

Key Stage 4 Options: A Pathway to Success



CAISTER ACADEMY
Creative Education Trust
School of Literature
and Performing Arts

2024-2026

Caister Academy
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Lead Practitioner

Ambition • Opportunity • Character • Community

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Caister Academy: A Pathway to Success

Welcome

I am pleased to welcome you to 'Key Stage 4 Options: A Pathway to Success'. The options process is your chance to shape your future in education, training, and employment. It is a defining moment and one that you should take with careful thought and consideration.

As an academy, our vision is to provide a **broad range of choices** that enable all our learners to **achieve academic excellence** and **educational fulfillment**. In other words, we want you to achieve outstanding grades across a curriculum that you find stimulating, engaging and enjoyable.

Our expectations are that you will take at least 8 qualifications, however, you will find a great deal of choice in what subjects make up these 8. There are some key terms that it is helpful to familiarise yourself with as you research your options:

GCSE (9-1)

The majority of the courses we offer are GCSEs. These are mainly assessed through examinations at the end of the courses and you are awarded a grade ranging from 9 – 1.

BTEC and Vocational Courses

These courses are equal to GCSEs in the level of qualification, however they provide some form of practical/internal assessment throughout the course as well as an examination. You are awarded a grade ranging from Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction*.

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is a measure of success in a range of academic subjects. To meet the EBacc measure, students need to achieve a grade 4 or higher in: English, mathematics and two sciences, geography **or** history, **and** a language. Meeting these criteria does not gain students an additional qualification as such, therefore there is no requirement to take this exact selection of subjects. However, success across these EBacc subjects carries with it **academic prestige** and has been linked to a **wider range of options** at university for students.

Support

The information contained within this booklet will provide you with the knowledge you need to start making these choices. However, you can access support from key members of the school community:

- Your parents
- Your Form Tutor
- Your Class Teachers and the Heads of Department
- Your Head of Year
- Director of Raising Achievement – Miss Sharpe
- Lead Practitioner – Mr Sewter



Your Options at Caister Academy

Core Subjects

The following subjects are classed as **core qualifications** and will continue to form part of your curriculum during Years 10 and 11:

- English language
- English literature
- Mathematics
- Science – either triple award or combined

Your study of these subjects will result in a GCSE qualification.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc) Subjects

The following subjects are part of the English Baccalaureate and you **must choose at least one** of these to make up part of your curriculum during Years 10 and 11:

- Computer Science
- Geography
- History
- French
- German
- Spanish

Your study of these subjects will result in a GCSE qualification.

Non-Core Subjects

The following subjects can be selected to make up the remainder of your curriculum throughout Year 10 and 11:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| ▪ Art | ▪ Engineering |
| ▪ Business | ▪ Health & Social Care |
| ▪ Catering | ▪ Music |
| ▪ Dance | ▪ Photography |
| ▪ Digital Information Technology | ▪ Sport |
| ▪ Drama | ▪ Travel & Tourism |

Your study of these subjects will result in a Level 1 / 2 qualification of either a GCSE or equivalent.

Additional Entitlement

You will also continue to access physical education, religious education and personal, social and health education (PSHE), although these are not part of an awarded qualification. Development of skills and knowledge related to information technologies will be embedded throughout the curriculum.

Understanding your journey through education



Key Stage 3 (Years 7-9)

During Key Stage 3, you study a broad range of subjects designed to match the expectations of the National Curriculum. The academy creates a curriculum which gives you access to lots of different areas of potential future interest and ensures that you have had the grounding of knowledge and learning to be successful as you move on in life. These subjects include **core subjects** like English, mathematics and science, which you will continue to study throughout your time at Caister, but also **non-core subjects** like history, geography, performing arts, creative arts and technology, physical education, etc.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10-11)

In Key Stage 4, you will continue to study the **core subjects**, but you will also be able to choose which **non-core subjects** you would like to focus on and take a qualification in. You will find a broader array of courses on offer, so it is worth reading all the information about the different subjects so that you can make an informed choice. After all, these are the subjects that will give you access to further education and career pathways.

What happens next?

After you complete Key Stage 4, you will be required to do one of the following until you are 18:

- stay in full-time education, for example at a college
- start an apprenticeship or traineeship
- spend 20 hours or more a week working or volunteering, while in part-time education or training

Your achievement during Key Stage 4 will provide you with a wide range of options linked to these pathways.

“It is personal. That’s what an education does. It makes the world personal.” — Cormac McCarthy

Essential advice about choosing GCSEs

Enjoyment

Choose subjects you think you will enjoy. This means researching content closely and asking teachers and others who know you well for advice.



Aptitude

Choose subjects which you think you will be good at - you will be more likely to enjoy them as well. Think about why you might enjoy particular subjects and how committed you feel – e.g. Drama: have you enjoyed performing previously? Do you like working collaboratively? Are you committed enough to rehearse for GCSE performance work in the evenings and maybe at weekends?



Prospects

Think seriously about future ambitions. If you already have a university course in mind, check entry requirements for specific courses at university and work back from there.



Balance

If you have no idea what you want to do in the future make sure that your *options* provide a broad and balanced programme.

