



All Saints Catholic College

YEAR 9 OPTIONS EVENING

COURSE BOOKLET 2015



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February 2015

Dear Parents / Carers

Year 9 pupils have now reached the point in their learning journey where decisions are made about the subjects to be studied in Years 10 and 11 (known together as 'Key Stage 4'). With the support of their families and teachers, pupils can choose some of the subjects in which they would like to deepen their knowledge and gain national qualifications.

As you are probably aware, there are also some subjects which ALL pupils will study. Here at All Saints, these 'core' or compulsory subjects include English, Mathematics, Science, RE, and General PE. However, in these and other subjects there are choices about which 'route' they will take.

This booklet is designed to help you and your child in making these choices. Please use the details here as well as conversations with our subject and pastoral staff to make sure you have all the information you need.

Working in partnership with parents to support the learning of the pupils is something we value greatly here at All Saints – your help with this is much appreciated. Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at the College.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Barnes'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Mr J Barnes
Head Teacher

WELCOME TO YEARS 10 & 11

This final phase of your compulsory education is probably the most important and hopefully the most exciting part of your learning so far. The next two years will bring challenge and change, as well as increased responsibility and a wealth of opportunities as young adulthood beckons.

Expectations are high for our Key Stage 4 pupils at All Saints. We believe every pupil can succeed, whatever their ability. Good attendance and punctuality are crucial for success and are a basic expectation for all pupils. Pupils are really well supported and our outstanding pastoral system, similar to Key Stage 3, links very closely to the curriculum. Subject Teachers report on your progress each half term and Form Tutors will meet regularly with you in Academic Review. In addition to this, you will meet with your Learning Coach three times each year to review your progress and to set targets to take your learning to the next level – these meetings are the basis for your termly Achievement Plans, which will be sent home to your parents/carers. You will find that advice and help is available from the whole range of Key Stage 4 pastoral and curriculum staff, not just tonight but right through until the end of Year 11.

Pupils are challenged at Key Stage 4 to organise and manage their study time. Academic Review is a key focal point in each day where you will have the opportunity to continue with coursework and other assignments. Assemblies and extra-curricular activities remain an important part of College life and we hope that pupils will manage to balance their work life with enjoyment, through participating in the many events which allow time for us to have fun together as a community.

Rewarding pupils is very important to us. In each term in Key Stage 4 we will have House Assemblies where we acknowledge and celebrate your hard work and encourage success. By the time you leave Year 11, you will have received lots of guidance and support in moving on to further learning, training or employment.

So there are lots of interesting times ahead! The first stage is to arrange the subjects you will be studying. Some of these you will get to choose and the details in this booklet will help with those decisions. We hope you are looking forward to joining Key Stage 4 and look forward to working with you.

KEY STAGE 4 OPTIONS FORM 2015

ADVICE & GUIDANCE

The curriculum for you in Years 10 and 11 is made up of a number of subjects, some of which are compulsory and some of which you are able to choose. The Options Form shows the range of courses we offer:

SECTION A

These are your compulsory subjects.

SECTION B

You should select **FOUR** subjects from those listed. They are organised into two areas relating to 'EBacc' (English Baccalaurate) subjects and 'Open' (Progress 8) subjects.

You may wish to heed the advice of colleges, universities and employers and choose subjects that represent a more academic route. These subjects are:

- Maths
- English
- Science (Core/ Additional or Further)
- Computing
- Geography
- History
- Spanish

If you decide not to follow the EBacc route we ask that you take note of the new Progress 8 measure introduced by the government. Schools and therefore their pupils will need to show good progress in 8 particular GCSEs and these are:

- English Language (some students may also do Literature as well)
- Maths
- Pupils to do **at least THREE English Baccalaurate (EBacc)** subjects:
 - ✓ **Science; Computing; History; Geography; MFL**
- Pupils to take up to **THREE** 'open group' subjects:
 - ✓ An EBacc subject or any other high value arts, academic (all pupils will do RE) or vocational qualification (maximum of 2 will count).

WHAT ABOUT NEW SUBJECTS?

You will find that you have already studied many of the optional subjects during your first three years in school. However, it is almost certain that there will be a number of subjects with which you are **NOT** familiar. Before you choose, you need to **FIND OUT** more about these new subjects. You have already heard about these subjects in the special assemblies over the last few weeks and you will find a summary of each of these courses in this booklet. You can also seek advice about these from the relevant Subject Leader, your Form Tutor or your Progress Leader.

WHAT SUBJECTS SHOULD I CHOOSE?

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hat is mainly up to you and your parents/carers, but the following pointers may be helpful:

1. Which subjects do you like? You will probably try harder at the subjects you like. You will also gain more enjoyment from doing subjects you enjoy.
2. Which subjects are you best at? You may stand a better chance of getting good results in these subjects.
3. Which subjects do you need? Do you have an idea of the career you might wish to follow? If so, you may need certain subjects and qualifications. Seek advice from the Careers Adviser.
4. What if you have no career in mind? Most Year 9 pupils are still undecided about their future plans and many of those who do have some ideas will find their ideas change during the next two years. Therefore, it makes sense to keep as many career options open as possible.
5. Should I choose the same subjects as my friends? This is not a good idea. You should choose the subjects that are best for you. You will be studying these subjects for the next two years - this is a long time if you have no real interest in the subject and have just chosen it to be with your friends.

WHAT HELP CAN I GET?

You can get help in lots of ways. Reading this handbook carefully is the place to start. However, there are also many people who may be of assistance to you, including:

1. Your Subject Teachers - they know your strengths and weaknesses in each subject
2. The Heads of Department
3. The Year 9 Pastoral Team (Progress Leader, Learning Coach and Form Tutors)
4. The Deputy Head Teacher (Mrs Morris) and Assistant Head Teachers
5. Your parents
6. Information from the Careers Advisor

REMEMBER

YOU NEED TO MAKE WISE CHOICES AT THIS STAGE. CHANGES IN SUBJECTS AFTER SEPTEMBER ARE ALLOWED ONLY IN VERY EXCEPTIONAL CIRCUMSTANCES, SUCH AS HEALTH PROBLEMS (SUPPORTED BY A MEDICAL CERTIFICATE).

YOU SHOULD LOOK BEYOND YEAR 11 AND THINK ABOUT CHOICES, WHICH WILL OPEN DOORS FOR YOU INTO THE FUTURE.

GOOD LUCK

ART & DESIGN

Qualification

GCSE Art & Design (AQA)

What will I learn about?

This subject is offered as a GCSE course in Art & Design. The course encourages a broad approach, which can allow pupils to develop an exploration in a variety of areas, (Fine Art, Textiles, Graphics, Three Dimensional Design and Photography)

The overall aim of the course is therefore to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to art and design which is informed and developed through study of both historical and contemporary art practice. In turn this should enable students to embrace and explore a range of ideas in their work of both a personal and an objective/analytical nature and, in so doing, harness a meaningful appreciation of visual culture.

How is the course structured?

The course is made up of two units of work:

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work (60%)

- Pupils must produce and submit for assessment a selection of work representative of their course of study. The course can be adapted to suit your skills and preferences.
- This must contain work from at least two projects done in year 10 and up to January in year 11
- The work from each project will be marked as a whole

Unit 2: Externally set Task (40%)

- Question papers containing a selection of starting points are set by the examination board and is sued to candidates
- Pupils are given a preliminary period of time to research and plan for the production of either a single response to their chosen starting point, or a series of responses
- Pupils then produce their personal response during a 10 hour supervised examination
- The progression of student work at all stages will be nurtured and stimulated with extra-curricular support available throughout.

