



ST PATRICK'S
— Roman Catholic High School —

St Patrick's RC
High School

Year 9 Key Stage 4 Pathways
Subject Information Booklet 2026

Key Stage Four Guided Pathways

Choosing which subjects to study at GCSE is an important milestone in your child's school journey. As pupils move into Key Stage 4, they begin to focus on a smaller range of subjects, allowing them to study each one in greater depth.

Making these decisions requires careful consideration, reflection, and discussion. This booklet provides an overview of all the subjects available at St Patrick's RC High School, including the core subjects that every pupil will study.

We hope you find the information helpful as you talk with your child ahead of the Guided Pathways Information Evening. These conversations will support them in making informed choices about the subjects they will study in Years 10 and 11.



“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the World on fire”
Saint Catherine of Siena

Our Curriculum Intent

St Patrick's: A Beacon of Catholic Excellence

At St Patrick's RC High School, we offer a Catholic education for the 21st century, rooted in Gospel values and the principles of Catholic Social Teaching. Every member of our community is recognised as a child of God – created with dignity, called with purpose, and nurtured to flourish.

Our five-year curriculum is designed to help pupils explore who they are, why they are here and where they are going.

This journey is guided by our Mission Statement and inspired by the life and legacy of St Patrick. Through both the examined and non-examined curriculum, we guide our pupils to become confident, compassionate and resilient young people who are ready to contribute meaningfully to God's world, living out the values of **Faith, Truth, Resilience, Love, and Service**.

We celebrate the unique gifts of every learner, ensuring that teaching is inclusive, responsive, and tailored to meet individual needs. Every pupil is supported to thrive. We foster a culture of respect, community, and high aspiration, preparing students not only for academic success but also to live out their faith and serve others with compassion and confidence.





Post-16 College and Further Study Pathways Information

As students begin thinking about their future pathways, it is important that they continue to work hard across the full curriculum and avoid narrowing their choices too early. While it is natural to have favourite subjects, colleges, sixth forms, apprenticeship providers and employers all look for young people who demonstrate commitment, resilience and success in a broad range of subjects.

A strong set of GCSE results reflects versatility and a positive work ethic. It is also important to be aware that many post-16 providers have specific entry requirements, particularly when it comes to GCSE-equivalent qualifications such as Level 1/2 Awards and BTEC courses.

Before making final decisions, students and families should check the individual requirements of any colleges or courses they are considering.

Xaverian College

Entry requirements vary by course, but they typically include:

- Six GCSEs at Grade 5 or above, including at least two at grade 6 or above
- Grade 5 or above in at least two of English, Science or Maths

Loreto College

For students planning to study an Advanced Level programme of 3-4 subjects, or a hybrid A-Level and BTEC Level 3 programme, typical requirements include:

- Six GCSEs at grades 9-4, including at least two in English, Maths or Science
- At least two GCSEs at grade 6 or above

Pendleton College

Typical entry requirements include:

- A minimum of five GCSEs at grade 5 or above, including English Language and Maths
- One relevant vocational qualification may be accepted in place of a GCSE in some relevant subject areas



Xaverian
College



Loreto
sixth form college





The Pathways Process

At St Patrick's, we are committed to delivering a curriculum that is both ambitious and appropriate for every pupil. Each student will be allocated a guided pathway and will receive personalised support and advice throughout the entire process.

We remain dedicated to our mission as a Catholic school, providing an education rooted in faith, love, service, resilience and truth. These core values underpin all that we do as we strive for academic excellence and the holistic development of every child, in line with the principles of Catholic Social Teaching.

As part of this commitment, the majority of pupils at St Patrick's will follow the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc) pathway, which offers a broad and rigorous foundation for both academic success and personal growth.

The Ebacc is not a single qualification, but a suite of GCSE subjects made up of:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- A humanities subject (History or Geography)
- A modern foreign language

This combination of subjects has been shown to nurture critical thinking, creativity and problem-solving - skills that are highly valued by universities and employers. These disciplines also reflect the principles of Catholic education by encouraging curiosity, thoughtful reflection and a commitment to truth. They promote justice, equality and service, preparing pupils to contribute positively to society and the common good.

We understand that some subjects may feel challenging, and we are committed to supporting every pupil with care, compassion and high-quality guidance. The resilience they build through overcoming challenges aligns closely with our values, helping them grow in confidence, perseverance and faith.

A small number of pupils may be recommended a more bespoke pathway, but this will only follow thorough consultation with staff, pupils and parents, and be based on professional judgement.

As a Catholic school, we view academic excellence as a means of fulfilling God's purpose for each child - to help them develop their God-given talents and use them in the service of others. The Ebacc pathway reflects our dedication to equipping students not only with the knowledge and skills to succeed, but also with the moral and ethical foundations needed to live lives of faith, love and service.



Pupils will make their choices by completing an online Microsoft Form, which will be sent to their school email address. Each pupil will receive the form that corresponds to their allocated pathway. These forms will be submitted electronically during form time in the week following the Guided Pathways Information Evening. This allows us to collate all responses, analyse projected pupil numbers and begin to create our timetable for next year.

Following this stage, some pupils may be invited to an academic interview or an additional pathway guidance meeting during the first part of the summer term with a member of St Patrick's Pastoral or Curriculum Team.

Final confirmation of the subjects that your child will be studying will then be sent home in the summer term. Your child needs to be happy with BOTH their first choice and reserve choice as they may study either for GCSE. We will do our absolute best to give pupils their first choice, but we cannot always guarantee this.

Making the right choices

The time has come for pupils to begin making decisions about their next two years at St Patrick's and the course(s) they wish to study. They are required to take certain subjects within the core Curriculum, but this is also their opportunity to consider other subjects that interest them and reflect their strengths.

The choices pupils make at Key Stage 4 will begin to shape their future learning and employment opportunities, so it is important that they make full use of all information available before finalising their decisions. The following information is designed to help pupils make informed choices. They should review it carefully ahead of the Key Stage Four Guided Pathways Evening.

Pupils are reminded that the decisions they make must be their own. They should not choose subjects based on the preferences of friends or on the teachers delivering the course. Before reaching a decision, pupils are encouraged to seek advice from others. A wide range of people are available to support them, including teachers, parents, older pupils, form tutors, senior leaders, and the careers adviser.

Pupils should also consider what they hope to do after Year 11. Their Key Stage 4 choices should be viewed as part of their long-term plans, ensuring that the subjects they select are appropriate and support their future aspirations.





All courses will run over two years and will be examined at the end of Year 11. Some subjects involve ongoing assessments and PSAs (Pearson Set Assignments), so pupils should check specific details with individual departments. Departments have provided an outline of each subject in this booklet, highlighting the course content, assessment methods and the transferable skills that will support future career paths.

Advice for pupils and parents

How can pupils ensure they are matching their GCSEs to their chosen career?

Pupils can ensure their GCSE choices align with their chosen career by researching what the career involves and identifying the skills that would be useful for it. They should also keep their options open by studying a broad range of subjects, in case they change their mind about their future career at a later stage.

What if pupils do not know what they want to do when they leave school?

There is no need for pupils to worry if they are unsure about their future career plans. The pathways process provides a strong foundation for further study, so pupils are encouraged to choose the subjects they enjoy and perform well in, as this usually leads to greater success later on.

Why choose a reserve subject?

Although every effort is made to accommodate pupils' choices, it is not always possible to offer every combination of subjects. Sometimes subjects clash on the timetable, or there may not be enough pupils choosing a subject for it to run. A reserve choice ensures that every pupil receives a full and suitable timetable.

How do GCSE choices affect going to college and university?

Pupils typically need at least five good GCSE passes (Grade 5 or above) to be accepted into most colleges. Individual courses may have specific entry requirements, and some subjects require pupils to have studied them at GCSE level. However, for other courses this may not be necessary.

The Core Curriculum



GCSE Religious Education
GCSE English Language & Literature
GCSE Mathematics
GCSE Science

Ebacc Subjects

GCSE History & GCSE Geography
GCSE French & GCSE Spanish



ST PATRICK'S
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Why study?

What skills will you learn?

Ability to read and write Clearly

Understanding other cultures and point of views

Discussing ideas and giving opinions

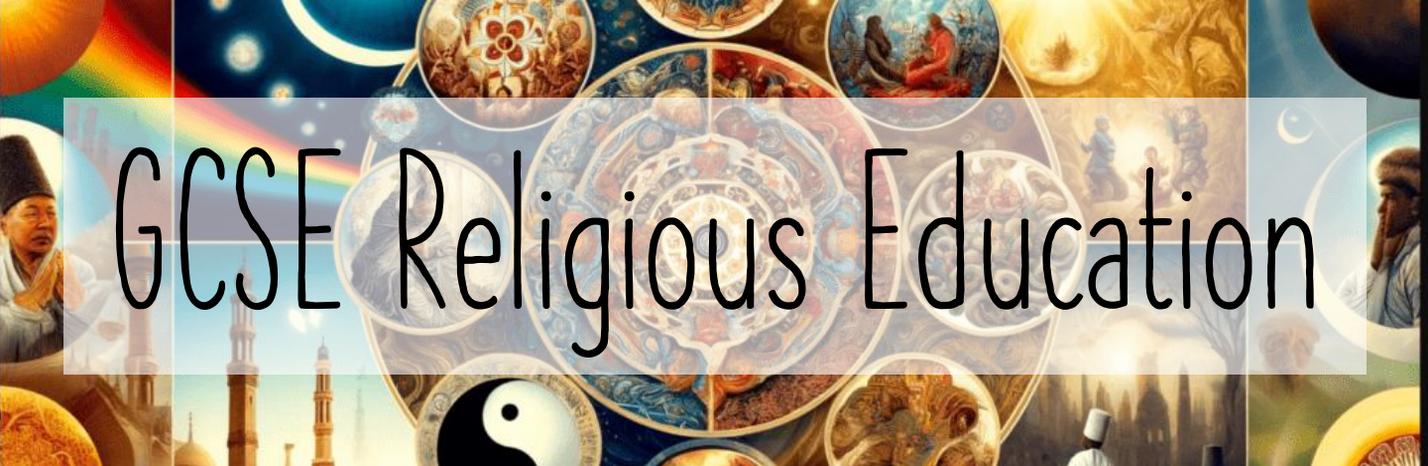
Understanding current affairs

Religious Education (RE)

Religious Education (RE)

Types of employment:

- Air Cabin Crew
- Charity Fundraiser
- Civil Servant
- Classroom Assistant
- Conference Organiser
- Diplomat
- District Nurse
- Doctor
- Health Promotion
- Hotel/Restaurant Manager
- Immigration Officer
- Import and Export Agent
- International Relations Officer
- Market Research
- Politician
- Receptionist
- Religious Publisher
- Social Worker
- Primary School Teacher
- Travel Agent/Tour Rep
- Youth and Community Worker
- Vicar/Priest/Minister/Rabi



GCSE Religious Education

GCSE Religious Education offers a distinctive **issues-based approach** to the study of **Catholic Christianity**, supported by a comparative study of **Judaism**. This course helps learners explore big questions about belief, values, and the human experience while developing strong analytical and evaluative skills.

