

Achievement for All



Belfast Model School for Girls



Key Stage 4

CHOOSING OPTIONS FOR YEARS 11 AND 12

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Introduction

Our focus at Key Stage 4 is to provide a curriculum for students which will provide them with the qualifications, experiences and success that they need to progress onto a wide range of further study, employment and other training destinations.

Key Stage 4 is an exciting time for students in that this is the first time that there will be an element of choice in what they should study. It is also the first time that studies will inevitably lead to public examinations.

We hope that this information will help your daughter to make an informed choice in this stage of her school career. We want all students to find enjoyment in their Key Stage 4 studies and to reach their full potential.

With this in mind we have streamlined and individualised our Key Stage 4 Pathways into one of three, using the school colours blue, yellow and red.

Each Pathway may be different but each offers a curriculum that is broad and balanced as well as being challenging and achievable - a curriculum that is suited to each individual student's abilities and interests and one that will maximise a student's chance of success.

Information is included on subjects that comprise

- **The core curriculum** – core subjects taken by all students
- **The optional curriculum** – optional subjects which students choose themselves.

Key Points relating to KS4 Qualifications

In Years 11 and 12 students will take either GCSEs or Level 1 and 2 courses:

General Certificate of Education (GCSE)

GCSE subjects are awarded by grades A* - G in Northern Ireland **OR** by a numerical grading system 9-1 in England and Wales. Fuller information about the mapping of A*-G grades with numerical grades 9-1 can be found out at Parent Information Sessions.

Passes at GCSE range from A*-G however, most universities, colleges and employers treat grades A*-C as 'good' passes.

Level 1 and Level 2 courses

Level 1 courses are equivalent to GCSE grades D – G

Level 1 courses if successfully completed can lead to Level 2 courses post 16

Level 2 courses are equivalent to GCSE grades A* - C

Level 2 courses if successfully completed can lead to Level 3 courses post-vv16 or A-Levels

Please note these courses carry GCSE equivalence and if successfully completed can lead to Level 3 courses at Post 16.

Sixth Form Entry Criteria

It is important to remember that criteria is set for returning to school in Sixth Form.

For entry into the 2 year programme – 5A* - C grades at GCSE or **equivalents**

For entry into the 3 year Bridging programme – 5A* - G grades at GCSE or **equivalents** (with a view to moving into a 2 year Vocational A-Level programme after this first year)

Class Sizes

Department of Education regulations state a maximum number of students in the following Practical Subjects:

Science - 24	PE - 20	Technology and Design - 24
Art and Design - 20	Music - 24	Catering - 24

Please note -

If a situation arises where there are more students choosing to study a subject than places available due to DENI/class size regulation and/or classroom accommodation a selection criteria may have to be applied. If this situation arises we will communicate this information to students at the earliest point possible.

Every attempt will be made to accommodate student's first subject preferences. However it may not always be possible due to matters beyond our control. Therefore it is important to give careful consideration when choosing 2nd preference subjects.

Information for students

This will be the first time you have chosen subjects to study and so you need to think carefully about your choices. The information in this booklet and on the school website is to assist you in the process of choosing the most suitable courses for you.

Try to keep the following points in mind.

- Your strengths
- Consider how you are doing in the subject – choose subjects you enjoy and do well in
- Consider your Year 10 examination results, what you achieved and how this compares to the range of marks achieved within the year group
- If you already do the subject ask your teacher about what grade you might hope to achieve at GCSE Level
- Think about what you want to do when you eventually leave school - find out what qualifications will be most useful to you for your future career
- Discuss possible choices with your parents
- Find out as much as you can about subjects before making your final decision, read carefully how a subject is assessed to consider if this type of assessment will suit your learning style – particularly if the subject is new to you
- Talk to older students about their experiences on different courses – did they make the correct choices? If not, why not?
- Ask for advice in school if there is something you are unsure about

Do not choose a subject because

- You like the teacher who taught you at Key Stage 3
- You think it will be easy
- Your parents want you to do it but you don't - come to a decision together
- Your friend is doing it
- It sounds good but you don't know anything about it

Please think carefully about the choices you need to make.

Remember to complete and return your Options form by **Monday 27th March 2017**. On this date you need to hand in this form to your Form Tutor during Form Time.

Important Additional Information

Core Subject ICT

Students will study either CCEA Digital Technology or OCR Cambridge National Certificate in ICT.

Subject Involving Performance

If you are a performer in Music, Drama, Dance, or interested in production roles, there are two subjects you could consider, Music and/or Performing Arts:

1. If you are a singer or you play an instrument you could study GCSE Music (see page on GCSE Music).
2. If you are a dancer/actor and interested in backstage production roles (stage management/sound/lighting) you could choose AQA Technical Award in Performing Arts (see page on Performing Arts).

GCSE English Literature

This subject is taught alongside English Language and is available to students who are in the red option group and who have shown aptitude in Literature during their KS3 English studies. Decisions regarding those students who will be successful studying English Literature are made using academic performance data and in consultation with Mrs Green, Curriculum Leader of English.



