



ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Year 9 Options Course Guide



2024





ELLESMERE PORT CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full' John 10.10

March 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Year 9 Options 2024

At the end of Year 9, students come to the end of Key Stage 3, and in Year 10 they begin Key Stage 4; their GCSE and Level 2 courses. To prepare for Key Stage 4, students must make some important decisions regarding the courses they would like to study from September 2024 onwards.

This is an incredibly exciting time for students as they start to think about future pathways in the areas in which they enjoy and in which they have done well. This is also a time when students can begin completely new courses. Along with our options evening, presentations, subject displays and individual appointments, this booklet is designed to give you as much information as possible about the courses we offer and help you and your children make the right choices for future study.

I hope you find this information booklet useful in understanding the range of courses that we have to offer at Key Stage 4, and I look forward to supporting your child in their next steps in education.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. D. Blanchard
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Headteacher: Mrs C. Vile B.Ed. Hons





Department
for Education

HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

- English language and English literature**
- Maths**
- Science**
Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer science
- History or Geography**
- A language**
Ancient or modern

WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for.

If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.



The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies,
August 2017

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

“Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer.”

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities. (The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

“Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers.”

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce

WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?

Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017



While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

Further Information Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information.

You should also get in touch with your child's school directly — they will be able to tell you about their specific GCSE and EBacc offer and explain all of your child's options.



3D Design

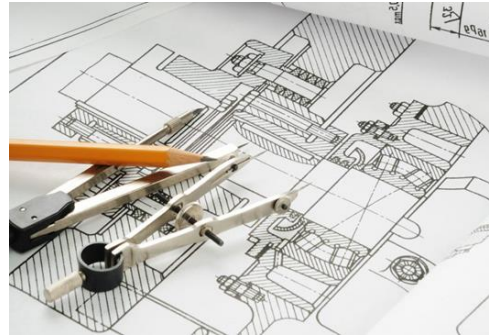
(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Ms Llewellyn-Tait

Why study 3D Design?

This is a course offering exciting possibilities for students with various creative interests and builds upon existing art and design skills. If you enjoy being practical and making objects using traditional and new media and technologies, then this is ideal for you. It combines elements of Product design and some Art 3D design, allowing for functional as well as decorative and sculptural objects to be designed, tested and produced.



What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

You will investigate the work by contemporary and traditional designers. You will develop a range of 3D practical skills in areas such as product design, making objects using materials such as wood, metal and plastics and creating sculptural pieces, involving carving, casting and construction. A series of theme-based projects will be completed based on your research, experimentation and design ideas. You will be able to communicate your own ideas and opinions, culminating in personal, final outcomes. Finally, there may be opportunities to be involved in a number of extra-curricular activities such as practical workshops, museum visits, competitions and a weekend residential trip.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

If you enjoy and have a real passion for making and being hands on, then GCSE 3D Design is for you. You will need good communication and problem-solving skills, have an enquiring mind and keen to succeed. Independent learning is an important feature, as is keeping to deadlines. The course requires commitment and self-motivation as there is an emphasis on independent study. A responsible attitude towards Health and Safety in the workshop.

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework Personal Portfolio Year 10 & 11

40% Practical Examination Year 11

There is no written examination paper.

What other subjects link into this course?

ICT, Mathematics, Physics, Art, Business Studies, Geography

What career options are open to me?

The Creative Design industries are one of the biggest growing sectors in Britain and 3D Design provides you with a variety of skills employers are looking for. It can lead to career opportunities in a wide range of design-based occupations including Architect, Product designer, Engineer, Theatre and Set Designer, 3D Digital designer, Furniture maker, Jewellery designer, Sculptor, Teacher to name a few.

For more information you might like to visit:

Examination board website www.eduqas.co.uk
www.lightboxresources.co.uk





Art & Design

(GCSE)



Teacher Contacts:

Miss S. Nessa – Subject Leader

Ms P. Smith- Teacher of Art

Why study Art & Design?

This is a course offering exciting possibilities for students with various artistic interests and builds upon existing skills. Art and Design has the capabilities of stimulating student's creativity and imagination. It empowers students to make informed, valued judgements as well as aesthetic and practical decisions, making them confident visual communicators. It allows students to express themselves and communicate what they think, feel and see. It is also an enjoyable activity and GCSE is excellent preparation for A Level Art.



What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

You will Investigate Artwork by contemporary and traditional artists and work from other cultures. You will develop a range of 2D and 3D core practical skills in media such as drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles, mixed media, sculpture and digital media/photography. Perceptual and critical thinking skills will also be used to complete a series of theme-based projects. You will be able to express your own ideas and opinions, culminating in personal, final outcomes. Finally, there may be opportunities to be involved in a number of extra-curricular activities such as practical workshops, gallery visits, competitions and a weekend residential trip.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

If you enjoy and have a real passion for the subject, then GCSE Art and Design is for you. You will need good communication, presentation, and analytical skills, have an enquiring mind, and are keen to succeed. Independent Learning is an important feature as is keeping to deadlines. The course requires commitment and self-motivation as there is an emphasis on a commitment to improvement.

How will I be assessed?

60% Coursework Personal Portfolio Years 10 & 11

40% Practical Examination Year 11

There is no written examination paper.

What other subjects link into this course?

