St Paul's High School

Ardscoil Naomh Pól

Quality education for all

KS4



Key Stage 4

Subject Choice 2026



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Welcome

Careers Service NI

Our Careers Advisors are Ciara Love and Nora Sherry and they are based in the interview room at the back of the Careers Room every day except Thursday. To book an appointment with an advisor please contact the Careers Department, or alternatively:

Careers Service NI,
Newry Jobs and Benefits Office,
40 Bridge Street,
Newry, BT35 8AJ.
Telephone 028 3025 3109

We will provide Careers advice and support to you and your parents during the Year 10 Subject Choice Day on **Thursday 15th January 2026**





Dear Year 10 Students

Choosing your GCSE subjects is an important step in shaping your future, and it's natural to feel a little uncertain. Remember, this is about finding the subjects that suit your interests, strengths, and goals—not about following what others choose.

Take time to explore your options carefully. Think about:

- What you enjoy – Subjects you like often lead to better results.
- What you're good at – Play to your strengths.
- Future plans – Some careers or courses may require specific subjects.

Don't worry if you're unsure about your long-term career right now. Many paths remain open with a balanced choice of subjects. Use the resources available—talk to your subject teachers, speak with me, and take advantage of advice from Careers Service NI advisers. Ask questions, attend information sessions, and read this booklet thoroughly.

This is your opportunity to make informed decisions that will help you succeed and feel confident about the next stage of your education. We're here to support you every step of the way.

Best of luck,

Ms D Grant
Acting Director of CEIAG

GCSE English Literature



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

This is a two-year unitised course. It is assessed by two examinations and one written controlled assessment.

Which units will I study?

Unit 1: The Study of Prose (30%) [20th Century novel, 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck, and an unseen prose passage].

Unit 2: The Study of Drama and Poetry (50%) ['Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell and fifteen poems from the Conflict Anthology].

Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare (20%) [Controlled Assessment].

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- enjoyment of thinking about writers' ideas;
- ability to analyse language;
- reading stamina;
- commitment to work.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Public relations, the legal profession, copywriting, library work, journalism, TV or theatre directing, publishing, radio production, office administration, secretarial work, marketing, teaching.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/english_literature/



GCSE English Language

Rewarding Learning

This is a two-year unitised course. It is assessed by two examinations, two written controlled assessments and three Speaking and Listening assessments.

Which units will I study?

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

(30% Examination)

Unit 2: Speaking and Listening assessments (20% controlled assessment)

Unit 3: Studying Spoken and Written Language (20% controlled assessment)

Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts (30% Examination)

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

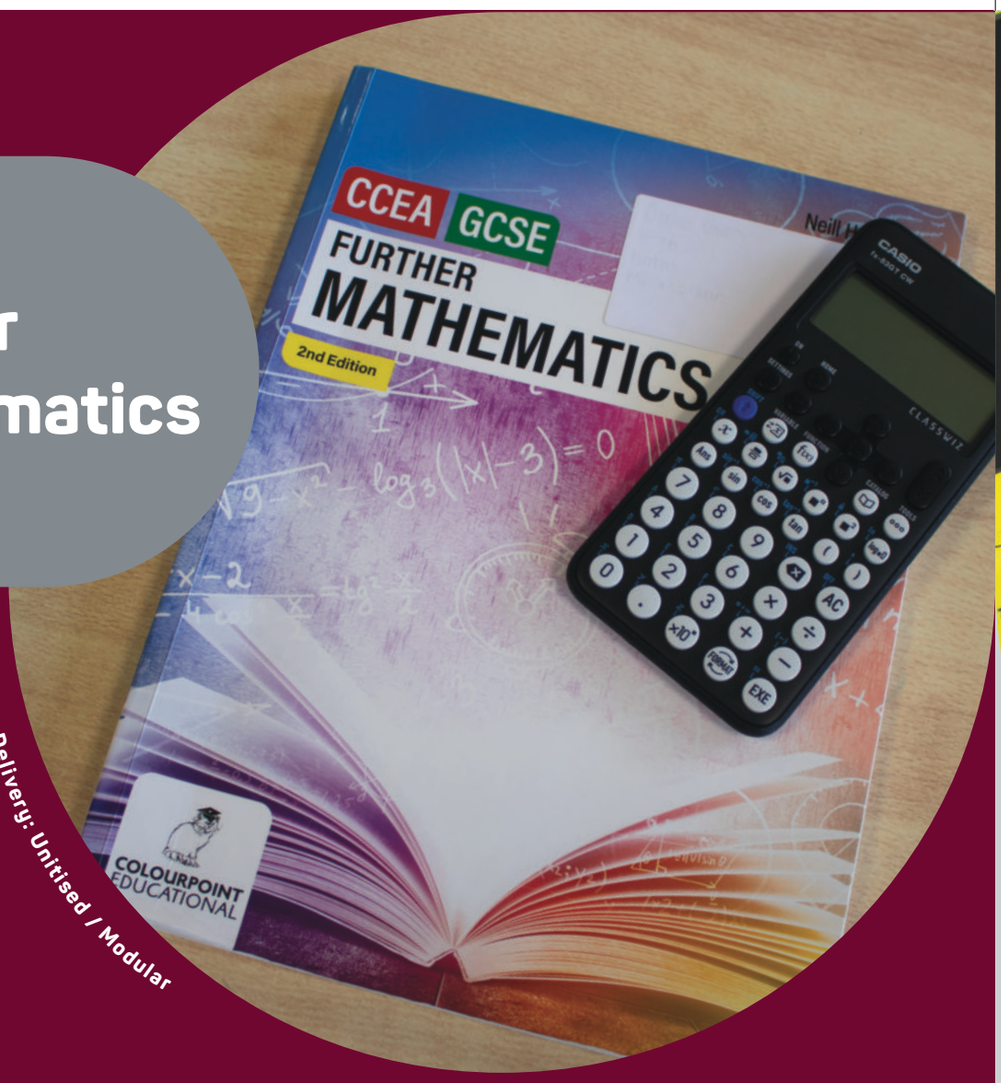
- A confidence in communicating with others;
- An ability to write creatively and imaginatively;
- Be able to use reading to develop your own skills as writers;
- Be able to select and adapt speech and writing to different situations and audiences.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

A grade in GCSE English Language is essential for all career choices.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/english/

GCSE Further Mathematics



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

This course offers the opportunity to build on the skills developed in Key Stage 3 and GCSE Mathematics.

It is designed to broaden the experience of pupils whose mathematical ability is above-average and are interested in studying AS or A Level Mathematics or subjects which require Mathematics at a higher level.

Pupils studying this course will have to attend one twilight class each week.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

As pupils will be studying Further Mathematics in one Year, Year 12, they will sit the three modules at the end of Year 12. Further Mathematics is assessed by examination only. Calculators are allowed throughout the course and examinations.

Which units will I study?

Unit 1 - Pure Mathematics – 50%
Unit 2 - Mechanics - 25%
Unit 3 – Statistics - 25%

