

Year 9 Options



Stockport Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



2018/19



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

"You control your future, your destiny. What you think about comes about. By recording your dreams and goals on paper, you set in motion the process of becoming the person you most want to be. Put your future in good hands – your own."

Mark Victor Hansen



Dear Year 9 students,

As you know, all of the staff at Stockport Academy believe in providing outstanding education and care for all of our students. We have the highest aspirations for you and as a result we have developed the curriculum choices you will read about in this booklet because we believe in a relentless pursuit of academic excellence and we want to give you every opportunity to build upon your strengths and learn new skills. We want you to believe in yourself, have confidence in your abilities and know that when you leave the Academy you are equipped to make the best start to your chosen career. You can achieve great things in life; be ambitious, be positive, work hard and there are no limits to what you can do.

By choosing the option subjects that are right for you and that match your plans for the future you will set yourself on the path to success. It is vital when making your choices that you consider what you enjoy, what you are good at and what you may want to study and work at in the future. Please do not choose your subjects simply based upon the choices your friends are making or because of the teacher as these teachers at key stage four may change.

All students must choose at least one subject from the following: Geography, History, Computer Science or a Language. These EBACC subjects are considered to support a balanced education in the view of colleges, universities and employers. We would encourage all students to consider studying the EBACC (English Baccalaureate) suite of subjects in its entirety; English, Maths, Science, Language and History or Geography – this will provide you with best access to future career pathways and widen options available to you in the future.

Please take time to consider your option choices carefully, talk to your parents or carers and your teachers. Guidance is available at school from Miss Goddard as your Head of Year, your subject teachers and from any of the Senior Leadership Team of the Academy. Key Stage Four is an exciting and important phase in your education and thinking carefully about your option choices will help you to enjoy your studies from the outset and achieve the highest possible grades.

We are very much looking forward to helping you on your road to achievement.

Mrs J McCann
Principal

My Notes

Stockport Academy believes that you are entitled to study subjects and courses that will enable you to achieve. Because of this, individual students will follow different subjects and courses at different levels. Our timetable and curriculum enables students to study an appropriate and achievable range of courses and qualifications which are appropriate for their futures.



INTRODUCTION

Students are encouraged to access a broad curriculum by considering all subjects including Languages, Humanities and Computer Science alongside the other core and practical subjects. Employers and Universities are expressing more interest in students who have this breadth in their portfolio and we are keen to provide this opportunity. We would actively encourage all students to study the English Baccalaureate suite of subjects; English, Maths, Science, Language, History or Geography; this will help widen your options and create best opportunities for you going forward.

When choosing your options, it is essential that you consider the 'whole package'. This means that you need to think about how much practical work is involved, how much written work you will be doing, what topics or subjects you will learn etc. and by having an overview of your own curriculum, you should be able to ensure it is appropriate for you.

We will try our very best to give you the options that you want, but this isn't always possible. If this is not possible, a further conversation will occur to help you make an appropriate 'reserve' choice. You are less likely to get the options you have chosen if your options form is not handed in on 'Drop Day', as you will go to the bottom of the subject lists.

Once you have chosen the subjects you want to study in Years 10 and 11, completed the option form and handed it in to your Form Tutor, Miss Goddard will speak individually to any students who need further assistance.

If you have any concerns or problems, please let your Form Tutor, Head of Year or any member of the Senior Leadership Team know.

EMPLOYMENT

When making option choices you must take into consideration the skills which employers want and expect their employees to have. By doing this you will be equipping yourself with skills required in today's world of work.

Research shows employers are looking for:

- A strong academic background
- Team players who are good decision-makers, committed and have the ability to continue their development
- ICT and language skills
- Good attendance records

Employers also want their employees to have the following attributes:

- The ability to learn
- Self-motivation
- Leadership capacity
- Confidence
- Consideration for others

And many more, the extra-curricular offer at Stockport Academy continues to support all students in developing all of these skill sets and provides additional information which is useful for job and college applications. We would encourage all students to engage in activities available; students involved in additional commitments to school life are proven to better perform academically and make most progress.



OPTIONS - HOW DO I DECIDE?

Do	Don't
Involve your parent/carer in the decision making process.	Panic!
Choose subjects that you enjoy and engage in.	Choose subjects just because your friends have chosen them.
Choose subjects in which you know you can achieve your best.	Reject subjects because you don't like the teacher.
Ask subject teachers their thoughts: do they think the course is right for you?	Rush and make un-informed decisions.
Take the decision seriously and give yourself enough time to make an informed choice.	Ignore the advice you are offered. Make the most of the support available from teachers, support staff and parents/carers
Study the information in this handbook carefully.	Miss the opportunities you have to talk to staff at the events listed on the dates page.
Read your past assessment reports and feedback. This may help you with your option choices.	
Ensure your Options Form is returned to your form tutor on <p style="text-align: center;">Friday 2nd February 2018</p> NB: If you do not meet this deadline, this may affect your options choices.	



