

**ALL HALLOWS RC**

**HIGH SCHOOL**

**Year 9**

 Compulsory Subjects

Options

**2017**

March 2017

**Options Process and Changes to Government Policy (Ebacc)**

Dear Parents / carers and year 8 students

During key stage 3, students study all the subjects in the national curriculum. However, when they enter key stage 4, students have the chance to choose some of the subjects they study.

Deciding which subjects to study is an important and exciting part of being in year 8, since young people are making choices which will help them to fulfil their future plans and aspirations. It is also necessary to be realistic enough to recognise that things can change and studying a balanced key stage 4 curriculum between the ages of thirteen and sixteen can lead to many different routes a few years later.

At All Hallows RC High School, we have devised a key stage 4 curriculum that tries to achieve a balance between core subjects for all and a variety of pathways to meet the individual needs and interests of our students. Our aim is to provide study routes which are sufficiently balanced to enable students to gain the qualifications they need to make further choices at a later stage, but which as far as possible, also give students the opportunity to specialise in subjects in which they have particular interest and talent.

Government policy is aimed at persuading more students to take Ebacc subjects, and it is possible that in the future an ‘Ebacc’ may be regarded favourably by higher education institutions and employers. The Ebacc is not a new qualification in itself. It will recognise students’ achievements across a range of selected academic subjects.

The English Baccalaureate will recognise 9 to 5 (A\* to C) passes at GCSE in five subjects:

•English (compulsory) •Maths (compulsory)

•Science (compulsory – 2 /3 GCSEs) •History or Geography (option)

•Modern Foreign Language –Spanish (option)

Currently, students who achieve a grade 5 (C) or above in all these 5 subjects achieve the English Baccalaureate. There will be no grade attached to this, the normal GCSE grading system will be used for each individual subject.

At All Hallows, we think it wise to strongly encourage those pupils who are capable of attaining GCSE grade 5 or above in Spanish and in History or Geography to choose these subjects. (Typically those pupils in English / Maths set 1, 2 and many of set 3.) All pupils will study 3 option subjects in years 9, 10 and year 11 and we do believe that all our students should personalise their choices to match their interests and strengths. We have high academic achievement in all subject areas including ICT, Business, Sport, Technology and Creative Arts and believe strongly that these subjects are of equal value in the curriculum.

We take the process of choosing options very seriously and our principle is that all students should be provided with enough information to make informed choices about their future. Key dates for the options process are detailed below.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs A Cavanagh Mr A Clewlow**

**Headteacher Assistant Headteacher (curriculum/options)**

**KEY DATES**

* Year 8 options assembly Monday 21st March
* Distribution of options booklets Thursday 30th March
* **Options Fair – for parents and pupils Thursday 30th March**

**3.15 pm to 4.15 pm**

* **Deadline for submission of option choices Wednesday 19th April**
* Follow up pupil interviews 20th – 27th April

**NB: Grade Changes**

In this letter grades A\* to C have been referred to because this is what we are all currently familiar with. GCSE grade are changing and this will affect your child.

* A new GCSE Grading structure (9-1), will apply to current Y 11, 10, 9, 8, 7, 6 etc. from September 2016.
* Grade 4 will be equated to current low/middle grade C initially, whilst grade 5 will be grade C/B border.
* Grade 5+ will be considered to be a `higher’ pass.

**CHANGES TO GCSE GRADING SYSTEM**

An important change that will impact on all subjects is how the final GCSE grades are awarded. The current seven-point A\*-G grading system will be replaced with a new nine-point scale, with nine as the top grade and one the lowest. Crucially, the new grades won't simply map directly onto the old ones as you can see below.



A key goal is to provide more differentiation, particularly among the highest achievers, and among the many students who "bunch" in the middle grades.

This change to the grading system will be in place for pupils taking their final exams in 2018. (Current Year 10 pupils)

**OPTION BOOKLET 2017**

**CONTENTS**

**Compulsory Subjects**

* GCSE English
* GCSE English Literature
* GCSE Mathematics
* GCSE Religious Education
* GCSE Science

**Options**

* Art Craft and Design GCSE
* Business GCSE
* Business Enterprise
* Computer Science
* Construction CSkills Level 1
* Design Technology GCSE
* Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE
* Geography
* Health and Social Care GCSE
* History
* ICT OCR Cambridge National
* Music GCSE
* Performing Arts GCSE
* Physical Education (Sports Science Cambridge National)
* Physical Education GCSE
* Spanish GCSE

**Note**

**Compulsory subjects have a blue header and border**

**Ebacc option choices have a green header and border.**

**Non-Ebacc option choices have a yellow header and border.**

**GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE / ENGLISH**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** AQA

**TITLE:** English

**ACCREDITATION:**

This is a single English qualification. It will usually be studied in Year 10. It is studied alongside GCSE English Literature.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

Your work will build on that of KS3 Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. These are linked in order to show how language works. This applies to your own oral and written work as well as to understanding the writing or speech of others. In addition, you will have the opportunity to study a variety of fiction and non-fiction texts from the 19th, 20th and 21st centuries.

