

Lagan College



6th Form

Options Booklet

2023-2025

WELCOME

Welcome to the Lagan College Options booklet and Course Guide. In it you will discover an overview of life at our school during these transformational two years. There is information about the post-16 courses we offer, as well as the high levels of pastoral support we offer to help you reach your highest ambitions whatever they may be.

Entry into the Sixth Form represents an exciting new stage of your academic career. Now you can specialise in subjects that you wish to study and embrace more mature relationships with your peers and teachers.

The experience and capability of our pastoral team coupled with the excellent teaching and expertise of the Careers department ensures that you will develop as an individual as well as academically. We aim to see you graduate from Lagan College being both happy and successful.

We are fortunate in Lagan to have bespoke areas for study and recreation for Sixth Form, with two supervised study areas and a recreational room. We also have a Sixth Form internet cafe providing a space to relax with friends or catch up with the news at break and lunch.

We wholeheartedly encourage you to immerse yourself in the Lagan College Sixth Form experience. Your participation in art, drama, sport, music, educational visits, clubs and societies will enrich your academic study supplementing it with rich and lively experiences. You will have the opportunity to develop skills in leadership and to learn new skills in areas as diverse as first aid and sign language.

Our subject offer along with our extra-curricular activities and strong pastoral ethos make Lagan College a very supportive and positive place to learn. We really hope you choose to study with us and look forward to welcoming you into our Sixth Form.

Mrs L Grant (Head of Sixth Form – Pastoral)

Mr N McGuigan (Head of Sixth Form – Curriculum)

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THE SIXTH FORM CURRICULUM

Since our Sixth Form was established in 1991, Lagan College has demonstrated a firm commitment to a broad-based Post 16 curriculum. At present and in line with the Entitlement Framework, we offer a very wide range of 31 A Levels. With this extensive curriculum offer students entering Sixth Form can have both breadth and flexibility in their pre-university subject choices. Year 12 students, in consultation with their teachers and careers staff, will decide on the following post 16 offer:

- General A/AS Levels
- Applied A/AS Levels
- BTEC and CTEC Awards
- A mixture of All

A/AS LEVELS

To encourage a broader curriculum, students will have the option of studying up to four subjects at AS Level from a range of subjects in Year 13. AS Levels (Advanced Subsidiary) are considered to be worth 40% of an A Level and most will be examined at the end of Year 13.

Students will then most likely progress to studying up to three of these subjects at Advanced Level (A2) in Year 14, again to be examined at the end of the year.

APPLIED A LEVELS BTEC and CTEC COURSES

Vocational “A” Level courses are now equal in standing with General A Levels taken at AS and A2. The GCEs in Applied subjects, BTEC and CTEC courses are designed to:

- provide a broad introduction to a vocational area in an applied context
- be delivered through work-related contexts
- let students gain an understanding of a vocational sector
- provide a broad educational basis for further training, higher education or progression to suitable employment within a vocational sector

Lagan College offers the GCE Applied qualification in three subject areas:

- GCE Health and Social Care
- GCE Moving Image Arts
- GCE Technology

We also offer BTEC and CTEC (Cambridge Technical) Level 3 GCE equivalent courses in the following areas:

- BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Applied Science
- CTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Business Studies
- CTEC Level 3 Technical Diploma in Business Studies (Equivalent to two A levels)
- BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Information Technology
- BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma in Hospitality
- BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism
- BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Uniformed Protective Services
- CTEC Level 3 Introductory Diploma in Sport and Physical Activity

These courses have been and are a very successful route into further and university education for our students.

APPLICATIONS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS

Lagan College welcomes applications for entry into Sixth Form from students from other schools. We especially welcome students from schools where there is no post 16 provision and, also, those whose course of choice is not on offer at their own school. We will look favourably at applications from students coming from other integrated schools. Students from all schools are invited to view our online Sixth Form Presentation.

When expressions of interest are received, applicants will be contacted, invited for interview and references sought. All students considering applying will need to have a good record of attendance, behaviour and standard of uniform presentation. Final decisions regarding entry will be made when the GCSE results are available.

YEAR 12 TRANSITION PLANNING

YEAR 12 TRANSITION PLANNING

Due to the flexibility offered by our Sixth Form curriculum, it is essential that each student receives personal guidance and advice. As Year 12 progresses, students will be more aware of their learning style and their GCSE potential to make informed decisions on which Post 16 courses they would like to follow. Sixth form staff and careers staff will brief the Year 12 students and their parents on the content and nature of each of these profiles and students will have to decide by the end of February. Every Year 12 student in Lagan College will be offered a personal meeting with their parents and a member of staff to discuss the future options.

All courses will of course be conditional on students meeting the admissions criteria for Sixth Form and the subject specific criteria for each course.

SIXTH FORM CAREERS AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Careers advice will be ongoing throughout Sixth Form and, for those planning to continue to third level education, UCAS advice will be of paramount importance. The Personal Development Programme will also continue in Sixth Form and will centre on health issues, social topics, ethical questions, building resilience and study skills. Religious and social integration is part of our school ethos and there are numerous opportunities to be involved in visits and events which support this.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

As well as the Post 16 courses on offer, students are required to participate in a programme aiming to enrich their programme of studies. These will include:

- a weekly Assembly
- a CAS programme (Creativity, Action, Service)
- a Careers class
- a Form period (as above)
- a faith-based seminar in which students will explore various aspects of spirituality and can de-bate topics with moral and philosophical connotations. Year 13 students will achieve an OCN certificate for this course.

Year 13 students will all have the opportunity to choose from a menu of enrichment activities which will run every week:

- Survival Cookery
- First Aid and Deaf Awareness Sign Language
- Personal fitness programming in the Fitness Suite
- Re-sit GCSE English Language and/or GCSE Mathematics
- Young Enterprise Scheme
- Sentinus Programme
- Driving Theory
- Creative Arts and Crafts
- Community Volunteering
- Primary School Placements
- Independent Living: Life Skills

There is an annual school show and students in Year 13 and 14 are welcome to audition or assist in other ways.

SUBJECT CHOICES

Students whose applications are submitted by the deadline can make free choices of subjects. The timetable will be based on the majority demands and subjects will run based on there being a viable number. Those students who apply after the deadline will have to make choices based on the timetable structure that is already implemented. All students, except those studying 4 AS subjects, are expected to participate in enrichment activities. Any student, who has not attained a minimum of a grade C in either Maths or English, is expected to re-sit during Year 13 to improve their grade. Students who decide to change their choices on receipt of their GCSE results must be aware that their new choices can only run if the timetable structure can facilitate this. Sixth Form students are expected to display exemplary behaviour as role models to the younger students and to adhere to the College expectations in all respects.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR YEAR 13 – 2023-2024

- Students must have a Grade C in either, English Language, English Literature or Mathematics.
- Students should have a minimum of 5 GCSE passes (A* to C)/BTEC Level 2 passes (Dis* - Pass)
- Students with the highest GCSE score – will be considered in descending order - an applicant's GCSE score being calculated on the basis of GCSE results as follows:

	Grade achieved		Points awarded
GCSE A*	GCSE 9	BTEC Distinction *	5
GCSE A	GCSE 7/8	BTEC Distinction	4
GCSE B	GCSE 6	BTEC Merit	3
GCSE C*	GCSE 5	BTEC Pass (Some Merit Units)	2
GCSE C	GCSE 4	BTEC Pass	1

1. Students wishing to take 4 A Levels should have a minimum of 7 GCSE passes A* to C (at least one of which must be in English or Maths) and a minimum of 32 points in total.
2. All A Levels have specific entrance requirements. Please see subject specific pages for exact requirements for each subject.
3. All students wishing to enter Sixth Form should have a minimum attendance rate of 93% and a good punctuality record. Students whose attendance rate falls below this level must produce medical evidence/special circumstances to explain their absences.
4. Students wishing to enter Year 13 must have a good behaviour record and should have demonstrated a positive attitude to work. External applicants will be expected to provide their last school report and/or a letter of recommendation from their previous school.
5. Students wishing to enter Year 13 should be prepared to make a commitment to participate fully in the daily running of the school.
6. Students with an exceptional circumstance may apply to the Board of Governors for this to be considered.

