

NCEA DUKE'S
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM AND OPTIONS BOOKLET

2026





NCEA DUKE'S
SECONDARY
SCHOOL

KEY STAGE 4 CHOICES GUIDE

KS4 Options Block

Duke's KS4 Curriculum

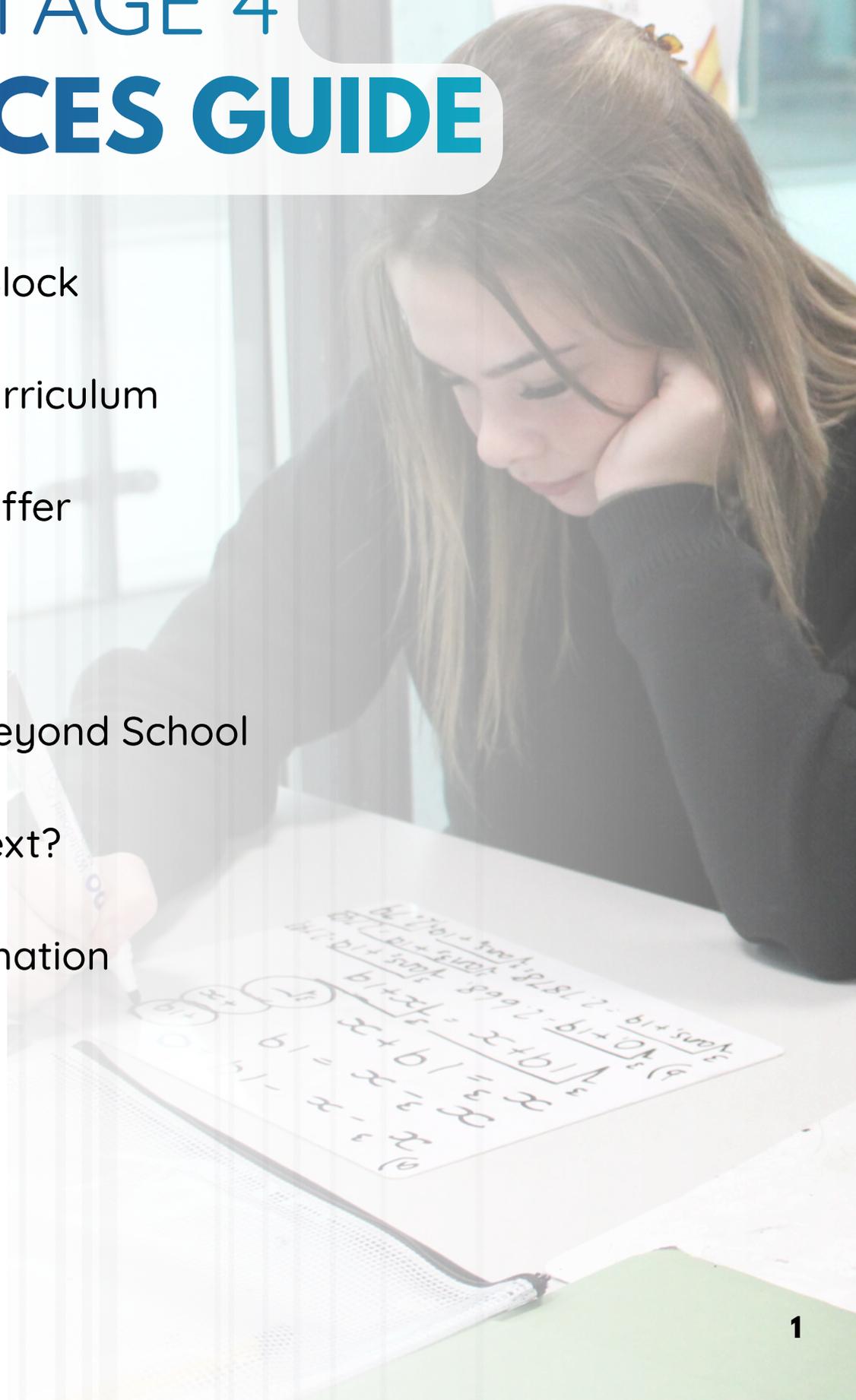
Duke's Core Offer

KS4 Science

Your Future Beyond School

What to do next?

Subject Information





Duke's Secondary School

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Northumberland NE63 9FZ
Telephone: 01670 816111

admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Principal: Mr R Atkinson

4 March 2026

Dear Parent/Carer

Let your LIGHT shine in Key Stage 4!

Welcome to our KS4 Choices Booklet for students joining Year 10 at Duke's Secondary School in September 2026. 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 at Duke's and we know that they all have individual aspirations and hopes for the future. With this in mind, we have developed our options process to give our pupils a wide variety of choice at Key Stage 4 so that they have the best chance to excel and to be prepared for moving into their post-16 destination of choice. We have strong aspirations for our students and have developed our Key Stage 4 curriculum to help your child to pursue the very best in further or higher education or work-related apprenticeships and to open as many future opportunities 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 Parents' Evening, and in options interviews will ensure that you make informed decisions that lead to positive experiences and outcomes for your child.

Duke's Secondary School 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 Miss Platten (Head of Year 9), Mr Taylor (Keystage 4 Lead) or Mr Line (Deputy Principal) on 01670 816 111.

For information, advice and guidance about how your GCSE options can support your child's future, please contact our school Careers Adviser, Miss Cain.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Mr Line', written in a cursive style.

Mr Line

KS4 OPTIONS BLOCKS

All pupils will study the subjects in this column	Option Block 1 Open Option (Students on the Vocational Route should choose Photography. Students taking Dual Science can make a choice from any subject other than Triple Science)	Option Block 2 Open Option (Students on the Vocational Route make a choice from the blue subjects. All other students choose one subject from this column)	Option Block 3 Open Option (Students on the Vocational Route choose Hospitality. All other students choose one subject from this column)	
GCSE English Literature	GCSE Photography	BTEC Sport	WJEC Hospitality and Catering	Vocational Route
GCSE English Language		Cambridge National iMedia		
GCSE Maths	Triple Science	BTEC Business Enterprise	Cambridge National ICT	Open Choices
GCSE Dual Science	GCSE Geography	GCSE Art	BTEC Sport	
CORE PE	GCSE History	GCSE History	BTEC Travel & Tourism	
PSHE		GCSE French	GCSE Art	
RE		GCSE Music	GCSE Geography	
	14-16 Engineering Skills Academy			Joint Pathways
	14-16 Construction & Housing Academy			

All of our students will be taking at least 8 GCSEs as per government guidance. They will all study Maths, English Language, English Literature and either Dual or Triple Science. Students taking Dual Science will take one option from each of the three option blocks while those taking Triple Science will just take choices from Block 2 and 3. Students will be informed of which Science they will be taking prior to the Y9 Parent and Option evening so that they are fully aware of which opinion choices they should take. All students will also complete core studies in RS, PE and PSHE.