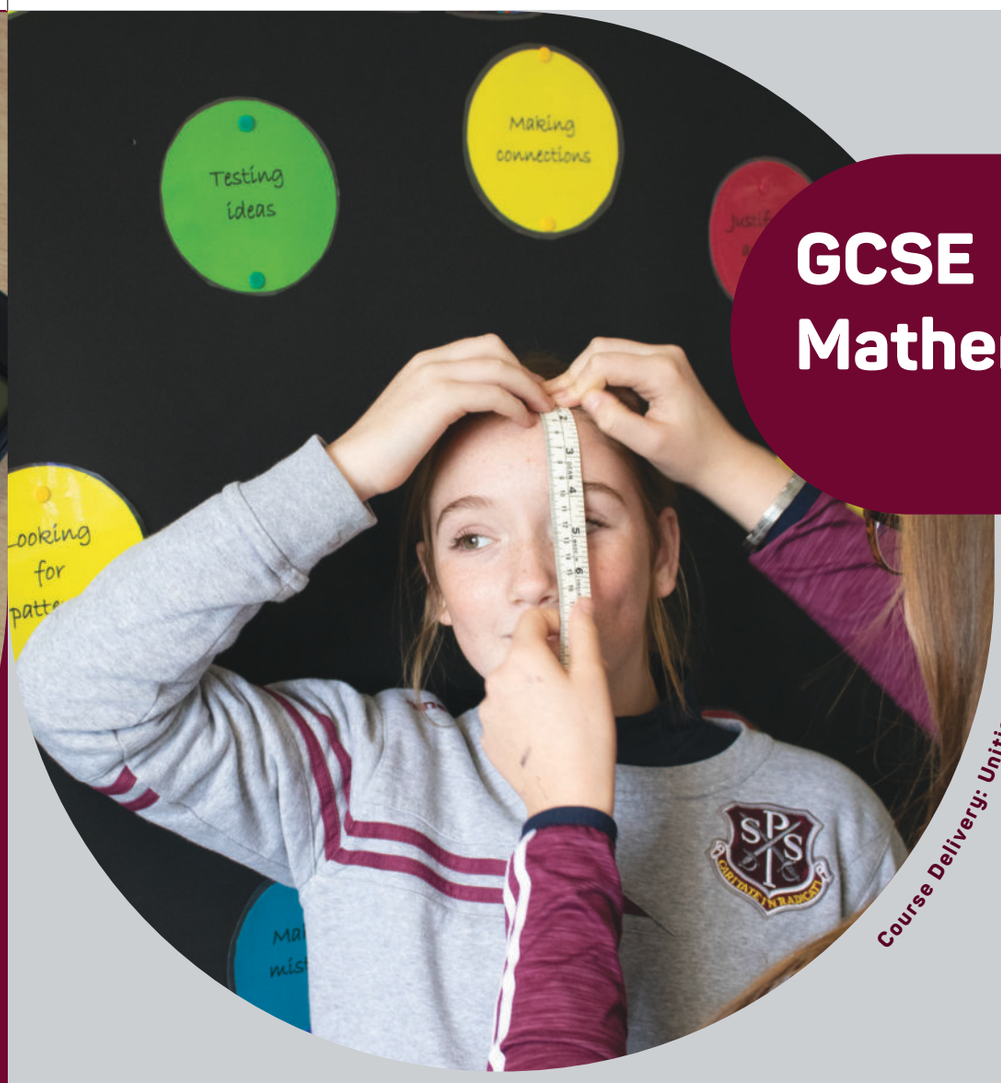
What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

A love for and enjoyment of all aspects of mathematics. Willingness to put in extra time and hard work to get the course covered.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Actuary, Engineering - all types, Accountancy, Statistics, Medicine - doctor, nurse, vet, Business and Finance, Natural Science, Computing, Pharmacy, Architecture, Mathematics, Mathematical Sciences.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/mathematics/



GCSE Mathematics

Rewarding Learning

Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

This is a two-year unitised course. It is assessed by exam only, there is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Pupils will sit the first module at the end of Year 11 followed by the second module at the end of Year 12.

There will be an opportunity to re-sit the first module in November of Year 12.

Pupils studying the one-year GCSE Mathematics course will have to attend one twilight class each week.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Two modules:

Module 1 - 45% of GCSE – Calculator

Module 2 - 55% of GCSE - 2 papers - one non-calculator and one calculator. Both are examined on the same day with a 10 or 15 minute break between the papers.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

If pupils are to succeed, they must work hard from the start. They must also have the correct equipment, for example calculator, protractor, ruler etc. A wish to succeed and the work to go with it can lead to success.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Joinery, Engineering - all types, Electrician, Actuary, Mechanic, Accountant, Interior design, Vet, Nurse.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/mathematics/

GCSE Single Award Science



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

In Year 11 each pupil will sit one module in either Biology. Chemistry or Physics. The remaining two modules will be assessed in Year 12.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There are four modules in total; either Biology, Chemistry or Physics and Practical Skills. Each has an external exam and equal weighting, 25%. There are two tiers of entry; higher and foundation.

New to this course is the Practical Skills assessment in Year 12 consisting of three investigations completed in class, marked externally and assessed in a written exam.

Which units will I study?

- Biology: external exam only
- Chemistry: external exam only
- Physics: external exam only
- Practical Skills that take place in two parts, one in the classroom but externally marked and a final paper in the summer of Year 12.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Good scientific, numeracy, literacy and communication skills are required. The ability to follow instructions, organise work and good time management.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Any vocational science course eg. Agriculture, beauty, hairdressing, nursing, sports.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/general_science/



GCSE Double Award Science

Rewarding Learning

Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

Three modules; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Biology (Unit B1), **Chemistry** (Unit C1) and **Physics** (Unit P1) are assessed throughout Year 11.

Biology (Unit B2), **Chemistry** (Unit C2) and **Physics** (Unit P2) are assessed in June of Year 12.

The Practical Skill Unit 7 is divided into two sections:

Booklet A: Externally marked. Students carry out three pre-release practicals in the final year of study.

Booklet B: External written examination in June of Year 12. (Biology 30 mins, Chemistry 30 mins and Physics 30 mins)

Which units will I study?

- B1 Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity.
- C1 Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis.
- P1 Motion, Force, Moments, Energy, Radioactivity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion.
- B2 Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health.
- C2 Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, calculations and Organic Chemistry.
- P2 Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism, and Space Physics. Practical Skills

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

A high level of scientific skills, including well-developed literacy, numeracy and communication skills.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Any scientific career; eg. agriculture, architecture, astrophysics, beautician, dentistry, education, engineering, healthcare, horticulture, medicine, nursing, sports science, veterinary.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/general_science/

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science



Three modules; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Within OCN, a pass grade is equivalent to a GCSE C grade.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The units are achieved through internally set, internally assessed and internally verified evidence.

Pupils will keep a portfolio of evidence showing that they have met the required skills. They will be assessed on their practical skills and they will have to undertake research or projects related to the course.

Which units will I study?

- Physical Processes.
- Life Processes and Living Things.
- Materials and their Chemical Properties.

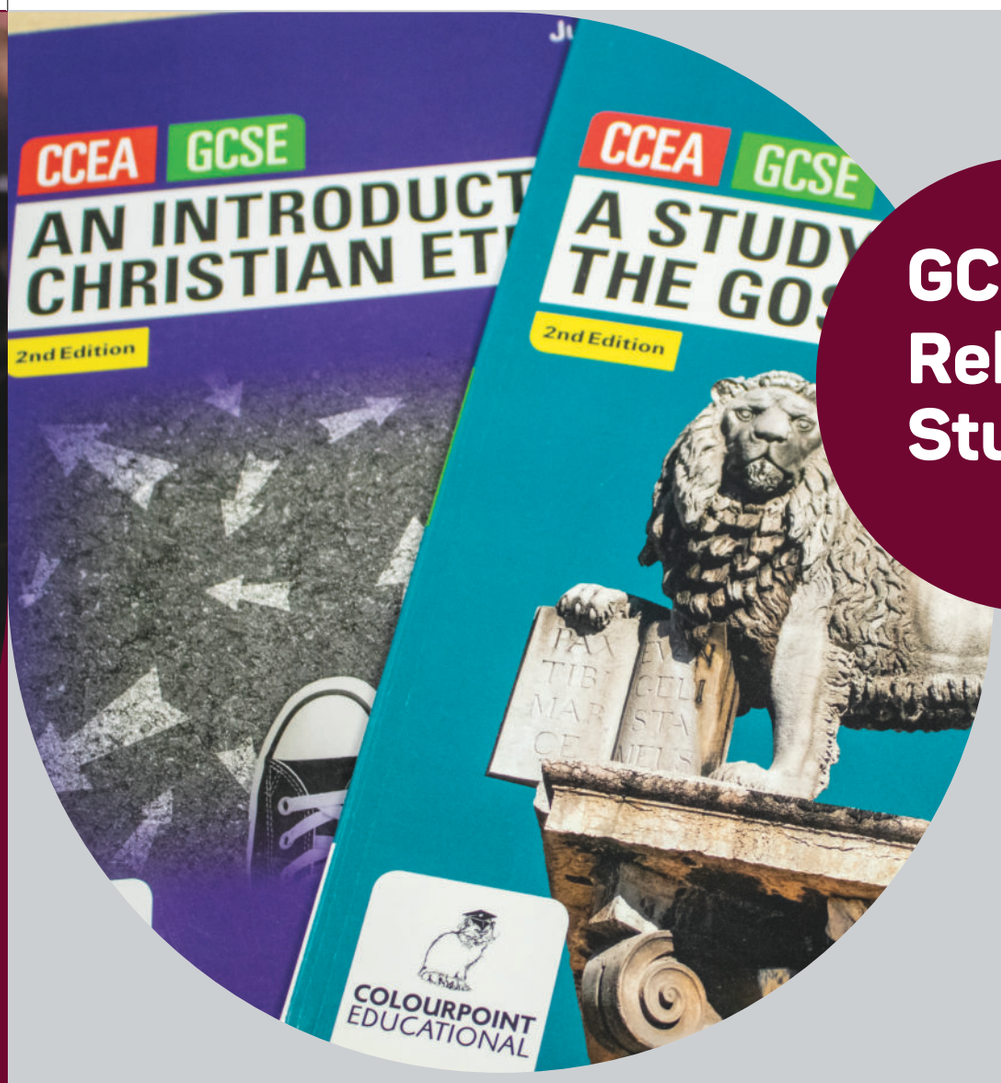
What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- The learner must have acquired a level of skill at Key Stage 3 in the following areas:-
- Science
- Numeracy
- Literacy
- Communication