How will my work be assessed?

Both units are marked by the College and moderated by the Examination Board. Assessment is based on four Assessment Objectives which are designed to measure pupils' progress in terms of their development of Knowledge and Understanding. All four are equally weighted and are as follows:

- Research & Develop
- Experiment & Refine
- Recording Ideas And Observations
- Final piece making connections with artists & showing understanding

All projects will show these because the teacher will provide guidance throughout.

What can this qualification lead to?

Advances in new technologies have served to increase opportunities within the broad field of Art and Design. A qualification in Art provides a stepping stone to an expanding number of exciting careers. Creative young people with artistic flair and skills will always be in demand and there are plenty of employment opportunities available.

Qualifications in GCSE and A Level Art provide a stepping stone for pupils to access many courses in Higher Education. Art is also a subject from which pupils can obtain a great deal of personal gratification. It can be for them spiritually uplifting and provide an experience of lasting lifetime significance.

Most of our students progress on to A 'level courses. This course provides access to a significant number of career options which are available from the art department on request.

No matter where pupils' career aspirations lie, Art remains a subject from which all pupils can derive an enriching, life-long experience. The Art department welcomes anyone who enjoys the subject and wants to learn, irrespective of ability.

BUSINESS STUDIES

Qualification

GCSE Business Studies (Edexcel)

What will I learn?

If you are looking for a career in business and want to develop skills and understanding that is directly relevant to the business world, then this qualification is for you!

The Edexcel GCSE in Business has been designed to accredit pupil's achievement in a modern and practical way. The course will help build the skills, knowledge and understanding of business to both continue study or to start work. You will have the opportunity to investigate and learn about various areas of business and industry. The skills and experience you will receive are vital to succeed in the business environment, thereby enhancing your employability in any career.

How is the course structured?

Unit 1: Introduction to Small Business

In this unit, pupils will look at how entrepreneurs spot a business opportunity. Showing enterprise and how a business idea is put into practice will be learnt through practical tasks, with pupils experiencing what it is like to start up a business. How businesses make their start-up effective is looked at by investigating financial plans and pupils will learn simple financial calculations and how to calculate profit and monitor business expenditure through interpreting cash flow forecasts. Pupils will learn about the economic environment that affects business start-up and expansion. This unit is assessed by a multiple-choice exam and is worth 25% of a pupil's final grade.

Unit 2: Investigating Small Business

In this unit, pupils will research and investigate topics and real businesses in preparation for a controlled assessment task that is set by Edexcel. Pupils will also analyse and evaluate their task. This unit is internally assessed by the subject teachers and moderated by Edexcel. This forms 25% of the pupils' final grade.

Unit 3: Building a Business

You will explore marketing and how businesses meet customer needs. Pupils will learn how businesses carry out effective financial management and pupils will be able to carry out simple financial calculations. People management is covered by looking at recruitment and selection of employees and methods used to motivate the workforce. The wider world affecting business is also investigated including looking at the external economic environment. This is assessed via traditional exam and forms 50% of the pupils' final grade.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1 is assessed by an external examination of 45 minutes, which comprises of compulsory multiple-choice and objective test questions with 40 marks. Unit 2 is assessed by a controlled

assessment. Pupils complete one Edexcel-set task worth 40 marks. Unit 3 is assessed by a written examination of one hour and 30 minutes, which comprises a combination of multiple-choice, short and extended-answer, data response and scenario-based questions with a total of 90 marks.

What can this qualification lead to?

The course will help build your skills, knowledge and understanding of business needed to follow one of the following possible progression routes:

- Further or Higher education for continued study, for example, at All Saints we offer A level Business Studies and A level Accounting in our Sixth Form
- Employment in a business related role
- The course provides skills and knowledge that would benefit and enhance employability in any professional occupation.
- Work towards work-related and occupational qualifications in business

Whatever job you do, whatever career path you follow, every pupil will end up working in a business of one kind or another and that is why Business Studies is so useful.

COMPUTING



Qualification

GCSE in Computing (OCR)

What will I learn about?

Students will learn about the current and emerging technologies and how they work in a range of contexts. They will gain an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming. They will develop computer programs to solve problems and evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions. Student will learn about the more technical aspect of ICT.

How is the course structured?

To achieve the GCSE, you need to take and pass three units. The Units are:

Unit 1 – Computer Systems and Programming (40% of total Marks):

In this unit you will cover the fundamentals of computer systems. You will learn about computer hardware and software. You will study a range of components such as CPU, input/output devices, storage and memory. Students will use binary codes to represent characters, and convert whole numbers into binary and hexadecimal numbers. Students will explore the difference between high level code and machine code

Unit 2 – Practical Investigation (30% of the final Marks):

This is a practical unit. You will be given the opportunity to carry out practical investigation into a computing issue. You will produce a solution to the issue showing the effectiveness and efficiency of the solution together with your technical understanding.

Unit 3 – Programming Project (30% of the final Marks):

This is another practical Unit. You will be given the opportunity to demonstrate your practical ability in programming. You will be expected to provide a solution to a problem then code your solution in a suitable programming language.

How will my work be assessed?

Written Examination (40%) Controlled Assessment (60%)

Unit 1 is assessed through a written examination paper set and marked by the exam board.

Units 2 – Controlled Assessment. This is assessed internally and the exam board, OCR, moderating the work externally. All work is submitted electronically and is completely coursework based.

Unit 3 - Controlled Assessment. This is assessed internally and the exam board, OCR, moderating the work externally. All work is submitted electronically and is completely coursework based.

Successful students will achieve a grade in the range of A*-G.

What can this qualification lead to?

The main aim of the course is to develop your skills so that you may go on to further study or employment in Computing. Most Sixth Form establishments offer A Level Computing and successful completion of GCSE Computing will enable you to follow this. Equally, you will be taught the skills and gain a recognised qualification that will help you if you move onto an apprenticeship or employment after Year 11.

INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

Qualification

GCSE in ICT (WJEC)

What will I learn about?

In each unit you will use ICT based solutions to solve problems. You will learn about the current and emerging technologies and their impact on individuals.

You will learn how to use and develop further skills in a variety of software:

- Animation
- Sound
- Presentation
- Graphics
- Spreadsheet
- Web page design
- Databases
- Video
- Podcast
- Digital Imaging

How is the course structured?

To achieve the GCSE, you need to take and pass four units. The Units are:

Unit 1 – Understanding ICT (20% of total Marks):

In this unit you will explore how digital technology is used in school and at home. You will also look at how ICT impacts on the lives of individuals, organisations and society.

Students will explore a range of online services and will be able to adopt a safe, secure and responsible practice when using ICT. The exam board will set a written examination paper to be completed at the end of the course.

Unit 2 – Solving Problems with ICT (30% of the final Marks):

This is a practical unit. In this controlled assessment unit you will broaden and enhance your ICT skills and capability. You work with a range of digital tools and techniques to produce effective ICT solutions in a range of contexts.

You will be given a task set by the exam board which is broken down into a number of activities. You will complete the activities in class under controlled conditions.

Unit 3 – ICT in organisations (20% of the final Marks):

In this unit you explore how ICT is used in home, school, business and industry. The exam board will set a written examination paper to be completed at the end of the course

Unit 4 – Developing Multimedia ICT Solutions (30% of the final Marks):

This is another practical unit. In this controlled assessment you will have the opportunity to develop a piece of work using multimedia software following a brief issued by the exam board.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1 and 3 are assessed through a written examination paper set and marked by the exam board. (40%)

Units 2 and 4 – Controlled Assessment. (60%) The two units are assessed internally and the exam board, WJEC, moderating the work externally.

