

**Fowey River
Academy**



YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2025

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Core Curriculum

These subjects are mandatory and are studied by every student:

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EBacc Subjects

The government recommends that students study **one** Modern Foreign Language as well as Geography or History. You may pick **two** of these subjects as part of your four options.

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Creative and Practical Subjects

These subjects provide you with additional skills that will either develop you practically or creatively. These are spread across the four option blocks.

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Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to explain the process of choosing subjects for your son or daughter to study in Years 10 and 11. At Fowey River Academy we offer a broad and balanced curriculum which includes a variety of academic, creative and practical subjects.

I do hope you will take the opportunity to read this guided choices booklet fully in order to be as well-informed as possible, particularly about any new subjects on offer. It is essential for students to know what a qualification entails in order to decide if a specific subject is appropriate for them and their future success.

Please be aware that the Triple Science option in Block Y is only appropriate for students who are working towards a grade 6 or above in Science GCSE. It is also important that students realise that our Catering and Engineering courses are very popular and numbers are limited. This means that any student who applies will have to be interviewed by the school and the college to assess their suitability for the course. Much like Triple Science, a student applying for the Engineering course will need to be on track to achieve a Grade 6 or above in Maths if he or she is to be considered for this qualification.

It is also worth noting that students are only allowed to pick one of the two following Art qualifications: Fine Art or Textiles. This is because they are, in essence, the same qualification. This means that your child cannot pick Fine Art in one block and then Textiles in another as they are the same thing with a slight variation.

Please remember that, should you have any further subject-related queries, staff emails are contained in the booklet so you can contact the appropriate person. On the evening of 15th May all staff will be available in person between 5:30pm and 7:30pm to provide a swift response to your questions.

Please find the option blocks your child can choose from on the following page. Your child will need to select a first choice and a second choice from each block. Please note that choices cannot be made until Thursday 15th May from 8pm.

Yours faithfully

Dr Duncan Yeates

Senior Assistant Headteacher

Options Blocks and Guidance

Block W	Block X	Block Y	Block Z
French	Geography	Fine Art	Film Studies
German	Sports Studies	Drama	Geography
Spanish	Functional Skills	Music Tech	History
History	Catering*	Photography	Computer Science
Geography	Fine Art*	Media Studies	Business Studies
	Engineering †	Sports Studies	Functional Skills
	Drama	Triple Science ‡	Textiles*
	Media Studies		

Students will need to pick a first choice and a second choice from each option block. For example, a students' choices might look like this:

Block W	Block X	Block Y	Block Z
First choice: French	First choice: Geography	First choice: Fine Art	First choice: Computer Science
Second choice: German	Second choice: Sports Studies	Second choice: Media Studies	Second choice: Business Studies

* This preference will require students to sit a short interview to determine whether they are suitable for the course.

† This preference will require students to be predicted to achieve a grade 6 or above in Maths and complete an interview to determine whether they are suitable for the course.

‡ This preference is only appropriate for students who are predicted and on track to achieve a grade 6 or above in Science.

* These subjects cannot be studied together. This means that students can only pick one of them across the four blocks.

Fowey River Academy

Key Dates and Submitting Options

Please take a careful note of the key information below:

- Today (**23rd April**) your child will have received an assembly about their options. This will have explained the process to them. They will also have been given the opportunity to book onto taster sessions for the week beginning 28th April. The link to the form for your child to book a taster session can be found [here](#). Your child has been told they need to book their preferred taster sessions by the 25th April.
- **Thursday 15th May** is Options Evening. This begins at 5.30 pm with a presentation from Mr Eddy. This is followed by a chance to meet with subject teachers to enquire and discuss the suitability of various options for your child.
- Once the evening has closed at 7.30 pm, the options form opens at 8 pm. The link to the form can be found [here](#) but it will be re-shared with you and your child at 8 pm. Please note that other than the college courses, options are allocated on a first come, first served basis.

AQA GCSE English Language

Specification

Subject Lead: Miss V Gilbert

How will I be assessed?

Two examinations in Year 11, plus spoken language in Year 10.