IMPORTANT DATES

Date	Event	Details
Tues. 16th January	Parents' Information Evening 6.00 p.m.—7.00 p.m.	This evening is designed for parents and families to find out about the options process and the subjects available to study.
Wed. 17th January	Options Assembly with Mrs McCann	Confirmation of what has been communicated to parents with guidelines on the process and information on advice and support available.
W/c 18th January	Subject Presentations and assemblies for Year 9 students	Faculty staff will discuss details of the courses being offered including the routes to other education and career pathways.
Thurs. 25th January	Year 9 Parents' Evening 4.15 p.m.—7.00 p.m.	Find out even more about the subjects you are considering. Use the time to talk to subject specialist teachers.
Fri. 2nd February	Option Choice Submission Day	Forms must be handed in to Form Tutors on this day — you may not receive your choices if you miss this deadline



CORE SUBJECT - ENGLISH

ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE and ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE (AQA)

Students will sit two GCSE qualifications in English: English Language and English Literature.

English Language

This requires from students the ability to read unseen texts (both fiction and non-fiction) and think carefully about the way they have been written and what they mean, before offering their opinions on the writer's methods. The other half of these exams test students' abilities to write extended pieces in a variety of ways – everything from stories and creative descriptions, to letters, newspaper articles and speeches which require them to construct an argument. A knowledge of grammar, linguistic terminology and strong reading skills are vital!

Assessment

There will be two papers: 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing', and 'Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives', each lasting for 1 hour and 45 minutes. The papers are worth 50% of the overall grade each, and are both marked out of 80. In addition, students will be assessed on their spoken language.

Grades awarded will be 1–9 where 9 is the highest grade.

English Literature

This course allows students to explore some of the most important authors in the British Canon – including Dickens, Shakespeare and a range of our best-loved poets and playwrights. Students will be tested in the exam on their ability to explore the styles and stories of these writers, whilst also demonstrating an understanding of their historical and social backgrounds. Students will be encouraged to express and explore their own interpretations and ideas on these seminal texts.

Assessment

There will be two papers: 'Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel' (40% - 1 hour and 45minutes—64 marks) and 'Modern texts and Poetry' (60% - 2 hours and 15 minutes—96 marks).

Grades awarded will be 1–9 where 9 is the highest grade.

Progression Routes

Studying English is necessary for most career paths: as a core subject it is a requirement of most academic and vocational pathways to have a good grade in GCSE English.

Further study of English opens up a wide range of study and career opportunities: journalism, marketing, publishing, teaching, editing, law, business management, television, theatre and social work to name but a few. Employers value the significant skills of analysis, communication and creativity that students develop from studying English at a higher level.

If you need any more information please see: Mrs Upton



Course Information

GCSE Mathematics has changed and is now more demanding for everyone. The changes have been designed to help students emerge from GCSE Mathematics with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives.

Due to these changes the course is now studied over three years and is started at the beginning of Year 9. The areas studied are: Number, Algebra, Ratio, Proportion and Rate of Change, Geometry and Measure, Statistics and Probability. Each strand incorporates basic skills and detailed understanding and application to real life situations. By the end of the course, students will have well-developed numeracy skills, as well as being competent in the application of logic and problem solving.

Assessment

The course is assessed through three examination papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes long taken at the end of the course. The first paper is a non-calculator paper while the second and third are calculator papers. There is no controlled assessment element for Mathematics at GCSE level.

All students will be entered for the GCSE examination in Mathematics. There are two levels of entry:

Higher tier which leads to grades of 4—9 where 9 is the highest grade

Foundation tier which leads to grades 1—5

Students will be entered for the tier which suits their own ability level.

Progression Routes

Further Education colleges, sixth form colleges, apprenticeships and employers will require a ‘high quality’ grade 5 pass in Maths. Further study in Mathematics is essential for students who are considering careers in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, architecture, engineering, finance and many others.



CORE SUBJECT - SCIENCE

SCIENCE GCSE (OCR)

All students have to study Science at GCSE. All students will study the same content in Biology, Chemistry and Physics with students preparing for triple science covering some additional content. Based on their performance during Key Stage 4, students' teachers will decide whether to enter them for combined science (2 GCSEs) or the separate sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSEs).

All assessment is terminal taking place at the end of Year 11. Students will be awarded grades on the new 9-1 grading system (where 9 is the highest grade).

How will this qualification be assessed?

Combined Science (2 GCSEs)

6 Exams - Students will sit either foundation or higher tier papers for all exams.

- Biology paper 1 1hour 10min (16.7%)
- Biology paper 2 1hour 10min (16.7%)
- Chemistry paper 3 1hour 10min (16.7%)
- Chemistry paper 4 1hour 10min (16.7%)
- Physics paper 5 1hour 10min (16.7%)
- Physics paper 6 1hour 10min (16.7%)

Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs)

6 Exams - Students will sit either foundation or higher tier papers for all exams

Biology

- Biology Paper 1 90 marks 1hour 45min exam (50% of total GCSE)
- Biology Paper 2 90 marks 1hour 45min exam (50% of total GCSE)

Chemistry

- Chemistry Paper 1 90 marks 1hour 45min exam (50% of total GCSE)
- Chemistry Paper 2 90 marks 1hour 45min exam (50% of total GCSE)

Physics

- Physics Paper 1 90 marks 1hour 45min exam (50% of total GCSE)
- Physics paper 2 90 marks 1hour 45min exam (50% of total GCSE)

How will this course help me for the future?