EXTERNAL STUDENT APPLICATIONS

Lagan College welcomes applications for entry into Sixth Form from students from other schools if:

1. They are able to fulfil the admissions criteria.
2. Appropriate places are available within the College's admission numbers and/or places are available in AS subject choices.

We especially welcome students from schools where there is no post-16 provision and, also those whose course of choice is not on offer at their own school.

We look favourably at applications from students coming from other integrated schools.

External students who wish to, may request an interview with the Head of Sixth Form to discuss options.

ADMISSIONS UNDER-SUBSCRIPTION

In the exceptional circumstance of Lagan College's Year 13 admissions being under-subscribed, a student with less than the minimum requirement for admission will be considered for a place in Year 13.

Lagan College students will be given priority and then all other external students will be considered.

Students with the highest GCSE score – will be considered in descending order - an applicant's GCSE score being calculated on the basis of GCSE results as follows:

	Grade achieved		Points awarded
GCSE A*	GCSE 9	BTEC Distinction *	5
GCSE A	GCSE 7/8	BTEC Distinction	4
GCSE B	GCSE 6	BTEC Merit	3
GCSE C*	GCSE 5	BTEC Pass (Some Merit Units)	2
GCSE C	GCSE 4	BTEC Pass	1

A three A Level package will be offered and agreed between the student and the College which should ensure that they achieve their full potential and thus facilitating their career progression.

Lagan College's criteria for extra places are made available by the Department of Education for admission into Year 13 (Sixth Form).

The Department of Education may, on request, increase the number of pupils that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to pupils who meet the basic eligibility criteria for Sixth Form study (as above) and shall be allocated in the order determined by the criteria to be applied in the order set down.

1. Pupils who have most recently completed Year 12 in Lagan College.
2. Pupils from other schools where admission to an extra place at Lagan College has been agreed by the Department of Education.

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR YEAR 14 – 2024

Students must continue with at least 3 subjects into A2, ideally with strong grades. However, gaining a pass in each subject (Grade E or above) does allow students to return to Year 14 to study at A2. Students attaining D and E grades across all subjects will be required to attend a guidance interview prior to returning.

Students who fail a subject (Grade U) will be unable to return to Year 14 unless there are exceptional circumstances, for example, personal illness or death of an immediate family member. The College must have been informed of these circumstances at the time they occur, this is the responsibility of the parent/carer of the student. However, at the time of receiving their results a guidance interview and pastoral support will be available to discuss future options, this must also be attended by parents/carers.

Student whose attendance has been a serious concern, below 93% in Year 13 will also be required to attend for an interview. In these cases, there will be no guarantee of readmission to Year 14.

Students wishing to enter Year 14 should also have a good record of punctuality and behaviour.

YEAR 13 OPTION CHOICES 2023-2025

Within the next few weeks, all Year 12 students will have to make important choices regarding the subjects you are going to study for AS and then A2 Level at Key Stage 5 (Years 13 and 14).

At Lagan College, we want to ensure that all Year 12 pupils consider these subject choices carefully.

In this booklet Heads of Department have outlined certain information:

- Respective Examining Bodies
- Course Entry Requirements
- Who the course is best suited for?
- Subject Overview
- Assessment structure
- Career Opportunities
- Course links

To help you decide we have arranged the following:

Event	Date
Options Information presentation to students	Week Beginning Monday 9 th January 2023
Sign up to Taster lessons	Week Beginning Monday 9 th January 2023
Taster Lessons	Monday 16 th – Tuesday 24 th January 2023
Options Fair	Wednesday 25 th January 2022
Parental Information Presentation (via school comms)	Week beginning Monday 6 th February 2023
Parent Teacher Meeting (Online)	Monday 6 th February 2023
Year 12 one to one Options Interviews	Monday 21 st & Tuesday 22 nd February 2023
Option Forms – Final submission date	Friday 28 th February 2023

REMEMBER:

- It is time to start planning ahead
- It is time to read and learn about choices
- It is time to ask for advice
- It is time to make a decision
- Make sure it is the right one!

Completed Forms should be submitted during the One-to-One Option Interviews.

Please remember that timetables will be drawn up based on your option choices.

ADVICE

What you should do:

Think carefully before deciding on which optional subjects you will take, please read the advice below:

- Talk to your teachers, ask their advice.
- Talk to your parents, ask their advice.
- Choose subjects that allow you to gain the best grades at the end of your AS and A2 courses
- Talk to subject teachers and ask lots of questions to help you know as much as you can about the subject.
- Attend the one-to-one Options interview with your parents.
- Think about your strengths and skills
- Think about what you want to do after you finish these courses and in third Level education
- Talk to students who currently do the subject and who want to do well in school.
- Ask lots of questions at the Year 12 Options Fair.

On the following pages you will find information on each of the option subjects available at Key Stage 5.

OPTIONS FORM

A copy of this form will be completed during the options interview. It is included here to help you identify which subjects are available in your pathway



YEAR 12 OPTIONS CHOICES FORM 2023-2025

Name	<input type="text"/>	Form Class	<input type="text"/>	Potential Career Path	<input type="text"/>
CEIAG	Year 12 Options Talk <input type="checkbox"/>	Year 12 Options Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Year 12 One to One Interviews <input type="checkbox"/>	Year 12 Parent Teacher Meetings <input type="checkbox"/>	

Post 16 Learning Pathway

Personal Development & Wellbeing <input type="checkbox"/>	RE Seminar <input type="checkbox"/>	Sixth Form Leadership <input type="checkbox"/>	Recreational Period <input type="checkbox"/>	Study Periods <input type="checkbox"/>	Enrichment Programme or Repeat English/Maths <input type="checkbox"/>
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Post 16 Options: Select 3 or 4 from any courses listed below. Number in order number 1-3 or 1-4. In order of preference. Select a reserve subject and mark as 'R' in the box.

English and Modern Languages

- A Level English Literature
- A Level French
- A Level Irish
- A Level Spanish

Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths

- BTec Level 3 Applied Science
- BTec Level 3 ICT
- A Level Biology
- A Level Chemistry
- A Level Mathematics
- A Level Physics
- A Level Software Systems Development
- A Level Technology & Design

Health and the Arts

- A Level Art & Design
- A Level Drama & Theatre
- A Level Nutrition and Food Science
- Applied A Level Health & Social Care (Double Award)
- Applied A Level Health & Social Care (Single Award)
- BTEC Level 3 Hospitality
- A Level Media Studies
- A Level Moving Image Arts
- A Level Music

Society, Economy and the Environment

- CTEC Level 3 Business Studies (Double Award)
- CTEC Level 3 Business Studies (Single Award)
- A Level Geography
- A Level History
- A Level Politics
- BTEC Level 3 Uniformed Protective Services (Single Award)
- A Level Religious Education
- A Level Sociology
- CTEC Level 3 Sport and Physical Activity
- BTEC Level 3 Travel and Tourism

Student Signature	<input type="text"/>	Parental Signature	<input type="text"/>	Careers Advisor	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
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APPLIED SCIENCE

Qualification: BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Course Requirements: BTEC Level 2 Science Grade Merit, GCSE Science Grade B or BC in Double Award Science or Grade B in a Single Science

Head of Department: Mr. G. Stewart

Who is this course suited for?

This course is designed for learners who are interested in learning about the Science sector with a focus on the applied practical side of the subject, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses.

Subject Overview

Learners study two units in Year 13 and two units in Year 14. In Year 13 Unit 1 is an externally examined unit that covers topics within Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Unit 2 is an internally assessed unit comprised of practical work and how these investigations would be written up in the workplace. Year 14 contains Unit 3—a practical skills unit which is externally assessed and Unit 10 – Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways which is internally assessed through 3 research and practical based pieces of coursework.