Exam Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing - 50%

Section A: Reading - one literature fiction text

Section B: Writing - descriptive or narrative writing

Exam Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives - 50%

Section A: Reading - one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

Section B: Writing - writing to present a viewpoint

Non-examination assessment: Spoken Language

Course Summary

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimuli and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes.

This course will ensure that students can read fluently and write effectively. Students will be able to demonstrate a confident control of Standard English and write grammatically correct sentences, deploying figurative language and analysing texts.

Progression

As a core GCSE, a qualification in English Language or Literature at grade 4 or higher will be required to carry out further education post 16. It will lay the foundations for further study for example at A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships, BTEC and degree level. English Language is viewed as a facilitating subject for progression in a wide range of A level courses including Law, Psychology, Sociology and Modern Foreign Languages.



AQA GCSE English Literature Specification

Subject Lead: Miss V Gilbert

How will I be assessed?

Two examinations in Year 11.

Exam Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel - 50%

Section A: Students will answer one question on Romeo and Juliet by William Shakespeare.

Section B: Students will answer one question on A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens.

Exam Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry - 50%

Section A: Students will answer one question on the play An Inspector Calls by J.B. Priestley

Section B: Students will answer one question that involves comparing two poems from the AQA Poetry Anthology.

Section C: Students will answer one question on an unseen poem and another comparing two unseen poems.

Course Summary

Students will study full texts: a Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, a modern text and a poetry anthology. They will explore plot, characterisation, events and settings. They will learn how to analyse language for explicit and implicit meaning, evaluate a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features and use correct linguistic terminology for their analysis.

Progression

As a core GCSE, a qualification in English Language or Literature at grade 4 or higher will be required to carry out further education post 16. It will lay the foundations for further study for example at A Levels, T Levels, Apprenticeships, BTEC and degree level. English Literature is viewed as a facilitating subject for progression in a wide range of A level courses.



AQA GCSE Mathematics

Specification

Subject Lead: Mrs O Miller

How will I be assessed?

Three examinations in Year 11.

Exam Paper 1 - Non-calculator paper

Exam Paper 2 - Calculator paper

Exam Paper 3 - Calculator paper

Course Summary

GCSE Mathematics is a core subject that develops essential problem-solving, analytical, and numerical skills. The course covers key topics such as algebra, geometry, probability, statistics, and ratio & proportion. Students will apply mathematical concepts to real-life situations, enhancing their logical thinking and practical skills.

Assessment is through three exam papers at the end of the course. There are two tiers of entry: Foundation (grades 1-5) and Higher (grades 4-9), ensuring students are assessed at an appropriate level. It is important for students to have their own calculator, which they can use both in lessons and in the exams.

Progression

A GCSE in Mathematics provides a strong foundation for further study and a wide range of careers.

Students can progress to A-Level Mathematics, Further Mathematics, or Core Maths, as well as vocational qualifications like T-Levels and BTECs in fields such as engineering, IT, and business. Many apprenticeships, including those in finance, construction, and computing, require strong numeracy skills. A good maths qualification also supports university pathways in subjects like engineering, economics, medicine, and data science.

Even in careers not directly related to maths, a strong GCSE grade demonstrates problem-solving, analytical thinking, and logical reasoning—skills valued in almost every profession. Mathematics is viewed as a facilitating subject for progression in a wide range of A level courses.



AQA GCSE Combined Science (two GCSEs)

Specification

Subject Lead: Miss M Bryan

How will I be assessed?

Six exams in Year 11. Students can be entered for Foundation or Higher Tier. There are 70 marks per paper and each paper is 16.7% of the double GCSE award

Biology Paper 1: Cell biology; organisation; infection and response; and bioenergetics.

Biology Paper 2: Biology: Homeostasis and response; inheritance, variation and evolution; and ecology.

Chemistry Paper 1: Atomic structure and the periodic table; bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry; chemical changes; and energy changes.

Chemistry Paper 2: The rate and extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis; chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.

Physics Paper 1: Energy; electricity; particle model of matter; and atomic structure.

Physics Paper 2: Forces; waves; and magnetism and electromagnetism

Course Summary

Science impacts on all of our lives; whether it's deciding how best to look after our bodies, how to reduce our impact on our environment, or the type of car you will drive. The Combined Science course provides students with the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions in an increasingly technological and complex age.