We follow the **WJEC Eduqas Exam Board**, and the qualification is taught over **two years**, with all examinations taken at the end of **Year 11** in May/June.

What topics will I study?

- **Catholic Christianity (75%)**
- **Judaism (25%)**

Pupils study Catholic Christianity through key philosophical, ethical and theological themes. Where appropriate, Catholic views are contrasted with Christian perspectives, non-religious world views and with Judaism.

Component 1: Foundational Catholic Theology

Themes studied:

- Origins and Meaning
- Good and Evil

Component 2: Applied Catholic Theology

Themes studied:

- Life and Death
- Sin and Forgiveness

Component 3: Study of Judaism

Learners study the **beliefs, teachings and practices** of Judaism.

What skills will I learn?

This GCSE will help learners:

- Deepen knowledge and understanding of religions and non-religious beliefs, including atheism and humanism.

- Understand beliefs, teachings, practices and sources of authority, including key religious texts and scriptures.
- Develop the ability to write well-argued, balanced and structured essays.
- Engage with key questions of value, meaning, purpose and truth, and consider how belief shapes human life.
- Reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes, preparing them for life in a diverse, global society.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is 100% exam-based and consists of three papers:

Foundational Catholic Theology

- Written exam: 90 minutes
- 37.5% of GCSE

Applied Catholic Theology

- Written exam: 90 minutes
- 37.5% of GCSE

Judaism

- Written exam: 60 minutes
- 25% of GCSE

Across all papers, learners will be assessed through two main objectives:

AO1: Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: Beliefs, practices and sources of authority; The influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies; Similarities and differences within and between religious traditions

AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of religion and belief, including their significance and influence.



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What skills will you learn?

Ability to read
and write **Clearly**

Communications Skills

**Researching and
presenting information**

**Discuss information
with others**

English

Why study?

English

Types of employment:

- Accountant
- Author
- Call Centre Operator
- Care Assistant
- Careers Adviser
- Childcare Assistant
- Editorial Assistant
- Graphic Designer
- Hotel Manager
- Information Officer
- Journalist/Presenter
- Magazine Editor
- Psychologist
- Public Relations/
Advertising
- Receptionist
- Retail Assistant
- Secretary
- Social Worker
- Solicitor
- Speech Therapist
- Teacher
- Technical Writer
- Translator
- Web Author/Designer

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Language develops essential communication skills needed for life, learning and future employment. Through studying a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts, pupils explore how writers craft language and how to express their own ideas clearly, confidently and creatively.

What topics will I study?

Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

- You will study a range of fictional and creative texts to understand how writers capture a reader's interest, build tension, and shape characters and settings.
- You will learn to apply these techniques in your own creative writing.

Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

- You will explore non-fiction texts presenting different viewpoints, perspectives and issues that shape the world we live in.
- You will learn how writers influence their readers and produce your own writing for specific audiences to express your own viewpoint clearly and persuasively.

What skills will I learn?

You will develop the ability to:

- **Read fluently** and understand a wide range of texts.
- **Evaluate texts critically**, comparing how writers present ideas.
- Use knowledge from your reading to **inform and improve your own writing**.
- **Write effectively and coherently** using Standard English appropriately.
- Use **accurate grammar, punctuation and spelling**.

- Build and apply a **wide vocabulary** and understanding of grammatical terminology.
- Communicate clearly and respond to questions using spoken Standard English.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 - Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks – 50% of GCSE

Section A: Reading (40 marks – 25%) based on one fiction text

- 1 short question (4 marks)
- 2 longer questions (8 marks each)
- 1 extended analysis (20 marks)

Section B: Writing (40 marks – 25%) 1 x extended creative writing task

- 24 marks (content)
- 16 marks (technical accuracy)

Paper 2 – Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks – 50% of GCSE

Section A: Reading (40 marks – 25%) based on two linked non-fiction texts

- 1 short question (4 marks)
- 1 short comparison question (8 marks)
- 1 deeper analysis (12 marks)
- 1 extended comparison question (16 marks)

Section B: Writing (40 marks – 25%) 1 x extended viewpoint writing task

- 24 marks (content)
- 16 marks (technical accuracy)

Spoken Language Endorsement: This is a separate, non-exam assessment. You will:

- Give a presentation in a formal context
- Use spoken Standard English effectively
- Answer questions from the audience

This endorsement does not contribute to the final GCSE grade but appears on your certificate.

GCSE English Literature

GCSE English Literature develops your ability to read, analyse and appreciate a wide range of literary texts. You will explore how writers craft meaning, how texts reflect the time and place in which they were written, and how to express your own interpretations clearly and effectively.

What topics will I study?

You will study each text in full, using your own copies (except the AQA Poetry Anthology).

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-Century Novel

- William Shakespeare – *Macbeth*
- Charles Dickens – *A Christmas Carol*

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry

- Willy Russell – *Blood Brothers*
- Power and Conflict Poetry – fifteen poems from the *AQA Poetry Anthology: Poems Past and Present*
- Unseen Poetry – a wide range of poems from traditional to modern writers

What skills will I learn?

You will develop:

- **Literal and inferential comprehension** – understanding what texts say and what they imply.
- **Critical reading** – identifying themes, supporting viewpoints with evidence, recognising different interpretations, and using contextual knowledge to deepen your evaluation.
- **Analysis of writers' methods** – exploring vocabulary choices, language, structure and their effects.
- **Comparative skills** – comparing and contrasting ideas, themes and methods across texts.

- **Clear and coherent written expression** – writing effectively about literature, maintaining a viewpoint, selecting key ideas, and using relevant quotations and detailed references.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Closed book, written exam

1 hour 45 minutes

64 marks – 40% of GCSE

Section A: Shakespeare – *Macbeth*

- One question: write in detail about a given extract and then the play as a whole.

Section B: 19th-Century Novel – *A Christmas Carol*

- One question: write in detail about a given extract and then the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Closed book, written exam

2 hours 15 minutes

96 marks – 60% of GCSE

Section A: Modern Texts – *Blood Brothers*

- One essay question from a choice of two.

Section B: Poetry – Anthology (Power and Conflict)

- One comparative question: one printed poem + one from memory.

Section C: Unseen Poetry

- One question on an unseen poem.
- One question comparing it to a second unseen poem.

****Pupils will need to purchase their own copies of the set texts. You will have the opportunity to buy a bundle of set texts and revision guides in the Summer term****



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What skills will you learn?

Problem solving
Interpreting data and information
Attention to detail
Accurate Measuring
Reasoning Ability

Why study?

Maths

Maths

Types of employment:

- Accountant
- Actuary
- Air-traffic Control
- Astronomer
- Bank Manager
- Biomedical Lab Assistant
- Building Technician
- Carpenter/Joiner
- Craft Engineer
- Economist
- Engineer
- Finance Clerk
- Financial Adviser
- Market Researcher
- Mechanical Fitter
- Organisational Psychologist
- Primary School Teacher
- Retail Assistant
- Self-Employed
- Stocktaker/Warehouse Assistant
- Surveyor

GCSE Mathematics

What topics will I study?

The content of GCSE Mathematics can be grouped into six broad themes. Every topic in these areas can appear in the exams:

Number

- Arithmetic with integers, decimals, fractions and percentages
- Place value, powers and roots
- Standard form and ratio
- Estimation and rounding

Algebra

- Expressions, equations and inequalities
- Sequences and formula manipulation
- Graphs of functions (linear and non-linear)
- Quadratics and simultaneous equations

Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change

- Direct and inverse proportion
- Percentages and compound measures
- Scale factors and real-world proportional reasoning

Geometry and Measures

- Properties of shapes and angle facts
- Constructions and loci
- Area, volume, surface area
- Trigonometry and Pythagoras
- Transformations and similarity

Probability

- Theoretical and experimental probability
- Combined events and trees
- Venn diagrams and tables

Statistics

- Data representation (charts, graphs)
- Averages (mean, median, mode) and spread
- Scatter graphs, correlation and interpreting data

What skills will I learn?

- Develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts.
- Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions.
- Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

How will I be assessed?

You will take three equally weighted exam papers at the end of year 11:

Paper 1: Non-calculator

Paper 2: Calculator allowed

Paper 3: Calculator allowed

Each paper is 1 hour 30 minutes and worth 80 marks.

There are two tiers:

Foundation Tier — Grades 1 to 5

Higher Tier — Grades 4 to 9

The specification assesses three core skills:

- **AO1** – Use and apply standard techniques
- **AO2** – Reason, interpret and communicate mathematically
- **AO3** – Solve mathematical problems in various contexts

GCSE Mathematics

Additional information:

What do I need?

1. Revision Guide

Pupils are encouraged to make use of a revision guide and the accompanying workbook to support their learning.

These can be purchased through school at the start of the year. Prices are outline below, but these can vary depending on the size of our order. Once we know how many to order the correct price will be set up for parents to pay on SCOPAY.

If unsure, your child's teacher can advise which revision guide is the most appropriate for each class.

- **Complete Revision and Practice Higher Tier for £6.50**
- **Complete Revision and Practice Foundation Tier for £6.50**
- **Ready, Set, Go Crossover Guide £6.00-£9.00 (depending on quantity ordered)**

All three guides consist of concise revision notes alongside practice questions on topics assessed at GCSE. These can be used to review learning that has taken place already, revisit historic learning and to prepare for final assessment in Year 11.

2. Scientific Calculator

A scientific calculator is essential for GCSE Mathematics. Most pupils already have a suitable calculator but at the start of each year, pupils have the opportunity to purchase one for a reasonable price through school (typically around £6.50) and this will be set up on SCOPAY as required.

Useful Websites

MathsWatch

Link: [MathsWatch](#)

Pupils have access to this online learning platform and have been able to use it since Year 7. It features videos to support new learning or consolidation, as well as interactive questions that increase in difficulty.

It is compatible with most devices including phones and tablets. Teachers will also set interactive activities on here for pupils to complete.

Pupils have their own individual login in the format *jbloggs@sprchs* and a password of *sprchs*.

Corbett Maths

Link: [Corbettmaths – Videos, worksheets, 5-a-day and much more](#)

This website is free and allows pupils access to videos and textbook exercises with scaffolded practice questions and exam style questions.

Answers and worked solutions are readily available using either the QR Code on each worksheet or the answer button at the end of a task.



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What skills will you learn?