Some students will be advised to follow our Vocational Pathway as these are the courses and qualifications that will give them the best chance of success. Students will be informed if they should pick this pathway prior to the parents' evening. Should students wish to follow the Ebacc route then they should choose either History or Geography and French as two of their choices.

Students should only choose one subject from each of the blocks recorded above. Students can not take the same subject more than once. They should also choose a reserve choice for each block which may be used if any of the courses become oversubscribed.

For 2026 we are excited to offer both an engineering pathway and a construction and housing pathway delivered jointly by Duke's and Northumberland College. If students wish to follow either of these routes then they should pick this as their only choice. Please see the individual subject pages in this booklet for more information on these courses.

Options Timeline

Options Timeline

- Year 9 Parents evening – Wednesday 4th March
- Optional pupil/parent discussion - Wednesday 18th March
- Deadline for option forms—Monday 27th March
- Pupils notified of options choices— June.

** These dates may be subject to change.

DUKE'S KS4 CURRICULUM

Duke's Secondary School provides a broad and balanced curriculum to meet the needs and aspirations of our pupils. Our curriculum is built around a group of core academic subjects, which give the foundation for building a more personalised curriculum of creative and vocational subjects on. Our options blocks give the opportunity for all pupils to achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc) should they wish to do so, but we recognise that this is not the most appropriate model for all children. Our 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.

What is the Vocational Pathway?

For 2026 we have designed this pathway to support a number of students achieve the maximum number of qualifications at the best possible grades. Students taking this pathway will all take GCSE Photography and WJEC Hospitality and Catering and then will have a choice between BTEC Sport and Cambridge National iMedia as their third option. All of these subjects have very high pass rates, maximising the students chances of success.

What is 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 the five core academic subjects that give the widest range of future further study and career opportunities. These subjects are: English, Mathematics, Science, History or Geography, and a language (French).

The curriculum structure at Duke's ensures that those pupils who may enjoy or benefit from studying the EBacc can do so, and therefore meet these government aspirations. However, the EBacc will not serve the needs of all our pupils, and our options blocks also allow pupils to follow a programme of study that involves a broader spectrum of subjects.

***Please note** - Students who, in the future, may be considering progressing onto A-Levels and university study or higher apprenticeships should seriously consider taking the EBacc pathway.

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 consider another route, 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.

DUKE'S CORE SUBJECTS

Duke's Core Subjects

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 Personal Development, and includes Religious Studies (RS); Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (PSHE) and Physical Education(PE). Information about all of these courses can be found below.

Religious Studies

Pupils within a Church of England school have a statutory requirement to study Religious Studies throughout their school life. All students at Duke's will study RS for the 2 years of their GCSE studies and the course will provide a thorough understanding of religious and ethical issues that are relevant to the society in which our students live. All will have the option of this course leading to a GCSE qualification at the end of year 11.

Personal, Social, Health and Careers Education (PSHE)

Our PSHE programme is designed to help our young people make informed choices to support them to take a confident place in society. It contains elements from the statutory RSHE (relationship, sex and health education) curriculum and allows for reflection, discussion and collaboration. Topics include: Preparing for your Future and being able to make informed choices to be safe and to not break the law; looking at global issues; Relationships and Sex Education; Future Finances; and Health and Support.

KS4 SCIENCE AT DUKE'S

Studying Science at Key Stage 4

All pupils study science at Key Stage 4. The preparation work undertaken at Key Stage 3 prepares all pupils to be ready to move into their new science curriculum in Year 10.

In previous years all of our pupils have taken Triple Science which focuses on the teaching of the 3 individual disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and leads to the award of 3 individual GCSE grades. For a number of our students this is still the right pathway to follow as it supports progression onto specific Science, Technology, Maths and Engineering (STEM) based further education, higher education, apprenticeship or employment based destinations. For some of our students however, the study of all 3 Sciences may not be necessary and the taking of an additional GCSE option may be more appropriate. In this case students will study Dual Award Science which still covers aspects of all 3 individual sciences but in a reduced amount of curriculum time. The Dual qualification will lead to the award of 2 GCSEs and will still allow students to progress onto STEM based destinations should that be their preference.

Students taking Dual Award Science will take an additional GCSE option in option block1. In order to determine which students will take which Science pathway we will be using their scores from the CAT4 tests taken in year 7 which provide a GCSE prediction. Students will be informed about which pathway will suit them best prior to the Year 9 Parents' and Options evening.

YOUR FUTURE BEYOND SCHOOL

What do employers say about young people and jobs?

The three most important factors employers weigh up when recruiting school and college leavers are:

1. Literacy and numeracy (70% of employers)
2. Broader skills ie listening, presenting and problem solving (60% of employers)
3. Academic results and qualifications (50% of employers)

This does not mean qualifications are not important, just that everybody has them so you need to offer something else to employers.

Other 'essential capabilities' employers want young people to have are aptitude and readiness for work, work experience, digital and IT skills.(CBI/Pearson 2018:28,000 organisations surveyed)

How does this affect me?

The world of work is changing rapidly with more part time jobs, short term contracts and people changing jobs far more often. This means people need 'career management skills' to ensure they make the right decisions along the way. You must consider your options carefully as you progress through Years 10 and 11 and follow the learning route that is right for you (not your friends!) You also need to think beyond your qualifications: how can you use your evenings, weekends and holiday time to develop the skills and experience that todays employers want from you?

Where can I start?

In addition to your teachers, tutors and head of Year, you are also able to see the school Careers Adviser whenever you would like to discuss you potential career path. Parents and carers are welcome to attend the appointments which can be arranged through Miss Cain and Mrs Towers.

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)

Useful web pages

- [Unifrog.org](https://www.unifrog.org/) - Compare University courses, Apprenticeships and Higher Education courses
- [National Careers Service](https://www.nationalcareersservice.org.uk/) - Get information and advice on post-16 options.
- [National Apprenticeship Service](https://www.nationalapprenticeshipservice.org.uk/) - Up to date information about apprenticeships including vacancies and how to apply.
- [Informed Choices](https://www.informedchoices.org.uk/) - Advice from the Russell Group on how A Level choices can affect university entry.
- [UCAS](https://www.ucas.com/) - Information and entry requirements for higher education/university courses in the UK.
- [Prospects](https://www.prospects.ac.uk/) - Advice and guidance on careers, careers quizzes and where A level and degree subjects can take you.