History, ICT, English, 3D Design, Drama, Creative Digital Media.

What career options are open to me?

The Creative industries are one of the biggest growing sectors in Britain and Art provides you with a range of skills employers are looking for. It can lead to career opportunities in a wide range of occupations including Teacher, Architect, Theatre and Costume Designer, Photographer, Make-Up Artist, Curator, Fashion and Textile designer, Illustrator, Computer Graphic Artist, Jewellery designer, Sculptor, Printmaker to name a few.

For more information you might like to visit:

Examination board website: www.eduqas.co.uk

www.lightboxresources.co.uk





Business Studies

GCSE

Teacher Contact: Mrs F Williams

Why study Business?

At Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, the Business Department endeavours to make our students' learning experience as real, applicable, relevant, varied and interesting as possible. In recent years, higher education institutions and employers have consistently flagged the need for students to develop a range of transferable skills to enable them to respond with confidence to the demands of undergraduate study and the world of work. Our students are encouraged to learn real business case studies using local and national business news through a range of media platforms. The GCSE Business qualification provided by Pearson Edexcel is engaging and inspiring. It reflects the demands of a truly modern and evolving business environment. Students will learn how entrepreneurs turn simple ideas into profitable businesses, as well as how companies operate and make important business decisions on a local, national and global scale.



What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

Choosing GCSE Business will help to develop many important skills, such as numeracy, literacy, problem solving, information collecting, as well as analytical, evaluative and social skills. Over the duration of the course the students will learn about key aspects of the world of business and consider their role within this area. Students will study many relevant and exciting topics including:

- Business ownership and business models (Sole Traders, Private Limited Companies, Public Limited Companies, Franchise)
- Enterprise and Entrepreneurship
- Human Resource Management
- Finance (Income Statement, Cash Flow Forecast, Break-Even)
- Marketing (Market Research, Promotional and Pricing Strategies)
- Operations (Just-in- Time Production, Supply Chain, Logistics)
- External influences (Globalisation and Exchange Rates, including Economic Factors such as Income Levels, Inflation and Interest Rates)

• Students will learn how to investigate and analyse real business opportunities and issues to construct well-argued, well-evidenced, balanced and structured arguments, demonstrating their depth and breadth of understanding of business.

What qualities and attitudes are required to do well?

Pupils must demonstrate a strong interest in business studies, current affairs and politics. The ability to be self-motivated and to demonstrate excellent organisational skills are paramount.

We expect our students to have good intercultural sensitivity and self-discipline.

- **Literacy skills**

Assessments and final examinations are based on a substantial amount of reading and writing, therefore having the required literacy skills is very important to succeed in the subject. This includes essay skills, writing critically and analytically.

- **Numeracy skills**

Students are regularly assessed on their knowledge of mathematical formulas and will need to perform a mix of calculations using memorised formulas. A good standard of arithmetic is therefore beneficial as the course includes complex calculations with analysis and calculations of financial budgets.

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed every term and at the end of each topic when they will be given examples of exam questions to practise their reading, writing skills and numeracy skills.

The Pearson-Edexcel Business GCSE consists of two separate **written exams of 1H45 each**, each paper is worth 50% of the qualification final mark.

- **Paper 1** covers **Theme 1** which includes five topics (Enterprise, Business opportunity, Putting an idea into practice, How to make a business effective, External influences).
- **Paper 2** covers **Theme 2** which includes five other topics (Growing a business, Marketing, Operations, Finance and HR).

Which other subjects link into this course?

Related subjects include economics, law, accounting, maths, statistics, additional maths, government and politics, and psychology.

What career options are open to me?

The GCSE Business course provides a suitable foundation for the study of Business Studies at A level. Career options for pupils who are qualified with a Business Studies qualification include Accountancy, Operations and Logistics, Banking, Investment and Financial Services, General Management, HR/Personnel, Management Consultancy, Public Relations, Retail Management, Sales and Marketing.

For more information you might like to visit:
<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications>

Computer Science

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Mr Boylan

Why study Computer Science?

GCSE Computer Science develops your understanding of current and emerging technologies, how they work, and applying this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts. You will be using different programming languages to design write and test computer programs to solve specific problems.



Most students already know how to use a wide range of programs on computers. GCSE Computer Science will introduce you to what goes on 'behind the scenes', enabling you to understand how the computer actually works when a program is running. GCSE Computer Science is excellent preparation for A Level Computer Science. There is a growing demand for IT professionals who have programming skills.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

Computer Systems and Programming – By the end of this course you will be able to design and create apps, websites, programs and games for any project that you want. We look at the best way to create these and the industry practices that make these systems run well and secure.

Practical Investigation – A lot of this course will include project work and you will be expected to work outside of the classroom to complete all kinds of tasks and problems.

What programming languages will I learn?

You will learn a range of programming languages from Python to write programs, Website creation with HTML, CSS and JavaScript. We will also look at Artificial Intelligence languages such as SQL.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

You will be a confident and able mathematician who enjoys problem solving activities, or who wants to go on to study Computer Science at university.

How will I be assessed?

- 50% Practical written paper examination – end of year 11
- 50% Theory written paper examination – end of year 11

Which other subjects link into this course?

