roles and industries such as animation, high end television or video games design, which are just three growing areas of employment in the UK.



Computer Science is an exciting and challenging subject that seeks to develop skills which are regarded as essential for the 21st Century. Studying Computing will allow you to develop the ability to think logically, algorithmically and recursively to analyse problems and devise ways to solve them. This course is also designed to give you an in depth understanding of how computer technology works and what goes on “behind the scenes”.

Computer Science in the Economy

Information Technology (IT) is the main driver of growth in the UK, it is at the centre of business and everyday life. Growth in the IT sector is expected to be four times larger than other sectors over the next ten years with over one million additional technology jobs needing to be filled by 2020.

You will study the core principles of Computer Science such as abstraction and decomposition as well as how computers process, manage and store information. You will learn about software and systems development, hardware, databases and networks. You will develop an understanding of how these technologies affect society. You will also develop cross platform programming skills using a range of projects and investigations.

The course is split into three units:

Computer Systems - Exam Component (40%)

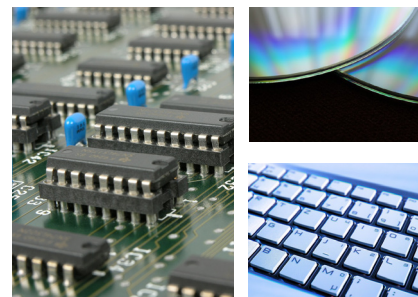
Taken at the end of Year 11 to test understanding on the topics outlined above.

Computational thinking - Exam Component (40%)

Taken at the end of Year 11 to test understanding on algorithms, programming and computing logic.

Programming Controlled Assessment (20%)

Classroom based assessment taken at the start of Year 11. Students attempt to analyse, design, create and test a solution to a problem set by the exam board.

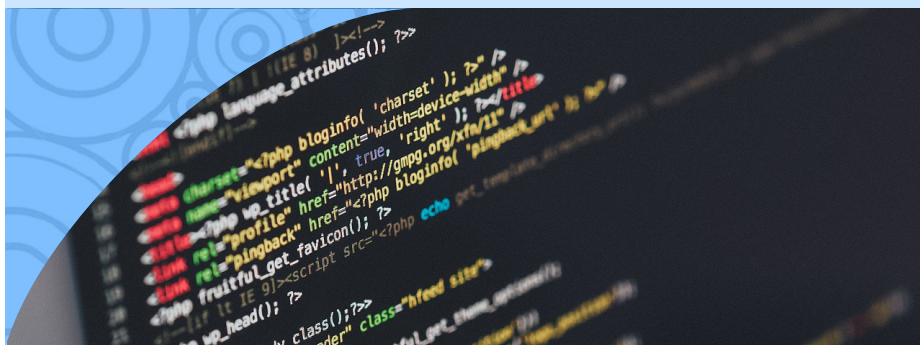


“

I opted for computer science as I knew it would be challenging but also a subject that would be really useful in the future. I have enjoyed learning about how computers work and their effect on society, I would never have thought we were so reliant on them. I didn't really do any coding before this course but I am now a confident coder.

”

Robyn Lind
Year 11



Specific careers that directly link with the course are:

Artificial Intelligence Developer/Games developer/Database administrator
Information Systems manager/IT Consultant/Multimedia Programmer
Network Engineer/Systems Analyst/Systems Developer
Help desk support/Technician/Web Developer





“

Since Year 7 I have always enjoyed taking part in dance both within my PE lessons and as part of the School Dance Showcases. I feel that if you have a passion for dance or want to improve your knowledge of any aspect of dance, I would strongly recommend considering this course.

I am following the GCSE Dance qualification as I want to pursue a career in dance. I feel this has helped me develop my choreographic, stage management and performance skills.

”

Olivia Forshaw
Year 11

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject.

If you are interested in the “performing” of dance and showing your knowledge and understanding through the “theory” of dance this is the course for you.

The strength of this course is that there will be two routes to success, the GCSE Qualification in Dance or the Technical Award in Performing Art specialising in Dance.

The first half term of the course will begin with a foundation unit. During this time you will get the chance to explore where your strengths are within the subject. As a result of this and with further consultation the best qualification for you.

As part of these courses you will study the following areas of Dance:

Choreography skills
Different dance styles
Evaluative skills
Management skills
Case studies of practitioners
Performance skills (Solo & Group)

Both are courses consist of:

60% Practical Unit(s) Assessment
For example Performance, Choreography or Portfolio

40% Theory Unit(s) Assessment

As a subject we have a long standing history of celebrating the talents of individuals and groups with our extra-curricular opportunities. You are encouraged to participate and be a role model for younger pupils in our annual dance events. This will develop your talents, help with future studies and is inclusive to all.



Some possible careers that GCSE Dance would help with:-

- Dance teacher
- Choreographer
- Arts administration/marketing
- Costume/set/make-up designer

In KS4 you will have the opportunity to opt for Design and Technology with a specialism in either Graphic Design, Textiles, Engineering Materials and CAD/CAM.

Design and Technology is the ideal choice for those pupils who enjoy designing and making products. It is the only subject which allows you to develop your creative skills to solve a problem, using a range of technologies and materials.