Future Education

Science encourages investigative and analytical skills. It demands that students question the world around them and are able to apply their knowledge to unfamiliar situations. A curiosity about how things work, for example the body, machinery and the universe is essential. The knowledge and ability required to be successful at science is highly valued by employers and universities.

Career Routes

Science is essential for a number of career paths, for example medicine, pharmacy and dentistry. There are also a large number of science degrees requiring one or more sciences at GCSE and A level, for example biochemistry, astronomy, nuclear physics.

Is this course right for me?

To succeed in Science you will need to commit to thorough preparation for external examinations.

If you need any more information please see: Mr Campbell



OPTION CHOICES



OPTION CHOICES

You will receive a loose sheet that you should complete and return to your tutor on **Friday 2nd February 2018**.

Study the write up for each subject in the following section.

You should choose one subject from each option block plus a reserve.

All students must choose at least one subject from the following: Geography, History, Computer Science or a Language.

The option choices are shown to the right.

Options choice form. This must be handed to your form tutor on **Friday 2nd February, 2018**. Failure to hand it in on this day could affect your choices. Fill in both halves of the form, sign and date it and give the bottom half to your form tutor. Keep the top half for your records.

Student Name: _____ **Form Teacher** _____ **Signature of Parent/Carer** _____ **Date** _____

Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
GCSE Art and Design GCSE French V CERT Food Tech GCSE Geography CIDA ICT GCSE/CNAT Physical Education GCSE Design Technology— Product Design/ Textiles	GCSE Business Studies GCSE Drama V.CERT Engineering GCSE History GCSE/CNAT Physical Education GCSE Religious Studies GCSE Spanish	GCSE Art and Design GCSE Computer Science GCSE Dance CIDA ICT GCSE Music GCSE Religious Education GCSE Spanish	GCSE Computer Science GCSE French GCSE Geography GCSE History GCSE Spanish Choose from any block Reserve choice:
Choice from Option A:	Choice from Option B:	Choice from Option C:	Choice from Option D:



OPTION CHOICES



ART AND DESIGN

ART AND DESIGN GCSE (AQA)

Course information

The GCSE Art and Design course follows the AQA Examination Board Syllabus. During the two years you will learn practical skills and develop your knowledge and understanding of Art and Design. You will produce an exhibition of work and this will prepare you for the externally set task in Year 11.

During the two years, you will be expected to develop work in the following areas; painting and drawing, textiles, print making, 3D design construction and graphic design.

The course is arranged as a series of projects. These will cover a range of subjects and processes and each lasts for about one term. We will look at the work of other artists, both past and present, and all students will be expected to complete homework in a sketchbook.

How will this qualification be assessed?

Exhibition

At the end of the course you have to exhibit at least two areas of study for your final exhibition. This is assessed by your teachers and a visiting examiner and counts for 60% of the final mark.

Externally set task

During Year 11 you will produce a series of artwork based on a title or a theme. You will develop this work into a 10 hour piece of work under exam conditions which counts for 40% of the final mark.

You must demonstrate your ability to:

- Develop ideas by analysing the work of other artists and demonstrate an understanding of the differences between their artwork.
- Experiment with different resources and be able to choose the best materials and equipment to make your work.
- Draw and collect pictures from different sources to help develop your ideas.
- Complete a final piece based on all your findings and demonstrate how your work has been influenced by other artists.
- Complete extensive written analysis which now has an equal weighting with your practical work in the new specification.

How will this course help me for the future?

GCSE Art and Design provides students with a strong foundation for progression into further and higher education in Art and Design related courses such as A-level Art and Design. The course could lead to a number of different vocational and career pathways including; photographer, graphic designer, animator, textile designer, 3D design, art historian, art education and more!

Is this course right for me?

To succeed in Art and Design you will need to commit to completing both the coursework and externally set task to the best of your ability. There is also a great deal of independence needed, especially when preparing for the controlled assessment. You will be required to carry out independent research, visit art galleries and be prepared to take photographs for the portfolio of work and the externally set task.



Be ready for the world of work!



BUSINESS STUDIES

Course Information

Business Studies is a modern qualification that links to the world of work and provides students with a real insight into how all businesses operate. Students will **gain valuable employability skills** and also develop a real **understanding of how businesses work**.

Topics cover all key employment areas and have links to other GCSE subjects: **Finance and Business Operations, HR, Marketing and Business Activities**. Students will learn how to become an entrepreneur by running an enterprise business in school. All profits made by the students will be paid to the students and encourage them to **“Earn as they learn!”**

What skills will I gain from studying Business Studies?

The course is designed to develop students as effective and independent learners who can be critical and reflective about their own work. Students will learn how to structure their opinions, build arguments and make informed judgements about business scenarios set in the real world.

The course also aims to teach key academic skills that will support numerous A Level subjects or alternative career pathways.

