



**YEAR 9
INFORMATION EVENING**

GCSE

COURSE GUIDE 2024



“To act justly, to love with mercy and to walk humbly with our God” - Micah 6:8




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OUR VISION



“To act justly, to love with mercy and to walk humbly with our God” - Micah 6:8

At EPC we seek to build a community of faith where our students have the cultural capital to follow unlimited ideas and dreams. Above all else, we want our students to experience fullness of life, where the sort of person that they become is of paramount importance.

To be more is to be a community which aspires to act justly in all situations; to be kind towards those inside and outside the College; and to be open to God’s guidance in all areas of our lives.



Frank Field Education Trust

The Frank Field Education Trust (FFET) is a Multi-Academy Trust (MAT) based in the North West of England and West Midlands which aims to build on the work of outstanding teachers, leaders and schools within the Trust to serve schools and communities. Our vision is that social justice can be achieved through excellence in education.

Our vision is that Social Justice can be achieved through Excellence in Education. We believe that all pupils in our schools will experience a high quality education ensuring that all children gain the cultural capital necessary for a choice-filled life. Our motto of the Trust is for our pupils to 'Aspire to Be More' and we have designed a Curriculum for Social Justice that provides opportunities throughout their time with us.

The founder of the Trust, the Rt. Hon. Lord Frank Field, served for almost 40 years as the Member of Parliament for Birkenhead. During this time, Frank has campaigned extensively for social justice and in 2010 wrote "The Foundation Years: preventing poor children becoming poor adults" report, which has become a landmark document regarding the importance of Education and Early Years care in ending disadvantage.



WELCOME TO KEY STAGE 4



This next phase of your compulsory school education is an important part of your education pathway and hopefully the most exciting part of your learning journey so far. The next two years will bring challenge and change, as well as increased responsibility and a wealth of opportunities as young adulthood beckons and you progress to the next step towards achieving your future aspirations.

Expectations are extremely high for our KS4 pupils. We believe every single one of you can achieve and succeed. Excellent attendance and punctuality are crucial for success and are a basic expectation for all pupils.

You will be well supported and our outstanding pastoral system links very closely to the curriculum. Subject teachers regularly report on your progress and your Form Tutor

will meet regularly with you in Academic Review to discuss this.

At Key Stage 4 you are constantly challenged to organise and manage your study time. Academic Review is a key focal point each day where you will have the opportunity to reflect on this. Assemblies and enrichment activities remain an important part of College life and we hope that you will manage, with our guidance and support, to balance your school work life and home life, through participation in the many events which allow time for us to grow together as a community.

Rewarding your achievements is very important to us. Throughout Key Stage 4 we will regularly acknowledge and celebrate your hard work and encourage your success.

THE OPTIONS PROCESS

STEP 1

Step 1 Information Evening – Tuesday 12th March

The Year 9 information Evening is the first step in the options process. The aim of the evening is for you to gather key information in order to make an informed decision about the next stage of your academic journey. Through talking to subject teachers and pupil representatives you will find out the details about the individual qualifications and the course requirements. Throughout the evening you will have opportunities to discuss compulsory and optional subjects, reflect on your progress and your subject interests to support you in the selection of your final options.

STEP 2

Step 2 Options Form completion – Friday 15th March

Our 2-year curriculum allows us to create personalised guided pathways for all pupils. In your options pack that you receive at the start of the Information Evening, you will be provided with an options form. Staff will support you with the completion of this if required, as well as conversations with your parents/carers, to ensure that you make appropriate choices. Please also refer to the 'Making your mind up' section in this booklet for further support. Some subjects are compulsory and some subjects you will be able to choose. The details in this booklet will help you with those decisions.

All courses could lead to Level 3 qualifications here at EPC, followed by:

- University places
- Higher apprenticeships
- Employment

Your Options Form should be submitted to your Form Tutor by Friday 15th March 2024.

STEP 3

Step 3 Subject confirmation

Once all of the option forms are submitted, we will start building the curriculum. We hope that you are looking forward to joining Key Stage 4 and look forward to continuing to work with you as you take these next steps.

MAKING UP YOUR MIND

When making a decision about subjects these are some of the things you should think about:

What is the subject about?

This guide gives brief details of each subject but talk to your subject teachers and Learning Coach as well. Ask pupils in Years 10 and 11 about the courses they are taking.

Do I like the subject?

Most people do better studying subjects they enjoy and in which they have achieved success.

Will I be able to cope with the subject?

Some subjects require practical skills. Some need more writing than others. Some involve research out of school. Find out from the teachers concerned whether they think you would be good at the subjects which interest you.

Does my choice fit in with the timetable?

The Key Stage 4 timetable is put together so that as many people as possible can study the options they choose. However, some subjects may not run if only a few pupils choose them.

Do I need the subject for my long-term aims?

Think about your future plans:

- Job after Sixth Form
- Job after School
- Apprenticeship
- University
- College Course

Involve your parents

Parents and other relatives have experience of the world outside school. Talk to them! Your Form Tutor and Learning Coach will always be prepared to give help and advice. They will be very much involved in supporting your choice. Make sure you use that help.