In all the areas you will learn about how to develop ideas through sketching, concept modelling and experimenting with a range of materials and equipment to create innovative and purposeful products.

If you specialise in:

Graphic Design - you will experiment with software programs such as Illustrator, Photoshop and 2D Design to create products focusing on the visual appeal. Eg. Branded products, promotional items, games designs.

Textiles – you will develop designs using a range of fabrics and assembly techniques to create your product. Eg. Garments, soft furnishings, children's toys.

Engineering Materials – you will use a mixture of materials such as woods, metals and polymers to construct products. Eg. Lighting, storage device.

CAD/CAM – you will develop skills in 2D design and Solidworks computer software to create high quality outcomes using CAM equipment. Eg. Docking station.

50% Non Examined Assessment – designing and making a product to solve a problem.

50% Written Exam – testing subject and mathematical knowledge.



“

I chose Design and Technology as one of my options because it provides many essential skills that I will be experienced in to apply to a future career. This subject is very enjoyable as lessons are varied between theory and practical work, which gives knowledge on the subject and experience in working with different materials and manufacturing methods. This subject gives you the freedom to design and make things using your creativity and ideas throughout the course.

”

Cameron Ridyard
Year 10



Taking this subject can lead to a range of possible careers such as:

Website designer, Product Designer, Architect, Engineer, Interior Designer, Fashion Designer, Games Designer and Graphic Designer.





Drama is a practical, artistic and creative subject. In experiencing drama pupils can learn more about themselves and the world in which they live. We can help each other develop an appreciation of drama that moves on from the classroom to the theatre. It involves performing devised and scripted drama, and also learning to write about it.

Drama is a subject in which those who enjoy performing can do well. It requires certain skills to be successful; you will need to be self confident, a good listener and team player and, of course, have a love of performing. Although individual work is still needed in this subject, working as a group is so important. Rehearsals, practical exam preparation and performances will require real dedication.

Drama is demanding but so much fun. If you are creative, enjoy practical drama, and are willing to be committed to a team, then Drama GCSE is for you!



Niamh Williams
Year 10

Drama GCSE is about creating, performing and understanding drama. The course will allow students to experience a range of performance styles and techniques from improvised drama, to script work and watching live theatre.

The course is split into 3 units of study; Unit 1 Written Exam, Unit 2 Devising Drama and Unit 3 Texts in Practice.

Unit 1 - Written Exam 40%

The exam is based on 3 main areas of drama and performance. These are Theatre Roles and Terminology, Work on a Play Text (Blood Brothers) and Evaluating a Live Production. Each of these areas will involve both practical and written drama allowing the students to practically explore the texts in order to write creatively in their exam.

Unit 2 - Devising Drama 40%

This unit of study gives students the opportunity to work from a variety of stimuli to create improvised drama (drama that they have made up/created themselves using ideas from a stimulus). This work will be assessed as 10% of the final GCSE grade. A log of the process will be developed alongside the practical work and will be marked at a further 30%.

Unit 3 - Texts in Practice 20%

Students will be offered a wide range of play scripts of which they can choose one to perform. In groups of 1 to 6 pupils will choose 2 extracts and rehearse them to professional standard. The extracts will then be performed to a visiting examiner and this will form the practical exam for the course. There is no written element to this unit.

GCSE Drama is a fantastic course for pupils who enjoy the creative side of the subject, working in groups and wish to develop their knowledge and performance skill set in drama.



We have close links with our 6th Form Colleges who offer opportunities to continue studying the arts post GCSE. We plan visits to the colleges to watch their examination pieces at A-Level and also their yearly productions which are always of the highest standard.

Drama and performance skills are seen as a real benefit to students who have studied the subject with skills in public speaking, confidence, and team work being some of the highlighted positives.

The GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation is integrated into six core topics:

1. Food preparation skills
2. Food, nutrition and health
3. Food science
4. Food safety
5. Food choice
6. Food provenance.

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

The course consists of two parts:

Written paper (Unit 1) Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
100 marks 50% of GCSE Multiple choice questions (20 marks) Five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks)

Food Nutrition in Practice (Unit 2) Controlled Assessment
Task 1: Food investigation students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.
Task 2: Food preparation assessment students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

“

The reason I selected Food and Nutrition was because I wanted to learn to create a variety of meals and develop my knowledge of nutrients for healthy eating. This subject will be beneficial for me as I do a lot of sport outside, so having a healthy balanced meal will help me maintain my strength and energy levels and also give my body the nutrients it needs.

So far I have learnt new ways to prepare and cook food. I have made dishes from all around the world that use different ingredients and techniques. I also have investigated and developed my scientific knowledge of how ingredients work. This course will also help me after I leave school and give me confidence and independence to make my own healthy and nutritious meals.

”

Ellie Price
Year 10



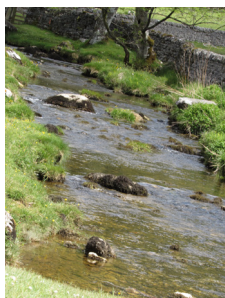
By taking this course there could be a number of careers open to you. These could include:

Dietician
Catering
Sports coach

Nursery nurse
Army chef
Personal trainer

Teacher
PE instructor





“

My desire to study Geography stemmed from my enjoyment of this subject throughout years 7-9. GCSE Geography lessons are always interesting because you learn about what's happening in the world around you and the skills that you develop can be applied in different subjects as well as other areas of life. I am going to study Geography at A-Level and hopefully at University in the future. I would definitely choose Geography as an option at GCSE. Every lesson is engaging, fun and enjoyable.