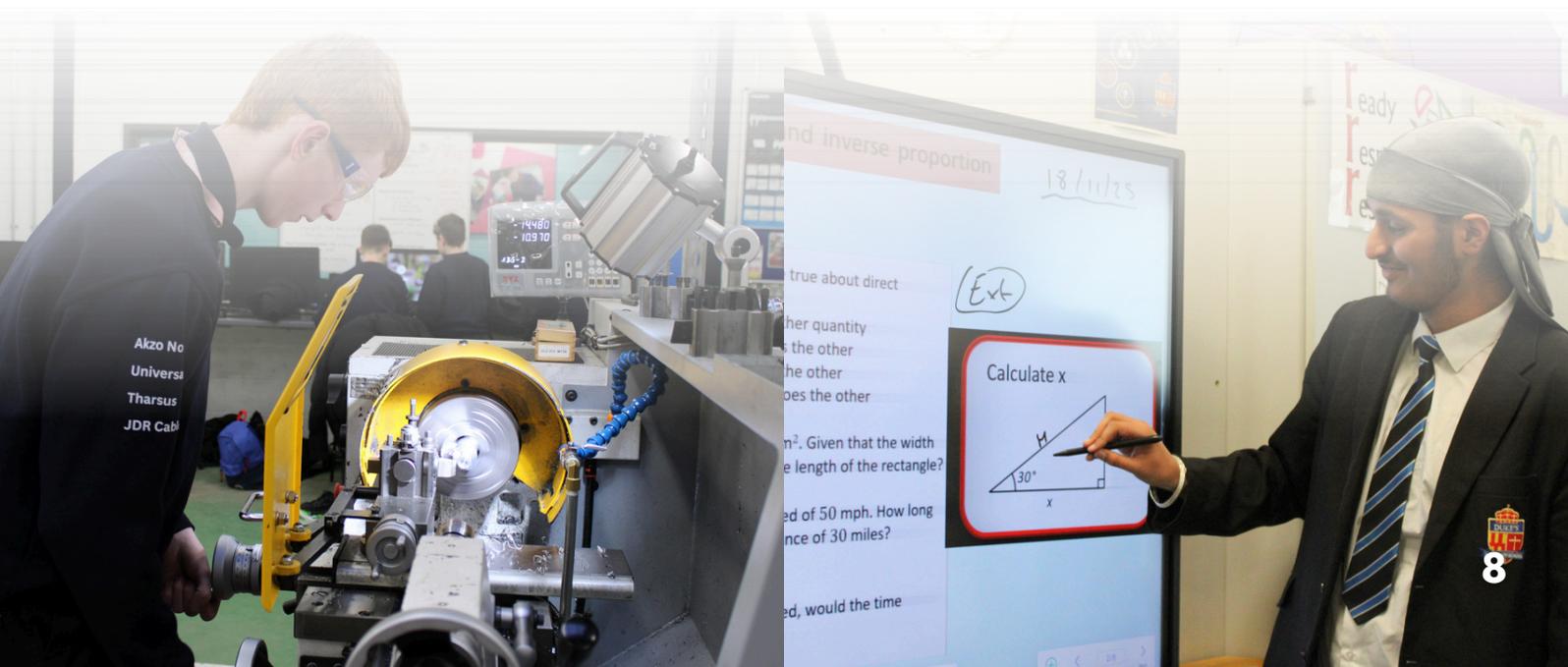
WHAT TO DO NEXT?

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 and your tutor.
- Discuss this with your parent or carer.
- Think very carefully about the subjects you choose. It is very difficult to change course once you have started.

Don't:

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



GCSE ART

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?

Students can go on to study Art further at college. This can then lead to higher education at university. Job opportunities include: graphic designer, gallery curator, art valuer, illustrator, typographer, fashion designer, photographer and advertising executive, plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Ms Gatti or any member of the Art Department.



GCSE Photography



The course

This course is all about learning through doing. You'll develop your creativity and photographic skills while producing imaginative, personal work

In Year 1, you'll explore a wide range of techniques, processes, and themes, building a strong portfolio of coursework that showcases your ideas and skills.

In Year 2, you'll specialise in an area of photography that excites you, creating more in-depth, independent projects. You'll also complete an externally set assignment, responding creatively to one of several inspiring starting points provided by AQA.

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: Develop your ideas through research and investigations, using contextual and cultural sources to inform your work.
- AO2: Experiment with different resources, media, materials, techniques, and processes to refine your ideas.
- AO3: Record your ideas, observations, and insights clearly, using visual or other forms to support your intentions.
- AO4: Present a personal and meaningful response, demonstrating critical understanding and realising your creative intentions, making connections between visual, written, oral, or other elements where relevant.
-

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

Students can go on to study Art further at college. This can then lead to higher education at university. Job opportunities include: graphic designer, gallery curator, art valuer, illustrator, typographer, fashion designer, photographer and advertising executive, plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Ms Gatti or any member of the Art Department.



GCSE BIOLOGY

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 life of the course with closed and open book tests based on the teaching units as well as a synopsis of prior learning. Regular homework will be provided online.

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

GCSE Biology provides access to A Level. 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 Mrs Osman.



BTEC TECH AWARD IN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

The Course

This course allows you to gain knowledge of the world of Business and Enterprise. It allows you to acquire knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying the behaviours and skills related to an enterprise idea as part of your Key Stage 4 learning. Over the course there are three components:

- Exploring Enterprises.
- Planning and Presenting a MicroEnterprise idea.
- Marketing and Finance for Enterprise.

How will I be assessed?

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to test knowledge through a number of tasks which include realistic activities. There is one external assessment (exam), which provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 3 builds directly on components 1 and 2, and enables learning to be brought together and applied to realistic contexts. Marketing and Finance for enterprise requires you to analyse and interpret information in relation to an enterprise and to make recommendations on strategies to use to improve the performance of the enterprise.

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

The qualification allows access to Level 3 qualifications at college, as well as apprenticeships, employment or running your own enterprises. The employment opportunities are too numerous to list. This course will assist with any career—whether in customer service, accounting, retail, administration, construction, health care, or other sectors—because all industries are run as a business.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Barker.



GCSE CHEMISTRY

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 life of the course with closed and open book tests based on the teaching units as well as a synopsis of prior learning. Regular homework will be provided online.

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

GCSE Chemistry provides access to A Level. 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. Career opportunities could include; chemist, doctor, pharmacist, nurse, chemical engineer, biomedical scientist and veterinary technician, plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Miss Fletcher or Mr Wandless.





DUAL SCIENCE

The course

This course incorporates all three sciences and broadly follows the single sciences with all of the same modules from these three subjects. The sciences 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:

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

C1 - Air and Water
C2 - Chemical Patterns
C3 - Chemicals - Natural Environment
C4 - Material Choices
C5 - Chemical Analysis
C6 - Making useful Chemicals
C7 - Ideas about Science
C8 - Practical Skills

P1 - Radiation and Waves
P2 - Sustainable Energy
P3 - Electric Circuits
P4 - Explaining Motion
P5 - Radioactive Materials
P6 - Matter, Models & 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 four examinations: Breadth in Chemistry, Biology and Physics and a synoptic science paper. You will also be continually assessed over the life of the course with closed and open book tests based on the teaching units as well as a synopsis of prior learning.

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

GCSE Dual award in Science provides access to further study at A Level. Chemistry, Biology or Physics. It is also a key subject for lots of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers, particularly medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine. A science qualification opens doors to all sorts of jobs. The food we eat, the clothes we wear and the technology we use all depend on science. Career opportunities could include; chemist, doctor, pharmacist, nurse, chemical engineer, biomedical scientist and veterinary technician, plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Miss Fletcher or one of the Science Team.