Business Studies: Typical Assessment

- Component 1:** Business World
2 hour written exam worth 62.5%
- Component 2:** Business Perceptions
1 hour 30 minutes written exam worth 37.5%

Educational Trips:

- Marketing:** How to create a marketing campaign for business success!
- Production:** Discover how Cadbury’s make Mini Eggs to Dairy Milks.
Students also get to design their own Cadbury’s product
- Employability:** Work with local businesses to develop employability skills



Progression Routes

Further education: GCSE Business Studies students who achieve a C grade or above can progress onto A Level Business Studies at Sixth Form Centres.

If you need any more information please see: Mr Morrissey



COMPUTER SCIENCE

COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE (9 - 1) (OCR)

Course Information

This exciting GCSE course gives students an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they play an important role in the world we live in.

Students will develop computer programming skills, computer maintenance knowledge and industry specific problem-solving skills. Students will carry out fascinating in-depth research and practical assignments for example: some of the current investigations look at JavaScript, encryption and assembly language programming.

The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field. This is a subject of the future!

What skills will I gain from studying Computing GCSE?

The course will help students learn about critical thinking, critical analysis and problem solving. Computing lessons will teach these skills in a fun, interactive and interesting way, which students can then transfer into other subjects and even apply to day-to-day life.

Computer Science: Assessment

Topic 1: Computer Systems (Written Exam 40%)

The computer systems unit will teach students the theory about a wide range of issues such as system architecture, memory, storage, networks, system security, system software, ethical legal cultural concerns and more.

Topic 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (Written Exam 40%)

This unit will teach students the theory about a wide range of issues such as algorithms, programming techniques, computational logic, data representation and more.

Topic 3: Programming Project (Non-Exam Assessment 20%)

The programming project will call on students to design, code and test a solution to three tasks using a suitable programming language.

Progression Routes

GCSE Computing students can go on to study the subject at A Level or go on to do apprenticeships in IT. The course is also an excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you will develop, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include Engineering, Software Development, Game Design, App Creation, Computer Forensics, Research and Development, Science and Medicine.

Is this course right for me?

Do you like solving problems in creative ways? Do you feel a sense of achievement when you work out a solution to a problem? Do you want to future proof your options? Do you want to learn how to code and make your own programs? Are you willing to practice how to code? If you can answer yes to these questions this course is for you.

If you need any more information please see: Mr Morrissey

DANCE GCSE (AQA)

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



DANCE

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Performance and choreography = 60% of GCSE

Performance - 30% of GCSE

- Set phrases through a solo performance (approximately one minute in duration)
- Duet/trio performance (three and a half minutes in duration)

Choreography - 30% of GCSE

- Solo or group choreography – a solo (two to two and a half minutes) or a group dance for two to five dancers (three to three and a half minutes)

Component 2: Dance appreciation (written exam) = 40%

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes / 80 marks

- Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills.
- Be able to write/evaluate this process.
- Critical appreciation of your own dance works.
- Critical appreciation of professional works. This involves looking at a series of dance works from professional choreographies and writing about the choreographic intent to use accompaniment and costumes.

Component 1 is internally assessed and videos of all performances are sent off for external moderation.

Where can Dance GCSE take you?

Choosing Dance as a GCSE can give you more support in the transition to A level Dance. The course can set you up for a variety of jobs as it provides opportunities to work within teams and be involved in the development of creative and engaging practical tasks. Teaching in secondary or primary schools, dance coordinators, event organisers, performing and freelance dance teaching.

Course Requirements

In order to do GCSE Dance you need to be able to perform comfortably and confidently as a soloist dancer. You have to be able to work in a team and also independently. You need to have had experience choreographing and previous performance experience.

There is a written element to this course, you will be expected to evaluate and analyse professional dance works.



DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY GCSE (WJEC EDUQAS)

Course Information

The WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for learners to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. Through studying GCSE Design and Technology, learners will be prepared to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world; and be aware of, and learn from, wider influences on Design and Technology, including historical, social/cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Subject Content:

Core knowledge and understanding is presented in five clear and distinct topic areas:

- Design and technology and our world
- Smart materials
- Electronic systems and programmable components
- Mechanical components and devices
- Materials

Learners are required to study all of the content in these five areas, to ensure they have a broad knowledge and understanding of Design and Technology and that they are able to make effective choices in relation to which materials, components and systems to utilise within design and make activities.

Students must demonstrate an in depth knowledge and understanding of one of the specialist material areas within Design and Technology.

PLEASE NOTE THIS COURSE WILL SPECIALISE IN NATURAL & MANUFACTURED TIMBER (WOOD) OR FIBRES AND TEXTILES DEPENDENT UPON SPECIALISM SELECTED DURING OPTIONS PROCESS.

How will this qualification be assessed?

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

Written examination: 2 hours

50% of qualification

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding.

Component 2: Design and make task

Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours

50% of qualification

Progression Routes

The Design and Technology course will prepare students for further and higher education in a number of different subject areas including; Resistant Materials, Systems and Control, Electronics, Graphic Design, Textiles Technology and Product Design. There is an array of career opportunities available to students who decide to study this course including those within the design industry for example; Interior Design, Furniture Design, Fashion Design, Graphic Design and Product Design. Other career opportunities include; Architecture, Engineering, Manufacturing, Computer Aided Design, Business, Marketing, Illustration, Teaching and more!