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

This qualification will enable learners to progress to further qualifications in applied science at a higher level or to study science in greater depth. It would also support the progression to employment in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths sector.

Find out more...
https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-applied-science-60311411/



GCSE Religious Studies

Rewarding Learning

One module in Year 11 and one module in Year 12.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Two written examination papers.

Which units will I study?

The Gospel of Mark and Christian Ethics.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Reading and listening skills, evaluative and analytical skills, oral communication, good use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Teaching, Nursing, Journalism, Social Worker, Youth Worker, Librarian, Accountant, Engineering.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/religious_studies/

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There are no examinations in this course, you will complete nine pieces of coursework.

Which units will I study?

There are 9 modules which include, Addiction, Charity, Prejudice and Discrimination and Life and Death issues.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Reading and listening skills, evaluative and analytical skills, oral communication, good use of spelling, punctuation and grammar.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Teaching, Nursing, Journalism, Social worker, Youth worker, Librarian, Accountant, Engineering.

Find out more...

 https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-religious-studies-60303414/



GCSE Spanish

Rewarding Learning

Course Delivery: Linear / Terminal

Spanish GCSE is made up of four assessments. Pupils will be assessed on their Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing skills.

There are four modules to complete in Year 12 with the option of taking two in advance in Year 11.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Speaking 25% Untiered consisting of two role plays and two conversations in Spanish.
Listening 25% Foundation or Higher Exam Paper
Reading 25% Foundation or Higher Exam Paper
Writing 25% Foundation or Higher Exam Paper

Which units will I study?

Students will study three contexts of learning:

Context 1: Identity, Lifestyle and Culture

Context 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest

Context 3: School Life, Studies and the World of Work

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Punctuality and attendance at all lessons is imperative
- Good time management and organisational skills are necessary
- Good language skills - learning vocabulary on a regular basis and effectively managing classwork and homework
- Independent home-study is essential for success
- A positive attitude! ¡Qué bien!

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Learning Spanish will open up a range of career opportunities. Increasingly, employers value the skills that language learners possess.

Examples of career pathways may include:

- Translation and Interpretation
- Legal and Law
- Marketing and Business
- Travel and Tourism
- Education and countless others!

Find out more...
https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-spanish-2017

GCSE French



Course Delivery: Linear / Terminal

French GCSE is made up of four Assessments. Pupils will be assessed on their Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing skills.

There are four modules to complete in Year 12 with the option of taking two in advance in Year 11.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Speaking 25% Untiered consisting of two role plays and two conversations in French.
Listening 25% Foundation or Higher Exam Paper
Reading 25% Foundation or Higher Exam Paper
Writing 25% Foundation or Higher Exam Paper

Which units will I study?

Students will study three contexts of learning:

Context 1: Identity, Lifestyle and Culture

Context 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest

Context 3: School Life, Studies and the World of Work

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Punctuality and attendance at all lessons is imperative
- Good time management and organisational skills are necessary
- Good language skills - learning vocabulary on a regular basis and effectively managing classwork and homework
- Independent home-study is essential for success

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Learning French will open up a range of career opportunities. Increasingly, employers value the skills that language learners possess.

Examples of career pathways may include:

- Translation and Interpretation
- Legal and Law
- Marketing and Business
- Travel and Tourism
- Education and countless others!

Find out more...

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-french-2017



GCSE Irish

Rewarding Learning

Course Delivery: Linear / Terminal

Irish is taught using a wide variety of resources, techniques and materials. There is a focus on oral work in class and ICT is used to enhance the learning experience of the students. A trip to the Gaeltacht is organised in Year 11 to allow students to experience the language in a more natural setting.

How will I be assessed in this subject?
The pupils will be assessed in 4 areas, speaking, listening, reading and writing and each area is 25% of the full mark. There will be 3 written papers and one oral exam with their teacher.

Which units will I study?
Students will study 3 contexts:
Context 1: Identity, Lifestyle and Culture
Context 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
Context 3: School Life, Studies and the World of Work

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?
Love of the language, Independent learning skills, Good ICT skills, Good communication skills, Willing to spend time in the Gaeltacht, Determination, Dedication, Commitment, Enthusiasm, Good organisation skills, Time management skills.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?
Education, Teaching, Translating and Interpreting, TV and Radio presenting, Language and Community Development Work, Programme editor, Media and Entertainment, Culture and Arts careers, Nursery School Leader, Journalism, Business, Advertising, Travel and Tourism, Politics, Creative Writing, Lexicography, Library Work and Research

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/irish/

GCSE History



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

There is one paper to complete at the end of Year 11 for Unit 1 worth 60% and another paper at the end of Year 12 worth the remaining 40%. There is no controlled assessment in this subject.

Which units will I study?

- **Unit 1**
  - Modern World Studies in Depth Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–45
  - Local Study: Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1920–49
- **Unit 2** Outline Study
  - International Relations, 1945–2003

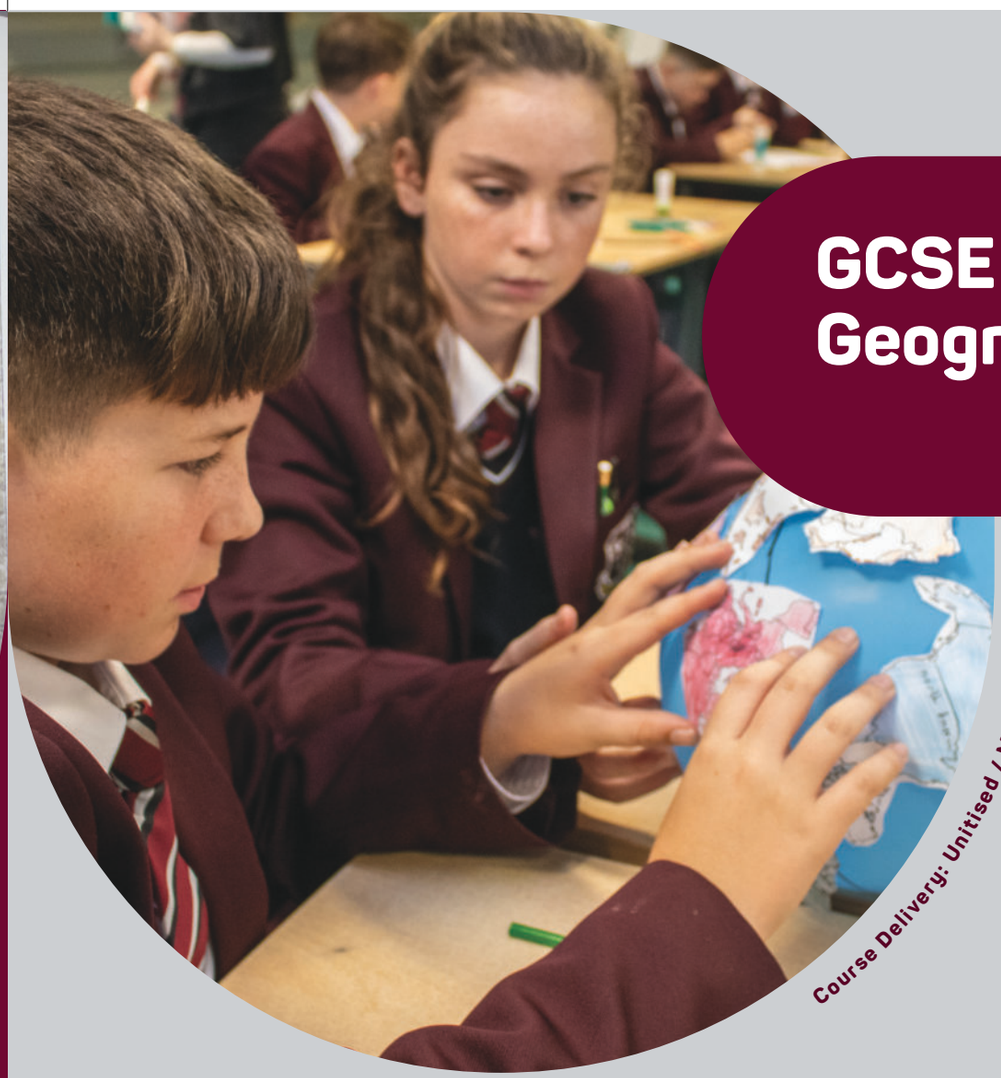
What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