”

Kate Naylor
Year 11

Geography is about the World TODAY. It focuses on places, people and the relationship between the HUMAN and NATURAL environments. The subject highlights ISSUES that are happening in the world RIGHT NOW. In one lesson we may study slums in Mumbai, India; we may then design sustainable cities for rapidly growing China followed by a study of disaster-prone cities in California. Rainforests, deserts and cold climates are investigated in detail, studying WHERE they are, WHY they are there, WHAT they are like and HOW people both destroy and protect these environments.

The range of skills developed in the subject provides an excellent background for a variety of careers, as well as a firm foundation for further study at college or university. The ENQUIRY process, investigating 'big questions' through research, analysis and evaluation of opinions and attitudes, allows for 'deeper' learning and understanding. Geography students develop decision-making skills that they find invaluable for the rest of their lives.

Geography is widely viewed as one of the most useful optional GCSE subjects, as it provides skills which colleges, universities and employers look for in applicants. The subject has recently been identified as one of the 'essential 5' subjects included in the English Baccalaureate qualification. It has also been identified by colleges and universities as one of the eight 'facilitating subjects' recommended for 'A' Level study

What will I study?

You will study the new AQA GCSE Geography course, covering three key units:

Unit 1: 'Living with the physical environment' (Natural hazards, UK landscapes, The living world) Written exam. 1 hour and 30 minutes. 35% of GCSE.

Unit 2: 'Challenges in the human environment' (Cities, Economic world, Global resources) Written exam. 1 hour and 30 minutes. 35% of GCSE.

Unit 3: 'Geographical applications' (Fieldwork, Issue evaluation, Skills) The study of these issues will focus on different examples or case-studies, drawn from local, national, continental and worldwide scale investigations. Written exam with pre-release materials. 1 hour and 15 minutes. 30% of GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

All assessment will take place at the end of Year 11 in the form of written examinations. As with nearly all GCSE courses, the 'controlled assessment' or 'coursework' element has been removed. However, there will be MORE fieldwork than in previous courses. The field trips will focus on techniques and skills that will be assessed in Paper 3.



The employment rate for geography graduates is extremely high. The subject links directly to jobs in geology, seismology and engineering, volcanology, meteorology, marine biology, zoology and planning/architecture. The travel industry and NGO/charity work are also popular destinations for graduates. The variety of high level skills used in geography courses mean that many geographers accept jobs in journalism, transport and logistics and often management.

Learning about the past is an interesting and enjoyable experience which helps to develop well informed and responsible citizens. History teaches critical analysis, how to evaluate, to make moral judgements, how to research topics and how to develop a detailed factual understanding of an event or period. These skills are essential for many careers including law, journalism, education, television and management. In addition, GCSE History is one of the subjects included in the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).

There are four main units covering nearly 1000 years of British and World History:

1) Germany 1919 - 1939 - A study of the chaos caused in Germany by their defeat in the First World War, the rise of Hitler and the Nazis and life in Nazi Germany between 1933 and 1939.

2) Anglo – Saxon and Norman England, 1060 – 1088 – A short time-span study encompassing the changes brought about in England by the victory of William the Conqueror at the Battle of Hastings. This unit gives pupils an understanding of the nature of English society at that time and improves their understanding of government and control.

3) Warfare and British society, 1250 – present day – A thematic unit which requires pupils to understand change and continuity over a long period of time. This unit focuses on changes in warfare with a historical environment case study on Churchill's Cabinet War Rooms Museum in London.

4) The Cold War 1945 - 1991 - A study of the events which followed World War Two, the intense rivalry between America and the USSR and the events which could have sparked the Third World War including the nuclear weapons which could have ended life on Earth!

Students who study GCSE History are invited to participate in a day visit to London at the end of year 9 and a five day visit to Berlin, Germany in April of Year 11.



“

We love learning about history because we think it is really important to find out about the past events and also try to make sense of the world today. The teachers really “know their stuff”, they make the lessons clear and interesting, and are always available to help us.

”

Robert Dearden and
Ashleigh Osbaldestine
Year 11



A GCSE in History helps to develop pupils knowledge and understanding as well as their ability to produced detailed pieces of extended writing and argue a particular point of view which are applicable to other subject areas at A level:

**Psychology | Law | Sociology | Geography
English Literature | History**





“

I am really glad that I am studying a language as a GCSE. I enjoy speaking a different language and I think it will be useful in later life. The MFL teachers are very supportive and I find the lessons really enjoyable. At GCSE it never gets boring because everything is new and we are doing lots of different topics.

”

Kate Kilbane
Year 10

You have the opportunity to choose to study either French or Spanish.

A language GCSE is highly valued by both colleges and universities and can combine with a variety of other subjects to widen your career prospects. Popular combinations include the study of a language alongside law, engineering, architecture, fashion, marketing, business and politics to name but a few.