Assessment

Year 13

Unit 1 - Principles and Applications of Science 1 (*Mandatory, externally assessed*)

Unit 2 - Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques (*Mandatory, internally assessed*)

Year 14

Unit 3 - Science Investigation Skills (*Mandatory/Synoptic, externally assessed*)

Unit 10 Biological Molecules and Metabolic Pathways (*Optional, internally assessed*)

Careers

This qualification carries UCAS points and is recognised by higher education providers as contributing to meeting admission requirements for many courses, if taken alongside other qualifications. Students gain many employability skills through this course such as problem-solving skills, intrapersonal and interpersonal skills. Students are able to choose from a host of rewarding and challenging careers in industry, commerce, education and research.

Course Link

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/applied-science-2016.html>

ART AND DESIGN

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Requirements: B grade in Art GCSE

Head of Department: Mrs E. Niblock

Who is this course suited for?

A Level Art and Design is suited for students who demonstrate a high level of practical skill and wish to explore in more depth the work of artists and designers. The course is suited to students who demonstrate an independence of mind in relation to their own ideas and have a natural enthusiasm for art, craft and design.

Subject Overview

Art and Design seeks to encourage students to develop their ideas through sustained and focused investigations. The course begins with artist research from which the themes of the work are normally derived. Art and Design aims to encourage an adventurous and enquiring approach to creative problems. Importantly, students are required to reflect on their own work and the work of others. Successful Art and Design students are able to demonstrate an understanding of past and contemporary artists and their methods of working. Crucially, they should be able to produce art work that embraces a range of ideas.

Students create a portfolio of art and design work developed over two years of the course, including a written personal study of a minimum of 1000 words. The focus of this personal study can be any concept, art movement, person, people, artefact(s), providing it is directly related to the pupil's art work. The culmination of the students' studies is a course exhibition of their work, which is open to the public and visiting external bodies.

Assessment

Students will undertake one final assessment at the end of the two year course:

Component 1-

Personal Investigation 60% of the qualification

Component 2

Externally set assignment 40% of the qualification

Careers

There are many career path for A Level Art students, many of our students have forged successful art careers, others have obtained employment in the field of graphic design, art therapy, education and business.

Course Link

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/art-and-design-2015.html>

BIOLOGY

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: Grade A in Biology GCSE or AB in Double Award Science

Head of Department: Ms D. Fullerton

Who is this course suited for?

Students interested in Biology should enjoy carrying out investigations in the laboratory or as field work. They should be interested in the development of 'new' biology topics such as genetic engineering and the impact on society. They may want to use Biology to support their other qualifications such as Chemistry, Geography and Physical Education.

Subject Overview

Through exploring Biology at A Level, students can find out more about how organisms are built and how they function, as well as learning how they interact with each other and with their surroundings. In addition to the examination of the smallest units in biology, students will also study the 'big picture' by learning about communities and ecosystems, as well as the universal role of DNA in maintaining the variety of life on the planet. Students will have the opportunity to study contemporary developments in Biology as well as develop their expertise in the area of practical work and the link between theory and experimental work.

Assessment

AS Level

In Year 13 students undertake two written papers, Molecules and Cells and Organisms and Biodiversity, each worth 15% of the A Level qualification. They also undertake an Assessment of Practical Skills worth 10% of the A Level.

A2 Level

In Year 14 students undertake two written papers, Physiology and Ecosystems and Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends, each worth 24% of the A Level qualification. They also undertake an Assessment of Investigational and Practical Skills in Biology worth 12% of the A Level.

Careers

There are many career paths for A Level Biology students, typically students interested in Biology go on to health related careers in medicine, nursing, psychology, physiotherapy and forensic science. However, many of our students also go into careers connected with food production, conservation and bio-technology.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/biology/revised_gce/support/index.asp

BUSINESS STUDIES – EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

Qualification: Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: OCR

Course Requirements: Grade C in Maths and English GCSE, a Merit in BTEC Business Studies (with a Level 2 Pass in the External Finance Module) or Grade C in GCSE Business Studies

Head of Department: Mrs A. McAlorum

Who is this course suited for?

The Extended Certificate in Business Studies is equivalent to one A Level. It is comprised of 50% Examination and 50% Coursework. It is important to recognise that to excel in this course students must be able to perform in both examinations and coursework. The course is suitable for students who are highly organised, good at examinations and enjoy working on project-based work. To be successful in this course students should enjoy learning about business theory, be able to work under pressure to meet deadlines, undertake independent research and compose business reports. Students should also have an interest in current affairs and how changes in the global environment impact their local economy.

Subject Overview

The course is comprised of five units of work, which students complete over 2 years. Students gain a broad understanding of a variety of business topics including. Unit One: The Business Environment (examination), Unit Four Customers and Communication (coursework), Unit Two: Working in Business (examination), Unit Five Marketing and Market Research (coursework) and Unit Sixteen Project Management (coursework). Students will have the opportunity to study how traditional business theory is implemented by modern local businesses through independent research, class case studies, visits to industry and visiting speakers. This course is designed to give students a sound understanding of the different legal structures of business, the external environment of which they operate, the demands of project management, marketing, and finance.

In Year 13, students study Unit One: The Business Environment (double examination unit) and Unit Four: Customers and Communication (coursework).

In Year 14, students study Unit Two: Working in Business (exam), Unit Sixteen: Project Management (coursework) and Unit Five: Marketing and Market Research (coursework).

Assessment

50% of students work is assessed through the compilation of a business portfolio encompassing mini-projects, research tasks and reports. The remaining 50% is assessed through external examination. This course is therefore most suitable to students who enjoy examination elements but also have a strong record of controlled assessment work at GCSE.

Careers

Students will have the opportunity to progress in a variety of different career paths. Many of our students have forged successful careers in both in the UK and further afield. They have chosen to work in areas ranging from marketing, retail management, banking, education, law, accountancy, management consultancy, public relations, economics, risk assessment, human resources, and events management.

Course Links

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/business/qualifications-at-a-glance/#level-3>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technicals/business/#level-3>

BUSINESS STUDIES –TECHINICAL DIPLOMA

Qualification: Cambridge Technical Level 3 Technical Diploma

Exam Board: OCR

Course Requirements: Grade C in GCSE English and Maths, Merit in BTEC Business Studies (with a Level 2 Merit or above in their Finance Unit) or Grade B in GCSE Business Studies. Students must have studied a business course at Key Stage 4/GCSE.

Head of Department: Mrs A. McAlorum

Who is this course suited for?

The Technical Diploma in Business Studies is equivalent to TWO A Levels. The course is suited for students who currently study Business Studies and have a keen interest in pursuing a career related to this area in the future. Students must be able to cope with the demands of 5 examination modules taken at various points throughout the two years. Additionally, students should be highly organised, enjoy working on project-based work and be able to self-manage their time effectively to meet deadlines. Students must have a strong interest in the world of business and enjoy using computer technology to present their work through regular assignments, research, and personal investigations.

Subject Overview

The Technical Diploma in Business Studies allows students to explore further the key functions that support the delivery of business in a global environment. In addition to the five units studied by students completing the Extended Certificate (see other qualification), students will also study a further five modules. These include Unit Fifteen: change management (exam), marketing campaigns (coursework), business decision making (exam), marketing strategy (coursework) and delivering a business project (coursework).

Assessment

50% of students work is assessed through the compilation of a business portfolio encompassing mini-projects, research tasks and reports. The remaining 50% is assessed through external examination. This course is therefore most suitable to students who enjoy examination elements but also have a strong record of controlled assessment work at GCSE.

Careers

Students who undertake a Technical Diploma in Business Studies will be contemplating progressing on to study business in third level education or entering industry through a professional apprenticeship. There are numerous career paths for Business students in the UK and further afield. Our students have forged careers in a huge variety of business disciplines including marketing, retail management, banking, education, law, accountancy, management consultancy and sports management.