- Cyber Security
- Graphic designer
- Computer programmer
- Games Creator
- Systems Analyst
- Software Analyst
- IT Consultant
- Network Manager
- Website programmer
- Engineer
- Teacher
- 85% of all Science and Mathematics courses at University now have compulsory programming as part of the course!



For more information you might like to visit:

<http://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/by-type/gcse/computing/>





Creative iMedia (Cambridge National)



Teacher Contact: Mr Conlan

Why study Creative iMedia?

Creative iMedia (Cambridge National) offers the opportunity to:

- Inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the creative media industries, rather than just to participate in media recreationally, for example surfing the web or playing video games.
- Give learners the opportunity to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry and more widely.
- It will support progression to a more specialised level 3 vocational or academic media qualification or an apprenticeship.
- It will give learners the potential opportunity, in due course, to enter employment within a wide range of junior job roles across the creative media sectors. By studying this course, learners will understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of digital media including factors that influence product design, use of media codes and conventions, pre-production planning techniques, legal issues, and creation/publishing/distribution considerations.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

This Cambridge National qualification gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The course aims to develop learners in the following areas:

- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically, and critically.
- Design, plan, create and review digital media products which are fit for purpose meeting both client and target audience requirements.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

- An interest in working within the media profession.
- Motivation, personal management and communication to work consistently and independently to achieve the requirements of the qualification.
- An appreciation that all the media work submitted for assessment must be your own.

How will I be assessed?

Unit no.	Unit title	Unit ref. no. (URN)	Guided learning hours (GLH)	How are they assessed?	Mandatory or optional
R093	Creative iMedia in the media industry	K/618/5870	48	E	M
R094	Visual identity and digital graphics	M/618/5871	30	NEA	M
R097	Interactive digital media	F/618/5874	42	NEA	O

Which other subjects link into this course?

This course complements the learning in GCSE qualifications, such as Design and Technology, Art and Design, and Computer Science, by broadening the application of 'design and make' tasks, working with a media brief, and understanding and engaging different audiences through making compelling media products.

What career options are open to me?

Animator	Web Designer
Editor	Multimedia and Print Journalist
Photo Imaging Technician	Producer (Film and TV)
Publisher	Radio Content Creator
Sound technician	Web Designer
Product Designer	Brand Designer / Strategist
Graphic Designer	
Interactive Media and Computer Game designer	

Opportunities for higher education, too.

For more information please visit:

[Cambridge Nationals - Creative iMedia Level 1/Level 2 - J834 - OCR](#)





Drama

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Mrs Martin

Why study Drama?

For thousands of years people have made audiences laugh or cry by acting out stories that were important to them. Even today audiences can be moved by characters created by the Ancient Greeks or the English tradition of Shakespeare. By doing GCSE Drama you can become part of those traditions and learn how to present or create stories and ideas to an audience. You may enjoy playing a character different from yourself, others may not wish to appear on stage but will enjoy the prospect of designing set, costume or rigging lights and sound equipment. You will find Drama interesting and challenging and different to other subjects.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

- Devised Thematic Work
- Puppetry
- Sound
- Improvisation
- Directing
- Study & Performance of a Scripted Play
- Set Design
- Make-up
- Lighting
- Live theatre
- Script Writing



What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

The qualities you need for taking GCSE Drama are to have a love for theatre. You need to be creative and imaginative. **You must be able to work constructively with others, and be able to communicate effectively through group work and during Performance.** You must be able to meet deadlines, and show commitment after school to rehearse or attend workshops.

You must be able to enjoy reading plays, and have good literacy skills. You need to demonstrate outstanding team skills; listening to others, interpreting your own and others ideas.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1 – Written Exam Paper 40%

The written paper is divided into sections:

Section A is a multiple choice based on Theatre roles and terminology.

Section B is the study of a set text, students will be asked to answer questions on one set play.

Section C is based on the study of a live theatre performance you have seen at the theatre and analysing its delivery.



Unit 2 – Practical Work and coursework 60%

You will have the opportunity to explore a range of acting styles, including devising, improvisation, physical theatre and Text. One piece of work will be internally assessed and completed along with a written record of work called “The Log Book”. The final text performance will be marked by an external examiner.

Which other subjects link into this course?

Drama links well with Performing Arts, Music, Art and English. Content also links with History and Religious Studies.

What career options are open to me?

Drama provides you with the skills employers are looking for. It can lead to opportunities in a wide range of occupations, including Public Services, Teachers, Lawyers, Stage Management, Director, Light, Set or Sound Technician/Designer, Actor, Writer, Production Manager, Broadcasting.

For more information you might like to visit:

www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/drama-and-performing-arts/gcse/drama-4240





English Language (GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Mrs Roberts

Why study English?

English is a gateway subject for which you will need to achieve at least one Grade 4 to access many apprenticeships, college courses or be considered for many careers. In addition, it helps you develop key communication skills which will help you throughout your life.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

- develop your speaking and listening skills
- communicate your own ideas effectively
- understand how others' communicate and how they seek to influence and achieve effects through language choices
- develop your creativity

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

To succeed in English you will need to develop your independent learning and research skills. You must build your confidence and be prepared to approach all texts and challenges with determination. In addition to improving your analytical skills, you will also get the chance to demonstrate your public speaking skills, creativity and imagination.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination (2 papers)

Students follow the **AQA English Language GCSE specification**.