As well as the academic benefits, the study of a language provides the opportunity to develop your communication skills. The ability to speak and understand another language can be extremely useful as well as both rewarding and enjoyable when visiting other countries. Pupils who study a language at GCSE often say that it increases their confidence levels and also improves their general knowledge about the world!

In your study of a language at GCSE, you are given the opportunity to listen, read, write and speak about a variety of topics including:

- Self, Family and Friends.
- Technology in everyday life.
- Free Time Activities.
- Customs and Festivals
- Local Area
- Social and Global Issues
- Travel and Tourism
- Current and Future Study
- Employment

Each skill is worth 25% of your total grade and all four skills are assessed in final exams at the end of Year 11.



The study of languages presents many opportunities beyond GCSE and being able to speak another language will certainly improve your job prospects and could give you the opportunity to travel and learn about other cultures.

Linguists study in many different fields, from academic research - to studying and preserving languages that are dying out, to working with tech companies to develop voice recognition technologies.

Music is a demanding yet enjoyable course and a great opportunity to improve your musical skills and knowledge. Pupils who are considering this GCSE option must be prepared to work hard and engage in musical activity, both inside and outside the classroom. The GCSE is separated into 3 different areas:

Performance (30%)

To complete this successfully you must complete one of the following:

Perform competently on a musical instrument of your choice, as a soloist and an ensemble.

Sing as a soloist and within an ensemble.

Composition (30%)

Two compositions will be produced for this unit using Cubase Elements 8 music production software:

Individually compose one composition in a style of your choice.

Prepare a second composition to a given brief set by the exam board.

Both compositions will be submitted with lead sheets or a traditional score using Sibelius.

Listening and Appraising (40%)

During the course, pupils will develop their aural skills allowing them to demonstrate and apply musical knowledge and make evaluative and critical judgements about music. The four areas of study are:

- Musical forms and devices
- Music for ensemble
- Film music
- Popular Music

The performance and composition are controlled assessments that are completed in lesson time, marked by your teacher and moderated by an external examiner.

The listening and appraising is an examination that will take place at the end of Year 11.

You will have access to the Music ICT suites before school, during break, lunchtimes and after school. Along with the guidance of our Music Teachers you will have the option of one-to-one tutorials with our Music Technician at lunchtime and after school, providing support with all areas of performance and composition.



“

I enjoyed Music throughout Y7, 8 and 9 and it was a subject that I always achieved high levels in. Music GCSE has helped develop my creativity through composition and develop my confidence through performance. Music has taught me many transferable skills, the staff are always helpful and it is an enjoyable and interesting subject.

”

Chris Bache
Year 11



A qualification in music opens a variety of pathways for future careers such as;

The Music Industry – sound musician, performer

Performing Arts – concert promoter, publicist

Music Education - teacher, lecturer, music therapist





“

Sport has always been one of my passions in life. It was one of my easiest choices when opting for my GCSE classes. I really enjoy that it is a healthy mix of theory and practical. I regularly play football, rugby and volleyball in and out of school, so it is great that these can count towards my over all GCSE grade. The staff are on hand to help and support us through our course.

”

Aedan Hambleton
Year 10

If you keen interest in, or playing sports, are interested in learning new skills or improving existing ones or want to learn how sport/exercise can impact the human body then studying PE at GCSE and beyond could be a good career move for you. Physical education isn't just about sports though. You'll learn a lot about health, well-being and the human body. You will explore why people take part in sport, the media, performing enhancing drugs and much more.

Physical Unit

- Skeleton & Muscles (Structure, Movement analysis & effects of exercise)
- Cardiovascular & Respiratory (Structure, Function & effects of exercise)
- Physical training (Components of fitness & preventing injury)

Social Unit

- Why people take part in sport? What may affect their choice? How can we improve this?
- Commercialisation in sport
- Ethics, drugs and violence in sport.

How will I be assessed?

- 60% Theory Unit Assessment
- 40% Practical Unit Assessment

The theory unit assessment will take the form of two written exams to be taken at end of year 11. One paper will cover 'Physical' concepts and the other 'Health, fitness & Social' concepts.

The practical unit will take the form of a 'non-exam assessment' (NEA). This is made up of three practical activities (one team activity, one individual activity and one other). There will also be one 'Analysis of performance' coursework task which is included within the practical assessment.



Some possible careers that GCSE PE would help with:-

PE Teacher/Sports Coaching
Sports Journalist/Marketing
Sports Dietician/Nutritionists
Sports Psychologist
Professional Athlete

Statistics is everywhere around us. It allows us to make important decisions in life and is a great skill to have to help you win those arguments with friends, family and classmates!

You may have listened to sports commentaries when the commentator says "and now for some statistics". The word 'statistics' here refers to things such as how many times these teams have played in the past, what the results were, details of how many goals a particular player has scored and when, and so on.

Statistics is not just collecting a lot of numbers – it is collecting numbers for a purpose.

Statistics changes numbers into information. Statistics is the art and science of deciding what is the appropriate data to collect, deciding how to collect it efficiently and then using it to answer questions, draw conclusions and identify solutions.

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. We have to make decisions all the time in everyday life. Statistics helps us to make better decisions.