Successful students will achieve a grade in the range of A*-G.

What can this qualification lead to?

The main aim of the course is to develop your skills so that you may go on to further study or employment in ICT. At Key stage 5 A Level ICT is offered in many establishments and successful completion of GCSE ICT will enable you to follow this. Equally, you will be taught the skills and gain a recognised qualification that will help you if you move onto employment after Year 11.

Qualification

GCSE Design and Technology: Food Technology

This course could be for you if you have a passion for cooking and creating new dishes. If you choose GCSE Food Technology you will be individually supported and guided at all levels so you reach your full potential. GCSE Food Technology is a starting point for many career options and is a good foundation for further education courses concerned with catering, nutrition and diet, food safety, quality control, product development and food science. The course is designed to provide opportunities for investigation, designing, making and evaluation, which focus on the use of food as a material. You will be given the opportunity to work individually and with your peers and apply knowledge from other subjects.

What will I learn about?

You will acquire knowledge of the complex nature of food as a material, its various properties, the effects of processing and the appropriate selection of equipment. You will also be taught a range of skills and processes which will be related to industry wherever possible. You will consider the impact of commercial foods and materials in the food industry. You will also consider a wide range of consumer needs when designing and making, and in particular, social and moral issues, including environmental concerns and multiculturalism. You will also be taught about the importance of safe and hygienic working practices.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework 60% of the total marks

(Internally assessed by the College and externally moderated)

You will select a design brief from a range of tasks set by the examination board. You will then be expected to complete a single 'design and make' project consisting of an A3 design folder and a food prototype. The A3 design folder should include evidence of researching, designing, modelling, planning, testing & evaluating. You are expected to use ICT and CAD CAM (computer aided design/manufacture) throughout your project in order to access the higher grades.

Written Exam 40%

At the end of this course you will complete a 2 hour exam that will test your knowledge of all aspects of this course. This will be externally assessed by the examination board.

What can this qualification lead to?

GCSE Food Technology is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area or for those who wish to progress further. GCSE Food Technology is a starting point for many career options and is a good foundation for the further education pathways mentioned above. Food Technology will also help you develop many more important and valuable skills. These include:

- Life skills
- Organisational skills
- Teamwork

DT - GRAPHIC PRODUCTS

Qualification

GCSE Design and Technology: Graphic Products

This course could be for you if you enjoy designing, sketching, love using ICT and creating models with papers, boards, block modelling foam and clay.

What will I learn about?

This course will enable you to develop excellent graphical skills through the use of free hand sketching, ICT graphics software such as Adobe Photoshop and computer aided design. You will be encouraged to design and make 3D graphic products with creativity and originality, using a range of techniques and compliant materials - primarily, paper, card, board, plastic and modelling foam or clay. You will use the skills and knowledge gained through the course to design and make imaginative solutions to a range of practical tasks such as:

- A race and chase board game
- A cabinet containing cards or invitations and envelopes
- A music CD, poster and promotional items
- A mobile phone and packaging

You will learn to understand the impact of graphic media in society today and develop your own use of colour, images and lettering to appeal to a given target market. You will also learn about the impact of graphic products on the environment and the responsibility of graphic designers to develop products with less environmental impact. You will also learn how products are made in industry and use the latest technology and equipment yourself to ensure a professional quality outcome.

How is the course assessed?

Coursework 60% of the total marks:

(Internally assessed by the College and externally moderated)

Following an introductory project you will select a design brief from a range of tasks set by the examination board. Here you are expected to complete a single 'design and make' project consisting of an A3 design folder and a 3 dimensional final graphic product manufactured from card, paper, board, plastic, modelling foam or clay. The A3 design folder should include evidence of researching, designing, modelling, planning, testing & evaluating. You are expected to use ICT and CAD CAM (computer aided design/manufacture) throughout your project in order to access the higher grades.

Written Exam 40%:

(Externally assessed by the examination board)

At the end of this course you will complete a 2 hour exam that will test your knowledge of graphic products. You will be provided with a preparation sheet with a design topic for researching prior to the examination.

What can this qualification lead to?

As well as providing opportunity to develop transferable skills such as numeracy, problem solving, ICT and thinking skills, this course is also an excellent route into an A Level Design and Technology course or further and higher education courses in design and manufacturing. Future careers can include roles in a wide range of sectors such as design, media, advertising, architecture and interior, package design, web design and computer game design.

DT - PRODUCT DESIGN

Qualification

GCSE Design and Technology: Product Design

This course could be for you if you enjoy designing and making new products. You will create these new products using a variety of different types of materials, plastics, metals and woods which are made by using a wide range of tools and processes.

What will I learn about?

This course will provide opportunities for you to develop the skills you need to design, model, make and evaluate products which meet an identified need. The aim of the product design course is to involve you in activities which develop innovation and flair and allow you to solve practical problems. You will develop your designing and making skills through working with a range of manufacturing processes and materials, focusing mainly on wood, plastic and metal. You will learn to use the full range of workshop tools and equipment and will use CAD (computer aided design) and a combination of traditional methods and the latest technology to produce products of quality.

Examples of products you can design & manufacture:

- Low Voltage Lighting
- Small storage Unit
- Hand held product prototype
- An educational toy for a child

How is the course assessed?

Coursework 60% of the total marks:

(Internally assessed by the College and externally moderated)

Following an introductory project you will select a design brief from a range of tasks set by the examination board. Here you are expected to complete a single 'design and make' project consisting of an A3 design folder and a final product manufactured from a combination of wood, plastic or metal. The A3 design folder should include evidence of researching, designing, modelling, planning, testing & evaluating. You are expected to use ICT and CAD (computer aided design) throughout your project in order to access the higher grades.

Written Exam 40%:

(Externally assessed by the examination board)

At the end of this course you will complete a 2 hour exam that will test your knowledge of Product Design. You will be provided with a preparation sheet with a design topic for researching prior to the examination.

What can this qualification lead to?

As well as developing valuable transferable skills this course provides a route into A Level Product Design and other further and higher education courses in design and technology. Career sectors include product design, industrial design, architecture, manufacturing, engineering, construction, research and development.

DT - TEXTILES

Qualification

GCSE Design and Technology: Textiles

This course could be for you if you enjoy designing, love fashion, love being creative and experimenting with fabrics.

What will I learn about?

This course involves learning about how textile products are designed, decorated and made both in the classroom and in the wider textile industry. Throughout the course you will develop designing and making skills specific to textiles. You will learn to communicate and visualise your designs on paper, use a range of appropriate tools and equipment and develop decorative paint techniques such as batik, block print, appliqué and beading. You will have the opportunity to further develop your hand sewing and embroidery skills and will use smart textiles such as xpanderprint, tyvek, polyshrink and angelina fibre. In addition you will learn how products are made in the textile industry and will understand the impact of this industry on the environment. Products you can design and manufacture include:

- Home accessories
- Fashion accessories
- Clothing for adults and children
- Toys for a child

How is the course assessed?

Coursework 60% of the total marks:

(Internally assessed by the College and externally moderated)

Following an introductory project you will select a design brief from a range of tasks set by the examination board. Here you are expected to complete a single 'design and make' project consisting of an A3 design folder and a 3 dimensional final product manufactured from a range of textile materials. The A3 design folder should include evidence of researching, designing, modelling, planning, testing & evaluating. You are expected to use ICT and CAD CAM (computer aided design/manufacture) throughout your project in order to access the higher grades.