- Problem solving
- Interpreting data and information
- Reasoning ability
- Ability to carry out experiments
- Ability to think logically

Sciences

Why study?

Sciences

Types of employment:

Biology

- Beauty Therapist
- Biotechnologist
- Chiropractor
- Dental Hygienist
- Doctor
- Environmental Education Officer
- Environmental Health Officer
- Environmental Scientist
- Forester
- Health Care Assistant
- Horticulture
- Laboratory Technician
- Marine Biologist / Zoologist
- Microbiologist
- Nursing
- Nutritionist / Dietician
- Occupational Therapist
- Teacher
- Vet Nursing
- Zoo keeper

Physics

- Astronomer
- Building Technician
- Civil Engineer
- CNC Machinist
- Computer Programmer
- Domestic Appliance Engineer
- Electrical and Electronic Engineer
- Electrician
- Geophysicist
- Laboratory Technician
- Materials Scientist
- Mechanic
- Mechanical Engineer
- Meteorologist
- Optometrist
- Orthotist / Prosthetist
- Patent Scientist
- Quantity Surveyor
- Sound Recordist
- Technical Writer

Chemistry

- Bio-chemist
- Brewing Scientist
- Chemical Engineer
- Chemical Plant Operative
- Conservator
- Food Technologist
- Forensic Scientist
- Hairdresser
- Industrial Chemist
- Laboratory Technician
- Oceanographer
- Operating Department Practitioner
- Pathologist
- Pharmaceutical Rep
- Pharmacist
- Photographer
- Physiotherapist
- Science Teacher
- Textile Technologist
- Vet

GCSE Combined Science (two GCSEs)

What topics will I study?

Biology

- B1: You and your genes
- B2: Keeping healthy
- B3: Living together – food and ecosystems
- B4: Using food and controlling growth
- B5: The human body – staying alive
- B6: Life on Earth – past, present and future

Chemistry

- C1: Air and water
- C2: Chemical patterns
- C3: Chemicals of the natural environment
- C4: Material choices
- C5: Chemical analysis
- C6: Making useful chemicals

Physics

- P1: Radiation and waves
- P2: Sustainable energy
- P3: Electric circuits
- P4: Explaining motion
- P5: Radioactive materials
- P6: Matter – models and explanations

BCP7: Ideas about Science

BCP8: Practical skills

What skills will I learn?

Alongside the subject content, you will also develop a wide range of skills that will support you in further study and future careers. These include:

- Practical skills
- Analysis skills
- Evaluation of ethical issues
- Research and problem-solving skills
- Numerical and statistical skills
- Graph-handling skills
- Using models to understand complex situations

How will I be assessed?

OCR GCSE Combined Science pupils will complete 4 examinations in the summer term of year 11.

Biology paper

- Written examination
- 1 hr 45 minutes
- 95 marks
- 26.4% of final grade

Chemistry paper

- Written examination
- 1 hr 45 minutes
- 95 marks
- 26.4% of final grade

Physics paper

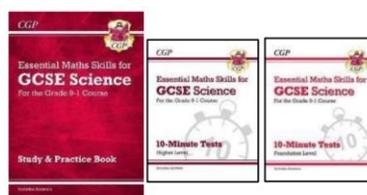
- Written examination
- 1 hr 45 minutes
- 95 marks
- 26.4% of final grade

Combined Science paper

- Written examination
- 1 hr 45 minutes
- 75 marks
- 20.8% of final grade

Additional information:

At least 20% of the total marks for GCSE combined Science will come from questions that test Maths skills. Pupils can purchase a Maths in Science Revision Guide (£3.35) and Workbook (£2.75) from their Science Teacher.





GCSE Triple Science (three GCSEs)

What topics will I study?

Biology

- B1: You and your genes
- B2: Keeping healthy
- B3: Living together – food and ecosystems
- B4: Using food and controlling growth
- B5: The human body – staying alive
- B6: Life on Earth – past, present and future

Chemistry

- C1: Air and water
- C2: Chemical patterns
- C3: Chemicals of the natural environment
- C4: Material choices
- C5: Chemical analysis
- C6: Making useful chemicals

Physics

- P1: Radiation and waves
- P2: Sustainable energy
- P3: Electric circuits
- P4: Explaining motion
- P5: Radioactive materials
- P6: Matter – models and explanations

BCP7: Ideas about Science

BCP8: Practical skills

What skills will I learn?

Alongside the subject content, you will also develop a wide range of skills that will support you in further study and future careers. These include:

- Practical skills
- Analysis skills
- Evaluation of ethical issues
- Research and problem-solving skills
- Numerical and statistical skills
- Graph-handling skills
- Using models to understand complex situations

How will I be assessed?

OCR GCSE Triple Science pupils will complete 6 examinations in the summer term of year 11.

Biology

Breadth paper	Depth paper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hr 45• 90 marks• 50% of Biology GCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hr 45• 90 marks• 50% of Biology GCSE
At least 10% of the total marks for GCSE Biology will come from questions that test maths skills	

Chemistry

Breadth paper	Depth paper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hr 45• 90 marks• 50% of Chemistry GCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hr 45• 90 marks• 50% of Chemistry GCSE
At least 20% of the total marks for GCSE Chemistry will come from questions that test maths skills	

Physics

Breadth paper	Depth paper
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hr 45• 90 marks• 50% of Physics GCSE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 hr 45• 90 marks• 50% of Physics GCSE
At least 30% of the total marks for GCSE Physics will come from questions that test maths skills	

Additional information:

OCR revision cards are available to purchase from the Science Department to support with revision. Priced at **£8.50** a set for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Success in Science

To be successful in Science you will need the following resources to support you:



Science Revision Guides

You will need a Science revision guide for your GCSE Science course. This will be used throughout years 9, 10 and 11. Revision guides are useful when reviewing topics that you will learn in school, with summary and exam style questions. Homework will also be set by your teacher using your revision guide.

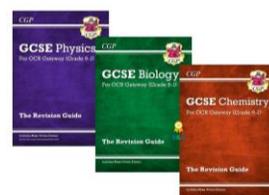
Revision guides can be purchased online, or in stores. They can also be purchased at a reduced cost from school:

Combined Science - Higher / Foundation **£6.35**

Triple Science - Biology **£3.35**

Triple Science - Chemistry **£3.35**

Triple Science - Physics **£3.35**



Science Workbooks

A GCSE Science workbook will be required for Year 11. This accompanies the revision guide, and will help you to practice exam technique. Your teacher will set homework from the workbook regularly during the final year of the course.

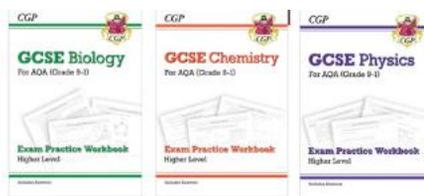
Workbooks can be purchased online, or in stores. For ease, they are also available from the Science Department at a reduced cost:

Combined Science - Higher / Foundation **£6.35**

Triple Science - Biology **£3.35**

Triple Science - Chemistry **£3.35**

Triple Science - Physics **£3.35**



Scientific Calculator

A scientific calculator is essential for your Science GCSE. A percentage of your final grade will come from questions that test your maths skills. Scientific calculators are available to purchase from the school reception for **£9.85**

Optional (recommended) resources:

- **Seneca Learning:** Google "Seneca Learning" and sign up for free using your school email address. This is a useful online learning platform that will help you consolidate your knowledge and understanding in Science.
- **Cognito**
- **BBC Bitesize**



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What skills will you learn?

**Ability to read
and write clearly**

Communications skills

**Researching and
presenting information**

**Discussing information
with others**

Attention to detail

Modern Languages

Why study?

Modern Languages

Types of employment:

- Air Cabin Crew
- Banking
- Bar Staff
- Bilingual Secretary
- Customs and Excise Officer
- Diplomatic Service Careers
- Engineering
- Holiday Rep / Tour Guide
- Hotel Manager
- Immigration Officer
- Import and Export Business
- Industrial Buyer
- Interpreter
- Overseas Student Recruitment Officer
- Sales and Marketing
- Social Worker
- Teaching
- Teaching English as a foreign language
- Tourist Information Officer
- Translator
- Work in airports and ferry ports
- Working for multi-national companies



GCSE French

What topics will I study?

AQA GCSE French is organised into three main themes, each containing a range of real-life, relevant topics.

Theme 1: People & Lifestyle

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

Theme 2: Popular Culture

- Free-time activities (TV, cinema, music, sport)
- Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication & the World Around Us

- Travel and tourism (places, holidays, weather, francophone countries)
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

These themes reflect everyday contexts and French-speaking cultures, helping you use the language in meaningful ways.

What skills will I learn?

Learning a language is an exciting opportunity to develop a wide range of transferable skills that benefit you far beyond the classroom. Studying French will help you build:

A broad and rich vocabulary: You will expand your vocabulary not only in French but also in your native language, as learning how languages work strengthens your understanding of grammar and word patterns.

Resilience: Languages require practice, persistence, and a willingness to keep trying - developing strong resilience and confidence

as you improve your skills.

Problem-solving skills: Working out meaning from context, identifying patterns in grammar and approaching unfamiliar language all boost your problem-solving abilities.

Improved literacy and comprehension: You'll enhance your reading and writing skills as you learn to understand and produce written and spoken French, strengthening your overall communication and comprehension.

Fantastic communication skills: GCSE French develops confident listening, speaking, reading and writing, helping you to express ideas clearly, hold conversations and understand others in real-world situations.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit 4 examinations at the end of Year 11 - one in each of the skill areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking. The speaking examination is conducted by your class teacher but is marked by the exam board.

Paper 1: Listening – 25% of GCSE

- Written examination
- 35 (F) - 45 (H) minutes

Paper 2: Speaking – 25% of GCSE

- Non-exam assessment (NEA)
- 9 (F) - 12 (H) minutes

Paper 3: Reading – 25% of GCSE

- Written examination
- 45 (F) - 60 (H) minutes

Paper 4: Writing – 25% of GCSE

- Written examination
- 1 hr 10 (F) - 1 hr 15 (H)



GCSE Spanish

What topics will I study?

AQA GCSE Spanish is organised into three main themes, each containing a range of real-life, relevant topics.

Theme 1: People & Lifestyle

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

Theme 2: Popular Culture

- Free-time activities (TV, cinema, music, sport)
- Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Celebrity culture

Theme 3: Communication & the World Around Us

- Travel and tourism (places, holidays, weather, francophone countries)
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

These themes reflect everyday contexts and Spanish-speaking cultures, helping you use the language in meaningful ways.

What skills will I learn?

Learning a language is an exciting opportunity to develop a wide range of transferable skills that benefit you far beyond the classroom. Studying Spanish will help you build:

A broad and rich vocabulary: You will expand your vocabulary not only in Spanish but also in your native language, as learning how languages work strengthens your understanding of grammar and word patterns.