Course Links

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technical/business/qualifications-at-a-glance/#level-3>

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technical/business/#level-3>

CHEMISTRY

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: Grade A*, A or B in Chemistry GCSE, or minimum AB in Double Award Science. A minimum of Grade B in GCSE Maths is required, and it would be an advantage for the student to have completed GCSE Further Maths.

Head of Department: Mrs K. Bingham

Who is this course suited for?

The course is suitable for students who are interested in the study of Chemistry, enjoy carrying out laboratory investigations and want to use Chemistry to support their other A Level studies. Chemistry is a required A Level for all medicine courses.

Subject Overview

Studying GCE Chemistry will allow you to learn about new technologies which are being developed. Throughout the course you will build on your GCSE knowledge and develop a deeper understanding of the atom and the properties and analysis of different substances. You will also be developing your practical skills and ability to work with others as you and your peers synthesise and analyse many different substances. Students will also learn about the application of chemistry in our modern world. Students will examine new ways to feed a growing population, cure new diseases and manage the world's energy resources.

Assessment

AS Level

In Year 13 students undertake two written papers, Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and an Introduction to Organic Chemistry, each worth 16% of the A Level qualification. They also undertake an Assessment of Basic Practical Chemistry worth 8% of the A Level.

A2 Level

In Year 14 students undertake two written papers, Further Physical and Organic Chemistry and Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry each worth 24% of the A Level qualification. They also undertake an Assessment in Further Practical Chemistry worth 8% of the A Level.

Careers

There are many career paths for A Level Chemistry students. Typically, students interested in Biology go on to health-related careers in medicine, nursing, pharmacy, physiotherapy and forensic science. However, many of our students also go into careers connected with chemical engineering and bio-technology.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/chemistry/revised_gce/index.as

DRAMA AND THEATRE

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Requirements: GCSE Drama Desirable. Non-GCSE students accepted by Audition

Head of Department: Mrs S. Jones

Who is this course suited for?

A Level Drama is suited for students who are highly motivated and have a real desire to find out how theatre and plays work. They should be excited about experimentation and involvement in performances for live audiences. Students must show full commitment to after-school rehearsals and theatre visits.

Subject Overview

Drama is both practical and academic. It demands creativity, flexibility, teamwork, effective thinking skills and communication. These qualities, combined with an ability to self-manage are crucial for success. Students will extend their knowledge, skills and stage craft to create in depth drama and theatre for performing roles. Students will have the opportunity to view live theatre in order to become informed critics. Students will have a detailed understanding of three set plays. Students will study influential practitioners and the history of theatre is assessed in two written exams.

Assessment

Students will undertake one final assessment at the end of the two-year course:

Year 13

Unit 1 – Theatre Workshop 24% of the qualification

The creation, development and performance of a reinterpretation of a text.

Unit 2 – Text in Theatre 16% of the qualification

A written exam based on the dramatization of Arthur Miller's A View from the Bridge

Year 14

Unit 1 – Text in Action 36% of the qualification

The creation, development and performance of a devised piece, based on a text.

Unit 2- Text in Performance 24% of the qualification

A written exam based on two set texts.

Careers

There are many career paths for A Level Drama students, many of our students have forged successful career throughout the performing arts industry, others have obtained employment in the fields of business management, law, public relations.

Course Link

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/drama/r-drama-gce-asa-from-2016/>

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: Grade B in English Language and English Literature

Head of Department: Mrs M. Beckett

Who is this course suited for?

A Level English Literature is suited for students who are highly motivated and enjoy independent reading and research. Students should have confident writing skills and be committed to working hard in order to improve their standards in English, both for personal development and to secure the best grade. It would suit students who can convey their ideas and opinions clearly and are able to develop creative and critical skills.

Subject Overview

GCE English Literature enables you to engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and gives you a variety of ways to respond to them. Across a wide range of novels, plays and poems, you will deepen your understanding of literature. A level English Literature broadens your horizons and opens your mind to new perspectives and ideas. An A level in English Literature develops your skills in written and face-to-face communication, as well as your capacity for research and your ability to understand complex ideas and theories.

Assessment

Students will undertake one final assessment at the end of the two-year course:

Year 13

AS 1: The study of Poetry 1900-present and Drama 1900-present 24%

AS 2: The study of Prose Pre 1900 16%

Year 14

A21: Shakespearean Genres 20%

A22: The Study of Poetry Pre 1900 and Unseen Poetry 20%

A23: Coursework (study of linked texts) 20%

Careers

Students could progress into the media industry, journalism and publishing. A job in advertising, marketing or PR is also available such as a public relations officer or a press officer. Teaching is another profession open to you, or you could work for an arts organisation or charity, securing funding or publishing material for a museum or gallery. Students could also go into sectors like law, business, social work or even politics.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/english_literature/revised_gce/index.asp

FRENCH

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: Grade B in GCSE French

Head of Department: Miss S. Chapman

Who is this course suited for?

A Level French is for those students who wish to continue to develop their knowledge and understanding of the French language in more depth than what was studied at GCSE level. Students must feel confident in being assessed in the four skill language areas: Speaking, Listening, Reading, and Writing.

Subject Overview

A Level French will give you a fascinating insight into the French language and culture, whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in target language. Aspects of the course include translation, summary writing and the study of a literary text and film. Topics at A level are Relationships, Culture and Lifestyle, Young People in and Our Place in a Changing World.

Assessment

Students will undertake three assessments per year:

Year 13

AS 1 Speaking 12%

AS 2 Listening, Reading and Use of Language 12%

AS 3 Extended Writing (An Essay on a film or Text) 16%

Year 14

A2 1 Speaking 18%

A2 2 Listening, Reading and Use of Language 24%

A2 3 Extended Writing 18%

Careers

A language at A level opens a lot of opportunities to you. Many universities now offer courses combining languages with other courses. For example: Languages and Law, Business and Languages, Accountancy and Languages. You may choose to study languages with a view to preparing for directly related occupations. For example: teacher, interpreter, translator, or the diplomatic service.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/french/revised_gce/index.asp

GEOGRAPHY

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Geography Grade B

Head of Department: Mrs N. Major

Who is this course suited for?

A Level Geography is suited for students who want to find out more about the world in which they live. They should be students who want to develop an understanding of the interaction between people and the environment. Students should have a lively and inquiring mind, have a willingness to explore new ideas and have an ability to communicate their ideas effectively. You would find it helpful to have good literacy skills and be aiming for a B in your GCSE English Language.

Subject Overview

By studying Geography you will gain a greater understanding of people and places, weather systems, tourism, sustainable development, cultures and issues affecting people and places across the world. There is no Controlled Assessment in A Level Geography. However, you will complete two days of fieldwork where you will gather data which can be of use in the AS and A2 Level exams. The fieldwork is a very enjoyable experience and helps to develop a wide range of skills, such as teamwork and managing data. This will make you of potential interest to universities and employers alike. Geography is recognised as a science and a 'facilitating' subject by universities. This means it is one of the subjects most commonly required or preferred by universities to get on to a wide range of degree courses.

Assessment

Students will undertake three written examinations in Year 13 and three in Year 14.

Year 13

AS 1 - Physical Geography (16% of the qualification)

AS 2 - Human Geography (16% of the qualification)

AS 3 - Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography (8% of the qualification)

Year 14

A2 1 – Physical Processes-Landform and Management (24% of the qualification)

A2 2 – Processes and Issues in Human Geography (24% of the qualification)

A2 3 – Decision Making in Geography (12% of the qualification)

Careers

Geographers are highly employable. People with good qualifications in Geography are in demand in careers such as: Business and Management, Marketing, Environmental Work, Research /GIS, Law, Media and Journalism, Planning/ Surveying, Teaching, Social Services.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/geography/revised_gce/index.asp

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade B in Politics or in an essay-based subject e.g. English, History or R.E.