Written Exam 40%:

At the end of this course you will complete a 2 hour exam that will test your knowledge of Textiles Technology. This will be externally assessed by the examination board.

What can this qualification lead to?

The textile industry is a global industry with many opportunities. This course is particularly artistic so would be suited to the artistic careers such as fashion or textile design; it leads particularly well into A Level Textiles and Art and Design courses. We follow a product development model in the coursework so the course could also be appropriate for careers in product management, textile technology, fashion buying or merchandising.

Qualification

GCSE in English and English Literature combined (Edexcel)

What will I learn about?

English Language GCSE: pupils will study all aspects of English under three main sections: Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening, including the features of Spoken language.

plus

English Literature: pupils will study novels, a Shakespeare play, a modern play as well as studying and writing about modern and pre-1900 poetry.

How is the course structured?

Year 10 and 11 – we focus on completing Controlled Assessment pieces working towards accreditation for both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature. Staff will monitor pupils' progress across both years. External exam dates take place in the summer of Year 11.

How will my work be assessed?

There are two main ways that pupils' work is assessed:

- a) **Internally** – English teachers will feed back to pupils on their progress by marking homework, feeding back and offering supportive advice in preparation for Controlled assessment tasks which are held under supervised conditions.
- b) Staff also assess and mark Speaking and Listening performance – although an external moderator makes frequent visits to check that our standards are of the highest order.
- c) **Externally** – pupils also sit external examinations in both GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature in Year 11.

What can these qualifications lead to?

Clearly, a good pass in GCSE English is a must for all pupils leaving school hoping to embark on a career in the world of work or apply for a place at Sixth Form. An English GCSE, along with a Maths GCSE, is a crucial qualification for pupils making their way after Year 11. At Sixth Form, a good pass in English and English Literature will enable you to apply to study AS and A2 in English Literature and Combined English A Level.

GEOGRAPHY



Qualification

GCSE in Geography (AQA)

What will I learn about?

The AQA GCSE syllabus B course is followed at GCSE. This is an issues based approach to Geography which approaches the subject by examining the effects, causes and management of issues associated with urban growth, natural hazards and global tourism.

Use of case studies and field trips make the subject relevant to student's experiences of the world. Field trips include visits to the Lake District, the Peak District and also a trip abroad to the Bay of Naples, Italy in Year 10 and Reykjavik, Iceland in Year 11. A wide variety of approaches to learning are used within the subject and students are encouraged to independently explore topics and case studies using the computer room available within the department.

The subject requires pupils to take two exams, both of which are at the end of year 11. These are supported by extensive revision sessions and support material which will start well before the exam dates.

How is the course structured?

AQA syllabus B consists of 3 modules, two are worth 37/5% and the other 25%.

In Year 10, pupils will study:

Module 1:

Managing places in the 21st century

- The Urban Environment & The Coastal Environment
- Exam lasts 1 hour 30 minutes
- Worth 86 marks
- This is 37.5% of the whole GCSE
- Exam sat in June of year 11
- Topics covered are- World urbanisation patterns; Urban Challenges in developed countries; Opportunities and Challenges in Developing Countries; Sustainable Urban Living, Coastal Processes and Landforms, Issues of Development in Coastal Areas, Coasts as an Economic Resource, Coastal Change and Coastal Management.

Module 2:

Hostile World & Investigating the Shrinking World

- We do section A -Living With Natural Hazards
- Exam lasts 1 hour 30 minutes
- Worth 86 marks
- This is 37.5% of the whole GCSE
- Exam sat in the June of Year 11

- Topics covered are in Hostile World are Plate tectonics (volcanoes and earthquakes); Tropical Storms; Wildfires. Topics covered in the Shrinking World are: Reasons for the Growth of Tourism, various case studies on tourism types and locations, Tourism and Economic Development, Pressures on the Global Environment, Sustainable Tourism, Tourism and Conflict, the Future of Tourism.

Module 3:

Controlled Assessment

- Task 1- A local investigation involving fieldwork and a fieldtrip to collect primary data
- Marked out 36 and worth 15% of the whole GCSE
- Task 2- Geographical Issues investigation
- Marked out of 24 and worth 10% of the whole GCSE
- All completed by January in Year 11

How will my work be assessed?

In your Geography GCSE you will be assessed through two examinations and two pieces of controlled assessment. Modules 1 & 2 are assessed in separate examinations with each worth 37.5% of your final GCSE.

Controlled assessment (module 3) makes up the other 25%. You will complete a local fieldwork investigation worth 15% of your final GCSE and a Geographical Issues Investigation worth 10%.

What can this qualification lead to?

Geography develops a wide variety of cross-curricular skills which means you can use these anywhere. Skills are developed in literacy, numeracy, ICT, problem solving, data analysis and presentation, teamwork and thinking skills. Pupils can go on to study Geography at A-level. In addition, the subject develops important skills that are transferable in the ever-changing and competitive workplace. Pupils develop the ability to think analytically, gather relevant information, evaluate facts and apply their own point of view.

Future careers can include a wide range of sectors including scientific research, health care, social work, accountancy, retail, teaching, business and finance, law, police, journalism, marketing/sales and advertising, as well as architecture, landscape architecture, planning, conservation work, environmental health and the travel and tourism industry.

HISTORY



Qualification

GCSE in History (Edexcel)

What will I learn about?

“Those who ignore History are condemned to repeat it.”

History allows you to gain knowledge and understanding of the world in which you live today. Topics are chosen for their relevance to the shaping of our world today and link to events taking place all around the world. History encourages you to think independently and to ask questions and make judgments. History pupils train their minds to assemble, organise and present facts and opinions.

You will encounter a variety of teaching techniques from discussion and debate to group work and personal reflection. You will also see the subject brought to life through primary historical sources in film, books and newspapers, using the stories of real people and their lives.

How is the course structured?

The GCSE History course is divided into three units and the Controlled Assessment. Each is examined separately.

In Year 10, you will study:

USA 1919-1941 - Depth Study includes:

- 1920s Economic Boom
- Red Scare
- Immigration Policy
- Ku Klux Klan
- Prohibition
- Gangsters
- Wall Street Crash
- The Great Depression
- The New Deal

The Transformation of British Society 1900-1929 Depth study includes;

- Reforms brought in by the Liberals to improve the lives of the poor.
 - The Votes for Women Movement
 - The war on the Western Front
 - The effect of war on the people of Britain in WW1
 - The General Strike 1926
- This unit teaches you how to understand sources of information from the time. You will learn how to analyse and assess them, how to take them apart and test them.

In Year 11, you will study:

Controlled Assessment – The Vietnam War Depth study includes;

- Reasons for American involvement

- Guerilla Warfare
- Operation Rolling Thunder
- The Tet Offensive
- Mai Lai Massacre
- American tactics
- Opposition to war
- Media coverage
- Reasons for withdrawal

International Relations - The era of the Cold War – Depth study includes:

- The development of the Iron Curtain
- The start of the Cold war
- The flashpoints of Hungary and Berlin
- The crisis that nearly destroyed us all; Cuba
- The Prague Spring in Czechoslovakia
- How the Cold War began to thaw
- The collapse of the Soviet Union and the fall of the Berlin Wall

How will my work be assessed?

There are three exams and a controlled assessment. Each element is worth 25% of the overall mark. The controlled assessment will take place in the first term of Y11 and the exams are taken at the end of the course (June 2017).