A solid grasp of English and literacy is highly recommended for studying this GCSE, as well as a genuine interest in the subject itself. A studious and committed approach to learning is essential to the study of History at GCSE level.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

GCSE History will develop your analytical, writing, debate and detective skills, you'll be primed for a huge range of careers in law, politics, public sector, business, marketing, journalism, economics, teaching, academia, insurance, social research, archaeology and curation (museums, galleries, archives and libraries).

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/history/



GCSE Geography

Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

Physical Geography Unit 1 is delivered in Year 11 and pupils sit an examination in the summer term. In Year 12 the Human Geography Unit 2 is delivered and pupils are prepared for the fieldwork paper, which is Unit 3. Both examinations are externally assessed written papers completed in the summer term.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Unit 1 – Understanding Our Natural World – 1 hour 30 min paper – 40%
Unit 2 – Living in Our World – 1 hour 30 min paper – 40%
Unit 3 – Fieldwork – 1-hour paper – 20%

Which units will I study?

Unit 1 – Understanding Our Natural World

- Theme A – River Environments
- Theme B – Coastal Environments
- Theme C – Our Changing Weather and Climate
- Theme D – The Restless Earth

Unit 2 – Living in our World

- Theme A – Population and Migration
- Theme B – Changing Urban Areas
- Theme C – Contrasts in World Development
- Theme D – Managing our Environment

Unit 3 – Fieldwork

Knowledge and experience of fieldwork developed. Pupils collect and produce a table of data and this is brought into the examination along with a fieldwork statement.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Ability to gather and analyse disparate types of data
- Plan and manage research
- Work as part of a team
- Spatial, social and environmental awareness
- Problem solving and decision making
- Interest in cultures and places

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Planning, Environmental and sustainability projects, Water analysis, Ecotourism, Climate Change, Geographical Information Systems, Pollution Analyst, Risk Assessor, Refugee Advisor, Water Supply Co-ordinator

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/geography/

GCSE Business Studies



Course Delivery: Linear (9-1)

At the end of Year 11 students complete Unit 1 - Starting a Business and are assessed by examination. Students will cover elements of their CAT (Controlled Assessment Task) within this topic. Course content for Year 11 covers Creating a Business, Marketing and Business Operations. Year 12 students complete Unit 2, Developing a Business.

This includes Human Resources, Business Growth and Finance. This unit is assessed by examination. Students complete their CA - Planning a Business in Year 12 also. The CAT is synoptic.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Students sit two external examinations and complete one CAT. CAT is worth 20% of final mark. Starting a Business Unit is worth 40%, Developing a Business Unit is worth 40%.

Which units will I study?

Unit 1 Starting a Business

Unit 2 Developing a Business

Unit 3 Business Planning / CAT (Synoptic)

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Problem-solving, decision making, numeracy, literacy, ICT-literate, managing information.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Very varied career pathways available including accountancy, consultancy, banking, teaching, entrepreneur, law, retail.

Find out more...

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/business-j204-from-2017/


Marshall
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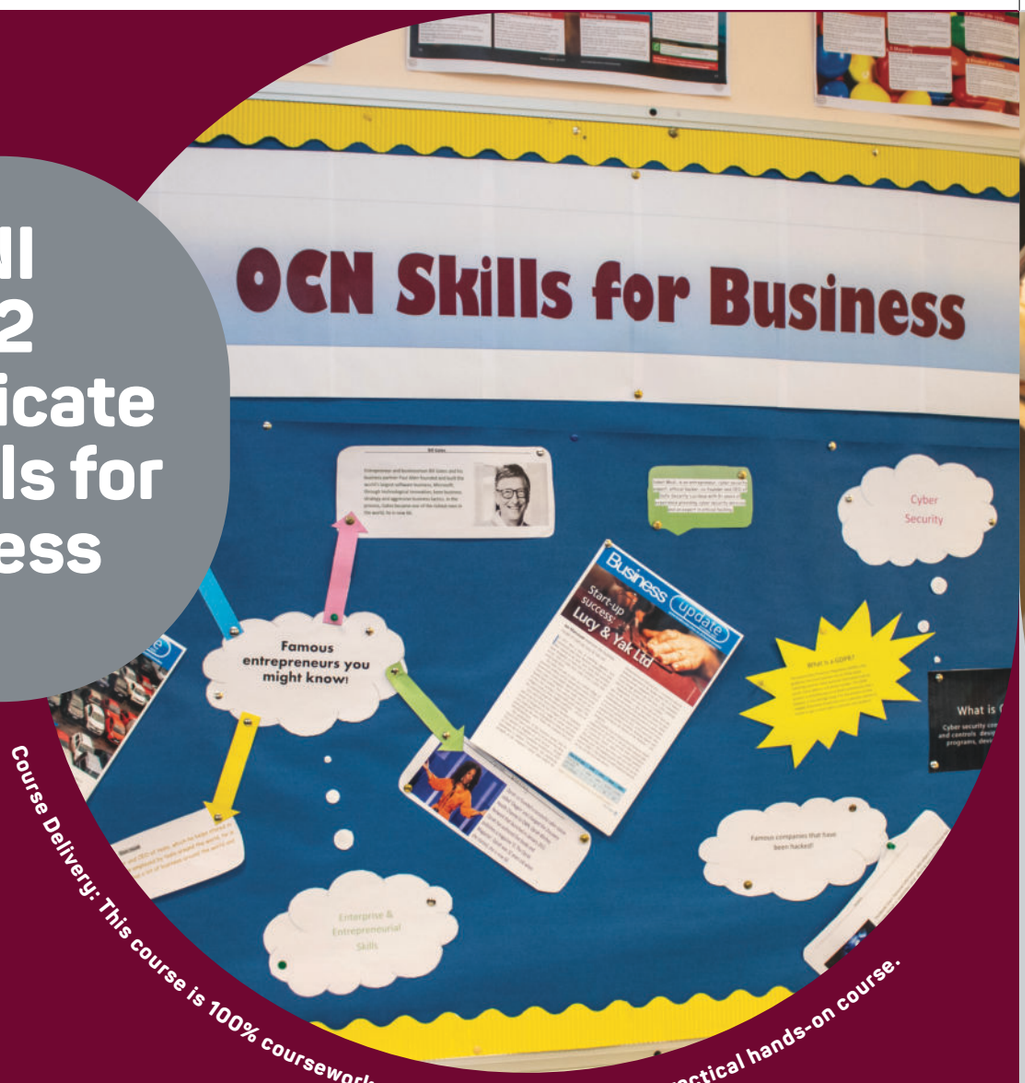
OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Skills for Business



Course Delivery: This course is 100% coursework with no exams. It is a very practical hands-on course.

