



KEY STAGE 4 CHOICES GUIDE

2018-2020



KS4 CHOICES GUIDE CONTENTS



KEY STAGE 4 CHOICES GUIDE: 2018-20

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The Northumberland Church of England Academy

JOSEPHINE BUTLER CAMPUS

Inspiring achievement
Encouraging compassion

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January 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Let your LIGHT shine in Key Stage 4!

Welcome to our KS4 Choices Booklet for students joining Year 10 at Northumberland Church of England Secondary Academy in September 2018. The choices made at this stage in your child's education are key to their future and I would encourage you to take the time to read this information and to discuss it at home before making the final decisions that will enable your child to let their light shine!

We are extremely ambitious for each student in the Academy, and you will see that the routes through Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) give our students the best chance to excel and to be prepared for moving into the sixth form and beyond. With the significant improvement in student outcomes at Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5, including our long-standing Ofsted-rated "good" sixth form, we expect more of our students to be prepared to access the very best universities and future employment in the country. The routes explored in this booklet will help your child to pursue the very best in further or higher education or work-related apprenticeship and are designed to open as many future opportunities to your child as possible.

This may be the first time that you and your child have had a choice in what your child studies each day at school. This is both exciting and, to some, daunting but the information in this booklet and the conversations that you will have at our Year 9 Consultation Evening will ensure that you make informed decisions that lead to positive experiences and outcomes for your child.

The Academy aims to support you in your choices at this stage, and should you have any questions about the options or the process involved, please contact Mr Rhodes (Assistant Principal) or Mr Barber (Head of Key Stage 4) on 01670 816 111.

Yours faithfully,

Mr S G Gibson

Principal Director: Secondary





Northumberland Church of England Secondary Academy provides a broad and balanced curriculum to meet the needs and aspirations of our pupils. Our curriculum is built around the key elements of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) subjects, with the opportunity for all pupils to achieve the EBacc where appropriate. The curriculum is fundamentally designed to ensure that all pupils achieve a rounded education that prepares them as fully as possible for the next step in their education.

Higher education and the world of work are increasingly competitive. It is important that this options process is taken seriously to ensure that the combination of subjects that your child studies keeps their future options open. The pathways that have been designed for NCEA pupils have been constructed to meet the needs of higher education and employment.

The EBacc

The EBacc was introduced into schools in England by the government in the expectation that the majority of children will work towards GCSEs in five core academic subjects:

English, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography, and French or Spanish

The EBacc is approved by the leading universities, and aims to maintain the broadest opportunities for further study in sixth form and university degree courses for pupils to access. The curriculum structure at NCEA has evolved to meet these government aspirations, and the majority of our pupils will follow an EBacc route. However, we do recognise that the EBacc may not serve the needs of all our pupils, and the pathways take this into account.

Changes ahead!

Please note that details about courses in this booklet are subject to change. We will do our best to ensure that pupils are able to study their chosen subjects, but there may be sound educational reasons for us to ask you to follow a different pathway, or to make changes to your initial choices. Although we have a wide range of courses on offer, it may not be possible for us to run them all. Decisions about which courses can run and which cannot will be based on numbers of pupils choosing them.



NCEA Certificates

There are a number of elements of the Key Stage 4 curriculum that are core provision, but do not lead to external accreditation. However, the full programme of study that pupils follow is valuable for their future, and as such, they will be awarded a NCEA Certificate on successful completion of a core programme. These programmes include Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (PSHCE); Physical Education (PE); and a certificate that recognises the extra-curricular activities that pupils have been involved in.

Religious Studies

Pupils within a Church of England school have an entitlement to study Religious Studies throughout their school life. At Key Stage 4, we have an exciting and engaging programme of Religious Studies that all pupils will follow. Some pupils will be entered for the GCSE Religious Studies programme, depending on their interest and aptitude for the subject, and others will follow the Core RS curriculum, leading to the presentation of the NCEA Certificate in Religious Studies at the end of Year 11.





BLUE PATHWAY

The blue pathway is a route for students who wish to study triple science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology) and/or a full EBacc route. Students will choose which humanity they wish to study (History or Geography) and which language (French or Spanish). They will then have a further free option from the list available.

This combination of subjects provides a broad and balanced curriculum and ensures that no future pathway is closed to your child should they be successful. Students who are successful within this combination will ensure that they are competitive in all future education and employment scenarios.

The red pathway is a route for students who wish to follow an academically demanding route, including achieving the full EBacc. Students on the red pathway will choose which humanity they wish to study (History or Geography) and will be able to choose a language (French or Spanish) to complete the EBacc. They will also make two further option choices from the appropriate lists. This combination of subjects provides a broad and balanced curriculum and is equally competitive to the blue pathway, but without the focus on separate sciences.

RED PATHWAY

YELLOW PATHWAY

The yellow pathway is for pupils who will flourish where their learning is based around a more applied style, and benefit from additional support in achieving their core skills. Places on the yellow pathway are limited, so only those pupils informed will be able to choose the yellow pathway.

PATHWAY OVERVIEW



All students will follow courses in:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science **or** GCSE Triple Sciences
- NCEA Certificate in Religious Studies **or** GCSE Religious Studies
- NCEA Certificate in Core Physical Education
- NCEA Certificate in Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education
- Level 1/2 Certificate in ICT

<p>Choose one of: GCSE Art GCSE Computer Science GCSE Music GCSE PE GCSE Triple Sciences</p>	<p>Choose one of GCSE Art GCSE Computer Science BTEC Hospitality and Catering GCSE Music GCSE PE</p>	<p>Choose one of GCSE Art BTEC Hospitality and Catering</p>
<p>Choose one of: GCSE History GCSE Geography</p>	<p>Choose one of: GCSE History GCSE Geography BTEC Construction Level 1/2 Certificate in ICT</p>	<p>Level 1/2 Certificate in ICT BTEC Construction</p>
<p>Choose one of: GCSE French GCSE Spanish</p>	<p>Choose one of: GCSE French GCSE Spanish BTEC Business GCSE Design GCSE Drama BTEC Health and Social Care BTEC Sport</p>	<p>NCFE Level 1 VCert in Business and Enterprise GCSE Design</p>
<p>Choose one of: GCSE Art BTEC Construction GCSE Food Prep and Nutrition GCSE Geography TECBAC Hair and Beauty GCSE History BTEC Media GCSE Music GCSE PE GCSE Statistics</p>	<p>Choose one of: GCSE Art BTEC Construction GCSE Food Prep and Nutrition GCSE Geography TECBAC Hair and Beauty GCSE History BTEC Media GCSE Music GCSE PE GCSE Statistics</p>	<p>Choose one of: GCSE Art BTEC Construction TECBAC Hair and Beauty</p>

YOUR FUTURE BEYOND SCHOOL



“By far the most important factor employers consider when recruiting school and college leavers is their attitude to work (86%), followed by their aptitude for work (63%) and general academic ability (43%).”