**CONTENT:**

The course compromises of the development of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening skills, the opportunity to write in a variety of styles and the study of prose, poetry and drama.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

The course involves the completion of two terminal examinations, in accordance with new Government guidelines.

**ASSESSMENT**

**EXAMINATION PAPER 1 50%**

Explorations in creative reading and writing. You will answer questions on language and structure of a fictional text and then create your own imaginative or descriptive piece.

**PAPER 2 50%**

Writers’ viewpoints and perspectives. You will answer questions on attitudes, language and structure of literary fiction and non-fiction texts and will compare texts. You will produce a piece of viewpoint writing – using the techniques of writing to argue/persuade.

**SPEAKING & LISTENING**

You will be assessed separately in Speaking and Listening. You must be able to show skills in the areas of: presenting, responding to questions/feedback and your use of Standard English. This section of the course is certificated separately and does not contribute to the overall GCSE.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

You MUST study GCSE English Literature alongside GCSE English Language.

Please speak to your current English teacher or Mrs Conescu (Arambasa) if you have any further questions.

**EXAMINING BOARD:** AQA

**TITLE:** English Literature

**ACCREDITATION:**

This is a single English qualification. It is usually studied in Year 11. This course is usually taken alongside GCSE English Language

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

Your work will build on that of KS3 Reading and analysis. You will have the opportunity to enjoy a variety of texts including plays, novels and poetry.

**CONTENT:**

The course compromises of the development of Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening skills, the opportunity to write in a variety of styles and the study of prose, poetry and drama.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

The course involves analysing ”Macbeth” by Shakespeare, “A Christmas Carol” by Charles Dickens, “An Inspector Calls” by John Priestley and a variety of poems from Power and Conflict Cluster. The course involves two examinations that assess your reading of the above texts.

**ASSESSMENT**

**EXAMINATION – these are closed book examinations. You will NOT have the texts available to you in the examination room.**

**PAPER 1 50%**

You will answer questions on *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare and *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens. You will be given a printed extract from the book and a question that asks you to look at a character/theme in the extract and then in the wider text.

**PAPER 2 50%**

This paper focuses on your drama text (*An Inspector Calls* by J B Priestly or *Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell) and poetry.

Students must respond to poetry that they have studied in class from their poetry anthology. They will also be asked to respond to an unseen poem and to compare poems.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see your English teacher or Mrs White.

**GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**GCSE Mathematics**

**EXAMINING BOARD:**  Edexcel

**TITLE:** GCSE Mathematics (Linear)

**ACCREDITATION:** This award is offered for GCSE grades 1-9

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

The Mathematics taught during the course develops the key stage three programme of study, extending topics already met and introducing more complex problems. Our aim is to offer a high quality of Mathematical education which will produce keen, able and confident students, who will be ready to face the demands of the modern world. To ensure this aim our students are placed in situations where they need to experiment, question, reflect and discuss their work.

**CONTENT:**

The national curriculum is divided into areas of study consisting of:-

1. Number
2. Algebra
3. Statistics and Probability
4. Geometry and Measures
5. Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change

Overarching these topics are the process skills of representing, analysing, interpreting, evaluating, communicating and reflecting.

**NATURE OF WORK**

Each week there will be five 50 minute lessons and two homework tasks will be set. Students will be taught in classes according to their ability and will be closely monitored to ensure each is taught at the appropriate level.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Students are regularly tested throughout the course either through classwork/homework tasks or more formally. The GCSE exam consists of three linear papers taken at the end of Year 11, two with a calculator and one without. Each paper is one and a half hours in length.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Tier**  | **Grade Available** |
| Foundation | 1-5 |
| Higher | 4-9 |

Each exam paper carries different weighting for each area of study:-

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Assessment**  | **Weighting** |
| Number | 25% (F) 15% (H) |
| Algebra | 20% (F) 30% (H) |
| Geometry and Measures | 15% (F) 20% (H) |
| Statistics and Probability | 15% (F) 15% (H) |
| Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change | 25% (F) 20% (H) |

The using and applying content is assessed in the context of the other assessment objectives.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

Most employers ask for a good Mathematics qualification; however Maths is particularly important in careers such as statistics, accounting, banking and finance, computing and scientific research.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

All pupils will take this course. You will enjoy greater success if you can work hard both independently and in groups and also if you practise skills at home too. A ‘can do / have a go’ attitude is also essential.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mr Grundy (Head of Mathematics).

**GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

**EXAMINING BOARD:**  Eduqas

**TITLE:**  Religious Studies GCSE (Route B)

**ACCREDITATION:**  The full range of GCSE grades are available, (1 - 9) from common papers.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

Religious Studies is an essential part of a Roman Catholic High School’s curriculum. Pupils develop and deepen their experience and therefore their understanding of God’s presence and love through the Gospel message. Pupils are also encouraged to develop their evaluation skills, considering the reasons and beliefs behind opinions different to the Church, explain both sides of an argument and reach their own reasoned opinion.

Students will be expected to demonstrate an understanding of the influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies. They will be expected to support their responses using appropriate knowledge and understanding of key sources of wisdom and sacred texts.