If you need any more information please see: A member of the Art and Technology Department

DRAMA GCSE (AQA)



DRAMA

How will this course be assessed?

The GCSE Course is following the AQA Syllabus which is assessed in 3 sections:-

Component 1: Understanding Drama

Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre. Students will study one set play from a choice of six. Students will have to analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

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

Component 2: Devising Drama (practical)

Students demonstrate the process of creating devised drama. They will perform a devised piece of drama (students may contribute as performer or designer). Students will then analysis and evaluate their own work.

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

Component 3: Texts in Practice (practical).

This unit involves a performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer). There may be a free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.

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

Personal Attributes Required

You need to be confident with performing in front of an audience. You should have an enjoyment for the subject and have a knowledge of the skills and techniques for Drama. You have been using these in Year 9 already. You need to work hard and work well with others.

How will Drama help me for the future?

Taking Drama as an option shows employers that you have confidence, strong communication skills and that you are a team worker - an essential aspect in most employment. You will develop knowledge of different theorists of theatre, styles and genres and different plays and playwrights. Your reading skills will develop as will your ability to speak well and confidently in front of others.

Is this course right for me?

You should choose Drama at Key Stage 4 if you enjoy performing, experimenting with plays and texts and visiting local and national theatres including London's West End. The course will build upon the skills and techniques developed in year 9 and will involve more play text study and performances. There will be workshop elements to the course with visits from outside Drama and Acting professionals.



ENGINEERING STUDIES V.CERT L2 (NCFE)

Course Information

V.CERT Level 2 Certificate in Engineering Studies is a new, exciting and creative course designed for learners with an interest in Engineering. The course will provide you with hands on experience using tools, materials and processes that can be applied within further education or apprenticeships.

The qualification aims to:

- focus on an applied study of the engineering 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.

The course will show you how to:

- develop a broad understanding of the engineering sector
- research a new idea
- use tools and equipment
- perform a range of techniques and processes using selected materials
- draw, develop and take part in an engineering project.

How will this qualification be assessed?

To be awarded the V.CERT Level 2 Certificate in Engineering Studies, learners are required to successfully complete **4** mandatory units. Each unit is graded using a structure of **Not Yet Achieved, Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction ***

Unit 1 **Introduction to Engineering** - *Internally assessed portfolio of evidence 25%*

Unit 2 **Introduction to Engineering Drawing** – *Externally set and marked assignment (exam) 25%*

Unit 3 **Tools and Equipment for Engineering** - *Internally assessed portfolio of evidence 25%*

Unit 4 **Engineering Materials and their Properties** - *Internally assessed portfolio of evidence 25%*

Students will produce an internally assessed portfolio of evidence. Learners must successfully demonstrate their achievement of all learning outcomes and assessment criteria in **unit one, three and four**. The portfolio will be graded by the teacher and externally moderated by NCFE.

Students will complete an externally set and marked assignment in **Unit 2**. Learners will be allocated a specific period to complete the assignment (4 hours 45 minutes) which will then be externally assessed by NCFE.

Learners must be successful in **both** types of assessment to achieve the full qualification.

Progression Routes

Studying V.CERT Level 2 Certificate in Engineering studies can lead to exciting and well-paid career options. Consumers are becoming increasingly reliant on the engineering industry to develop solutions for their design needs. This course could lead you into roles within a number of industries including mechanical, civil, electrical, agricultural, biomedical and chemical engineering. Further and higher education opportunities include; A level in Engineering, diploma or alternative in Automotive Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Engineering Maintenance, Engineering Toolmaking, Electrical Power Engineering, Engineering Construction, Project Management, Architecture, Computer Engineering and many more!

FOOD AND COOKERY V.CERT L2 (NCFE)

Course Information

V.CERT Level 2 Certificate in Food and Cookery is a new, 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 AND COOKERY

Subject Content – What is covered?

Core knowledge and understanding is presented in four clear and distinct topic areas:

- Prepare and cook developing practical skills
- Understand food and its function in the body and in recipes
- Understand balanced diets and modification of recipes for health
- Plan and produce dishes for a purpose.

How will this qualification be assessed?

To be awarded the V.CERT Level 2 Certificate in Food and Cookery, learners are required to successfully complete **4** mandatory units. Each unit is graded using a structure of **Not Yet Achieved, Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction***

- Unit 1 **Preparing to cook** - *Internally assessed portfolio of evidence*
- Unit 2 **Understanding food** - *Internally assessed portfolio of evidence*
- Unit 3 **Exploring balanced diets** - *Externally set and marked assessment paper*
- Unit 4 **Plan and produce dishes in response to a brief** - *Internally assessed portfolio of evidence*

Students will produce an internally assessed portfolio of evidence. Learners must successfully demonstrate their achievement of all learning outcomes and assessment criteria in **units one, two and four**. The portfolio will be graded by the teacher and externally moderated by NCFE.