This doesn't mean your qualifications aren't important! It means that employers take it for granted you already have them. So, what more do you have to offer when you are looking for a job, an apprenticeship or even a work experience placement?

What do employers say about young people and jobs?

51% want young people to improve their ability to analyse situations and solve problems

41% want young people to improve their skills of *self-management*

67% are unsatisfied with young people's levels of literacy and numeracy

34% don't believe young people can communicate effectively with others

48% say young people should be more resilient and take responsibility for their actions

66% of businesses value *foreign language skills* in the global business world (CBI/Pearson 2017)

How does this affect me?

The labour market, or world of work, is changing rapidly with more part time jobs, short term contracts and people changing jobs far more often. Employers are very careful about who they give jobs to and want to be sure they have the right person before offering any position.

This means that during your time in Years 10 and 11 you need to think carefully about all the education and training options open to you after you reach 16: almost half the employers contacted in the survey above said they were concerned that young people did not spend enough time researching their options and finding out what they could do after their GCSEs.

Where can I start?

Search the National Careers Service website and have a look at the Job Profiles. Here you will find 800 jobs divided into 23 sectors. Or visit icould.com to check out over a thousand career videos divided by school subject area. Finally, you could go to the careers corner in the Academy Library and have a look at a range of careers books and prospectuses.

A quick guide to four “Areas of Opportunity” in the North East

- Health and Life Sciences (eg medical research, genetics, effects of ageing)
- Manufacturing (eg producing cars, battery technology, pharmaceuticals)
- Digital and Software (eg computer games, cloud technology, cybersecurity, robots)
- Energy (eg offshore and onshore wind turbines, solar, biomass, subsea technology)

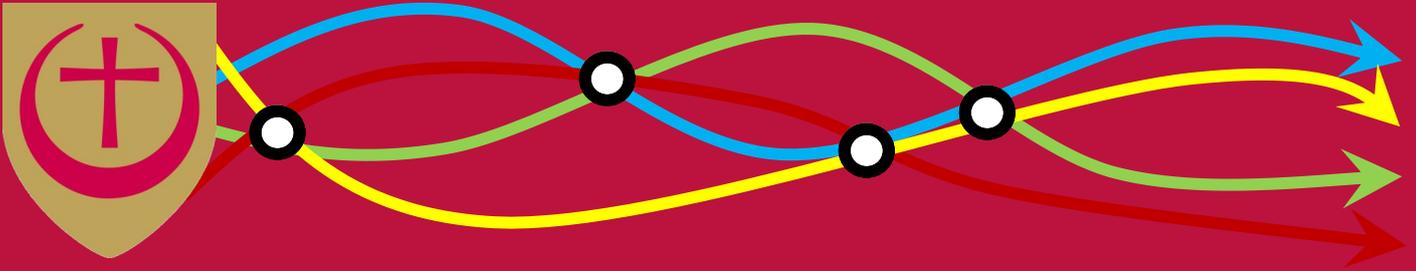


Do:

- Read this choices booklet carefully and consider courses you may wish to study in Years 10 and 11.
- Choose courses you know you will enjoy.
- Choose courses you are interested in.
- Talk to individual subject teachers at the Choices Evening.
- Ask the advice of your subject teachers, your tutor and our careers adviser.
- Discuss this with your parent / carer.
- Think very carefully about the subjects you choose. It is very difficult to change course once you have started.

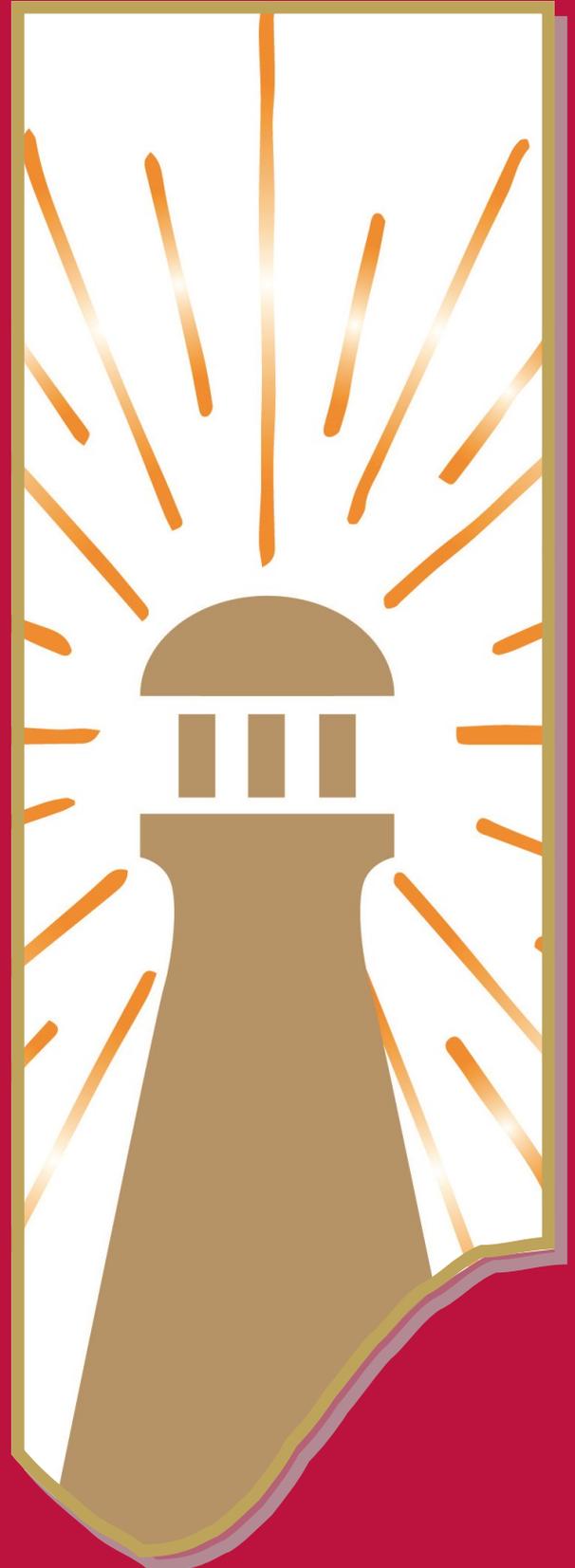
DON'T:

- Choose a course because your friends have.
- Allow either like or dislike of a particular teacher to influence your choices.
- Choose a course because you think it might be easy.
- Make your decisions hastily.
- Drop any subject that you may wish to study after year 11.
- Drop any subject that you may require for entry to a particular career or further study you are interested in.



SUBJECT INFORMATION

Read the information on the next pages carefully. This will show you information about the subjects on offer in Years 10 and 11, and how you will be assessed in each of those subjects. Consider the career you want to move into, and which subjects will help you to do that. Ask any member of staff for more information, we are always happy to help you.