English Language papers require students to respond to three unseen texts from the 19th, 20th & 21st Centuries, analysing and, at times, comparing writers' crafts.

They must also demonstrate their writing skills, producing well-crafted pieces of narrative or descriptive writing in paper 1 and presenting a viewpoint in paper 2.

In addition, students must complete a spoken language assessment which will be certified separately and does not contribute to their final grade.

What other subjects link to this course?

English Language will help you to achieve in all the other literacy based subjects: English Literature, Religious Studies, History, Geography, Business Studies, Science etc

What career options are open to me?

Getting a grade 4 or above in English will enable you to access a multitude of apprenticeships, A Levels, BTECs etc.

People who do well in English go on to careers in all industries including: financial, media & journalism, civil service, law, PR, police etc.

For more information please visit:

www.aqa.org.uk





English Literature

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Mrs Roberts

Why study English?

English is a gateway subject for which you will need to achieve at least one Grade 4 to access many apprenticeships, college courses or be considered for many careers. In addition, it helps you develop key communication skills which will help you throughout your life.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

- develop an understanding of classic Literature texts
- develop your speaking and listening skills
- communicate your own ideas effectively
- understand writers' methods, how they employ language and structure to communicate and convey ideas
- understand how context affects the construction of texts and how they are understood

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

To succeed in English you will need to develop your independent learning and research skills. You must build your confidence and be prepared to approach all texts and challenges with determination.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination (2 papers)

Students follow the **AQA English Literature GCSE specification**.

English Literature

Paper 1 - assesses students' responses to Shakespeare (Macbeth) and 19th Century texts (A Christmas Carol).

Paper 2 – assesses students’ responses to modern prose or drama (An Inspector Calls) and poetry (15 from anthology), both seen and unseen.

What other subjects link to this course?

English Literature will help you to achieve in all the other literacy based subjects: English Language, Religious Studies, History, Geography, Business Studies, Science etc

What career options are open to me?

Getting a grade 4 or above in English will enable you to access a multitude of apprenticeships, A Levels, BTECs etc.

People who do well in English go on to careers in all industries including: financial, media & journalism, civil service, law, PR, police etc.

For more information please visit:

www.aqa.org.uk





Geography

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Mrs A Young

Why study Geography?

Geography will help you develop a wide range of transferable knowledge and skills. Such as the ability:

- to understand the Earth's physical and human systems, and their impact on global issues such as climate change and refugees.
- to understand the environment at local and global scales.
- to explore your world through fieldwork and investigating current issues.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

Course content

At EPOCHS, we follow the Eduqas A specification including:

- Development and resource issues.
- Landscapes and physical processes in rivers and at coastlines.
- Challenges in rural and urban areas, along with solutions to these.
- Tectonic processes and hazards.
- Weather, climate and ecosystems.

Transferable and employable skills:

- Problem-solving
- Ability to read, analyse and construct maps and graphs for a variety of purposes and audiences.
- Primary and secondary research and report writing.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

Geography GCSE requires students who are interested thinkers and explorers who want to know how the world works in both the physical and human aspects. You need to be able to work with data, including some basic statistics. If you enjoy Geography at KS3 and have a real interest in discovering more about our world then GCSE Geography is for you.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination

2 content exam papers – largely structured response questions, a small amount of extended response answers. Some statistical questions.

1 fieldwork exam paper – preparation for this will include fieldwork trips.

Which other subjects link into this course?

Geography complements all other Humanities subjects and will also strongly support your learning in science, maths and business.

What career options are open to me?

Geography has one of the highest rates of graduate employability, this is due to it being highly valued by employers worldwide and the range of transferable skills it brings. It can directly lead to jobs in areas such as renewable energy, geological surveying, urban management, overseas aid and many more.



For more information please visit:

<https://www.rgs.org/geography/studying-geography-and-careers/>
<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/geography-gcse-a/>





Health & Fitness (V CERT)



Teacher Contact: Miss C Lodge

Why study Health and Fitness?

V Certs are a suite of high quality technical qualifications which are appropriate for Key Stage 4 students who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on practical content. They are a technical alternative to GCSE's with equivalent levels of rigour and challenge.

The NCFE Level 1/2 Certificate in Health and Fitness is designed to provide students with the skills, knowledge and understanding of the applied study of good health and fitness practices and an understanding of working in the sector.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn about?

The principles of training and FITT, how physical activities affect the body in the short and long term, anatomy and physiology, how relevant fitness tests can be used for specific health and fitness components, different lifestyle analysis tools and how to apply them and creating a health and fitness programme.

What qualities are required to do well?

- Independent learning skills
- Communication skills
- Teamwork skills



How will I be assessed?

To be awarded NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness, students are required to successfully complete two mandatory units. Students must also achieve a minimum of a Level 1 Pass in the internal and external assessment. Assessment is through one project-based piece of course work and one final written exam.

Which other subjects link into this course?

- Food, preparation and nutrition
- Maths
- English
- Science

What career options are open to me?

V Cert Health and Fitness can help a student to progress to courses that could lead to careers in:

- Teaching
- Sport
- Nutrition
- Exercise

For more information you might like to visit: <https://www.ncfe.org.uk/schools/subject-areas/health-and-fitness/>





Health & Social Care

(BTEC)



Teacher Contact: Miss Ellison

Why study Health & Social Care?

