

 **Year 9**

 Compulsory Subjects

Options

**2016**

ALL HALLOWS RC

HIGH SCHOOL

March 2016

**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.

In October 2010, the new government announced the concept of the English Baccalaureate (Ebacc). 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 Government has stated that it intends to mark individual students’ future achievements through a certificate.

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

•English (compulsory) •Maths (compulsory)

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

•Modern Foreign Language –Spanish (option)

Currently, students who achieve a grade 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 C or above in a language and history / geography / Computer Science to choose these subjects. (Typically those pupils in English / Maths sets 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**

**Headteacher**

**KEY DATES**

* Year 8 options assembly Friday 18th March
* Distribution of options booklets Wednesday 23rd March
* **Options Fair – for parents and pupils Wednesday 23rd March**

**3.15 pm to 4.15 pm**

* **Deadline for submission of option choices Friday 15th April**
* Follow up pupil interviews 18th – 22nd 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 grades are changing, and your Year 8 child will actually achieve Grades 1 (lowest) to 9 (high). **More information will follow in the Option Pack given out on Wednesday 23rd March 2016.**

**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 8 pupils)

**OPTION BOOKLET 2016**

**CONTENTS**

**Compulsory Subjects**

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

**Options**

* Art and Design (Fine Art) GCSE
* Business GCSE
* Business Enterprise
* Computer Science
* Construction CSkills Level 1
* V.Cert in Level 2 Creative Studies**:** Graphic Design
* Design Technology GCSE
* Food Preparation & Nutrition GCSE
* Geography
* Health and Social Care
* History
* ICT OCR Cambridge National
* Music GCSE
* Performing Arts GCSE
* Physical Education (Sports Science Cambridge National)
* Physical Education GCSE
* Spanish GCSE

**Note**

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

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

**All Hallows RC High School**

**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 if you have any further questions.

**All Hallows RC High School**

**GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**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 comprises

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

The course involves the completion of one Controlled Assessment and two examinations that assess your reading of a wide variety of 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.

**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.

**GCSE Mathematics**

**All Hallows RC High School**

**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 practice skills at home too. A ‘can do / have a go’ attitude is also essential.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mr Grundy (Head of Mathematics).

**All Hallows RC High School**

**GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

EXAMINING BOARD: WJEC Eduqas

TITLE: GCSE in Religious Studies (Specification B)

ACCREDITATION: The full ranges of GCSE grades are available. (1 - 9) The specification is available for teaching from September 2016. The first full GCSE awards for this specification will be made in summer 2018

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. The DfE stipulates six requirements for GCSE Religious Studies. It states that GCSE specifications in Religious Studies must require students to:

• demonstrate knowledge and understanding of two religions;

• demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key sources of wisdom and authority including scripture and/or sacred texts, where appropriate, which support contemporary religious faith;

• understand the influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies;

• understanding significant common and divergent views between and/or within religions and beliefs;

• apply knowledge and understanding in order to analyse questions related to religious beliefs and values;

• construct well-informed and balanced arguments on matters concerned with religious beliefs and values set out in the subject content below.

CONTENT: There are three units of study.

Component 1: Foundational Catholic Theology

Theme 1: This unit requires students to consider religious and non-religious beliefs about the origins and value of the universe and human life. Learners are expected to make relevant references to scripture, other sources of authority and contrasting scientific and/or nonreligious world-views such as those held by Atheists and Humanists.

Theme 2: Good and Evil Through studying this theme, learners consider philosophical questions concerning the origins and nature of good and evil and different religious answers to the problem of evil and suffering. Learners are expected to make relevant references to scripture and other sources of authority.

Component 2: Applied Catholic Theology

This unit requires students to demonstrate an understanding of the influence of religion on individuals, communities and societies. Responses should be supported using appropriate knowledge and understanding of key sources of wisdom and sacred texts; which might include, for instance: the Bible; or extracts from the documents of Vatican II. Learners must be aware how varied interpretations of sources and/or teachings may give rise to diversity within traditions or textual studies on religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world.