The course

The emphasis in this course is learning by doing, so you'll be able to create imaginative personal work. In the first year you will produce a portfolio of coursework. In the second year you will be able to continue with a chosen area of study and create more in-depth coursework and you will be given an externally-set assignment to create ideas in response to one of the eight exciting starting points you will be given.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work - 60%

Unit 2: Externally Set Task 40%

You will be assessed against four assessment objectives:

- *AO1: Developing their ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.*
- *AO2: Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.*
- *AO3: Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.*
- *AO4: Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.*

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Many students go on to take higher education in art and design, then aim to join the world of advertising as graphic designers, illustrators, typographers or become painters, sculptors, textile designers, fashion designers, photographers to name just a few.

Who to see for more information

Your art teacher or any member of the Creative Arts Faculty



The course

Biology will help you to build up your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. These skills will help you test out new ideas as well as question and investigate other people's theories. Over the whole course you will cover six teaching units with B7 and B8 taught within these modules:

B1 - You and your genes

B2 - Keeping healthy

B3 - Food and ecosystems

B4 - Using food and controlling growth

B5 - The human body

B6 - Life on Earth

B7 - Ideas about science

B8 - Practical Skills

How will I be assessed?

The course has a terminal assessment at the end of year 11 consisting of two examinations: Breadth in Biology and Depth in Biology. You will also be continually assessed over the course with one assessed homework, one synoptic homework and one test per unit as well as one synoptic examination at the end of each term.

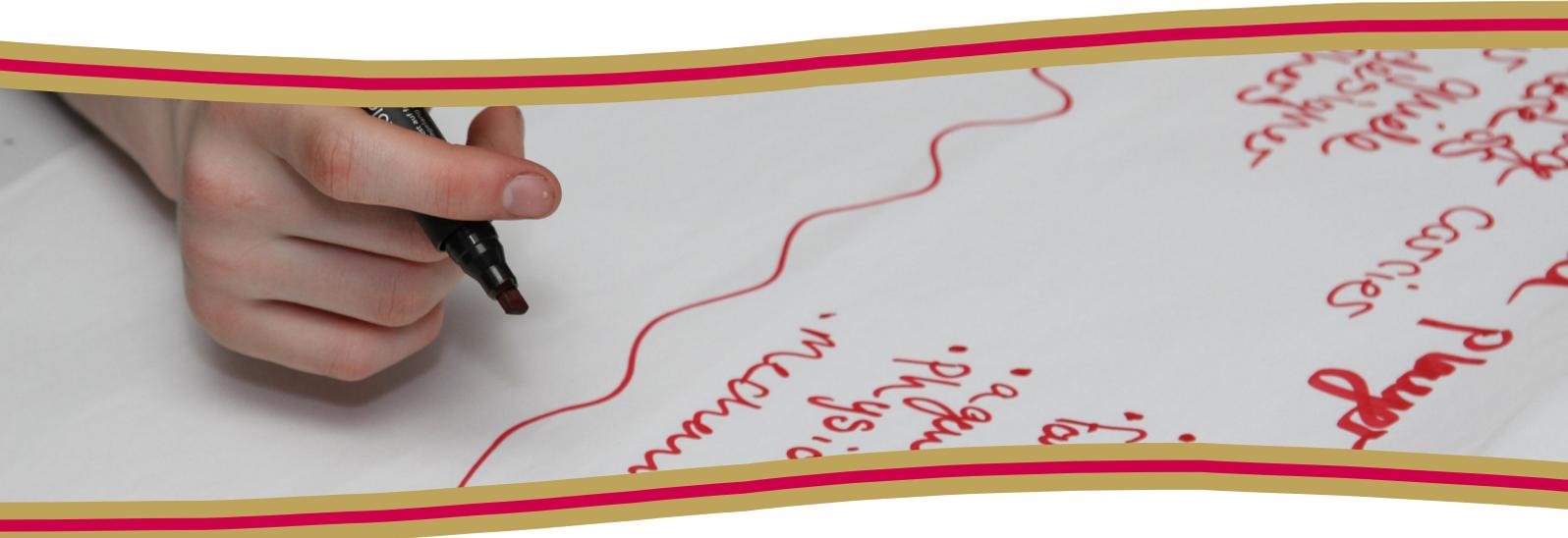
What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

GCSE Biology provides access to the A level biology and the A level science courses in JBVI. Biology is also a key subject for lots of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving plants or animals. This also includes: nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, botany, environmental science, zoology, geology, oceanography, pharmaceuticals, energy, teaching, science writing, genetics and research.

Who to see for more information

Miss Fletcher or one of the Science Team

BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD IN BUSINESS



The course

This course allows you to gain knowledge of the world of Business and Enterprise. Over the course there are four units, comprising two compulsory units:

*Unit 1 Enterprise in the Business World
Unit 2 Finance for Business*

Plus a further two units from the options below:

*Unit 3 Promoting a Brand
Unit 4 Principles of Customer Service
Unit 5 Sales and Personal Selling
Unit 6 Introducing Retail Business
Unit 7 Providing Business Support
Unit 8 Recruitment, Selection and Employment*

How will I be assessed?

The assessment for the course consists of 3 internal assessments – portfolio of evidence. Plus one external assessment for Finance, which is an online exam. You can attempt this three times over the course of the two years.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

The qualification allows access to Level 3 qualifications in JBVI or at college as well as apprenticeships, employment or your own enterprises. The employment opportunities are too vast to mention as this course will assist with any career be that customer service, accounting, retail, administration, construction, health care etc. as all the sectors run as a business.

This course may be subject to change as the national BTEC landscape is changing rapidly. Further information will be supplied when available.

Who to see for more information

Mrs M Barker or Mrs A Coates

LEVEL 1 VCERT IN BUSINESS & ENTERPRISE



The course

This course allows you to gain a vital insight into the world of business and enterprise, at the same time allowing you to develop key employability skills. Over the course there are four units:

Unit 01 Introduction to business and enterprise

Unit 02 Marketing for business and enterprise

Unit 03 Finance for business and enterprise

Unit 04 Plan, develop and participate in a business or enterprise project

How will I be assessed?

*The assessment for the NCFE Level 1 Certificate in Business and Enterprise consists of 4 internal assessments – portfolio of evidence. There are **no** external assessments.*

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

The qualification allows access to Level 2 qualifications in JBVI form or at college as well as apprenticeships, employment or your own enterprises. The employment opportunities are too vast to mention as this course will assist with any career be that customer service, accounting, retail, administration, construction, health care etc. as all the sectors run as a business.

Who to see for more information

Mrs M Barker or Mrs A Coates



The course

Chemistry will help you to build up your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. With these skills you'll be able to test out new ideas as well as question and investigate other people's theories. Over the whole course you will cover six teaching units with C7 and C8 taught within these modules:

- C1 - Air and water*
- C2 - Chemical patterns*
- C3 - Chemicals of the natural environment*
- C4 - Material choices*
- C5 - Chemical analysis*
- C6 - Making useful chemicals*
- C7 - Ideas about science*
- C8 - Practical Skills*

How will I be assessed?