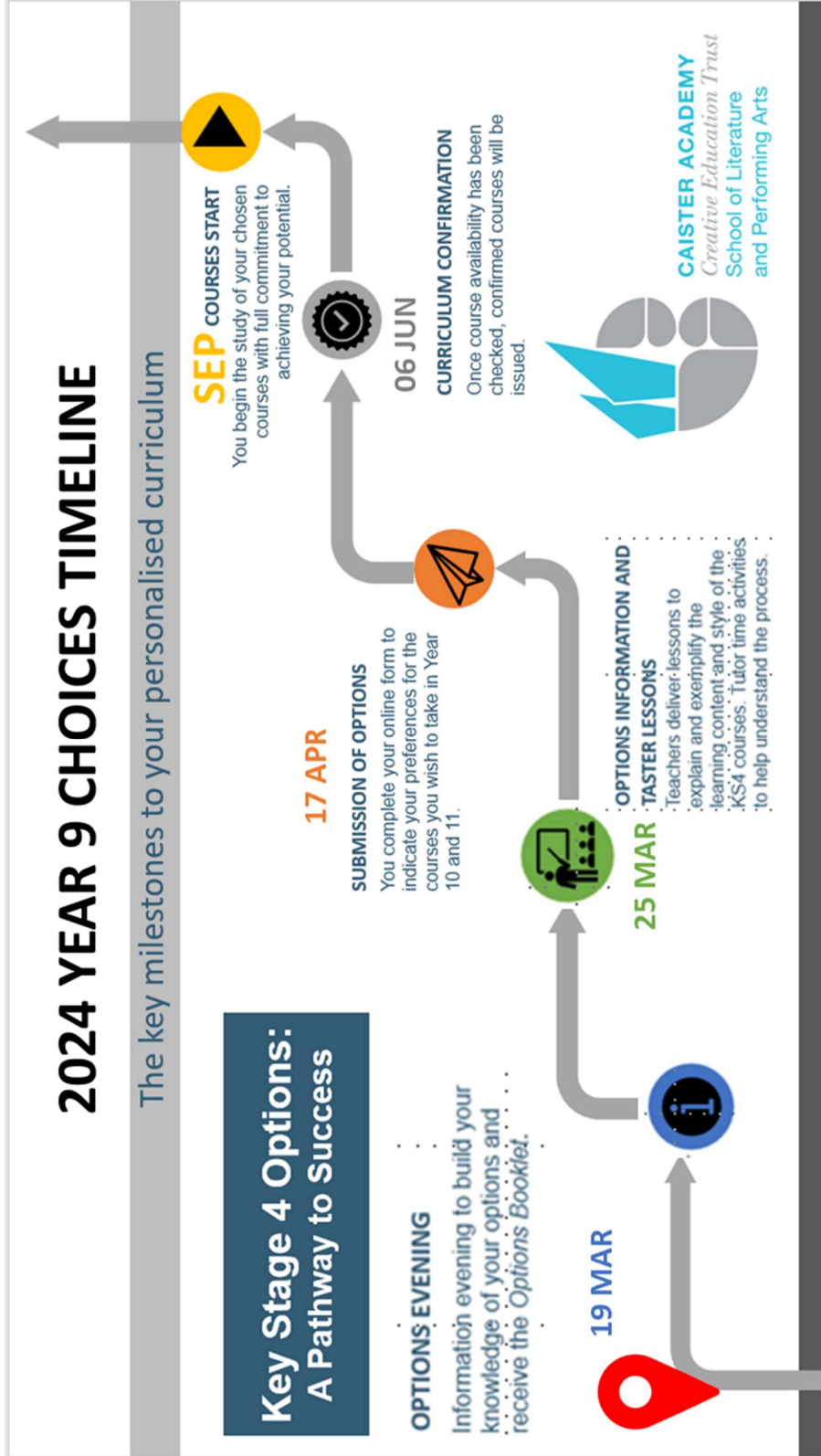


Independence

Don't choose on the basis of what friends are doing or on the basis of favourite teachers. Make your own decisions.



Options Timeline



English Language

*Provisional Course Details: AQA/8700/GCSE

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills around three key areas:

Reading – you will learn how to interpret, analyse, evaluate and compare both fiction and non-fiction texts selected from a wide range of engaging and topical sources.

Writing – you will learn how to become a powerful communicator of the written word. You will develop both your narrative and transactional voice throughout the two years.

Spoken Language – you will learn how to present your ideas powerfully through the spoken word.

How will I be assessed?

You will take 2 exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 will assess your reading skills based around an unseen fiction text, and your ability to write effectively in the form of description or narrative.
- Paper 2 will assess your reading skills based around transactional texts, and your ability to write effectively in the form of a speech, letter, article or essay.

Both papers are equally weighted and are combined to award you a 9-1 grade.

You will also complete an internal assessment of your Spoken Language component.

- You will deliver a 10-minute presentation on a topic of your choice to a small audience. You will be awarded a pass, merit, or distinction for this component.



What careers will this give me access to?

GCSE English Language is a core expectation of many careers as it shows your power as a communicator. More specific career pathways might include journalism, media and teaching.

What do current students say about the course?

"Studying English Language allows me to enhance my writing and use it creatively."

"Studying English Language has allowed me to develop my vocabulary and has allowed me to use this to my advantage in such things as college and job applications. I can put my ideas across in a more formal and structured way."

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Your class teacher
- Mrs Higgins – Curriculum Leader
- Mrs Ingham – SLT English Link

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Persuasive talkers*
- ✓ *Creative writers*
- ✓ *Passionate readers*
- ✓ *Curious thinkers*
- ✓ *Future leaders!*

*Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.

English Literature

*Provisional Course Details: AQA/8702/GCSE

What will I study?

Students will study a range of different forms of Literature and develop their analytical skills to be able comment on the writers' use of methods, layers of meaning and the influence of historical contexts. Texts studied throughout the course are:

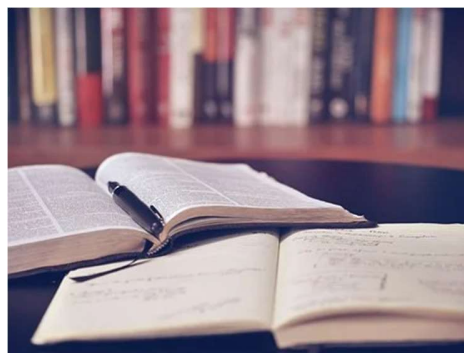
- Shakespeare: *Romeo & Juliet*
- 19th Century Novel: *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens
- Modern Text: *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley or *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
- Power & Conflict Poetry Anthology
- Unseen Poetry

How will I be assessed?

You will take two exams at the end of Year 11:

Both papers are combined to award you a 9-1 grade.