The aim of this course is to allow learners to develop the knowledge, understanding and key skills required to work within a business setting. It provides the learner with an engaging, practical and relevant introduction to the world of business today.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

This course is 100% coursework. The five units will be completed over two years.

Which units will I study?

1. Project Management (Core)
2. Understanding Sources of Finance & Cashflow (Core)
3. Understanding Enterprise & Entrepreneurial Skills
4. Marketing Mix and Competition
5. Understanding Motivation in the Workplace

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Determination and dedication
- A desire to develop my skills in Enterprise and Entrepreneurialism
- Ability to work to deadlines
- Teamwork skills
- The use of technology in the workplace

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Business Studies is a vibrant dynamic subject which appeals to students who are interested in working for themselves in any field or who would like to pursue a career in finance, project management, business strategy, cyber security, marketing to name but a few.

Find out more...

https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/



GCSE Construction and the Built Environment

Rewarding Learning

Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

Why study Construction and the Built Environment

You will develop an understanding of construction and the built environment, the importance of health and safety in the construction industry, and the employment opportunities in the industry. You will also develop a working knowledge of CAD, which is used throughout the construction industry.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Time management
- Ability to interpret results of calculations
- Practical Skills
- Positive Attitude

Which units will I study?

Unit 1 - Introduction to the Built Environment = 20%

Unit 2 - Sustainable Construction = 30%

Unit 3 - The Construction Craft Project = 25%

Unit 4 - Computer-Aided design in construction = 25%

CONTENT	AREA OF STUDY	ASSESSMENT
Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment	You will develop an understanding of construction and the built environment, the importance of health and safety in the construction industry, and the employment opportunities in the industry.	External written examination 1 hour
Unit 2: Sustainable Construction	You will interpret drawings of domestic buildings and demonstrate awareness of the issues surrounding sustainable development in the construction industry.	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Paper includes questions based on pre-release materials
Unit 3: The Construction Craft Project	You must complete a project based on one of the following crafts: woodwork; or brickwork or blockwork. The craft project is made up of a product and an evaluation.	Controlled assessment
Unit 4: Computer-Aided Design in Construction	You will develop an understanding and a working knowledge of CAD in the construction industry. You will produce a portfolio of work, including working drawings for a domestic building and one detail drawing.	Controlled assessment

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/construction/

GCSE Food & Nutrition



Course Delivery: Linear / Terminal

There are two components: one externally assessed (50%) and one internally assessed (50%). Both assessments are completed at the end of the course.
The specification allows students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the:

- nutritional content of foods;
- nutritional and dietary needs of specific groups and how to cater for them;
- health issues associated with dietary and lifestyle choices;
- factors affecting how we buy food, what we buy and what we waste;
- importance of food safety; and
- preparation of food, cooking and presentation of dishes.

The specification allows students to progress to GCE and/or other courses of study or employment.

Why study Food & Nutrition?

You will gain knowledge and understanding of:

- the food we consume – where it comes from and how it is produced;
- the foods we should eat to maintain good health;
- the differing needs of various groups of people;
- prominent health issues in today's society;
- how to shop effectively;
- why people choose certain foods; and
- affordability when it comes to food and food choice.

You will also develop practical food preparation, cooking and presentation skills

What will I study?

Component 1: Food and Nutrition

Component 2: Practical Food and Nutrition

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Food & Nutrition Examination 50%

Component 2: Practical Food & Nutrition Controlled Assessment: 50%

What career pathways are available to me if I study this course?

The course helps to prepare young people for adult life and independent living and also provides an excellent foundation for young people who wish to work in food-related industries and/or undertake further study in this area.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/food_nutrition/



Level 2 Cookery

Rewarding Learning

The world of work is constantly changing. It is increasingly unlikely that a single occupation will take employees from the beginning to the end of their working lives, so transferability and adaptability are important skills. This subject is uniquely structured with this in mind. Learners have the opportunity to learn for work, through work and about work, with real outcomes that will give them skills for life.

Which units will I study?

There are two units in this course: Contemporary Cuisine and Patisserie and Baking

Contemporary cuisine

This unit provides learners with some of the basic cooking principles required by cooks and chefs in the catering industry when preparing and cooking a range of starters, main courses and desserts. Learners will apply legislative requirements when handling food and learn how to work safely and hygienically in the catering kitchen. They will learn how to select and use appropriate equipment correctly and will develop creative skills in the finishing and presentation of products for service. The unit also offers an opportunity to understand the scope of the catering industry, including career opportunities.

Patisserie and Baking

This unit provides learners with some of the basic baking principles required by pastry chefs in the catering industry. Learners will apply legislative requirements when handling food and learn how to work safely and hygienically in the catering kitchen. They will learn how to select and use appropriate equipment correctly and will develop the creative skills to decorate and present products for service. The unit also offers an opportunity to understand the breadth of the catering industry, including career opportunities.

How will I be assessed?

There will be formal observational assessment of products within each unit and structured written questions to check the learner's understanding of the content. The learner can answer questions orally. The teacher must validate the learner's answers by providing a written record. All evidence will be logged in a portfolio.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

The course helps to prepare young people for adult life and independent living and also provides an excellent foundation for young people who wish to work in food-related industries.

GCSE Health & Social Care



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

The tested unit is delivered in Year 11 and pupils sit an examination in the summer term of Year 11.

The controlled assessment aspect of the course is delivered in Year 12

How will I be assessed in this subject?
50% Controlled Assessment / 50% Exam

Which units will I study?
Personal development: Year 11

- Human growth and development
- Factors affecting growth and development
- Relationships
- Self Concept
- Coping with life changes

Working in health and social care: Year 12

- Main employment sectors in health, social care, early years and children's services
- Job roles in health, social care, early years and children's services
- Principles of care/providing quality care
- Meeting client needs
- Assessing core services and barriers to access

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?
Hard work, organisation, self-management, determination, confidence, ICT skills, recall, communication, analysis and evaluation skills.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?
Childcare, Health related courses or jobs, Child development, Nursing, Social Work, Care Assistant.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/hsc/



GCSE Computer Science

Course Delivery: Linear / Terminal

No modules in Year 11. All modules completed in Year 12

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Computer Systems Written Exam (50%)

Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming Exam (50%)

Which units will I study?

Unit 1 Computer Systems

Unit 2 Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Enjoy problem-solving
- An ability to think abstractly
- An ability to think ahead
- An ability to think procedurally
- An ability to think logically
- An ability to think concurrently

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Software Development, Computer Programmer, Systems Analyst, Computer Scientist, Network Management, Database Administrator, ICT Technician, Computer Studies Teacher

Find out more...

https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/computer-science-j277-from-2020/

GCSE Child Development



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

There are three components in Child Development: two externally assessed and one internally assessed.

How will I be assessed in this subject?
40% Controlled assessment
60% External assessment

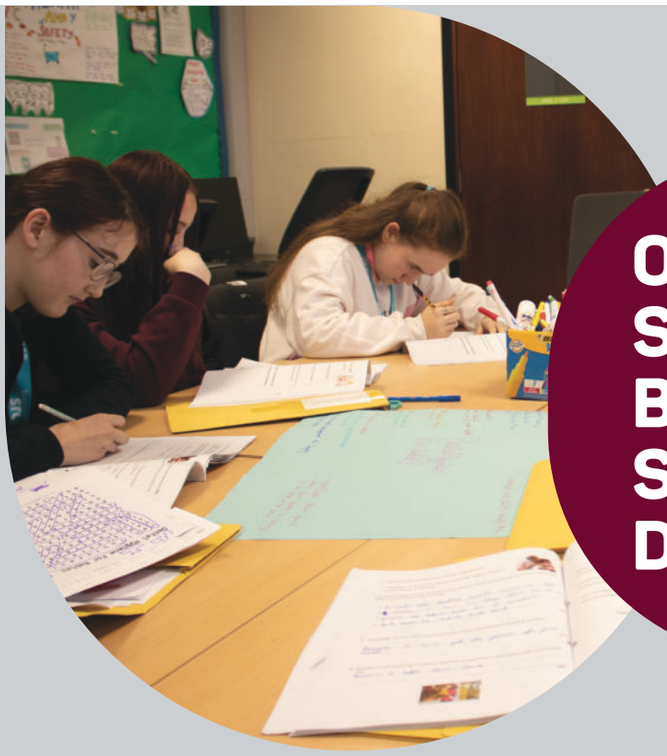
Which units will I study?
Year 11;
Unit 1- Parenthood, Pregnancy and the New-born baby. (Externally assessed 30%)

Year 12
Unit 2- The development of the Child 0-5 years. (Externally assessed 30%)
Unit 3- Investigative Task (Internally assessed 40%)

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in the subject?
- Excellent attendance
- Hard-working
- Ability to work independently and in groups
- Ability to work within guidelines

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?
Further study at Children's care, learning & development and Health & Social Care. A career which involves working with children, e.g. nursery nursing / education, primary school teaching, children's nursing, social work or many others.