The course has a terminal assessment at the end of year 11 consisting of two examinations Breadth in Chemistry and Depth in Chemistry. You will also be continually assessed over the course with one assessed homework, one synoptic homework and one test per unit as well as one synoptic examination at the end of each term.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

GCSE Chemistry provides access to the A level chemistry course as well as the A level science courses in JBVI. Chemistry is also a key subject for lots of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers, particularly medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. A chemistry qualification opens doors to all sorts of jobs. The food we eat, the clothes we wear and the technology we use all depend on chemistry. Chemists develop new medicines, safeguard our food supply and monitor and protect our environment.

Who to see for more information

Miss Fletcher or one of the Science Team

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE



The course

You will gain a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Providing you with an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming. This course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming.

How will I be assessed?

*One programming project worth 20%.
Two exams taken at the end of Year 11 worth 40% each.*

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

This course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Students who have taken a GCSE in computing and who then progress to study the subject at A level or university will have an advantage over their colleagues who are picking up the subject at these levels. As well as the many computing and ICT related jobs and courses available at present, computing also goes well with many other subjects and has links with many career areas including engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

Who to see for more information

Miss Hart, Mrs Dawson, Miss Miah

BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD IN CONSTRUCTION & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT



The course

This course gives you the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of the construction industry. You will study four units, with three compulsory units:

Unit 1 Construction Technology

Unit 2 Construction and Design

Unit 3 Scientific and Mathematical Applications for Construction

Plus one optional unit selected from:

Unit 6 Exploring Carpentry and Joinery Principles and Techniques

Unit 7 Exploring Brickwork and Blockwork Principles and Techniques

Unit 8 Exploring Painting and Decorating Principles and Techniques

Unit 9 Exploring Plumbing Principles and Techniques

Unit 10 Exploring Electrical Principles and Techniques

How will I be assessed?

Three of the units studied are internal assessments and there is one external assessment based on Unit 1 The Construction Industry. You can have three attempts at this exam.

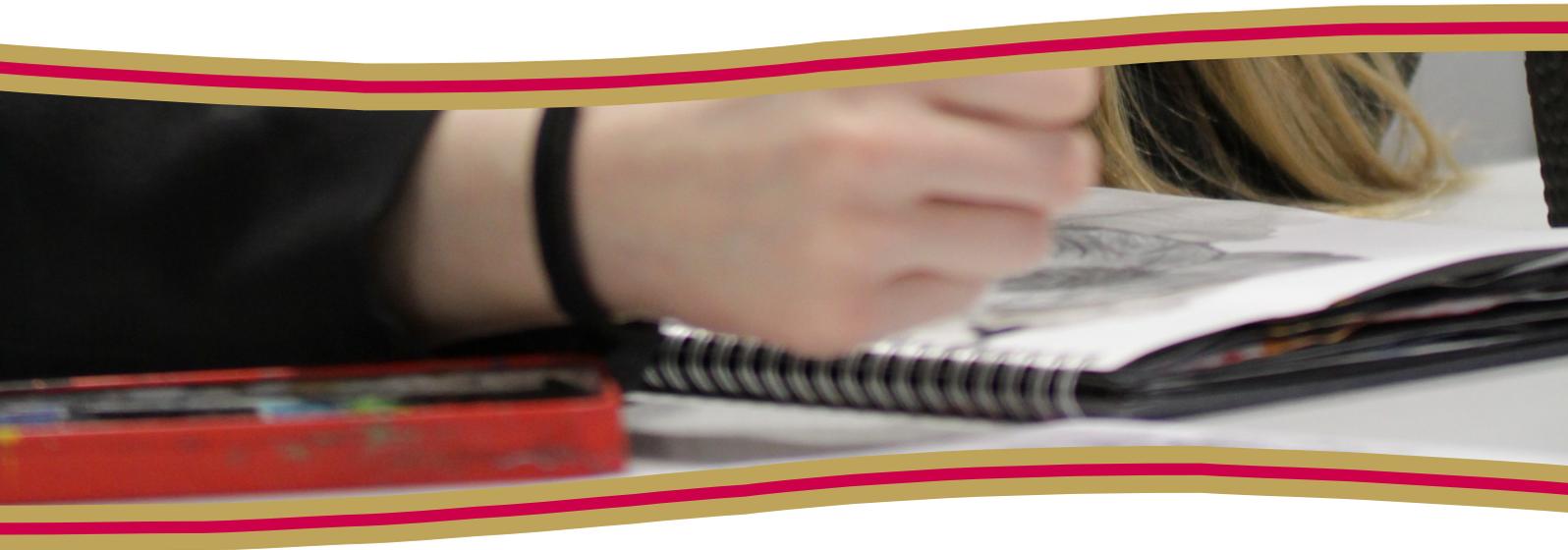
What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

The course is designed to allow you to study Level 3s at JBV form or to enter into an apprenticeship. Alternatively it supports a broad range of careers in the Construction Industry as well as developing your employability skills. Possible careers are Joinery, Plumbing, Brickwork, Electrical or Painting and Decorating to name a few.

This course may be subject to change.

Who to see for more information

Mr D Tarling or Mrs M Barker



The course

The emphasis in this course is learning by doing in 3D, so you'll be able to create imaginative personal work. In the first year you will produce a portfolio of coursework. In the second year you will be able to continue with a chosen area of study focused on 3D Design and create more in-depth coursework and you will be given an externally-set assignment to create ideas in response to one of the eight exciting starting points you will be given.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work - 60%

Unit 2: Externally Set Task 40%

You will be assessed against four assessment objectives:

AO1: *Developing their ideas through investigations informed by contextual and other sources demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.*

AO2: *Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.*

AO3: *Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.*

AO4: *Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.*

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Many students go on to take higher education in art and design, then aim to join the world of architecture or become a sculptor or designer.

Who to see for more information

Your Art teacher or any member of the Creative Arts Team



The course

In Drama you will learn to apply knowledge and understanding when making, performing and responding to drama. You will develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create performance and then reflect on, and evaluate, your own work and that of others.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Understanding drama Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes and worth 40% of GCSE

Component 2: Devising drama (practical) Devising log and performance worth 40% of GCSE

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical) Performance of Extract 1 and Extract 2 worth 20% of GCSE

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

This specification ensures continuity for students progressing from GCSE Drama to AS and A-level Drama and Theatre. Students who go on to AS or A-level are already familiar with studying a whole set text for the written paper. They have built solid foundations in reviewing a live theatre production and in interpreting key extracts.