Unit One Exam – International Relations (1 hour 15 minutes, 60 marks, worth 25% of final grade)

Unit Two Exam – USA 1919-1941 (1 hour 15 minutes, 50 marks, worth 25% of final grade)

Unit Three Exam – British Society 1900-1929 (1 hour 15 minutes, 50 marks, worth 25% of final grade)

Controlled Assessment – Vietnam War (completed over several lessons, 50 marks, worth 25%)

What can this qualification lead to?

Pupils have the opportunity to continue their studies in this subject at A Level and beyond. History is an excellent preparation for many jobs such as management, business consultancy, law, journalism and positions in local and central government. Famous people such as Dan Walker (sports presenter), Anita Roddick (founder of the Body Shop), Chris Martin (Coldplay), Al Murray (Comedian), David Cameron (Prime Minister) all studied History.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

Qualification

Single Award GCSE Health & Social Care (Edexcel)

What will I learn about?

If you are interested in and want to ultimately work with people, this may be the course for you. Some pupils already have an interest in working with children or want to care for and help others. This GCSE course gives you the background knowledge and develops the skills needed by anybody considering working with people.

How is the course structured?

The course is divided into two units.

Unit 1: Understanding Personal Development and Relationships

Unit 2: Exploring Health, Social Care and Early Years Provision

You will:

- Learn through investigation
- Develop knowledge and understanding about health and social care and early Years provision
- Complete practical work
- Learn about and understand the world you live in
- Be able to design a health plan
- Research occupations you may want to work in

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: GCSE written examination: 1 ¼ hours (40% of overall marks)

Unit 2: Controlled assessment, internally assessed and externally moderated (60% of overall marks)

What can this qualification lead to?

This course is ideal preparation for progression to more detailed study of Health and Social Care and Early Years. This could be an A Level course or a BTEC National qualification. Some pupils may complete the course and progress to working or training in a specialised area of the Health, Social Care and Early Years fields.

Qualification

GCSE in Mathematics (Edexcel)

What will I learn about?

Whether you plan to go on to work, AS and A levels or other further studies, a good understanding of maths will be useful to you. Number skills are required in all sorts of everyday situations, such as trying to work out phone bills. Thinking like a mathematician will help to improve your problem-solving and decision-making skills.

You will continue to build on the skills learnt at Key Stage 3 covering number, algebra, shape and space and handling data in more detail than previously. You will learn new skills and techniques in these areas, and then put them to use in practical situations to see how mathematics fits with real life problems. There is now a much greater emphasis in the assessment of mathematics in its use in real life scenarios.

How is the course structured?

The content of our GCSE Mathematics specifications have been grouped into Number, Algebra, Geometry, Measures, Statistics and Probability. Throughout the course pupils will be taught to recall and use facts, apply their skills to solve problems and communicate the mathematics they have applied (a requirement called Quality of Written Communication, QWC, which is compulsory for all GCSE examinations). This may involve, for example, giving a reason for an answer, correctly setting out a proof or accurately marking up a statistical diagram. About 5% of marks in the examination will be given over to QWC.

Pupils will be entered at either Higher or Foundation level based on their Year 9 performance and teacher assessment.

How will my work be assessed?

Pupils will take linear examinations in May/June since modular exams have now been discontinued. Pupils do not do controlled assessments or coursework in mathematics. The two exams that pupils will take are paper 1 (non-calculator) and paper 2 (calculator). The exam is taken at the end of the course (usually, but not always, at the end of Year 11) and any part of the specification can be tested on any paper.

What can this qualification lead to?

Pupils who are successful at the higher level are generally encouraged to consider taking mathematics at A Level at Sixth Form. A pass in GCSE Mathematics (along with one in GCSE English) is often vital for entrance to training for any number of professions or careers. It is also very valuable as a supporting subject to many courses at GCSE, AS and A level and at degree level, especially in the sciences: for example, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Geography, Psychology, Sociology, and medical courses.

MUSIC (GCSE)

Qualification

GCSE in Music (AQA)

What will I learn about?

GCSE Music is about making and listening to music. It covers performing, composing and listening in a wide variety of musical styles – popular music styles ranging from 1960s Rock n Roll to music that is currently in the charts, music used in films, music from other cultures from around the world and more traditional classical music.

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that;

- involves performing or singing on an instrument of your choice,
- involves listening to all kinds of music
- involves composing or arranging music, using specialist computer software,
- gives you the opportunity to play music with others in e.g. rock groups, bands, orchestras or vocal groups.

You will improve your skills in performing and composing different types of music. You will listen to a wide variety of music and learn more about how and why it was written and/or performed. An ability to read music is helpful, but not compulsory, as work can be presented in a variety of ways.

How is the course structured?

The course is split into four units:

1. Listening to and Appraising Music - a written exam where you listen to a wide variety of music and answer questions based on what you can hear. The exam is taken at the end of year 11 and is worth 20% of the overall marks.
2. Composing and Appraising Music – In this unit you are given a style of music by the exam board in which you have to compose your own piece of music, using specialist software on the computers. You then have a 2 hour controlled assessment to write about your composition ideas. This unit is externally assessed, worth 20% of the overall marks.
3. Performing Music – Over the 2 year course, you will receive lessons on your chosen instrument, where you will be taught specific skills and techniques, which will then be tested in the form of a solo performance (on your own) and an ensemble performance (in a group) at the end of year 11. This unit is worth 40% of the overall marks.
4. Composing Music - In this unit you have to compose your own piece of music in any style you wish, using any instruments you wish, using specialist software on the computers. This unit is worth 20% of the overall marks

How will my work be assessed?

There is one exam in the summer of Year 11. You will listen to a CD and answer questions on music in a wide variety of styles of music which cover popular music, classical music and

music from around the world. In addition, you will perform (play, sing or sequence) two performance pieces in total. One of the pieces will be a solo in any style, and the second will be performing as part of a group. These performances may take place in the classroom, in school music groups or outside school. They will be recorded and marked by your teacher. You will also compose two pieces according to a brief. These can be in a style of your choice.

What can this qualification lead to?

GCSE Music is good preparation for further study in both Music and the Performing Arts in the sixth form.

You may of course wish to study GCSE Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching (primary and secondary) or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

It is preferable that you already play an instrument, or are willing to start playing an instrument and attend weekly instrumental tuition, which will be paid for my school, as 40% of the overall grade is performing.

MUSIC (BTEC)

Qualification

BTEC award in Music (Edexcel)

What will I learn about?

BTEC Music is about making, researching and producing music. It covers performing, composing, recording and music production.

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that can;

- involve performing
- involve researching the different jobs within the Music industry
- involve composing or arranging music
- gives you the opportunity to play and record music with others in e.g. rock groups, bands, orchestras or local choirs, and produce concerts, gigs and CDs.

You will be able to pick units that are of a specific interest to you, whether that be performing on an instrument or singing, writing and recording your own work, making a music product such as a CD or DVD, or looking into different jobs that are in the Music industry (not just the obvious ones).

How is the course structured?

The course is split into three units:

1. The music industry – This unit allows you to gain a good understanding of the scope of the music industry, looking at a variety of technical, production and administrative roles. This is a core unit which is externally assessed in the form of a controlled assessment.
2. Managing a music product – This unit allows you to plan, deliver and promote a live concert, CD or other musical product, by either performing in some way or taking on a technical role. This is a mandatory unit which is assessed by your teacher
3. Then you pick a unit of your choice from the following list, which all assessed by your teacher;-
 - Introducing live sound – This unit looks at the skills required to be a live sound engineer, learning how to mix sounds together for live events and recordings.
 - Introducing music composition – In this unit you will develop a portfolio of your own ideas, demonstrating a range of different musical ideas for different scenarios such as a TV advert or a scene from a film.
 - Introducing music performance – This unit allows you to develop and demonstrate your ability as a performer, on either an instrument of your choice or through singing. Should you choose to study this unit, school would provide instrumental lessons once a week by an external specialist teacher to help you develop the specific techniques needed for this unit.
 - Introducing music recording – In this unit you will learn how to use music technology to record and mix live sounds together to create a final product.