Core Subjects

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Unit 1: Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts

External written examination. Untiered. 1 hour 40 mins. Students to respond to five tasks. 30%

Unit 2: Speaking and Listening

Controlled assessment. Untiered. Teachers assess the tasks and CCEA moderate the outcomes. 20%

Unit 3: Studying Spoken and Written Language

Controlled assessment. Untiered. Teachers assess the tasks and CCEA moderate outcomes. 20%

Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literacy and Non-Fiction Texts

External written examination. Untiered. 1 hour 40 mins. Student to respond to five tasks. 30%

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

English Language is a compulsory subject.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This course develops key analytical and communication skills to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE English Language

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs C Green

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

This subject is made up of 3 Units, 1 of Controlled Assessment tasks and 2 theory based examinations.

Unit 1 Digital Technology - External written examination 1 hour (worth 30%)

Unit 2 Digital Authoring Concepts - External written examination 1 hour 30 mins (worth 40%)

Unit 3 Digital Authoring Practice - Assigned task under Controlled Conditions (worth 30%)

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Pupils wishing to choose Computer Science should have excellent Mathematical ability, in addition to competency in literacy and numeracy. Those pupils who have had previous experience in coding will be at an advantage.

Unit 1 Digital Technology is a compulsory theory unit which concludes with a 1 hour external examination. It takes into account topics such as File Types, factors affecting quality of sound and images, Computer Hardware and Software, Network Technologies, Cloud Technology and Cyber security.

Unit 2 Digital Authoring Concepts is a theory unit where pupils enhance their knowledge and skills developed in Unit 1 and build on the concept of digital systems.

Unit 3 Digital Authoring Practice is a controlled assessment unit where students will design, develop and test digital multimedia systems.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All theory resources, including Resource booklets are now held centrally on the School's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

This qualification can take you to:

Post -16 Curriculum – A-Level Digital Technology, or Cambridge Technical Level 3 in IT

Further Education – Computer Science, Web Design, Interactive Multimedia, Graphic Design.

Employment within the ICT Sector

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE Digital Technology

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs C Barkley-Smith

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

This subject is made up of 1 theory based examination and 3 Controlled Assessment Units.

R001: Understanding Computer Systems (worth 25% of final mark) – A 1 hour theory examination, based on a case study. Externally marked

R002: Using ICT to create business solutions (worth 25% of final mark) - Tasks conducted under Controlled Assessment conditions. Internal marked & externally moderated

R003: Handling data using spreadsheets (worth 25% of final mark) - Tasks conducted under Controlled Assessment conditions. Internal marked & externally moderated

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Pupils are not required to have previous ICT learning to choose this course. However, they should be competent in both literacy and numeracy to study at GCSE level.

In R001, students undertake a written theory examination, showing an understanding of ICT systems, how they work and how they are applied in organisations.

In R002, students have the opportunity to develop skills through the use of several applications, including the use of email and internet search engines. This unit focuses on how to complete tasks to meet specified business requirements in a variety of contexts.

In R003 and R004, students work through tasks to develop a practical working knowledge of spreadsheet and database software packages. These units will allow the pupils to process and present data into meaningful information to support decision making in a real life scenario.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

All resources for R001, including Resource booklets and Past Paper questions are now held centrally on the School's Virtual Learning Environment (VLE). All tasks for R002, R003 and R004 are held centrally on a secure pupil access area.

This qualification can take you to:

Post -16 Curriculum - GCE Applied ICT or Cambridge Technical Level 3 in IT

Further Education –Computer Science, Web Design, Interactive Multimedia, Graphic Design, Business

Employment within the ICT Sector

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

OCR Cambridge National Certificate (Level 2) In ICT

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs C Barkley-Smith

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Students must complete two units:

One unit will be completed in of Year 11 - M1, M2, M3 or M4

- Each unit consists of a calculator paper

Second unit will be completed in Year 12 - M5, M6, M7 or M8

- Each unit consists of a calculator and a non calculator paper

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

The content of each unit relates to:

- Numbers
- Algebra
- Shape, space and measures
- Handling data

Students must:

- Recall and use their knowledge of the course content;
- Select and apply mathematical methods in and range of contexts; and
- Interpret and analyse problems and generate strategies to solve them.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In May/June of Year 12 students may have the opportunity to improve their grade by either re-sitting a unit or attempting a higher unit. This is decided on a case by case basis, in collaboration with students and parents.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE Mathematics

Awaiting accreditation

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs C Muirhead

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Single Award Science is assessed over the two years of the course by four external module examinations and a Practical Skills Assessment (coursework).

Biology	25%
Chemistry	25%
Physics	25%
Practical Assessment (exam)	17.5%
Practical Skills (coursework)	7.5%

There are no terminal exams.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed to suit all abilities and there are assessments and course materials to suit all.

The course is open to all who have successfully completed the KS3 Science course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Successful students will have a broad and balanced knowledge of the Science required for today's life and work.