Who to see for more information

Mr Waterston



The course

English Language is part of your core Key Stage 4 programme of study, meaning that all pupils will study this subject. This course builds on the reading and writing skills taught at Key Stage 3, focusing on a variety of fiction and non fiction extracts. Questions examine the reader's ability how to apply the reading skills of retrieval, evaluation, analysis and deduction.

How will I be assessed?

Two written exams. Paper one assesses the understanding and analysis of fiction texts, alongside descriptive or narrative writing skills. Paper two compares a modern text with a 19th century text, focusing on how the writer's viewpoints are presented

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

This qualification is required by virtually every further and higher education course and the majority of employers look for this as one of the basic skills required to be successful. This qualification can be used for a variety of career paths including teaching, journalism, and speech and language therapy.

Who to see for more information

Miss Wardle or Mrs Chima

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE



The course

English Literature is part of your core Key Stage 4 programme of study, meaning that all pupils will study this subject. This course builds on the texts studied in year 9, focusing specifically on how to analyse a range of literature texts, including poetry 19th century prose, modern drama and Shakespeare.

How will I be assessed?

Two written exams: Paper One Pre 19th Century Prose and Shakespeare; Paper Two Modern drama and Poetry. These exams assess understanding of these texts, characters and themes, as well as the context surrounding the time they were written.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

This qualification is part of your English development, which is key to success in virtually every further and higher education course or job. This qualification can be used for a variety of career paths including teaching, journalism, and speech and language therapy.

Who to see for more information

Miss Wardle or Mrs Chima

GCSE FOOD PREPARATION & NUTRITION



The course

You will learn a range of skills for life including general practical skills, knife skills, cooking methods, preparation of all food groups. Alongside the practical element of the course you will learn about food, nutrition and health. This section of the course looks at food nutrition and functions in the body as well as food allergies and intolerances. Students will learn how to plan meals for different groups of people that have different needs. This is a hands on course with a lot of practical lessons to promote learning.

How will I be assessed?

Component One; written examination paper. One hour and forty five minutes (100 marks). This is 50% of the GCSE qualification.

Component Two; Food investigation task set by the AQA exam board (30 marks). This is 15% of the GCSE qualification.

Component Three; Food preparation task, set by the AQA exam board (70 marks). This is 35% of the GCSE examination.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

There are a number of post 16 courses that this GCSE can lead to, including Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition, Hospitality courses here and at various colleges in the North East. University Degree courses in Food Science and Nutrition. Careers include Sports Nutritionist, chef, hotel manager, public house manager/owner, food developer, nutritionist in the NHS and many more.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Shinkfield

WJEC L1/2 HOSPITALITY AND CATERING



The course

The hospitality and catering sector includes all businesses that provide food, beverages and/or accommodation services. This includes restaurants, hotels, pubs and bars. It also includes airlines, tourist attractions, hospitals and sports venues; businesses where hospitality and catering is not their primary service but is increasingly important to their success. According to the British Hospitality Association, hospitality and catering is Britain's fourth largest industry and accounts for around 10% of the total workforce. Since 2010, over 25% of all new jobs have been within the hospitality and catering sector with the majority of new roles falling within the 18-24 age group.

How will I be assessed?

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is made up of two mandatory units

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

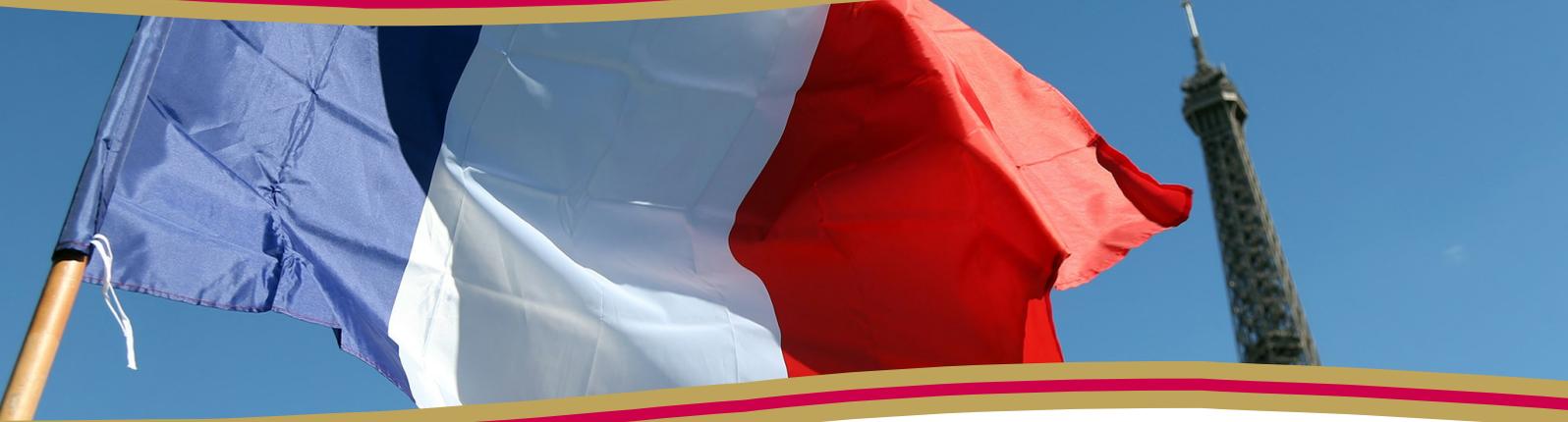
Pupils will complete both units.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Successful completion of this qualification could support entry to qualifications that develop specific skills for work in hospitality and catering. The career choice and further study and training options are wide ranging.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Shinkfield



The course

Pupils study three themes over the two years: identity and culture, local and international issues, education and careers. The themes allow you to learn more about the French speaking world whilst developing your linguistic skills. The AQA French course is divided into five key skills areas: speaking, listening, reading, writing and translation.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the course pupils will complete four examinations: listening, reading, speaking, writing and translation. Each paper is worth 25% of your final grade. The final speaking examination will be a 1:1 style interview with your teacher, however, you will be assessed throughout the two years both individually and in groups.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

A GCSE in modern foreign languages is an academic subject which counts towards the English Baccalaureate. With competition for university places at an all time high, many courses are asking that applicants have a GCSE in MFL which could be a factor in your gaining a place on your preferred course. Today's global economy means that businesses and corporations all over the world are keen to recruit people with language skills. Young people with language skills are finding opportunities in industries such as tourism, government, marketing, IT, journalism, engineering and the financial services.

Who to see for more information

Mr Shaw



The course

In year 10 we study three physical geography units; The challenge of natural hazards, The living world and Physical landscapes. The content of these ranges from looking at how hurricanes form to the diversity of life in the rainforest. The year 11 content is based around human geography and the three units are Urban issues and challenges, The changing economic world and The challenge of resource management. These topics cover how cities change over time, why industry has 'gone global' and why access to food, water and energy is not equal. In addition to this, we look at key fieldwork skills, which can be applied to a number of other subject areas. There are two fieldwork opportunities: one to the River Wansbeck, and one to Newcastle city centre. These underpin the fieldwork and geographical skills unit.

