

# ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



## BESPOKE CURRICULUM CHOICES 2026-2028



A GUIDE FOR  
PUPILS AND PARENTS

**'ONE FAMILY INSPIRED TO LEARN'**

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## Core Subjects GCSE

- 14. English Language
- 15. English Literature
- 16. Mathematics
- 17. Religious Studies
- 18. Combined Science
- 19. Triple Award Subjects



## English Baccalaureate Subjects

- 20. French
- 21. Geography
- 22. History
- 23. Spanish



## Optional Subjects

### GCSE

- 25. Art, Craft and Design
- 26. Business
- 27. Computer Science
- 28. Design and Technology
- 29. Drama
- 30. Food Preparation and Nutrition
- 31. Music
- 32. Physical Education



### Other Qualifications

- 33. Construction and the Built Environment
- 34. Engineering
- 35. BTEC Health and Social Care
- 36. ICT Cambridge Nationals
- 37. Cambridge National in Sports Studies
- 38. What Next?



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# Introduction



Dear Pupils of Year 9, Parents & Carers,

Curriculum Choices for Year 9 is a critical key period in your academic journey, as during this year you will select your subject options for study at GCSE / Vocational level. You must use this booklet, along with the wide range of guidance and events that will take place over the coming months to determine the correct 'bespoke' choices for you. Your parents and carers will also play a key role in this process.

The key aim of our Key Stage 4 curriculum offer is: to ensure wider opportunities for our pupils to succeed; to ensure deeper knowledge and skills-based learning experiences that promote 'lifelong' learning and not just a process for passing examinations.

The GCSE specifications contain increased challenge with A-Level content included. Coursework and controlled assessments have been removed from most subject areas with linear examinations at the end of Y11, therefore there is a greater need for pupils to arrive on examination days with a strong, embedded knowledge of their subjects.

We have analysed the performance of the new specifications, as well as reviewing feedback on pupil wellbeing, and this included looking at the increased learning hours required to cover content and liaising with our partner colleges and as a result we decided our curriculum should ensure:

- Pupil well-being is at the forefront of our decisions
- Pupils are provided with the opportunity to embed their learning by having more time to learn in subject areas (recent & new performance tells us that this is having a very positive impact)
- Pupils are given the opportunity to study an appropriate pathway that will enable them to make significant next steps when they leave school

Studying nine subjects provides the opportunity for thirty five **additional** hours in subjects over Key Stage 4. This additional time, not only enables more focus on all other subjects that pupils study, it also reduces the requirement to attend intervention and catch up sessions before and after school.

In our most recent Ofsted inspection, our curriculum was scrutinised in detail and highlighted as a strength of our school with the report stating: "The school has designed a curriculum which is ambitious and broad for all pupils. It has identified the key knowledge and concepts that pupils should learn. The curriculum is carefully ordered to ensure that pupils have the prior knowledge that is needed to successfully grasp new subject content." Subject outcomes also demonstrate highly competitive performance nationally.

We are proud to provide a quality curriculum offer that prepares pupils for the next stage of their lives as they move onto college, apprenticeships, university and employment. Pupils will be well equipped to enter innovative and traditional industries in the North West and internationally, whether this be in Science related careers such as medical health care or veterinary work, engineering or computing or applying creativity and flair through Design and Performance Arts talent.

Whilst we strive to match absolutely every option choice for pupils, unfortunately, not all subjects are guaranteed to you. For example, Health & Social Care, Business Studies and Construction have very limited teacher capacity, so any pupils choosing these subjects could face unavoidable disappointment.

The rest of this booklet will provide pupils with specific information about our bespoke curriculum choices, information about each subject that is taught at Key Stage 4 and the view from partner colleges.

**Once choices are finalised the school timetable cannot be amended in the next school year.**

Yours sincerely,

Mr McGlinchey  
Headteacher

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# St Gregory's Catholic High School

## Curriculum Intent and Principles



Archdiocese of Liverpool



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# The College View

## Curriculum Choices and the views from our local colleges

St Gregory's works very closely with local colleges to ensure that our curriculum prepares pupils for further education post-16. The quotes below, demonstrate the importance of progress in core subjects and a good overall average point score.



"At Carmel we offer students in Year 12, over 40 subjects to study at advanced level, many of these subjects will not have been offered at GCSE so we focus on how well applicants have progressed in their core subjects. The skills and knowledge developed in English, Maths, Science, Humanities and RE underpin the skills and learning approaches that will ensure success at advanced level."

Mike Hill – Former Head at Carmel College



"Priestley require students to have an average GCSE points score of 5 or above to take A Levels and this needs to be 7 or above to be able to take 4 A Levels and some specific subjects also require a higher average.

So as you can see, reducing to only 9 GCSEs and getting a better average overall is actually better for pupils in terms of your options at Priestley. Priestley is also clear that a reduction in the overall number of GCSEs you take will have no impact at all on your progression to University. It's the grades and subjects you take that matter, followed by how well you do at Sixth Form."

Matthew Grant – Head at Priestley



"It is far better for a pupil to achieve higher GCSEs in their core subjects as this will provide them with more opportunities after school"

Melissa Turk – Head of Admissions – Cronton College

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# Important Points to Note



At St. Gregory's we will make every possible effort to ensure that pupils are able to take all of their selected subjects, however, subject choices offered by the school are

dependent upon the class size opting for each subject, the suitability of courses for individual pupils as well as staffing arrangements. Final decisions are carefully considered by the Senior Leadership Team responsible for the curriculum, assessment, learning and teaching.

## Bespoke Curriculum Offer



All pupils will receive a bespoke suite of subject options to choose from. This curriculum offer is decided using two key sets of data. Firstly, we consider the prior attainment data

for each pupil from their primary school. Secondly, we analyse current Year 9 progress data which has been assessed by staff prior to beginning this process. Each curriculum offer is ambitious and allows for a broad and balanced KS4 curriculum for each pupil. These are uniquely designed in light of the attainment and progress that has been made in certain subjects but still allows for elements of choice.

Academic performance in English, Mathematics and Science will be scrutinised for organising choices and considering **how each suite can best meet the different learning and assessment needs for each individual to achieve their full potential.**

This data will also determine which pupils do Triple Science instead of Combined Science. This means that some pupils, determined by their attainment and progress, will gain an extra GCSE qualification in science. This enables our 'Triple Science' pupils to achieve the EBACC in addition to having a free option choice.

The correct curriculum choices are vital for each pupil in ensuring that they can fulfil their maximum potential and carefully manage the demands of the new KS4 curriculum and the examinations. All bespoke offers ensure that pupils can access key skills and knowledge for Key Stage 4 success and preparation for life after St Gregory's. Every pupil will be challenged to achieve above their expected Goal Grades.

All of our bespoke curriculum offers facilitate pupils in being able to achieve the EBACC, though some pupils will be on an EBACC pathway.

We have the highest aspiration for pupils and therefore believe that all pupils have the ability to follow a broad and balanced academic curriculum at Key Stage 4, embracing the English Baccalaureate. These subjects, studied alongside others, have a high value in the world of work, further/higher educational and international settings.

## The English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

All pupils, who have followed a full Key Stage 3 curriculum, have the opportunity to follow courses that could lead to an English Baccalaureate.

**The English Baccalaureate (EBACC) requires pupils to study GCSEs in English, Mathematics and Science together with either French or**

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# Important Points to Note

## Spanish (Language) and History or Geography (Humanity).

The Russell Group Universities advise pupils on the increasingly competitive nature of University courses and the job market.

They advise that pupils:

*“choose subjects that leave the most options open for the future – the ‘facilitating subjects’.*

*The facilitating subjects are Maths and Further Maths, Physics, Biology, Chemistry, History, Geography, Modern Languages, and English Literature.”*



A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBACC provides pupils with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. As well as this, Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBACC can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths. It is also important to note that all GCSEs will be graded numerically ranging from grade 1 (lowest) to 9 (highest).

## The Curriculum Choices Process

There is a lengthy process of information and discussion; we do not expect choices within

bespoke curriculums to be made in a hurry. Parents / Carers and pupils are encouraged to acquire as much information as possible from different sources. However,

Parents /Carers and pupils will understand that once pathway forms are completed, those selections are final.

Key Stage 4 is 70 teaching weeks over Years 10 and 11, therefore over 10% of a course is already completed as early as October half term in Year 10. Optional subject choice is a starting point for decisions about resources, staffing and timetabling. Therefore, changing option choice can be extremely disruptive for pupils and can affect future grades and is not permitted.

As always, we aim to meet the needs of all our pupils, however, we will begin to construct the timetable based on pupils' choices, so it is important to note that it may be difficult to provide certain combinations of subjects. Every effort will be made to meet pupils' curriculum choices, however where there are constraints that affect this, reserve options will be used and pupils will be informed in these instances. Historically, we have had great success with upholding choices but no guarantees can be made as it is a year-by-year process.