Students will complete an external assessment paper in **unit 3**. The examination lasts **two hours** and will be externally graded by NCFE.

Learners must be successful in **both** types of assessment to achieve the qualification.

Progression Routes

Studying V.CERT Level 2 Certificate in Food and Cookery can lead to exciting and well paid career options. Consumers are becoming increasingly reliant on the food industry to develop solutions for their nutritional needs. This course could lead you into roles such as a Chef, Food Product Developer, Buyer (who travels the world sourcing new food products for manufacturers), Food Safety Inspectors, Nutritionists, Dieticians, Quality Managers, Teacher, Food Engineer, Food Scientist, Food Technologist, Food Photographer, Food Stylist, Home Economist, Hotel and Restaurant Manager, Microbiologist, working in food magazines, radio and television – for more information on food careers please visit <http://tastycareers.org.uk/>



FRENCH

FRENCH GCSE (AQA)

Course information

GCSE French builds on the topics that have been covered at KS3. It will help you to build your communication, self confidence and problem-solving skills. You will also gain a better appreciation of the French - speaking world and their cultures. The topics include:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holidays and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

How will the qualification be assessed?

Paper 1 - Listening and understanding (25%)

Multiple response and short answer open response questions. Most questions are in English, 2 are set in the target language.

Paper 2 - Speaking (25%)

This assessment takes the form of a role play, questions based on a picture and a general conversation.

Paper 3 - Reading and understanding (25%)

Multiple response and short answer questions, a translation exercise and 3 questions set in the target language.

Paper 4 - Writing (25%)

3 open response questions and a translation or 2 extended written pieces and a translation.

Progression routes

This will prepare you for a variety of A level subjects; Languages, English, Geography and Business. It also links well to vocational subjects such as Hospitality and Travel and Tourism. A language GCSE is highly sought in a lot of career areas now – engineering, law, business, sport, journalism, the travel industry and the entertainment sector, to name but a few.

Is this course right for me?

To succeed in French you will need to learn vocabulary regularly and learn common structures and grammar that will help you to develop your spoken and written skills. You will be expected to contribute to speaking exercises in class and develop your confidence. At home you will be required to research language independently through language websites, and try to access authentic resources such as TV channels, radio, newspapers and films.

GEOGRAPHY GCSE (AQA)

What is the capital of Mongolia? What is the highest waterfall in the world?

What is the longest river in Europe? What is the UK's highest mountain?

What colours are on the Mexican flag?



GEOGRAPHY

Course Information

Geography is not just about facts and figures, it is the world subject. This new GCSE Geography course will enable you to explore case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). You will be encouraged to understand your role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

During the course of the two years we will study the following topics:

Living with the physical environment - Natural Hazards (looking at the causes, effects and responses to earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes and climate change) and ecosystems (looking at a UK ecosystem, studying the tropical rainforests and hot deserts). Then you will look at the river and coastal landscapes of the UK.

Challenges of the urban environment – Urban change and growth around the world (focusing on the opportunities and challenges in a city, in a NEE or LIC and the issues in a UK city), sustainability of resources and transport in urban areas, the gap between rich and poor countries, location of multinational companies, employment structures in different countries, the economic situation of the UK and management of resources, with a focus on water supply.

Finally to complete the third exam pupils must complete **fieldwork**. This needs to take place outside the classroom and school grounds on at least **two** occasions, so pupils will be taken to two different places over the course of the two years to complete fieldwork enquiries which will enable them to answer paper 3.

How will this qualification be assessed?

Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment

Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment

Both of these will be assessed by a written exam of 1 hour 30 minutes. Each one will be worth 88 marks and will constitute 35% of the final grade.

Paper 3 - Geographical Applications

This paper replaces the controlled assessment element of Geography. It will be a written exam of 1 hour 15 minutes. It will be worth 76 marks (including 6 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG) and will constitute 30% of the final grade.

All three exams will include multiple-choice, short answer, levels of response and extended prose questions.

How will this course help me for the future?

Future Education: Geography will help prepare you for all A-Level subjects, be they more Scientific based or English based. This is because Geography contains so many transferable skills such as problem solving, data collection, analytical skills, report writing and communication skills. GCSE Geography also forms part of the English Baccalaureate which is highly valued by schools and universities.

Career Routes: Many pupils use their school Geography as a way of showing their general ability. In this way, it is a good general qualification and can lead to employment in most types of job, and can help you qualify for entrance to many further courses at college or university. Statistics show that people who have studied Geography are among the most employable. Possible careers include: air traffic controller, architect, cartographer, environmentalist, foreign correspondent and many more.

Is this course right for me?

To succeed in Geography you will need to work hard and you require an enjoyment of the subject, and a willingness to find out about the world.

Answers to questions: Ulan Bator, Angel Falls in Venezuela, River Volga (or Danube depending whether you class Russia as being part of Europe!), Ben Nevis and green, white & red.

If you need any more information please see: Mr Massey



HISTORY

HISTORY GCSE (AQA)

Course Information

GCSE History is a subject which will allow you to study events which have shaped the world we live in. The course covers many different events and changes over time such as:

Understanding the Modern World:

America, 1920-1973

Conflict and Tension, 1894-1918

Shaping the Nation:

Britain: Power and the People: c1170 to the present day

Elizabethan England, c1568-1603

How will this qualification be assessed?