Head of Department: Mr F. McGuckin

Who is this course suited for?

A Level Politics is suited for students who want to find out more about how the political decisions that shape our lives are made. The study of Government and Politics will encourage you to become actively involved as a citizen and will provide opportunities to develop your skills of analysis, research and evaluation.

Subject Overview

By studying GCE Government and Politics you will gain an understanding of local, national and international political systems. You will learn about rights and responsibilities, gain an understanding of the factors that affect political decisions and how political ideas influence world events. At AS you will acquire knowledge and understanding of the structures of authority and power within the political systems that have the greatest impact upon your lives, those of Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom. At A2 you will be able to use your AS skills and knowledge to study a range of other systems, both democratic and non-democratic and consider how the government and politics of the USA differs from Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Assessment

Students will undertake two written examinations in Year 13 and two in Year 14.

Year 13

AS 1 – Northern Ireland 16% of the qualification

AS 2 – The British Political Process 24% of the qualification

Year 14

A2 1 – A Comparative Study of the USA and UK 35% of the qualification

A2 2 – Political Power 25% of the qualification

Careers

Politics is a useful subject for budding MLAs and MPs, but it is also good for aspiring journalists, accountants, TV researchers, civil servants, lawyers and lobbyists, to name but a few careers. Politics can help you to understand local, national, European and global issues. From jobs in the city to creating websites, you need to know what makes the political system work.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/geography/revised_gce/index.asp

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE - SINGLE AWARD

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade C in English

Head of Department: Miss L. Ellis

Who is this course suited for?

Health and Social Care is aimed at students who may plan to work with people in one of the 'caring professions' in the future. The course addresses topics directly relevant to this career area and provides a relevant qualification to this career pathway. It is suited for students who want to learn about the key stages of physical and emotional development and begin to understand the profound influence relationships and life events can have on an individual's health.

Subject Overview

Students gain a broad understanding of health, social care and early years, develop skills, knowledge and understanding in health, social care and early years. Students will have an opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way and follow a programme of study that enables progression to both higher education in health, social care and early years.

Assessment

Single Award Health and Social Care is made up of 6 units. The course is a mixture of coursework (50%) and external exams (50%).

Year 13

AS Unit 1: Promoting Quality Care Internally Assessed (10%)

AS Unit 2: Communication in Care Settings Internally Assessed (10%)

AS Unit 3: Promoting Good Health Externally Assessed (20%)

Year 14

Units are chosen from a list of 8 options for their A2 qualification – currently Body Systems and Physiological Disorders, and Health Promotion, worth 15% each and complete the following:

A2 Unit 3: Providing Services Externally Assessed (30%)

Careers

Career Opportunities for anyone with a qualification in Health and Social Care are to be found in areas such as Social Work, Child Care, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Counselling, Health-related Charities, Health Service Administration, Residential and Community Care Work, Health Promotion, Education and many many more!

Course Link

<http://ccea.org.uk/hsc/>

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE – DOUBLE AWARD

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade C in English

Head of Department: Miss L. Ellis

Who is this course suited for?

Double Award Health and Social Care is for students who are interested in health and well-being or pursuing a career in the caring professions this subject will develop knowledge and understanding relevant to degrees in nursing, allied health professions, social sciences, social work and early years.

Subject Overview

By studying GCE Health and Social Care you will gain knowledge and understanding of the health, social care and early years sectors. You will also increase your awareness of the issues affecting these sectors. As this is an applied subject with a more vocational perspective you may be given the opportunity to access a health, social care or early years service such as a hospital, care home, day centre, nursery or primary school to gain first-hand knowledge, understanding and experience of the day-to-day running of a care setting.

Assessment

Students will undertake two written examinations in Year 13 and two in Year 14.

Year 13

In addition to the Single Award Assessments, students studying the Double Award complete the following assessments: Unit 4: Safeguarding Children; Unit 5: Adult Service Users (External Exam) and Unit 6: Holistic Therapies.

Year 14

In addition to the Single Award Assessments, students studying the Double Award complete the following assessments - Unit A2 1: Applied Research; Unit A2 2: Supporting the Family and Unit A2 7: Human Nutrition and Health (External Exam).

Careers

Students with a Double Award in Health and Social Care have access to a wide range of career and higher education opportunities. The Double Award combines well with all AS and A level subjects. Taken with a GCSE Grade C or above in science, it supports applications for a degree in Nursing or Midwifery.

Course Link

<http://ccea.org.uk/hsc/>

HISTORY

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade B in History

Head of Department: Mrs E. Quinn

Who is this course suited for?

A Level History is suited for students who have an enquiring mind, an interest in the past and its relevance to current affairs and an ability to communicate ideas effectively.

Students who have studied History for GCSE will find that the skills they have learned and the knowledge they have acquired will form a solid foundation for this course.

Subject Overview

Studying GCE History will give you the opportunity to explore key political, economic and social events which have shaped our present. It will build upon your understanding of the past and ability to make links and draw comparisons between historical periods and to identify significant turning points. You will develop critical thinking skills which will enable you to evaluate a range of evidence and appreciate different interpretations of the past. You will acquire a better understanding of the reasons for significant historical actions and be better informed about current affairs, and you will have the ability to place what is reported in the news about local, national and international events in its historical context.

Assessment

Students will undertake two written examinations in Year 13 and two in Year 14.

Year 13

AS 1 – Russia 1917-1941 20%

AS2 – Germany 1918-1945 20%

Year 14

A2 1 – The Clash of Ideologies in Europe 1900 – 2000 20%

A2 2 – The Partition of Ireland 1900 – 1923| 40%

Careers

Many History students go on to have interesting and challenging careers, for example in the media, politics, law, teaching, business, finance or civil service. An interest in history may even direct you to a more specialist career as an archaeologist, archivist historical researcher, museum curator or genealogist.

Course Link

<http://ccea.org.uk/history/>

HOSPITALITY

Qualification: BTEC Subsidiary Diploma

Exam Board: Pearson

Course Requirements: GCSE English Grade C

Head of Department: Miss E. Phair

Who is this course suited for?

BTEC Hospitality is suited for students who are highly motivated and have a real desire to find out how businesses in the Hospitality industry operate. They should be considering employment and careers in food, service and events. This could include working in restaurants, hotels and for event planning companies. Students must show full commitment to practical and theory units.

Subject Overview

BTEC Hospitality is both practical and academic. It demands creativity, flexibility, teamwork, effective thinking skills and communication. These qualities, combined with an ability to self-manage are crucial for success. Students will extend their knowledge, skills and service provision to create their vocationally based units. Students will have the opportunity to carry out practical tasks, including preparation of meals and the planning and running of an event.

Assessment

Students will undertake the following 7 units during the two-year course:

Year 13:

Unit 1 – The Hospitality Sector

Unit 2 – Principles of Supervising Customer Service Performance in Hospitality, Leisure, Travel and Tourism.

Unit 3 – Providing Customer Service in Hospitality

Unit 12 - Contemporary World Food

Year 14:

Unit 22 - Planning and Managing a Hospitality Event

Unit 6 - Food and Drinks service

Unit 10 - European Food

Careers

There are many career pathways for BTEC Hospitality students. Many of our students will forge successful careers throughout events management, hotel employment, and involvement in catering, with such high level jobs as head chefs and hotel managers.

Course Link

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/hospitality-2010.html#tab-1>

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Qualification: BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Edexcel

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade C or equivalent in ICT or Business Studies & C in English

Head of Department: Mr K. Graham

Who is this course suited for?

It is designed for students interested in an introduction to the study of creating IT systems to manage and share information, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, but not necessarily in IT.

Subject Overview

Information Technology involves the use of computers in industry, commerce, the arts and elsewhere. IT includes aspects of IT systems architecture, human factors, project management and the general ability to use computers. Increasingly businesses are implementing IT strategies to manage and process data both to support many business processes and to deliver new opportunities. Students will study the role of computer systems and the implications of their use in personal and professional situations. Students will explore the relationships between the hardware and software that form an IT system, and the way that systems work individually and together, as well as the relationship between the user and the system.