It should be noted that, owing to the constraints of blocking and allocating student choices, students will only be able to study GCSE geography and history when this is combined with a language.

Additionally, owing to the scheduling restrictions of Business and Health and Social, we are unable to allow these to be reserve choice.

## Careers Information Advice and Guidance

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# The English Baccalaureate

WHAT  
CAN  
I DO  
WITH

E  
B  
A  
C  
C  
?

HERE ARE SOME  
IDEAS OF THE  
JOBS, SKILLS  
AND  
QUALIFICATIONS  
YOU CAN  
ACHIEVE WITH  
THESE SUBJECTS

CAREERSINC

## CAREERS IN MATHS

Maths is tremendously important. It provides a firm foundation for all aspects of life, from the most basic of calculations to the most complex. It is a flying start for many other types of career, such as those in finance, medicine, agriculture... etc. The list is endless!

### JOBS

Actuarial analyst  
Chartered accountant  
Financial manager  
Civil engineer  
Investment analyst  
Teacher  
Cyber security officer  
Statistician  
Systems developer  
Software engineer

### SKILLS

Numeracy  
Problem-solving  
Perseverance  
Analytical  
Communication  
Presentation  
Team-work  
Independently  
Computer  
programming



### FURTHER EDUCATION (SIXTH FORM, COLLEGE, APPRENTICESHIP)

A levels - Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Computing, Product Design, Graphic Design

BTEC in Computing  
BTEC in Applied Science  
BTEC in Popular Music Studies  
BTEC in Media Studies (TV, Film and Game)

Accounting Apprenticeships  
Legal Apprenticeships  
Engineering Apprenticeships

### HIGHER EDUCATION (UNIVERSITY, APPRENTICESHIP)

BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and Accounting  
BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and Physics  
BSc (Hons) in Financial Mathematics  
BSc (Hons) in Economics and Mathematics  
MEng (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering  
MEng (Hons) in Civil Engineering  
BSc (Hons) in Economics  
BSc (Hons) in Computer Science

## CAREERS IN ENGLISH

"English is the language of science, of aviation, computers, diplomacy and business. It is the language of opportunity and a flying start in many other types of career, such as those in finance, medicine, agriculture... etc. The list is endless!"

### JOBS

Digital copywriter  
Editorial assistant  
Lexicographer  
Marketing executive  
Teacher  
Publishing copy editor  
Lawyer  
Records manager  
Writer

### SKILLS

Literacy  
Time management  
Organisation  
Planning  
Researching  
Leadership  
Negotiation  
Team working  
Creative thinking  
Critical reasoning  
and analysis



### FURTHER EDUCATION (SIXTH FORM, COLLEGE, APPRENTICESHIP)

A levels - English Literature, English Language, Media, BTEC in Media Studies (Journalism)

BTEC in Business and Management Studies  
BTEC in Popular Music Studies  
BTEC in Media Studies (TV, Film and Game)

Digital Marketing Apprenticeships  
Legal Apprenticeships  
Recruitment Apprenticeships  
Journalism Apprenticeships



### HIGHER EDUCATION (UNIVERSITY, APPRENTICESHIP)

BA (Hons) in English Language and Linguistics  
BA (Hons) in English Literature  
BA (Hons) in English and Theatre Studies  
LLB (Hons) in Law and Politics  
BA (Hons) in Multimedia Journalism  
BA (Hons) in Criminology and Sociology  
BA (Hons) in Business Entrepreneurship  
BA (Hons) in Tourism Management  
BA (Hons) in Film Studies and Screen Writing

## CAREERS IN SCIENCE

### BIOLOGY / PHYSICS / CHEMISTRY

"Science is one of the oldest and most important academic disciplines, and one of a wide variety of subjects. It is also one of the fundamental parts of the term STEM, used to refer to science, technology, engineering and mathematics"

### JOBS

Biotechnologist  
Dentist  
Higher education  
Doctor  
Meteorologist  
Nuclear engineer  
Software engineer  
Nanotechnologist  
Clinical biochemist  
Forensic scientist  
Pharmacologist

### SKILLS

Communication  
Team-working  
Organisational  
Planning  
Project and time  
management  
Self-reliance  
Initiative  
Business awareness



### FURTHER EDUCATION (SIXTH FORM, COLLEGE, APPRENTICESHIP)

A levels - Maths, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, Computing, Applied Science, Psychology, Sociology

BTEC in Applied Science  
BTEC in Health and Social Care  
BTEC in Engineering (Mechanical, Electrical and Civil)

Pharmacy Apprenticeships  
Nursing Apprenticeships  
Engineering Apprenticeships



### HIGHER EDUCATION (UNIVERSITY, APPRENTICESHIP)

BSc (Hons) in Natural Sciences  
BSc (Hons) in Chemistry and Mathematics  
MChem (Hons) in Forensic Science  
MSci (Hons) in Biomedicine  
BEng (Hons) in Aeronautical Engineering  
BSc (Hons) in Computer Science  
BSc (Hons) in Computer Games Design  
BSc (Hons) in Human Biology  
BA (Hons) in Biological Sciences

## CAREERS IN LANGUAGES

### FRENCH / GERMAN / SPANISH

"Foreign language study enhances one's opportunities in government, business, medicine, law, technology, military, industry, marketing, etc. It teaches and encourages us to think in a different way, to understand the interrelation of language and human nature".

### JOBS

Interpreter  
Translator  
Broadcast journalist  
Detective  
Diplomatic service officer  
Distribution manager  
Marketing executive  
Public relations  
Sales executive  
Tour manager

### SKILLS

Communication  
Interpreting and assessing  
Leading discussions  
Organisational  
Team working  
Working independently  
Project management



### FURTHER EDUCATION (SIXTH FORM, COLLEGE, APPRENTICESHIP)

A levels - French, German, Spanish, Maths, English Language

BTEC in Business Studies  
BTEC in Public Services  
BTEC in Children and Young Peoples Force  
BTEC in Media Studies (TV, Film and Game)

Accounting Apprenticeships  
Legal Apprenticeships  
Engineering Apprenticeships



### HIGHER EDUCATION (UNIVERSITY, APPRENTICESHIP)

BA (Hons) in Modern Languages  
BA (Hons) in Accountancy with Languages  
BA (Hons) in Ancient Languages  
BA (Hons) in Media with Languages  
BA (Hons) in Film Studies and Modern Languages  
BA (Hons) in International Business with Languages  
BA (Hons) in Journalism and Modern Languages

## CAREERS IN HUMANITIES

### GEOGRAPHY / HISTORY

"In the Humanities you will develop skills of critical analysis, gathering evidence and evaluating arguments. You will examine texts and other sources carefully, learning to interpret them and draw conclusions from them. We will help you sharpen these skills, that will prove invaluable lifelong, both in your private life and in your career."

### JOBS

Actuarial analyst  
Chartered accountant  
Financial manager  
Gas turbine engineer  
Investment analyst  
Teacher  
Cyber security officer  
Statistician  
Systems developer  
Software engineer



### SKILLS

Writing  
Giving presentations  
Constructing arguments  
Working to deadlines  
Statistical, spatial and environmental analysis skills  
Flexibility  
Open minded  
Problem solving  
Team working  
Report writing



### FURTHER EDUCATION (SIXTH FORM, COLLEGE, APPRENTICESHIP)

A levels - History, Geography, English Literature, Sociology, Psychology

BTEC in Business Studies  
BTEC in Applied Science  
BTEC in Public Services  
BTEC in Media Studies

Business Management Apprenticeships  
Legal Apprenticeships  
Engineering Apprenticeships



### HIGHER EDUCATION (UNIVERSITY, APPRENTICESHIP)

BA(Hons) in Ancient History  
BA(Hons) in Modern History  
BA (Hons) in History  
BSc (Hons) in Archaeology  
LLB (Hons) in Law  
BSc (Hons) in Business  
BSc (Hons) in Geography  
BSc (Hons) in Geoscience and Geography  
BSc (Hons) in Economics and Geography

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# Important Points to Note

## Careers Event

This year's careers event will take place in the Sports Hall on Friday 13th February. Local



colleges, apprenticeship providers and a range of regional and national organisations will be joining us on the day to inspire pupils about potential career paths. Pupils will have an hour to

explore the various stalls. Representatives from all the organisations will be on hand to answer any questions pupils may have and provide current labour market information.

## PSHE Sessions

Pupils are currently receiving tailor made PSHE lessons to support the options process. The lessons will enable the pupils to critically think about what factors should influence their decisions and encourage pupils to start to think about their future and potential careers.

We will be welcoming colleges from mid-February as they host a Collective Worship for the year group to explain their post 16 choices. Sessions will cover A levels, vocational courses, and the new T Levels, and will provide pupils with the most up to date information, enabling pupils to make informed decisions about their GCSE options.