This qualification can prepare students for careers in manufacturing; Aerospace, Textiles, Plastics, and Food Technology. It also prepares students for entry to the following services; Nursing/ Care Assistant, Veterinary Nursing, Laboratory Assistant and Dental Nurse.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA Single Award Science

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mr P McCoo

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

This qualification is assessed entirely through evidence-based portfolios.

Pupils complete up to 7 Units over the course of two academic years, completing individual evidence-based portfolios for each Unit.

The Portfolios are initially assessed by the XL Advisor before being internally verified by other Prince's Trust Advisors at the Prince's Trust Centre. Following this, the portfolios of evidence are sent to the Prince's Trust Qualifications Team for external verification where they are either passed or failed.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

There are no previous requirements necessary for the course; however the ability to read and write in English is a significant advantage.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Prince's Trust Level 1 Certificate in Personal Development and Employability Skills
Pass = 75 points ⇒ GCSE equivalence = 2 KS4 A*-G

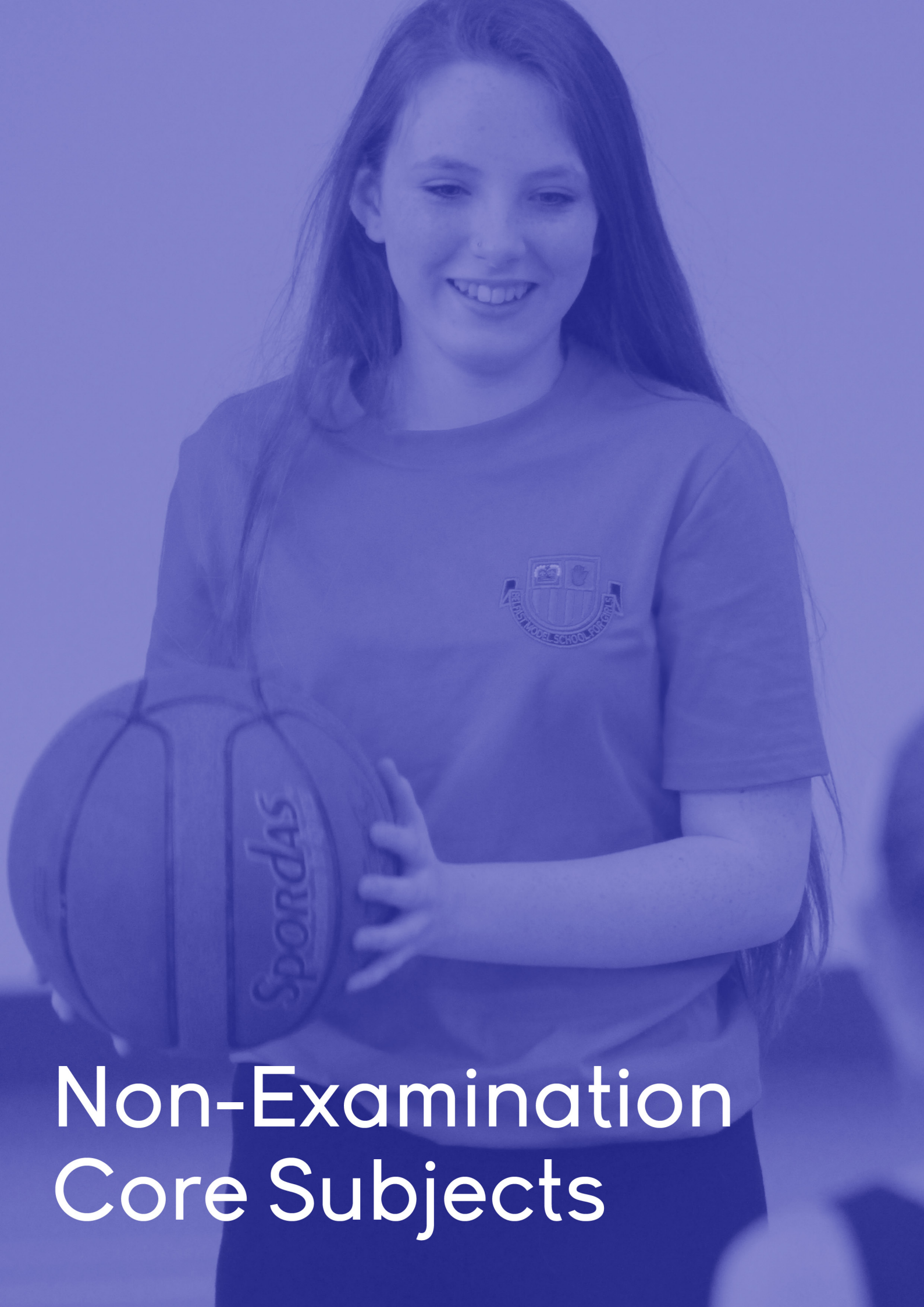
Prince's Trust Level 2 Certificate in Personal Development and Employability Skills
Pass = 92 points ⇒ GCSE equivalence = 2 KS4 A*-C

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

The Prince's Trust Qualification Team

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Advisor: Mrs N Corner



Non-Examination Core Subjects

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Teachers will check work and will observe participation in group work and class discussion.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Personal Development, Citizenship and Careers are part of learning for Life and Work which is a compulsory subject at key Stage 4.