14-16 Construction and Housing Academy

In partnership with Bernicia, Duke's Academy & Northumberland College

The course

A specialised two-year programme for pupils who want to give their career in construction a head start.

How will I be assessed?

You will spend two days of the week studying at Northumberland College where you will study two different vocational qualifications:

- BTEC Tech Award in Construction & the Built Environment
- City & Guilds Technical Award in Constructing & Maintaining the Built Environment

Both of these courses will be assessed by a combination of coursework and examination elements.

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

This qualification will support you to undertake further Construction qualifications at level 3 including T- Levels in Design, Surveying and planning , Building Services, Engineering or On-site Construction. It will also support you into a range of trade or multi trade apprenticeships.

Who to see for more information

Mr Line or Mr Atkinson

Please note that this course is still in the stages of organisation and there may be some changes to the qualification between now and Septemeber.

This is a flagship qualification and acceptance on the course will be on the basis of Year 9 performance, attitude, behaviour and attendance in Year 9.

A photograph of students in a workshop setting. A female student in the foreground is wearing safety glasses and looking at a tablet. Behind her, a male student is also wearing safety glasses and working on a project. In the background, another student is visible. The workshop is filled with tools and equipment. Logos for Northumberland College and Duke's Secondary School are overlaid on the right side of the image.

14-16

ENGINEERING SKILLS ACADEMY

Combined engineering pathway delivered jointly by Duke's Secondary School and Northumberland College.

The course

A specialised two- year programme for pupils who wish to develop the skills to support an intended career in the Engineering Industry. Students will work on high quality level 2 engineering qualifications and will partake in a range of work related activities including:

- Work experience and industry placements
- Industry masterclasses
- Visits and experience days
- Employer based project learning

This is a flagship pathway and acceptance on the course will be on the basis of Y9 performance in English, maths and science which indicates that the student will, by the end of Year 11, be at least able to reach Grade 5 in each of those subjects.

How will I be assessed?

You will spend two days of the week studying at Northumberland College where you will study two different vocational qualifications:

City & Guilds Technical Award in Engineering Design

City & Guilds Technical Award in Engineering Manufacture

Both of these courses will be assessed by a combination of coursework and examination elements

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

The course will be supported by a number of local employers and it is expected that the qualifications gained by the students combined with the wealth of experience they gain in the sector through the work related activities will support them greatly in their progression into apprenticeships, careers and related 16 - 18 study such as T-Levels in the engineering sector.

Who to see for more information

Mr Atkinson or Mr Line.



GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

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. The final exam is at the end of Year 11.

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 and perspectives are presented, followed by a non-fiction writing task.

There is also a non-examined assessment for Spoken Language. This is a separate endorsement and doesn't contribute to the overall grade for English Language. Instead, students will receive a pass, merit, distinction grade. The assessment is a short speech, followed by a short discussion. It will be assessed by a teacher from the English Department.

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

Mrs Wardle.





GCSE FRENCH

The course

Pupils study 6 thematic units over the 2 years: My Personal World, Lifestyle and Wellbeing, My Neighbourhood, Media and Technology, Studying and My Future and Travel and Tourism. The themes allow you to learn more about the French speaking world whilst developing your linguistic skills. The Pearson GCSE French course is divided into four key skills areas: speaking, listening, reading and writing.

How will I be assessed?

At the end of the course pupils will complete four separate examinations: listening, reading, speaking and writing. Each paper is worth 25% of your final grade. The final speaking examination will be a 1:1 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?

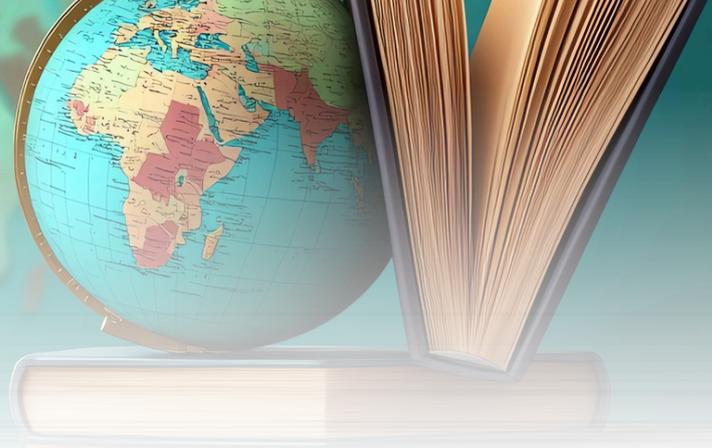
A GCSE in modern foreign languages is an academic subject which, along with Geography and History, counts towards the English Baccalaureate. With competition for university places at an all time high, many courses are asking that applicants have a GCSE in MFL which could be a factor in your gaining a 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

Miss Opstad.



GCSE GEOGRAPHY



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 units range 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?

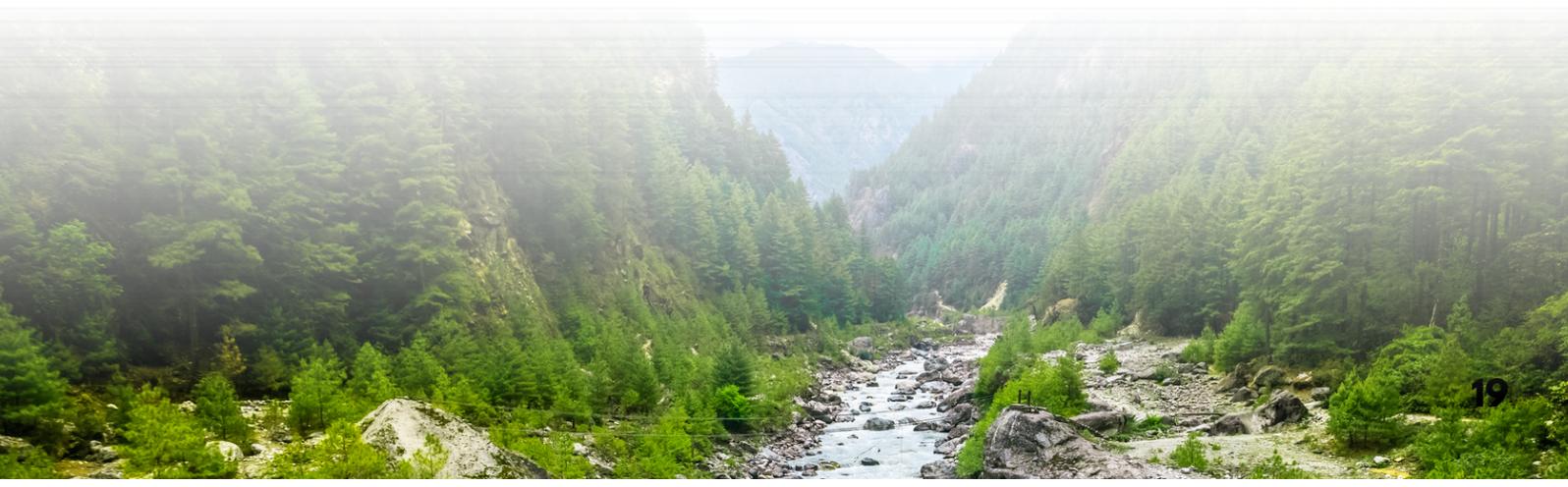
Three exams will be taken at the end of Year 11. Unit 1 and 2 (the physical and human geography papers) are both worth 35%. The skills paper makes up the final 30%.