- Paper 1 – Shakespeare & the 19th Century Novel is weighted at 40% of your overall grade. The exam consists of two extract questions, one on each of the texts you have studied. You will use the extract as a starting point to comment on the use of the writer's methods and identify links to context within your analytical essay as well as commenting on the text as a whole.
- Paper 2 – Modern Texts & Poetry is weighted at 60% of your overall grade. In this exam, you will answer one question on the modern text you have studied by writing an analytical essay. Then, you will compare two of the fifteen Power & Conflict poems you have studied and analyse two unseen poems.



What careers will this give me access to?

GCSE English Literature lends itself to many different job opportunities including publishing, advertising, marketing and teaching.

What do current students say about the course?

"English Literature is really interesting as you get to explore why a writer has created the text, not just read what they wrote."

"Studying English Literature allows me to appreciate the thought process of the author by looking at their writing style."

"I particularly liked the poetry unit of English Literature; it is so clever how much content a writer can fit into a single poem!"

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Your class teacher
- Mrs Higgins – Curriculum Leader
- Mrs Ingham – SLT English Link

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Passionate readers*
- ✓ *Critical thinkers*
- ✓ *Keen debaters*
- ✓ *Eager historians*

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Mathematics

*Provisional Course Details: AQA/8300/GCSE

What will I study?

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping you with the right skills to reach your future destination, whatever that may be.

Students will study a range of mathematical topics including:

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

How will I be assessed?

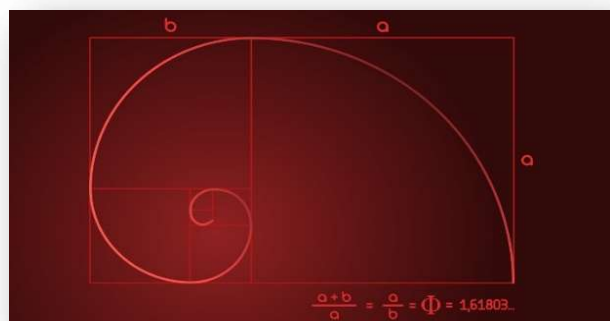
You will take 3 exams at the end of Year 11:

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 3 – 9). You must take three question papers at the same tier that will all contribute equally to your final grade.

Paper 1: Non-calculator

Paper 2 and 3: Calculator

The three papers will test your knowledge, understanding and skills across the range of topics studied through a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The exam's mathematical demand increases as you progress through the paper.



What careers will this give me access to?

You name it Mathematics is in it! It is the key which opens so many doors to incredible opportunities and has been referred to as 'The pivot on which the world turns'. I couldn't agree more!

Problem solving, communication, analysis and interpretation of data and creativity are all skills and attributes which employers value extremely highly and will aid you as you progress on your chosen career path.

What do current students say about the course?

"No teacher will ever put you down, if you get an answer wrong, you're actually helping to develop everyone's understanding! Teachers use that answer to help you and your classmates to improve."

"You learn lots of interesting topics, including trigonometry and quadratics!"

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Your class teacher
- Mr Soanes – Curriculum Leader
- Mr Barker – Lead Practitioner

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

1. Logical strategic thinkers
2. Problem solvers
3. Anyone with an interest in how the world works.
4. People with an appreciation of history, and the beauty and joy of Mathematics.

*Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.

Science

***Provisional Course Details: AQA/8464/GCSE**

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills and expertise within the 3 disciplines of science:

- **Biology:** this is the study of living organisms. We examine the processes that they undertake to survive and develop to create our diverse ecosystem of our planet.
- **Chemistry:** here, you will learn how the materials that make up our world are ordered and arranged.
- **Physics:** this is the study of energy, forces, mechanics, waves and the structure of atoms.

How will I be assessed?

Combined Science

You will take 2 exams for each science at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 will assess your understanding of cells and organisation; atomic structure and material properties; and energy and electricity.
- Paper 2 will assess your understanding of biological control processes; the Earth and a finite resource; radioactivity, magnetism, and forces.
- During lessons, you will also be carrying out a range of required practical work to develop your skill set as a scientist of the future.

Triple Award Science

- For the separate science award, students will sit a longer more detailed paper for each subject that goes into greater depth.
- Two grades are awarded for combined Science and three for the separate science.
- Those who wish to follow the triple science pathway will require to stay after school for a period 6 lesson every week and undertake more supported independent learning at home. More details are given to pupils who wish to study the triple pathway in GCSE science lessons.



What careers will this give me access to?

GCSE science is a core expectation of many careers as it develops your skills in critical thinking, analysing data and evaluating practice. More specific career pathways might include working in the field of medicine, engineering, architecture, and computer sciences.

What do current students say about the course?

"Science helps me to understand the key issues that the world faces today like global warming and climate change."

"It has made me think about what I want to do in the future, I didn't realise there were so many occupations in the field of science."

Who do I speak to for more information?

- **Your class teacher**
- **Mr Sewell – Director of Science**

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Analytical thinkers*
- ✓ *Constantly curious*
- ✓ *Passionate environmentalists*
- ✓ *Logical minded*
- ✓ *Future leaders!*

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Computer Science

***Provisional Course Details: OCR Computer Science**

Entry requirements: Students need to be working towards a minimum of grade 6 in mathematics to choose this course. If you are not working at this level, please consider the Digital Information Technology course.

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills around three key areas:

- An introduction to the central processing unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, data representation, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software. It also looks at ethical, legal, cultural, and environmental concerns associated with computer science.
- The application of knowledge and understanding gained in component 01. You will develop skills and understanding in computational thinking: algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, and translators.
- The opportunity to undertake programming tasks during your course of study, which allows you to develop your skills to design, write, test and refine programs using a high-level programming language, usually Python. You will be assessed on these skills during the written examinations, in particular component 02.

How will I be assessed?

- Parts 1 and 2 are assessed through an external written exam.



What careers will this give me access to?