How will my work be assessed?

There is no written exam in BTEC music – all the work is coursework-based, with evidence being provided in a variety of formats, such as presentations, diary logs, recordings (audio and visual), performances, and traditional written methods. The mandatory unit is completed as a controlled assessment, with a given time period in which to complete it, and this is then marked by an external examiner. The other two units are completed during lesson time and marked by your class teacher.

What can this qualification lead to?

BTEC Firsts in Music provide a broad, solid foundation for progression to Level 3 qualifications and employment in the music sector, and is equivalent to 1 GCSE qualification.

You may of course wish to study BTEC Music for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had a more practical, hands-on experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music or performing arts industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching (primary and secondary) or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

There is no need to play an instrument in order to study BTEC music, just a general interest and passion for Music in general.

PERFORMING ARTS

Qualification

BTEC award in Performing Arts (Edexcel)

What will I learn about?

BTEC Performing Arts is about studying performance (acting, singing and dancing all combined together) and technical aspects (lighting, sound, costumes and props) to create a variety of different productions throughout the two year course.

You will enjoy this course if you want to study a subject that can;

- involve performing (singing, acting or dancing)
- involve researching the different jobs within the Performing arts industry
- involve looking at other skills and jobs apart from performing, such as costume and scenery design, or sound and lighting engineers.
- gives you the opportunity to rehearse and perform with others to produce concerts, dance events and Musical theatre productions.

You will be able to pick units that are of a specific interest to you, whether that be singing, acting or dancing, looking specifically at Musical theatre and stage shows, or working behind the scenes on technical and design aspects.

How is the course structured?

The course is split into three units:

1. Individual showcase – This unit allows you to demonstrate a specific skill you are good at, and would potentially like to do as a career once you leave school. In this unit you will write a letter of application for a job that requires your chosen skill, and then prepare an audition in the form of a performance or a presentation to explain why you have the desired skills for that job. This is a core unit which is externally assessed in the form of a controlled assessment.
2. Preparation, Performance and Production – In this unit you will learn how to develop a performance piece as a member of a fictional performance company, where you will take on a specific performing or production role and will prepare for, and produce, a performance by carrying out tasks that are appropriate to your role. Your performance company can include both performers (actors, dancers or musicians), and a production team (sound or lighting technicians, costume, set, makeup, prop or mask designers) This is a mandatory unit which is assessed by your teacher
3. Then you pick a unit of your choice from the following list, which all assessed by your teacher;-
 - Acting skills – This unit looks at the skills required to be a professional actor, whether it be on stage or screen.
 - Dancing skills – This unit looks at the skills required to be a professional and versatile dancer, able to perform in a variety of different styles.
 - Musical theatre skills – This unit looks at the specific skills required to be a professional musical theatre performer, combining acting, singing and dancing skills into one.

- Music performance skills – This unit looks at the skills required to be a professional musician, whether it be as part of an orchestra, choir, and theatre company or rock band.

How will my work be assessed?

There is no written exam in BTEC Performing Arts – all the work is coursework-based, with evidence being provided in a variety of formats, such as presentations, diary logs, recordings (audio and visual), performances, and traditional written methods. The mandatory unit is completed as a controlled assessment, with a given time period in which to complete it, and this is then marked by an external examiner. The other two units are completed during lesson time and marked by your class teacher.

What can this qualification lead to?

BTEC Firsts in Performing Arts provide a broad, solid foundation for progression to Level 3 qualifications and employment in the Performing Arts sector, and is equivalent to 1 GCSE qualification.

You may of course wish to study BTEC Performing Arts for its own sake, perhaps to form the basis of a future interest. Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had a more practical, hands-on experience of acting, dance, music and drama, or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in the music or performing arts industry, publishing, entertainment and teaching (primary and secondary) or any job which involves communication and expressive skills.

There is no need to have previously taken part in any music, drama or Performing arts, just confidence and the willingness to perform in front of other people.

DANCE

Qualification: AQA GCSE in Dance (AQA)

What will I learn about?

GCSE Dance is a comprehensive study of Dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural context. GCSE Dance enables students to combine their creative and academic abilities. Students will develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of dance through performance, choreography and critical appreciation of dance. Practical work is linked with the study of practitioners and dance works to create a fulfilling and enjoyable course.

In addition to helping students acquire subject knowledge, this specification promotes:

- fitness
- a healthy lifestyle
- team working
- creativity.

Assessment:

The GCSE Dance specification requires students to complete four units, consisting of one written exam, one practical exam and two controlled assessment units.

Unit 1:

- Critical Appreciation of Dance (42301)
- Written Paper – 1 hour / 50 marks – 20%

Unit 2:

- Set Dance (42302)
- Practical Examination
- Solo Performance – 1–1½ minutes / 30 marks – 20%

Unit 3:

- Performance in a duo/group dance (42303)
- 3 – 3½ minutes
- Controlled Assessment / 30 marks – 20%

Unit 4:

- Choreography (42304/A and 42304/B)
- Task A: Solo Composition 1–1½ minutes
- 20 marks – 15%
- Task B: Choreography – solo/duo/group
- (Solo – 1½ – 2 minutes; duo/group –
- 2½ – 3 minutes)
- 40 marks – 25%
- Unit total: 60 marks – 40%

Progression route:

This course provides a solid foundation for a career in dance or performing arts and/or further studies in dance or performing arts, including A-level Dance. GCSE Dance is a highly practical course which creates a foundation for A-level. At A-level students continue with practical and creative assignments while refining their critical thinking and extended writing skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - CORE

C

Qualification

Core PE is a compulsory part of the school curriculum. All pupils will participate in one hour of PE every week. In this lesson pupils will be allowed to choose from the options listed below:

- Outdoor games (football, basketball or rugby)
- Indoor games (badminton, table tennis, dodgeball, benchball)
- Dance (street, contemporary, zumba)

NB - Options will only run for a minimum of 6 pupils per group.

What will I learn about?

In year 10, core PE will involve participating in one activity of your choice. You will have the opportunity to assist in the running sports clubs for pupils in Lower School.

In year 11 core PE you will choose one activity area and play sport recreationally. Again you will have the opportunity to learn to lead training sessions in a sport of your choice.

How is the course structured?

The lessons and courses are run by the PE staff and external specialist coaches to allow a wider range of option choices. The course is structured so students participate in recreational lessons developing chosen roles within sport. The aim is for pupils to find a sport they enjoy and will continue when they leave All Saints.

How will my work be assessed?

There is no formal assessment for core PE.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (GCSE PE)

Qualification

GCSE Physical Education (AQA)

What will I learn about?

Students will learn about the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle. Students will acquire the skills to make informed choices about your own physical development, whilst getting involved in physical activities that meet your needs. Students will also learn how to analyse and evaluate performance, making effective plans for improvement.

Students will also learn new sports and new skills in a variety of practical sports: trampolining, rugby, football, dance, netball, orienteering, swimming, hockey, basketball, badminton, table tennis, weight training, athletics, fitness, volleyball, cross country, rounders, softball, cricket and aerobics.

You can also be assessed in sports you play outside of school such as horse riding, skiing and Karate.