What future changes might affect my choice?

Think about:

- Changes in the job market
- Changes in yourself
- Changes in qualifications required
- Changes in technology
- Changes in your personal circumstances

Some subjects are important but not necessarily compulsory for particular careers. Some skills you can pick up later. Find out what skills you need for careers which interest you.

Don't choose a subject just because you like the teacher or because your friends have chosen it.

The subjects identified for you help to make sure that you keep your options open and do not lose the chance of certain careers by making wrong subject choices now. The choice you make is final.

If you find after you start a subject that you do not like it, then it may be difficult or impossible to change. Other subjects that you may wish to take may be full by then.

What to do next?

- Read through the details of the courses which are on the next pages of this booklet.
- Make a list of the subjects that you might like to follow.
- Discuss with your parents, Form Tutor and Learning Coach which subjects you would like to take and why.
- Complete the options form and indicate which subjects you wish to study.
- Show your form to your parents and then discuss your choices with your Form Tutor.
- Your Options Form should be submitted to your Form Tutor by **Friday 15th March 2024**.

GCSE COURSE GUIDE

COURSE: ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

English Language

You will develop your skills in Reading, through the study of a range of literary and non-literary texts from the 19th Century through to the 21st Century. You will develop your skills in Writing by learning how to write for a variety of different audiences and purposes. You will also be assessed orally through Speaking and Listening and will be required to complete one formal presentation or speech.

English Literature

You will study 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare, 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens and 'An Inspector Calls' by J. B. Priestley. You will also study an anthology of poetry from 1789 to the present day. Additionally, you will develop your skills in analysing a range of unseen poetry.

How is the course structured?

Year 10

Initially in Year 10, you will focus on two of your English Literature set texts – 'Macbeth' and 'A Christmas Carol'. You will then move on to the English Language course, when you will practise and develop Reading and Writing skills. You will also complete your final Speaking and Listening Assessment.

Year 11

Initially in Year 11, you will focus on your English Literature course, studying 'An Inspector Calls' and poetry from the anthology. You will also learn how to analyse a range of unseen poetry in preparation for the English Literature examination. You will also practise and enhance your skills in preparation for the English Language examination.

How will my work be assessed?

There are two main ways that students' work is assessed:

- **Externally:** The two courses are linear and you will sit external examinations in both GCSE English and GCSE English Literature at the end of Year 11.
- **Internally:** English teachers provide feedback to you on your progress by marking work completed in class and at home and offering supportive advice in preparation for mock and external examinations. Staff also assess and mark Speaking and Listening performance – although an external moderator may visit to check that our standards are of the highest order.

What can these qualifications lead to?

Clearly, securing a good pass in GCSE English is crucial for all pupils at the end of Year 11. In our Sixth Form, a good pass in English Language and English Literature will enable you to apply to study English Literature at A Level.



COURSE MATHEMATICS

What will I learn about?

We use mathematics to explain and understand the world around us and to make predictions about what will happen in the future. Mathematics is a problem-solving tool that allows us to develop an understanding of all things in the world in which we live.

You will continue to build on the skills learnt at Key Stage 3 covering number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry and measures probability and statistics in greater detail. You will learn new skills and techniques in these areas and then apply them in practical situations and learn how mathematics can be used to solve problems. There is now a much greater emphasis on the assessment of mathematics in its use in real life scenarios.

How is the course structured?

Year 10 and 11 – We provide full coverage of the curriculum to ensure the best possible progress is made. All pupils will be entered for their Mathematics GCSE at the end of Year 11, as we follow a linear specification.

How will my work be assessed?

There are two main ways that students' work is assessed:

- Internally – Mathematics' teachers feedback to pupils on their progress by marking homework, assessments and by offering supportive advice in preparation for examinations. This support will help you to achieve your target grade in Mathematics.
- Externally – you will sit a full GCSE examination at the end of Year 11. There are 3 x 1 hour 30 minutes assessments, all carrying equal weighting. Paper 1 will be a non-calculator exam. Papers 2 & 3 will require a scientific calculator. You will be entered at either Higher Tier or Foundation Tier based on performance in previous years, teacher assessment and mock exams.

The grades you can achieve within these tiers based on the new 9-1 grading system are as follows; Higher Tier (9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4, 3) or Foundation Tier (5, 4, 3, 2, 1).

Many careers and higher education courses have previously asked for a GCSE at Grade C or above in Mathematics as it demonstrates a basic level of competence in working with numbers and problem solving. A Mathematics GCSE, along with an English GCSE, is a crucial qualification for pupils' progression after Year 11.

What can these qualifications lead to?

Clearly, securing a good pass in GCSE Maths is crucial for you at the end of Year 11. In our Sixth Form, a good pass in Maths will enable you to apply to study Maths at A Level.





COURSE: SCIENCE (CORE)

What will I learn about?

You will study thirteen units in Year 10 and a further eleven in Year 11 in the subject areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There is great emphasis on learning to become responsible citizens, looking after our planet and understanding the implications of being wasteful with our resources.

You will spend time investigating issues relating to the topics in a practical way and there are sixteen practicals that you must complete.

Biology Topics: cell biology, organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, ecology, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution.