Theme 3: Life and Death The compulsory nature of this component ensures that learners know and understand the fact that the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian. This theme requires learners to consider religious beliefs about the nature of life and death. Learners are expected to make relevant references to scripture and other sources of authority.

Theme 4: Sin and Forgiveness

This theme requires learners 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.

Component 3: Study of a World Faith

Component 3 engages learners in a systematic study of living Judaism. Candidates will learn about the beliefs and teachings AND practices of Judaism as a living world faith. There are eight concepts which are to be seen as overarching and central ideas informing the study of Judaism. These should be understood by learners, who should be able to apply them in relation to this world faith. Learners should be aware that Judaism is one of a diverse range of religious traditions and beliefs in Great Britain today, whilst the main religious tradition in Great Britain is Christianity. Learners must know, understand and express common and divergent views and the basis for beliefs, teachings and practices.

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.

ASSESSMENT:

Each unit is assessed by an examination that counts for 100% of the overall mark. Grades are awarded ranging from 1 to 9. All three units are examined in the Summer of year 11

POSSIBLE CAREERS:

Religious Studies GCSE can assist students, whose career ambitions include the caring professions such as nursing, social work, probationary service, teaching and policing. It is particularly useful for the Armed Services, law and sociology.

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 Mrs Harris.

**All Hallows RC High School**

**Combined Science and Separate Science**

**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 B 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.

**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).

**EXAMINING BOARD:** AQA

**TITLE:** **ART AND DESIGN (FINE ART)**

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

**CONTENT:**

60% - Portfolio of work this must include **more** than one project.

40% - Externally set Task. Unlimited preparation time and 10 hours of sustained focused study.

Candidates respond to their chosen starting point

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

Candidates should produce practical and critical/contextual work in one or more area(s) including drawing and painting, mixed media, sculpture, printmaking, lens-based and/or light-based media and photography.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

For the Course a selection of thoughtfully presented work that demonstrates the breadth and depth of the course of study.

The course will consist of **more** than one extended collection of work, or project which demonstrate 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.

Candidates are required to work in **one or more** area(s) of Fine Art, such as those listed below.

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

* **Painting and drawing**
* **Mixed media, including collage and assemblage**
* **Sculpture**
* **Gallery visits**
* **Printmaking**
* **Photography**

**All Hallows RC High School**

**GCSE ART AND DESIGN (FINE ART)**

Some areas of study may also be relevant to other endorsements; within Fine Art, sculpture is usually work created in response to a personal idea, theme or intention. In Three-Dimensional Design, sculpture is usually work designed and created for purpose. Film, animation, video and photography methods within Fine Art are usually used to convey a personal response to an idea, theme or issue.

**ASSESSMENT:**

During Years 10 and 11 you will produce several units (projects) of work supported by sketchbooks. Coursework is worth 60% of your final GCSE grade and is marked out of 80 marks. Towards the end of Year 11 you will sit an externally set task a 10 hour practical examination, for which you are given unlimited prep work time that is 40% of your marks.

You will be expected to support all your work in class by producing self-directed research outside of the classroom environment through the methods of 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 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 (Head of Art).

**GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES**

**All Hallows RC High School**

**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 three externally assessed examinations.

**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

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

You do not need to have studied business before starting the GCSE. 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.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mrs Grannell.

**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 Mrs Grannell.**

**V Cert in Business & Enterprise**

**All Hallows RC High School**

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. We refer to ‘information technology’ when talking about HOW computer systems are developed and used. 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, Hexadecimal conversion; as well as completing a scheme of work based on ‘Scratch’ programming software. 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 Google’s ‘App Inventor’ where you get the experience of building your own app. 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**

**GCSE Computer Science**

**All Hallows RC High School**

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!

**All Hallows RC High School**

**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
* Cut and fix architrave/ skirting
* 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.