Students will study a balanced course of all three sciences and gain two Science GCSEs with the Combined Science course. Students can achieve up to a grade 9 in the higher tier exam. There are 21 required practicals to develop students' knowledge to a greater level for assessment within the exams.



Progression

Combined Science will provide you with the skills that underpin a wide range of careers including nursing and linked health careers, animal care, child development, engineering and electronics. This course is a suitable foundation for A-Level, BTEC and apprenticeship courses.

AQA GCSE Triple Science

Specifications: Biology, Chemistry and Physics

Subject Lead: Miss M Bryan

How will I be assessed?

Six exams in Year 11. Students can be entered for Foundation or Higher Tier. There are 100 marks per paper and each paper is 50% of a GCSE.

Biology Paper 1: Cell biology; organisation; infection & response; and bioenergetics.

Biology Paper 2: Homeostasis & response; inheritance, variation & evolution; and ecology.

Chemistry Paper 1: Atomic structure & the periodic table; bonding, structure & the properties of matter; quantitative chemistry, chemical changes; and energy changes.

Chemistry Paper 2: The rate & extent of chemical change; organic chemistry; chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere; and using resources.

Physics Paper 1: Energy; electricity; particle model of matter; and atomic structure.

Physics Paper 2: Forces; waves; magnetism & electromagnetism; and space physics.

Course Summary

Triple Science is a highly academic route developed for students who intend to pursue Science A levels and study a Science degree in the future. Strong skills in English and Mathematics are essential. Students should be achieving close to 70% or higher in these subjects, and of course in Science where 70% is essential. Triple Science provides greater breadth and depth of content than the Combined Science course and suits those students who are enthusiastic about Science and wish to study it in more detail. There are 27 required practicals across all the areas to broaden students' knowledge and understanding, parts of which are drawn upon in the examinations. This is a selective option: if you are interested and meet the criteria, please discuss your interest with your Science teacher to find out more.

Progression

Triple Science is highly recommended for students who wish to take Science A levels (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology and Environmental Science) or study Science at degree level. The breadth and depth of the Triple Science course provides a solid foundation for many science-related careers such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and teaching. Other avenues for triple scientists include engineering, marine studies, and the food and nutrition industry. In Cornwall there are also many opportunities to study Science as part of an exciting apprenticeship programme.

Modern Foreign Languages (French, German and Spanish)

Specifications: French, German and Spanish

Subject Lead: Mrs A Kelly

How will I be assessed?

Four short exams in Year 11, in Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade and students are entered for either Foundation or Higher tier across all 4 skills.

Paper 1 – Listening: This paper checks understanding of different types of spoken language. Answers are a mix of multiple choice, true or false and some short written English answers. There is a short dictation section (basic sentences!) and students hear all recordings 3 times.

Paper 2 – Reading: This paper checks understanding of different types of written language. Answers are a mix of multiple choice, true or false and some short written English answers. As part of the Reading paper you also have to translate a short passage from the target language into English.

Paper 3 – Speaking: This exam is made up of three parts: a short passage to read out aloud, a role play and finally a picture task which is the starting point for a conversation. This is a 1:1 exam with your teacher.

Paper 4 – Writing: This exam checks how well students can communicate in writing. You will have to translate sentences or a short paragraph into another language, as well as write two short essays from a choice of topics.

Course Summary

The course teaches students how to understand and communicate in the language of their choice. It is exam based at the end of Year 11, with listening and reading exams checking understanding of short and longer pieces of language and speaking and writing exams checking your ability to communicate. It is helpful to be good at remembering words and phrases.

Progression

Studying a language to GCSE level increases employability as learners develop excellent empathy, cultural awareness and interpersonal skills. Language learners tend to be prioritised when shortlisting for a wide range of jobs. Knowledge of any language is useful in customer-facing sectors such as hospitality and catering, hotels, tourism, business and enterprise, marketing and teaching. A language GCSE can lead to A levels and beyond that to degree level, which in turn can progress to specific language-based jobs.

AQA GCSE Geography

Specification

Subject Lead: Mrs S Bryant

How will I be assessed?

Three examinations in Year 11.