Chemistry Topics: atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

Physics Topics: energy, electricity, particle model of matter, atomic structure, forces, waves, magnetism and electromagnetism.

How will my work be assessed?

The qualification is linear, so you will sit all examinations at the end of the course. There are six examination papers, two each for biology, chemistry and physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from different aspects of the course, including practical investigative skills. Each paper lasts for 1 hour 15 minutes, is worth 70 marks and accounts for 16.7% of the GCSE. The examinations include multiple choice, closed structured, short answer and open response questions.

What can these qualifications lead to?

GCSEs in Combined Science could also lead to A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, which can then lead to Science-based degrees at university. You can also progress onto our Level 3 Applied Science course which is appropriate for pupils wishing to pursue a more hands-on Science degrees such as Nursing, Engineering and Paramedics as well as technical apprenticeships.



COURSE: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

What will I learn about?

This GCSE course allows you to study two religions, as well as key philosophical and ethical issues facing the local, national and international community. You will learn through group debate and discussion, use audio-visual resources, research and presentation, extended writing and self and peer reflection.

You will explore the sanctity of life, issues raised by marriage and family life, abortion, euthanasia, global warming and beliefs about life after death. You will explore Christian beliefs and living a Christian life and how this influences the diverse spectrum of Christians today.

You will also study crime and punishment and issues raised by war and conflict.

How is the course structured?

Students will study two sections which will be examined on one paper.

In section A students will study the beliefs and teachings of two religions: Christianity and Islam. Students will study the influence of the beliefs and teachings studied on individuals, communities and societies. They will study common and divergent views within Christianity and Islam and the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed.

In section B students will explore thematic studies: religious, philosophical and ethical studies from two themes:

- Theme A - Relationships and families
- Theme B - Religion, peace and conflict

Within their thematic studies students will study religious and non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism, in contemporary British society about the issues raised. In addition, students will also study religious, philosophical and ethical arguments related to the issues raised, and their impact and influence on the modern world.

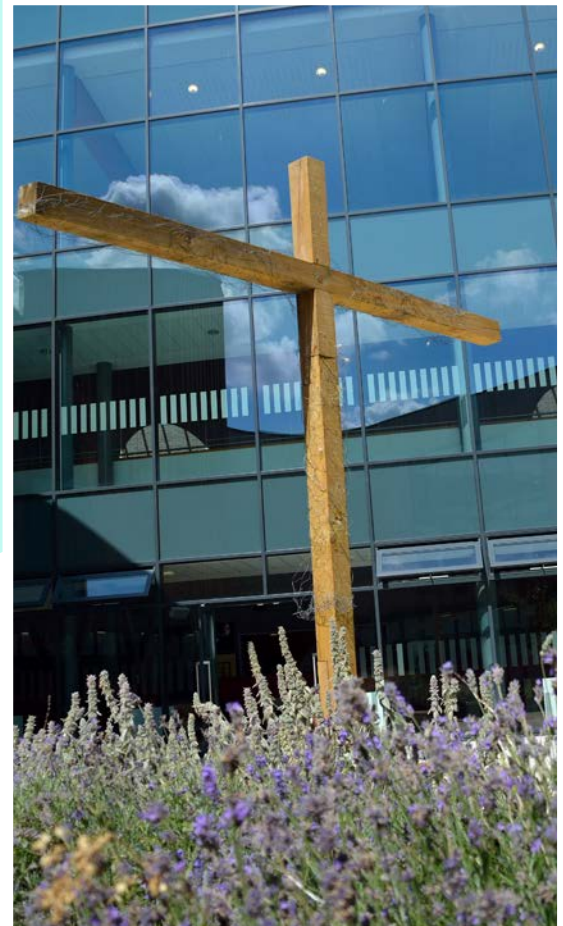
How will work be assessed?

- TWO Written exams: both 1 hour 45 minutes in duration
- 96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

What can this qualification lead to?

A GCSE in Religious Studies demonstrates the ability to think critically, to be able to evaluate arguments and other differing opinions, as well as developing respect, understanding and knowledge of the world in which we live. As well as developing many transferable skills such as literacy and communication skills.

It is regarded by employers, colleges and universities as a subject with academic rigour and high-order critical thinking skills and as such it is highly valued. Traditionally it will lead to careers in education, journalism, medicine, politics, psychology, law, media, and social work.



COURSE: PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CORE)

Qualification

Core PE is a compulsory subject. You will be required to participate in a variety of individual and team sports. In core PE there is no external assessment but you will be set a specific target to achieve within each Learning Programme.

Activities include:

- Football
- Rugby
- Fitness
- Badminton
- Handball
- Netball
- Leadership

You will be required to participate in a variety of different activities throughout the year, wearing the correct PE kit.

What will I learn / How is the course structured?

- One hour per week (compulsory)
- Practically participating in a variety of individual and team activities and sports
- Increasingly becoming more independent and planning and organising skills practices and small sided games
- Becoming increasingly aware of and taking on different roles in PE such as officials, organisers, coaches and Instructors
- Planning and preparing a simple sporting activity and fitness programme
- Communicating and leading sporting activities
- Understanding fair play and the role of officials planning and organising
- Leading a number of primary school sporting events

What can these qualifications lead to?