Resilience: Languages require practice, persistence, and a willingness to keep trying - developing strong resilience and confidence

as you improve your skills.

Problem-solving skills: Working out meaning from context, identifying patterns in grammar and approaching unfamiliar language all boost your problem-solving abilities.

Improved literacy and comprehension: You'll enhance your reading and writing skills as you learn to understand and produce written and spoken Spanish, strengthening your overall communication and comprehension.

Fantastic communication skills: GCSE Spanish develops confident listening, speaking, reading and writing, helping you to express ideas clearly, hold conversations and understand others in real-world situations.

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- 9 (F) - 12 (H) minutes

Paper 3: Reading – 25% of GCSE

- Written examination
- 45 (F) - 60 (H) minutes

Paper 4: Writing – 25% of GCSE

- Written examination
- 1 hr 10 (F) - 1 hr 15 (H)



ST PATRICK'S
Roman Catholic High School

What skills will you learn?

Understanding different cultures

Collecting and analysing data

Problem solving

Presenting information in different ways

Researching information

Geography

Why study?

Geography

Types of employment:

- Archaeologist
- Armed Services
- Cartographer
- Countryside Warden
- Deck Officer – Merchant Navy
- Environmental Scientist
- Estate Agent
- Farmer/Agriculture
- Geologist
- GIS Operator
- Land Management
- Market Researcher
- Meteorologist
- Mining Engineer
- Pilot/Navigator
- Primary School Teacher
- Soil Scientist
- Surveyor
- Town and Country Planning
- Transport/Logistics Manager
- Travel Agent
- Travel Writer/ Correspondent



GCSE Geography

What topics will I study?

AQA GCSE Geography is split into three main papers, each with clearly defined topic areas.

Living with the Physical Environment

- The challenge of natural hazards – earthquakes; hurricanes; extreme weather and climate change
- The living world – rainforests and hot desert environments
- Physical landscapes of the UK – coasts and rivers

Challenges in the Human Environment

- Urban issues and challenges – urban environments; Rio de Janeiro; Manchester and Salford
- The changing economic world – the development gap; Nigeria and the UK economy
- Resource management – food, water and energy supply in the UK; global energy issues

Geographical Applications

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork – students will be required to complete 2 pieces of fieldwork in Y10

What skills will I learn?

As well as exploring the subject content, you will develop a range of valuable skills that support success in A-levels, further study, and the workplace. These include:

- **Debating and decision-making skills** – forming balanced arguments and making well-reasoned judgments.
- **Issue evaluation** – analysing complex issues and considering different perspectives.

- **Fieldwork skills** – gathering, recording, and interpreting data in real-world environments.
- **Research and problem-solving skills** – investigating questions and developing effective solutions.
- **Communication and writing skills** – presenting ideas clearly and confidently.
- **Map skills** – using atlases, Ordnance Survey maps, and photographs to interpret geographical information.
- **Numerical and statistical skills** – working with data, graphs, and calculations to understand patterns and trends.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit 3 examinations at the end of Year 11 - one in each of the key topic areas.

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- Worth 35% of the GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment

- Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- Worth 35% of the GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

- Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes
- 76 marks (including 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- Worth 30% of the GCSE



ST PATRICK'S
Roman Catholic High School

What skills will you learn?

Researching information
Remembering facts
Reading and writing Clearly
Expressing an opinion
Communication

Why study?

History

History

Types of employment:

- Antique Dealer
- Archaeologist
- Architect and Architect Technician
- Archivist
- Art Gallery Conservator
- Costume Designer for TV and Film
- Economic Development Officer
- Editor
- Education Officer – Museum/Tourist Attraction
- Housing Officer
- Journalist
- Legal Executive
- Librarian
- Museum Curator
- National Trust Warden
- Planning Officer
- Politician
- Solicitor
- History Teacher
- Tourist Information Officer

GCSE History

What topics will I study?

AQA GCSE History explores key events, people and ideas that shaped the modern world. You will learn how to investigate the past, understand different viewpoints and explain how and why events happened the way they did. The course is divided into four main topic areas:

Topic 1 – The First World War 1894 - 1918

The causes of the War; Assassination of Franz Ferdinand; Fighting and battles during the War; the end of the War.

Topic 2 – Germany 1890 - 1945

Germany and the growth of democracy; Germany and the depression; experiences of Germans under the Nazis.

Topic 3 – Health and the People c1000 - present

Medieval medicine; the contribution of Christianity; Islamic medicine; Medieval towns; Galen and Hippocrates; superstitious beliefs; the Black Death and public health.

Topic 4 – Elizabethan England 1568 - 1603

Elizabeth's court and parliament; Elizabethan times; troubles at home and abroad and the historic environment of Elizabethan England

What skills will I learn?

As well as exploring a wide range of fascinating historical periods, you'll develop important skills that will support you in A-levels, further study and future careers. These include:

- **Excellent communication and writing skills** – expressing ideas clearly and confidently.
- **How to construct an argument** – using evidence to build strong, balanced explanations.

- **Research skills** – finding reliable information and using it effectively.
- **Investigation and problem-solving skills** – asking questions, analysing evidence and drawing conclusions.
- **Analytical and interpretation skills** – making sense of sources, viewpoints and historical events.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two written examinations at the end of Year 11 that test your knowledge on the range of topics taught across the two-year course.

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

- Written exam: 2 hours
- Total marks: 84 - Includes 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)
- Worth: 50% of your GCSE

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

- Written exam: 2 hours
- Total marks: 84 - Includes 4 marks for SPaG
- Worth: 50% of your GCSE



Optional Subjects



GCSE Psychology

GCSE Art & Design

GCSE Photography

GCSE Drama

GCSE Music

GCSE Dance

GCSE Physical Education

BTEC Health & Social Care

GCSE Business Studies

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Enterprise & Marketing

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Creative iMedia

GCSE Computer Science

BTEC Hospitality & Catering

GCSE 3D Design

BTEC Construction & The Built Environment

GCSE Psychology

Why choose GCSE Psychology?

The course is designed to inspire and engage learners by providing a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study which develops an understanding of the ideas and values that characterise 'self' and others. Learners will be equipped with a psychological literacy that enables them to apply their knowledge and skills in their everyday lives, including making informed decisions about further study and career choices

What topics will I study?

In this exciting, but challenging course, pupils are required to study psychological ideas, processes, techniques and procedures including the study of:

- **Development** (including stages of development, the development of the brain structures and functions, and measures of intelligence)
- **Memory** (including stages of information processing, types of forgetting and brain structure/functions)
- **Psychological problems** (including: mental health in individuals and society, mental health disorders)
- **Social influence** (including: conformity, crowd behaviour and obedience)
- **Criminal psychology** (including different types of crime, criminal behaviour as a social construct and how crime is measured)
- **Sleep and dreaming** (including: functions, features, benefits of sleep and sleep disorders)
- **Research methods** (including: hypotheses, variables, experimental designs, population/sampling, ethics)

What skills will I learn?

Studying Psychology will help you:

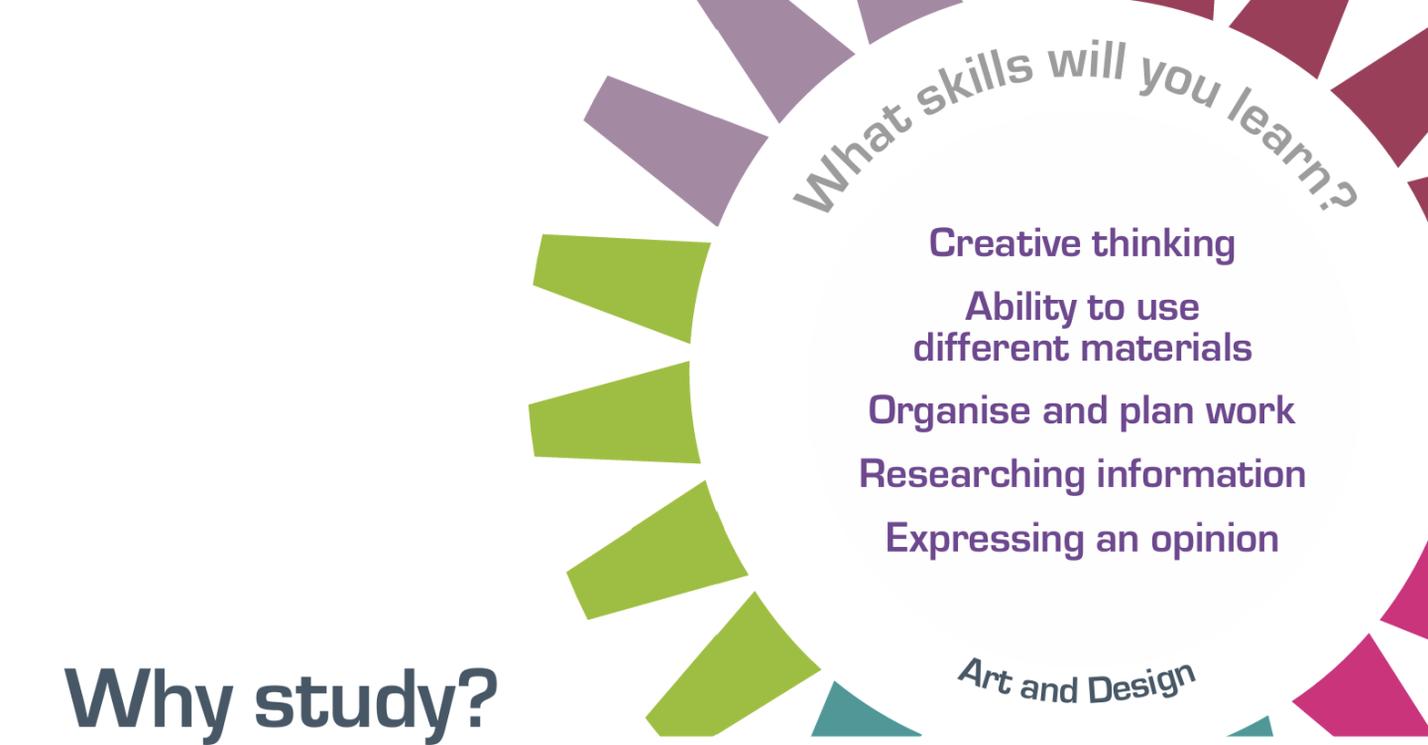
- **Use key psychological vocabulary and concepts** confidently.
- **Understand yourself and others** by applying psychology to everyday life.
- **Learn how research works**, including scientific methods and data analysis.
- **Think critically**, build arguments, and draw your own conclusions.
- **Explore ethical, personal, social and cultural issues** linked to human behaviour.
- **Appreciate diversity** and understand how psychology contributes to society.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Psychology is assessed over two 90 minute written exam papers, each worth 50% of the total GCSE and 90 marks each. Each paper includes multiple choice questions, short and longer answer questions and one essay question (worth 13 marks)

- **Exam paper 1:** Criminal psychology, development, psychological problems and research methods
- **Exam paper 2:** Social influence, memory, sleep and dreaming and research methods





What skills will you learn?