**CONTENT:** There are three units of study.

Component 1 - Foundational Catholic Theology

For this component learners will study two themes:

Theme 1: Origins and Meaning

This theme ensures that students know and understand the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian but also diverse. They are asked to consider religious and non-religious beliefs about the origins and value of the universe and human life

Areas of study include; Origins and Meaning, Creation, The Bible, Painting, Symbolism and Practices

Theme 2: Good and Evil

This theme requires students to consider philosophical questions concerning the origins and nature of good and evil and different religious answers to the problem of evil and suffering.

Areas of study include: Good, Evil and Suffering, Trinity, Incarnation, Jesus and moral authority, Sculpture and Statuary and Popular devotion as practiced in Catholic communities.

This unit is assessed by a 1½ hour examination on the summer of Year 11 and accounts for 37.5% of the qualification.

Component 2 - Applied Catholic Theology

For this component learners will study two themes:

Theme 3: Life and Death

This theme requires learners to consider religious beliefs about the nature of life and death.

Areas of Study include; Death and the afterlife, Eschatology, The Magisteruim, Artefacts, Music and funeral rites and prayer within Catholic communities.

Theme 4: Sin and Forgiveness

This theme requires students to consider philosophical questions concerning the nature of criminality and the rationale for punishment. Through a study of teachings and beliefs, questions relating to the justifiability of capital punishment will be explored.

Aras of study include; Crime and Punishment, Redemption, Church, Buildings, Sacraments and Mission and Evangelisation.

This unit is assessed by a 1½ hour examination on the summer of Year 11 and accounts for 37.5% of the qualification.

Component 3 – Study of a World Faith: Judaism

Students must know, understand and express common and divergent views (with Christianity) and the basis for beliefs, teachings and practices.

Areas of Study include; The nature of God, Messiah, Covenant, Life on earth, The afterlife, Worship, The Synagogue, Rituals, Daily life and Festivals.

This unit is assessed by a 1 hour examination on the summer of Year 11 and accounts for 25% of the qualification.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

Lessons will involve a variety of activities. Many topics will be approached through the use of film, media and real life case studies. Lesson will involve students in group work, discussions and independent learning.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

All pupils at All Hallows must take a Religious Studies qualification. This course is aimed at students who have open minds and can evaluate, in a balanced way, opposing views. You will need to work well with others as well as on your own. Good debating skills are needed both orally and in written form.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see your RE teacher.

**EXAMINING BOARD:** OCR

**TITLE:** 21st Century Science

**ACCREDITATION:**

There are two science GCSEs pupils can study at All Hallows. Both are graded from 1-9.

Combined science Trilogy allows pupils to gain 2 GCSEs. The Separate science pathway allows pupils to gain 3 GCSEs from 1-9 and is aimed at the more able pupils.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

In these subjects you will develop your understanding of scientific ideas. You will use your detailed knowledge to consider how science is applied and used in the home, in industry and in the environment. You will plan and carry out investigations and learn to evaluate your data, using ICT where appropriate. You will use your scientific knowledge to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments. These subjects allow learners to recognize the impact science has on everyday life and allows them to gain an insight into the world in which we live.

**CONTENT:**

**Combined Science**

The theme of the course is ‘How Science Works’ and the modules are:-

You and your genes Air and water

Keeping healthy Material choices

Living together Chemical patterns

Using food Material choices

The human body Making useful chemicals

Life on Earth Chemicals of the natural environment

 Matter Radiation and waves

Sustainable energy Electrical circuits

 Explaining Motion Radioactive materials

Each module includes many practical areas and pupils expected to recognise the impact of science on society and the future.

**Combined Science and Separate Science**

**ASSESSMENT**

3 x 105 minute end of module papers (26.4% x 3 of total marks) (All taken in May/June)

1 X 105 minute paper (20.8% of total mark) comprising of all science specialism's with practical content

**Separate Sciences**

**Biology:**

You and your genes

Keeping healthy

Living together –food and ecosystems

Using food and controlling growth

The human body –staying alive

Life on Earth –past, present and future

Ideas about Science

Practical Skills

**Assessment:** This consists of 2 X 105 minute exams each comprising 50% of the total marks

**Chemistry:**

Air and water

Material choices

Chemical patterns

Material choices

Making useful chemicals

Chemicals of the natural environment

Ideas about Science

Practical Skills

**Assessment:** This consists of 2 X 105 minute exams each comprising 50% of the total marks

**Physics:**

Matter

Radiation and waves

Sustainable energy

Electrical circuits

Explaining Motion

Radioactive materials

Ideas about Science

Practical Skills

**Assessment:** This consists of 2 X 105 minute exams each comprising 50% of the total marks

Please see Mrs Lindley-Clapp (Head of Science).

**GCSE ART CRAFT AND DESIGN**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** **AQA**

**TITLE:** **Art, Craft and Design**

**ACCREDITATION:** **GCSE- Grades 1 – 9**

**CONTENT:**

**Component 1: 60% (Coursework)** must show evidence of working in areas of study drawn from two or more of the titles taking into account the distinguishing characteristics of art, craft and design.

**Component 2:** **40% (Exam)** must show evidence of areas of study drawn from one or more of the titles.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

This title promotes learning across a variety of experiences and through various processes, tools, techniques, materials and resources to generate different kinds of art work and outcomes.