Studying this course will give you access to further and higher education courses that in turn will prepare you for a career in the following areas: software developer, database administrator, computer hardware engineer, computer systems analyst, computer network architect, web developer, information security analyst, computer and information research scientists, etc.

What do current students say about the course?

“Computer science is really interesting. I am currently creating software with python and learning how a PC works. I would recommend this course to anyone who has an interest in computers and coding.” – ZP, Year 10

Who do I speak to for more information?

- **Mr Wright - Teacher of Computing and Business**

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Students who want to learn programming*
- ✓ *Logical thinkers*
- ✓ *Creative designers*
- ✓ *Mathematics thinkers*

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Geography

***Provisional Course Details: AQA/8035/GCSE**

What will I study?

GCSE Geography will help you to understand more about the world, the challenges it faces and your place within it. Geography is exciting and dynamic.

Students will study:

Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment:

- The challenges of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK
-

Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment:

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

Paper 3: Geographical Applications:

- Issue evaluation
- Fieldwork

How will I be assessed?

You will take three examinations at the end of Year 11

- Paper 1 Living with the Physical Environment: (35%)
- Paper 2 Challenges in the Human Environment: (35%)
- Paper 3 Geographical Applications: (30%)



What careers will this give me access to?

GCSE Geography opens doors to many careers. These could include climate science, engineering, conservation, politics, urban development, hazard management, social work, law, teaching, pilot, journalism, environment agency, Armed Forces, meteorology.

What do current students say about the course?

“Geography is great because not only do you get to understand the world around you and how it works but you also learn how you can make a change for the better.” KS year 11

“If you are interested in the study of how our world and economy works then geography is for you. I have enjoyed my geography journey at Caister Academy due to the interesting topics, supportive staff, and constant updates about what is happening in the world. Geography can take you far in life as many jobs value employees with the skills of this subject. Geography is far more in depth than people think; it dives deep into the reasons of why and how we are here and what we need to do to keep this planet successful in the future.” OG Year 11

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Mrs Smith – Director of Humanities
- Mr Blackburn – Teacher of Geography

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ **Problem solvers**
- ✓ **Critical thinkers**
- ✓ **Debaters**
- ✓ **People who are interested in learning about the world we live in**

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

History

*Course Details: Pearson Edexcel (9-1) 1HI0

What will I study?

Students will study the following 4 Units:

1) Medicine in Britain, 1250-present:

- Ideas about the cause of disease and illness
- Approaches to prevention and treatment

There will also be a focus on World War 1:

- The trench system, injuries, and treatments
- How war developed medicine

2) Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88

- Government and religion
- Challenges to Elizabeth's power
- Life in Elizabethan society

3) The American West, 1835-95

- The lives of indigenous tribes
- The settlement of the American West
- Conflict and conquest

4) Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-39

- Germany after World War 1
- The rise of Adolf Hitler
- Nazi control and dictatorship

How will I be assessed?

You will take 3 exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 – Medicine in Britain (30%)
- Paper 2 – Early Elizabethan England and The American West (40%)
- Paper 3 – Weimar and Nazi Germany (30%)

* Both the Early Elizabethan England and The American West papers are sat at the same time, in different exam booklets. The topics are worth 20% each.

The papers test a range of skills including inference, source analysis, description, explanation, and judgement.



What careers will this give me access to?

Gaining a grade in GCSE History is convincing proof to any future employer that you can think clearly and objectively; that you can question judgements and write reasoned arguments. These are key skills needed for any job. More specific career pathways might include archaeologist, journalist, lawyer or teacher.

What do current students say about the course?

- 'I would recommend GCSE History because it has useful knowledge and is a very fun GCSE to choose.' (Year 11)
- 'I chose GCSE History because the topics that we study are interesting.' (Year 10)
- 'What would I improve about my GCSE History lessons - nothing, I like them how they are.' (Year 10)

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Mrs McMillan – Curriculum Leader
- Miss Mallett – History Teacher

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ Students who like to debate ideas and investigate causes of life changing events.
- ✓ Students who are able to recall key events, make judgements, explain events and ideas.

*Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.

French

***Provisional Course Details: AQA/8652/GCSE**

What will I study?

You will build upon your work in Years 7, 8 and 9, developing your skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing, as well as your ability to manipulate the structures of the language through the themes of:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

How will I be assessed?

You will take 4 (higher or foundation tier) exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 Listening – Exam (25%)
- Paper 2 Speaking – Oral exam (25%)
- Paper 3 Reading – Exam (25%)
- Paper 4 Writing – Exam (25%)

[The oral exam will be conducted by your teacher]



What careers will this give me access to?

The ability to speak and understand French is an advantage in the international job market and it is the international language of cooking, fashion, theatre, the visual arts, dance and architecture, as well as being the official language of diplomacy and the International Olympic Committee. It is the third most widely used language in international business after English and German internationally, but it is also an analytical language which develops critical thinking.

Choosing a language can also open doors to a wider range of degree options, as languages can be combined with business, history, science, among many more.

What do current students say about the course?

"I chose French because I enjoy it and it will help me further in life".

"I chose French so that I can understand people who speak French all over the world."

"I chose French because the lessons are interesting and fun".

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Mrs Rodwell – French Teacher
- Mrs Wood – Curriculum Leader

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Students with an interest in the wider world*
- ✓ *Students who enjoy communicating*
- ✓ *Students with analytical skills*
- ✓ *Problem solvers*

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

German

***Provisional Course Details: AQA/8662/GCSE**

What will I study?

You will build upon your work in Years 7, 8 and 9, developing your skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing, as well as your ability to manipulate the structures of the language through the themes of:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

How will I be assessed?

You will take 4 (higher or foundation tier) exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 Listening – Exam (25%)
- Paper 2 Speaking – Oral exam (25%)
- Paper 3 Reading – Exam (25%)
- Paper 4 Writing – Exam (25%)

[The oral exam will be conducted by your teacher]



What careers will this give me access to?