Creative thinking

Ability to use
different materials

Organise and plan work

Researching information

Expressing an opinion

Art and Design

Why study?

Art and Design

Types of employment:

- Advertising
- Antique Dealer
- Architect
- Art Therapist
- Childcare Assistant
- Costume Designer
- Fashion/Textile Design
- Fine Art
- Florist
- Gallery Curator
- Graphic Design
- Hairdresser
- Jewellery/Hat Design
- Make-up Artist
- Marine
- Archaeologist
- Merchandiser/
Window Dresser
- Personal Stylist
- Photographer
- Potter
- Primary School
Teacher
- Product Design
- Sculptor



GCSE Art & Design

What topics will I study?

The Art and Design course offers a broad and exciting range of creative experiences. You will explore a variety of **processes, tools, materials and techniques** to produce different kinds of creative work. Throughout the course, you will draw on at least **two areas of study** from the list below, developing both practical skills and personal artistic expression.

Fine Art

Drawing and painting; Sculpture and installation; Lens- and light-based media; Photography and moving image; Printmaking; Mixed media; Land art

Graphic Communication

Communication graphics; Design for print; Advertising and branding; Illustration; Packaging design; Typography; Interactive design (web, app, game); Multimedia and motion graphics; Signage and exhibition graphics

Textile Design

Art textiles; Fashion design and illustration; Costume design; Constructed textiles; Printed and dyed textiles; Surface pattern; Stitched or embellished textiles; Soft furnishings and interior textiles; Digital textiles; Installed textiles

Three-Dimensional Design

Architectural design; Sculpture; Ceramics; Product design; Jewellery and body adornment; Interior design; Environmental, landscape or garden design; Exhibition design; 3D digital design; Design for theatre, film and television

Photography

Portraiture; Studio and location photography; Experimental imagery; Installation; Documentary and photojournalism; Moving image (film, video, animation; Fashion photography

What skills will I learn?

Studying Art & Design will help you develop a wide range of creative, practical and personal skills, including:

Creativity – developing original ideas and experimenting with materials.

Practical making skills – using tools, techniques and processes confidently.

Visual communication – expressing ideas through images and design.

Problem-solving – adapting and refining work when challenges arise.

Observation – improving accuracy and attention to detail.

Research – investigating artists and influences to inform your work.

Evaluation – reflecting on your own work and the work of others.

Organisation – planning projects and managing time effectively.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Portfolio (Coursework)

Worth: 60% of the final grade

What it involves: A portfolio showing evidence across all four assessment objectives; One sustained project demonstrating a full creative journey from initial ideas to final outcomes; A selection of additional work completed during the course that supports and extends your skills.

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment (Exam Project)

Worth: 40% of the final grade

What it involves: A choice of starting points set by AQA; A preparatory period beginning the first day back in January of your final year, lasting around three months; A final 10 hours of supervised time to produce your outcome.

GCSE Photography

What topics will I study?

GCSE Photography allows you to explore the world through a lens, developing creative, technical and critical skills as you produce original photographic work. You will experiment with both digital and traditional techniques, investigate the work of photographers and artists, and develop your ideas into meaningful final outcomes. This course encourages you to express personal themes and interests while building a strong creative portfolio.

You will work through a variety of photographic approaches and processes, learning how to plan, shoot, edit and present photographic work. Areas of study may include:

- **Portraiture** – exploring identity, expression and character through people photography
- **Location photography** – shooting in natural and urban environments
- **Studio photography** – using controlled lighting and staged sets
- **Documentary photography** – capturing real events, places and narratives
- **Experimental imagery** – mixed media, alternative processes, abstraction
- **Moving image** – film, video, animation
- **Fashion photography** – styling, directing and photographing clothing and design
- **Photojournalism** – capturing newsworthy events, people and situations through powerful visual storytelling

Throughout the course, you will also:

- Research photographers and visual sources
- Refine ideas by experimenting with different techniques and editing methods
- Record your creative journey through sketchbooks or digital portfolios
- Present personal and meaningful final outcomes

What skills will I learn?

- Studying GCSE Photography helps you develop a strong set of creative and transferable skills, including:

- **Creativity and visual communication** – expressing ideas through images
- **Technical photography skills** – camera settings, lighting, composition and editing
- **Critical thinking** – analysing the work of photographers and using research to inform your own
- **Experimentation and problem-solving** – refining your work through trial, error and improvement
- **Observation and attention to detail** – noticing patterns, light, texture and form
- **Organisation and project planning** – managing a creative journey from initial ideas to final outcomes
- **Independent working** – developing personal responses and creative confidence

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Portfolio (Coursework)

Worth: 60% of the final grade

What it involves: A portfolio showing evidence across all four assessment objectives; One sustained project demonstrating a full creative journey from initial ideas to final outcomes; A selection of additional work completed during the course that supports and extends your skills.

Component 2 – Externally Set Assignment (Exam Project)

Worth: 40% of the final grade

What it involves: A choice of starting points set by AQA; A preparatory period beginning the first day back in January of your final year, lasting around three months; A final 10 hours of supervised time to produce your outcome



What skills will you learn?

Presentation and communication skills

Confidence

Team work

Discipline

Performing Arts

Why study?

Performing Arts

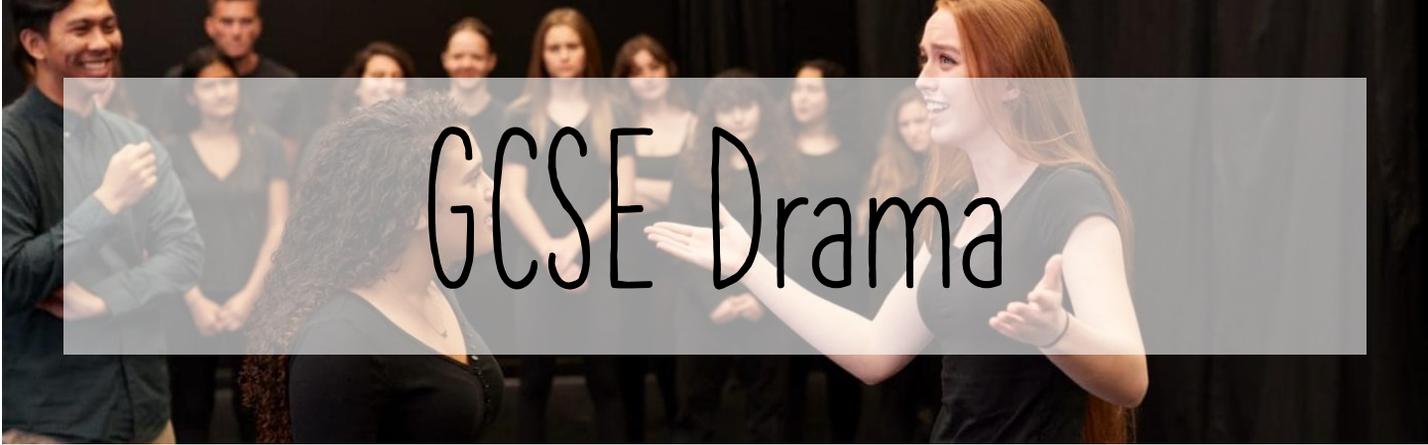
Types of employment:

Music

- Advertising
- Agent
- Arts Promotion
- Choreographer
- Composer
- Conductor
- Cruise-ship Entertainer
- DJ
- Film Music Editor
- Music Therapist
- Musical Instrument Maker
- Musician
- Music Liberation
- Music Journalist
- Occupational Therapist
- Peripatetic Music Teacher
- Primary School Teacher
- Radio Producer
- Retail Buyer
- Sound Engineer

Drama

- Actor
- Advertising Executive
- Art Administrator – Theatre
- Arts/Film Critic
- Childcare Assistant
- Children's Entertainer
- Community Development Officer
- Director
- Drama Teacher
- Drama Therapist
- Floor/Stage Manager
- Holiday Rep
- Media Researcher
- Public Relations
- Publisher
- Sales Script Writer
- Solicitor
- Theatre Manager
- TV Presenter



GCSE Drama

What topics will I study?

GCSE Drama is a practical and creative course that helps you understand theatre as a live, collaborative art form. You will create original performances, bring scripted characters to life, and develop an analytical understanding of how theatre communicates meaning. This course encourages confidence, teamwork, imagination and reflective thinking.

Devising Drama (Component 01/02)

You will:

- Respond to a stimulus to create your own original piece of theatre
- Work collaboratively to shape and rehearse your performance
- Develop ideas through research and experimentation
- Produce a portfolio showing how your piece was created
- Perform your devised drama and evaluate your work

Presenting and Performing Texts (Component 03)

You will:

- Explore a professionally written play
- Develop acting or design skills (lighting, sound, set, costume)
- Rehearse and present **two extracts** from the text as a final performance
- Focus on characterisation, staging and dramatic impact

Drama: Performance and Response (Component 04)

You will:

- Study a complete performance text (e.g. *Blood Brothers*)
- Learn how drama is developed and performed

- Analyse and evaluate a **live theatre performance** you have seen
- Prepare for a written exam with two sections: set text and live theatre review

What skills will I learn?

Studying Drama helps you develop a wide range of transferable skills, including:

- **Teamwork and collaboration**
- **Confidence in performance and presentation**
- **Communication** – verbal, physical and creative
- **Creative problem-solving** – responding to challenges in rehearsal
- **Critical thinking and evaluation** – analysing live theatre and your own work
- **Organisation and time-management** – preparing for rehearsals and deadlines

How will I be assessed?

Component 01/02 – Devising Drama

- **Type:** Non-exam assessment
- **Worth:** 30% of the final grade
- **Assessment:** Non-exam assessment (NEA) - moderated by OCR

Component 03 – Presenting and Performing Texts

- **Type:** Non-exam assessment
- **Worth:** 30% of the final grade
- **Assessment:** Non-exam assessment (NEA) - moderated by visiting external examiner

Component 04 – Drama: Performance and Response

- **Type:** Written exam
- **Length:** 1 hour 30 minutes
- **Worth:** 40% of the final grade

GCSE Music

What topics will I study?

GCSE Music is the ideal course if you are creative, enjoy making music, and want a subject that builds confidence and practical skills alongside academic learning. You will develop the 4Cs: Communication, Collaboration, Critical Thinking and Creativity – while performing, composing and exploring a wide range of music.