How will I be assessed?

Three exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. Unit 1 and 2 (the physical and human geography papers) are both worth 35%. The skills paper makes up the final 30%.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Geography can be studied further at A level or university. Geography prepares students so well for future careers that there is no such thing as a geographical job but simply jobs that geographers do. Geography graduates are less likely to be unemployed than any other subject demonstrating how useful the skills and knowledge are in preparation for the world of work.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Carter, Mrs Micheson, Miss Atkinson

TECBAC L2 HAIRDRESSING AND BEAUTY



The course

The course consists of the following 4 units, hands on, 1 unit exam, relating to hair/beauty environment: health and safety, consultation, shampoo/condition, promote products, dressing the hair, theme work, colouring, reception, hair up, make-up, nails. Work is salon based with a variety of both 50% practical & 50% theory activities.

How will I be assessed?

A combination of practical assessments and a variety of coursework. Course involves: practical skills working on both dummy heads and live clients.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

This qualification can provide and support you to work towards diploma level 2, NVQ level 2, then onto level 3. It also offers an opportunity for students to enter employment within the sector in a technical role. It has also led to a large proportion of learners going on to apprenticeships and salon owners.

Who to see for more information

Miss Dougall



The course

In History, you will learn over a thousand years worth of history covering a range of topics, concepts and location while learning all of the essential historical skills. We study four historical periods:

Paper 1: Medicine in Britain 1250-present with surgery and treatment on the Western Front 1914-18, which tests change over time, significance and source analysis skills.

Paper 2: Spain and the New World, 1490-1555 with Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 which tests cause and consequence skills.

Paper 3: The USA 1945-75, Home and abroad: Civil Rights in the USA and the Vietnam War which test source analysis and interpretations skills.

How will I be assessed?

*All papers are examined at the end of Year 11 from the Edexcel exam board:
Paper 1 is worth 30%; Paper 2 is worth 40% and Paper 3 is worth 30%*

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

A great number of our learners continue to take history at A level and university. History is an academic subject which provides an excellent step into a career that requires problem solving skills, good written and oral skills and detecting and analysing evidence. Many careers welcome the trained mind that history encourages such as Law based professions, research careers, the police force and teaching are all possible with history qualifications.

Who to see for more information

Your history teacher or Mrs Carter.

L1/L2 CERTIFICATE IN ICT



The course

This course will cover the key concepts of computing, its practical applications and their use in the workplace and society. Over the two year course you will study core IT applications which are used in many businesses around the world. These include; Word processing, Spreadsheet software, Presentation software and improving productivity using IT.

How will I be assessed?

This will be a combination of classwork and exams

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Many jobs in business and commerce require basic IT competence. This qualification will allow you to meet the needs of both employers and further educational establishments. Some of the jobs that include ICT:

Engineer - to solve physical problems such as how to build a bridge or design an airplane.

Business owner - to calculate cost, revenue and margin of profit.

Video Game Developer - computers are used in every single activity.

Desktop Publisher - they are responsible for combining printed material to prepare publications.

Nursing - computers are used to analyse patient information.

And many more....

Who to see for more information

Miss Hart or a member of the ICT Team



The course

Mathematics is part of your core Key Stage 4 programme of study, meaning that all pupils will study this subject. In mathematics, students will follow individual pathways covering the new AQA syllabus to enable them to make the best possible progress and to achieve their target grades at the end of year 11. This course will provide a broad curriculum which will meet and challenge the aptitudes and abilities of each learner. Each pathway will concentrate on the mathematical knowledge and applications which are most accessible and relevant.

The range of maths is broad but the content is organised into the following areas: Number; Algebra; Ratio, proportion-and-rates-of-change; Geometry and Measures; Statistics; Probability.

How will I be assessed?

The scheme of assessment is linear, with three question papers to be taken at the end of year 11, two of them calculator papers. There is a big focus on logical thinking, application of knowledge and problem solving.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Maths can take you almost anywhere! From computer game design to economics and accounting, via engineering, internet security and software development. Employers look for young people who can think logically, solve problems and make well-thought-out decisions; all skills learned studying maths.

Who to see for more information

Mr Butler or any maths teacher



The course

BTEC Firsts in Creative Digital Media Production can help you take your first steps towards a career in the digital industry. You'll learn essential skills such as planning and pitching a digital media product, digital publishing and producing digital video, audio and games.

You will study a range of core and optional units, topics include:

- *The creative media sector*
- *Communication techniques for the creative media*
- *Introduction to media audiences and products*
- *Research for creative media production*
- *Advertising production*
- *Print production*
- *Video production*
- *Creative media production project*
- *Factual production for the creative media*

How will I be assessed?

The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Award in Creative Digital Media Production includes one externally assessed unit in the core. The remaining units are internally assessed. Internal assessment enables you to receive feedback on your progress throughout the course as you gather and provide evidence towards meeting the unit assessment criteria.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

This course may enable you to pursue a career in the media or progress you onto the Extended Diploma courses.

Who to see for more information

Your art teacher or any member of the Creative Arts Team



The course

During the two year GCSE course your learning is split into three components - Performance, Composing and Appraisal. There are 8 set works in four areas of study:

**Instrumental music 1700-1820, Vocal Music,
Music for Stage and Screen, Fusions.**

How will I be assessed?

Performance - 30% (externally assessed, but recorded in school and marked by your teachers)

Students have to perform at least two pieces, one of which must be part of an ensemble. The combined minimum time is 4 minutes. You will have lots of practice recitals etc before, during the course, and will work closely with your classroom and instrumental teachers to get you ready!

Composing - 30% (externally assessed, but marked by your teachers)

Students need to compose at least two pieces, one in response to a set brief and one free choice. The combined minimum time for both pieces is 3 minutes.

Appraisal - 40% (externally assessed - exam).

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Students who study GCSE Music are viewed as creative, confident and successful people who are highly sort after for jobs ranging in a variety of career paths; both within the music industry and beyond it. Opting for Music GCSE at KS4 provides you with a good progression route to more advanced qualifications at KS5 including BTEC L3 Performing Arts; BTEC L3 Music. Beyond KS5 you can then study at Degree level, any Music related subject such as BA (Hons) Music, BSc (Hons) Sound Engineering, BA (Hons) Music Journalism and BSc (Hons) Music for Film Television and Games in addition to a whole host more.

Who to see for more information

Mr Thompson

CORE PERSONAL, SOCIAL, HEALTH AND CAREERS EDUCATION



The course

PSHCE is part of your core Key Stage 4 programme of study, meaning that all pupils will study this subject. Pupils have one lesson per fortnight of PSHCE. The emphasis of this course is to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes that students need to keep themselves healthy and safe, and prepare for life and work in modern Britain.