You are encouraged to assist with extra-curricular activities in order to improve and develop your leadership skills further. Leaders can also support primary school activities.



COURSE: ART & DESIGN

What will I learn about?

Art and Design is an exciting and demanding subject that develops your practical skills and uses creativity along with personal ideas to produce a range of outcomes. You can express yourself using a range of different materials when looking at a variety of different themes and artists. This course provides access to a large choice of post-16 options for pupils looking to work in creative industries.

The course provides opportunities to work with two-dimensional media, such as drawing, painting, mixed media and printmaking. You will also have the opportunity to work with 3D materials and create a range of sculptures. The course can be personalised to meet your individual skills and interests which allows you to achieve your potential.

Drawing plays a fundamental part in the development of all art work on the course, however, you will also experience a variety of different artistic activities such as painting, ceramics, printmaking, three-dimensional work, collage, mixed media, textiles, photography, digital art and sketchbook work.

This course will involve pupils exploring the applications of both new technologies and historical and contemporary art practice within their work. You will be encouraged to develop your knowledge and understanding of how to:

- develop ideas through looking at artists' work
- explore art media, materials and processes to express and create original ideas
- record your experiences and observations using a variety of methods
- acquire a command of specialist artistic vocabulary and an insight into the value and significance of art in society

How is the course structured?

The course is made up of two units of work.

Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

- You must produce a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further experimental work.

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40%)

- Question papers containing a selection of starting points are set by the examination board and issued to pupils in January.



- You are given a preliminary period of time to research and plan for the production of either a single response to their chosen starting point, or a series of responses, during a 10-hour supervised examination.

How will my work be assessed?

Both units are marked internally and moderated by the examination board. Assessment is based on four Assessment Objectives, which are designed to measure your progress in terms of your development of knowledge and understanding.

All four are equally weighted and are as follows:

- Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources
- Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques and processes
- Record ideas, observations and insights relevant as work progresses
- Present a personal and meaningful response piece that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language.

What can this qualification lead to?

A qualification in Art provides an initial step to an expanding number of exciting careers. Creative young people with artistic flair and skills will always be in demand and there are plenty of employment opportunities available.

Qualifications in GCSE and A Level Art provide a stepping-stone for you to access many courses in Higher Education. Art is also a subject from which pupils can obtain a great deal of personal gratification.

No matter where your career aspirations lie, Art remains a subject from which all pupils can derive an enriching life-long experience. Art is a subject that is valued for the skills such as independence, self-motivation, dedication and creativity.

COURSE: COMPUTER SCIENCE

What will I learn about?

The world depends on computers. In this GCSE you will learn about how computers work, the networks they use and how programming can create solutions to everyday problems and challenges. You will learn about how computers and networks work (physically and virtually). You will learn about computer security (including legal and ethical aspects). You will gain an understanding of how algorithms and computational logic can be used to provide solutions to problems, and will gain experience in coding (completing a practical programming project).

Computer Science underpins a vast range of subjects and careers. Many of the key concepts in this course, including programming, algorithms and data structures, can be applied to multiple situations. A key skill that is developed is 'computational thinking', and this offers insightful ways to think and view about information and its use.

How is the course structured?

You will learn topics from two key components that will be assessed via two examination papers at the end of Year 11. You will also complete a programming project.

Component 1: Computer systems

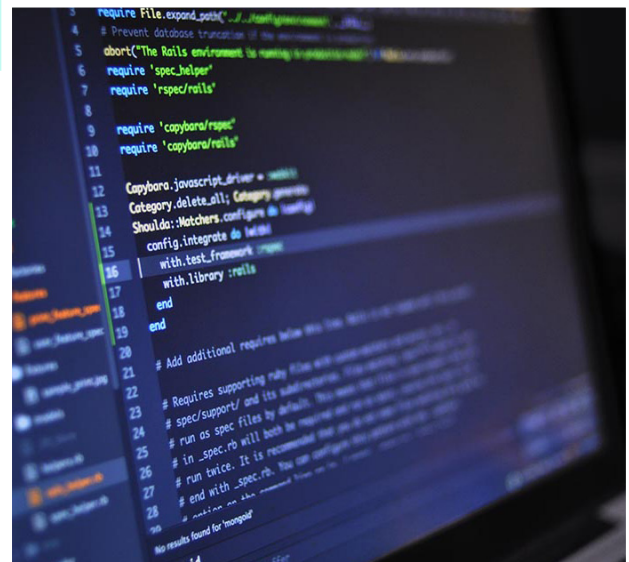
- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Storage
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

Component 2: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

Programming Project

- Programming techniques
- Analysis
- Design
- Development
- Testing and evaluation and conclusions



How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1 – Computer systems. One exam paper (worth 50% of the overall marks) - 1 Hour 30 Minutes Exam.

Paper 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming. One exam (worth 50% of the overall marks) - 1 Hour 30 Minute Exam.

What can this qualification lead to?