Studying German is a valuable asset in the eyes of FE colleges and universities, as well as employers. Taking German can play an important part in enhancing your career prospects, where people with language skills can earn 8 – 12% more. 1 in 5 companies are aware of losing business due to language barriers, and 30% are hiring people specifically for their language skills [source: Chamber of Commerce]. German continues to be essential in obtaining a good job and a fulfilling career.

Choosing a language can also open doors to a wider range of degree options, as languages can be combined with business, history, science, among many more.

What do current students say about the course?

"I took German because it is useful as it is spoken in more than one country."

"I took German because I like learning about different cultures, and I like to learn new languages."

"German is easy to learn in a smaller group and it can be fun a lot of the time".

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Mrs Wood – Curriculum Leader

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ Students with an interest in the wider world
- ✓ Students who enjoy communicating
- ✓ Students with analytical skills
- ✓ Problem solvers

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Spanish

*Provisional Course Details: AQA/8692/GCSE

What will I study?

You will build upon your work in Years 7, 8 and 9, developing your skills of listening, reading, speaking, and writing, as well as your ability to manipulate the structures of the language through the themes of:

- Theme 1: People and lifestyle
- Theme 2: Popular culture
- Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

How will I be assessed?

You will take 4 (higher or foundation tier) exams at the end of Year 11:

- Paper 1 Listening – Exam (25%)
- Paper 2 Speaking – Oral exam (25%)
- Paper 3 Reading – Exam (25%)
- Paper 4 Writing – Exam (25%)

[The oral exam will be conducted by your teacher]



What careers will this give me access to?

The ability to speak and understand Spanish is an advantage in the international job market and it is spoken in many countries around the world. Roughly 500 million people speak Spanish in over 20 countries. As a result, Spanish can offer more opportunities in the world of work.

Choosing a language can also open doors to a wider range of degree options, as languages can be combined with business, history, science, among many more.

Reasons to Learn Spanish:

- There are around 400 million speakers of Spanish around the world.
- Develop your understanding of other cultures.
- Make yourself a more desirable employee.

What do current students say about the course?

"I took Spanish because it is a beautiful language, and it is helpful as a qualification".

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Mrs Rodwell – Spanish Teacher
- Mrs Wood – Curriculum Leader

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ Pupils with an interest in the wider world
- ✓ Pupils who enjoy communicating
- ✓ Pupils with analytical skills
- ✓ Problem solvers

*Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.

Art and Design – Fine Art

Provisional Course - OCR Art and Design

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills around three key areas:

- Art and Design complements literary, mathematical, scientific, and factual subjects. It is especially concerned with visual perception and aesthetics and is a form of communication and a means of **expressing ideas and feelings**.
- There is also a **written critical study** in the course where students need to evaluate artists and reflect on the **development of ideas visually**. This will involve **students exploring and extending their key skills in communication and problem solving**.
- To follow this course, students need to draw upon skills acquired during Year 8/9 and to develop these in their creative work. While doing this they will enjoy developing a more independent approach to work and **experiment with a variety of materials** using photography, printmaking, painting, drawing and three-dimensional forms. Enthusiasm and commitment is needed to do well, as well as good time management.

During the first year in GCSE, Year 10 develop the technical skills and understanding of art. In the second-year students have the freedom to allow their interests, curiosity, and aptitudes to dictate the focus of their studies.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 100% coursework and is divided into two components.

- Component 1 (60%): a Portfolio of practical work showing student's personal response to a center-set stimulus.
- Component 2 (40%): This project will be based on the early release paper, issued on 2 January of Year 11. This provides students with five themes to choose from and to build a portfolio around.



What careers will this give me access to?

A GCSE in art can lead you into many different career paths, in many different sectors. For example: advertising, computer games, visual effects, fashion, film and television, photography, illustration... to name but a few. The list really is endless. Talk to your teacher for more information.

What do current students say about the course?

"You don't get marked for being right or wrong-it's your interpretation that counts."

"I've learned a lot about different artists and styles which is really useful and interesting."

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Miss Atkinson – Curriculum Leader
- Miss Cushion – Art Teacher

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Self-motivated learners*
- ✓ *Responsible students*
- ✓ *Creative risk-taking students*
- ✓ *Confident students showing initiative and able to develop ideas*

**Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.*

Art and Design – Graphics

Provisional Course - OCR Art and Design

Note: Students cannot select both graphics and art and design.

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills around three key areas:

- Students will **explore, research, acquire techniques** and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of graphic design methods.
- There is also a **written critical study** in the course where students need to evaluate artists/photographers/designers and reflect on the **development of ideas visually**. This will involve **students exploring and extending their key skills in communication and problem solving**.
- Students will be expected to demonstrate a specialisation in a particular area of design to allow an appropriate depth of study.
- **Drawing skills** should be understood and developed as appropriate to the ways of recording and communicating intentions, ideas and emotions in the context of graphic design.

During the first year in GCSE, Year 10 develop the technical skills and understanding of graphic design. In the second-year students have the freedom to allow their interests, curiosity, and aptitudes to dictate the focus of their studies.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 100% coursework and is divided into two components.

- Component 1 (60%): a Portfolio of practical work showing student's personal response to a center-set stimulus.
- Component 2 (40%): This project will be based on the early release paper, issued on 2 January of Year 11.



What careers will this give me access to?

A GCSE in graphic design can lead you into many different career paths, in many different sectors. For example: advertising, graphic designer, visual effects, illustration, film and television, publishing, branding... to name but a few. The list really is endless. Talk to your teacher for more information.

What do current students say about the course?

"You don't get marked for being right or wrong-it's your interpretation that counts."

"I've learned a lot about different artists and styles which is really useful and interesting."

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Miss Atkinson – Curriculum Leader
- Miss Cushion – Art Teacher

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Self-motivated learners*
- ✓ *Responsible students*
- ✓ *Creative risk-taking students*
- ✓ *Confident students showing initiative and able to develop ideas*

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Business and Enterprise

***Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise**

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills around three key areas:

This qualification has been designed to sit alongside the requirements of core GCSE subjects and is appropriate for students who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences and through content which is concrete and directly related to those experiences.