Students should develop skills and attributes such as resilience, self-esteem and risk-management. Citizenship provides students with knowledge, skills and understanding to prepare them to play a full and active part in society. They will build an awareness in understanding of democracy, government and how laws are made and upheld. Students will explore political and social issues critically, weigh up evidence and debate to make reasoned arguments.

PSHCE is based around three core themes: health and wellbeing, relationships and living in the wider world (including economic well-being and aspects of careers education).

How will I be assessed?

This is not an assessed subject, however students will be expected to make progress within topics that could last for one lesson or span over a period four.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Students can talk about the skills that they gain and give examples of working in groups within the lesson especially around some tricky scenarios. Employers and people from higher education will know that citizenship is designed to prepare students to take their place in society as responsible citizens.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Freeman

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION



The course

Through a variety of classroom based and practical sessions, students will:

- Develop 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*
- Develop ability to analyse and evaluate to improve performance*
- Understand key socio-cultural influences which affect people's involvement*

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE course is assessed over four components.

Component 1 & 2: Applied Anatomy and Physiology & Physical Training. Externally assessed through a written examination paper of 1 hour. This will contribute a maximum of 30% towards your total mark.

Component 3,4 & 5: Socio-cultural influences, sport psychology and health fitness and well-being. This will be externally assessed through a written examination paper of 1 hour. This will contribute to 30% towards your total mark

*Component 3: Practical activity assessment. Choice of 3 sports: either two individual and one team **or** two team and one individual. This will equate to 30% of the final grade.*

Component 4: Evaluating and Analysing Performance (AEP) in one of the chosen activities and will include planning, performing and evaluating. This will contribute a maximum of 10% towards your total mark.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

This qualification will allow the following progression: Sixth Form - A level sport or level 3 BTEC sport. Higher education: sports science; leisure management; sports coaching; teaching. Careers: coach; leisure manager; teacher; physiotherapist; sports psychologist.

Who to see for more information

Miss Naunton, Mr Hunter, Mr Blight



The course

PE is part of your core programme of study during KS4, which means that all pupils follow this course. During PE in Year 10 you will further develop your knowledge and skills in a range of different sports. Some of those sports will have been introduced to you during Key Stage 3, others will be different. In Year 11 we move to an option process where you can choose from a set selection of activities, which you would like to participate in.

How will I be assessed?

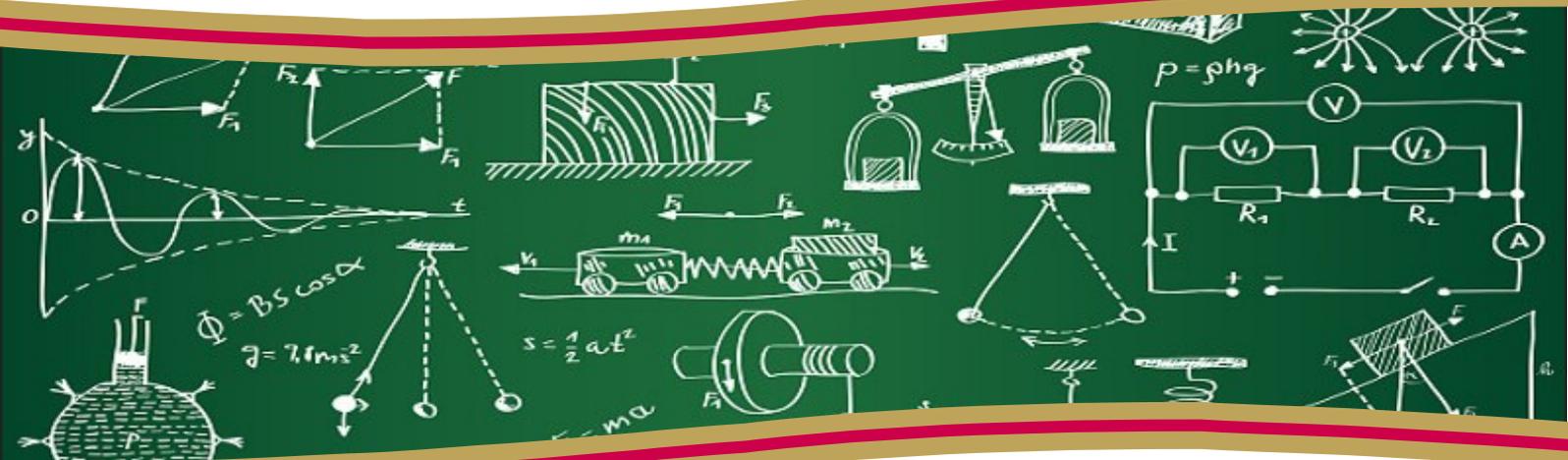
You will be assessed in each of the sports that you take part in, where you will be given advice on what you need to do to further improve your knowledge, understanding and performance.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Studying core PE will give you an insight into what potential career opportunities are available in the sporting community. We discuss recent development of sports provision in the local area, and also give advice on where you could go to participate externally in competitive sports or fitness provision.

Who to see for more information

Any member of the PE Team



The course

Physics will help you to build up your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. With these skills you'll be able to test out new ideas plus question and investigate other people's theories, which is useful for any kind of job that involves research or debate. Over the whole course you will cover six teaching units with P7 and P8 taught within these modules:

- P1 - Radiation and waves
- P2 - Sustainable energy
- P3 - Electric circuits
- P4 - Explaining motion
- P5 - Radioactive materials
- P6 - Matter, models and explanations
- P7 - Ideas about science
- P8 - Practical Skills

How will I be assessed?

The course has a terminal assessment at the end of year 11, consisting of two examinations Breadth in Physics and Depth in Physics. You will also be continually assessed over the course with one assessed homework, one synoptic homework and one test per unit as well as one synoptic examination at the end of each term.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

GCSE Physics provides access to the A level physics and the A level science courses in JBVI. Physics is also a key subject for lots of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers, particularly in engineering. A physics qualification opens the doors to all sorts of jobs and courses. All the technology that surrounds us is based on the principles of physics, so if you are considering working in any area related to technology from music to medicine, or lasers to law – studying physics is an essential first step.

Who to see for more information

Miss Fletcher or one of the science team

CORE AND GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES



The course

The course involves a study of current moral and ethical issues which run through modern society and are of relevance to all; those with and without any faith.

Subjects include:

Crime and Punishment

War, Peace and Human Rights - Terrorism

Poverty and Human Trafficking

Views about the Created world: including the study of Science

Animal Rights

Abortion

Euthanasia

Prejudice and Discrimination

Early Life

Media and The World

Miscarriages of Justice

The topics are discussed with reference to key religious teachings from both Christianity and one other World Religion

How will I be assessed?

There are two examinations which take place at the end of the two year course .