Personal Development is based around key concepts such as Self Awareness, Personal Health and Relationships. In KS4 it involves students developing an understanding of how to sustain their own health and well-being, managing risk in a variety of situations, understanding the importance of healthy relationships and the management of emotions and reactions to life experiences.

Citizenship allows young people to develop their knowledge about key issues: such as Diversity and Inclusion, Human Rights and Social Responsibilities, Equality and Social Justice and Democracy and Human Participation: which affect them as individuals, their local community and the wider world: enabling them to make good and informed decisions so that they can play an active and effective part in today's world.

Careers is a compulsory subject at this stage. This subject will help young people prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life which allow them to make appropriate and realistic decisions about their education, training and employment options.

Alongside formal teaching time, pupils are given the opportunity for work experience and other work related learning.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The study of LLW can be described as a process which:
"Encourages each person to become personally, emotionally, socially and physically effective, to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives

To become competent, confident, independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives" (CCEA)

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Miss V Earley (Personal Development)
Mrs A Thomas (Citizenship)
Mrs L Wright (Careers)

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Core Physical Education is a non-examination subject. Students are assessed on their effort, behaviour and attitude to learning in lessons.

All students are expected to participate in all PE lessons.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

In Years 11 and 12 students receive one 60 minute lesson of Core PE per week.

In term 1 of Year 11 all students complete two Core PE units; Fitness for Health (Unit 1) and Leadership Skills. In terms 2 and 3 students follow an options programme where they can select the 3 different activities they wish to pursue; each for an 8 week unit.

In Year 12 all students complete one Core PE unit; Fitness for Health (Unit 2), where they plan and follow their own personal exercise programme. For the remaining 3 Units students follow an options programme where they can select the activities they wish to pursue; each for an 8 week unit.

Examples of activities included in the KS4 options programme are as follows:

Boxercise	Cheerleading	Lacrosse	Badminton	Football	Circuit Training
Netball	Body Combat	Volleyball	Gymnastics	Fitness Suite	Aerobics
Tag Rugby	Fun Games	Trampolining	Dance	Rounders	

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

At KS4 students may continue to wear the school PE kit for lessons or may wear any sporting clothing that is suitable to the activity being undertaken.

Students also have the opportunity to become part of a "Sports Leadership Team" that organizes a Sports Festival for our feeder Primary Schools. Students can choose to adopt either a role within the management team or the lead Coach Team or alternatively choose to become an activity Coach for the Festival.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

Non-Examination Subject

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Miss J Clarke

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

There are no formal examinations.

The written work of each pupil is assessed as well as the oral contribution they make in whole class discussions and in Group Work.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Students are challenged to reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes and encouraged to respect the values and opinions of others.

Students are provided with the opportunity to study a wide range of issues relating to Christianity and the modern world.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is a course for students interested in people, which equips you for life in the modern world.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

Non-Examination Subject

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs L Dalzell

Optional Subjects

Please refer to options form to see which subjects are available in your individual pathways.



HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Course Content

The Art & Design course at GCSE consists of:

a) Component 1: Portfolio (60%)

- Students will develop skills in a range of media eg drawing, painting, computer work, textiles, ceramics, sculpture, print-making.

b) Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

- Students will use skills learned in Unit 1 to explore and develop a project set by CCEA and carry out a final piece

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

The Schedule of work is as follows:

Year 11

- Component 1: Portfolio:

Candidates prepare a portfolio of edited work of no more than 20 A2 pages to illustrate the development of personal ideas and skills in a variety of techniques.

Year 12

- Completion of Core Portfolio

- Unit 2: Working to a Stimulus

The Examination Paper is issued in January. Candidates have approximately 6 weeks to complete the preparatory work. The final outcome is completed during a supervised period of 10 hours within school, usually early in April.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The nature of this subject requires a commitment to working independently at home as well as in class. Regular attendance is essential to keep up with coursework requirements.

Pupils will explore a range of media and be able to develop skills in their areas of interest.

This course prepares students for progression to A-Level Art and Design.

<http://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/artanddesign/gcse/specification/index.asp>

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

AQA GCSE Art and Design

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs S Wilson

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Four units are studied over the two years.

Three of the units are assessed using assignments that are done in school and marked by the teacher.

The other unit is assessed by a one hour exam.

Final grades awarded are – Pass, Merit and Distinction. Equivalent to C, B, A grades at GCSE level

This grade is worth one GCSE

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

The four units are

- Enterprise in the Business Environment
- Finance for Business
- Recruitment, Selection and Employment
- Introducing Retail Business

As the most of the work is assignment based organisational and communication skills are important.