Paper 1 (35%): Living with the Physical Environment (1 hour 30 minute exam)

Paper 2 (35%): Living with the Human Environment (1 hour 30 minute exam)

Paper 3 (30%): Geographical Applications (1 hour 30 minute exam)

Course Summary

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes

Progression

Geography can lead to a wide range of courses of study and careers. The broad skill set and application of knowledge acquired in geography means that students are competent in both hard and soft skills.

Many GCSE geography students from FRA progress onto A Level studies in Geography, Environmental Science and Geology.

Careers using geography are broad, including government advisors, town planners, energy exploration, agriculture, flood or tectonic risk management. Students could choose to work in a number of different sections such as health, law and policy, logistics, politics, natural hazards and weather and climate roles.

Edexcel GCSE History

Specification

Subject Lead: Mr S Bayes

How will I be assessed?

Three written examinations in Year 11.

Paper 1 (30%): Thematic study and historical environment

Medicine in Britain, c1250-present day and the British Sector of the Western Front, 1914-1918: injuries, treatment and the trenches

Paper 2 (40%): Period study and British depth study

Superpower Relations and the Cold War, 1941-91, Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060-88

Paper 3 (30%): Modern depth study

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

Course Summary

GCSE History will help students understand how the world they live in was shaped, and make them consider today's society in a different way. History teaches us to ask two very important questions: why and how. This is key to sharpening students' critical thinking abilities, which combine analysis, research, essay writing and communication skills to help them solve problems and form arguments for debate. Historians look at all of the available evidence and come to conclusions, a lot like a good detective, which helps them learn to be organised and manage information.

To do well in this subject, students will be expected to be focused inside and outside of the classroom and undertake independent research to develop their understanding. The department has a wide range of support and revision materials available to help access to the course. In Year 9, students have had tasters of the content studied at GCSE and will have experienced exam questions that are used as part of this course. A variety of teaching techniques are used at GCSE, from traditional styles to role play and simulation.

Progression

After GCSE students can go on to study A-Level. This can lead to studying all sorts of subjects at university, or History-based apprenticeships, e.g. paralegal, heritage engineering technician.

History is a facilitating subject so it will open the door to many different careers. Students who study history are successful in career areas such as: journalism, law, politics, archaeology and teaching.





Edexcel GCSE Business

Specification

Subject Lead: Mrs P Dunwell

How will I be assessed?

Two written papers consisting of multiple choice, calculation, short answer questions and extended writing questions.

The papers are 105 minutes long and are 50% each of the total GCSE. There are three sections in each paper that consist of ramped questions starting with multiple choice, then gradually increasing in difficulty.

Sections B and C are based on real life, relevant business contexts and examples.

Course Summary

Students might have an interest in business, and want to start their own business one day. They may be interested in how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur.

Students will start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? They will learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. They will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Then they will move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? They will learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions that need to be made when growing a business and working in a global business. They will also learn about meeting customer needs, making marketing, operational, financial and human resourcing decisions, and explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows.

Progression

After this qualification students will understand the world of business and have developed skills in making decisions and developing persuasive arguments, creative and practical problem solving, understanding data, finance and communication.

It is also a great step preparing students for further and higher education such as A levels and BTEC courses. Studying GCSE Business could help prepare students for an entrepreneurial role and help them to gain an understanding of what is involved in a business-related profession, like accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure and tourism industry.



WJEC Level 1/2 Technical Award Hospitality and Catering Specification

Subject Lead: Cornwall College

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed through in-house practical assessment, an online exam and a written exam. The assessments will be in the spring and summer terms, followed by written exams covering all the theory you have learnt.

Course Summary

The Technical Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. Hospitality and catering is a dynamic, vibrant and innovative sector delivering vital jobs, growth and investment in the heart of our local communities — important culturally, socially and economically.

The course leader has strong links with local businesses, many offering work experience placements in Year 10 for the FRA work experience week.

Please note that this is an off-site course for a limited number of students, so learners will be interviewed for their suitability. Behaviour and attendance will be taken into consideration when decisions are made.

Progression

This qualification will help you to progress onto any of the following courses at Cornwall College:

Culinary Diploma Level 2

Professional Cookery Certificate Level 2

Apprenticeship Level 2 Commis Chef, Team Member or Events Assistant.