Computer Science can be studied at A-level and beyond. The skills and knowledge developed in Computer Science can be applied to a vast range of careers such as video game programming, electronic commerce, financial management, social media marketing and website design. A grounding in Computer Science can also help when studying other subjects such as maths, physics (and other sciences), engineering and music.

COURSE: DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

What will I learn about?

This course will provide opportunities for you to develop real-world awareness of the iterative design practices and strategies used by the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. The aim of the course is to involve you in activities which develop innovation and flair and will require you to use critical thinking, leading towards invention, to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems.

You will develop your designing and making skills through working with a range of manufacturing processes and materials, focusing mainly on wood, plastic, papers and boards. You will learn to use the full range of workshop tools and equipment and will use CAD CAM (computer aided design and manufacture) and the latest technology to produce prototypes that meet the needs and wants of the intended end user.

How is the course structured?

The course is made up of two components, Component 1, Principles of Design and Technology and Component 2, the Iterative Design Challenge.

This course could be for you if you enjoy designing and using equipment and technology to model, test and evaluate prototypes from a range of materials. Throughout Year 10 you will develop a range of design and technology subject knowledge to prepare you for the written examination. You will also complete a range of design and practical tasks to prepare you for the Iterative Design Challenge that will be released by the exam board on June 1st of Year 10.

How is the course assessed?

The course is made up of two components:

Component 1: Principles of Design and Technology – Externally assessed examination (50%)

- 2 hours written paper (50%) completed at the end of Year 11.
- This component brings together your 'core' and 'in-depth' knowledge and understanding of Design & Technology principles. In this written examination paper you will also focus more directly on at least one main material category (e.g. woods, plastics, metals).
- A minimum of 15% of the paper will assess your mathematical skills applied within a design and technology context.



Component 2: Iterative Design Challenge - Non-exam assessment (50%)

- You will be required to complete a contextual design challenge, set by the examination board, in which you will demonstrate a range of skills to explore, create, evaluate, and manufacture.
- You will produce a chronological design portfolio and one final prototype.
- Your portfolio will be internally assessed by the College and externally moderated.

This course could be for you if you enjoy designing and using equipment and technology to model, test and evaluate prototypes from a range of materials. Throughout Year 10 you will develop a range of design and technology subject knowledge to prepare you for the written examination. You will also complete a range of design and practical tasks to prepare you for the Iterative Design Challenge that will be released by the exam board on June 1st of Year 10.

What can this qualification lead to?

As well as developing valuable transferable skills this course provides a route into A Level Product Design and BTEC L3 Engineering. Career sectors include product design, industrial design, architecture, manufacturing, engineering, construction, research and development.

COURSE DRAMA

Do you have a passion for performance? Are you a budding actor, director or designer? Do you want to discover more about the fantastic roles behind the scenes – from costume design, to sound design and lighting? If so, it's time to uncover your potential – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

How is the course structured?

This qualification is made up of three components:

Component 1: Devising

You will learn how to create and refine your own original work in Drama. This component is worth 40% of the qualification and includes a written portfolio of your work.

Component 2: Performing Scripted Plays

You will learn the skills and techniques needed to produce a successful performance of two extracts from a play. This component is worth 20% of the qualification.

Component 3: Theatre Makers in Practice

You will learn about and study one full play text. It includes an evaluation of a live theatre performance. This component is a written exam worth 40% of the qualification.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1 is a Non-Exam Assessment (NEA), internally assessed and externally moderated. Component 2 is a performance component and two extracts are performed to a live examiner. Component 3 is a 1 hour 45-minute written exam.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including:

- Communication
- Confidence
- Learning independently
- Organisation
- Problem solving
- Research



- Self-discipline
- Stamina
- Taking on responsibility
- Time management

What can this qualification lead to?

The performing arts industry offers you a wide range of exciting opportunities which includes:

- Actor
- Arts administrator
- Community arts worker
- Designer
- Director
- Drama / Music therapist
- Front of house manager
- Lighting/ Sound technician
- Stage Manager
- Teacher
- Dramaturgy
- Drama therapist

COURSE

ENTERPRISE (BTEC AWARD)

What will I learn about?

We are excited to introduce the new Vocational course in Enterprise. You will learn about the key areas of Business concepts, developing skills in areas such as creativity, organisation, teamwork and both written and visual presentation.

How is the course structured?

The course is divided into 3 components, an assessed through a combination of exam and two timed assessment components. Students are graded Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction or Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

How is the course assessed?

The BTEC is a nationally recognised vocational qualification that is assessed through a mixture of examination and coursework.

Component 1: Exploring Enterprises (timed assessment coursework) In this component, you will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the different types of enterprise and their ownership, looking at the characteristics of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs with reasons for levels of success. You will understand the importance of having a clear focus on the customer and the importance of meeting their needs. This unit contributes 30% of the overall grade.

Component 2: Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity (timed assessment coursework). If you are going to succeed as an entrepreneur or as an innovator in business, you need to have great ideas and plan how you are going to put them into practice. Any enterprise needs to plan how it will succeed through working out how it can harness physical, financial and human resources – which means the skills that you and others bring. An entrepreneur will also have to pitch their ideas to an audience in order to secure funding. This unit contributes 30% of the overall grade.

Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (exam). Your exam unit comprises of 40% of the overall grade, this unit is assessed through an exam made up of short-answer questions, calculations and a case study. This unit gives students an overview of the main concepts that underpin a 'start-up' business.



Key concepts include:

- Market segmentation
- Market research and research methods
- Business costs, revenue and break-even
- Product development strategies
- Pricing strategies
- Advertising methods
- Business ownership formats
- Sources of finance for start-ups

The exam is 2 hours in length, and short-answer and long questions, giving students a great foundation in understanding how businesses work, and the key concepts that any budding entrepreneur will need to understand if they are to be a success.

What can the qualification lead to?

The successful completion of this course will enable students to progress to whichever business-related route they choose. This could be; further study in with our level 3 qualification in Business at our sixth form, or application to a relevant apprenticeship. In relations to careers, this course can lead to a career in Business Management, Human Resources, Marketing, Administration, Finance, as well as setting up your own business.

COURSE: GEOGRAPHY

What will I learn about?

“Geography puts the knowing into seeing and makes sense of the world.”

Geography develops your knowledge and understanding of the world in which you live today. Topics are chosen from a range of physical and human options explored through relevant case studies in their own world and the fast changing world around them. Geography encourages you to ask questions about the world in which you live in, process ideas and evaluate key global issues.

Geography pupils are given the opportunity to develop opinions, assess the reliability of evidence and communicate ideas and information in a variety of formats.

You can expect to experience a variety of teaching techniques from debate, group work, the enquiry process and thinking skills. You will have numerous opportunities to take part in extra-curricular activities within the subject, focusing on fieldwork at two contrasting locations and geographical skills. This permits you to carry out primary data collection and experience elements of Geography in a real world setting.

How is the course structured?

You will sit three examination papers at the end of Year 11. These are outlined below:

Unit 1 – Living with the physical environment.

Section A – The challenge of natural hazards

- Tectonic hazards, Weather hazards and climate change.

Section B – The living World

- Ecosystems, Tropical rainforests and Hot deserts. Section C – Physical landscapes in the UK
- UK Physical landscapes, including Coastal landscapes and River Landscapes.

Unit 2 – Challenges in the human environment.

Section A – Urban issues and challenges

- Challenges of population growth in megacities, Urban change in UK cities.

Section B – The changing economic World

- Reducing the development gap between rich and poor countries, Economic growth of Newly Emerging Economies.

Section C – The challenge of resource management

- Resources management and a focus on Energy.

Unit 3 – Geographical applications

You will undertake Controlled Assessments in fieldwork (Two fieldwork visits will take place, one physical and one human) and Issue evaluation.

- The Fieldwork Enquiries are linked to visits to Liverpool City Centre and the River
- Clymedogin order to collect primary data. The results will be analysed to apply to question on Paper 3.
- The Issue Evaluation is based on classroom teaching and individual research into a contemporary issue. You will be provided with a resource booklet 12 weeks prior to the examination, to familiarise yourself with resource material. A clean copy will be issued

in the exam, where you will be required to apply your knowledge and skills to a set series of questions.

How will my work be assessed?

Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment:

One exam (worth 35% of the overall marks) - 1 Hour 30 Minutes Exam.

Paper 2 – Challenges in the human environment:

One exam (worth 35% of the overall marks) - 1 Hour 30 Minute Exam.

Paper 3 - Geographical applications: Fieldwork and data based exercises. One exam (worth 30% of the overall marks) - 1 Hour 15 Minute Exam.

The Exam consists of a range of multiple choice, short and long answer questions.

Where can the qualification lead to?

Geography can be studied up to A Level. Geography is a stepping stone into many careers including business, travel, sciences, the police and politics.

COURSE

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (BTEC AWARD)

What will I learn about?

The BTEC Tech award in Health and Social Care can help you take your first steps towards a career caring for people and communities. You will learn the essential skills needed to support people with a wide range of needs, from babies and toddlers to adults and the elderly. BTEC tech awards offer level 2 learners an engaging introduction to life and work in a vocational sector. You will develop your knowledge and understanding by applying your learning and skills in a work-related context.

How is the course structured?

Through a combination of practical experience and written assignments, this vocational qualification provides level 2 learners with the knowledge, skills and understanding needed for a career in the health and social care sector. The BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH) and has three core components.

How is the course assessed?

The means of assessment are as follows:

- Component 1&2 are internally assessed timed assessments.
- Component 3 is an externally assessed 2-hour examination.

Assessment in BTEC is completed through a variety of methods. These can be paper based, ICT-based tasks, practical work and PowerPoint presentations. All coursework tasks are graded at a Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction or Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

What can the qualification lead to?

The course presents unique opportunities in school to learn more about how children and adults develop and as such may be of interest and relevance to all students. Studying BTEC Health and Social Care will provide good preparation for a range of careers, for example:

The nursing profession, occupational therapist, paramedic, psychologist, health visitor, midwife, care worker, youth worker, and nursery



There is also the Level 3 BTEC Award in Health and Social Care which is the step-on course to the BTEC Tech Award, offered here at our Sixth Form. A Level 3 qualification in Health and Social Care can be used to meet the entry requirements for many Higher Education courses, such as nursing, midwifery, and paramedic training.