Students must explore and create work associated with areas of study from at least two titles listed below.

* **Fine art:** for example drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, lens-/light-based media, photography and the moving image, printmaking, mixed media and land art.
* **Graphic communication:** for example communication graphics, design for print, advertising and branding, illustration, package design, typography, interactive design, (including web, app and game), multi-media, motion graphics, signage and exhibition graphics.
* **Three-dimensional design:** for example architectural design, sculpture, ceramics, product design, body adornment, exhibition design, and designs for theatre, film and television.
* **Photography:** for example portraiture, location photography, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photo-journalism, moving image: film, video and animation, fashion photography.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

The course will consist of **more** than one extended collection of work, or project which demonstrates an ability to sustain work from initial starting points or project briefs to the realisation of intentions and include evidence of research, the development of ideas and meaningful links with critical/contextual sources.

Students must explore, through a range of two-dimensional and/or three-dimensional processes and media, practical application of skills and relevant critical and contextual sources such as the work of contemporary artists, craftspeople and designers and the different purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft and design as appropriate to their own work.

**ASSESSMENT:**

During Years 9, 10 and 11 you will produce several (projects) **for Component 1** supported by sketchbooks. This will be worth 60% of your final GCSE grade/Level and is marked out of 96 marks. Towards the end of Year 11 you will sit an externally set task a 10 hour practical examination Component 2 for which you are given unlimited prep work time thin 10 hours over several days to create a variety of outcomes this is 40% of your marks.

You will be expected to support all your work in class by developing work and ideas at home through in mini projects, photography, drawings and other appropriate methods.

**WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE?**

This GCSE course is an important stepping stone to an exciting future. There are many careers related to Art, in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing, fashion graphic design, hairdressing, interior design and the media. Design related work is the second largest money earner for Britain after the Retail industry. The study of Art can also help to develop transferable skills and independent learning that will be of use in any career or job.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS AND FUTURE OPTIONS**

After studying GCSE Art, you can:

* Study Art and Design at college (A Levels, Art Foundation Course, BTEC Painting and Drawing or BTEC Graphics).
* With A Level Art you could study for a degree in Art or another subject at University.
* Get a job or a training place. Employers are looking for people who are enthusiastic, imaginative, flexible, positive and ready to advance and adapt skills acquired – in other words, people who are creative and enjoy independent learning.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Miss Evans-Berry (Head of Art, DT, and FOOD).

**GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** Edexcel

**TITLE:** Business Studies GCSE

**ACCREDITATION:**

The qualification is one GCSE.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

This course provides pupils with the opportunity to understand and experience business and the world of work in action. In order to enable students to understand a variety of business concepts we will look in detail at different types of business over the three year course. This will include a wide range of work related learning activities such as; trips to businesses, guest speakers, videos of people in organisations and a range of other interactive and engaging methods, to ensure that the delivery of this course is interesting and work related.

**ASSESSMENT:**

The course comprises of two externally assessed examinations and one externally assessed controlled assessment.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

Students gaining a GCSE in Applied Business will have access to a range of career and further education opportunities. The options open to you depend on the results achieved and your own interests. They may include further study on; BTEC National; Modern Apprenticeship; Business NVQs and AS/A Level Business. These qualifications could lead on to a wide range of career opportunities some of which are listed below:-

* Run your own business or enterprise
* Law
* Retail or Hotel Management
* Accountancy

**V Cert in Business & Enterprise**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** NCFE

**TITLE:** V Cert in Business & Enterprise

**ACCREDITATION:**

The V Cert Business & Enterprise Level 2 is a qualification equal to one GCSE.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

This course provides pupils with the opportunity to understand and experience business and the world of work in action. In order to enable students to understand a variety of business concepts we will look in detail at a wide variety of businesses over the three year course. This will include a wide range of work related learning activities such as; trips to businesses, guest speakers, videos of people in organisations and a range of other interactive and engaging methods, to ensure that the delivery of this course is interesting and work related.

**ASSESSMENT:**

The course comprises of 4 different units. For each of the units, pupils will complete a series of assignments that go towards their portfolio of evidence. Each pupil is graded based on the evidence they produce towards their assignments. The way assessments can be completed is varied and this is a more hands on practical course. There is one external ASSIGNMENT within this course, it is prepared for like Controlled Assessment but externally assessed. The overall grade will be L2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction \* or Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction \*.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

Students gaining a BTEC first in Business will have access to a range of careers and further education opportunities. The options open to you depend on the results achieve and your own interests. They may include further study on; BTEC National; Modern Apprenticeship; Business NVQs and AS/A Level Business. These qualifications could lead on to a wide range of career opportunities some of which are listed below:-

* Run your own business or enterprise
* Law
* Retail or Hotel Management

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

You do not need to have studied business before starting the V Cert. It is important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, an interest in business, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

**For more info please see Miss Buckley.**

**GCSE Computer Science**

Computing has become vitally important in all our lives. Computer systems affect most of the things that we do, for example doing business, controlling machinery, navigating planes, supporting administration and communicating with each other. We are still inventing new ways of using computers and coming to terms with what they mean to us. Whilst traditionally ‘information technology’ involves looking at how we use computer systems, Computer Science involves understanding how those computer systems work. Behind all this innovation there are basic principles that form the discipline of ‘computing’, the science and the mathematics needed to help us obtain a solution to a problem.