AQA GCSE Computer Science Specification

Subject Lead: Ms E Gilbert

How will I be assessed?

Two written examinations in Year 11.

Paper 1 (50%): Computational thinking and programming skills: Students study the following topics: computational thinking, code tracing, problem-solving, programming concepts including the design of effective algorithms and the designing, writing, testing and refining of code.

Paper 2 (50%): Computing Concepts: Students study the following topics: fundamentals of algorithms, programming, fundamentals of data representation, computer systems, fundamentals of computer networks, cyber security, relational databases and structured query language (SQL), ethical, legal and environmental impacts of digital technology on wider society, including issues of privacy.

Course Summary

GCSE Computer Science recognises the well-established methodologies of computing, alongside the technological advances which make it such a dynamic subject. This course includes a programming exam to provide a programme of study for students of all ability levels. Students can choose from a range of programming languages allowing them a greater spectrum of choice.

Computer Science students are expected to be able to think logically and mathematically.

Progression

Students will complete this course equipped with the logical and computational skills necessary to succeed at A-level, the workplace or beyond. There is a wide range of apprenticeship and employment opportunities for students with these skills, including the popular Games Academy at Falmouth University.

WJEC GCSE Drama

Specification

Subject Lead: Mr M Yates

How will I be assessed?

Three examinations - one written, two performance-based.

Component 1 — Devising theatre (40%): Students will create and perform a piece of theatre from a given stimulus. Students will also complete a written evaluation in controlled conditions and a portfolio of their rehearsals as coursework. Design options in lighting, sound, set or costume are also available for this.

Component 2 — Performing from a text (20%): Students will be performing two extracts from a play in groups in front of a visiting examiner. Design options in lighting, sound, set or costume are also available for this.

Component 3 — Interpreting theatre (40%): Students will be completing a written paper based on their set text and a piece of live theatre that they have seen during the duration of the course.

Course Summary

Year 10. Term 1: Students complete workshops and activities to enhance key skills in performance. Term 2: Students will work on a brand new play as part of the National Theatre Connections festival. Term 3: Students will practically explore their set text. Year 11. Term 1: Students will complete their Component 1 performance. Term 2: Students will complete a scripted performance. They will be put into groups and will have to perform two extracts. A visiting examiner will watch the performance and mark it. Term 3: Students work towards the final written exam. During both years, students will be required to attend school trips to watch at least two live theatre performances.

Progression

Studying Drama develops skills such as communication, confidence and creativity. Students also learn to manage their time, stay organized, and think more deeply about different ideas. These skills are useful in many areas of life, not just acting! After GCSE Drama, students can progress to A-Level Drama, Performing Arts, or BTEC courses in Acting or Production. These lead to university degrees in Drama, Theatre Studies, or Performing Arts, as well as specialist drama schools for professional training. Other options include creative arts courses like Film or Media, which can open doors to careers in theatre, TV, and beyond.



NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering

Specification

Subject Lead: Cornwall College

How will I be assessed?

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 9 content areas of this qualification.

Content area 1: Engineering disciplines

Content area 2: Applied science and mathematics in engineering

Content area 3: Reading engineering drawings

Content area 4: Properties, characteristics and selection of engineering materials

Content area 5: Engineering tools, equipment and machines

Content area 6: Hand-drawn engineering drawings

Content area 7: Computer-aided design (CAD) engineering drawings

Content area 8: Production planning techniques

Content area 9: Applied processing skills and techniques

Course Summary

The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering (603/7006/3) complements GCSE qualifications. It is aimed at 14 to 16 year olds studying key stage 4 (KS4) curriculum who are interested in the engineering industry. This qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. The qualification is graded at level 1 pass, merit, distinction and level 2 pass, merit, distinction and distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5 to 1).

Please note that this is an off-site course for a limited number of students, so learners will be interviewed for their suitability. Academic ability in Maths and Science, behaviour and attendance will be all taken into consideration when decisions are made.