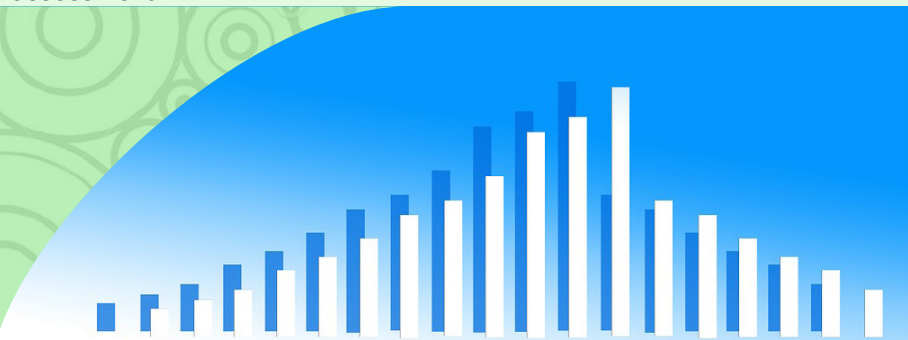
You will find that the statistical process of asking a question, getting appropriate data, analysing and representing the data and then drawing conclusions is very similar to the process of a scientific investigation. Science uses a lot of statistics in drawing conclusions. You will also find statistics used in different ways in geography, history, PE and many other school subjects. Other areas of study that use statistics include citizenship, psychology, sociology, economics and business studies. The GCSE Statistics course will teach students how to develop knowledge and understanding in the following areas:

- The collection of data, processing, representing and analysing data and probability

Because of the high level of mathematical demand, you may only consider studying statistics if you are in Maths sets 1 to 4

Pupils will follow the Edexcel Linear 1ST0 GCSE Statistics specification. There are two tiers of entry - Foundation and Higher. Pupils will be entered at the level most appropriate for their proven ability and always with the determination that they achieve the best grade possible. Foundation tier allows Grade 1 to 5 to be awarded while the Higher tier awards Grade 4 to 9.

Pupils are assessed through two equally weighted written examinations. Both papers last 1hr 30mins and are worth 80 marks. A calculator is essential for both examinations. There is no coursework/controlled assessment.



Graduates in Statistics are in demand in the insurance and financial services professions, however they can also enter careers in fields as diverse as health, technology, education, research and industry. Statistics is a rewarding and often exciting career choice. Statisticians work with the data that is all around us and the opportunities for work are endless. If you are forward thinking, capable at IT, interested in finding practical solutions to problems in the society and the world we live in and you enjoy working with numbers and people, this could be the career for you.

“

Choosing Statistics as an option was a good choice as I already had good maths knowledge and I knew this would help me. I have found the lessons interesting as I am able to study an element of maths in more depth. Part of the Statistics course overlaps the Maths GCSE course so this also supports my studies in this area too.

”

Louis Roughsedge
Year 10





“

Triple science is essential to any pupil wishing to go on and study science in higher education. It enables you to study each of the individual sciences in more detail, giving you a greater understanding of the subjects you are learning whilst doing the same number of exams.

I am extremely glad I chose triple science as one of my options as I am looking to go on and study biology at college. The teachers are also highly engaging, and support you to help you achieve your potential.

”

Kieran Evans
Year 11

The opportunity to study Triple Science is offered to pupils in sets one and two on both sides of the year group in year nine. If pupils choose Triple Award Science they will study the three separate sciences; biology, chemistry and physics in much greater detail and depth than they would if they were to follow the Combined Science course. We would strongly recommend that if pupils are considering studying any of the sciences at A-level they choose triple science as one of their options. Pupils will study the sciences separately in years ten and eleven, and have a specialist teacher for each subject. Pupils will then be awarded three science GCSEs at the end of their studies; one in biology, one in chemistry and one in physics.

Studying triple science gives pupils a deeper understanding and knowledge of the three separate sciences.

The Confederation of British Industry has stated that studying triple science at GCSE gives pupils more time to properly understand the separate subjects, and allows them to gain the confidence to study them at A-level or university.

The extra modules studied in biology, chemistry and physics include many aspects of the AS-level sciences, making the transition to A-level study easier. Not only does it allow you to gain an extra qualification, triple science is also a highly regarded and recognised route, which can support applications to the top Russell group universities to study medicine and other science related degrees, such as engineering, pharmacology and biomedical sciences. In 2014, six of the ten degree subjects that provided the highest starting salary for graduates were science related.