This course will teach you to understand:

- Entrepreneurial characteristics and business aims and objectives.
- Legal structures, organisational structures and stakeholder engagement.
- The marketing mix, market research, market types and orientation types.
- Operations management.
- Internal and external influences on business.
- Research, resource planning and growth for business.
- Human resource requirements for a business start-up.
- Sources of enterprise funding and business finance.
- Business and enterprise planning.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 is externally assessed through coursework which has a 30% weighting. Component 2 is also assessed through moderated coursework with a 30% weighting. Component 3 is a final external examination weighted at 40%.



What careers will this give me access to?

Business offers students the opportunity to study different types of businesses in different industries. It looks at why they exist, how they are set up and how they are run.

Everyone works in an organisation which is a business of some sort – so studying business is useful as you develop skills that are found in most jobs. Business studies will give you the skills of coming up with business ideas, using mathematical skills to analyse data, making decisions and developing your communication skills through presentations and reports - all highly transferable skills.

Business studies can lead into a wide range of careers such as marketing, HR, finance and law.

Who do I speak to for more information?

- **Mr Aldous – Teacher of Business**

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Self-motivated learners*
- ✓ *Responsible students*
- ✓ *Future entrepreneurs*
- ✓ *Independent thinkers*

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Catering

***Provisional Course Details: WJEC Level 1 / 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering**

What will I study?

Throughout the course, students will learn both about the hospitality and catering industry, as well the practical skills of working in this sector. Through the successful study of the course, you will:

- Understand the environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate.
- Understand how hospitality and catering provisions operate.
- Understand how hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements.
- Know how food can cause ill health.
- Be able to propose a hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements.
- Understand the importance of nutrition when planning menus.
- Understand menu planning.
- **Be able to cook dishes!**

How will I be assessed?

You will study two units of learning:

- Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry which will be assessed through an external **online** exam (40%). Students can retake this exam on one occasion to support in achieving their potential.
- Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action which will be assessed through internal **practical** assessment. (60%)



What careers will this give me access to?

- Accommodation manager
- Catering manager
- Chef
- Conference centre manager
- Event manager
- Fast food restaurant manager
- Hotel manager
- Public house manager
- Restaurant manager

The hospitality sector offers good prospects for early responsibility, so if you show a willingness and ability to learn, you can gain experience of supervising and training new staff early on in your career.

Who do I speak to for more information?

- **Your class teacher**
- **Miss Mason – Head of Technology**

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Future caterers or those with an interest in the hospitality industry*
- ✓ *Organised, self-motivated students!*

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Dance

***Provisional Course Details: BTEC Performing Arts (Dance pathway) / Level 2**

What will I study?

Skills and Knowledge covered:

- Analytical skills – You will learn how to analyse three productions and the contextual features that belong to each genre and performance.
- Technical and Interpretive skills – You will develop your physical and performance skills within three dance styles, during technical workshops and replication of choreography.
- Chorographical Skills – You will learn how to create choreography, with deep expansion using structure and choreographic devices.

How will I be assessed?

There are three components to the course.

- Component 1 (Exploring the Performing Arts) - Assessed internally
- Component 2 (Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts) - Assessed internally
- Component 3 (Responding to a brief) - Assessed externally
-

After the completion of every component, you will be awarded a grade pass, merit or distinction. These grades will accumulate to a final overall grade.

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Creative thinkers*
- ✓ *Confident students*
- ✓ *Pupils with a dance background*
- ✓ *Hard working beginners!*
- ✓ *Passionate performers*



What careers will this give me access to?

BTEC Dance can lead to many careers outside of the Performing Arts Industry, as the course develops creativity, leadership, teamwork and physical ability. However, this course can also lead to more specific career pathways, including as a professional dancer, choreographer, teacher, or a career in the fitness industry.

What do current students say about the course?

"BTEC Dance is my favourite lesson, it is really fun!"

"BTEC Dance, allows me to utilise my creativity in ways that the core subjects don't – it's nice to have a bit of freedom."

"I love BTEC Dance because I get a chance to perform and learn brilliant choreography."

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Miss Sharpe - Teacher and Assessor
- Miss Curston – Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Creative iMedia

*Provisional Course Details: OCR Creative iMedia J834

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills around three key areas:

1. Creative iMedia in the media industry
2. Visual identity and graphics
3. Interactive digital media

How will I be assessed?

Components 2 and 3 are assessed through internal assessment. The internal assessment for these components are designed to relate to the achievement of application of the conceptual underpinning for the sector through realistic tasks and activities.

There is one external assessment, Component 1, it provides the main synoptic assessment for the qualification. Component 1 builds directly on Components 2 and 3 and enables learning to be brought together and related to real-life situations.

This course is for students who want to acquire technical knowledge and practical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to digital product production, graphics and interactive media forms.

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**



What careers will this give me access to?

Ideal for learners who want a career in digital media and want to get a broad taste of digital skills.

- A stepping-stone to careers like IT Project Management, digital media production.
- Visual identity is a vital component of any business, product or brand. It makes a brand recognizable and helps sell a product or idea to a target audience. In this qualification you will learn how to develop visual identities for clients and apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences.
- The media industry is vast, covering different sectors and providing work for freelance creatives as well as large teams in design houses and multinational companies.

Who do I speak to for more information?

- **Mr Wright – Teacher of Computing and Business**

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Those with a keen interest in a career in IT*
- ✓ *Students who want to learn a strong mix of creative design and technical knowledge*
- ✓ *Ideal for learners who want to progress to a digital Apprenticeship or BTEC Level 3 National*
- ✓ *Students who want to gain a real insight into the modern fundamentals of IT*
- ✓ *Organised, self-motivated students!*

Drama

***Provisional Course Details: AQA/8261/GCSE**

What will I study?