Progression

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

A Level Engineering (this will support progression to higher education)

Level 3 Applied General Certificate in Engineering

Study at level 2 in a range of technical routes that have been designed for progression to employment, apprenticeships, and further study

Level 3 Technical Level in Engineering, Manufacturing, Processing and Control (this will support progression to higher education)

Learners could also progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship. The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the engineering industry through a variety of occupations that are available within the industry, such as technical writing,

WJEC GCSE Film Studies

Specification

Subject Lead: Miss V Gilbert

How will I be assessed?

Two written examinations and a non-examination assessment.

Component 1 exam (35%). Key Developments in US Film. This component assesses knowledge and understanding of three US films chosen from a range of options. Assessment consists of four questions on one pair of US mainstream films and one US independent film.

Component 2 exam (35%). Global Film: Narrative, Representation and Film Style. This component assesses knowledge and understanding of three global films produced outside the US chosen from a range of options. Assessment consists of three questions in three sections:

Component 3 non-exam (30%) This component assesses the ability to apply knowledge and understanding of film to a production and its accompanying evaluative analysis. This includes either a film script or evaluation of a student-made film trailer.

Course Summary

GCSE Film Studies is designed to draw on learners' enthusiasm for film and introduce them to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of film and film technology. Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film by studying one film from the 1950s and one film from the later 70s and 80s, thus looking at two stages in Hollywood's development. In addition, they will be studying more recent films – a US independent film as well as films from Europe, including the UK, South Africa and Australia.

Progression

This course can potentially lead to an A-Level Film Studies qualification and beyond to film related studies at university level. Following a Film Studies course can also improve students' observation and analytical skills; this will help with other courses as well as making students more employable in general.

WJEC GCSE Fine Art Specification

Subject Lead: Mrs C Moorcroft

How will I be assessed?

60% of the final grade is a coursework portfolio; 40 % is externally set assessment.

Coursework Portfolio: Students will undertake a series of projects that cover a broad spectrum of Fine Art disciplines, including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking and digital media. The coursework encourages students to explore different materials and techniques while developing their ideas and themes. Throughout the year, students will create a collection of artwork, documenting their creative process, research, and development. They will also reflect on their work and evaluate their progress.

Externally Set Assessment: The externally set assessment provides students with a set of exam-based tasks, allowing them to demonstrate their understanding of the creative process and their ability to work to a set theme. This component involves a preparatory period followed by a 10-hour timed exam, where students will produce a final piece of artwork in response to the external brief. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their skills, creativity, and ability to work under pressure.

Course Summary

This GCSE Fine Art course offers students the opportunity to explore and develop their creative and artistic skills across a wide range of media and techniques. The course is structured to encourage personal expression, experimentation, and independent learning, helping students build a strong portfolio of work that reflects their individual artistic journey.

This course is ideal for students with a passion for art who wish to refine their skills and develop a portfolio that could form the foundation for further studies in art, design, or creative industries.

Progression

GCSE Fine Art provides a strong foundation for a wide range of future opportunities in both the creative and professional worlds. After completing GCSE Fine Art, students may choose to pursue further studies in art-related fields, such as A-levels in Art, Design, or Photography, or specialized courses in subjects such as Graphic Design, Animation, or Architecture. For those interested in an Art-based career, the skills developed through Fine Art can open doors to a variety of creative professions, including becoming an artist, illustrator, graphic designer, art curator, or even working in digital media and advertising. The course also nurtures transferable skills in critical thinking, communication, problem solving and time management, which are valuable in any career path.



Edexcel Level 1/2 Functional Skills (English and Maths)

Specifications for English and Maths

Subject Lead: Mrs V Rolls

How will I be assessed?

English: Writing paper (1 hour), Reading paper (1 hour), Speaking & Listening (coursework through lessons).

Maths: Non-calculator (30 mins), Calculator (1 hour, plus ½ hour)

Course Summary

We offer qualifications in English and Mathematics, comprehensive qualifications for all learner types, that equip learners with the practical skills needed to live, learn and work successfully.

We work towards the Level 1 qualification being taken in the November of Yr 11. Those passing the level 1 (grade 3 at GCSE) qualifications will then progress to the level 2 qualifications (equivalent to a grade 4 at GCSE) in the Summer exam series.

Functional Skills is an intervention program designed to support learners who struggle with English and Maths and is an invitation option.