## KUDOS

KUDOS is a software programme that supports pupils in preparation for this process. All Year

9 pupils are accessing this support through their ICT lessons.

## Careers Advisor

Year 9 pupils have access to an experienced and well qualified Careers Advisor who can help with all aspects of the curriculum pathways process and provide information and advice about future pathways. Stacey Lowe is in school every Friday and takes her meetings in N9. Additional dates are being provided over the half term to ensure any pupil who wants a careers appointment can have one.

If you would like an appointment with Stacey please inform your form tutor or see your Careers Leader, Mrs Roberts. Further information for all pupils to support the process, as outlined in the letter sent out alongside this booklet will be given to parents and pupils over curriculum choices process.



Mr Hill  
Assistant Head Teacher  
Assessment & Curriculum

All information is correct at the time of printing.  
However, courses and syllabuses are continually  
under review by the school and Examination  
Boards and some aspects may change.

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# Important Points to Note

## Before opting for a subject pupils must consider:

- \* Which college courses and careers have I thought about?
- \* What is important for my next steps after St. Gregory's?
- \* Which subjects do I enjoy?
- \* Which subjects interest me that I have not experienced?
- \* How much research have I done to find out about new subjects?
- \* Am I fully aware of the workload involved in my option choices?
- \* Have I made a balanced choice in my options to give me a wide range of subjects across the curriculum?
- \* Am I most suited to practical subjects or subjects with a lot of theory based work?
- \* Do I have excellent attendance and punctuality? Pupils with attendance of 95% and above at St Gregory's make an additional 2/3 of a grade progress across all subjects.
- \* Have I considered whether or not I will qualify for the EBACC?
- \* Are my choices ambitious and allow me to be aspirational?

### Advice and Guidance

- Read the course information
- Discuss your options with your Parents/Carers
- Ask your teachers for advice
- Please note it is the subject that is chosen and not the teacher
- Try to avoid similar subjects to ensure a breadth of choice



# The Curriculum Choices Process

## January 2026

Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa	Su
				1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## Spring Term

Year 9 PSHE lessons dedicated to careers & education including a Kudos session in an ITC lesson.

### w/c 12th January

Bespoke Curriculum Choices booklet released on website as well as an information letter to parents. Pupil Collective Worship detailing the options process, timeline and support.

### w/c 29th January

Bespoke Curriculum Choices based form activity including launch of online subject videos from teachers and pupils to inform option choices. Option check-ins to start with Form Tutors shortly after.

### 12th February

Year 9 Engage Evening, subject Market Place and Curriculum Choices Presentation (pupils will have their Bespoke Subject Options Form at this point).

### 13th February

Year 9 Careers Event

### 22nd February

Bespoke Curriculum Choices Forms due in.

### w/c 2nd March to the end of the academic year

Timetable building and student meetings regarding options

## March 2026

Mo	Tu	W	Th	Fri	Sa	Su
				1		
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

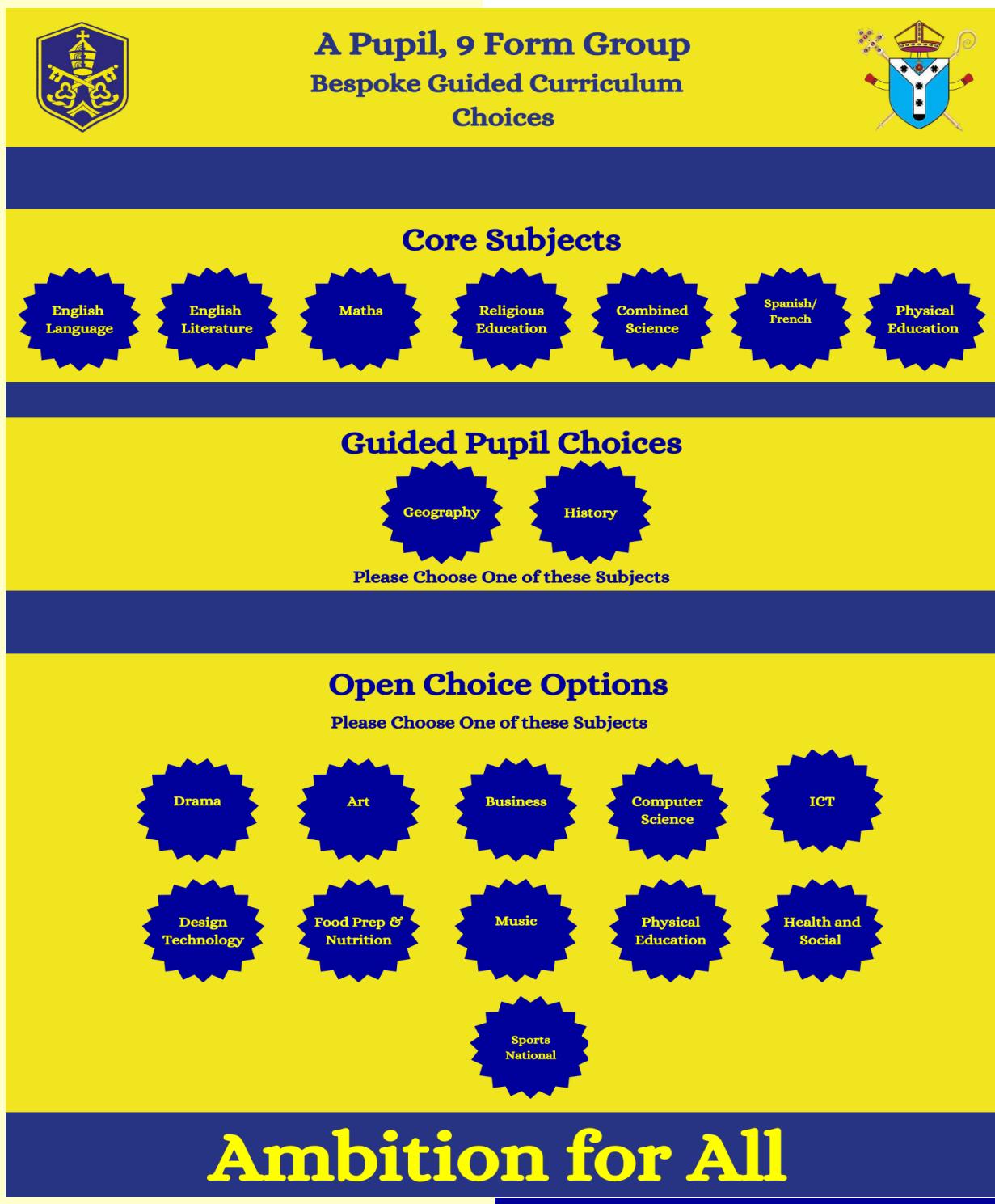
### Throughout the Process

- \* One to one advice from Mr Getty PPM
- \* One-to-one coaching conversations with Form Tutors in form time
- \* Careers advice sessions/one-to-one meetings with our Careers Advisor(s)
- \* Class teacher information in lesson time for each option subject (taught in KS3)
- \* PSHE lessons every two weeks tailored to the journey of Curriculum Choices

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# Bespoke Curriculum Offer

Pupils' options forms are unique to their aptitude and ability but still allow for choice. This builds the best curriculum offer which is broad, balanced and challenging for each individual. All curriculum offers allow pupils to be eligible for the EBACC suite of subjects, whilst studying at least 9 GCSEs. The example below facilitates pupils who are more suited to study Combined Science. Pupils will study the core subjects (Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Religious Studies, Combined Science, a language and Core PE). Option One is guided to be either Geography or History to allow the pupils to gain the English Baccalaureate qualification. Option two is completely open choice for the pupil. Pupils may also receive a bespoke offer that has fewer core subject and allows for two open offers. This still ensures that pupils can still attain the English Baccalaureate through their choices.



The infographic is a vertical flow of information. It starts with a yellow header section containing the school crest and the text 'A Pupil, 9 Form Group Bespoke Guided Curriculum Choices'. Below this is a blue section titled 'Core Subjects' with seven yellow starburst icons: English Language, English Literature, Maths, Religious Education, Combined Science, Spanish/French, and Physical Education. The next yellow section is titled 'Guided Pupil Choices' with two yellow starburst icons: Geography and History. Below this is the instruction 'Please Choose One of these Subjects'. The following blue section is titled 'Open Choice Options' with ten yellow starburst icons arranged in two rows of five: Drama, Art, Business, Computer Science, ICT, Design Technology, Food Prep & Nutrition, Music, Physical Education, and Health and Social. Below this is the instruction 'Please Choose One of these Subjects'. The final yellow section at the bottom contains the text 'Ambition for All' in large yellow letters. At the very bottom is a dark blue footer with the school's motto 'ONE FAMILY... INSPIRED TO LEARN' in white.