Assessment

Students will undertake an examination Creating Systems to Manage Information (10 hour, computer based set task, over a 1 week period)

Learners will study three mandatory units:

Unit 1: Information Technology Systems (synoptic)

Unit 2: Creating Systems to Manage Information

Unit 3: Using Social Media in Business.

Unit 6: Website Development.

Careers

Students in the Informatics faculty are highly employable. Students are able to choose from a host of rewarding and challenging careers in industry, commerce, education and research. Many take up posts associated with management and finance working in con-temporary and technology driven environments.

Course Link

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/information-technology-2016.html>

IRISH

Qualification: Irish

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade B in Irish

Head of Department: Mrs L. Quigg

Who is this course suited for?

Students need to be interested in developing their understanding and exploration in much more depth of the topic areas that have been covered at GCSE. You will also need to feel confident at this level in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Subject Overview

The course will help you to communicate at a higher level in Irish. You will also learn much more about a wide range of aspects of the society or societies in which Irish is spoken.

The topics include in Year 13, family, friends, responsibilities, health, holidays, leisure, social media. In Year 14 careers, education, globalisation, European citizenship, inequality, poverty, immigration, environment. You will also study a set film or a literary text at AS level, and a set literary text at A2 level and either a cultural aspect, a historical period or a region.

Assessment

Year 13

AS 1 Speaking 12%

AS 2 Listening and Reading 16%

AS 3 Writing 12%

Year 14

A2 1 Speaking 18%

A2 2 Listening and Reading 24%

A2 3 Writing 18%

Careers

Irish at A level opens up a lot of opportunities for students who will be able to take up a degree courses in Irish. A large number of universities now offer courses combining languages with other specifically vocational disciplines and students may study, for example, Languages and Law, Business and Languages, Accountancy and Languages

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/Irish/revised_gce/index.asp

MATHEMATICS

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements:

You will be expected to have studied CCEA modules M4, M8 and have taken Further Maths during the last two years, achieving a minimum A and B grade.

You are not recommended to attempt A Level Maths without studying GCSE Further Maths.

Only under exceptional circumstances will a student without GCSE Further Maths be admitted into A Level Maths.

Head of Department: Mr D. Mooney

Who is this course suited for?

Maths is a course worth studying not only to help your other subjects like Physics or Social Sciences, but in its own right it is challenging and interesting. It builds upon work that you have done in Further Maths, but it also involves new ideas that some of the greatest minds of the millennium have produced. It is very highly thought of in the workplace and in universities and colleges.

Subject Overview

Mathematics is split up into 3 sections:

Pure Maths - This extends what you already know about algebra, trigonometry and calculus. Lots of pure problem solving.

Mechanics - When you study mechanics you are describing the motion of objects and how they respond to forces acting upon them. This could be cars, satellites, just anything that moves. It is quite like Physics and is an essential introduction to cybernetics, robotics, biomechanics and engineering etc.

Statistics - How to analyse and interpret data using charts and statistics. This is an interesting aspect that has many applications to business and commerce.

Assessment

Year 13

You have 2 module examinations at the end of year 13 Pure Maths and Applied Maths (Mechanics and Statistics). These modules are worth 40% of the A Level course

Year 14

The 2 remaining modules that will make the 4 module full A level. Pure Maths and Applied Maths (Mechanics and Statistics). These modules are worth 60% of the A Level course.

Careers

As well as progressing to study Maths at university. It is very highly thought of in the workplace and in universities and colleges. For careers in engineering, you are expected to have A Level Maths. It is also useful for Economics, Medicine, Architecture, Accountancy, Teaching, Psychology, Environmental studies, Computing

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/mathematics/revised_gce/index.asp

MEDIA STUDIES

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade B English Language

Course Coordinator: Dr R. Cummings

Who is this course suited for?

This course will appeal to those students who have an interest in all aspects of the media. Students who are highly motivated to succeed and ambitious and enjoy engaging with and deconstructing media conventions.

Subject Overview

Media Studies aims to provide a coherent and integrated approach to studying the media. Our subject provides an introduction to analysing a range of media, including the rapidly developing realm of digital media and how it is utilised in the music, television, film, news and magazine industries. Media Studies emphasises the key role that representation plays in the media society. It gives an opportunity to research topics in the media which form the basis for production work, thus enabling students to develop research and production skills.

Assessment

This specification is divided into a total of 4 units, 2 AS units and 2 A2 units.

Year 13

Unit 1: Media Representations and Responses Written Examination 24%

Unit 2: Media Production Processes Internal Assessment 16%

Year 14

Unit 3: Media Investigation and Production Internal Assessment 36%

Unit 4: Media – Text, Industry and Audience Written Examination 24%

Careers

This specification provides a suitable foundation for the study of Media Studies or a related area through a range of higher education degree courses, such as Cultural Studies or Graphic Design; it offers progression to the next level of applied qualifications (e.g., some degree and HND courses); it facilitates direct entry into relevant areas of employment.

Course Link

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/media-studies/r-media-studies-gce-2017/>

MOVING IMAGE ART

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Moving Image Arts Grade B or Art Grade B or English Grade A

Head of Department: Ms M. McConville

Who is this course suited for?

Moving Image Art is an Applied A Level. MIA students are creative thinkers who are excited about making comment on the world around them through film and animation. This doesn't mean you need to be an artist or a writer, but you do need some of the personal skills and capabilities that artists and writers possess.

Subject Overview

Moving Image Arts (MIA) offers students a unique opportunity to develop and refine their skills as film-makers. It enables students to broaden their experience of audio-visual culture to inform, inspire and contextualise their own creative ideas.

MIA is an ideal choice for students wishing to pursue a career in the creative industries, which value and promote independence, originality, creative enterprise and technical skill. The course develops creative and critical abilities in writing, directing, editing, producing and analysing films from a range of contexts and disciplines.

Assessment

Year 13

Unit AS 1: Realist and Formalist Techniques and Hollywood - Portfolio 24%

Unit AS 2: Critical Response – Written Examination 16%

Year 14

Unit A2 1: Creative Production and Research – Advanced Portfolio 36%

Unit A2 2: Advanced Critical Response – Written exam 24%

Careers

Moving Image Arts is clearly aimed at students who might wish to work as practitioners in the creative media industries including Film, Animation, Television and Computer Gaming. The focus of the course is to teach standard industry practise and the examination grade and digital portfolio can therefore take you on to higher education, where there are a wide range of Film, Television and Media related courses. Moving Image Arts A' level is also useful as a route to other more general creative or arts based courses.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/moving_image_arts/revised_gce/index.asp

MUSIC

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Music Grade A,
Grade 5 Music Theory & working towards Grade 6 Performing

Head of Department: Mr T. McCay

Who is this course suited for?

This course is ideal for the enthusiastic musicians who enjoy exploring and developing their own musical ideas and those of others through Performing, Recording, listening, detailed analysis and use of music technology.

Subject Overview

A Level Music is designed to enable musicians to interpret your own and other people's musical ideas with technical and expressive control when performing music, develop a sense of style and awareness of occasion and/or ensemble when performing music and develop musical ideas with technical and expressive control making creative use of musical devices and conventions when composing. Students will learn how to demonstrate, through listening, an understanding of and comment perceptively on, the structural, expressive and conventional features and contextual aspects of music as well as how to use a variety of technological equipment to compose, arrange, multi-track record and perform music.

Assessment

Year 13

Unit 1 Performing (Visiting examiner) 13%

Unit 2 Composition (Internal assessment/External moderation) 13%

Unit 3 Listening and responding (Two written exams) 14%

Year 14

Unit 1 Performing (Visiting examiner) 19.5%

Unit 2 Composition (Internal assessment/External moderation) 19.5%

Unit 3 Listening and responding (Two written exams) 21%

Careers

There are many career paths for A Level Music students, many of our students have forged successful careers throughout the performing arts industry, others have obtained employment in the fields of business management, law, public relations.