The course gives you valuable 21st-century skills, helps you work effectively with others, and adds variety to your timetable through expressive, enjoyable learning. Every student also receives a free weekly instrumental or vocal lesson to support their progress.

You will listen to, perform and compose music from a wide range of styles, including:

- **Popular Music** – Rock, Pop, Film Music, Computer Game Music, Musicals
- **Traditional Music** – Blues, Reggae, Latin, Fusion
- **Western Classical Music**
- **Set Works** such as: *Badinerie* – J.S. Bach and *Africa* – Toto

Throughout the course you will:

- Develop your performance skills on **any instrument or voice**
- Create your own compositions in **any style**
- Learn how music is structured, performed and produced
- Listen critically to a variety of genres and musical traditions

What skills will I learn?

GCSE Music helps you develop:

- **Creativity** through composing and arranging
- **Confidence** in solo and ensemble performance

- **Communication skills** – musical and verbal
- **Collaboration** – performing and rehearsing with others
- **Critical thinking** through analysing music
- **Discipline and organisation** through practice and preparation
- **Technical and expressive musicianship**
- A sense of enjoyment – because **music is fun!**

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Performing (30%)

- Non-exam assessment moderated by the exam board
- Two performances (4–6 minutes total) that includes: One ensemble (group) performance **and** one solo OR ensemble performance (your choice)

You may perform on **any instrument**, voice, or use a **music technology option**.

Component 2 – Composing (30%)

- Non-exam assessment moderated by the exam board
- Two compositions: One to a set brief (choose from 4 options released annually) **and** one free composition in *any* style you choose

Component 3 – Appraising (40%)

Listening exam (sat at the end of Y11)

Length: 1hr 15

8 questions, covering the four Areas of Study:

- *Musical Forms and Devices* – includes set work '**Badinerie**' (**J.S. Bach**)
- *Music for Ensemble*
- *Film Music*
- *Popular Music* – includes set work '**Africa**' (**Toto**)



GCSE Dance

We are really pleased to be able to offer a brand new course this year! GCSE Dance is a creative and expressive course that blends practical performance, choreography and the study of professional works.

The AQA specification is designed to inspire and motivate students of all abilities, developing their physical, artistic and analytical skills through a diverse range of dance styles and tasks.

What topics will I study?

You will study three core areas:

1. Performance

- Learning and performing **set phrases** created by AQA.
- Developing physical, technical and expressive skills.
- Performing a **solo** and a **duet/trio**.

2. Choreography

- Creating your own dance piece (solo or group).
- Responding to a **stimulus** set by AQA.
- Exploring choreographic devices, structuring ideas and shaping intention.

3. Dance Appreciation

- Studying the **AQA anthology** of six professional works.
- Learning how choreographers communicate meaning through movement, staging, music and lighting.
- Analysing and evaluating both professional and your own dance work.

What skills will I learn?

Performance skills: strength, flexibility, coordination, expression and communication.

Choreographic skills: creating movement, using choreographic devices, structuring ideas and responding to stimuli.

Analytical skills: interpreting professional works, evaluating performance quality and understanding how movement creates meaning.

Personal skills: confidence, teamwork, self-motivation and resilience.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Performance & Choreography (worth 60% of your final grade)

A **non-exam assessment**, marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

- **Performance – 30% (40 marks)**
 - Set phrases (solo)
 - Duet or trio (approx. 3.5 minutes)
- **Choreography – 30% (40 marks)**
 - Solo (2–2.5 mins) or group dance (3–3.5 mins)

Component 2: Dance Appreciation (worth 40% of your final grade)

A **written exam** (1 hour 30 minutes, 80 marks).

Covers:

- Choreographic processes
- Performance skills
- Critical appreciation of your own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works (the anthology)

Why study?

What skills will you learn?

Confidence and self-esteem

Accuracy and discipline

Target setting

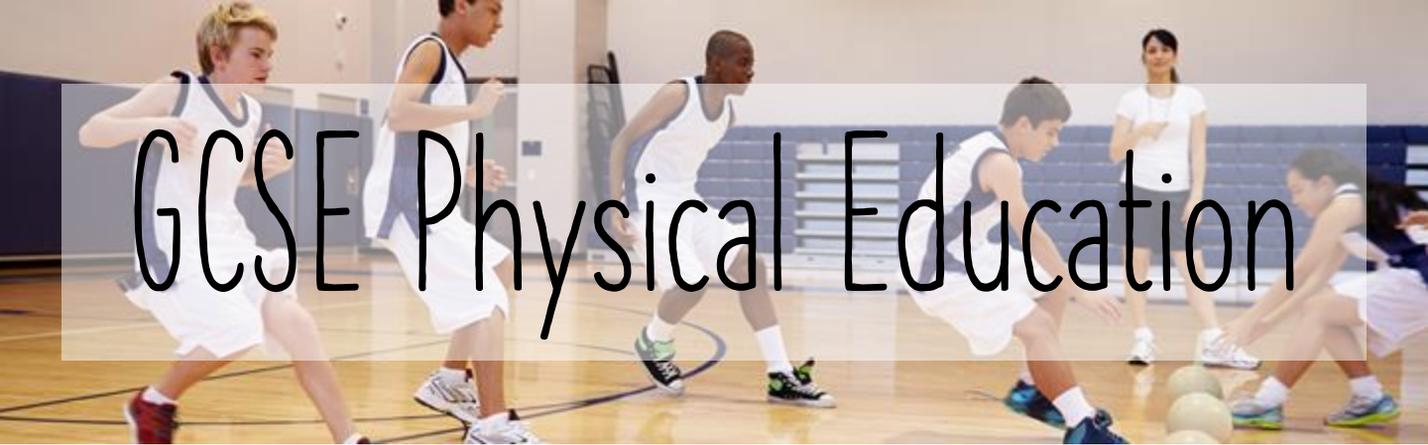
Team Work

Physical Education (PE)

Physical Education (PE)

Types of employment:

- Aerobics Instructor
- Armed Forces
- Childcare Assistant
- Commercial Diver
- Fitness Instructor/ Personal Trainer
- Health Promotion
- Horse Riding Instructor
- Leisure Centre Assistant/Lifeguard
- Leisure Manager
- Occupational Therapist
- Outdoor Pursuits Instructor
- Paramedic
- PE Teacher
- Police and Fire Fighter
- Product Design e.g. Trainers, Sport Equipment.
- Professional Sports Person
- Public Relations
- Sports Coach
- Sports Development Officer
- Sports Journalist/ Presenter
- Sportswear Buyer
- Sports Shop Assistant
- Stunts Performer



GCSE Physical Education

OCR GCSE in Physical Education equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to develop their own performance in sport. They develop their understanding of socio-cultural influences on participation in sport, and the benefits of physical activity to health, fitness and well-being.

Pupils will have 2 hours of theory lessons per week alongside a one-hour practical lesson. In addition, they will have one hour of core PE on their timetable.

What topics will I study?

You will study a combination of physical, scientific, psychological and social areas of sport, including:

Component 01: Physical Factors Affecting Performance

- Applied anatomy and physiology (muscles, bones, joints)
 - Cardiovascular and respiratory systems
 - Effects of exercise on the body
 - Components of fitness
 - Principles of training
 - Preventing injury, warm-ups and cool-downs
- This component explores how the body works and how training improves performance.*

Component 02: Socio-Cultural Issues & Sports Psychology

- Engagement patterns in sport (age, gender, disability, ethnicity)
 - Commercialisation of sport
 - Ethical issues (e.g., performance-enhancing drugs)
 - Sports psychology (motivation, goal setting, feedback)
 - Health, fitness and well-being
- This component focuses on the mental, social and ethical aspects of sport.*

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) Topics

- Practical performance in three sports (at least one team and one individual activity)
- Performance analysis (strengths, weaknesses and action plan for improvement)

What skills will I learn?

- **Practical performance skills** – applying techniques and making decisions in sport.
- **Physical and sport science understanding** – how the body works and how training improves performance.
- **Psychological skills** – motivation, confidence, focus and teamwork.
- **Analytical skills** – evaluating performance, identifying strengths/weaknesses and planning improvements.
- **Leadership and communication** – working effectively with others in practical activities.

How will I be assessed?

Component 01: Physical Factors Affecting Performance. Written Exam – 1 hour | 30% of GCSE | 60 marks

Component 02: Socio-Cultural Issues & Sports Psychology. Written Exam – 1 hour | 30% of GCSE | 60 marks

Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) – 40%

Practical Performance (30%)

Perform in **3 activities** (at least 1 team activity and at least 1 individual activity). Activities are chosen from the OCR approved list and are assessed on:

- Skills
- Application of skills
- Decision making

Examples include football, netball, athletics, badminton, gymnastics, swimming and many more.

Performance Analysis (10%)

- Written coursework
- Analyse performance in one chosen activity
- Identify: Strengths, weaknesses and plan for improvement

Why study?

What skills will you learn?

Problem solving

Decision making

Using a range of resources

Cultural understanding

Health and safety awareness

Health and Social Care/Child Development

Health and Social Care /Child Development

Types of employment:

- Careers Adviser
- Charity Fundraiser
- Deaf Interpreter
- Education Psychologist
- Education Welfare Officer
- Health Care Assistant
- Health Promotion Officer
- Holiday Rep
- Life Coach
- Nanny/Au pair
- Nurse
- Nursery Nurse
- Occupational Therapist
- Physiotherapy Assistant
- Primary School Teacher
- Residential Care Assistant
- School Secretary
- Social Worker
- Swimming Instructor
- Youth Worker



BTEC Health & Social Care

If you are considering a career in the country's largest employer – the health and social care sector - then this course is right for you!

Health and Social Care is an exciting and challenging vocational subject for all students passionate about making a difference.

What topics will I study?

Component 1 - How we grow and develop through the life stages: You will explore different aspects of growth and development across the life stages - physical, intellectual, emotional and social, and look at the factors that can affect the individual's growth.

Life events: Life events are expected and unexpected events that occur in an individual's life. You will explore the different events that can impact on people's physical intellectual emotional and social development.

Component 2 - Health and Social Care Services and barriers to accessing services: You will explore the health and social care services that are available within Salford and why individuals may need to use them and barriers that can make it difficult to use these services and how these barriers can be overcome.

Care values: You will explore the seven care values that people working within the health and social care sector need to abide by.

Component 3 – Health and wellbeing : you will explore the different factors affecting health and wellbeing, how we can address these to improve health and wellbeing, physiological data, person-centred approach

to health and wellbeing as well as barriers and obstacles that prevent improvements and support needed.

What skills will I learn?

By studying this award you will gain the important knowledge, understanding and skills that are the foundations for working in the health and social care sector.