**A Pupil, 9 Form Group**  
**Bespoke Guided Curriculum**  
**Choices**

**Core Subjects**

English Language  
English Literature  
Maths  
Religious Education  
Combined Science  
Spanish/French  
Physical Education

**Guided Pupil Choices**

Geography  
History

Please Choose One of these Subjects

**Open Choice Options**

Drama  
Art  
Business  
Computer Science  
ICT  
Design Technology  
Food Prep & Nutrition  
Music  
Physical Education  
Health and Social

Please Choose One of these Subjects

**Ambition for All**

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# Compulsory Core Subjects

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Science
- At least one Humanity
  - History
  - Geography
- Spanish/ French  
(depending on the pupil's Bespoke Curriculum Offer may be a core subject too)



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# English Language

## Qualification

**GCSE English Language**

## Examination Board

**AQA**

## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

Pupils will sit two papers, testing reading and writing, both of which are 1 hour and 45 minutes long. Each paper is worth 50% of the GCSE.

### **Paper 1:**

**Reading Section:** 4 questions based on one literary fiction text. 40 marks

**Writing Section:** 1 descriptive or narrative writing task. 40 marks (24 marks are awarded for content and 16 marks for technical accuracy.)

### **Paper 2**

**Reading Section:** 4 questions exploring links between two texts. 40 marks

**Writing Section:** 1 writing task in which the candidate must write to express a point of view: 40 marks (24 marks are awarded for content: 16 marks are awarded for technical accuracy).

**This course is assessed by examination only**



## **What will you learn?**

The examinations will assess a candidate's ability to:

- Identify and interpret information and ideas
- Select and synthesise evidence from different texts
- Explain, comment on, analyse and evaluate how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers
- Compare writers' ideas and perspectives
- Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively
- Organise information and ideas, selecting and adapting language, structure, tone and grammatical features for clarity, purpose and effect

## **Progression Opportunities**

English is useful for all jobs as it helps you develop important analysis and written communication skills. Most employers always say they want people with good English skills. If you enjoy English you could use your creative and analytical skills to work in a huge range of different career areas.

If you are interested in the Arts and like reading, media, the theatre or events, there are lots of opportunities in broadcasting, publishing and arts management. If you like debating and putting together persuasive arguments you may enjoy law, politics and government or business roles.

English combines well with all subjects, as communication is key in all areas of life. Other potential careers include advertising, publishing, marketing or working in TV or radio. You should also study English if you wish to pursue a career in journalism, education or working within the criminal justice system.

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# English Literature

## Qualification

GCSE English Literature

## Examination Board

AQA

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

Pupils will sit two examinations.

**Paper 1** is 1 hour and 45 minutes long. It is worth 40% of the overall examination mark and comprises of two questions:

Shakespeare: one question (34 marks)  
Nineteenth century novel: one question (34 marks)

**Paper 2** is 2 hours and 15 minutes long. It is worth 60% of the overall examination mark and comprises of three questions:

Modern texts: one question (34 marks)  
Studied poetry comparison: one question (30 marks)  
Unseen poetry comparison (32 marks)

**This course is assessed by examination only**



## **What will you learn?**

Pupils will study whole texts comprising of a Shakespeare play, a nineteenth century novel, a modern play and a selection of poetry.

The examinations will assess a candidate's ability to:

- Read, understand and respond to texts
- Analyse language, form and structure
- Understand relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written
- Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect

## **Progression Opportunities**

English is useful for all jobs as it helps you develop important analysis and written communication skills. Most employers always say they want people with good English skills. If you enjoy English you could use your creative and analytical skills to work in a huge range of different career areas.

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# Mathematics

## Qualification

**GCSE Mathematics**

## Examination Board

**Edexcel (Pearson)**

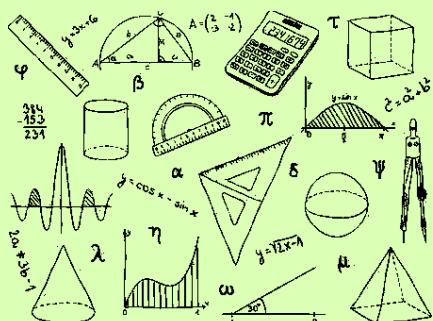
## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

This specification offers a traditional linear route to GCSE Mathematics comprising of three terminal examination papers; one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. The course distinguishes to two levels of ability and pupils are entered at either Foundation tier or Higher tier. These tiers allow for differentiation and enable all pupils to demonstrate positive achievement. Pupils will be entered for the tier appropriate to their attainment.

**This course is assessed by  
examination only**



## What will you learn?

The course offers pupils the opportunity to build on the content, knowledge and skills developed during Key Stage 3 Programme of Study. It provides opportunities to build on the basic principles and existing knowledge to develop general concepts and to apply these to specific problems which we encounter in Mathematics and our everyday lives. The course aims to enhance the pupils' ability to think logically, to ask questions, and carry out rigorous investigations.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Mathematics leads everywhere, from foreign affairs to scientific research, from the social sciences to medicine, from commerce to computing and information technology. Mathematics is the language through which nature, technology and reality is described. Therefore it is essential for almost every sphere of knowledge and activity in the modern world.

A qualification in mathematics is important for university entrance and for further education courses in science and business. It is a direct qualification for accountancy, banking and teaching.



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# Religious Studies

## Qualification

**GCSE Religious Studies**

## Examination Board

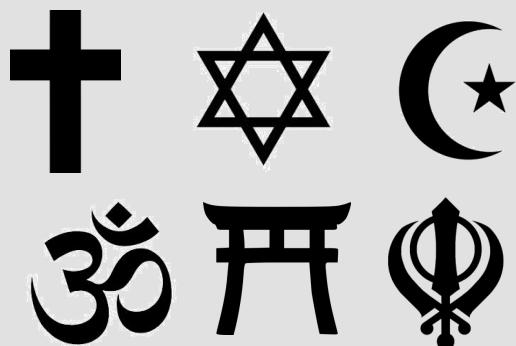
**Eduqas Route B (WJEC)**

## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

**This course is assessed by examination only**



## **What will you learn?**

The course aims to promote an enquiring, critical and sympathetic approach to the study of the Roman Catholic religion; to introduce pupils to the challenging and varied nature of religion and to provide an opportunity for the study and exploration of other Christian beliefs, practices and sources of authority.

At St Gregory's we have the opportunity to study another world religion and to compare and contrast its teachings and practices with Christianity. As a Catholic school, we study Judaism as our second world faith. This gives our pupils the opportunity to study the third biggest religion in the North-West and pupils are encouraged to draw links between the Catholic faith and the faith that Jesus Christ himself grew up with.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Religious Studies is accepted as a viable qualification by colleges and employers. It teaches our pupils to think for themselves and explain a point of view; it helps them to think through the big issues of life, as well as demonstrating an awareness of other people's beliefs. Almost any career values a Religious Studies GCSE qualification but it is particularly beneficial if you wish to study law, medicine or pursue a career in the media.



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# Combined Science

## Qualification

GCSE

## Examination Board

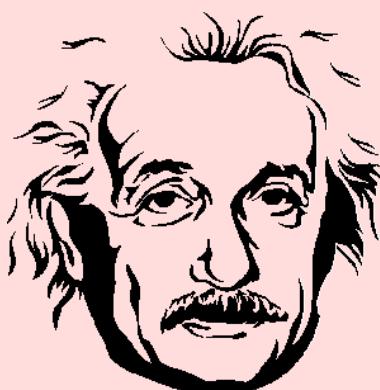
AQA

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

This course is 100% examination based. Pupils will sit examinations in Biology, Physics and Chemistry units at the end of Year 11. Pupils will also complete 16 compulsory practical experiments throughout the course which will make up approximately 15% of the exam questions.



## **What will you learn?**

Combined Science includes Biology, Physics and Chemistry and topics which include Cell Biology, Infection and Response, Bioenergetics, Organic Chemistry, the Atmosphere Forces, Waves and Atomic Structure. Pupils develop skills in analysis and evaluation.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Combined Science is an incredibly important subject as it develops many transferable skills essential in the world of work, regardless of the career path you follow. Whilst studying combined science you will develop your maths, data handling, research, practical and communication skills. The wide variety of Tier 3 vocabulary and knowledge you develop while studying combined science can be applied to many other subjects and will enable you to be more aware of the changing world around you.

Combined Science opens doors to a vast array of careers ranging from health care professionals such as midwives, nurses, and physiotherapists to teaching and engineering, as well as criminology and cyber intelligence. Combined Science is also a very valuable qualification for entry onto all further and higher educational courses, including A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. As technology continues to change in the future there will always be a high demand for talented scientists.