Find out more...
http://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/home_economics/revised_gcse_child_development/index.asp



Occupational Studies – Business Services: Child Development

Course Aims

This course aims to provide learners with essential knowledge and practical skills to support children's development in a childcare environment. It focuses on the importance of play in promoting physical, intellectual, emotional, and social growth. Occupational Studies allows learners to learn for work, through work and about work. This hands-on approach is ideal for those who prefer to develop their skills in a more practical, occupational environment. They carry out tasks to gather the required assessment evidence in a portfolio for each unit. Tasks include answering questions, carrying out practical activities and evaluating their own performance. To achieve a qualification, learners must take two units from an occupational area.

You will study:

Two units are studied over two years.

Physical Care of Babies unit includes: Health and Safety, materials, skills, procedures, safety, independence, hygiene requirements, evaluation.

The Play Environment unit includes: Health and Safety, materials, language development, equipment and activities that encourage language, reading skills, visual aids, setting up a book corner, creating a game, evaluation. Learners will gain insight into language development, communication skills, and the role of the childcare worker, while exploring career opportunities in the childcare sector.

What Will Students Learn?

- Stages of child development and language acquisition
- The importance of play and how it supports learning
- Selecting and using age-appropriate books, rhymes, and games
- Practical skills in creating visual aids and games using recycled materials
- Health, safety, and environmental considerations in childcare settings
- Career pathways in childcare and early years education

How Is the Course Delivered?

Learners complete two practical units:

1. Childcare: The Play Environment – Focus on play, language development, and reading activities.
2. The Physical Care of Babies – Explore hygiene, feeding, and safety requirements for babies.

Learning is hands-on, with simulated role-play activities and practical tasks. Assessment is portfolio-based, including written responses, practical demonstrations, evaluations, and a diary of activities.

Qualification Awarded

CCEA Level 1 or Level 2 Occupational Studies Qualification. Grades available: Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*. Each unit is worth 50% of the overall qualification.

Progression Opportunities

This course provides a strong foundation for further study in:

- Progression to Post 16 study.
- BTEC Level 3 National in Children's Play, Learning and Development

It also supports progression into vocational training, apprenticeships, and careers in childcare, early years education, and health services.

Career Pathways

- Nursery Assistant
- Classroom Assistant
- Early Years Practitioner
- Childcare Worker in private or community settings
- Progression to Higher Education in Early Childhood Studies or related fields

Find out more...
https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/subjects/childcare.html

Level 2 Occupational Studies



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

Occupational Studies has five individual qualifications. Each of these relates to a general occupational area and includes a range of optional units. Learners must complete two units from the same occupational area to achieve a qualification.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Pupils are assessed through both Practical and Written components. These are continuous assessments which reflect the various stages through which pupils progress in order to complete the course. There is no final examination in this subject.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Pupils should have an interest in the particular units they choose.
- Pupils should be flexible and be able to demonstrate independent learning skills.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Depending upon the units chosen the list of possible careers pathways is endless. It can range from Car Mechanic to Chef. From Website Designer to TV and Film Producer.

Design & Creativity	Technology & Innovation	Construction	Business & Services	Engineering
Graphic Design	Digital Imaging	Plumbing	Creative Styling using Blowdrying	Electrical Wiring (subject to availability)
Website Development	Sound Production	Brickwork	Manicure & Nail Art	Maintenance of Land Based Machinery
Creative Styling using Blowdrying	TV & Film Production	Carpentry and Joinery	Facial Skin Care	Vehicle Servicing & Valeting
Patisserie	Bench Joinery	Tiling	Patisserie	Plumbing
Contemporary Cuisine	Carpentry and Joinery	Plastering	Contemporary Cuisine	Manufacturing Techniques: Hand Fitting
Creative Styling on Long Hair		Painting & Decorating	Physical Care of Babies	Manufacturing Techniques: SheetMetal
Total Beauty		Bench Joinery	Childcare	
Photography				
Shampoo and Conditioning				

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/occupational_studies/



GCSE Technology & Design

Rewarding Learning

Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

The course is delivered over two Years. Unit 1 is examined at the end of Year one with Unit 2 and 3 examined at the end of Year two.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Units 1 and 2 are each externally assessed by a 1.5 hour written exam at the end of Year 12 **= 50%.**

Unit 3 Controlled Assessment 1 is externally moderated at the end of Year two **= 50%**

Which units will I study?

- **Unit 1 - 25%:** written paper 1.5 hour core element. Manufacturing - Tools, Processes, Materials, Control Systems
- **Unit 2 - 25%:** 1.5 hour written paper.
  Students choose one of the following three options.
  - A: Electronic and Microelectric Control Systems
  - B: Mechanical and Pneumatics Control Systems
  - C: Product Design
- **Unit 3 - 50%** Controlled Assessment: Students make a Product and produce a Design Folder (maximum 10 x A3 pages) based on a list of themes/ design briefs supplied by CCEA. Internally assessed followed by external moderation.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

You should be good at this subject in Key Stage 3 and like it.