For the written exams the main topic areas are:

- Sports skills
- Health & Fitness
- Nutrition
- Participation in Sport
- School Sport and the National Curriculum
- The Skeleton, Joints and Muscles
- Injury and Health & Safety
- The circulatory and respiratory systems
- Types of Training
- Principles of training
- International sport and the media
- Science and ICT in sport

How is the course structured?

Unit 3 (48903): Knowledge and Understanding for the Active Participant (Full Course)

Written Exam Paper - 1 hour 30 mins at the end of Year 11

80 marks - 40%

This includes a scenario based question which is issued to students in advance of the examination.

Unit 4 (48904): The Active Participant (Full Course)

Controlled Assessment - 90 marks - 60%

4 assessments from at least 2 groups/ways of thinking: at least 2 as player/performer.

You will be assessed in your top four sports but if you do not have four strong sports you can be a coach or referee/umpire for some of your practical marks.

Students will also complete a piece of coursework based on evaluating and improving performance.

How will my work be assessed?

- 50% of your marks will come from your examinations.
- 40% of your marks will be your practical scores in performing/coaching/officiating.
- The final 10% is your coursework.

What can this qualification lead to?

On successful completion of this course, you may wish to study either A Level Physical Education or a BTEC Level 3 qualification in Sport at Sixth Form.

The A Level course will further develop your knowledge of physiology, biomechanics, sports history and sports psychology.

The BTEC Level 3 course is the equivalent to A' Level and although it leads on from the BTEC Level 2 course it is still suitable for students who have taken the GCSE PE route.

Possible university and career pathways:

- Physiotherapy
- Science courses (biology/chemistry based courses)
- Physical Education Teacher
- Sports Coach
- Sports Science
- Sports Development

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (BTEC SPORT)

Qualification

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Awards in Sport (Edexcel)

This qualification is a level 2 qualification, and the certification may show a grade of Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction or Level 2 Distinction*. If these are not achieved a Level 1 or Unclassified grade may be awarded.

What will I learn about?

Unit 1 –Fitness for Sport and Exercise (mandatory unit)

Students will learn about the different types of fitness and how to test fitness. They will also study the different types of training and the principles of training.

This unit is externally assessed using an onscreen test (25%)

1 hour

50 marks

Unit 2 – Practical Sports Performance (mandatory specialist unit)

Students will learn about the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports. They will practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports and be able to review sports performance.

The unit is internally assessed (25%)

Students will then choose two optional specialist units from the following:

Unit 3 - The Mind and Sports Performance

Students will investigate personality and its effect on sports performance. They will explore the influence that motivation and self-confidence have on sports Performance and learn about arousal and anxiety, and the effects they have on sports performance.

The unit is internally assessed (25%)

Unit 4 – The Sports Performer in Action

Students will learn about the short-term responses and long-term adaptations of the body systems to exercise. They will learn about the different energy systems used during sports performance.

The unit is internally assessed (25%)

Unit 5 – Training for Personal Fitness

Students will learn how to design a personal fitness training programme. They will learn about exercise adherence factors and strategies for continued training success. Students will implement a self-designed personal fitness training programme to achieve own goals and objectives. They will then review a personal fitness training programme.

The unit is internally assessed (25%)

Unit 6 – Leading Sports Activities

Students will learn about the attributes associated with successful sports leadership. They will undertake the planning and leading of sports activities and review the planning and leading of sports activities.

The unit is internally assessed (25%)

How is the course structured?

The course runs over 2 years and the students will complete the mandatory units at the start of year 10 and then two optional units in Year 11.

How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1 is assessed by an external online test. The final three units are assessed through coursework. Within assignments, tasks will be completed to PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION level. Each individual assignment must be completed to at least a pass level in order to pass the whole unit. All assignment tasks are coursework and contribute to the completion of the course.

Overall PASS = Grade C

Overall MERIT = Grade B

Overall DISTINCTION = Grade A

What can this qualification lead to?

Following a BTEC course is an exciting way to study. It gives you the opportunity to develop the knowledge, skills and understanding that you will need in the world of work and university. BTEC courses put you more in charge of your own learning and allow extensive opportunities to develop the ability to work with independence. There is only one externally assessed unit and you will complete 3 coursework assignments throughout the 2 years. Each assignment will have a deadline, so you will need to be organised and have a mature attitude towards independent learning.

On successful completion of this course, you may wish to study BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Sport in Sixth Form. This is the equivalent to two A' Levels and will further develop and extend knowledge from previous units. Students will also have the opportunity to take on and study new topics within units. On successful completion of the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Sport, students are then eligible to apply to university, employers to continue their studies or vocations.

Possible university and career pathways:

- Physiotherapy
- Physical Education Teacher
- Sports Coach
- Sports Science
- Sports Development

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

C

Qualification

GCSE in Religious Studies (Edexcel)

All Key Stage 4 students will follow the Edexcel Syllabus in Religious Studies following Unit 3 in Year 10 (we begin this unit at the end of Year 9) and Unit 8 in Year 11.

What will I learn about?

Unit 3 (covered in Year 9 & 10) looks at 'Believing in God', 'Matters of Life and Death', 'Marriage and Family Life' and 'Community Cohesion'. The content of these modules includes an exploration of the key arguments for and against believing in God, different Christian views on abortion, euthanasia and contraception, the problem of evil, and an exploration of modern society with a particular focus on the role of women and on Britain as a multi-faith and multi-ethnic society.

Unit 8 (covered in Year 11) explores the role and influence of religion on society covering topics including 'Rights & Responsibilities', 'Environmental and Medical issues', 'Peace & Conflict' and 'Crime and Punishment'. The course also takes in to consideration the differences between Catholic views and those of other religions, particularly Islam. Students look in depth at guidance/authority on moral decisions, human rights, modern medical developments, the role of the U.N., 'Just War Theory' and the impact of drugs and alcohol on health.

How is the course structured?

The GCSE course for R.E. is comprised of 2 distinct modules, each carrying an equal weighting of 50%. Students currently begin the first module (unit 3) towards the end of Year 9 but won't complete their examination for this module until the end of Year 11 alongside unit 8.

Each module has its own key words and on average will last between 6-8 weeks of school time. Learning Programmes are in place to allow students put their lessons in to context. The R.E. department provides high-quality revision packs for each of the modules. These packs cater for a range of learning styles and include mind-maps and Past Paper Questions for all sections of the course.

How will my work be assessed?

All assessment follows the KS4 Departmental Marking Scheme. Pupils record their progress in tracking sheets in their RE exercise books – this allows parents to track the progress of their child in specific sections of the course.

Past Paper Questions are set regularly and at the end of each unit there will be an internal test. These results are used to inform Progress Reports to parents. They may also be used to justify the movement of pupils between different sets. A letter outlining the course structure and pupil expectations is also sent home to parents.

Each of the 2 modules contains 4 units and pupils will complete in-class tests on these units throughout the year including regular assessment of the key words associated with each unit. In addition, students sit a mock examination prior to the external examination of each module.

There is no coursework for this subject. External assessment is 100% examination.

What can this qualification lead to?

A GCSE in Religious Studies demonstrates the ability to think critically, to evaluate arguments and other differing opinions, as well as developing respect, understanding and knowledge of the many faith traditions in multi-cultural Britain today.

A qualification in Religious Education is regarded by employers, colleges and universities as a subject with academic rigour and high-order critical thinking skills. The ability to problem-solve and appreciate the views of others is necessary for policing and social work whereas the ability form logical arguments combines well with a career in Law or for those wishing to study Mathematics or Science. The ability to write fluently will suit those wishing to study English or Journalism. In addition, the nature of the topics explored in this GCSE course are of such diversity that they are arguably the most beneficial for understanding the modern world and can lead to careers in Marine Biology, Medicine and Politics through the heavy focus on Ethics during the Year 11 module.