COURSE: HISTORY

What will I learn about?

“Those who ignore History are condemned to repeat it.” History allows you to gain knowledge and understanding of the world in which you live today. Topics are chosen for their relevance to modern society and links they demonstrate to the contemporary world. History encourages, and expects, you to think independently, to ask questions and make supported judgments. History pupils train their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions.

You will encounter a variety of teaching techniques from role-play, discussion and debate to group work and personal reflection. You will also see the subject brought to life through ICT and authentic footage.

How is the course structured?

The GCSE History course is divided into three papers, all of which are assessed via formal examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper One: Thematic study and historic environment.
30% of the final qualification

- Medicine through time 1250-Modern Day - Including medicine on the Western Front

Paper Two: Period study and British depth study.
40% of the final qualification

- The Cold War
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

Paper Three: Modern depth study. 30% of the final qualification

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

How will my work be assessed?

Paper one is assessed via a written examination lasting 1 hour and 15 minutes. In Section A, you will answer a question that assesses knowledge, plus answer a two part question using sources.

In Section B, you will answer three questions that assess knowledge and understanding.



Paper Two is assessed via a written examination lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes. In Section A, you will answer three questions that assess your knowledge and understanding. In Section B, you will answer a single three-part question that assesses knowledge and understanding.

Paper Three is assessed via a written examination lasting 1 hour and 20 minutes. In Section A, you will answer one question based on a provided source, and one question that assesses knowledge and understanding. In Section B, you will answer a single four-part question, based on provided sources and interpretations.

These exams all require you to develop your extended writing skills. In addition to being assessed on specific historical skills, you will be expected to use all you have learned in English to produce a high standard of written communication. Source analysis skills are essential and Historians will be taught to rigorously evaluate evidence to form an opinion and answer questions.

What can this qualification lead to?

You have the opportunity to continue your studies in this subject at A Level and beyond. History is an excellent preparation for many careers, including management, business consultancy, the police, the legal profession, teaching, politics and positions in local and central government.

COURSE

HOSPITALITY & CATERING

What will I learn about?

The course has been designed to develop knowledge and understanding related to a range of topics including hygiene and safety, roles and responsibility of the EHO, food laws and regulations and food allergies and intolerances. You will also learn about the job roles in the hospitality and catering industry as well as the structure of the front and back of house in catering establishments.

There is the opportunity to about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, you will also develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem-solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

How is the course structured?

The course is structured into two units:

- **Unit 1 The Hospitality and catering industry:** In this unit you will focus on learning about different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the sector.
- **Unit 2 Hospitality and catering in action:** you will develop practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting nutritional dishes meeting the client needs.

Each of the units have been designed so that knowledge, skills and understanding are developed through tasks that have many of the characteristics of real work in the sector.

How is the course assessed?

The course is assessed through the completion of two units:

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40% of overall grade). External exam, duration: 1 hour and 20 minutes. Number of marks: 80.



Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action (60% of overall grade). Internal controlled assessment totalling 12 hours with practical assessment and production of a portfolio of work.

How will I be graded?

L1 Pass, L1 Merit, L1 Distinction, L1 Distinction*, L2 Pass, L2 Merit, L2 Distinction, L2 Distinction*

What can the qualification lead to?

Successful completion of this qualification could lead to a number of possibilities. There are many local colleges that provide advanced qualifications in food, catering and hospitality e.g. apprenticeships and level 1 to 3 courses. You could progress into careers like a chef, dietetics, health and social care, food technologist, nursing, food production and manufacture, nutritionist, hospitality, food product development and child care.

COURSE: MUSIC

What will I learn about?

GCSE Music is a fantastic opportunity to develop performance skills and learn to communicate musically as a soloist and as a member of a group. You will have the opportunity to study an instrument and will learn to play in a variety of styles.

You will explore how pieces of music are put together, and how musical elements are used in different contexts. You will use this knowledge to develop techniques required to compose your own music.

You will listen to a variety of music and learn how to identify the facts about what you hear. At GCSE you focus on how the musical elements are used for different purposes.



How is the course structured?

The AQA GCSE Music course has three components:

- Component 1: Understanding Music (40% of final grade) A listening exam completed at the end of the two years of study.
- Component 2: Performing Music (30% of final grade) Performing two pieces of music from any style on your instrument or voice. One solo and one in a group.
- Component 3: Composing Music (30% of final grade)

Composing two pieces of music; one to a brief given by AQA and one free composition.

The component 1 listening exam is split into two sections across four Areas of Study:

- Section A: Listening – unfamiliar music (68 marks)
- Section B: Study pieces (28 marks) which are;
Beethoven: Symphony No.1, Movement 1 and Queen – the following three tracks: Bohemian Rhapsody, The Seven Seas of Rhye and Love of my Life

The four areas of study linking the course are:

1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910
2. Popular music
3. Traditional music
4. Western classical tradition since 1910

How is my work assessed?

Component 1 is externally assessed. Component 2 and Component 3 are both internally assessed and externally moderated.