**All Hallows RC High School**

**V.Cert in Level 2 Creative Studies: Graphic Design**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** NCFE

**TITLE:** Level 2 in Creative Studies: Art & Design

**ACCREDITATION:** VCERT

**CONTENT:**

Unit 01 Research and investigate sources of ideas in art and design

Unit 02 Explore and use art and design materials and techniques to develop visual language

Unit 03 Produce final art and design work responding to a set brief or theme.

Unit 04 Working as an Artist or Designer in the creative industry

Unit 06 Communicating visually in 3D

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

In this subject, you will develop your creative skills in order to develop ideas for a design brief in order to create a final art and design solutions. You will continue basic skills developed from KS3 Art and Design, and learn new Art skills.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

You will be shown different art and design processes using art materials and techniques.

You will be encouraged to investigate different sources of information and research in order to develop and influence your own ideas from primary and secondary sources. You will demonstrate planning and a range of different design ideas from a choice of themes, recording the process throughout. You will present final design solution, showing appropriate planning and preparation. Possible starting points you might choose might include:

* reflections
* life and death
* urban landscapes
* mechanical
* portraits
* food
* festivals

**ASSESSMENT:**

During Year 9, 10, and 11, you will work on and complete 5 units for an Art and Design Portfolio.

Unit 3 is an externally assessed assignment, whilst the other three units are internally assessed portfolios of evidence.

The grades will be a Pass, Merit or Distinction.

**WHY SHOULD I TAKE THIS COURSE:**

This Art and Design course is the start of a great creative route that can help progress onto fun and exciting creative courses and careers.

There are many careers related to Art and Design, in such fields as advertising, marketing, design, architecture, publishing, and Fashion design. The study of Art and Design 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 Art and Design you can;

* Study Graphic Design at college (A Level Graphic Design, Art and Design, Games Design (Vocational), Art and Design (Vocational), BTEC Games Development, BTEC Graphic Design, AS Graphic Communication, Architecture, Fashion design, A Level Art.
* Get a job or a training place. Employers are looking for creative people who are enthusiastic, imaginative, flexible, positive, and ready to advance and adapt skills acquired.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mrs Evans-Berry

**All Hallows RC High School**

**DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** AQA

**TITLE:** Design & Technology

**ACCREDITATION:**

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

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

In this subject, you will design, manufacture and analyse a full range of contemporary artefacts. During Year 10 you will engage in a number of Design and Make Assignments. These assignments will require you to design and make a product from start to finish. You will use a variety of materials to manufacture products such as garden tools, bird houses and coffee tables/jewellery boxes etc.

**CONTENT:**

* Research and investigative skills
* Different designers
* Drawing and modelling skills
* Designing
* Computer Aided Design and Manufacture
* Product Analysis
* Problem Solving
* Project and Time Planning
* Subject theory work that will include:- design theory, materials theory, production and manufacturing methods, social and economic factors within design and environmental considerations.
* Manufacturing
* Analysing and evaluating your own and existing products.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

Each design project will require you to research, design and manufacture a different product. The design of this product will be your choice. You will be required to justify your design thinking and your design proposals. You will then progress to realize your ideas as a working prototype. Staff will provide as much assistance as possible to ensure that your final product is a high quality item that you can be proud of. Health and Safety within all Design and Technology areas is crucial and you will be expected to work in a mature and safe manner at all times.

**ASSESSMENT:**

Towards the end of Year 10 you will begin a **major project** that is 60% of all available marks. This must be completed by April of your Year 11. Your project will be a design folder that is accompanied by a finished item that you have manufactured. At the end of Year 11 you will sit a two hour examination in this subject. This examination will test your knowledge of the theory work that you will have covered during the two years and it will also test your design skills. This paper carries the remaining 40% of the GCSE marks.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

You could consider a career in product design, graphic design, architecture, engineering or teaching.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

This course is equally suited to girls as it is to boys. If you enjoy designing and making things then you will enjoy Resistant Materials. You will be allowed opportunities to work individually and as a team and the products that you design and make will improve the environment in which you live. Design is about communicating your ideas. Within Graphic Products this can be done not only by sketching and drawing, but also through modelling, discussion and the use of Computer Aided Design.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mrs Blight.