**The new qualification in Computer Science is here!**

We are excited to announce that the new Computer Science curriculum is well underway at All Hallows for both KS3 and KS4!

If you choose to study this subject you will get the chance to work in groups, problem solve, program on desktop machines and Raspberry Pi machines, build circuit boards and program them to work with coding you have written, study the science behind the computer, build your own app and look at the coding of popular games such as ‘Minecraft’.

**What you will study during years 9, 10 and 11**

During year 9 you will focus on developing skills and knowledge in Boolean (Binary Logic) and Binary, Denary, and Hexadecimal conversion. You will learn the basics of coding with the text based language ‘Python’ and apply your experience and knowledge to complete exercises using ‘Minecraft Pi’ and ‘Codecademy’. You will learn how to set up and use the Raspberry Pi computer and work in groups to build a circuit board that can be controlled by it. You will complete a practice controlled assessment around a particular problem where you get the experience of building your own app to solve that problem. If your app is good you may even be able to get it published on the Internet and take pride in people using an app YOU made!

As you move into year 10 and 11, you will further develop the skills and knowledge gained in year 9 through in-depth exam preparation involving the study of topics such as:

* **Fundamentals of computer systems**
* **Computing hardware and software**
* **Representation of data in computer systems**
* **Databases**
* **Computer communications and networking**
* **Programming**

You will complete your controlled assessment task in year 10. This is a practical investigation requiring research, finding solutions to specified problems and how the scenario affects real – life or computing developments. This is worth 20% of your overall grade.

**Written Exam-** Use all the knowledge you have acquired over 3 years of study to answer exam questions in a written paper to be taken in May / June of your final year. This is worth 80% of your overall grade.

**How will I be assessed and how will the qualification help me?**

This qualification is now part of the E – baccalaureate qualification and is the future for ICT based qualifications.

Software engineering, graphics, networks, databases, multimediaandartificial intelligence are some of the areas where career opportunities exist. Large organisations such as Disney, Google, Microsoft, Apple, NASA and George Lucas’s company, Industrial Light & Magic all currently have employees who have studied Computer Science.

So what’s holding you back? Not the thought of hard work we hope!

Instead of playing all those console games, why not learn how to develop your own?

The world is your oyster!

**CONSTRUCTION (Cskills Awards Level 1 Cert in Multi-trade)**

**EXAMINING BOARD:**  CITB Construction Skills

**ACCREDITATION:** Cskills Awards Level 1 Certificate in Multitrade Construction Activities (QCF)

**WHAT SORT OF WORK WILL I DO?**

The course is very practical and you will spend a lot of time in the workshops learning how to:

* Build Multi Joint Frame, Panel Door and Door Frame
* Fit and replace fixtures and fittings i.e. hinges, locks and handles
* Fencing, Flagging, Block Paving, some aspects of Horticulture
* Mix materials like mortar and concrete
* Bricklaying
* Tiling – cut and fix tiles

In addition to the practical work you will have to learn the underpinning knowledge, Health and Safety. This is basically all the background knowledge you need to know to do the practical work properly and safely. All aspects of work are undertaken in our Construction Centre.

**WHAT QUALIFICATION WILL I GET?**

You will get the Cskills Awards Level 1 Certificate in Multitrade Construction Activities (QCF) which ties in with Level 1 NVQ in joinery or bricklaying and multitrade.

**ARE THERE ANY EXAMS?**

All your practical work is assessed while you are doing it, in the form of photographic evidence and portfolio building. There may also be questions, which your teacher asks you while you are doing the practical work or when you have just finished a practical task.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS**

This course is ideal if you intend working in the building industry. You can carry on with your studies while working and gain an NVQ Level 1. Alternatively, you could carry on with your studies at college before going into the building trade. Even if you do not want a job in the building trade, the skills which you learn on this course will be useful for ‘do it yourself’ jobs around the home. The course is suitable for both boys and girls.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Please see Mr Thomas.

**CAREER AND PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES**

With further training or study, students may progress into careers in the Construction Industry including:-

* Architectural Design
* Surveying
* Site Technician
* Craft jobs i.e. joiner, bricklayer etc

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mr Thomas.

**EXAMINING BOARD:** **AQA** **LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD**

**TITLE:** **MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY**

**ACCREDITATION:** Individual units and the overall qualification will be graded at Level 1 Credit, Advanced Credit, Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction Star.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

**WHO IS THIS LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY FOR?**

14-16 year olds who want to study materials in a practical way and understand the working properties of woods, metals and polymers will really enjoy this course. It will enable learners to work in a hands-on way to develop the core skills to make high-quality products using woods, metals and polymers.

Learners will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and also modern technologies.

This Technical Award in Materials Technology will help learners develop the knowledge, skills and experience and could potentially open the door to a career in related industries.

**OR**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** **AQA**

**TITLE: GCSE DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**

**ACCREDITATION:** You can achieve a full range of grades in this GCSE subject 1 - 9.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

Design and Technology sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. The majority of the specification should be delivered through the practical application of this knowledge and understanding.