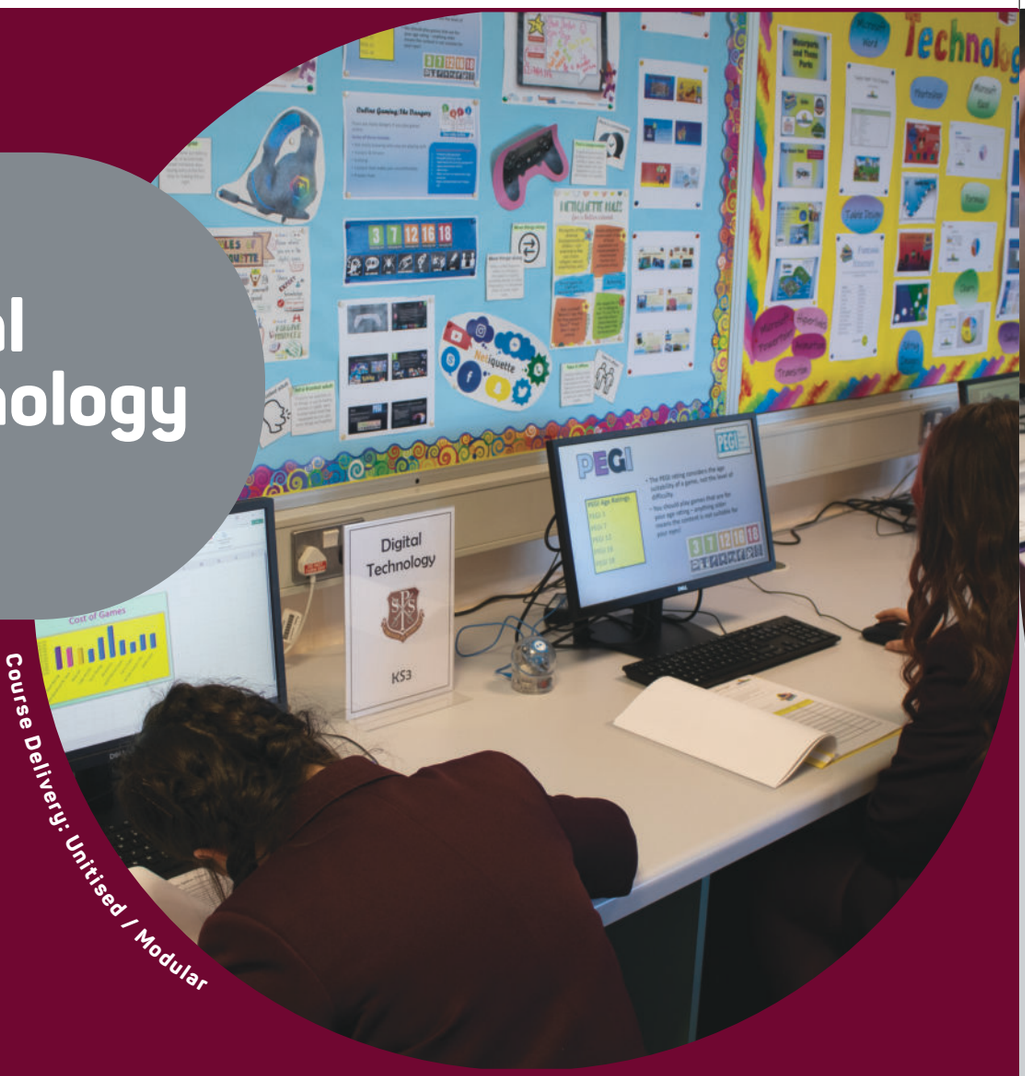
- 'Definitely' need to be an independent worker.
- Enthusiasm for the subject in regards to manufacturing and also producing a quality design folder using your ICT/Graphic skills.
- An ability/willingness to learn the theory content.
- Must be able to meet deadlines.
- Some after school time may be necessary.
- An ability to work with your peers.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Teaching, Architecture, Aeronautical Engineer, Quantity Surveying, Product designer, Interior designer, Theatre/Film industry, Biomedical Engineer, many engineering courses, Building industry, Graphic Designer, and many other related careers! Technology and Design can also be viewed as a high end entrance qualification to University regardless of course to be undertaken.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/technology/

GCSE Digital Technology



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

One unit will be completed in Year 11.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Two written papers and one controlled assessment

Which units will I study?

Unit 1: Digital Technology 30% exam

Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts 40% exam

Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice 30% Controlled Assessment

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Interest in current and emerging technologies
- Skills in self-management, working with others, presentation, communication and self-improvement strategies.
- Being creative

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Most occupations require ICT skills. GCSE Digital Technology leads directly to A Level Digital Technology and then on to careers in the IT industry such as programmers, IT engineers, system analyst, computer games developer etc.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/digital_technology/



OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications

Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

There will be two/three units in Year 11 and two/three units in Year 12.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

This course is 100% coursework with no exams.

Which units will I study?

- Email software skills
- Spreadsheet software
- Presentation software
- User Fundamentals
- Database software

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- A love of using computers
- Enthusiasm for creating digital assets
- A willingness to work hard and a determination to achieve

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Information Technology Applications is an exciting and dynamic subject which will appeal to pupils with a creative flair and who are interested in pursuing a career in the IT industries e.g. web and digital communications.

Find out more...

https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-information-technology-applications/

GCSE Art & Design



Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

Pupils build a portfolio of work over Year 11. They will experiment with different techniques and processes in both 2D and 3D developing their skills and knowledge of the formal elements of Art and Design.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Coursework is worth 60% and the examination is worth 40%.
Part A is an exploratory portfolio where students explore and understand through their own and others work, the formal elements of Art and Design in relation to these processes including: Colour, Line, Shape, Form, Texture, Tone and Pattern.

Students are encouraged to be innovative, creative and reflective in their work. A completed portfolio of experimental work is worth 25% of the coursework mark.
Part B is Investigating the Creative Industries.
This is an investigation into an artist, designer, movement or other aspect of Art and Design leading to a personal response. Museum, gallery or field trips are an essential part of the coursework. Students will be involved in workshops with practitioners and or other industry professionals. Part B is worth 35% of the coursework mark.

Which units will I study?

Between September of Year 11 and December of Year 12 pupils will have to complete a set 'task'. The task is a body of work covering 4 assessment objectives and pupil's have to produce a final outcome in either 2D or 3D.
It can be Fine Art or Design based.

What skills and attributes will I need?

Students will be increasingly independent and further develop their understanding and implementation of the visual language. Students will document their research and progress through a contextual investigative sketchbook. Students will explore relevant media, materials techniques and processes and technologies in response to their theme. Students will annotate to record and justify their ideas and use subject specific vocabulary.

Career pathways

There are thousands of creative pathways to follow, from Film, Animation, Computer design, Graphics, Silversmith, Ceramics, Interior design, Furniture design, Special effects make-up, Costume Design, Theatre Design, Fashion, Fine Art Painting and Sculpture, Product Design, Digital Media, Marketing, to name a few.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/artanddesign/



GCSE Music

Course Delivery: Unitised / Modular

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Composing and appraising - 30%

Performing and appraising - 35%

Listening and appraising - 35%

Which units will I study?

Western Classical Music 1600-1910

- Film Music
- Musical Traditions of Ireland
- Popular Music 1980 – present day

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Minimum requirements: Enthusiasm for the subject and commitment to learn an instrument/singing.
- Traditional Irish musicians do not require grades

Ability to read staff notation is recommended though not essential

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

TV Producer/ Director, Advertising, Studio work: sound engineer, mixer, DJ, Music Education and Music Therapy, Composer: film music, radio jingles, song-writing, Performer: singer, instrumentalist, session musician, Music publishing/ Music Librarian, Theatre-manager/Actor/Stage-manager, Administrator of theatre-based company: ballet, opera, musical theatre.

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/music/

Level 2 Performance Skills (Music)



CCEA Certificates in Performance Skills are available at Level 2. Pupils can extend their skills, knowledge and understanding of the entertainment industry, develop their own strengths and interests, and progress to giving a final performance.

A student workbook is available for pupils to record their outcomes. This can help both the teacher and the pupil to identify and meet the specification requirements.

This qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed through music.

There is no written external examination or test; the qualification is entirely evidence based. All units are internally assessed, and we carry out external moderation.

Pupils produce a portfolio of work and give a performance. Pupils' final rehearsal and performance may be externally moderated as a live performance or pre-recorded using video or DVD.

There are three mandatory units:

- Unit 1: Working in the Performing Arts Industry
- Unit 2: Develop Technique for Performance
- Unit 3: Rehearse and Perform.

Skills developed through Performance Skills

This specification builds upon the broad objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and enables pupils to develop as individuals and contributors to the economy, society and environment. Pupils acquire and develop fundamental practical skills in the art of performance, focusing on their performance ability by developing their critical awareness. Developing and demonstrating their skills in performing in front of an audience can open doors to further related study and/or employment.

The qualification also incorporates activities that allow pupils to research opportunities in the entertainment industry and to develop their knowledge and skills, for example by exploring relevant topics such as health and safety.

Find out more...
https://ccea.org.uk/performance-skills



GCSE PE

Rewarding Learning

Course Delivery: Combination of practical activities & terminal exam

How will I be assessed in this subject?

40% practical assessment and 60% terminal exam.

Students perform 3 physical activities and/or sports (2 team and 1 individual OR 1 team and 2 individual).

Which units will I study?

1 : Health, Training and Exercise,

2 : Exercise Physiology,

3 : Movement Analysis,

4 : Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity,

5 : Socio-cultural Issues in Physical Activity and Sport

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Must be interested in exercise, dance or sport (any sport)

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

PE Teacher, Sports coach, Sports Therapist, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Sports Development Officer, Personal Trainer

Find out more...
http://ccea.org.uk/physical_education/

BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 First Award in Sport



Qualification Structure

The qualification is 120 GLH, which is the same size and level as a GCSE, is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about the sport industry.

You will study three mandatory units, covering the underpinning knowledge and skills required for the sports sector:

- fitness for sport and exercise
- practical performance in sport
- applying the principles of personal training.