SCIENCE – CORE FOLLOWED BY ADDITIONAL

Science is a core subject, meaning that all pupils will study Science in years 10 and 11.

Qualification

Two GCSEs (one in Core Science and one in Additional Science [Edexcel])

What will I learn about?

Pupils study 3 modules in year 10 and a further 3 in Y11 in the subject areas of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will learn about human biology and the environment, where raw materials come from to live our lives in the 21st Century and about the solar system and the universe. There is great emphasis on practical work and laboratory skills and this will be assessed through controlled assessments worth 25% of the GCSE

How is this course structured?

The Core and Additional science courses are structured the same with a module of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and a controlled assessment. The topics studied for each of the science subjects are shown below:

	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Core Science	Classification, variation and inheritance	The Earth's seas and atmosphere	Visible light and the solar system
	Responses to a changing environment	Materials from the Earth	The electromagnetic spectrum
	Problems of, and solutions to a changing environment	Acids	Waves and the universe
		Obtaining and using metals	Waves and the Earth
		Fuels Plant oils and their uses	Generation of electricity
		Changes in the Earth and its atmosphere	Energy and the future
Additional Science	The building blocks of cells.	Atomic Structure	Static and current electricity
	Organisms and energy	Ionic Compounds	Controlling and using electricity
	Common Systems	Covalent compounds	Motion and forces
		Groups in the periodic table	Momentum and energy
	Chemical reactions	Chemical reactions	Nuclear fission and fusion
Quantitative Chemistry	Quantitative Chemistry	Advantages and disadvantages of radioactive materials.	

How will my work be assessed?

In each year, pupils will sit examinations in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. In Year 10 pupils will sit these examinations in June. Each examination contributes 25% towards the final GCSE grade for Core Science.

Pupils will also sit a controlled assessment conducted during normal lesson time partly under exam conditions. This will assess pupil's knowledge and understanding of "How Science Works". The controlled assessment will contribute the final 25% of the GCSE grade.

In Year 11 pupils will be taught the second GCSE course called Additional Science. This course has a similar assessment structure to that of Core Science.

What can this qualification lead to?

GCSEs in core science and additional science naturally lead to AS/A2 in Biology Chemistry and Physics, which lead to science, based Degrees at University. Pupils can also progress to applied science A level from this course which is appropriate for people wishing to pursue a career in nursing, engineering, paramedics or other apprenticeships

This route is designed for pupils who are likely to choose at least one of the sciences (Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics) at AS/A2 level.

FURTHER ADDITIONAL SCIENCE (BIOLOGY, CHEMISTRY & PHYSICS)

E

Qualification

The GCSE Further Additional Science qualification is designed to allow an alternative pathway to the three separate Sciences; Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This qualification, along with Core and Additional Science covers the same content as the three GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics but has the benefit of allowing students to sit Core Science GCSE in Year 10. This allows them to focus on the Additional and Further Additional GCSEs in Year 11. The outcome at the end of year 11 will be 3 Science GCSEs.

What will I learn about?

Pupils will learn about a range of topics from the transport of substances in plants and animals, how our kidneys work to using micro-organisms to produce food, drink and fuels in Biology. They will learn about the development of the periodic table, what makes acids and alkalis acidic and alkaline to calculating the energy in various chemical reactions in Chemistry. They will learn about radiation in treatment and medicine, x-rays and ECGs and uses and risks of ionizing radiation.

How is this course structured?

Pupils will study 3 modules in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The first 2 modules of each of the sciences has identical content to that of the Core and Additional route. The content for the third module for each of the sciences is shown below:

	Biology	Chemistry	Physics
Additional Science (Third Science GCSE)	Control systems	Qualitative analysis	Radiation and medicine
	Behaviour	Quantitative analysis	X rays and ECGs
	Biotechnology	Electrolytic processes	Uses of radiation
		Gases and equilibria	Motion of particles
Further Science (Third Science GCSE)	Organic Chemistry	Kinetic theory and gases.	

How will my work be assessed?

The third GCSE component will be examined at the end of Year 11. Teaching of this component will start in Year 11. There will be three exam sessions, each lasting 60 minutes; one Biology paper (B3) one Chemistry paper (C3) and one Physics paper (P3)

Pupils will also sit a controlled assessment conducted during normal lesson time partly under exam conditions. This will assess pupil's knowledge and understanding of "How Science Works". The controlled assessment will contribute the final 25% of the GCSE.

What can this qualification lead to?

Pupils opting for Further Additional Science are those that are likely to want to study two or more sciences at AS/A2 level (Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics). However, this does not preclude pupils with a keen interest and ability for the subject choosing this pathway even if they are intending to study only 1 science at AS/A2 level.

This is the route that pupils should take if they have aspirations of continuing their study in University for veterinary science, medicine, pure sciences, dentistry or other science related discipline.

SPANISH



Qualification

GCSE Spanish (Edexcel)

This course builds upon the students' learning of Spanish at KS3.

What will I learn about?

A language is an essential skill. Today job market gets more competitive every day. Can you afford not to have skills in a second language? In GCSE Spanish you will learn to use four main aspects of essential skills in communication; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

During the course you will cover many topic areas including:

For Listening and Reading:

- Out and about
- Customer services and transactions
- Personal information
- Future plans, education and work

For Speaking and Writing:

- Media and culture
- Sport and leisure
- Travel and tourism
- Business, work and employment

How is the course structured?

Listening and Reading assessments are each worth 20% of the overall GCSE marks and are taken at the end of Year 11. Speaking and Writing are each worth 30% of the overall marks and are conducted in controlled conditions in class over the 2-year course. You will complete at least 2 written and speaking tasks during years 10 and 11.

To help you with this:

- You will be fully supported in class by your teacher. You will receive feedback on your extended written work and your teacher will show you specific ways that you can improve.

- You will be given support materials in class by your teacher to help you in your preparation for your controlled assessments
- You will be asked to use internet materials to further your learning at home, such as Linguascope, GCSE Bite size and languages online

How will my work be assessed?

In your Spanish GCSE, all four areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing will be assessed:

- The Reading and Listening Units of the GCSE are assessed in separate exams
- The Speaking unit consists of two tasks marked by your teacher and moderated by the board. The test includes two tasks in the form of a conversation which can be perfected in advance. You might prepare a presentation on your favourite sport or discuss a favourite holiday photograph.
- For the Writing unit you will complete two pieces of work under controlled conditions. Examples of possible topics include 'healthy lifestyle', 'a past Holiday' or 'an article for the school newsletter.'

What can this qualification lead to?

A GCSE in Spanish is extremely useful for a variety of jobs, not just teaching or translating; for example, you might use these skills in careers such as tourism, web design, medicine, engineering or ICT. If you are thinking you would like a career in any of these fields, or you just want to keep your options open for the future - a GCSE in languages may be just what you need!

If you decide to continue your language learning to university level, you will be given the opportunity to spend time in Spain or in a Spanish speaking country such as Argentina, Colombia, Mexico or Peru. Learning a language is a great way to broaden your horizons, learn about other cultures and lifestyles and to learn to communicate with people from many different walks of life.

A qualification in a language will always look good on your CV whether you use the language in the course of your work or not, as it tells potential employers and colleges that you can use the four essential skills for communication and may just give you the edge over other candidates.