Paper one (1 hour 45 minutes) – Understanding the Modern World

Paper two (1 hour 45 minutes) – Shaping the Nation

How will this course help me for the future?

Future Education:

This course will prepare you for a variety of A level subjects, including English Language, English Literature, History and Sociology. This course will also develop key skills such as analysis, interpretation and critical thinking. GCSE History also forms part of the English Baccalaureate which is highly valued by schools and universities.

Career Routes:

The skills developed by studying GCSE History would be useful in careers such as law, journalism, psychology, broadcasting and teaching.

Is this course right for me?

To succeed in GCSE History you will need to be prepared to do lots of reading and lots of extended written work. There is also a great deal of independent study needed, especially when preparing for the exams.

ICT L2 Certificate in Digital Applications—CIDA (EDEXCEL)

The Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications has been designed to engage and enthuse young people with an interest in creative computing, for example digital graphics and animations, interactive multimedia products and computer games. Our aim is to encourage learners to consider pursuing education, training and career paths which will contribute to the nation's economic wellbeing, while achieving job satisfaction and reward.



ICT

Key Features

The Pearson Edexcel Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications:

- is graded at A*, A, B and C
- is for students aged 14 years and over
- provides opportunities for synoptic assessment

Aims

This qualification aims to:

- equip young people with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to design and make effective, digital products for others to use.
- enable young people to use digital tools as a means of expression to inform, persuade and entertain.
- foster young people's creativity and develop their independent learning skills.
- challenge young people to reflect on what they produce and strive for excellence.
- increase young people's awareness of their responsibilities in the digital world and their respect of other people's rights.
- equip young people with professional, real-world skills in planning, project management and communication.
- give young people the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to support future learning and exploit the creative digital industries.

Progression

This qualification provides a broad and solid foundation for further study of various aspects of creative computing, such as graphic design, web design, computer games design and interactive media. It supports progress to further study, including:

- GCE in Media: Communication and Production
- Level 3 BTECs in Creative Media Production
- Level 3 BTECs in IT
- Level 3 Principal Learning in Creative and Media.

It also enhances young people's overall digital literacy and gives them a solid foundation for further study and employment.

Mandatory unit—Students must complete: Developing Web Products

Optional units— Students must complete one of the three optional units:
Creative Multimedia
Artwork and Imaging
Game Making

If you need any more information please see: Mr Morrissey



MUSIC

MUSIC GCSE (Eduqas)

Why Should I choose GCSE Music?

You should choose Music at Key Stage 4 if you enjoy performing and experimenting with sound. The composing, listening and performing assessments in Year 7 and 8 were just a taster of what is expected at GCSE.

How is the course assessed?

Component 1: Performing Music Total duration of performances: 4-6 minutes, Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated, 30% of qualification, 72 marks

What will I perform?

One performance must be as a soloist and one piece must be as part of an ensemble lasting a combined minimum of four minutes. The performance as part of an ensemble must last for a minimum of one minute. **One** of the pieces performed must be linked to specific aspects of musical content within **one** of the four areas of study. All learners are required to perform one ensemble piece and when this is linked to area of study 2, Music for Ensemble, the piece must be related to one of the specific genres or styles covered in this area of study.

There are four areas of study:

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 4: Popular Music

Component 2: Composing Music Total duration of compositions: 3-6 minutes, Non-exam assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated, 30% of qualification, 72 marks

What will I compose?

1. A composition which responds to a brief set by WJEC. The brief will be released during the first week of September in the academic year in which the assessment is to be taken. Learners select **one** from a choice of four briefs, each related to a different area of study (see above)
2. A free composition. Learners will compose a piece of music in a style of their own choice. Learners will set their own brief for this composition. The brief itself is **not** assessed; however, learners are assessed on their musical response to the brief.

Component 3: Understanding Music Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes, 40% of qualification, 96 marks

The areas of study provide an appropriate focus for students to appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language. Students must be able to listen attentively to unfamiliar music from all four areas of study to identify and accurately describe musical elements, musical contexts and use musical language (including staff notation).

Course requirements

You need to be able to sing or play an instrument to a reasonable standard. If you do not already play an instrument you must be keen to learn one. The music department provide instrument/vocal lessons on a range of instruments which you **MUST** attend as a GCSE student. You need to be able to perform comfortably and confidently. You need to work hard and work well with others. You will be expected to contribute to music enrichments.



Course information

GCSE Physical Education is assessed through practical work (30%), coursework (10%) and two theory exams (60%) at the end of Year 11.

Any pupils who wish to take part in GCSE PE must be taking part in competitive sport outside of school as well as regularly attending enrichment clubs within school.

During practical lessons (2 lessons a fortnight) pupils will cover a variety of individual and team sports such as trampolining, table tennis, badminton, basketball, football, netball, cricket and athletics. To further develop pupils' practical skills for their course, they will also be expected to be attending one sports club a week after school.