Level 2 Pass - equivalent to Grade C

Level 2 Merit - equivalent to Grade B

Level 2 Distinction - equivalent to Grade A

Level 1 - equivalent to Grade D

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Following this course can lead onto Level 3 Business in combination with other A-Level subjects

Studying this subject will give you an insight into working in a business

This is useful for anyone interested in setting up their own business or careers in retail, working with people or advertising.

Further information can be obtained from www.edexcel.org.uk

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

Edexcel - Level 1/2 First Award in Business

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs P Cullen

CATERING (OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES)

KEY STAGE 4

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Continuous assessment, through portfolio work, based around **6** practical cooking outcomes and **4** written class tests in each unit.

A two year course:

Year 11: Contemporary Cuisine

Year 12: Patisserie and Baking

There is no terminal examination.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Excellent attendance is vital as a number of practical skills and knowledge have to be covered and tracked as evidence throughout the two years of the course duration.

Course content includes:

Contemporary Cuisine: This is a practical cooking unit which is covered in Year 11. Students will cover the following: Health and Safety in Catering, make a range of starter dishes, main course dishes and desserts

Patisserie and Baking: This is a practical cooking unit which is covered in Year 12. Students will cover the following: Health and Safety in Catering (repeated unit), make a range of breads and scones, cakes and biscuits and pastry products

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- This is a vocational course, which will require further vocational/qualifications at Post 16 to enter the job market
- It will give a 'taster' for work in the hospitality industry

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs E Chambers

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

- Assessment is through the production of a portfolio of evidence
- This is a practical course where you will be required to demonstrate competency in a range of tasks, for example how to bath a baby
- You will also complete a series of knowledge tests (A01) and evaluative accounts (A03)
- There is no formal examination

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

There are 2 units to be completed over Year 11 and Year 12

Unit 1 The Physical care of Babies - You will learn how to care for a young child including how to:

- Bath a baby
- Sterilize bottles and make formula feeds
- Put a baby to sleep safely
- Provide a balanced diet for children

Unit 2 the Play Environment - You will learn how to encourage and support children's learning through:

- Designing appropriate children's games
- Setting up a book corner
- Making a visual aid, for example puppets, to support talking and listening

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Assessment outcome is stated as a Level, **which are equivalent to GCSE Grade:**

			GCSE Equivalent
Level 2 Distinction *	A*	Level 1 Distinction	D
Level 2 Distinction	A	Level 1 Merit	E
Level 2 Merit	B	Level 1 Pass	F/G
Level 2 Pass	C	Refer	U

Upon successful completion there is the opportunity to return in sixth year to study Early Years full time. This is an occupational study.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA - Occupational Studies
- Business and Services

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs L Booth

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Assessment is through the production of three separate units.

Unit one and unit two will be assessed through two internal pieces of written coursework, based around a range of childcare related areas, for example the physical development of a child, placement preparation and inclusivity within a childcare setting

Unit three will be assessed through one external multiple choice examination. Learning for this will also be based around topics covered in unit one and two

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

The course is **equivalent** to a GCSE grade A* - D

This qualification consists of 3 units:

- Unit 1 – An introduction to working with children aged 0 – 5 years
- Unit 2 – Development and well-being of children aged 0 – 5 years
- Unit 3 – Childcare and development aged 0 – 5 years

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The course will provide learners with the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings, for example: Day Care and Nursery schools.

Upon completion learners will be able to progress to the Level 3 Children's Care and Development (CCLD) in sixth year.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CACHE Level 2 Award in Child Development and Care

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs L Booth

CRAFT AND TEXTILES

(OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES/LEVEL 2 COURSE)

KEY STAGE 4

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Each unit is assessed on the following criteria:

20% - Gain knowledge of materials and understand how to use them safely and effectively

60% - Be able to use the materials to make Craft and Textile objects

20% - Evaluate how successful the project was.

This examination is mostly practical, so good practical skills are important.

As much of the work is done in class, excellent attendance is required.

This course could be stepping stone into the Fashion and Textile industry or into setting up a small craft business.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Year 11: Unit 1: Textile and Fashion Design

During this unit, pupils will learn how to hand sew and use a sewing machine. They will learn how to cut a pattern and design and make a piece of clothing or textile item. Pupils are expected to plan and evaluate work for their portfolio.

Year 12: Unit 2: Enterprise Crafts

In this unit, students will learn how to design and make a craft object which could be made and sold. Knowledge of designing to a brief and selling will form part of this course. Pupils are expected to plan and evaluate work for their portfolio.

Pupils will build a portfolio of work for each unit with some written information showing planning and evaluation.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Assessment outcome is stated as a Level, **which are equivalent to GCSE Grade:**

			GCSE Equivalent
Level 2 Distinction *	A*	Level 1 Distinction	D
Level 2 Distinction	A	Level 1 Merit	E
Level 2 Merit	B	Level 1 Pass	F/G
Level 2 Pass	C	Refer	U

This is an occupational study.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs S Wilson

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

- French will be assessed through four units: Listening, Reading, Writing and Speaking, each worth 25%.
- The Listening, Reading and Writing examinations may be assessed at either Foundation or Higher Level and your level of entry will be agreed between yourself and your teacher.
- There is only one tier of entry for Speaking and this will include two role-plays and a general conversation on two chosen topics.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

How do you know if you are capable of GCSE French?