This course is a vocational qualification offering you knowledge and skills in understanding the issues that affect the way humans grow, develop and interact within their communities. We look at how the health and social care issues affecting people are addressed and managed within services and care systems in each of the following sectors: health services, social care and early years care.

What key knowledge, concept and skills will I learn?

- Human growth and development across life stages
- Coping with changes caused by life events
- Health and social care services and values
- Barriers to accessing health care services
- Health and wellbeing improvement plans

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

- are interested in people of all ages
- meet deadlines
- enthusiasm
- ability to communicate
- to carry out independent research
- are interested in caring for other people
- are interested in researching topics connected with the course
- motivated to work on a range of written, design tasks
- able to problem solve
- willing to research tasks in the wider community in your own time

How will I be assessed?

The three components focus on the assessment of applied knowledge and practices. Learners must complete all the assessments to achieve the qualification.

Component one	Human Lifespan Development	36 GLH	INTERNAL
Component two	Health and social care values	36 GLH	INTERNAL
Component three	Health and wellbeing	48 GLH	EXTERNAL

(GLH – guided learning hours)

Results will be under the headings of Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction

How will I be assessed?

Two Internal Assessments worth 60% of the overall mark

One External Assessment worth 40% of the overall mark

What other subjects link into this course?

English, Biology, Information technology

What career options are open to me?

- Further academic study
- Career in caring
- Physiotherapist
- nursery nurse
- nursery teacher
- Childcare workers
- Teaching
- Nursing
- Midwifery
- Social work



For more information you might like to visit:

Edexcel Pearson Level 1 / 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care



History

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Mr Parkin

Why study History?

Anyone who studies History can see how people learn from others and make an impact in their societies. History helps you understand the origins of modern political and social problems. History helps you develop the skills to look beyond the headlines, to ask questions properly, and to express your own opinions. History helps you make sense of most other subjects. The pursuit of historical events and people is fun - a form of time travel!

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

We study the 'School's History Project' OCR B GCSE specification, which includes the following modules:

- The People's Health, c.1250-Present
- The Elizabethans, 1580-1603
- The Making of America, 1789-1900
- Living under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945
- History Around Us: Site Study of Quarry Bank Mill



The course involves learning how societies have developed focusing on change and continuity, causation and consequence, as well as how to interrogate source material.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

If you enjoy the subject in KS3 and have a real interest in discovering more detailed information about the past, then GCSE History is for you.

You will need good literacy (reading and writing) skills, good communication skills, have a chronological understanding, have an enquiring mind, interpretation skills and the ability to analyse and evaluate.



How will I be assessed?

100% examination, across a total of three exam papers

What enrichment/personal development opportunities will I be provided with?

GCSE History students will be given the opportunity (when in Year 11) to visit the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration Camp in Poland, to deepen their understanding of the horrors of the Holocaust.

Which other subjects link into this course?

History complements all other Humanities subjects and has obvious links with English as a literacy-based subject.

What career options are open to me?

History provides you with the skills employers are looking for. It can lead to opportunities in a wide range of occupations, including law, business, teaching, the police and management.

For more information you might like to visit:

OCR (Oxford Cambridge and RSA) website:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/history-b-schools-history-project-i411-from-2016/>



Hospitality and Catering (WJEC)



Teacher Contact: Mrs McKeown

Why study Food?

This course is suitable for all students who enjoy working with food. The students would be able to develop a range of skills that would support them in different hospitality industries. Students will cook during a double session once a fortnight. It is therefore vitally important that ingredients are produced for these lessons.

What key knowledge, concept and skills will I learn?

- Issues related to nutrition and food safety
- Developing food preparation and cooking skills
- Transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication
- Skills of project-based research, working independently and taking on challenges.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

- creativity
- enjoy challenges
- meeting deadlines
- enjoy cooking
- motivated to work on a range of written, design and practical tasks
- are interested in exploring all sorts of foods
- like to make things using hands/technology/machinery
- like to engage with contemporary culture i.e. food and technologies

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be written, practical and examination based.

Unit one	Hospitality and catering industry Either onscreen assessment or paper-based assessment	External	48 GLH
Unit two	Hospitality and catering in Action	Internal	72 GLH

Results will be under the headings of Level 1 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*, Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*.

Which other subjects link into this course?

Sport

Health and social care

Science

Design and Technology

English

What career options are open to me?

- Catering Courses
- Food Scientist
- Dietician
- Food Product Design
- Hospitality
- Food Technology Teacher
- Chef
- Catering Manager
- Environmental Health Officer



For more information you might like to visit:

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering/hospitality-and-catering-level-1-2-award.html>



Mathematics

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Mrs K Peoples

Why study Mathematics?

All students study the OCR GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics Specification J560.

Mathematics is a very versatile subject and a key skill in life and getting high grades at GCSE has never been more important. A GCSE in mathematics is a basic requirement for any university course and a lot of jobs of all descriptions. Besides this, mathematics is vital in everything from adding up your shopping bill to studying any science subject, both at GCSE and later, whether in A-levels or in other equivalent qualifications or even in vocational subjects and apprenticeships. It is for this reason that mathematics is compulsory at GCSE.