**CONTENT:**  Design Technology allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

**DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**

* 3.1 Core technical principles
* 3.2 Specialist technical principles
* 3.3 Designing and making principles

**ASSESSMENT:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| * Written exam: 2 hours
* 100 marks

50% of GCSE | Non-exam assessment100 marks50% of GCS |

The exams and non-exam assessment will measure how students have achieved the following assessment objectives.

* AO1: Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities to address needs and wants.
* AO2: Design and make prototypes that are fit for purpose.
* AO3: Analyse and evaluate:
	+ design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others
	+ wider issues in design and technology.
* AO4: Demonstrate and apply knowledge and understanding of:
	+ technical principles
	+ designing and making principles.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

**Engineering, Product Design, Design Engineer, G**raphic design, Architecture, or teaching.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mrs. Evans-Berry Head of DT, Art and Food

**GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION**

**EXAMINING BOARD & TITLE:** WJEC GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition

**ACCREDITATION:**

This GCSE is un-tiered (i.e. caters for the full range of ability and allows access to grades 1 – 9 [G-A\*]).

**AIMS AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

The course will equip students with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating.

It will also allow students to develop vital life skills that will enable them to feed themselves and others, affordably and nutritiously, now and in later life.

**Subject Content**

a] Nutrition

b] Food

 [1] Food Provenance

 [2] Food Choice

c] Cooking & Food Preparation

 [1] The scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food

 [2] Preparation & Cooking Techniques

**Assessment**

a] Component One - A written paper [50%] at the end of year 11

b] Component Two - A food science investigation [15%]

A practical cooking exam [35%]

**Further Information**

Please see Mr PK Ehlke-West.

**GCSE GEOGRAPHY**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** Edexcel

**TITLE:** GCSE Geography B

**ACCREDITATION:**

The award is offered for the full range of GCSE grades 1 – 9..

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

In this subject you will find out about:

1. A range of places in the UK, Europe and elsewhere in the world.
2. The ways in which natural processes have produced different landscapes.
3. How people interact with these landscapes and how people can act together to prevent the total destruction of their environment.
4. How people are affected by the actions and decision-making of others on a variety of scales.

**You will learn to investigate ideas, develop your own opinions and reach decisions using map skills, fieldwork research and ICT.**

**CONTENT:**

You will study the following topics in detail:

1. Natural hazards including climate and tectonic hazards.
2. Global development and inequality.
3. Causes and challenges of rapid urbanization across the world.
4. UK geology and physical geography including coasts and rivers.
5. UK human geography including social, economic and political processes.
6. People and the biosphere, including forests and energy resources.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

Throughout the lessons you will do a lot of writing, interpreting maps, graphs and diagrams. There will be opportunities to work on your own and in groups. You will learn how to make observations from visual or computer resources. You will also be given the opportunity to participate in debates. Some work will take place outside the classroom on local and national based fieldwork trips.

**ASSESSMENT:**

At the end of year 11 pupils will complete three external exams.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

After successfully completing this course you could study AS Geography at college. Whether you go on to study Geography at college or not, the wide range of skills that you have learnt will be useful for a number of careers:

Planning, civil service, surveying, travel agency, transport management, H.M Forces, tourist office worker, police force, teaching, personnel departments and market research. There are many more careers which are also linked to Geography.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

You will be successful and enjoy this course if you are interested in people and places and are concerned about environmental, social and economic issues. You will enjoy working with different types of maps and graphs, and making calculations. You will be open minded and be able to empathise with different opinion groups. You must also be able to write in detail in a coherent way. Thorough revision is necessary for you to be successful.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mrs Noden (Head of Humanities).

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (BTEC FIRST)**

**EXAM AND TITLE:** GCSE in Health and Social Care

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

GCSE in Health and Social Care provide a practical, real world approach to learning and develop specific knowledge and skills learners need to work successfully in the care industry.

The course helps to develop initiative and positive communication skills to support people with a diverse range of needs.

Learners will be able to present their work in a variety of ways, including:

* Producing posters and leaflets
* Taking part in role plays and professional discussions
* Witness statements

GCSE in Health and Social Care have opened doors for careers as:

* Health Visitor
* Care Worker
* Youth Worker
* Centre Manager
* Nurse
* Social Worker

**ASSESSMENT**

Assessment will be 60% coursework and 40% written exam. The exam can be taken during year 10 or year 11.

**FURTHER INFORMATION**

Please see Mrs McAvoy if you would like further information.

**EXAMINING BOARD:** Edexcel

**ACCREDITATION:** GCSE

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

History involves the learning and remembering of facts and the development of source analysis skills.

**CONTENT:**

The specification covers the following topics:

* Medicine in Britain c1250 - present including a study of the Western Front in WWI.
* Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-1088.
* The American West, c1835 – 1895
* Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

Each unit will cover a different aspect of history, some in depth and some as a broader overview. Historical skills such as chronology, arguing cause and effect, discussing change and continuity over time, analysing and evaluating sources and discussing different interpretations will all be developed throughout this course.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

History includes much writing, reading and research work using ICT. Lessons are varied including group work, presentations to class, drama, simulations and videos.