Reasons to choose Music:

If you already play an instrument or sing, you can develop your skills and get a GCSE out of it! If you don't already play

an instrument or sing, you can take the opportunity to learn new skills which could stay with you for life.

If you are a creative person who wants to learn to make music, this course will give you that chance. If you love listening to music, and can spot all the details, sing every riff and “air-drum” every beat you have already developed some of the abilities you need.

How will GCSE Music help me in the future?

In the future, creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work (World Economic Forum.) When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow.

This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed – whatever your ambitions. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community.

Your practical skills of composing music and performing will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and presentation skills. Studying music will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too.

You will gain a deep understanding of a number of transferable skills and practice applying these to new situations, developing analytical and problem-solving skills.

Through studying music, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

COURSE

SPANISH

What will I learn about?

Linguists develop many useful and transferable skills and GCSE qualifications in a modern foreign language are highly regarded amongst universities and employers.

In GCSE Spanish you will learn to use four main aspects of essential skills in communication: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. During the course you will cover many topic areas. The Spanish GCSE course is a linear course.

During the course, you will extend your knowledge of the language creatively with a focus on gaining a sound grammatical base.

You will develop your skills in Years 10 and 11 in a variety of contexts, extending your ability to understand and respond to spoken and written Spanish. You will practise speaking and writing Spanish with increased accuracy as well as be able to give and justify your opinions on various issues.

How is the course structured?

The course covers the following themes:

Theme 1: People and lifestyle

- Identity and relationships with others
- Healthy living and lifestyle
- Education and work

Theme 2: Popular culture

- Free-time activities
- Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

- Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live



How is the course assessed?

The course is linear which means you will sit all your exams at the end of the course.

You can be entered for either Foundation or Higher Tier. All four question papers must be taken in the same tier.

- Listening exam 25% Foundation 35 minutes, Higher 45 minutes
- Reading exam 25% Foundation 45 minutes, Higher 1 hour
- Speaking exam 25% Foundation 7 - 9 minutes, Higher 10 - 12 minutes
- Written exam 25% Foundation 1 hour 10 minutes, Higher 1 hour 15 minutes

What can this qualification lead to?

There are now closer European links both in leisure activities and in business. The ability to understand and speak a second European language is essential in today's global world.

Many university courses now include an optional or obligatory language module both in Arts and Science degrees. Some now even require a language GCSE to access specific courses. Languages give you a sense of achievement.

Learning a language combines the intellectual with the practical as no other subject does. You need to be able to think on your feet! Languages combine well with virtually any subject for further study. The range of combined degrees and further education courses involving a language is limitless.

COURSE

BTEC SPORT



What will I learn about?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge of the sporting industry. You will have the opportunity to develop skills in the following areas:

- Investigating provisions for sport, including equipment and facilities to enhance sporting opportunities.
- The planning and delivery of coaching sessions.
- Fitness for sport, including fitness testing and methodology.

How is the course structured?

You will study 3 units over 2 years.

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in Sport and Physical Activity.

- This component will be completed during lesson time and will be externally moderated.

Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance.

- This component will be completed during lesson time and will be externally moderated.

Component 3: Developing Fitness to improve other participants performance in Sport and Physical Activity.

- This will be completed as an externally assessed examination.

The three components focus on the assessment of applied knowledge, skills and practices. These are all essential to developing a basis for progression and therefore learners need to achieve all components in order to achieve the qualification.

How will my work be assessed?

There are two main ways that your work is assessed:

- Externally – You will sit an external examination and have the potential for 2 attempts by the end of Year 11.
- Internally – PE teachers provide feedback to you on your progress by marking coursework completed.

What can these qualifications lead to?

Securing a good pass in BTEC Level 2 sport is crucial for all pupils at the end of Year 11 if they want to progress onto BTEC Level 3 sport at the College.

In our Sixth Form, students perform well at Level 3 Sport and apply for university to study sports-based qualifications such as Sports Coaching, PE teaching and Physiotherapy. Some may not go to university but choose to work in the sporting industry.

COURSE: TRIPLE SCIENCE

What will I learn about?

Triple Science follows much of the same curriculum content as Combined Science, with the following extra units/topics threaded throughout the course:

How is the course structured?

The qualification is linear, so you will sit all examinations at the end of course. There are six examinations, two in each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from different aspects of the course including practical investigative skills. Each paper lasts 1hr 45, is worth 100 marks and is worth 50% of the respective course.

- **Biology:** Aseptic techniques, Brain, eye, water regulation, thermoregulation, plant tropisms, cloning and food security
- **Chemistry:** Titrations, Further organic chemistry, using the earth's resources
- **Physics:** Static electricity and space

How will my work be assessed?

Triple Science treats each Science as a distinct qualification so you will be awarded three GCSEs, instead of two for Combined Science, at the end of the course. It is assessed via six examinations: TWO with in each specialism.

What can this qualification lead to?

You can progress onto A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics which can lead to degrees and careers in a science related field. You can also progress onto our Level 3 Applied Science course which is appropriate for pupils wishing to pursue a more hands-on Science degree such as Nursing, Engineering and Paramedics as well as technical apprenticeships.





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