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# Triple Science

## Qualification

**GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics**

## Examination Board

**AQA**

## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

Each science discipline follows the same assessment programme, taken separately for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All subjects will be assessed by 100% examination at the end of Year 11. Pupils will be required to do **8** compulsory practical experiments for each subject which will make up 15% of the exam questions.

**This course is assessed by examination only**



## **What will you learn?**

**GCSE Biology:** Pupils will gain a full understanding of the world of living things. Topics include, Cell Biology, Infection and Response, Bioenergetics, Ecology and Evolution.

**GCSE Chemistry:** Pupils will develop an insight into the chemical processes and reactions that impact our daily lives. Topics include Organic Chemistry, Chemistry of the Atmosphere, and Rates of Reaction.

**GCSE Physics:** Pupils are encouraged to gain knowledge and practical experience about the fundamental principles of how things work. Topics include Forces, Waves, Space Physics and Electricity.

**Triple Science allows pupils to use their problem-solving skills and their ability to evaluate and discuss scientific theories.**

## **Progression Opportunities**

Separate sciences are suitable for pupils with a real passion for science and who are able to achieve the highest grades in these demanding subjects. Studying separate sciences at GCSE develops many transferable skills essential in the world of work, regardless of the career path you follow. Whilst studying separate sciences you will develop your maths, data handling, research, practical and communication skills. The wide variety of Tier 3 vocabulary and knowledge you develop while studying separate sciences can be applied to many other subjects and will enable you to be more aware of the changing world around you.

Separate sciences opens doors to many of the traditional scientific careers ranging from engineering, medicine, and dentistry to careers in the petrochemical and biomedical science field. Separate sciences are also valuable qualifications for entry onto all further and higher educational courses, including A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. As technology continues to change in the future there will always be a high demand for talented scientists.

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# French

## Qualification

**GCSE French**

## Examination Board

**EDEXCEL**

## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

End of course examinations in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening: 25% each

There are two tiers of assessment: **Higher** and **Foundation** which allows for differentiation and enables all pupils to demonstrate positive achievement.

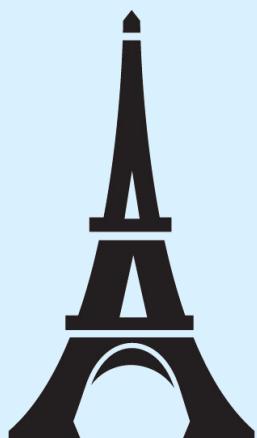
## **What will you learn?**

Pupils are encouraged to communicate effectively in French, through listening, speaking, reading and writing and to develop their awareness of language and French culture.

Consolidating and extending pupils' understanding of topics covered at Key Stage 3, the course will provide a very smooth transition to GCSE examination. New themes are introduced, such as: education, home and local environment, leisure, lifestyle and work.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Colleges and universities recognise and value the full range of communication skills that a pupil can offer. They often look for a qualification in a modern foreign language, since this is considered to be invaluable for further education. Entering the new era of 'Brexit' it will be even more desirable to have an understanding of a European language, since English will no longer be the recognised language of trade across Europe, and British companies and businesses will be in need of foreign language speakers. Other possibilities exist in child care, the diplomatic service, distribution services, fashion, hotel work, linguistics, medical services, retail, teaching, telecommunications, and tourism.



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# Geography

## Qualification

GCSE Geography

## Examination Board

AQA

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

**Paper 1:** - Living with the Physical Environment

1 hour 30 minutes 35%

- The Challenge of Natural Hazards
- Physical Landscapes in the UK
- The Living World

**Paper 2:** Challenges of the Human Environment

1 hour 30 minutes 35%

- Urban Issues and Challenges
- The Changing Economic World
- The Challenge of Resource Management

**Paper 3:** Geographical Applications

1 hour 15 minutes 30%

- Issue Evaluation – critical thinking and problem solving with pre - released materials and support.
- Fieldwork – two geographical enquiries (fieldtrips)
- Geographical Skills.

*"Statistics show that compared with other subjects, geographers are amongst the most employable and versatile pupils".*

*(The Guardian)*

## **What will you learn?**

**Knowledge:** Pupils will learn about the modern world in which they live. They will study places from the cold environments of Svalbard and Alaska to the tropical rainforests of Brazil, with an increased focus now placed on the UK. They will investigate how people face a range of challenges including: Natural Hazards, Economic Crisis, Climate Change, Poverty, Famine and Drought.

**Skills:** Geography equips you with a range of transferable skills essential for any future venture including A Levels, apprenticeships and employment. You will develop cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills, as well as improving your literacy skills, communication, team work and problem solving skills.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Geography is an incredibly useful subject as the wide range of skills you gain can be transferred to almost every job sector, and geographers are highly sought after by higher education institutions. While studying GCSE and A Level geography pupils gain valuable experience in teamwork, data analysis, issue evaluation, justification, and conducting research in the field. The wide variety of Tier 3 vocabulary and knowledge gained can also be applied to other courses such as Accounting, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Environmental Studies, Geology, Mathematics and Physics.

The Guardian newspaper identified geography graduates as the most employable due to the range of skills and knowledge they develop in their studies, and there will be an increasing number of geography related jobs dealing with the challenging consequences of climate change such as in renewable energy, climate science, flood risk management and environmental conservation. Potential careers include geotechnical engineering, geology, soil analyst, oceanography and geochemistry for the science minded or surveying, architecture, engineering, cartography and town planning for the more practical and creative among us.

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# History

## Qualification

GCSE History

## Examination Board

Edexcel (Pearson)

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

**Paper 1: Crime and Punishment in Britain c1000-present. Whitechapel c1870-c1900: Crime policing and the inner city.**

Crime and punishment in medieval, early modern, eighteenth, nineteenth and modern day England and Britain.

Historic Environment study into Whitechapel, including the crimes of Jack the Ripper.

**1 hour 20 minutes 30%**

**Paper 2: Period study and British depth study. British study: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England c1060-1088.**

Anglo Saxon life and leadership, battles in 1066, Norman Conquest and leadership.

**1 hour 45 minutes 40%**

**Period study: Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941-91.**

Origins, crises and end of the Cold War, including events in Berlin, Cuba, Czechoslovakia and Afghanistan.

**Paper 3: Modern depth study. The USA, 1954-1975: Conflict at home and abroad.**

Study into the Civil Rights Movement, including the roles of Martin Luther King, Rosa Parks and Malcolm X.

US involvement in Vietnam, including US and Vietcong tactics.

The importance and successes of peaceful protest.

**1 hour 30 minutes 30%**

## **What will you learn?**

Pupils will learn about why we live in the world in which we do. They will study aspects of history over a period of a thousand years, with a specific focus on modern history. They will investigate how humans have treated each other, the importance of democracy and a successful justice system and how people have successfully shown resilience and commitment to improve society.

Pupils will also build on the skills that they have developed in Years 7, 8 and 9. This includes studying the causes, events and consequences of key events, the role of individuals as well as reinforcing literacy skills. History also offers many transferable skills for A Level subjects, apprenticeships, university qualifications and employment. History will also allow for pupils to express their opinions and build constructive arguments.

## **Progression Opportunities**

History offers unique opportunities which can be transferred to a large range of employment opportunities. Regarded as a 'facilitating subject' by many universities, history is often studied alongside Sociology, Psychology, Business, English and Economics. History can lead on to a large range of careers from law, politics and business through to creative media, journalism, broadcasting and tourism management.



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# Spanish

## Qualification

**GCSE Spanish**

## Examination Board

**EDEXCEL**

## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

End of course examinations in Reading, Writing, Speaking and Listening. 25% each

There are two tiers of assessment:

**Higher** and **Foundation** which allows for differentiation and enables all pupils to demonstrate positive achievement.

## **What will you learn?**

The course aims at developing the ability to use Spanish effectively for purposes of communication through the four skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

Consolidating and extending pupils' understanding of topics covered at Key Stage 3, the course provides a smooth transition to GCSE examination.

New themes are introduced, such as: Lifestyle, Leisure, Home and Local Environment, Work and Education.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Entering the new era of 'Brexit' it will be even more desirable to have an understanding of a European language, since English will no longer be the recognised language of trade across Europe and British companies and businesses will be in need of foreign language speakers. Other possibilities exist in telecommunications, linguistics, teaching, tourism, hotel work, interpreting and the diplomatic service. A qualification in a foreign language is often an additional requirement for many jobs. Spanish is widely spoken in Central and Southern America and there are many other areas of Hispanic influence throughout the world. Proficiency in the language can be an important skill in the world of commerce.