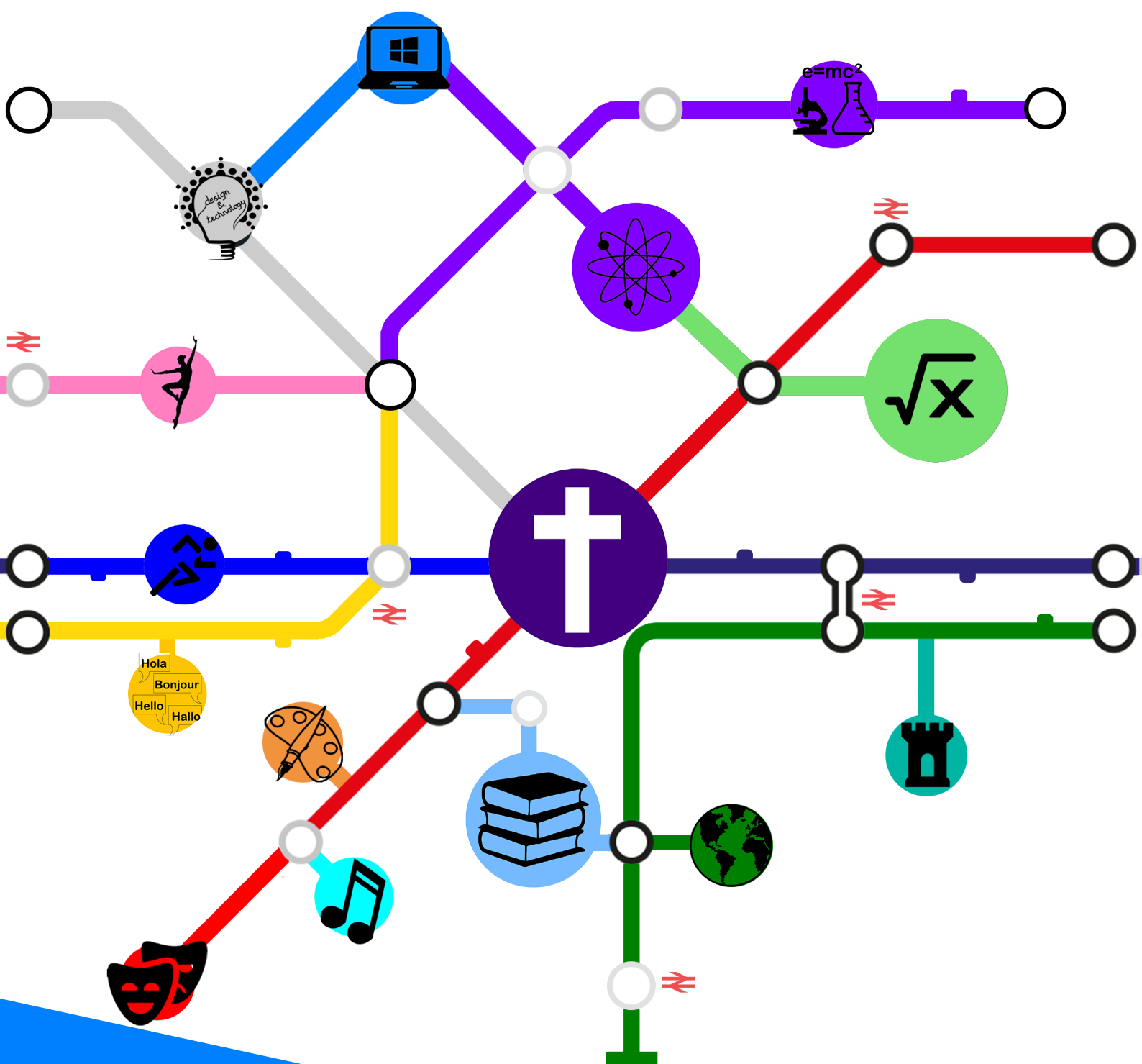
Triple science allows pupils to develop their passion for the subject with other like-minded pupils, who have also chosen triple science as an option. It will allow pupils to study increased content within the three areas of science, and so allow them to develop both their scientific skills and knowledge of the subject.

The topics studied in Combined Science are the same as those studied in the separate sciences. However, if pupils do choose to study the separate sciences they will study each of these topics in greater detail and develop their knowledge and understanding of each of the subjects. There is also an additional unit of space physics studied as part of the GCSE physics course which does not form part of the Combined Science GCSE. This is why the studying of the separate sciences is a much better preparation for the study of the sciences at A-level as you gain a much broader understanding of a range of scientific topics.



These are just some of the possible career opportunities that the study of the individual sciences can help support:

Doctor, Nurse, Physiotherapist, Engineer, Pharmacist, Surgeon, Dentist, Veterinary Surgeon, Anaesthetist, Psychologist, Paediatrician, Astronomer, Optician, Astronaut, Geologist, Midwife, Radiologist, Forensic Scientist, Medical Researcher or a Pilot



KS4
Technical Awards



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I chose Children's Learning and Development as it sounded like a course that would interest me and I liked the idea of studying and working with small children. Child development is something I have never studied before, so the course is challenging as there is lots of new things to learn. I am really enjoying it. I find the classes fun as we do a lot of group work and class discussions.

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Mya Latham
Year 11

Why Study?

This course is designed for learners aged 14–16 who have an interest in children's development and wish to develop the skills and learn the theory that can prepare them for further study and employment within the childcare sector. It will particularly appeal to learners who are looking for a course that is practical in nature.

The National Level 2 Certificate in Child Development will give learners the opportunity to study a range of topics which focus on pregnancy through to the development norms of children aged birth to five years.

What Will I Study?

Unit 1: Health and well-being for child development – a 1 hour 15 minute written exam (50%).

The first unit underpins all of the other learning in this qualification. All students will learn the essential knowledge and understanding for child development, covering reproduction, parental responsibility, antenatal care, birth, postnatal checks, care, conditions for development, childhood illnesses and child safety.