Course Link

<https://ccea.org.uk/post-16/gce/subjects/gce-music-2016>

NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: Either a Grade B in GCSE Food and Nutrition or a Grade BB in GCSE Double Award Science or a Grade B in a GCSE Science Subject (preferably Biology and/or Chemistry) and a Grade C in GCSE English

Head of Department: Miss L. Ellis

Who is this course suited for?

The study of Nutrition and Food Science focuses on good nutrition as an important part of leading a healthy lifestyle. Eating healthy food can help to reduce the risk of chronic illness and promote overall health. The subject also examines consumer behaviour when making food purchasing decisions and explores securing a safe food supply from the primary producer to the consumer. The course is for someone who has an interest in science, nutrition, health and food related matters, is highly motivated to succeed, hard-working and enthusiastic about learning.

Subject Overview

There are four assessment units: three externally assessed and one internally assessed research project. There is no practical element to the course, it focuses on the theory of nutrition and food science. It complements the study of other science based subjects at A-Level, or as an additional subject to help you gain important transferable skills.

Assessment

Students will undertake one final assessment at the end of the two year course:

Year 13

AS 1: Principles of Nutrition 20%

AS 2: Diet, Lifestyle and Health 20%

Year 14

A21: Option B: Food Safety and Quality 30%

A22: Research Project - You choose a research area of interest from any of the other 3 units and produce a dissertation of no more than 4,000 words 30%

Careers

There are many career opportunities in this field of work as scientific knowledge and research develops, with opportunities for further and higher education. The subject requires a broad skill set, which opens doors to a wide range of varied careers. For many degrees where a science is required, Nutrition & Food Science is accepted and a good basis for future studies. Related courses may include the following: Health care pathways, including, dietetics, nursing, medicine, occupational therapy

Link

<https://ccea.org.uk/post-16/gce/subjects/gce-nutrition-and-food-science-2016>

PHYSICS

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: Students achieve a minimum **grade A** in GCSE Physics. Students who have studied Double Award Science should achieve a minimum AA grade. Those who have an AB can be considered on an individual basis.

You will be expected to have studied CCEA modules M4, M8 and have achieved a minimum Grade A in GCSE Maths and taken Further Maths during the last two years, achieving a minimum A or B grade. Those without GCSE Further Maths can be considered on an individual basis.

Head of Department: Mr D. Ewart

Who is this course suited for?

A Level Physics is suitable for students who want to sustain and develop their enjoyment of and interest in Physics. Students should want to develop an understanding of the link between theory and experiment and appreciate the importance of Physics as a human endeavour which interacts with social, philosophical, economic and industrial matters and understand how Physics has developed and is used in present day society.

Subject Overview

Studying Physics at GCE will give you a much deeper understanding of this subject and an exciting insight into the latest developments. Studying physics deepens your understanding of the smallest detail of the world around you. If you enjoy exploring the latest cutting-edge developments and being at the forefront of finding solutions to some of the biggest questions facing us, then this subject is for you.

Assessment

Year 13

The CCEA AS specification has 3 units-

AS 1 Forces, Energy and Electricity (Written Exam) 16%

AS 2 Waves, Photons and Astronomy (Written Exam) 16%

AS 3 Practical Techniques and Data Analysis (2 x 1 hour components) 8%

Year 14

A2 1 Deformation of Solids, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics (Written Exam) 24%

A2 2 Fields, Capacitors and Particle Physics (Written Exam) 24%

A2 3 Practical Techniques (2 x 1 hour components) 12%

Careers

Follow a degree course in Physics, Astrophysics, all types of Engineering (e.g., Mechanical, Electrical, Chemical, Civil, etc.), Medicine, Software Design, IT, Computer Game developer etc. Enter a Higher National Course in Engineering and related courses. Seek employment in a related area, e.g., nanotechnology, engineering, electrician and music technology as possible examples.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/Physics/revised_gce/

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade B in Religious Studies or another essay based subject.

Head of Department: Mrs B. Hearty

Who is this course suited for?

If you have an inquiring mind and an interest in Religious Studies then this is the course for you. The specification affords the opportunity to study in depth areas of interest to all Christians and those who express no faith.

Subject Overview

Students study two units of work: The Acts of the Apostles/ Letters of St. Paul and the Early Christian Church. The first unit looks at the New Testament writings of the early Church. The second unit looks at the development of the early Church. Both units look at contemporary challenges to religion and faith. As a Religious Studies student, you will discuss, debate and critically evaluate contemporary religious ideas. You will also investigate and speculate about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life.

Assessment

This specification is divided into a total of 4 units, 2 AS units and 2 A2 units.

Year 13

Unit 1: An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles Written Examination - 20%

Unit 2: The Origins of the Early Christian Church Written Examination - 20%

Year 14

Unit 3: Themes in Selected Letters of St Paul Written Examination - 30%

Unit 4: Themes in the Early Church and the Church Today Written Examination - 30%

Careers

Religious Studies can open up a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education and interesting and rewarding careers. Students of Religious Studies can go on to have careers in areas such as teaching, medicine, law, public service, advice work, counselling, journalism, ministry, social work, charity organisations, youth work and community work.

Course Link

<https://ccea.org.uk/post-16/gce/subjects/gce-religious-studies-2016>

Specification at a glance

<https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/Specifications/GCE/GCE%20Religious%20Studies%20%282016%29/GCE%20Religious%20Studies%20%282016%29-specification-Standard.pdf>

AS Acts (pgs. 12-14), AS Early Church (pgs. 19-21),

A2 Paul's Letters (pgs. 40-42), A2 Early Church (pgs. 46-48)

SOCIOLOGY

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade B in Sociology or another essay-based subject

Head of Department: Ms J. Shaw/Ms G. Morrison

Who is this course suited for?

Sociology is a diverse topic, which looks at many different aspects of our world and how different attitudes and cultures can impact upon people's lives. It will involve many skills such as debating and researching topics and essay writing. We ask questions about how society is organised and why individuals adopt certain ways of behaving in different situations with different people.

Subject Overview

Sociology covers a wide range of topics, such as the effects of racism, divorce, crime and poverty on individuals in society and on the organisation of the whole society. It will make you question all the ways of behaving that you have taken for granted all your life. By taking a closer look at society and revealing the underlying meanings of emerging patterns of social behaviour, sociologists are able to see the bigger picture of why our world is organised the way it is!

Assessment

This specification is divided into a total of 4 units, 2 AS units and 2 A2 units.

Year 13

Unit 1: Acquiring culture and families and household Written Exam 15%

Unit 2: Understanding society and methods of sociological enquiry Written Exam 25%

Year 14

Unit 3: Crime and Deviance Written Exam 25%

Unit 4: Social inequality & Applied methods of Sociological Enquiry Written Exam 35%

Careers

The course will lead onto a range of different careers as it covers so many aspects of our modern society. In the past students of Sociology have gone on to study Law, Business, Criminology and Psychology at University, to name but a few. It can lead to health and welfare services such as social work or teaching, journalism or the police. Sociology trains you to answer the 'what', 'how' and 'why' questions about human societies and that is a valuable transferable skill for any career!

Course Link

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/sociology/r-sociology-gce-as-a/>

SOFTWARE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: Grade B in Maths

Head of Department: Mr K. Graham

Who is this course suited for?

This qualification caters for students who wish to pursue a career in the IT industry and who wish to extend their knowledge of computers, applications and programming. A good computing student will have the ability to think logically about a problem and be able to express the solution as a series of interconnected steps. You will need a good memory to recall the techniques and tools available to write a computer program. There is scope for creativity and imagination in writing code to produce concise and powerful solutions.