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# Optional Subjects

## GCSE

- **Art, Craft and Design**
- **Business**
- **Computer Science**
- **Design and Technology**
- **Drama**
- **Food Preparation and Nutrition**
- **Music**
- **Physical Education**

## Other Qualifications

- **Construction and the Built Environment**
- **Engineering**
- **Health and Social Care**
- **ICT Cambridge Nationals**
- **Cambridge National in Sports Studies**



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# Art, Craft and Design

## Qualification

**GCSE Art, Craft and Design**

## Examination Board

**AQA**

## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

**Portfolio of Coursework** **60%**

**\*Controlled Test** **40%**

\*Preparatory Studies for the Controlled Test are completed during lesson time. Your teacher will offer help and support at each stage of the project. A final piece for your project is created under examination conditions. Your idea can be discussed and practised beforehand.



## **What will you learn?**

The course of study will include two of the following areas:

- Fine Art
- Textile Design
- Three-dimensional Design
- Photography

**The course will involve:**

- Looking at artists, crafts people and designers
- Using lots of different materials and techniques
- Experimenting to see what works and what doesn't
- Researching your theme
- Creating a final piece
- Writing about the work of different artists and explaining your own ideas and opinions

## **Progression Opportunities**

Art can be fun and rewarding, it develops self-expression and creativity and builds confidence and a sense of individual identity. It also encourages awareness, empathy and appreciation of difference and diversity.

The leading people in any field are those who can think creatively and innovatively. These are skills that employers value alongside qualifications. GCSE Art develops research and communication skills and the ability to develop, refine and present ideas.

GCSE Art pupils are effective and independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds. The creative industries are some of the UK's most successful, varied and fastest growing sectors. GCSE Art is the first step for many creative pathways and those involving problem solving, including design, engineering, architecture, Advertising, fashion and media journalism, illustration, photography and many more. New technologies are creating a whole new range of courses where art is being used in innovative ways.

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# Business

## Qualification

GCSE Business

## Examination Board

Edexcel (Pearson)

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

Pupils will sit 2 papers.

**Theme 1:** Investigating small business

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes,  
50% of the qualification.

**Theme 2:** Building a business

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes  
50% of the qualification

**Both papers** consist of calculations,  
multiple-choice, short-answer and extended  
writing questions.

Questions in Sections B and C will be based on  
business contexts given a source booklet.

## Why choose Business

### Do you...

Have ideas for a business?

Enjoy watching the apprentice?

Have skills in talking to audiences?

Have the passion to work extremely hard?

Like marketing, advertising and finance?

Like working with people and as a team?

### Are you...

Enthusiastic?

Organised?

Independent?

Hard working?

Prepared for a challenge ?

**Yes...then you will enjoy Business**

## What will you learn?

**Theme 1** comprises five topic areas:

- Enterprise and entrepreneurship
- Spotting a business opportunity
- Putting a business idea into action
- Making the business effective
- Understanding external influences on business

**Theme 2** comprises five topic areas:

- Growing the business.
- Making marketing decisions
- Making operational decisions
- Making financial decisions
- Making human resource decisions

## Progression Opportunities

This qualification provides progression for those wishing to continue their studies with A levels in Business, Economics, and Applied Business and a BTEC Level 3 in Business.

In terms of future careers, Business will provide the first steps to applying business skills to any job sector you enter. Having a GCSE in Business signifies to employers and colleges that you have acquired many skills that are valued in the workplace.



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# Computer Science

## Qualification

GCSE Computer Science

## Examination Board

Edexcel (Pearson)

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

Paper 1: Principles of Computer Science  
Written Assessment 50%

Paper 2: Application of computational  
Thinking On–screen Assessment

## Why study GCSE Computing?

This exciting GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. You'll also do some fascinating in-depth research and practical work



## What will you Learn?

GCSE Computer Science will offer you lots of transferable skills which are known to be vital in further education and the world of work, including:

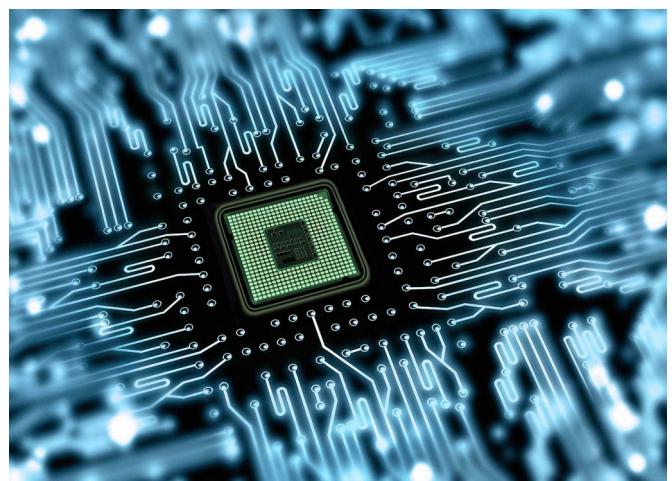
- ◆ Problem solving
- ◆ Analytics
- ◆ Researching skills
- ◆ Data analysis skills
- ◆ Organisation

## Progression Opportunities

There are endless opportunities available through studying Computer Science. The world is becoming increasingly digital. As technology constantly advances, new roles are created, and in this exciting and ever-shifting landscape, so many new opportunities are open to students.

Here are just a few careers you could embark on

- ◆ Web designer
- ◆ Videographer/ film maker
- ◆ Animator
- ◆ Graphic designer
- ◆ Games designer



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# Design and Technology

## Qualification

**GCSE Technology**

## Examination Board

**AQA**

## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

### **Controlled Assessment: Design Folder and Practical Product—50%**

Pupils will produce a 20 page folder of design work. They will go on to build the design in their chosen material using a wide range of tools, equipment and CAD/CAM.

### **Written Examination—50%**

They will absorb and learn the content of their design and technology textbook to help them prepare for their two hour written examination paper.



## **What will you learn?**

A design and technology course allows you to explore materials, processes and health and safety considerations, and to improve your awareness of key aspects and issues within this area of discipline.

You might analyse the work of famous designers to understand their thought processes, whilst learning model making, computer aided design and manufacturing skills used in industry.

Studying design and technology would be beneficial for those people who are interested in a career within the creative, engineering or technology sectors.

As you will learn many skills around design and making, it suits hands on people who like to work practically.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Design and its principles have a greater impact on our lives than we might imagine. From our physical surroundings and infrastructure to the things we wear and buy, everything around us is embedded with design.

While artistic talent can provide a strong foundation for a career in design, perhaps more important is a willingness to develop technical skills and an ability to solve problems creatively.

This opens doors for graduates across artistic and non-artistic sectors such as architecture, jewellery design, product design, furniture design, interior design, or commercial businesses such as civil engineering, craft and technical apprentices, electronic engineering, and many more.

# Drama

## Qualification

GCSE Drama

## Examination Board

AQA

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

### **Unit 1: Understanding Drama 40%**

Written exam: 1 hr and 45 minutes

**Section A:** Theatre Knowledge (4 marks)

**Section B:** Set Text 'Blood Brothers' (44marks)

**Section C:** Analysing a live theatre production (32 marks)

### **Unit 2: Devising drama 40%**

Devising Log (60 marks)

Devised Performance (20 marks)

### **Unit 3: Scripted Performance 20%**

Performance of Extract 1 (20marks)

and Extract 2 (20 marks)

## **Why choose Drama?**

### **If you...**

Enjoy working practically in groups

Have creative and original ideas

Like watching and discussing live performance

Enjoy creating and performing theatre

Like learning about people, places and events

If you are becoming an effective communicator...

**then Drama could be the subject for you!**

## **What will you learn?**

GCSE Drama is a creative and collaborative subject that will challenge you to work imaginatively both as individuals and within teams. This is through the study of play texts; devising drama; performance of contrasting characters from a script and the study of live theatre. It develops a number of transferable skills which are needed for most careers and further fields of study, including becoming a very confident communicator and a critical thinker. We aim to inspire you so that you can enjoy the high level of challenge that the course presents.

During the course you will need to attend two evening theatre visits to see live performances. You will also have the opportunity to perform to live audiences before your practical examinations. There is also an opportunity to attend an inspiring Drama GCSE weekend residential, at the Conway Centre in Menai. This takes place half way through Year 10 and, whilst not compulsory, is beneficial to developing your skills and understanding.

## **Progression Opportunities**

GCSE Drama provides skills that are highly favourable within a wide range of career paths, due to the emphasis on teamwork, problem solving and development of communication skills, all of which are integral to the course. This can lead into careers in all aspects of the Performing Arts such as performer, production designer (for example set, lighting and costume design) theatre director or arts administration to name but a few. The course also aims to prepare pupils in careers where communication skills are essential such as law, management, marketing, media, health care, social work and teaching.



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# Food Preparation and Nutrition

## Qualification

**GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition**

## Examination Board

**Eduqas (WJEC)**

## Grade Potential

**9-1**

## Assessment

The course is a balance between practical and theory. Pupils will be required to complete two assessment task and a written exam paper.