Our collective aim therefore needs to be to achieve the highest possible grades so that each student has the personal satisfaction of knowing that his/her results reflect their true potential and ensures that they have a solid understanding to bulked upon in future prospects.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

The mathematics GCSE covers the five strands of mathematics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change
- Geometry and measures
- Probability and statistics

Some questions will fit across two or more of these areas.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

In Mathematics we expect every student do their very best at all times. Hard work, focus and determination is required to achieve your potential in this subject. We appreciate that often, new topics can be challenging in mathematics, but it is the perseverance and commitment of students that will make the real difference.

How will I be assessed?

100% external examinations will be taken at the end of the course in Year 11.

You will be assessed across three examination papers, each one hour and 30 minutes long. Paper 2 is non-calculator with papers 1 and 3 being calculator.

Students sitting the Higher Tier papers will have the opportunity to achieve grades 4-9. Students sitting the Foundation Tier will have the opportunity to achieve grades 1-5.

Which other subjects link into this course?

Mathematics is a subject that supports many others. Science requires the ability to solve equations and manipulate formulae, map reading skills are needed in Geography, scale and ratio are used in Art, Physical Education involves working with distances and speed. In addition, the logical and problem-solving skills developed in mathematics can be applied to any other subject.

What career options are open to me?

Just about everything! People with a solid Maths knowledge and a good GCSE can go into: [accounting](#), [medicine](#), [engineering](#), forensic pathology, [finance](#), business, consultancy, teaching, [IT](#), [games development](#), scientific research, programming, the civil service, design, [construction](#) and astrophysics to name a few.

For more information please visit:

GCSE specification: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/mathematics-j560-from-2015/>





Performing Arts BTEC Tech Award



Teacher Contact: Miss Martin

Why study Performing Arts?

The primary purpose of this course is to introduce the skills, knowledge and qualities needed in the performing arts sector. You will develop skills in a wide variety of performance types, such as drama, dance, and musical theatre. You will also have the opportunity to develop technical skills such as lighting, set design, stage make up and costume design.

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

- Organisation skills
- Independent learning
- Managing Projects
- teamwork
- creativity



What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

Performing Arts helps students develop technical and expressive skills as well as knowledge and understanding of theatre through performance, choreography, musical theatre studies and critical appreciation of the theatre as a whole.

This specification enables students to:

- increase their confidence and self-esteem
- employ the skills of problem solving and creativity
- make knowledgeable decisions about performance

What will I study in the theory element of the course?

The theory element of this course encourages you to be a reflective learner. You will keep reflective diaries and learning logs to show your progression and development of skills throughout the course. These will then be moderated both internally and externally.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

You will need good literacy (reading and writing) skills, the ability to analyse and evaluate performance and make effective plans for improvement, a commitment to taking part in performance in school and outside of school and a desire to take all opportunities offered outside the curriculum to improve performance and theoretical knowledge throughout the course.

How will I be assessed?

The course will be assessed through the completion of three units of study; unit one; Exploring the Performing Arts is internally assessed written coursework exploring a range of different theatrical productions, Unit two; Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts is an internally assessed repertoire performance and unit 3 is an externally assessed devised performance.

What other subjects link into this course?

This course links in well with Drama, Music and Dance. Course content is also supported by English, History and Religious Studies.



What career options are open to me?

This course provides a solid foundation for a career in performing arts and/or further studies in drama, music and theatre studies.

For more information you might like to visit:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts.html>





Physical Education

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Miss C Lodge

Why study P.E?

GCSE Physical Education provides students with the knowledge and understanding of how to live a healthy and active lifestyle, enabling them to make informed choices about their own physical development. Students undertake a variety of sports in which to participate in as a performer. Students will learn how to analyse and evaluate performance and suggest effective plans for improvement. Students have a vast choice of sports for practical assessment, catering for a wide variety of individual needs. From the sports undertaken students will submit their best three marks. One activity must be a team sport and one activity must be an individual sport. The third activity can be a team or individual sport. Students will study a broad and topical theory content that keeps them engaged, whilst also learning about the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle. The course allows for accessible assessment methods that cater for a wide variety of students, which allows them to focus revision before the exam.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

We study 'Physical Education and sports science'. Students will learn about:

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being
- Core sports skills in pressurised situations
- Strategies and tactics in full match context
- Analysis and evaluation of sports performance

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

If you enjoy and understand the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle and want to acquire the skills to make informed choices about your own physical development, whilst getting involved in physical sporting activities then GCSE Physical Education is for you. You will need good literacy (reading and writing) skills as well as a key interest in biological science, the ability to analyse and evaluate performance and make effective plans for improvement, a commitment to taking part in sport in school and outside of school, **regularly play sport competitively** and a desire to take all opportunities

offered outside the curriculum to improve sporting performance and theoretical knowledge throughout the course.

How will I be assessed?

40% controlled assessment (3 sports must be submitted for assessment, 1 or 2 individual sports and 1 or 2 team sports) 10% of this is a written piece of coursework.

60% examination (over 2 papers)

Which other subjects link into this course?

Science
Psychology
Sociology
Food Technology
Maths
English

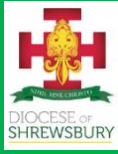
What career options are open to me?