- You will have displayed an interest and love for this subject during your KS3 studies and you will have attained a sound Year 10 French examination result.
- You will be ready and willing to work hard from the beginning of the GCSE course, attending every day and applying maximum effort in class to learning the new material.
- You will understand that time needs to be set aside at home for extra consolidation of class work as well as completing home work to the best of your ability.
- You will have a positive attitude and give it your best shot!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- The main topics covered in GCSE French are: your life, family, home and interests; your lifestyle and attitudes to the environment and global issues; your school and career aspirations. All of these topics will also be related to young people in French-speaking countries.
- Studying a language at GCSE level is exciting and interesting! In the world in which we live it makes sense to study a second European language and French is the 6th most widely spoken language in the world! Many employers value a language qualification as well as the transferable skills that are naturally developed through language learning, such as listening, speaking and problem-solving skills as well as working with others and appreciating different cultures and traditions

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE French

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs J Johnston

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

GCSE Geography is assessed by three modular examinations from September 2016.

Module 1 looks at the Natural World and you complete the studies of The Restless Earth and Coastal Environments begun in Year 10 and you go on to study Rivers and Weather in Year 11. This is examined at the end of Year 11 and comprises 40% of the total marks for the GCSE.

Module 2 looks at the Human World and you will study Population, Urban Environments, Development and Managing Resources. This is examined at the end of Year 12 and comprises 40% of the total marks for the GCSE.

Module 3 is Fieldwork. You will conduct a study outside of the classroom, produce results which you will take into a one hour examination and answer questions about. This is worth 20% of the GCSE and may be completed at the end of Year 11.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

This course is open to everyone who is interested in the world around them and the people who live in it.

If you are interested in how the world was formed, why it rains or how we will cope with global warming in the future, we will study and investigate these in Physical Geography. If you are more of a people person and interested in issues of migration, pollution or tourism, then we also cover that in Human Geography.

You must be willing to take part in a field trip to gather data for the fieldwork paper.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Geography is a valued subject by both employers and universities. Having a GCSE in Geography shows that you can think for yourself, communicate well and work with data using mathematics and ICT.

Geography can lead you along many career paths including:

Social Worker, Housing Officer, Estate Agent, Civil Engineer, Retail Management, Travel Agent, News Researcher, Weather Presenter, Disaster Manager, Volcanologist, Coastal Engineer, Aid Agency Worker, Refugee Advisor, Travel Agent, Tour Guide, Pilot, Air Hostess, Charity Coordinator, Cartographer, GIS Specialist and of course, Teacher.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE Geography

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs C Chisim

HISTORY

KEY STAGE 4

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Two external examination papers:

Paper one: 60%

Paper two: 40%

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

This GCSE course consists of two units:

Unit 1:

Life in Nazi Germany (1933-1945) **OR** Life in the United States of America (1920-1933)
AND Northern Ireland and its neighbours (1920-1949) OR (1965-1998)

Unit 2:

International Relations (1945-2003)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- More details are available on the CCEA website
- A genuine interest in History and good results in Key Stage 3 History assessments provide a good basis for GCSE History
- History is offered at GCE A-Level
- It is accepted as a qualification for many jobs and courses

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE History

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Miss V Earley

MEDIA STUDIES

(OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES/LEVEL 2 COURSE)

KEY STAGE 4

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Occupational Studies is 100% coursework. There is no final examination. Assessment is ongoing and focuses on occupational tasks and employability in the areas of Film and TV in Year 11 and Digital Imaging in Year 12.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Learning takes the form of 20% (AO1) recall of knowledge about careers, health and safety, environmental issues and technical language in the film and television, magazine and advertising industries. This requires us to watch a range of films and analyse them and to familiarise ourselves with the Apple Macs, camcorders and digital cameras, learning new practical skills. 60% (AO2) of the course is practical: designing a film trailer, magazine and/ or advertising campaign. You can work in groups and/ or individually to plan, create and showcase your final product. The final 20% (AO3) is based on the evaluation of your work. You will also be doing this as you go along, evaluating in weekly diaries, as well as, at the end of each AO area and unit.

An interest in watching films and reading magazines and advertisements is essential. Good attendance is extremely important, as assessed worksheets or practical tasks are carried out in each lesson.

This is an occupational study.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Assessment outcome is stated as a Level, **which are equivalent to GCSE Grade:**

			GCSE Equivalent
Level 2 Distinction *	A*	Level 1 Distinction	D
Level 2 Distinction	A	Level 1 Merit	E
Level 2 Merit	B	Level 1 Pass	F/G
Level 2 Pass	C	Refer	U

This is an occupational study.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs K McClatchey

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Performance (30%)

Solo performance 15%

Ensemble (group) performance 15%

Composition (30%)

Composition 1 15%

Composition 2 15%

Areas of Study (40%) This is a 1 hr 45 mins written and listening examination in May/June of Year 12

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Performance

Pupils will have to attend lessons outside the classroom time in their agreed performance instrument or voice.