Progression

Gaining your Functional Skills qualifications is a way to support your Maths and English GCSEs as well as being recognised as equivalent to GCSEs for some courses at college.

OCR GCSE Media Studies

Specification

Subject Lead: Miss V Gilbert

How will I be assessed?

70% Examination (two exams at the end of Year 11), 30% Practical Coursework.

Paper 1: Television Crime Drama; Film Promotion

Paper 2: The Music Industry; News

Non-Examined Assessment: Creating Media. This gives students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and understanding of media to the research, planning and creation of a practical production piece.

Course Summary

The Media Studies curriculum encourages students to look in far deeper detail at the products that both they and the world around them consume on a day-to-day basis and challenge what they see. In a world where the media has considerable influence over contemporary society, students gain an appreciation for how institutions (both in contemporary and historical contexts) seek to position their consumers and how consumers respond in a variety of ways. Learners also live in a world where image is everything and each aspect of society has a media presence. Learners are encouraged to develop skills in not just interpreting these texts but creating them for themselves.

Progression

Students develop the skills of enquiry, critical thinking, decision-making and analysis. These transferable skills are invaluable in many careers. Many students progress to A Level Media Studies and beyond to related subjects at university; others use their skills in careers such as journalism, editor, film director, administration, advertising and market research.

Pearson BTEC Award Level 1/2 Music Practice Specification

Subject Lead: Mrs G Hird-Edwards

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 (30%): 12 hours of controlled assessment for coursework in year 10.

Component 2 (30%): 15 hours of controlled assessment for coursework in year 11.

Component 3 (40%): 23 hours of controlled assessment for coursework in year 11 including one two hour exam to write up a plan and a one hour exam to write an evaluation on your work.

Notes and preparation work can be taken into each of these assessments. Internet access for research is allowed in C1 and C2 as well as for the planning phase of C3.

Course Summary

Component 1: You will study 5 different genres of music (currently Delta Blues, Reggae, British Invasion, Grunge and Film Music), and will be assessed on your knowledge and analysis of four of these genres of music, focusing on their “sonic” and “compositional” features. You will also produce three musical “products” using three of the genres. You may choose three products from the following - songwriting, music for media, digital audio workstation production and performance.

Component 2: You will choose two of the following disciplines: creating (composition), production (using a DAW and its functions to produce music) and performance. You will then produce two products using your chosen disciplines. Throughout this second unit you will explore the various professional skills required to work in the music industry whilst you produce outcomes for your chosen disciplines. Alongside this you will keep a development diary that will include written entries, video, screenshot and MP3 progress snapshots as well as skills audits and regular milestone evaluations.

Component 3: You will use the knowledge you have gathered so far to respond to a music industry style brief set by Pearson. You will be asked to choose from ten songs and four styles. You will then use your knowledge to turn your chosen song into a new version using your chosen style. This might for instance mean a Jazz version of “The Final Countdown” or a reggae version of “Don’t Stop Believing”.

Progression

This course can lead to entry to college to study music and performing arts courses further.



WJEC GCSE Photography Specification

Subject Lead: Mr A Doyle

How will I be assessed?

60% of the final grade is a coursework portfolio; 40 % is externally set assessment.

Coursework Portfolio: Throughout the course, students will complete a series of projects designed to build their technical knowledge and artistic abilities. These projects will cover a range of photographic styles and techniques, including portrait, landscape, still life, and experimental photography. Students will learn how to use a camera effectively, understand composition, experiment with editing software, and develop ideas through research and visual experimentation. The coursework will culminate in a portfolio that showcases students' best work, demonstrating their progression, creativity, and technical skill.

Externally Set Assessment: The externally set assessment involves a series of tasks provided by the exam board, where students are given a thematic brief to respond to. Students will have a preparatory period to research and develop their ideas before completing a 10-hour timed exam, where they will create a final photographic piece in response to the given theme. This allows students to work independently and apply their skills under exam conditions.

Course Summary

This course encourages students to develop their technical skills in using digital and traditional photographic equipment while also fostering personal expression and visual storytelling. Students will learn to explore various photographic techniques, from composition and lighting to digital manipulation, as they develop a strong and diverse portfolio of work. GCSE Photography is ideal for students with a passion for visual storytelling and a desire to explore photography as both an art form and a means of personal expression.