**Written Examination 50%**

### **Assessment 1: The Food Investigation (8 Hrs)**

A scientific food investigation which will assess knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food. **15%**

### **Assessment 2: The Food Preparation (12 Hrs)**

Prepare, cook and present a menu which assesses knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food. **35%**



## What will you learn?

GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of Food Science, Nutrition and Healthy Eating. It encourages learners to make informed decisions about food and nutrition.

By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will:

- demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills
- develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties of food
- understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health

## **Progression Opportunities**

This subject builds on the content taught at Key Stage 3 and provides a suitable foundation for the study of WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition, and other food-related courses at either AS or A Level.

The knowledge and skills developed include teamwork, practical cooking skills, communication both verbal and written, research, analysis of data, planning, time management and evaluative skills. The variety of vocabulary and knowledge can also be applied to other courses such as biology, chemistry, food science, nutrition and nursing.

Following this course will pave the way for a career in many different areas such as chef, dietician, environmental health officer, food production, health promotion, hospitality, hotel catering and management, product development, airline catering and a food scientist.

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# Music

## Qualification

GCSE Music

## Examination Board

AQA

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

Performing Music: 30% (Practical Coursework)

Composing Music: 30% (Practical Coursework)

Listening Examination: 40% (End of Course)

## **What will you learn?**

**Performance:** Pupils will perform one solo and one ensemble on any instrument or voice in any style.

**Composition:** Pupils will complete a portfolio of six compositions ranging from Jazz, Bhangra and Classical Waltz. Pupils will complete all of this work using the Sound Trap software.

**Listening:** Pupils will study and analyse a range of composers and works such as Beethoven, Handel, Bob Marley and Mumford and Sons. The two set works that pupils will study are Beethoven and the music from Queen.

## **Progression Opportunities**

GCSE Music equips you with a wide range of transferable skills useful in a variety of career paths. Held in high esteem as an academic subject by further and higher education institutions, studying music enables you to develop problem solving skills, the ability to work effectively both individually and as a team, communication skills as well as an awareness of other cultures and traditions. There are many career paths open to those who have studied music, such as performer (in a band, theatre, choir or orchestra, for example), composer, foley artist, music producer and sound engineer. Skills gained through studying music are also transferable to other careers such as marketing, arts administration, law, and publishing.

## **Music Technology Option**

This option is designed for pupils who do not play a musical instrument and do not sing. Pupils may replace the 30% Performance with work completed on Sound Trap software including, a **sequenced performance** and a **multi track recording** where pupils act as a sound engineer.



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# Physical Education

## Qualification

GCSE Physical Education

## Examination Board

AQA

## Grade Potential

9-1

## Assessment

**External Examination** - 60% of final grade

2x 1 hour 15 minute exams

**Paper 1** – The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

**Paper 2** - Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

**Practical Performance:** 30% of final grade

Practical performance in three different sports.

### Possible combinations

- A. One team sport plus two individual sports
- B. Two team sports plus one individual sport

**Coursework Task:** 10% of final grade

A written analysis of performance piece based on candidates' chosen practical areas. Candidates are required to relate the theoretical components studied throughout the GCSE PE course to their performance in one sport. (Approximately 4000 words).



## **What will you learn?**

**Paper 1- The human body and movement in physical activity and sport**

Skeletal system, muscular system, cardio-respiratory system, effects of exercise, movement analysis, biomechanics, physical training, understanding and use of data.

**Paper 2- Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport**

Sports psychology, mental preparation, socio-cultural issues, engagement patterns, diet and nutrition, water balance, drugs in sport, social health and well being.

### Practical performance

Develop skills, techniques and tactics in a range of practical sports in order to improve performance and fitness levels. The focus of practical sessions will be on developing the acquisition of skills and effectively applying them within a competitive context.

## **Progression Opportunities**

The AQA GCSE PE course is an excellent course for those pupils wishing to study the subject further at the end of their secondary education at either A-level or vocational level. The course is very much scientifically based in terms of the study of anatomy and physiology and also complements pupils looking to study science and psychology based subjects at A-level as well as vocationally based Level 3 courses such as BTEC Sport, BTEC Applied Human Biology or Cambridge Technical Sport and Physical Activity.

Physical Education provides individuals with all the personal skills, qualities and attributes needed to be successful in life. Through the study of the subject pupils develop vital skills required to be successful in the world of work and wider society. Pupils learn the value and importance of teamwork, effective communication, leadership, and resilience. In addition, they are also physically, mentally, and socially healthy individuals who are proven to be innovative, successful, and productive employees within the world of work.

The study of Physical Education opens doors to careers in sports coaching, teaching, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, physiology as well as public and military services.

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# Construction and the Built Environment

## Qualification

**Construction and the Built Environment**

## Examination Board

**WJEC**

## Grade Potential

**Level 1 and 2**

## Assessment

### **External Assessment**

Examination (On-line): Construction Site  
'Health & Safety'  
A Planning Project for a Restoration  
Building Project.

### **Controlled Assessment**

You will carry out one craft project under controlled conditions. You will produce a craft folder and a craft product. Your teacher assesses and moderates the project.

## **What will you learn?**

In this course you will gain a comprehensive introduction to the construction industry. You will learn about the main types of construction, related employment and the resources used in the built environment. You will also participate in practical aspects of construction through your Construction Craft Project.

### **Unit 1: Construction Industry for the 21st Century**

– You will study topics within the following areas:

- Introduction to the Built Environment
- Employment in the Construction Industry
- Economic Resource Considerations
- Health and Safety
- Construction Technology
- Sustainable development situations

**Unit 2: Construction Craft Project** – You will carry out a craft project, based on a chosen theme and prepare a craft project folder.

**Unit 3: Computer Aided Design in Construction.** You will produce a portfolio of work using Computer Aided Design. All your drawings will be based on real life construction.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Construction offers great opportunities to progress your career. Starting with an entry level position as a Bricklayer, Carpenter, Joiner, Plasterer, or Paint and Decorator labourer. you will have the chance to learn new skills and as you gain experience look at applying for more managerial roles, such as contracts manager, quantity surveyor, site manager or town planner. You may have the opportunity to set up your own construction firm.



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# Engineering Manufacture Cambridge National

## Qualification

Engineering Level 1/2

## Examination Board

OCR

## Grade Potential

Level 1/2

GCSE Equivalent 9-1

## Assessment

Examination R014	40%
Coursework R015	30%
Coursework R016	30%

## **What will you learn?**

Engineering is an increasingly innovative and exciting area to work in. It affects every aspect of modern life - from skyscrapers to smart phones, robots to renewable energy.

This course introduces pupils to a host of new technologies, helping them to gain practical skills and understanding to inspire a lifelong interest in engineering. It will particularly appeal to those who enjoy solving problems, drawing by hand, and designing with Computer Aided Design and mathematics.

## **Progression Opportunities**

Whatever type of engineering you specialise in, your work will focus on solving complex problems, a skill that is highly sought after in all sorts of industries, such as aerospace engineering, environmental engineering, industrial engineering, industrial/educational technician, manufacturing engineering, material science, mechanical engineering, and teaching.

In fact, engineering boasts a panoply of transferable skills which means that, if you ever wanted to switch careers or industries, your engineering experience would prove very useful.

## **Why choose Engineering?**

Do you...

Have a passion for design, planning and creating ?

The attitude to cope with new and complex topics?

Like using complex equipment and tools?

Keen on design and creating products?

Are you....

Good at managing coursework demands?

Willing to learn a huge amount of new information?

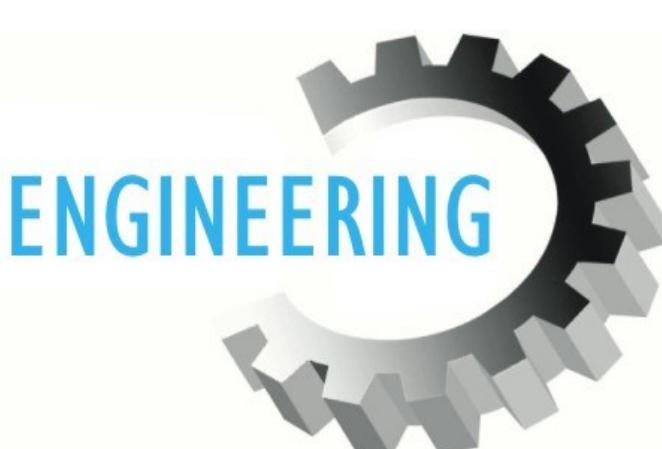
Enthusiastic? Organised?

Committed to achieving your best?

Hard working?

Prepared to challenge yourself?