This will include many skills that are used by health care professionals on a day-to-day basis, such as assessing people's health and well-being and designing individual health care plans. You will also learn about health care services and the importance of care values.

How will I be assessed?

There are THREE units that you will be covering: two coursework units in Year 10 and one exam unit in Year 11

Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development (30% of final grade)

Coursework completed in Spring Term of Year 10 (January – March), marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board

Component 2 – Service and Values in Health & Social Care (30% of final grade)

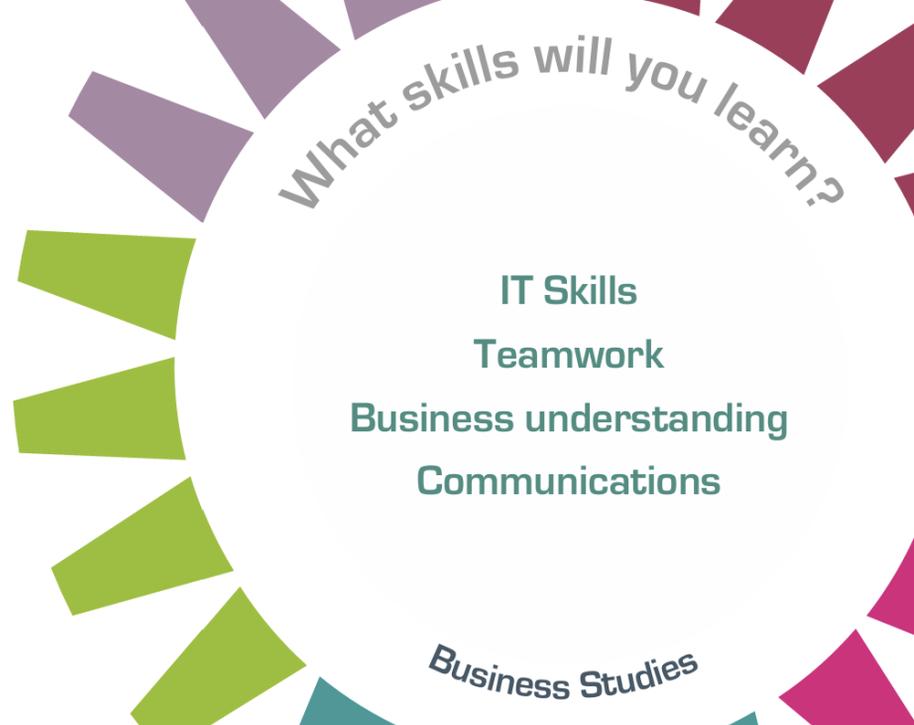
Coursework completed in Autumn Term of Year 11 (September-December), marked by your teacher and moderated by the exam board

Component 3 – Health & Wellbeing (40% of final grade)

Written examination at the end of year 11

Length: 2 hours

Externally set, marked and graded by the exam board during the summer examination window



What skills will you learn?

IT Skills

Teamwork

Business understanding

Communications

Business Studies

Why study?

Business Studies

Types of employment:

- Accountancy Technician
- Bar/Club Manager
- Builder
- Call Centre Assistant
- Estate Agent
- Farmer
- Financial Adviser
- Garage/MOT Centre Manager
- Health Service Manager
- Hotel Owner/Manager
- Personnel Officer
- Insurance Claims Officer
- Investment Analyst
- Marketing Assistant
- Personal Assistant
- Quantity Surveyor
- Receptionist
- Retail Manager
- Self-Employed
- Small Business Adviser
- Trading Standards Officer
- Transport Manager



GCSE Business Studies

What topics will I study?

In OCR GCSE Business you will explore how real businesses operate and the decisions they make. Topics include:

- **Marketing** - How businesses advertise and promote products; How new products are developed; How businesses decide on the best pricing strategies
- **Recruitment** - How businesses select the right staff; How they keep employees motivated and working effectively
- **Business Structures** - Different ways businesses can be set up and organised
- **Finance** - How businesses raise money to start and grow; How they manage costs, revenue and profit
- **Business Operations** - How products are produced and delivered to customers
- **Influences on Business** - How external factors such as the environment, society and global markets affect business decisions

What skills will I learn?

Choosing OCR GCSE Business will help you develop valuable, transferable skills, including:

- Understanding of the business world you will enter after school, college or university
- Decision-making skills, allowing you to weigh up information and justify your choices

- Persuasive communication skills to support clear arguments
- Entrepreneurial knowledge to help you set up and run your own business in the future
- Analytical and evaluative skills, useful across a wide range of subjects
- A strong foundation for further study in A Level Business, Economics, Accountancy and various vocational qualifications

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two written examinations at the end of Year 11 that test your knowledge on the range of topics taught across the two-year course.

Business Paper 1: Business Activity, Marketing and People

Worth: 50% of your final grade

Length of exam: 1hr 30

Business Paper 2: Operations, Finance and Influences on Business

Worth: 50% of your final grade

Length of exam: 1hr 30

Both exam papers contain a mixture of:

- Multiple-choice questions
- Short-answer questions
- Calculation questions
- Extended responses, where you explain and justify decisions



Enterprise & Marketing

(Cambridge Nationals - Level 1/2)

What topics will I study?

Choosing the Cambridge Nationals in Enterprise and Marketing offers you the chance to explore how real businesses are created, developed and promoted.

This practical and engaging course helps you understand the world of enterprise from the first spark of an idea through to designing, planning and pitching a fully formed business proposal.

The course is broken down into three distinct units:

Unit 1: Enterprise and Marketing Concepts (Exam Unit)

You will learn how businesses understand their market and customers by exploring:

- Techniques used to research and analyse markets; How businesses develop products that meet customer needs; What makes a product *viable*; How businesses attract and retain customers

Unit 2: Design a Business Proposal (Coursework)

You will be given a real business challenge and use it to develop a fully researched and costed business idea.

You will undertake activities such as:

- Conducting and analysing market research; Presenting data clearly; Using idea-generation tools; Gathering and responding to feedback; Calculating and costing your proposal

Unit 3: Market and Pitch a Business Proposal (Coursework)

You will prepare and deliver a pitch for the business proposal you created in Unit 2.

In this unit, you will:

- Develop a brand identity; Investigate the best ways to promote your product; Plan your pitch and create promotional materials; Deliver both a practice and a professional pitch

What skills will I learn?

Studying Enterprise and Marketing will help you develop a wide range of transferable skills, including:

- **Self-assessment skills** – understanding your strengths and areas for development
- **Collaborative working** – working effectively with others
- **Creativity** – generating and developing business ideas
- **Numeracy** – handling financial information and costing proposals
- **Research skills** – gathering and interpreting information
- **Evaluative and analytical skills** – reviewing ideas, products and feedback
- **Self-presentation skills** – preparing for and delivering pitches confidently

How will I be assessed?

Enterprise and Marketing is assessed through coursework, completed throughout Year 10 and Year 11, with one final written assessment sat at the end of year 11.

Unit 1: Written examination
Worth: 40% of your final grade
Length: 1hr 15

Unit 2: Externally set assignment (coursework)
Worth: 30% of your final grade

Unit 3: Externally set assignment (coursework)
Worth: 30% of your final grade

Creative iMedia

(Cambridge Nationals - Level 1/2)

A Cambridge National qualification is the equivalent to a GCSE and gives you the chance to put your learning into practice, develop skills and build your confidence.

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the digital media sector and the wider industry. It's a vocational qualification, equivalent in value to a GCSE and contains both practical and theoretical elements.

What topics will I study?

As part of the Cambridge National, you'll cover:

- how media products get their meaning across, create impact and appeal to people
- how to create original digital graphics for specific audiences
- designing and creating original characters and comics
- how to plan and create animations with audio

What skills will I learn?

Across the course, you will develop:

- **Analytical skills** – learning how to examine information, spot key details and make informed decisions.
- **Digital presentation skills** – creating professional, visually engaging digital work using industry-standard software.
- **Creative thinking** – developing original ideas and exploring different ways to approach design challenges.
- **Problem-solving skills** – finding solutions when things don't go to plan and improving your work through testing and feedback.

- **Research and planning** – understanding what a client needs, gathering useful information and organising your project from start to finish.

How will I be assessed?

Your final grade comes from:

One written exam:

- **Worth: 40%** of the total qualification
- **Assessment type:** 1 hour 30 min written exam at the end of the course

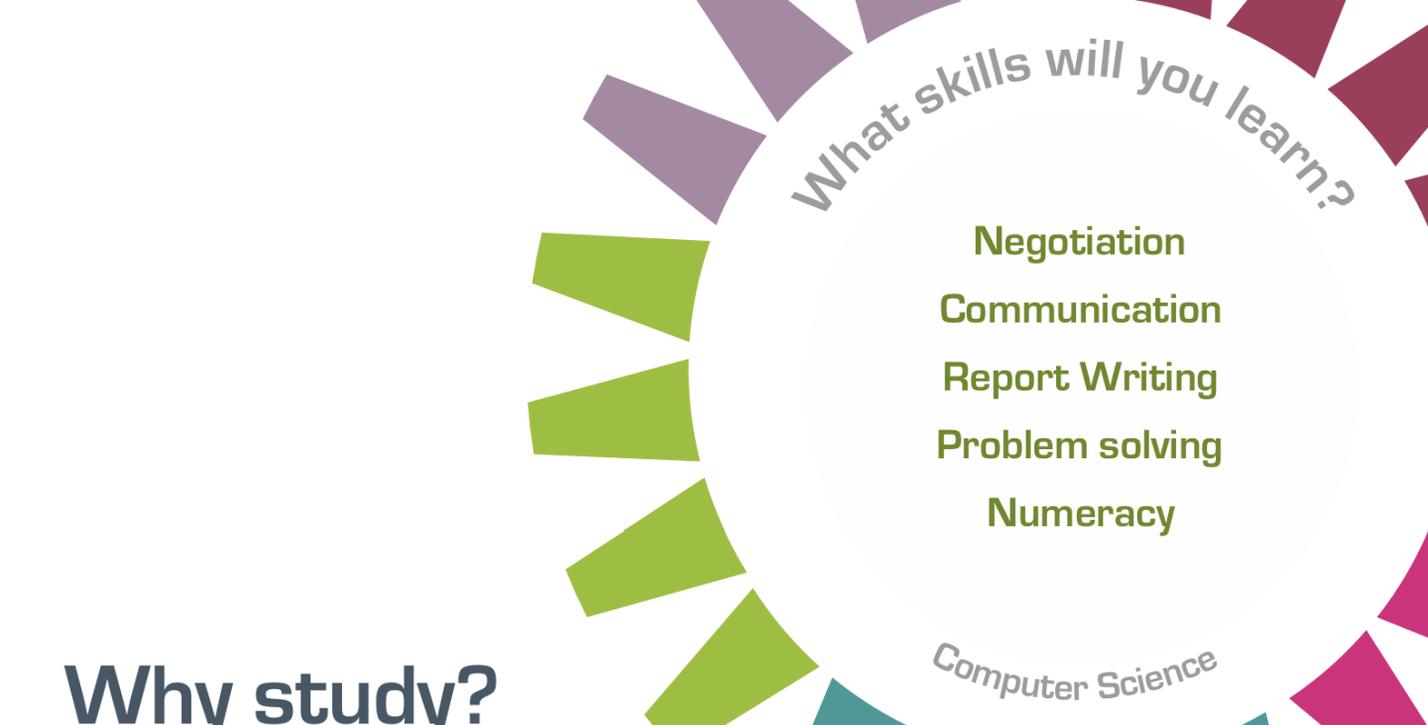
Two coursework units:

- **Each worth: 30%** of the total qualification
- **Assessment type:** Set assignment (coursework), internally assessed and externally moderated

Future opportunities:

By developing applied knowledge and practical skills, this course will help give you the opportunity to progress on to A Levels, a Cambridge Technical in Digital Media, an apprenticeship or university.