**ASSESSMENT:**

There will be three exams for this qualification.

* Paper 1 1hr 15minutes 30%
* Paper 2 1hr 45minutes 40%
* Paper 3 1hr 20minutes 30%

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

History develops skills which are considered valuable in a wide range of careers including the legal professions, civil service, police force, management, teaching and journalism.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

To achieve a higher grade at GCSE, students need to be curious and have the ability to develop opinions backed up with evidence. They should have good reading skills and be capable of extended writing. For pupils below this level, grades 1-4 are available to those who show an interest and enthusiasm for history.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:** Please see Mrs Crouch or Mr Hren.

**GCSE HISTORY**

**OCR Cambridge National ICT**

**Want to know why you should choose ICT or Computer Science as an option?**

**Read on …..**

Our world has changed enormously in recent years. Few industries or commerce sectors remain untouched by the TECHNOLOGY REVOLUTION. Global business and global workforce are everyday realities.

YOU as students today will become the workforce of tomorrow. The new ICT courses will provide you with the skills and knowledge to take advantage of today’s technologies and adapt to those that will come tomorrow.

**The Cambridge Nationals qualification in ICT is here !**

This brand new course is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, now impacts all of our lives. This new Cambridge Nationals in ICT reflects this and provides students with a solid understanding of the subject which they can use in their working lives. Three themes are covered: business information systems, creative and technical. We will study business and creative.

**What you will study during years 9, 10 and 11**

**Unit 2** - You will study coursework based tasks that focus on the use of ICT to create business solutions. The unit will enable you to develop the ICT skills required to operate effectively in a business environment, such as databases, spreadsheets, e-mail

**Unit 5** – In this unit there’s no holding back! You will be able to demonstrate your creative flair by combining multimedia components to plan and design a vibrant, energetic and stimulating website

**Unit 8** – In this unit you will be introduced to computer programming and will learn how to use script language to make a computer do what YOU want it to do!

Computer programs are an essential element of modern living. Without suitable programs most modern devices or systems would not function. How often do you play on computer games or use apps on your phone? In this unit you will look at the range of programming languages and develop, test and evaluate working programs in a language of your choice. Maybe you will be able to program an app of your own that could be the next best seller!

**Unit 1 – Written Exam-** Use all the knowledge you have acquired over 3 years of study to answer exam questions in a written paper to be taken in May / June of your final year.

**How will I be assessed and how will the qualification help me ?**

You must have gained a pass (GCSE C) or above in units 1 and 2 to gain a GCSE in this subject by the end of year 11. The rest is up to you! There is no limit to your creativity; the world of technology is your oyster!

This much improved course will challenge you and prepare you for the technological revolution where you will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary for success in the world of work.

**GCSE MUSIC**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** AQA

**TITLE:** GCSE Music

**ACCREDITATION:**

You will gain the equivalent of one GCSE.

**CONTENT:** The course is split into 3 components:

**Performing Music – 30%**

You will receive instrumental lessons once a week and will be expected to practice in between. During these lessons, you will develop skills on your own instrument as well as ensemble skills that help you perform successfully as part of a group. At the end of the course, you will be expected to perform for a minimum of four minutes, at least one minute of which will be as part of a group.

**Composing Music – 30%**

You will write two different compositions. For one of these you will be given a brief, the other is your own choice. The two compositions must have a total minimum time of three minutes.

**Appraising Music – 40%**

You will learn to use appropriate language to describe how music has been composed to create particular effects. Music is selected from four different areas including Western Classical music 1650-1910; Popular Music (including film music and computer gaming music); Traditional music (including blues, African, Caribbean and Latin music) and Western Classical Tradition post 1910. This is assessed through a listening exam at the end of the course. You will have set works which you will get to know well in order to answer specific questions.

**WHO IS THIS COURSE SUITABLE FOR?**

Anyone with an interest in performing and writing their own music would enjoy this course, particularly those who are interested in performing on front of others as you will be given lots of opportunities to do this. Music is an exciting option that demands enthusiasm and dedication.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mrs Hannaford (Head of Music).

**V Cert PERFORMING ARTS**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** NCFE

**TITLE:** V Cert in Creative Studies: Performance Skills

**ACCREDITATION:**

The V Cert Creative Studies: Performance skills are a qualification equivalent to one GCSE.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

This qualification is designed for learners who may be interested in the performance industry. The focus of the qualification is on the learner’s ability and desire to perform.

This qualification aims to focus on an applied study of the performance skills industry and provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills.

**CONTENT:**

**Unit 01 Developing skills for performance**

This unit provides an opportunity for learners to assess the skills required for their chosen art form and explore the benefits and practicalities of skills development. Learners will understand the importance of rehearsals in the development of their skills.

This unit is internally assessed and comprises 25% of the final grade

**Unit 02 Prepare and perform**

This unit develops the understanding and effectiveness of preparing for, taking part in and evaluating a performance, taking into consideration the needs of the audience.

This unit is externally assessed and comprises 25% of the final grade

**Unit 03 Performance production in practice**

This unit develops the learner’s understanding of the practical and organisational processes that surround the successful staging of a performance. It develops an understanding of the co-operative nature of a production team and enables the learner to get involved in the development process.