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

Students who take the subject very often have a wide ranging interest in current affairs which impact upon journalism, Health and Social studies, travel and tourism, English literature and other languages. Students often use the critical skills they gain within the subject to help them in securing places at University which are now valuing RS as a platform for wider study and cultural awareness.

Who to see for more information

Mr Rowe

GCSE SCIENCE (COMBINED)



The course

Science is a double award GCSE. Studying science will help you to build up your problem solving, research, and analytical skills. With these skills you'll be able to test out new ideas plus question and investigate other people's theories, which is useful for any kind of job that involves research or debate. Over the whole course you will cover six units in each of the three areas of science: biology; chemistry and physics with unit 7s and 8s taught within these modules:

B1 You and your genes

B2 Keeping healthy

B3 Food and ecosystems

B4 Food and growth

B5 The human body

B6 Life on earth

C1 Air and water

C2 Chemical patterns

C3 Chemicals of environment

C4 Material choices

C5 Chemical analysis

C6 Making useful chemicals

P1 Radiation and waves

P2 Sustainable energy

P3 Electric circuits

P4 Explaining motion

P5 Radioactive materials

P6 Matter, models and explanations.

B/C/P7 Ideas about science

B/C/P8 Practical skills

How will I be assessed?

The course has a terminal assessment at the end of year 11 which will cover four examinations: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Combined Science. You will however be continually assessed over the course with one assessed homework, one synoptic homework and one test per unit as well as synoptic examinations at the end of each term.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

GCSE Science provides access to the A level science courses in JBVI. It is a key subject for lots of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers, particularly in healthcare, medicine and jobs involving GCSE qualifications. Science can lead to many, diverse careers, including nursing, dentistry, forensic science, psychology, physiotherapy, environmental science, zoology, geology, teaching, and research based jobs.

Who to see for more information

Miss Fletcher or one of the science team



The course

Students study three themes over the two years: Identity and Culture, Local and International Issues, Education and Careers. The themes allow you to learn more about the Spanish speaking world whilst developing your linguistic skills. The AQA Spanish course is divided into five key skill areas: speaking, listening, reading, writing & translation.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the course students will complete four examinations: listening, reading, speaking, writing & translation. Each paper is worth 25% of your final grade. The final speaking examination will be a 1:1 style interview with your teacher, however you will be assessed throughout the two years both individually and in groups.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

A GCSE in modern foreign languages is an academic subject which counts towards the English Baccalaureate. With competition for university places at an all-time high, many courses are asking that applicants have a GCSE in MFL which could be a factor in you gaining a place on your preferred course. Today's global economy means that businesses and corporations all over the world are keen to recruit people with language skills. Young people with language skills are finding opportunities in industries such as tourism, government, marketing, IT, journalism, engineering and the financial services.

Who to see for more information

Mr Shaw



The course

*This option is equivalent to one GCSE. The new BTEC Firsts are a level 2 qualification, graded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction *. The Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First Award in Sport has been developed in order to:*

- Encourage personal development through practical participation and performance in a range of sports and exercise activities*
- Give learners a wider understanding and appreciation of health-related fitness, sports and exercise through selection of optional specialist units*
- Give full-time learners the opportunity to enter employment in the sport and active leisure*
- Give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.*

How will I be assessed?

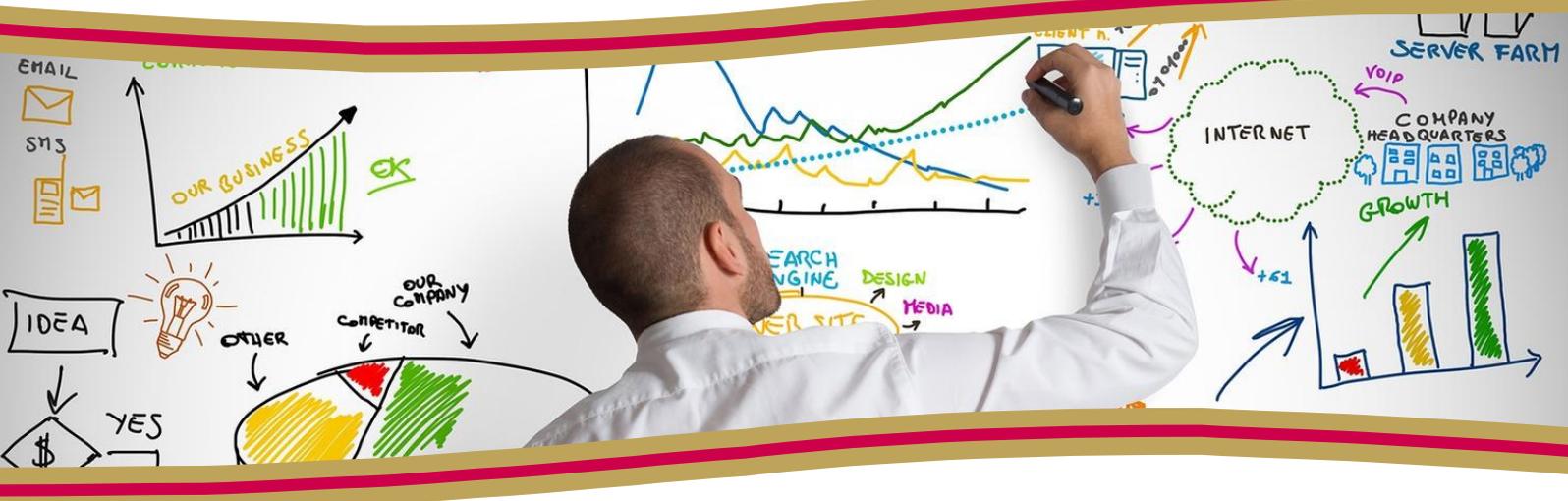
Students will study and be assessed in four different modules with each module being worth 25% of the final grade.

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

This qualification will allow the following progression: Sixth Form - A level sport, on achievement of a distinction grade, or level 3 BTEC sport. Higher education: sports science; leisure management; sports coaching; teaching. Careers: coach; leisure manager; teacher; physiotherapist; sports psychologist.

Who to see for more information

Mr Barber, Mr Blight, Miss Davis



The course

GCSE Statistics builds on the statistical elements of the maths GCSE. You will develop your statistical analysis skills and deepen your understanding of the basics of statistics, which cover:

- *an understanding of statistics in everyday life*
- *the ability to carry out enquiries confidently and skilfully*
- *the ability to apply knowledge successfully in different contexts*

- *data presentation and evidence-gathering skills.*

How will I be assessed?

25% Controlled assessment

75% Terminal exam

What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

GCSE Statistics helps students develop a knowledge and understanding of:

- *statistical thinking and practice*
- *how to use statistics in the real world.*

This specification enables students to acquire transferable skills and knowledge which enhance their career opportunities. It is particularly suitable for students who wish to progress to a range of A-level subjects outside Maths, including A-level Sciences, Geography and Business Studies.

Who to see for more information

Mr Butler