Students will develop their skills around three key areas:

- Understanding Drama – you will learn about the characteristics of performance texts, and how meaning is communicated to an audience, as well as roles and responsibilities in the theatre, and how to correctly use theatre terminology.
- Devising Drama – you will learn how to create and develop ideas to communicate meaning in a devised theatrical performance.
- Texts in Practice – you will learn how to contribute to a text-based drama in a live theatre context for an audience.

How will I be assessed?

You will complete 1 piece of coursework in Year 10:

- You will be assessed on the performance of an original devised duologue or group piece. You will also be required to produce an individual devising log documenting the devising process and an analysis and evaluation of your contribution. (40%)

You will complete 1 practical exam and 1 written exam in Year 11:

- Practical exam: you will perform 2 extracts from 1 play in a live performance to an invited examiner. (20%)
- Written exam: you will be assessed on your knowledge and understanding of how drama and theatre is developed and performed, including in connection to a set play and on your ability to analyse and evaluate the live theatre work of others. (40%)



What careers will this give me access to?

GCSE Drama is not just for those students who wish to pursue a career in acting. It provides a wealth of opportunities, from directing to costume designing to film and television production. The skills developed in Drama are also invaluable across a wide range of other sectors, due to the confidence, teamwork, and communication skills it will equip you with.

What do current students say about the course?

"Drama is one of the best lessons – there's no wrong answers as such, so you really have that freedom to explore your creativity and express how you feel."

"GCSE drama is really fun. You get to do lots of practical lessons and work as a team with your friends and classmates."

"Even the writing is fun – the lessons are a good balance of practical and non-practical."

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Miss Curston - Curriculum Leader of Performing Arts & Drama Teacher

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ **Confident communicators**
- ✓ **Passionate performers**
- ✓ **Team players**
- ✓ **Creative thinkers**
- ✓ **Future Oscar winners!**

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Engineering

What will I study?

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on the following areas:

- Development of key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research, observation, measurement, making, using computer-aided design (CAD) and the full range of engineering workshop equipment in our newly refurbished engineering department.
- Knowledge of the stages involved in planning and implementing an engineering project.
- Knowledge and skills involved in the investigation of solutions to engineering problems in response to a given brief.
- Knowledge of a range of engineering careers and laws.



How will I be assessed?

The course is divided into coursework and an external set task. Both are completed in year 11.

- Coursework: 60% of the overall grade. An 18-hour set task where students develop and create an engineered product to solve a problem.
- The Examination in a formal exam and draws from core content taught in year 10.



What careers will this give me access to?

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects.
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3 or employment or apprenticeship within the engineering industry.
- Opportunities for career progression are vast from mechanical, electrical, electronics, petroleum, chemical, biomedical, and technical sales engineer. There is a career in engineering to suit any talent.

What do current students say about the course?

"I had no idea engineering was such a vast subject."

"Engineering can take me anywhere I want."

"I have really enjoyed each topic and it has prepped me to continue my engineering study."

Who do I speak to for more information?

- **Miss Mason - Course Leader**

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**

Health and Social Care

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

What will I study?

The course will allow students to progress towards development of key skills that prove your aptitude in health and social care such as:

- The process that underpins effective ways of working in health and social care, such as designing a plan to improve an individual's health and wellbeing.
- The attitudes that are considered most important in health and social care, including the care values that are vitally important in the sector, and the opportunity to practice applying them.
- The knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.

How will I be assessed?

Component	Name	Assessment
1	Human Lifespan Development	Internal coursework
2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	Internal coursework
3	Health and Wellbeing	External exam

***Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.**



What careers will this give me access to?

Studying this course will give you access to further and higher education courses that in turn will prepare you for a career in the following areas:

- Health administration
- Care management
- Further Education teaching
- Community development
- Charity Officer
- Social work
- Nursing
- Health therapies

What do current students say about the course?

"I find it very interesting how much we develop and how many life stages we go through. I enjoy learning about the way we progress in how we grow. It's a fun thing to learn and it's totally different to other lessons. I think anybody who will take this course will enjoy it as much as I do." (HA Year 10)

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Miss Jackman – Teacher of Physical Education
- Mr Aldous – Teacher of Physical Education
- Mr McMillan – Head of Physical Education

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ Organised, self-motivated students
- ✓ Those with a genuine interest in the sector
- ✓ Those wanting to make a difference for other people

Music

Entry Requirements: You will need to be able to play an instrument or sing to take this course. Mrs Weihser will listen to your instrumental/vocal skills to make sure you can access all areas of the course.

You will need to perform to an audience as part of the coursework and exam requirements.

What will I study?

1. How to improve on my instrument/voice
2. Performance skills
3. Analysing and evaluating my performance and progression
4. Composition
5. How to plan and organise a musical event

How will I be assessed?

- Through coursework showing your progress on an instrument, musical knowledge and composition skills.
- An externally assessed unit showing your understanding of how to plan a musical event.



What careers will this give me access to?

Music is useful for any job that involves communication and expressive skills. It is also a good preparation for further musical study and a solid foundation for the National Diplomas (in Music, Popular Music and Music Technology) and the new vocational A Level in Performing Arts. Future jobs might include careers in the music industry, publishing, entertainment, and teaching.

What do current students say about the course?

"Studying music at key stage 4 not only allows you to explore different interpretations and research your favourite singers, bands, or musical genre, it also allows you to perform your own piece of music at the end of the course - you can really envision yourself being your favourite singer." (AH, Year 11)

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Mrs Weihser – Course Leader
- Miss Curston – Head of Performing Arts

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ Students who play an instrument or sing
- ✓ Students with a passion for music
- ✓ Students with discipline to practice, and improve
- ✓ Students eager to participate in music enrichment
- ✓ Creative thinkers

*Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.

Photography

OCR Art and Design: Photography J173 GCSE

What will I study?