The theory work (3 lessons a fortnight) will cover topics that lead onto A Level Physical Education and/or Sport Science. The topics covered are anatomy and physiology, biomechanics, data analysis and the history of sport. Pupils will be assessed at the end of Year 11 during 2 written exams. Pupils will also have to complete a piece of coursework which based on an individual training programme.

Progression Routes

Any pupils who take this course will be in a position to apply for any PE or Sport Science course at level 3, such as BTEC Sport or A Level Physical Education. This can then lead onto sports science, sports development, physical education or sports development courses at university. Pupils will also be in an advantageous position to apply for any sports apprenticeship.

Is this course right for me?

To be successful on this course, pupils must be fully committed to competing in sport on a regular basis. This is due to the fact that the practical grades are dependent on sporting performance but also the theory work often links in with training and performance. Pupils must also be willing to attend enrichment clubs on a regular basis and must be prepared to study independently at home if they are to be successful on this course.



Course information

Cambridge National Sports Science is a vocational qualification that is assessed through coursework (75%) and a one hour exam (25%).

Pupils who take this course will complete four units over the two years. Some of the tasks that are completed for coursework are things such as leading coaching sessions, written reports, presentations and developing training programmes. This course does have some practical lessons but is more classroom based. The units that are covered over the 2 years are Sports Nutrition, Injuries in Sport, Technology in Sport and Principles of Training.

This course will give pupils an insight into how the body changes during physical activity, how technology has changed sport as well as looking at how to train and exercise correctly and safely.

Progression Routes

Pupils who take this course will be able to take further sports qualifications including BTEC Sport Level 3 and A Level Physical education or Sports Science if they choose to do so. Pupils may then wish to progress onto university to study sports science. The course will also be useful for any pupils who wish to go into officiating and coaching as a career path.

Is this course right for me?

Pupils must have a keen interest in sport as most of the tasks require sporting examples to be applied to gain higher marks. To be successful on this course, pupils must be able to organise their time to ensure that deadlines are met for coursework.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES B GCSE (EDEXCEL)

Course Information

Students studying in Religious Studies at GCSE will take an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion, exploring different beliefs, cultures and fundamental questions, and relating these studies to their own values and the wider world.

The course is divided into two units:

- Religion and Ethics through Christianity
- Religion, Peace and Conflict through Islam

How will this qualification be assessed?

External assessment (100% of the overall GCSE)

The Religious Studies GCSE is assessed solely by examination at the end of the course. Each of the units is assessed by a 1 hour 45 minute exam and will each count towards 50% of the overall grade.

How will this course help with your future?

Future Education:

Religious Studies combines aspects of Politics, Sociology, Philosophy, History, Science and English. This means it will help you to prepare for a variety of A-level subjects. The skills you acquire through the study of ethical issues and religion lead you towards an 'academic' career path including careers in law, medicine and management. The subject encourages a variety of thinking skills, such as empathy and understanding, as well as analytical and evaluation skills. These skills are highly valued by employers, colleges and universities.

Career Routes:

Religious Studies is a fascinating subject that allows you to question the world around you. The skills you acquire will benefit those considering any career which involves working with people, but in particular medicine, nursing, social work, police force, armed forces, teaching and law.

Is this course right for you?

Are you interested in what other people think and believe? Do you like thinking about your own thoughts and views? Do you find religion and belief interesting? Then RE is the right course for you. You will learn in a variety of ways and will be given lots of opportunities to work independently and collaboratively in a calm and mutually respectful environment. What existing students say:

'In RE I can express my thoughts and feelings' (Year 10 student)

'I enjoy finding out about other points of view' (Year 10 student)

'I smile every time I see RE on my timetable' (Year 10 student)



RELIGIOUS STUDIES



SPANISH

SPANISH GCSE (AQA)

Course information

GCSE Spanish builds on the topics that have been covered at KS3. It will help you to build your communication, self-confidence and problem-solving skills. You will also gain a better appreciation of the Spanish-speaking world and their cultures. The topics include:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holidays and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

How will the qualification be assessed?

Paper 1 - Listening and Understanding (25%)

Multiple response and short answer open response questions. Most questions are in English, 2 are set in the target language.

Paper 2 - Speaking (25%)

This assessment takes the form of a role play, questions based on a picture and a general conversation.

Paper 3 - Reading and Understanding (25%)

Multiple response and short answer questions, a translation exercise and 3 questions set in the target language.

Paper 4 - Writing (25%)

3 open response questions and a translation or 2 extended written pieces and a translation.

Progression routes

This will prepare you for a variety of A Level subjects; Languages, English, Geography and Business. It also links well to vocational subjects such as Hospitality and Travel and Tourism. A language GCSE is highly sought in a lot of career areas now – engineering, law, business, sport, journalism, the travel industry and the entertainment sector, to name but a few.

Is this course right for me?

To succeed in Spanish you will need to learn vocabulary regularly and learn common structures and grammar that will help you to develop your spoken and written skills. You will be expected to contribute to speaking exercises in class and develop your confidence. At home you will be required to research language independently through language websites, and try to access authentic resources such as TV channels, radio, newspapers and films.

My Notes