**Then you will enjoy Engineering.**



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# Health and Social Care

## Qualification

**BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award  
in Health and Social Care**

## Examination Board

**Edexcel (Pearson)**

## Grade Potential

**Level 1 Pass/Merit**

**Level 2 Pass/Merit/Distinction**

## Assessment

The course is made up of 3 components:

- 4 written internal examinations **60%**
- 1 written external examination **40%**

The Award allows pupils to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they provide evidence towards the assessment criteria. Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of diverse activities, including assignment and project work, case studies, work place assessment, role play and presentations.



## **What will you learn?**

The Award has been developed for pupils to:

- gain a broad understanding and knowledge of the health and social care sector and have a more focused understanding of health and social care through specialist units
- have the opportunity to develop a range of personal skills and techniques, essential for successful performance in working life

Units offered include:

- Human lifespan and development
- Health and social care values
- Health and social care services
- Carrying out a research project

## **Progression Opportunities**

This award provides a good foundation for learners to progress onto further education. Achievement at Level 2 provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector, supporting progression on to other vocational qualifications at Level 3, such as the BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Health and Social Care or A-levels.

The knowledge and skills developed include teamwork, communication both verbal and written, empathy, research and evaluative skills and the variety of vocabulary and knowledge can also be applied to other courses such as Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Nursing, Midwifery, Child Care, and Health and Social Care.

Following this course will pave the way for a career in many different areas of health care. Potential careers include; care for the elderly, teacher, pre-school nursery nurse, children's services, probation officer, counselling, social work, nursing, midwifery, paramedic, speech and language therapist, occupational therapist and physiotherapist.

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# ICT Cambridge Nationals

## Qualification

### Information Technologies

## Examination Board

### Cambridge National (OCR)

## Grade Potential

### Pass/Merit/Distinction\*

## Assessment

You will study three mandatory units:

### **R050: IT in the digital world**

In this unit you will learn about design and testing concepts for creating an IT solution or product, and the uses of IT in the digital world. Topics include: Design Tools, Human Computer Interface (HCI) in everyday life, Data and testing, Cyber-security and legislation, Digital Communications and Internet of Everything (IoE).

#### **External Examination**

### **R060: Data manipulation using spreadsheets**

In this unit you will learn how to plan, design, create, test and evaluate a data manipulation spreadsheet solution to meet client's requirements. You will be able to evaluate your solution based on the user requirements. Topics include: Planning and designing the spreadsheet solution, Creating the spreadsheet solution, Testing the spreadsheet solution and Evaluating the spreadsheet solution.

#### **Set Assignment**

### **070: Using Augmented Reality to present information**

In this unit you will learn how to design, create, test and review an Augmented Reality model prototype to meet a client's requirements. Topics include: Augmented Reality (AR), Designing an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype, Creating an Augmented Reality (AR) model prototype and Testing and reviewing.

#### **Set Assignment**

## **What will you learn?**

The OCR Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in ICT is aimed at pupils aged 14-16 years and will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in the IT sector.

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- using different applications and tools to design, create and evaluate IT solutions and products
- creating a data manipulation solution
- creating an Augmented Reality prototype.

This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the IT sector. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations, such as:

- planning and designing IT solutions and products for a given purpose
- selecting the best tools and techniques to solve a problem
- solving problems by exploring different software application tools and techniques
- creating IT solutions and digital products
- use of planning techniques to complete tasks in an organised and timely way
- finding imaginative ways to solve IT problems.

## **Progression Opportunities**

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of IT. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area.

The knowledge gained can lead to careers in banking, communications, graphic design, management and stock control, office work, retail/wholesale organisations, and travel agencies.



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# Cambridge National in Sports Studies

## Qualification

### Cambridge National in Sports Studies

## Examination Board

### Cambridge National (OCR)

## Grade Potential

### Level 1

#### Pass/Merit/Distinction

### Level 2

#### Pass/Merit/Distinction/ Distinction\*

## Assessment

Students must complete three units:

- One externally assessed unit (1 hour 15 minutes exam) [40%]
- Two centre-assessed units (NEA) [60%]



## What will you learn?

### R184 Contemporary Issues in Sport (Exam unit)

In this unit you will learn about a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, relating to; participation levels and barriers, promotion of values and ethical behaviour, the role of high-profile sporting events, the role of national governing bodies and how technology is used within sport.

### R185 Performance and leadership in sports activities

In this unit you will learn how to develop your skills as both a performer, in two different sporting activities, and as a leader in one activity. As a leader you will have the opportunity to plan, lead and review safe and effective sporting activity sessions yourself.

### R187 Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

Outdoor and adventurous activities give you opportunities to engage in activities in a natural outdoor setting. In this unit you will learn how to find out information about what opportunities there are in your local area, as well as nationally in the UK, for all different types of activities. You will learn how you can benefit from and enjoy activities safely by finding out what equipment, clothing, facilities and technology you need, as well as completing planning to help keep you safe.

## Progression Opportunities

This course provides a strong foundation for those pupils looking to study sports related subjects in post 16 education. The course is particularly useful for those pupils with a keen interest in a range of sports and who are interested in pursuing future careers in sports coaching and development.



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# What Next?



**Mrs Roberts**  
Careers Leader



**Mr Poland**  
STEM Careers Co-ordinator



**Mr Frame**  
Careers Co-ordinator



**Stacey Lowe**  
Careers Advisor

## Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance

We have a dedicated careers team who offer a range of information, advice and guidance to all pupils.

Our Careers Advisor, Stacey Lowe is in school every Monday & Friday and takes her meetings in the HUB. Additional dates are being provided over the half term to ensure any pupil who wants a careers appointment can have one. If you would like an appointment with Stacey, please inform your form tutor or see your Careers Leader, Miss Crawley.

This year the Careers team are working closely with a variety of external organisations to provide Work Experience Opportunities for all Year 9 pupils, to ensure we provide the best possible service to all our pupils. For further information visit the Careers Information and Advice Page on our school [website](#).



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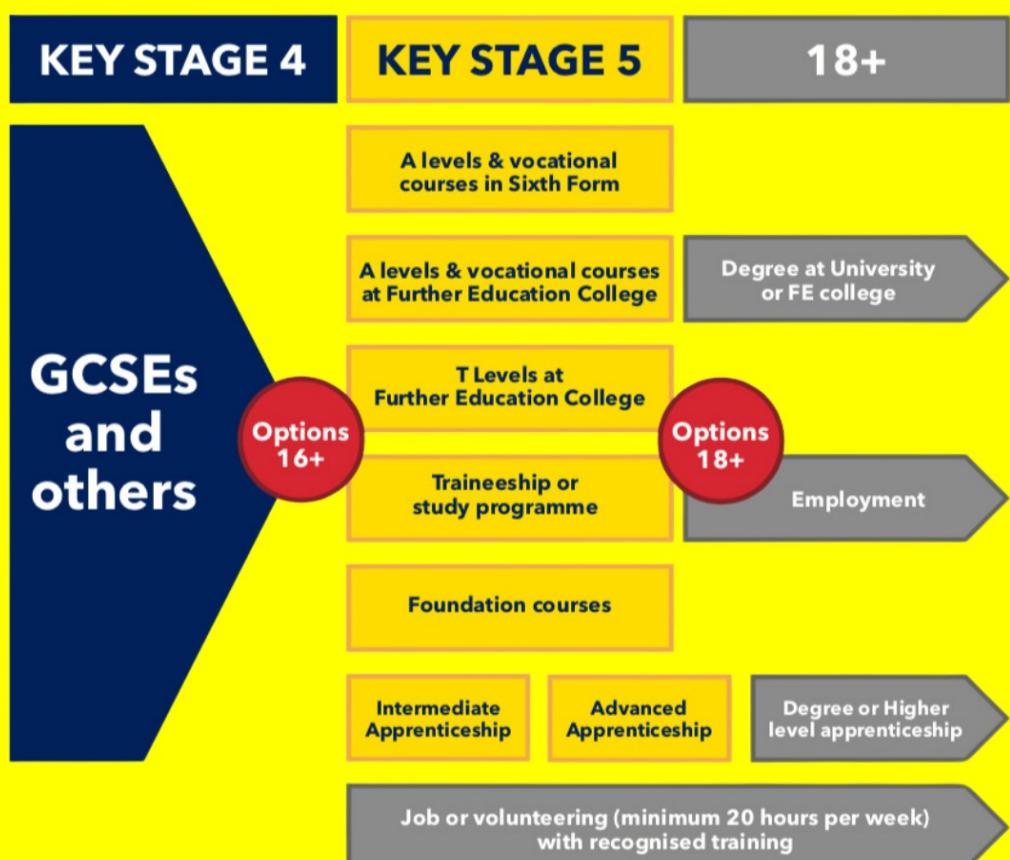
# What Next?



# POST 16 CHOICES



## WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS ONCE I LEAVE ST GREGORY'S CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL?



## AMBITION FOR ALL