Physical Education provides you with the skills employers are looking for. It can lead to opportunities in a wide range of occupations, including exercise and sports science, outdoor education, sport and exercise physiology, sports management, sports media and journalism, sports training, sports biomechanics and motor control, teaching.

For more information you might like to visit:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>





Religious Studies (GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Mrs L Baillie

Why study Religious Studies?

Whether you consider yourself a religious person or not, it is a fact that religious belief and religious thinking has played a crucial role in the development of our society. Throughout history fundamental questions, such as: “what is the true meaning of life? What happens to us after death? How do we explain human suffering and injustice?” have long been grappled with by members of the Christian faith and others. In Religious Studies you will have chance to reflect on these issues and explore the teachings of the Catholic Church more fully. As a Catholic Community allowing our students to gain an understanding of our faith is an important aspect of the mission of Ellesmere Port Catholic High School. However, in a multi-faith country such as the UK it is also important that you have an appreciation of what those of others faith, and none, may believe about the world around us.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

The study of religion helps you to learn how to think critically, listen empathetically, speak thoughtfully, and write clearly—all skills that will be of great use no matter what you go on to do in life. It will also help you to better live and work in our increasingly diverse society and global world.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

The ability to argue your own viewpoints clearly and concisely, but also learned to understand the viewpoints of others. To be able to understand the importance of tolerance within the community and that there are many ways to approach any issue, that different people can believe the same things for completely different reasons, and that within religions, or even within denominations, there are often many contrasting beliefs and opinions.

How will I be assessed?

100% examination (3 papers)

Which other subjects link into this course?

The academic study of religion is inherently multidisciplinary. The Religious Studies course draws from different disciplines in the humanities and the social sciences, such as history, literature, art history, and science. Studying religion thus provides you an opportunity to learn about a range of disciplinary approaches, and, even more importantly, the connections and linkages among them. In this way studying religion invites us all to think in a more interdisciplinary and integral way about the world and our place in it.

What career options are open to me?

Students of religion go on to careers in a wide variety of fields including teaching, medicine, social service, law, journalism, international business, diplomacy, and, of course, religious professions of various kinds.

For more information please visit:

<http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/religious-studies-a-2016.html>





Combined Science (GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Ms Forster (Curriculum Leader for Science)
or Miss Briggs (Second in Science/Key Stage 4 Coordinator)

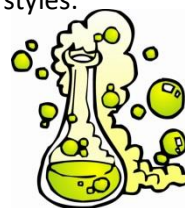
Why study Combined Science?

This pathway provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity.

What key Skills will I learn?

Science engages students in a wide range of activities and learning styles:

- practical work developing laboratory skills;
- independent research and analysing reports critically;
- small group and class discussions;
- modelling and understanding key scientific concepts;
- discussing and making scientific and/or ethical judgements;
- data handling and analysis – constructing and reading tables, graphs etc.



What knowledge and concepts will I learn about?

You will achieve two GCSE's in Combined Science. Within Science lessons you will study concepts from Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

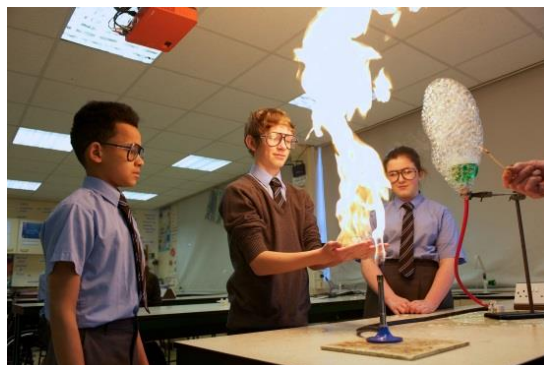
Biology - explores how living things function, adapt and relate to their natural environment. It covers the topics of Cells and control, Genetics, natural selection and genetic modification, Plant structures and their functions, Exchange and transport in animals, Ecosystems and material cycles.

Chemistry - explores the composition of substances, their properties and reactions. It covers the topics of Atomic Structure, Purifying substances and Ionic and Covalent Bonding, Acids, Fuels and Earth Sciences.

Physics - explores the mechanics of our Universe, looking at matter, energy and movement. It covers the topics of Radioactivity, Waves, Forces, Magnetism and Electromagnetic Induction.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

“To create and maintain curiosity through an innovative curriculum where scientific discovery and excitement is at the heart of teaching.” Students should study the sciences in ways that help them to develop curiosity about the natural world, that give them an insight into how science works and that enable them to appreciate its relevance to their everyday lives. The scope and nature of the study is broad, coherent, practical and satisfying.

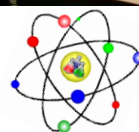


How will I be assessed?

100% examination all taken at the end of Year 11

There will be two written papers for each Science, totalling 6 exams.

All exams are 1 hour 10 minutes long.



Which other subjects link into this course?

The Combined Science course links with mathematics and shares the development of similar skills.

What career options are open to me?

Combined Science offers a broad, balanced curriculum which provides a sound foundation for many future careers or future study. If you are interested in a career in Science, consider studying Triple Science.

For more information you might like to visit

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/GCSE-science-2011/Pages/specifications.aspx>



Triple Science

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Ms Forster (Curriculum Leader for Science)
or Miss Briggs (Second in Science/Key Stage 4 Coordinator)

Why study Triple Science?