Unit 2: Research Study – Internally assessed (25%)

In Unit 2, students will gain knowledge of the equipment needs of babies and young children and an understanding of the factors to be considered when choosing appropriate equipment to meet all of these needs. They will also gain knowledge of nutrition and hygiene practices and will be given the opportunity to make and evaluate dietary choices.

Unit 3: Research Study – Internally assessed (25%)

In Unit 3, students will gain knowledge of, and skills in, developing activities to observe development norms in children up to the age of five. This unit will include researching, planning, carrying out activities with children and observing and reviewing these activities, as well as an understanding of the development norms and the benefits of play in child development.



This course offers a progressive route through to A-levels, Technical Certificates, Technical Levels and BTEC Level 3 National Diplomas. Career links include Midwife, Health Visitor, Nursery manager, Primary school teacher, Teaching assistant, Family support worker, Social worker, Child minder, Nanny.

Why study the subject?

- Inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the health and social care sector, or in a related sector where knowledge of health and social care will be of use, such as early years
- Give learners the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge of, and skills in, the health and social care sector, e.g. the underpinning care values and an understanding of the different life stages that individuals go through
- Support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic health and social care course or an apprenticeship or, more broadly, progression to qualifications in other sectors, such as early years
- Give learners the potential opportunity, in due course, to enter employment within a range of junior job roles across the health and social care sector.

What will I study?

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on three areas, which cover:

- skills and processes, such as interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing
- attitudes, namely the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practise applying them
- knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

This qualification builds on and uses the knowledge and skills you are learning in your GCSEs, such as English. It will complement the more theoretical aspects covered by GCSE Biology or GCSE Psychology by allowing you to apply your knowledge and skills practically in a vocational context.

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I chose health and social care because it sounded interesting and I thought I would enjoy it. It has a variety of topics and practical sessions that we look at in the lessons. For example, a nurse came in and we got to ask her questions about caring for other people. We also going on placements to places in the health care sector. The subject prepares you for a wide range of careers, including working in nurseries and nursing professions. It's a great option to take to help you build your ability to work and care for others and will also be beneficial in later life.

”

Libby Wilson
Year 10



By taking this course there could be a number of careers open to you. These could include:

-Nursery Nurse
-Mental health worker

-Nurse
-Care worker

-Social worker
-Teacher



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I opted for the IT course as I wanted to develop skills that would be useful when I leave school. I didn't really enjoy programming but still wanted to improve my IT skills on the computer. I like that I can complete the coursework before the exams at the end of Y11 as this will make it easier to manage my time. I have found the teachers really supportive and helpful and I get lots of help when I need it.

”

Ben Purcell
Year 10

Why should I Study IT?

The collection and communication of data and storing of data/information happens all around us. Technology underpins how it's collected and communicated nearly all of the time. It can be seen in all walks of life, from a wearable fitness tracker recording how many steps you have taken, your mobile phone provider recording your usage to create your bill or an online retailer being able to target you with specific promotions based on your purchase history. Knowing how and why data is gathered and being able to turn raw data into something meaningful is essential as you move through education and into employment. To be able to do this, you will need to have the confidence to use a range of information technology that is currently available, as well as being adaptable and resilient enough to deal with the rapid advances.

What Will I Study?

You will learn about tools and techniques for use in different digital hardware and software technologies, and how these can be integrated to create digital solutions to manage and communicate data and information. You will also be taught what data and information are and the legal, ethical and moral considerations when using technology to gather, store and present data and information, and how to mitigate the risks of cyber-attacks.

How is the course structured?

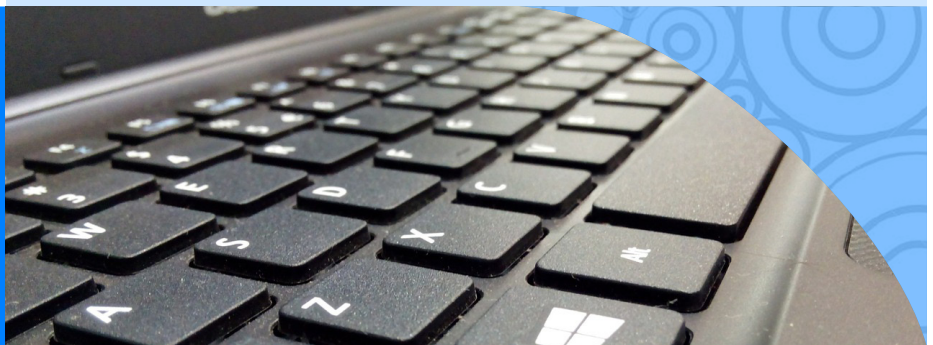
The course is split into two units:

Unit 1 - Exam Component (50%)

Taken at the end of year 11 to test understanding of different technologies (hardware and software applications), and tools and techniques used to select, store, manipulate and present data and information.

Unit 2 - Developing technological solutions (50%)

Classroom based assessment taken at the start of year 11. Students attempt to analyse, design, create and test a solution to a problem set by the exam board.