Skills and Knowledge Covered:

- Students will **explore, research, acquire techniques** and develop their skills, knowledge and understanding in a range of photographic media.
- There is also a **written critical study** in the course where students need to evaluate artists/photographers and reflect on the **development of ideas visually**. This will involve **students exploring and extending their key skills in communication and problem solving**.
- Students will be expected to demonstrate a specialisation in a particular media or processes to allow an appropriate depth of study.
- **Drawing skills** should be understood and developed as appropriate to the ways of recording and communicating intentions, ideas, and emotions in the context of photography.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 100% coursework and is divided into two components.

- Component 1 (60%): a Portfolio of practical work showing student's personal response to a center-set stimulus.
- Component 2 (40%): This project will be based on the early release paper, issued on 2 January of year 11. This provides students with five themes to choose from and to build a portfolio around.



What careers will this give me access to?

A GCSE in photography can lead you into many different career paths, in many different sectors. For example:

- Advertising
- Computer games and visual effects
- Fashion
- Film and television production
- Digital photography and video art
- Art history
- Photojournalism

What do current students say about the course?

This is what GCSE students have to say about it.....

"You don't get marked for being right or wrong-it's your interpretation that counts."

"I've learned a lot about different artists and styles which is really useful and interesting."

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Miss Atkinson – Curriculum Leader
- Miss Cushion – Art Teacher

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Self-motivated learners*
- ✓ *Computer literate students*
- ✓ *Creative risk-taking students*
- ✓ *Confident students showing initiative and able to develop ideas*
- ✓ *Independent thinkers*

Religious Studies

Course Details: AQA/8062

What will I study?

You will consider different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. Students learn about two key religions and then go on to study four ethical topics. Through these, students will consider and evaluate a range of current and ethical issues including marriage, divorce, family life, animal testing, abortion, death, euthanasia, weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, peacemakers, types of crime, reasons for crime, aims of punishment, forgiveness.

Students will study:

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices.

- Christianity
- Islam

Component 2: Thematic studies:

- Relationships and families.
- Religion and life.
- Religion, peace and conflict.
- Religion, crime and punishment.

How will I be assessed?

You will take two written examinations at the end of Year 11:

- Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices (50%)
- Component 2: Thematic studies (50%)



Religious Studies

“Never stop asking why?”

What careers will this give me access to?

Students who study Religious Studies develop analytical, critical thinking and communication skills which are highly valued across a range of careers. Potential future jobs might be in the following sectors: NHS, civil service, youth and social work, law, politics, business, the charity sector, journalism and education.

What do current students say about the course?

This is an exciting new GCSE course for Caister Academy. Comments about the course from a student at our partner school Lynn Grove include:

‘Religious Studies gives you unique skills of communication and cultural knowledge that will help you in future careers. We spend time discussing what religions believe and discussing topics that are current and interesting.’ (TG Year 11)

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Mr Thomas-Ower – Teacher of Religious Studies
- Mrs Smith – Director of Humanities

Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ *Critical Thinkers*
- ✓ *Debaters*
- ✓ *People who are interested in life’s ‘Big Questions’.*

*Specific courses are reviewed on a regular basis. Examining body and course details will be confirmed in September 2024.

Sport Science

OCR Level 1 and 2 Cambridge National in Sport Science (J828)

QN – 603 /7106 /7

What will I study?

This is a demanding theory-based course which includes some practical elements. The course looks at an array of theory and practical elements required within the sport and fitness industry and include:

- Applying the principles of training
- Fitness and the impact on performance
- Anatomy and physiology
- Health and the effects of exercise on the body
- Sport injuries
- Use of technology in sport

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed in three components. Two internal (marked by your teacher and externally verified by OCR) through set assessments given by the exam board. The external unit is taken in year 11 and is a formal 1 hour 15-minute exam.

- **Component 1 (R180):** Reducing the risk of sport injuries and dealing with common medical conditions (External – Year 11 Exam)
- **Component 2 (R181 – 80marks):** Applying the principles of training: Fitness and how it affects skill performance (Internal – Year 10)
- **Component 3 (R182 – 40marks)** The body's response to physical activity and how technology can inform this (Internal – Year 11)



What careers will this give me access to?

Sport Science will give you the skills and confidence needed to progress into a fulfilling, exciting career in the sport and fitness industry or progression onto level 3 vocational/academic courses, jobs included:



Physiotherapist



Personal trainer



PE Teacher

What do current students say about the course?

"I think that OCR sport is a great subject to take as it allows you to learn how sport and exercise affects the body in a positive way. OCR sport teaches you that sport can have a positive mental and physical effect on the body as it allows you to express yourself and enjoy what you are doing. The teachers within OCR sport are extremely supportive and helpful, they are brilliant at explaining things in a way that you can understand. They are great at helping to meet deadlines with support that is provided at any time in a friendly and stress-free way. The assessments completed as part of the course are extremely interesting as they involve taking part in and analysing different training strategies and tests - there are many practical's involved so you are not always in a classroom writing or typing on a computer which I find makes the course interesting and fun. I would definitely recommend OCR sport as a subject to take if you enjoy taking part in sport and are interested about what effects this can have on you." (KN, Year 10)

Who do I speak to for more information?

- Your class teacher
- Mr McMillan – Curriculum Leader








Who would enjoy and be successful on this course?

- ✓ Fitness enthusiasts
- ✓ Keen sports people
- ✓ Organised, self-motivated students

Options Evening Record of Conversations

Subject Name	Questions and Answers	Reflections on Course Suitability

Additional Support and Information

 Brightside bright knowledge		 National Careers Service Helping you take the next step	
 icanbea...		 help you choose	
 UCAS		 start	
 icould		 Parental Guidance	

An Important Note...

Whilst we do our best to accommodate all student preferences, all courses offered are dependent on sufficient group sizes, curriculum viability and staffing availability. Where we cannot offer a course or match the combination of courses requested, students will be supported in exploring and choosing alternative subjects that they can excel in.

Notes