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

A GCSE in Geography, along with French and History, counts towards the English Baccalaureate. 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. Jobs could include; facilities manager, surveyor, hydrologist, travel guide, cartographer, town planning, geoscientist, meteorologist plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Carter or one of the Geography Team.





GCSE HISTORY

The course

In History, you will learn over a thousand Years worth of history covering a range of topics, concepts, people and locations 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 studies change over time, significance and source analysis skills.
- Paper 2: Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991 with Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 which studies cause and consequence skills.
- Paper 3: The USA 1945-75, Home and abroad: Civil Rights in the USA and the Vietnam War which studies source analysis and interpretations skills.

How will I be assessed?

All papers are examined at the end of Year 11 by 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 GCSE in History, along with Geography and French, counts towards the English Baccalaureate. 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 qualifications encourage such as Law based professions, research careers, the police force and teaching.

Who to see for more information

Miss Willett or one of the History team.



WJEC HOSPITALITY & 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 (exam unit - 40%)
- Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action (Coursework unit - 60%)

Pupils will complete both units.

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

Successful completion of this qualification can prepare students for further education or apprenticeships. The career options are wide ranging and could include; catering manager, chef, food scientist, hotel manager, events planner, restaurant manager or barista, plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Barker



BTEC LEVEL 1/2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL IT

The course

Our Cambridge National in IT will inspire and equip students with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the IT sector and more widely. It covers: the use of IT in the digital world, internet of everything, data manipulation, human-computer interface (HCI) and augmented reality. 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 coursework units on spreadsheets and augmented reality.

How will I be assessed?

This will be a combination of one exam and 2 units of coursework. The exam is weighted at 40% and each unit of coursework is worth 30% each.

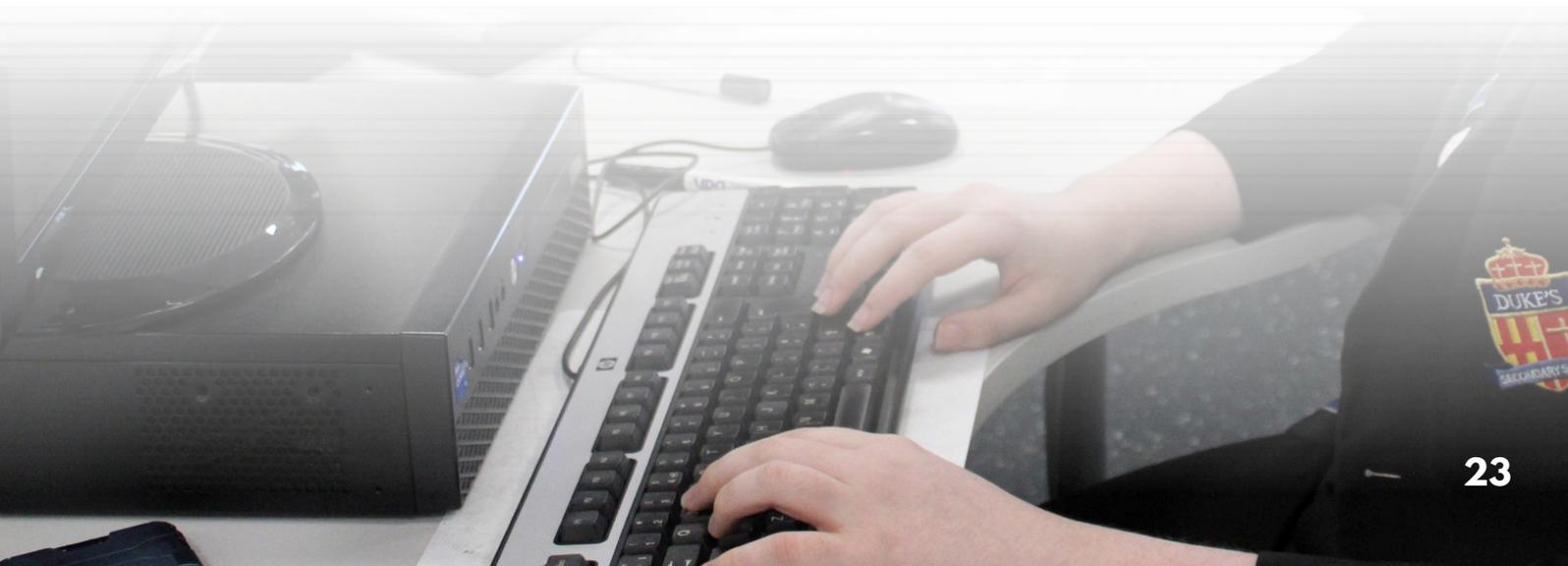
What higher education and career opportunities will this qualification give me?

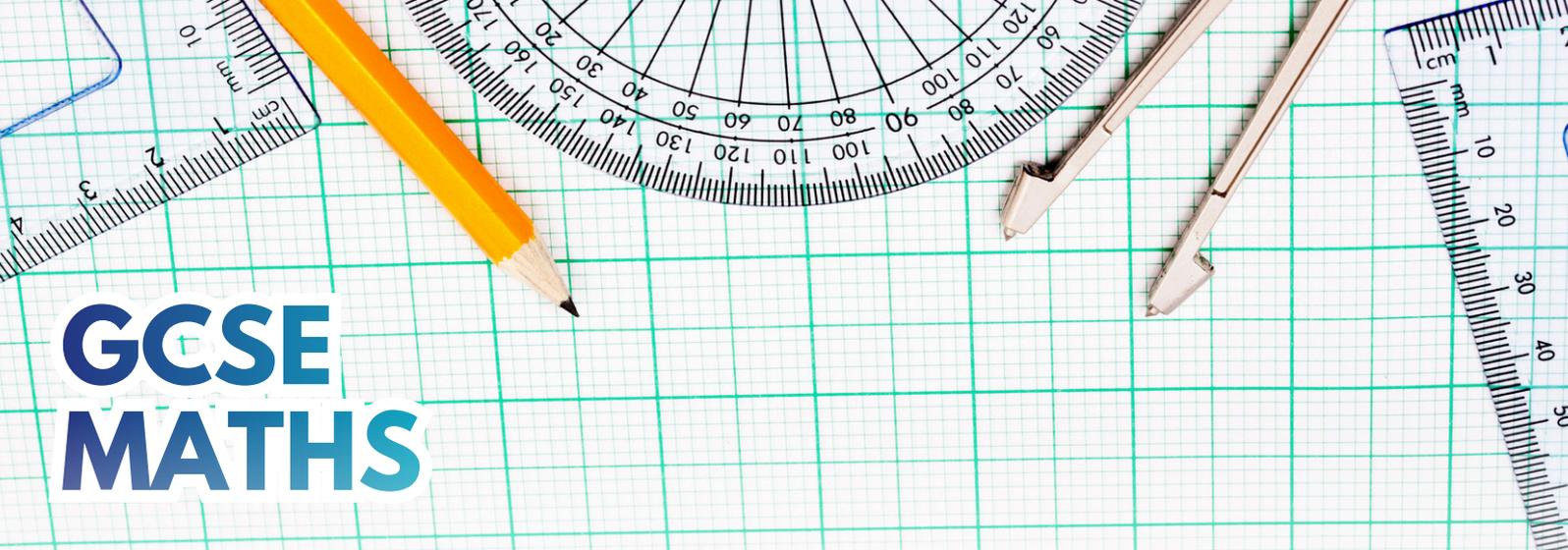
Successful completion of this qualification can support further level 3 study, as well as preparing you for further education or apprenticeships. Many jobs in business and commerce require basic IT competence. This qualification will allow you to meet the needs of both employers and further educational establishments. Some of the jobs that include ICT are:

- 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.

Who to see for more information

Miss Hart or a member of the ICT Team.





GCSE MATHS

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 either the Edexcel syllabus (Higher tier students) or OCR syllabus (Foundation tier students) 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 Naylor or any of the Maths teaching staff.





Cambridge National in Creative iMedia

The course

Cambridge National in Creative iMedia will inspire and equip you with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the digital media sector and the wider industry.

It's a vocational qualification, equivalent in value to a GCSE and contains both practical and theoretical elements.

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

- How media products get their meaning across, create impact and appeal to people
- How to create original digital graphics for specific audiences
- Designing and creating original characters and comics
- How to plan and create animations with audio
- Creating, testing and making playable digital games

How will I be assessed?

The assessment process recognises your strengths. Good performance in some units will make up for weaker performance in others. There is no requirement to get a particular grade in the external assessments to pass overall.

The course is made up from 3 units of work, one exam and two coursework units.

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

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

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

Who to see for more information

Miss Hart.

GCSE MUSIC

The course

During the two Year Eduqas GCSE course, your learning is split into three components: Performance, Composition and Appraisal. There are two set works to analyse and four main areas of study. These areas of study form the basis of the whole course:

- AoS1 - Musical Forms and Devices
- AoS2 - Music for Ensemble
- AoS3 - Film Music
- AoS4 - Popular Music

How will I be assessed?

- Component 1 - Performing (30% of the qualification) - Students need to perform a minimum of two pieces, one of which must be an ensemble performance of at least one minute duration. The other pieces may be either solo and / or ensemble. One of the pieces performed must link to an area of study of the learner's choice. The total duration for performance must be between 4 and 6 minutes. This component is internally assessed and is externally moderated.
- Component 2 - Composition (30% of the qualification) - Students need to complete two compositions, one of which must be in response to an externally set brief. The second composition is a free composition for which learners set their own brief. The total duration of the compositions must be between 3 and 6 minutes. This component is internally assessed and is externally moderated.
- Component 3 - Appraising (40% of the qualification) - This component is assessed via a listening examination. There are eight questions in total, two on each of the four areas of study. Two of the eight questions are based on extracts set by the examination board.

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 sought 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. Career opportunities could include; actor, session musician, music producer, mix engineer, conductor, music therapist, plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Mr Fender.



PSHE

The course

PSHE 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 PSHE. 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.

PSHE 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?

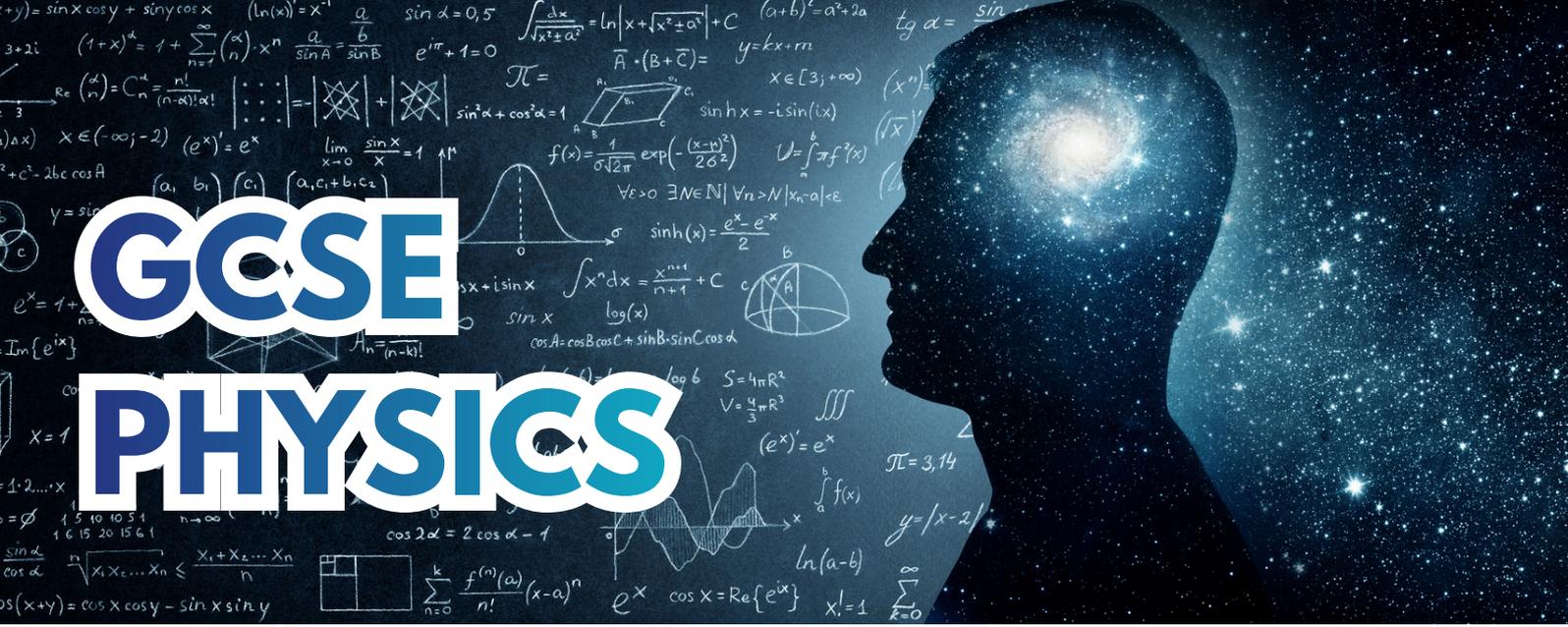
This is not an assessed subject, however students will be expected to make progress within topics that could last for one lesson or span over a period four.

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 and support them when moving into the world of work.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Freeman.



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?