Progression

GCSE Photography provides a solid foundation for a wide range of future opportunities in both creative and professional fields. Students who complete this course can go on to pursue further education in photography, art, media, or design. The skills gained can also lead to opportunities in areas such as commercial photography, fashion photography, photojournalism, or even film and television production. The ability to tell stories through images is also valuable in digital marketing, advertising, and social media management. Additionally, the technical and creative skills learned in this course, such as attention to detail, critical thinking, and visual communication, are transferable to a variety of other fields.



Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2 Sports Studies Specification

Subject Lead: Mr S Horton

How will I be assessed?

Two coursework components plus an external examination

Component 1 (20%): Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities

Component 2 (40%): Performance and leadership in sports activities

Component 3 (40%) Exam: Contemporary issues in sport

Course Summary

This course is a mixture of practical and theoretical learning and suits students who want to learn more about the wider world of sport. Students will develop skills as a performer in two different sporting activities and learn how to lead sporting activity sessions. They will also create a plan for, write and evaluate an activity session, to further develop their leadership skills. They will analyse their own performance to help improve themselves and their skills in sport.

We will support students to develop the skills of team working, research and planning and help them to understand that sports performance goes far beyond just the simple physical activity of sport. They are expected to take part in outdoor and adventurous activities in natural settings, learning how to do this safely as well as understanding the benefits that these activities offer to people.

Progression

Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills that they can apply to a range of approaches that are relevant to the workplace or higher education. They will be able to work with independence to create material which shows effective planning, development and evaluation, and an ability to demonstrate practical skills and qualities. Successful completion of this course can lead to Level 3 or A level courses in Sports Studies or Physical Education.

BTEC First Level 1/2 Sport Specification

Subject Lead: Mr S Horton

How will I be assessed?

There are two internally assessed components and one external examination.

Component 1 (30%): Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity

Component 2 (30%): Taking Part and Improving Other Participants' Sporting Performance

Component 3 (40%): Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants' Performance in Sport and Physical Activity (exam)

Course Summary

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and skills in the following areas:

- investigating provisions for sport including equipment and facilities to enhance sport
- planning and delivery of sport drills and sessions
- fitness for sport including fitness testing and methodology

Progression

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Sport (2016) or a BTEC National in Sport and Exercise Science (2016), which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the Sport Sciences or teaching sectors.

WJEC GCSE Textile Design Specification

Subject Lead: Mrs C Moorcroft

How will I be assessed?

60% of the final grade is a coursework portfolio; 40 % is externally set assessment.

Coursework Portfolio: Over the course of the year, students will work on a series of projects that cover different aspects of textile design, including fabric manipulation, embroidery, dyeing, printing, and garment construction. The coursework will involve exploring themes, experimenting with different materials, and developing design ideas from initial concept through to finished pieces. Students will also engage in research, refine their technical skills, and document their creative journey, producing a comprehensive portfolio that reflects their personal style and technical development.

Externally Set Assessment: The externally set assessment consists of a set of tasks provided by the exam board, which students will respond to over a preparatory period followed by a 10-hour timed exam. During this exam, students will produce a final textile piece that demonstrates their ability to work independently, apply their design skills, and meet the requirements of the given brief. This is an opportunity for students to showcase their creativity and technical ability under exam conditions.

Course Summary

The GCSE Textile Design course provides students with the opportunity to explore and experiment with a wide variety of textile techniques, materials, and processes. This course encourages creativity, innovation, and the development of personal expression through the medium of fabric, print, and design. Students will learn to work both practically and conceptually, applying their artistic skills to produce original and imaginative textile creations. This course is ideal for students passionate about textiles, fashion, and design, and it lays a strong foundation for further studies in creative fields.

Progression

Students may choose to pursue further studies in art and design-related fields, such as A-levels in Textile Design, Fashion, or Surface Design, or explore specialized courses in areas like Fashion Design, Costume Design, or Interior Design. The skills acquired in Textile Design can lead to careers in areas such as fashion design, textile manufacturing, print and pattern design, or even roles in visual merchandising and marketing. The course also helps students develop transferable skills, such as attention to detail, creativity, and project management, which are beneficial in any career path.