Every industry has been transformed by the use of technology. Regardless of your intended career pathway (apprenticeships, A-Levels, Degree courses and/or employment) a qualification in IT will support you. Specific careers that directly link with the course are: Artificial Intelligence Developer, Games developer, Database administrator, Information Systems manager, IT Consultant, Multimedia Programmer, Network Engineer, Systems Analyst or a Technician

Music is everywhere, it's all around us. It's not limited to traditional places such as the theatre and stage, but on the radio, television, cinema and computer games.

Do you want to create your own music for the radio, television, for films and computer games? Then look no further than Music Production!

What is Music Production?

Music production is the use of a computer to create or perform music. It uses technology and music software to compose, notate, play back, record, analyze or edit music. Music Production is the fastest growing area of music and during the 21st century has rapidly expanded as a subject leading to many career opportunities.

What will I study?

You will learn about areas of music technology such as microphones and recording equipment, MIDI, synthesis, mixing, panning, effects, EQ and filters, methods of sound creation in media such as films and computer games, and the development of technology and its effect on music over the last 30 years.

What opportunities will I get doing this course?

- You will create your own dance music and produce it using effects and filters.
- You will record and mix a multi-track using the recording studio.
- You will create all the sound to a film or multi-track ; including voice overs, underscoring music and sound effects.

Is it suitable for me?

Are you creative? Are you motivated? Do you like the challenge of a big project? Do you enjoy learning through practical experiences? Can you work independently?... if so, this course is for you.



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I chose Music Production because of how different and exciting it is compared to other GCSE options. My favourite aspect of the course is recording live instruments with professional equipment like microphones and using Cubase to edit the tracks. I would encourage pupils to opt for Music Production because it can help them to get many important jobs in the future.

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Dominic Shaw
Year 10



Careers and opportunities?

Recording Engineer, Mixing Engineer, Record Producer, DJ, Radio Producer, Mastering Engineer, Song Writer, Jingle Writer, Video Game Composer, Foley Artist, Live Sound Engineer...to name just a few!





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I chose this course because it allows you to progress with a mixture of internal and external assessments. If you feel that you are practically able, but may struggle with exams, this course would be suited to you. There is an even balance of practical and theory.

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Katie Shone
Year 11

If you keen interest in, or playing sports, have a good knowledge of the rules of sports and know what you may need to do to play better in sport. Then a GCSE equivalent qualification in Sports Studies and beyond could be a good career move for you. Sports Studies isn't just about playing and competing though. You'll learn a lot about what makes a good leader, physical challenge and team work. You will explore why people take part in sport, the media, performing enhancing drugs and much more.

What will I study?

- Contemporary concepts (why people take part in sport, what affects their choice, why do countries host major events e.g. the Olympics, values in sport etc)
- Practical sport (skills/techniques, rules and regulations & analysis of performance)
- Outdoor and adventurous activities (different activities offered, skills it takes to do these activities & health and safety)
- Sports leadership (what makes a good leader, planning, leading and evaluating)

How will I be assessed?

- 4 units of assessment, all worth 25% of overall mark/grade.
- 3 units assessed internally, 1 unit externally assessed (written exam)

Units are split evenly and all carry the same weighting. All assessments are done continually with two units being assessed in year 10 and two being assessed in year 11. The written exam/assessment will take place at the end of year 10. Three units are assessed through school devised tasks, and are on-going, meaning no written exam.



Some possible careers that GCSE PE would help with:-

PE Teacher/Sports Coaching
Sports Journalist/Marketing
Sports Dietician/Nutritionists
Sports Psychologist
Professional Athlete

Do you enjoy learning about worldwide travel destinations?
Would you like to find out about changing holiday trends?
Have you ever thought about a career in the travel and tourism industry?

If so, BTEC Travel and Tourism could be the start of your journey!

The BTEC Tech Award has been designed to allow learners to draw on the knowledge and skills acquired from other GCSE subjects. When studying for a 'BTEC', learners can use the knowledge and skills from GCSEs, giving them the opportunity to apply their academic knowledge to everyday and work contexts.

There are 3 Components to the Travel and Tourism Tech Award:

- * Component 1- Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations
- * Component 2- Influences on Global Travel and Tourism
- * Component 3- Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism

Component 1 and 3 are internally assessed through assignments which are completed as PowerPoint presentations, written reports, group work or information booklets.

Component 2 is externally assessed and takes the form of a 2 hour exam with a range of multiple choice style questions and some questions requiring more depth through further explanation.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

Learners will develop:

- Knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes in the sector, such as the appeal of different tourist destinations to different types of customer, and the factors that influence travel and tourism
- Skills such as researching different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, and the products and services available to meet the needs of different customers
- Attitudes that are considered to be very important in the travel and tourism sector, including how to develop tourism while respecting the environment and local communities.

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I chose BTEC Travel and Tourism because it was something different to what I had already studied during Years 7-9 and I was very interested in learning about the topics that were on offer. I like being able to be creative and learn in different ways, such as researching on the computer, producing PowerPoints and working in a group. I know that the skills I learn on this course will help me with my future work and learning. The lessons are interesting with lots of different activities and I look forward to coming to class.

”

Thomas Pinder
Year 10



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

- 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 Travel and Tourism, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the tourism sector.





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