This unit is internally assessed and comprises 50% of the final grade

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

Lessons will involve a variety of activities including specialist input, analysing a variety of media, practical workshops (singing, acting, dancing), meetings, independent research, rehearsals and performances.

**ASSESSMENT**

Pupils are graded through evidence submitted in portfolios (rehearsal logs, scripts, videos of rehearsals etc…) and final performances (videos, assessment sheets, participant feedback). A lot of the work is evidenced on Showbie and in folders

Grades which can be achieved are:

Pass

Merit

Distinction

Distinction\*

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

After completing this course you could continue to study Performing Arts at college or use the variety of skills you have learnt in any careers that involve working with other people.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

Enthusiasm is the key! You need to be motivated and organised (as you have to keep a record of everything you do), able to work as a team and committed to some after school rehearsals and theatre trips. All modules involve some elements of performance, so be prepared to display the skills you have learned to others.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Miss Weld-Richards



**GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

What will I learn?

Students are required to:

· develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport to improve performance

· understand how the physiological and psychological state affects performance

· perform effectively in different physical activities by developing skills and techniques and selecting and using tactics, strategies and/or compositional ideas

· develop their ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance

· understand the contribution which physical activity and sport make to health, fitness and well-being

· understand key socio-cultural influences which can affect people’s involvement

How will I be assessed?

Classroom based theory = 60% over 2 external exams as shown in the table below

Practical performance = 30%

Practical performance in three activities as player/performer:

· one of which must be drawn from the approved list of team activities

· one of which must be drawn from the approved list of individual activities

· final practical activity is a free choice from the approved list of sports

-pupils will demonstrate their skills in isolation and in unopposed situations and demonstrate their skills in a formal/competitive situation while under pressure

Personal Exercise Plan (PEP) = 10% assessment

Analysis and evaluation of a performance to bring about personal improvement in physical activity and sport

The physical activities will be marked by the teacher and moderated by Edexcel

**Cambridge National Sports Science Physical Education**

**What do you study?**

 The Sports Studies course looks at topics connected to the different types of sporting and physical activity. This includes how technology has influenced sports participation, applying the principles of training and how diet and nutrition are important for an athlete.

 There are two compulsory units on Injuries in sport and applying the principles of training and two extra units based on technology in sport and diet and nutrition. Much of this course is taught in classrooms with access to laptops or ICT facilities.

 **Why study Sport?**

 For enjoyment! If you like playing sport and you are interested in all aspects of sports preparation and performance – then this will appeal to you.

It develops the knowledge, skills and understanding that underpin many other subjects.

It develops your own health and fitness understanding as well as key skills, especially working to timeframes.

 It provides a progressive route to further study. This vocational course is excellent when thinking about a career in the leisure industry. You can access A-Level PE through this route

 **How is the course assessed?**

Classroom based theory = 25% tested by an externally set exam covering the topic of Injury in Sport

Controlled Assessment = 75% 3 assignments set and marked by your class teacher and moderated by an external examiner

Please note In your options, please choose the “PE/Sport” option. PE staff will place you on the appropriate course.

**Who is responsible for the course?**

 Mr M Tomlinson – Director of Sport

EdexcelGCSE Spanish **-** This new qualification is fully comparable with existing modern language GCSEs and can reward learner performances from grades 1 to 9.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

Pupils throughout the UK are studying Spanish in record numbers. With some 400 million speakers, it is the third most commonly spoken language in the world is an official language on four continents and is widely recognised as being an important language for business. Pupils studying this subject will be well prepared to use the language for practical communication (ideal for those holidaying in Spanish speaking countries) and for use in business contexts (giving our pupils an advantage in the ever changing job market). The qualification would also lend itself for those pupils wishing to continue with further study of the languages. In fact many of the top universities are now insisting on a language GCSE for entry, and encouraging their students to continue with language learning alongside their chosen undergraduate course. Learning one foreign language also makes it easier to learn other foreign languages for business or travel later in life.

**CONTENT:**

Edexcel have modernised and re-launched the GCSE Spanish qualification. The focus of this exciting new course ensures that pupils gain the vital communication skills required to succeed within a more practical context. GCSE Spanish helps you explore a wide range of topics, from celebrations and festivals, through getting by as a tourist in Spain to international campaigns and events. You will learn about Spanish culture through a range of interesting topics which will add to your understanding of the language and country.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

Pupils will use a mixture of textbooks, websites, CD and DVD resources to develop and enhance their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills in Spanish. In addition to this revision sessions take place at lunch and after school.

**ASSESSMENT:**

The qualification is exam based is equally weighted for the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing therefore; you will take four exams worth 25% each in Year 11.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

Language learning develops and enhances essential communication skills that are highly valued in many industries such as the media, law, business, travel and tourism, banking, transport and distribution to name but a few. Furthermore, UK companies are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of employing candidates with foreign language skills if they are to compete in the global economy.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

Pupils looking to pursue careers in business, law, leisure and tourism and/or the media and also pupils who wish to pursue careers where excellent communication skills are required.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mr Conway and Mr Shadwell.

**GCSE Spanish**