**All Hallows RC High School**

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

**ACCREDITATION:**

This GCSE is untiered (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 FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION**

**GCSE GEOGRAPHY**

**All Hallows RC High School**

**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. The processes and landforms associated with the movement of oceans.
2. The processes and landforms associated with earthquakes and volcanoes.
3. The study of the living world and climates.
4. Why differences exist between different countries of the world in terms of their population, living spaces and how people make a living.
5. The differences in development between countries.
6. Global cities.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

Throughout the lessons you will do a lot of writing, drawing and 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 four 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 must 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).

**All Hallows RC High School**

**EXAM AND TITLE:** BTEC First in Health and Social Care

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

BTEC Firsts 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

BTEC Firsts 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 75% coursework and 25% 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.

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

**All Hallows RC High School**

**All Hallows RC Business, Enterprise & Sports College**

**GCSE HISTORY**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** WJEC Route B

**ACCREDITATION:** GCSE

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

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

**CONTENT:**

The final specification has not yet been decided upon but is likely to include the following topics:

* Germany
* Sport and Leisure or Crime
* Two other options still to be determined

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, 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:**

This is likely to be 4 written exams all of which will be sat at the end of the course. Each exam is likely to be worth 25% of the marks for the course.

**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 a good Level 5 or above at Key Stage 3. They should have good reading skills and be capable of extended writing. For pupils below this level, grades C-G are available to those who show an interest and enthusiasm for history.

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

**All Hallows RC High School**

**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**

**All Hallows RC High School**

**EXAMINING BOARD:** EDEXCEL

**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 describe how music has been composed to create particular effects. Music is selected from four different areas including instrumental music, vocal music, music for stage and screen and fusions (using influences from different cultures) 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. These include Queen: *Killer Queen, Defying Gravity* from *Wicked* and music from *Star Wars*

**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).

**EXAMINING BOARD:** NCFE

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

**ACCREDITATION:**

The V Cert Creative Studies: Performance skills is 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

**V Cert PERFORMING ARTS**

**All Hallows RC High School**

**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 (equivalent to grade C at GCSE)

Merit (equivalent to grade B at GCSE)

Distinction (equivalent to grade A at GCSE)

Distinction\* (equivalent to grade A\* at GCSE)

**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



**EXAMINING BOARD:** Cambridge Exam Board

**TITLE:** Level 2 Sports Studies

**ACCREDITATION:** You will study Level 2 Sports Studies equivalent to 1 GCSE.

**NATURE OF THE SUBJECT:**

This is both a practical and theoretical subject that will help you understand the range of opportunities within the Sports Industry.

**CONTENT:**

You will study 4 units.

* Unit 1 looks at the contemporary issues in sport and participation in sporting activities.
* Unit 2 looks at developing your individual skills and knowledge of rules and tactics in a number of team and individual sports.
* Unit 3 will look at sports leadership, in which you will undertake some National Governing Body leadership and level 1 coaching awards.
* Unit 4 looks at Outdoor activities, developing skills and the knowledge to be able to plan expeditions.

As part of the course, pupils will gain accreditation for the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award, a nationally recognised award.

**NATURE OF THE WORK:**

You will have 1 double lesson for practical activities and 1 single lesson for theory per week. Each term the focus of each lesson will change in order to cover the whole course. Due to the nature of the final unit, pupils will also have some out of school activity days which will require pupils to work beyond the end of the school day.

**ASSESSMENT:**

You will be required to complete a 1 hour written examination at the end of the course as well as being internally assessed through a mixture of practical and written assessment.

**POSSIBLE CAREERS:**

A variety of roles within the sports industry.

**WHO IS SUITABLE FOR THIS COURSE:**

Pupils who are interested in Physical Education, and have a track record of bringing kit and participating in lessons.

**FURTHER INFORMATION:**

Please see Mr Tomlinson or Miss Gresty.

**Cambridge National Sports Science Physical Education**

**All Hallows RC High School**

**GCSE Spanish**

**All Hallows RC High School**

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 Mrs Murphy and Mr Conway