Creative iMedia could be first step of a career as a Games Developer, Comic Book Writer, Graphic Designer, and more.



What skills will you learn?

Negotiation

Communication

Report Writing

Problem solving

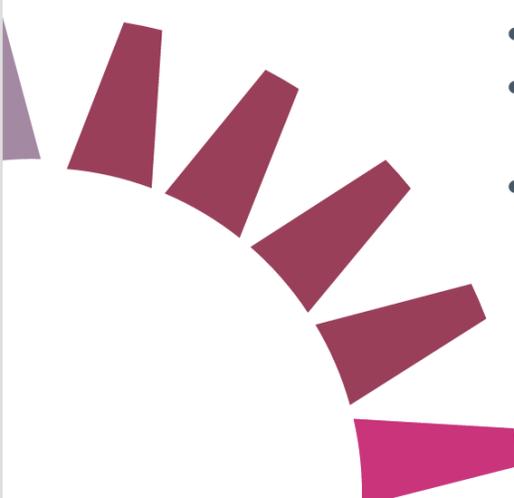
Numeracy

Computer Science

Why study?

Computer Science

Types of employment:

- Application Analyst
 - Applications Developer
 - CAD Technician
 - Cyber Security Analyst
 - Data Analyst
 - Database Administrator
 - Forensic Computer Analyst
 - Games Designer
 - Games Developer
 - Information Systems Manager
 - IT Consultant
 - Machine Learning Engineer
 - Multimedia Programmer
 - Penetration Tester
 - SEO Specialist
 - Software Engineer
 - Systems Analyst
 - UX Designer
 - Web Designer
 - Web Developer
- 

GCSE Computer Science

What topics will I study?

Studying GCSE Computer Science gives you the opportunity to explore how modern technology really works. From understanding the inner workings of computer systems to developing your own programs, this course blends theory with practical problem-solving.

Component 1 – Computer Systems

You will explore the key theory behind how modern computer systems work, including:

- How processors work and carry out instructions
- Computer memory and types of data storage
- How networks are designed, built and operated
- Key principles of cyber security and how systems are protected
- How different types of software support computer systems
- The ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of computing on society

Component 2 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This unit focuses on developing strong computational thinking and problem-solving skills. You will study:

- Core algorithms used in computer science
- Programming techniques and writing efficient solutions
- How to represent programs using diagrams
- How to thoroughly test and refine programs to prevent misuse
- Boolean logic (AND, OR, NOT)
- How computers store and process data in binary form

A Programming Project

You will have the opportunity to complete one or more practical programming tasks. This will help you develop your ability to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language. Your programming skills are assessed within the written examinations, especially Component 2.

What skills will I learn?

Studying Computer Science will help you develop:

- **Logical thinking and programming skills**, highly valued in modern careers
- A deep understanding of **problem-solving** and creating efficient solutions
- The ability to **communicate technical ideas clearly** for others to understand
- A strong foundation in **core computing theory**
- **Practical skills** that prepare you for further study or work in the digital sector

How will I be assessed?

Computer Science is assessed at the end of year 11 with two written papers. There is an additional **non-exam assessment project** that is completed in class. Although it does not contribute directly to your final grade it will support your programming skills, which are assessed in Paper 2.

Component 1: Written exam

Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Worth: 50% of the final GCSE grade

Component 2: Written exam

Length: 1 hour 30 minutes

Worth: 50% of the final GCSE grade

What skills will you learn?

Problem solving

Ability to design and plan

Ability to use tools safely

Creative thinking

ICT skills

Design and Technology

Why study?

Design and Technology

Types of employment:

Graphic Products

- Animator/Cartoonist
- Architect Technician
- Building Surveyor
- Cartographer
- Desk-top Publishing
- Graphic Design
- Magazine Editor
- Photographer
- Product Design
- Town Planner
- Web Design

Resistant Materials

- Building Technician
- Furniture Maker
- Jewellery Fitter
- Mechanic
- Plumber
- Roofer
- Shop Fitter
- Welder
- Window Fitter
- Wood Machinist

Food Technology and Catering

- Animal Nutritionist
- Baker
- Brewing Technician
- Catering Assistant
- Chef
- Dietician
- Drink and Food Service
- Fitness Instructor
- Food Technologist
- Health Promotion
- Hotel Manager
- Nurse
- Retail Manager

Textiles

- Dressmaker/Hatter
- Fashion Design
- Interior Design
- Knitwear Design
- Personal Stylist
- Primary School Teacher
- Quality Control Officer
- Retail Assistant – Home Furnishings
- Sewing Machinist
- Textile and Fashion Buyer
- Costume Design

System and Control

- Auto-Electrics
- Building Service Engineer
- Domestic Appliance Sales
- Electrician
- Electronic Engineer
- Gas Fitter
- Health and Safety Officer
- Instrumentation Technician
- Maintenance Engineer
- Mobile Phone Sales
- Telecommunications Engineer

Industrial Technology

- Aeronautical Engineer
- Aircraft Technician
- Architect
- Civil Engineer
- Industrial Designer
- Marine Architect
- Materials Scientist
- Mechanical Engineer
- Patent Officer
- Production Manager
- Quality Controller
- Sculptor
- Technical Author

BTEC Hospitality & Catering

What topics will I study?

Throughout this course, pupils will develop a strong understanding of the hospitality and catering industry, including:

- The different types of hospitality and catering provision
- Health and safety requirements within the industry
- Food safety laws and practices
- The importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious, balanced menus

Pupils will also develop practical skills in preparing, cooking, and presenting a wide range of dishes. They will learn how to evaluate their work, improve outcomes, and understand how professionals operate within the catering environment.



What skills will I learn?

- **Culinary Skills:** Develop confidence and competence in preparing, cooking and presenting a wide variety of savoury and sweet dishes to a professional standard.
- **Understanding the Industry:** Explore how marketing, promotion and customer service influence success within the hospitality and catering sector.

- **Operational Knowledge:** Learn about key areas such as food and beverage service, kitchen operations, accommodation services and effective management practices.
- **Teamwork and Communication:** Build strong organisational, communication and teamwork skills, especially when working under pressure, valuable in any future career.
- **Business and Finance Insight:** Apply essential business skills, including costing, budgeting and managing profit within hospitality settings.
- **Real Work Experience:** Take part in practical, real-world opportunities by supporting school events such as the Senior Citizens' Christmas Party and school productions, helping you gain confidence and experience in a live hospitality environment.

How will I be assessed?

There are two units:

Unit 1: written examination sat at the end of Year 11

Worth: 40% of your overall grade

Length: 1 hr 20

Consists of both short and extended answer questions.

Unit 2: Non-examination assessment - coursework

Worth: 60% of your overall grade

Consists of both practical work and portfolio completion to include written accounts

GCSE 3D Design

Our 3D Design course encourages creativity, problem-solving and innovation through exploring a wide range of materials, techniques and artistic influences. The course supports pupils in developing both practical making skills and an understanding of design in the real world.

What topics will I study?

- **Art, Craft and Design Principles:** Build an enthusiasm for creative design by exploring how artists and designers develop ideas, techniques and processes.
- **Critical Analysis:** Learn how to study and evaluate the work of professional artists and designers, and apply these insights to your own projects.
- **CAD/CAM and Technical Drawing:** Gain knowledge of digital design tools, computer-aided manufacturing processes, and a range of technical drawing methods.
- **Workshop Skills:** Develop confidence using tools, equipment and machinery to create high-quality 3D outcomes.
- **Collaboration with Local Artists:** Take part in practical workshops and collaborative tasks with practising local artists, giving you valuable insight into real careers within the Art and Design sector.



What skills will I learn?

Students will develop core design and making skills, including:

- **Creative design and idea development**
- **Prototyping and 3D modelling**
- **CAD/CAM and technical drawing techniques**
- **Practical workshop and manufacturing skills**
- **Material exploration and problem-solving**
- **Collaboration and communication through real design briefs**

How will I be assessed?

GCSE 3D Art & Design (Product Design) is a two-year linear qualification made up of two components:

- **Component 1: Portfolio – 60%**
A collection of coursework completed across the two years. This is internally assessed and externally moderated. It showcases your design journey, from initial ideas through to final outcomes.
- **Component 2: Externally Set Assignment – 40%**
A project set by the exam board, culminating in a timed practical exam. This is also internally assessed and externally moderated.



BTEC Construction

This course develops learners' knowledge and understanding of the sector and provide them with opportunities to enhance their practical skills. In addition, learners will explore different ideas and concepts of the built environment and gain knowledge and understanding of a range of professional and trade roles.

What topics will I study?

- Project management including planning, preparation and working out of material quantities for a required task.
- Development of practical skills across a range of areas including joinery, tiling and electrical skills. Students will utilise these skills to produce a range of practical outcomes relating to Construction tasks.
- Evaluation skills to thoroughly demonstrate a secure understanding of a projects successes and any improvements that could be made in the future.
- Theory of the Construction Industry, covering all aspects of building construction and maintenance.
- The Construction sector, its roles and importance in helping to create a sustainable future.



What skills will I learn?

- How to use a range of workshop tools with a high level of skill for a range of tasks
- How to assemble components such as electrical products.
- How to ensure quality control and a high level of project finish.
- How to plan, resource and evaluate a project
- How to demonstrate an understanding of the wider construction industry and its application to society.

How will I be assessed?

BTEC Construction is a two-year linear qualification made up of:

Coursework:

Unit 3 - 60% controlled assessment, Constructing the built environment.

Exam:

40% external assessment, (2 hour written exam online)