Composition

Pupils will have to complete their homework in the Music department at lunch time and after school, as the majority of this is saved in the Music/ICT Room.

Areas of Study

Pupils will study eight Set Works from four Areas of Study.

These are: Instrumental Music 1700 – 1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen, and Fusions. This paper is designed to test pupils' listening and appraising skills. It will test their knowledge of the Set Works through analysis.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Pupils should have developed a good level of musicality in KS3. This has been tested using the Bentley Test at the beginning of Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10.

Pupils must be willing to sing or play an instrument to fulfill the Performance requirements of this course. Their performances will be recorded in the Recording Studio and sent to the Examiner.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

Edexcel GCSE (9-1) Music

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs K Cruise

PERFORMING ARTS

(LEVEL 2 COURSE)

KEY STAGE 4

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:



Compulsory units

Unit 1: Unlocking Creativity (30%) Internally assessed

Unit 2: The Production/Performance (30%) internally assessed

Unit 3: The Performing Arts Industry (40%) Written examination - Externally assessed

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

- Excellent attendance
- Should enjoy performing in front of an audience
- Some previous experience in a performance skill (music, dance, drama, stage management, lights, sound etc)
- Should enjoy portfolio work
- Can remember facts for examinations

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

This is a Level 2 qualification, which is the equivalent of a GCSE. Your marks will be distinction, merit or pass, which are equivalent to GCSE grades A*-C.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

AQA Technical Award in Performing Arts

Level 2 Qualification pending accreditation

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs R Ashe

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:



Component 1: External Assessment Written Examination 25% (Factors underpinning Health and Performance)

Students complete a written examinations paper lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. The paper covers the body at work, health and lifestyle decisions and the active leisure industry. It contains short answer and multi-part questions. All questions are compulsory.

Component 2: External Assessment Written Examination 25% (Developing Performance)

Students complete a written examinations paper lasting 1 hour 15 minutes. The paper covers developing physical fitness for performance and developing skilled performance. It contains short answer and multi-part questions. All questions are compulsory.

Component 3: Controlled assessment (Individual performances in Physical Activities and Sports)

Students will be assessed on the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of their performances in three practical activities from the list provided on the CCEA GCSE PE specification.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

All GCSE PE students will be expected to commit to school extra-curricular clubs in order to develop and improve their personal practical performance.

It is also preferable that students wishing to opt for GCSE PE will also be involved in competitive sport outside of school.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have enjoyed all practical aspects of Physical Education in Year 8, 9 and 10 and would like to further improve and develop your practical skills, tactics and techniques, GCSE Physical Education is the course for you!

Whilst studying GCSE PE you will build on the knowledge and skills developed at KS3 and will gain a qualification that will provide a sound basis for the study of L3 OCR Cambridge Technical in Sport.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE Physical Education

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Miss J Clarke

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

The GCSE grade will be awarded as a result of studying / completing four units of work:

Unit 1: Technology and Design Core;

Unit 2: Product Design;

Unit 3: Design Assignment;

Unit 4: Design Project.

Assessment is in two main parts –

(1) A written examination worth 40% of the total marks, which will require you to apply what you have learned during the course in an examination situation.

(2) The Controlled Assessment is divided into two units (Unit 3 and Unit 4). The Design Assignment (Unit 3) is worth 20% of the total GCSE and will be completed in the first year of the course. The Design Project (Unit 4) is worth 40% of the total GCSE and it is completed during the second year of the course.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

Product Design is a very exciting and interesting subject to study. It can lead you into a wide range of interesting and worthwhile careers such as Teacher, Architect, TV and Film, Set Design, Graphic Design, Model Making, Packaging, Printing, and Industrial Design.

So what is Product Design?

One definition is “the process of creating a new product to be sold by a business to its customers”.

The majority of the theory elements will be taught in a practical way where you will get lots of opportunities to perfect many of the skills necessary as you carry out the project work.

You will be designing and making a full range of products, showing different ways of presenting your ideas to a client, developing your 3D making skills and if appropriate, using CAD/CAM to get a professional finish - you will get to develop your ICT skills too!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Careers that are directly related to this subject:

Designer TV and Film work Set Design Graphic Design Teaching Industry
Architecture Advertising

So if you love to design and make new things, have good organisational, communication and problem solving skills and want to develop these further, then GCSE Product Design is for you.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE Technology & Design - Product Design

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mr N Adams

PUBLIC SERVICES

(BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD IN PUBLIC SERVICES)

(LEVEL 2 COURSE)

KEY STAGE 4



HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Two core units:

- One externally assessed
- One internally assessed

Two optional specialist units all internally assessed.