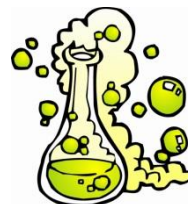
This pathway provides sound preparation for those students wishing to study science at Advanced level.

- You may wish to pursue one of the many careers that make use of science
- You may plan to study a science at degree level in the future
- You enjoy the study of science and want to develop your knowledge of the subject even further.

What key Skills will I learn?

Science engages students in a wide range of activities and learning styles:

- practical work developing laboratory skill;
- independent research and analysing reports critically;
- small group and class discussions;
- preparing and giving presentations;
- modelling and understanding key scientific concepts;
- discussing and making scientific and/or ethical judgements;
- data handling and analysis – constructing and reading tables, graphs etc.



What knowledge and concepts will I learn about?

You will achieve three separate GCSE's Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

GCSE Biology - explores how living things function, adapt and relate to their natural environment. It covers the topics of Cells and Control, Genetics, Health, Diseases and the Development of Medicines, Plant Structures and their Functions and Animal Coordination, Control and Homeostasis.

GCSE Chemistry - explores the composition of substances, their properties and reactions. It covers the topics of Atomic Structure, Purifying substances and Ionic and Covalent Bonding, Acids, Chemical Cells and Fuel Cells.

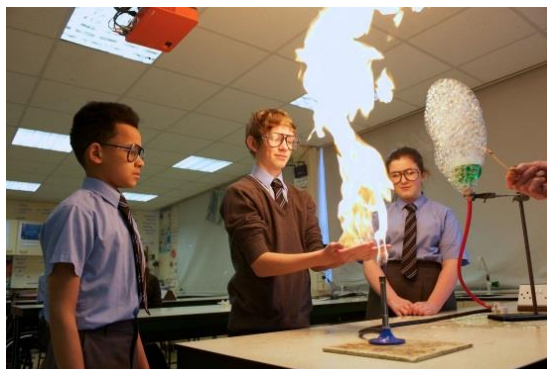
GCSE Physics - explores the mechanics of our Universe, looking at matter, energy and movement. It covers the topics of Radioactivity, Waves, Astronomy, Forces, Static Electricity and Electromagnetic Induction.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

“To create and maintain curiosity through an innovative curriculum where scientific discovery and excitement is at the heart of teaching.”

If you enjoy the subject in KS3 and have a real interest and curiosity in scientific discovery, then GCSE Triple Science is for you.

You will need good literacy (reading and writing) skills and communication skills, sound investigative and interpretation skills and an ability to analyse and evaluate. You will need to be hard working and conscientious and show a willingness to work independently to supplement work done in class. We would recommend an average of a step 6 in science at the end of Year 9 to follow the Triple Science route.



How will I be assessed?

100% examination all taken at the end of Year 11

There will be two written papers for each Science, totalling 6 exams.

All exams are 1 hour 45 minutes long.



Which other subjects link into this course?

The Triple Science course links with mathematics and shares the development of similar skills.

What career options are open to me?

Teacher, doctor, vet, architect, engineer, chemist, biochemist, biomedical scientist, scientific researcher, astro-physicist, radiographer, or physiotherapist.

For more information you might like to visit

<http://www.edexcel.com/quals/gcse/GCSE-science-2011/Pages/specifications.aspx>





Spanish

(GCSE)



Teacher Contact: Miss Allman

Why study Spanish?

A GCSE qualification in Spanish will develop your ability to understand and communicate with Spanish-speaking people across the world. It will also broaden your horizons and help you to develop greater cultural awareness and understanding. Becoming proficient in another language provides you with a valuable lifelong skill and can enhance travel, further study and employment opportunities. There will also be many extra-curricular activities for you to partake in, which will allow you to develop your linguistic and cultural knowledge. Languages GCSEs are part of the EBacc suite of qualifications, which keeps your options open for further study in the future.

What key knowledge, concepts and skills will I learn?

The course content is based around 6 broad themes:

- My personal world
- Lifestyle and wellbeing
- My neighbourhood
- Media and technology
- Studying and my future
- Travel and tourism

You will study a range of grammatical concepts as well as develop your oracy and literacy skills. You will develop confidence and essential communication skills. Many of the topics studied are real and current issues, and will provide the opportunity for meaningful and relevant discussion in the target language.

What attitudes and qualities are required to do well?

If you already enjoy the subject and are interested in learning how to use and adapt language, then GCSE Spanish is ideal for you. You will need to have good literacy (reading and writing) skills, enjoy speaking in Spanish to communicate your ideas and be able to listen attentively to others. You will also need to be determined to succeed and show that you can work independently.

How will I be assessed?

3 external examinations assessing listening, reading and writing, and 1 speaking assessment set by the exam board and conducted by a teacher in school, all taken at the end of the course in Year 11.



Which other subjects link to this course?

Spanish has many cross-curricular links and caters to many different interests, so it will complement a variety of other GCSE subjects.

What career options are open to me?

Being able to speak Spanish can open doors for your career, as employers are actively looking for a workforce with the skills to contribute to a global business community. It can lead to opportunities in a wide range of sectors, including social services, health and medical services, business and trade, the travel industry, law enforcement and teaching.

For more information you might like to visit www.pearson.com







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