You will build on the knowledge gained in the mandatory units by choosing one further unit, covering areas such as:

- the mind and sports performance
- the sports performer in action
- leading sports activities.

How will I be assessed?

You will carry out tasks/assignments throughout the course. Your teacher will mark these, and so you will receive feedback as to how you are getting on.

The assessment for Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise is an onscreen test which is marked by Pearson.

Find out more...

https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/sport-2012-nqf.html



GCSE Drama

Rewarding Learning

The CCEA GCSE Drama specification motivates and inspires students to build and showcase their competence in a range of creative, practical and performance skills.

This comprehensive and innovative course encourages students to develop a personal interest in drama. Students choose one of two pathways – performance (acting), or design (costume, lighting, multimedia, set or sound). They work creatively with others, generating, developing and communicating their ideas for a devised performance and for a scripted performance. They also explore social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.

Both the theoretical and practical elements of the course help students to become critical thinkers with enquiring minds, confident communicators, and independent learners.

This qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed through the Area of Learning 'The Arts'.

This specification is a linear qualification: students take all the assessment at the end of the course.

The specification has three components:

- Component 1: Devised Performance
- Component 2: Scripted Performance
- Component 3: Knowledge and Understanding of Drama.

Assessment

GCSE Drama is assessed through a combination of written exams and practical non-exam assessments (NEAs).

The weighting varies by exam board, but generally, practical work makes up about 60% of the qualification and written exams account for the remaining 40%.

Key components include a devised drama performance with a portfolio, a performance of a script extract, and a written exam covering a set play and a live theatre evaluation.

Find out more...
https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-drama-2017

Vocational Education

Welcome to the skills based curriculum





The Skills Based Curriculum at Key Stage 4

The world of work is constantly changing.

Today it is likely that we will have a number of different jobs throughout our working lives. To ensure that our students are fully prepared for the world of work we offer a very specialised skills based curriculum which enables the learner to learn for work, through work and about work. This is a hands on approach which allows our students to try a variation of different skill sets before deciding on a career to follow.

All pupils following the skills based curriculum have the opportunity to achieve 7/8 GCSE equivalent qualifications. These qualifications are accepted by Colleges of Higher and Further Education, including Southern Regional College, Newry.

This course is delivered in **Southern Regional College (SRC), Training for Business and St Paul's**

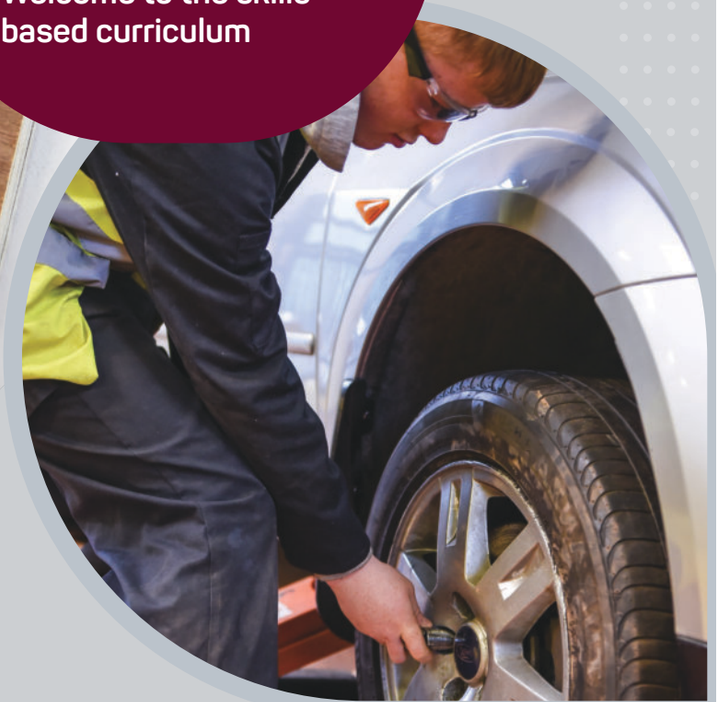






Vocational Education

Welcome to the skills based curriculum



The Skills Based Curriculum at Key Stage 4

1

- GCSE English Language
- Prince's Trust Achieve Programme

+

- GCSE Mathematics
- Non-exam R.E.

2

+ Two GCSE Occupational Studies (Delivered at SRC)

+ Pupils choose from a menu of over 30 options
(See page 30 for full details)

3

Two Additional GCSE Occupational Studies and Level 2 Essential Skills ICT
(Delivered at Training for Business)

OR

OCN Level 2 Certificate in Healthy Lifestyle and OCN Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications
(Delivered at St Paul's)

Level 2 Certificate in Preparation for Adult Life (PAL)



Course Delivery 100% Assessment without examination

Through our Preparation for Adult Life qualifications, learners can develop skills while exploring a wide range of areas relevant to them both now and in the future: from cultural diversity and social justice to preparing interviews and improving overall health and well-being.

How will I be taught in the subject?

Within this subject there are 13 booklets each with their own unique areas and different styles.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There are no exams in this subject, progress is based solely on coursework (13 booklets) over the two-year course.

- Diversity & Social Inclusion
- Democracy & Democratic Participation
- Human Rights & Social Responsibility
- Equality & Social Justice
- Preparation for Work
- Business in the Community
- Effective work practice
- Globalisation
- Self-Development
- Roles & Responsibilities of parents
- Healthy Relationships
- Maintaining Personal Health & Well-being
- Effective Financial Management

Which units will I study?

The Level 2 Certificate in Preparation for Adult Life has 13 mandatory units:

- Learners must take all four Citizenship units, four Employability units and five Personal and Social Development units from the specification.
- Each unit is worth one credit, so the total credit value of the Certificate is 13.
- There are approximately 130 guided learning hours (teacher/tutor-led hours).

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful?

- Communication (Oral and written) to participate in discussions, debates and interviews.
- Using ICT – to use technology to access manage, select and present information.

The qualifications aim to develop personal skills such as self-awareness, personal health and relationships, as well as an understanding of:

- diversity and inclusion;
- human rights and social responsibility;
- equality and justice;
- roles and responsibilities of parents;
- work in the local and global economy;
- social, economic and cultural issues; and

personal development.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Very varied career pathways available including Careers Advisor, Retail, Management, Teaching and Finance.

Find out more...
https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/preparation_for_adult_life/



The King's Trust Achieve Programme

The King's Trust Achieve Programme offers vocational students in Years 11 & 12 the opportunity to embark on six innovative and exciting modules over two years focusing on personal development and life skills. Significantly, if pupils can complete coursework to the required standard they can gain the equivalent of a full GCSE (confirmed on the entitlement framework). There are no exams in this subject, progress is based solely on coursework over the two year programme.

How will I be taught in the subject?

This personal development course provides a unique and practical approach to learning which supports young people to fulfil their potential. Many of the modules are delivered through fun and interactive activities, some of which are delivered in partnership with Crossmaglen, Newtownhamilton & Newry High School. A variety of the 21st century modules link in with the real life practical skills that enable learners to flourish in the world of work post-16.

Which units will I study?

Pupils will study 6/7 units during their two years of study.

- Digital Skills
- Career Planning
- Managing Money
- Presentation Skills
- Work Experience
- Participating in Sport
- Customer Experience

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Hard-working and determined
- Open-minded and willing to take on new and fresh challenges
- The will to succeed to always give your best
- Good organisational skills
- A willingness to take on board constructive feedback

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

This qualification opens up a wealth of opportunities for post-16 study. Many of our past pupils continue their education in the Southern Regional College & Greenmount Agricultural College. Career pathways include Electrical Maintenance, Plumbing, Car & Lorry Maintenance, Joinery, Bricklaying, Plastering, Painting & Decorating, Farming, Welding, Digital Imaging, Film & TV Production, Hair Dressing, Beauty Therapy, Health & Social Care & Sport Science to name a few.

An increasing number of pupils have taken up a variety of apprenticeship programmes and some secure full time work via the vocational work experience programme.

Find out more...
https://education.kingstrust.org.uk/en/programs/achieve

St Paul's High School

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Quality education for all