Evidence for assessment can be generated through a range of activities including portfolio accounts, role play, practical performance and verbal presentations.

This is a Level 2 qualification, which is the equivalent of a GCSE. Your marks will be distinction, merit or pass, which are equivalent to GCSE grades A-C.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

- Excellent attendance
- Ability to work to deadlines
- Have an interest and enthusiasm in learning more about the Public Service Sector
- Possible considering a career in the Public Service sector
- No prior Public Service qualification is necessary to embark on this Level 2 course

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Subject content includes:

- You will learn and explore the work of the Public Services
- The working skills required in the Public Service sector
- Detailed information about Public Service jobs available
- How public service organisations protect our communities
- Health, fitness and lifestyle requirements to work in the Public Services

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

Pearson September 2014 specification

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Religious Studies GCSE is assessed over 2 years:

Unit 1 - Christianity through a study of Matthew's Gospel – will be examined at the end of Year 11
One examination paper lasting 1 hour 30 minutes – 50%

Unit 2 - Christian Ethics (Morality) - This will be examined at the end of Year 12
One examination paper lasting 1 hour 30 minutes – 50%

There is a single tier of entry for all students - Grades A* - G

No Coursework or Controlled Assignments

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

The Religious Studies course requires students to have a good standard of English and an interest in the subject.

Students are challenged to reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes on contemporary issues and encouraged to respect the values and opinions of others.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Religious Studies would be of general interest as topics which are explored include, forgiveness, use of money, end times, relationships, crime and punishment, abortion, equality and bioethics.

It would be especially interesting for those considering a career in Teaching, Child Care, Social Work, Looking after the elderly, Nursing, Youth work and Charity work.

It is a course for pupils interested in people and which equips you for life in the modern world.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA GCSE Religious Studies
Awaiting accreditation

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs L Dalzell

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Single Award Science is assessed over the two years of the course by four external module examinations and a Practical Skills Assessment (coursework).

Biology	25%
Chemistry	25%
Physics	25%
Practical Assessment (exam)	17.5%
Practical Skills (coursework)	7.5%

There are no terminal exams.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

This course is designed to suit all abilities and there are assessments and course materials to suit all.

The course is open to all who have successfully completed the KS3 Science course.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Successful students will have a broad and balanced knowledge of the Science required for today's life and work.

This qualification can prepare students for careers in manufacturing; Aerospace, Textiles, Plastics, and Food Technology. It also prepares students for entry to the following services; Nursing/ Care Assistant, Veterinary Nursing, Laboratory Assistant and Dental Nurse.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA Single Award Science

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mr P McCoo

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Double Award Science is assessed in Year 11 by three module examinations taken in March and June. In Year 12 four further examinations are taken in June, one of which is a practical exam. There is also a Practical Assessment, completed and submitted towards the end of Year 12.

Year 11 Module Exams	33%
Year 12 Terminal Exams	42%
Practical Exam	17.5%
Practical Assessment	7.5%

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

This is a more demanding Science course, designed for those who have performed well in KS3 Science and hope to follow a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Maths (STEM).

You should be consistently scoring in the top third of your year group in Science.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Successful students will have a broad and balanced knowledge of the Science required for today's life and work. A good grade in Double Award Science allows students to take Advanced Level Science courses.

This qualification can prepare students for careers in manufacturing; Aerospace, Textiles, Plastics, and Food Technology. It also prepares students for entry to the following services; Health and Social Care, Veterinary Nursing, Laboratory Assistant and Dental Nursing.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

CCEA Double Award Science

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mr P McCoo

HOW THE SUBJECT IS ASSESSED:

Unit 1: Understanding social processes (50%)

Written paper 1 hour 45 minutes

Questions

A written assessment with a mix of short answer, structured questions and extended response questions, all compulsory. The extended response questions will require candidates to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across the relevant specification content.

Unit 2: Understanding Social Structures (50%)

Written paper 1 hour 45 minutes

Questions

A written assessment with a mix of short answer, structured questions and extended response questions, all compulsory. The extended response question will require candidates to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across the relevant specification content.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

To be a successful sociology student you must:

- Be willing to express your views in class discussions, debates and presentations.
- Be able to listen to and respect the views of others.
- Keep up to date with current issues by reading a newspaper or watching TV news.
- Keep up to date with the homework that is set each week
- Your commitment and enthusiasm will be rewarded with an excellent GCSE grade

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Many students who study GCSE Sociology go on to study A level Sociology in sixth form and this works well with other subjects like Media Politics, Health and Social Care, History and Geography.

In addition, Sociology is an extremely valued subject for higher education entry and future careers. Sociology students are in demand for people centered occupations which demand analytical skills hence sociology students have gone into wide ranging careers such as media research, law, police, journalism and teaching, local government, policy making, advertising and nursing, Social work and youth work.

EXAMINATION BOARD & SYLLABUS

WJEC EDUQAS GCSE (9-1)


HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

Mrs M Fitzpatrick



Belfast Model School for Girls

ACHIEVEMENT FOR ALL

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