Subject Overview

In Software Systems Development students develop skills, knowledge and understanding in the development of software applications through practical application. They develop the ability to write computer programs in C# and SQL, two of the most commonly used languages. Wouldn't it be great to have the skills to become part of this growing industry?

Assessment

AS Level

Introduction to Object Oriented Development Examination 20%

Event Driven Programming Internal Assessment 20%

A2 Level

Systems Approaches and Database Concepts Examination 30%

Implementing Solutions Internal Assessment 30%

Careers

The predominant area of growth is in software companies, many of whom are large employers. These companies are involved in software development and need to be able to recruit employees with high level computing skills. Indeed, there are over three times as many jobs available in the industry, on an annual basis, as there are people suitably qualified to fill them. An A level in Software Systems Development will provide a pathway to these highly skilled and highly paid jobs.

Course Link

http://ccea.org.uk/software_systems_development/

SPANISH

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade C* in Spanish

Head of Department: Mr M. Navarrete

Who is this course suited for?

The course is suitable for those who wish to expand their knowledge and understanding of the Spanish culture and way of life. You need to be interested in developing this understanding and in exploring in much more depth the topic areas that you will have covered at GCSE. You will also need to feel confident at this level in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Subject Overview

In A Level Spanish you will learn to communicate at a higher level in the language you have chosen. New aspects of the course include translation, report writing, summary writing and the study of literary texts and films. You will also learn much more about a wide range of aspects of the society or societies in which Spanish is spoken.

Topics include: Relationships, Culture and Lifestyle, Young People in, Our Place in a Changing World. You will also study a set film or a literary text at AS level, a set literary text at A2 level and either a cultural aspect, a historical period or a region.

Assessment

Year 13

AS1 Speaking 12%

AS2 Listening, Reading and Use of Language 16%

AS3 Extended Writing (essay on film or text) 12%

Year 14

A21 Speaking 18%

A22 Listening and Reading 24%

A23 Extended Writing 18%

Careers

A language up a lot of opportunities to you, through continued study of the language at university, direct application in your job, or in the skills that you will have obtained.

Universities now offer courses combining languages with other specifically vocational disciplines and students may study, for example, Languages and Law, Business and Languages, Accountancy and Languages.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/Spanish/revise_gce/index.asp

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Qualification: CTEC Level 3 Introductory Diploma

Exam Board: OCR

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade B in Physical Education/Merit in BTEC Sport

Head of Department: Mr. J. McCloskey

Who is this course suited for?

This qualification is for learners who want to develop their skills in preparation for employment in the Sport and Physical Activity sector. The qualification is not just about being able to play sports or deal with elite athletes; employers need people who are able to develop sports skills for teams and individuals, work with clients and participants to improve their fitness and change their lifestyles and monitor progress and improvement over time, adapting practices and approaches to suit the needs of individuals. Therefore, this qualification will develop learners' skills in preparation for employment in sports coaching or personal training either through an apprenticeship or directly into work. It could also provide a route into Higher Education on a sport-related programme such as Sport and Physical Education, Sport Science or Sport Coaching and Development.

Subject Overview

In completing the course CTEC Sport and Physical Activity course students will gain the right combination of knowledge, understanding and skills required for the 21st century. A wide range of centre assessed units with practical and wider project-based assessment opportunities, as well as examined units are completed. These include units on the body systems and the long and short term impacts of sport and physical activity; how sport is organised and the purpose of sports development; health and safety requirements in sport and physical activity; the purpose of, and how to conduct research in sport and physical activity; and how businesses in sport are organised and what success looks like to them.

Assessment

Year 13

Unit 1 - Body systems and the effects of Physical activity - Written Examination

Unit 2 - Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership (Project) Internal Assessment

Year 14

Unit 3 - Sports Organisation and Development - Written Examination

Unit 5 - Performance analysis in Sport and Exercise (Project) Internal Assessment

+ 1 other unit that is the choice of the staff and the group -Internal Assessment

Careers

In this course you will develop your knowledge, understanding and skills in research, analysis, planning, time management, event management, problem-solving and communication as a coach or instructor. It can open up a wide range of opportunities in higher education or in a successful career, for example as a PE teacher, personal trainer, leisure centre manager or a sports therapist.

Course link

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-technical/sport-and-physical-activity/#level-3>

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

Qualification: A Level

Exam Board: CCEA

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade B in Technology and Grade C in Mathematics

Head of Department: Mr D. Platt

Who is this course suited for?

This course is suitable for enthusiastic designers who want the opportunity to get involved in the world of design. It will equip you with the skills required to take an initial idea through the process of design, utilising a range of scientific and engineering principles, with the ultimate goal of realising a practical outcome

Subject Overview

Students gain a broad understanding and experience of technological topics: design, materials, processes, safety, product development and marketing. They will have an opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way. They will gain confidence through developing independent learning skills. They will develop time management skills and be able to communicate ideas using high level hand graphics and CAD.

Assessment

Year 13

AS 1: 'Design and Materials' and 'Product Design'.

Two written examinations (20%)

AS2: Product Redesign and Development- Design folder and a practical outcome.

Internal Assessment (20%)

Year 14

A21 Product Design. Written Examination (30%)

A22 Product Development-Design folder and a practical outcome.

Internal Assessment (30%)

Careers

A qualification in Technology and Design can provide you with a basis for study in further or higher education in a wide range of disciplines such as engineering, product development and product design.

Course Link

https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/technology/revised_gce/support/index.asp

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Qualification: BTEC Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Course Requirements: GCSE Grade C in English

Head of Department: Miss A. Bell

Who is this course suited for?

This course is suitable for students who are interested in learning about the travel and tourism industry alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in travel and tourism-related subjects. The skills learnt through this subject are highly transferable.

Subject Overview

The course consists of 4 units of study.

Unit 1. The World of Travel and Tourism

Unit 2. Global Destinations

Unit 3. Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism

Unit 9. Visitor Attractions

OR

Unit 11. Events, Conferences and Exhibitions

Assessment

Year 13

Unit 1: The World of Travel and Tourism. Written examination 25%

Unit 2: Global Destinations Research a case study 25%

Year 14

Unit 3: Principles of Marketing Internal Assignment 25%

Optional Unit: Internal Assignment 25%

Careers

Tourism is a massive industry and has grown by around 4% every year, despite the recession. This growth is also happening in Northern Ireland and tourism is a key driver in the local economy. Therefore, by studying Travel and Tourism you are equipping yourself with skills that are increasingly desirable in the local job market. In addition, the requirements of the qualification will mean that you develop transferable skills, which are highly regarded by higher education providers and employers.

Course Link

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/travel-and-tourism-2019.html>

UNIFORMED PROTECTIVE SERVICES

Qualification: BTEC Extended Certificate

Exam Board: Pearson

Course Requirements: GCSE English Grade C

Head of Department: Mrs F. Smyth

Who is this course suited for?

This course is suited for students who have an interest in developing their key skills that are required to work in the uniformed protective services, for example the police, fire and armed forces or to progress to further education and study, within this area. This course has one external exam (33%) and three coursework based units (67%).

Subject Overview

Students will explore entry requirements to services and selection processes, as well as some other key related topics such as psychology, teamwork, communication and police powers. The majority of the course is classroom based with some practical and outdoor activities.

Assessment

Unit 2: Behaviour and Discipline in the Uniformed Protective Services (Mandatory/external exam)

Unit 5: Teamwork, Leadership and Communication in the Uniformed Protective Services (Mandatory/Internal portfolio)

Unit 15 Police Powers and the Law (Optional Internal Portfolio)

Unit 19 Professional Development in the Uniformed Protective Services (Optional Internal Portfolio)

Careers

This course can prepare students for employment in the uniformed protective services sector such as the police service, fire and rescue service, armed services and prison services. Students could enter a range of sector-related courses in higher education, and that linked to relevant occupational areas, such as criminology and policing.

Course Link

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-nationals/uniformed-protective-services-2020.html>