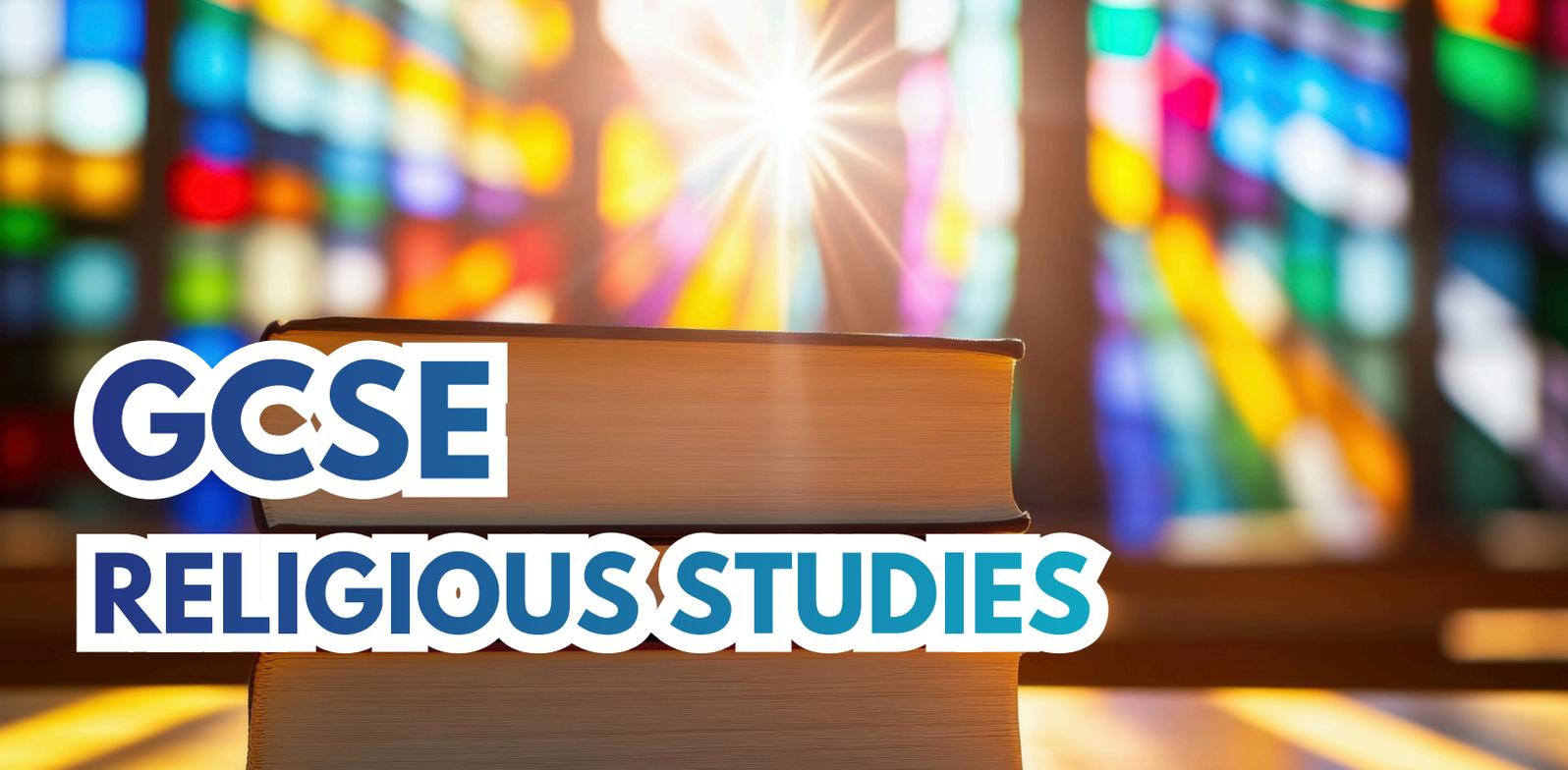
The course has a terminal assessment at the end of Year 11, consisting of two examinations Breadth in Physics and Depth in Physics. You will also be continually assessed over the life of the course with closed and open book tests based on the teaching units as well as a synopsis of prior learning. Regular homework will be provided on-line.

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

GCSE Physics provides access to study at A Level. 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. Career opportunities could include; electrician, medical physicist, astronaut, nuclear engineer, bomb disposal technician, meteorologist and climate change analyst, plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Miss Fletcher or Mrs Hart.



GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

The course

If you have ever pondered the purpose of life, why some people are evil or if murderers deserve the death penalty, then Religious Studies GCSE is definitely for you! In this course we currently study EDUQAS Spec A , looking at Philosophy and ethical studies in the modern world for Paper 1. We also examine Christianity and Judaism, the cornerstones of Western Civilisation (and two of the three Abrahamic religions) for Paper 2 and paper 3 respectively.

Throughout the course, you will learn transferable skills such as how to argue and debate, reason and explain and evaluate different views to come to your own justified and logical conclusions. As well as examining the Beliefs, Teachings and Practices of the two religions, you will also look at the following topics:

Relationship (Marriage, Divorce, Gender and Sexuality)

Life and death (Abortion, Euthanasia, Environmental Sustainability and Life after death)

Good and evil (Crime & punishment ,Prison reforms , The death penalty and Forgiveness)

Human rights (Censorship, Poverty, Social justice and Extremism)

How will I be assessed?

There are three 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 supports progression into journalism, health and social studies, travel and tourism, English literature and modern foreign languages. Students often use the critical skills they gain within the subject to help them in securing places at University which value Religious Studies as a platform for wider study and cultural awareness.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Nightingale



BTEC TECH AWARD 1/2 IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

The course

The course is for learners who want to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by exploring the aims of different travel and tourism organisations, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer requirements and the influence on global travel and tourism as part of your Key Stage 4 learning.

Over the course there are three components:

1. Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations.
2. Customer needs in Travel and Tourism.
3. Influences on Global Travel and Tourism.

How will I be assessed?

Components 1 and 2 are assessed through non-exam internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to test knowledge through coursework assignments which include realistic activities.

There is one examined assessment on component 3. This requires learners to apply their knowledge and understanding of the factors influencing tourism, the impact of tourism on destinations and destination management to travel and tourism contexts.

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

Successful completion of this qualification can support further level 3 study in Travel and Tourism as well as prepare students for further education or apprenticeships. The career options are wide ranging and could include; travel agent, tour manager, travel guide, air cabin crew and hotel manager, plus many more.

Who to see for more information

Mrs Barker .



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. For further information and job ideas Please see [Jobs in sport | UK Sport](#) The transferable skills such as; teamwork, leadership, communication and problem solving, gained from core PE can be applied to all career sectors.

Who to see for more information

Mr Hunter or any member of the PE staff.



BTEC TECH AWARD IN SPORT

The course

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport, is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by exploring the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participation as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

What does the qualification cover?

Learners are required to complete and achieve all three components in the qualifications.

- Component 1 - Preparing Participants to take part in Sport and Physical Activity.
- Component 2 - Taking Part and Improving other Participants' Sporting Performance.
- Component 3 - Developing Fitness to Improve other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity.

What can the qualification lead to?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3 at , such as a BTEC National in Sport (2016) or a BTEC National in Sport and Exercise Science (2016), which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the Sport Sciences or teaching sectors.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 1 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- Study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, to progression to employment via apprenticeships or further study at Level 3
- Study at Level 2 post-16 through a technical qualification, such as the Pearson BTEC Level 2 Technical Diploma in Sport and Activity Leaders. Learners who perform well in this qualification compared to their overall performance, should strongly consider this progression route as it can lead to employment in the sport sector.

Who to see for more information

Mr Hunter or PE Team.

KS4 Options Form 2026



Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

All of our students will be taking at least 8 GCSEs as per government guidance. They will all study Maths, English Language, English Literature and either Dual or Triple Science. Students taking Dual Science will take one option from each of the three option blocks while those taking Triple Science will just take choices from Block 2 and 3.

Students will be informed if they should take choices from the Vocational Route and if they are to be in Dual or Triple Science before the Options Evening

Should students wish to follow the **Ebacc route then they should choose either History or Geography and French** as two of their choices.

Students should only choose one subject from each of the blocks recorded below. Students can not take the same subject more than once. They should also choose a reserve choice for each block which may be used if any of the courses become oversubscribed. If they wish to do so, students can choose any of the subjects on the Vocational Route even if they are not following that route.

Students wishing to be considered for the Joint Engineering or Construction pathways should tick the relevant box only and not make any individual subject choices. They should, however, still make a reserve choice for each block.

All pupils will study the subjects in this column	Option Block 1	Option Block 2	Option Block 3	
	Open Option (Students on the Vocational Route should choose Photography. Students taking Dual Science can make a choice from any subject other than Triple Science)	Open Option (Students on the Vocational Route make a choice from the blue subjects. All other students choose one subject from this column)	Open Option (Students on the Vocational Route choose Hospitality. All other students choose one subject from this column)	
GCSE English Literature	GCSE Photography	BTEC Sport	WJEC Hospitality and Catering	Vocational Route
GCSE English Language		Cambridge National iMedia		
GCSE Maths	Triple Science	BTEC Business Enterprise	Cambridge National ICT	Open Choices
GCSE Dual Science	GCSE Geography	GCSE Art	BTEC Sport	
CORE PE	GCSE History	GCSE History	BTEC Travel & Tourism	
PSHE		GCSE French	GCSE Art	
RE		GCSE Music	GCSE Geography	Joint Pathways
	14-16 Engineering Skills Academy			
	14-16 Construction & Housing Academy			

Option Choice 1(if not taking Triple Science): _____

Reserve Choice (if not taking Triple Science): _____

Option Choice 2: _____

Reserve Choice: _____

Option Choice 3: _____

Reserve Choice: _____

PLEASE TICK 14-16 Engineering Skills Academy Only

PLEASE TICK 14-16 Construction & Housing Academy Only

Student Signature: _____ Parent/Carer Signature: _____



Second Floor

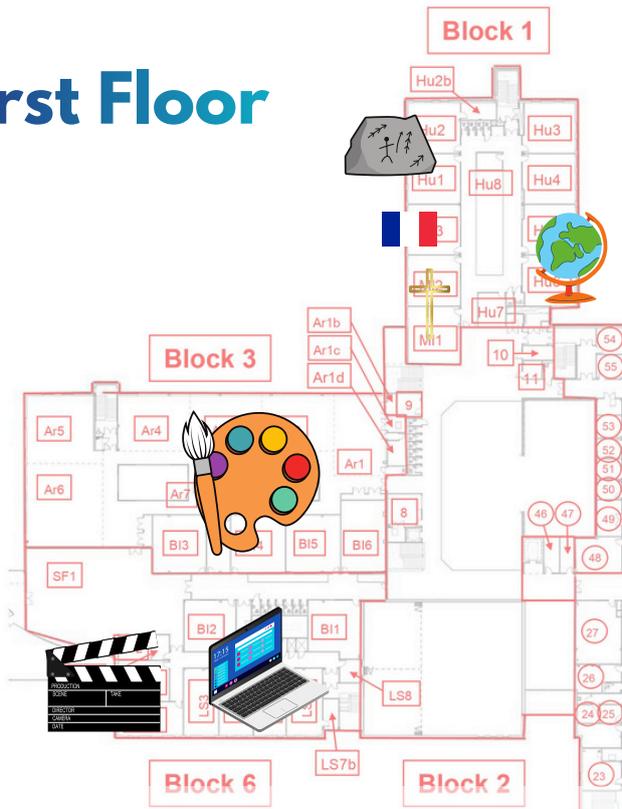


Duke's Secondary School
Academy Road, Ashington,
Northumberland, NE63 9FZ
01670 816 111
www.dukes.ncea.org.uk

Second Floor

- Maths
- Dual & Triple Science

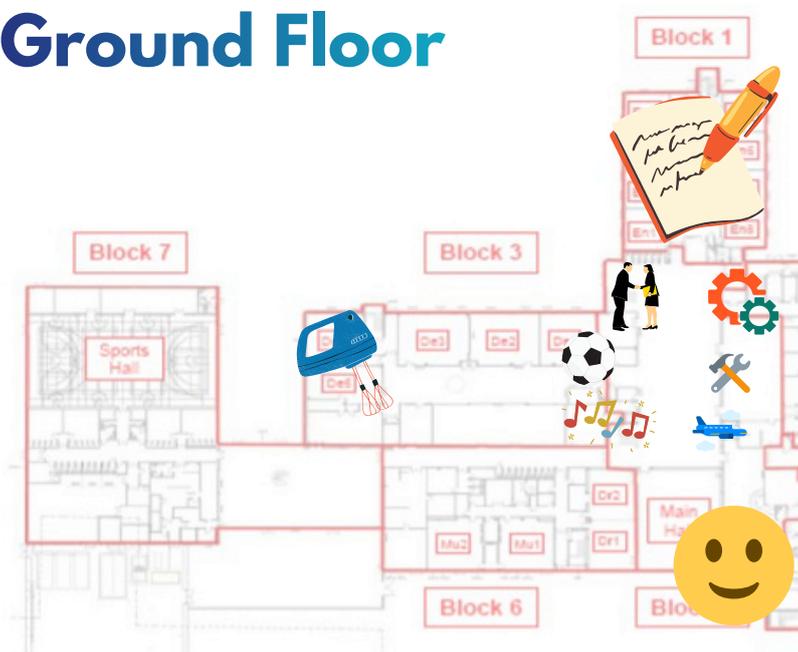
First Floor



First Floor

- History
- Geography
- French
- Religious Studies
- Art
- iMedia
- ICT Nationals

Ground Floor



Ground Floor

- English Language & Literature
- Hospitality & Catering
- Music
- 14-16 Construction & Housing Academy
- Enterprise
- Travel and Tourism
- Sport
- 14-16 Engineering Skills Academy
- Welcome Desk