



St. Louise's
Comprehensive College, Belfast

Choosing Your Key Stage 4 Subjects



SUBJECT CHOICES 2022-2024

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PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD

Dear Year 10 students

I am delighted to introduce to you to our Key Stage 4 Options Booklet for 2022-2024.

St Louise's is delighted to be able to offer you a wide range of subjects at Key Stage 4 and is one of the few schools in Northern Ireland that already fulfils the requirements of the Entitlement Framework. This means that we can offer you more than 24 subjects at Key Stage 4 of which at least one third are applied subjects and the other two thirds are general subjects. Every year we offer new courses to meet the changing demands of the economy and the needs of our students.

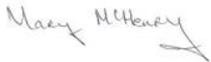
In St Louise's you can be confident that you have access to high-quality pathways which will lead to future success in third level education or the world of work.

Take a look inside and you will see subjects under the Arts, Business and Enterprise, Creative and Visual Arts, Enrichment, Environment and Society, Hospitality, Languages, Media, Occupational Studies, STEM subjects and Sport and Fitness. This wide range of subjects will allow you to choose a suite of subjects that suits your needs.

Please consider your choices carefully and make sure you ask for advice from your careers teachers. Above all else it must be an informed choice.

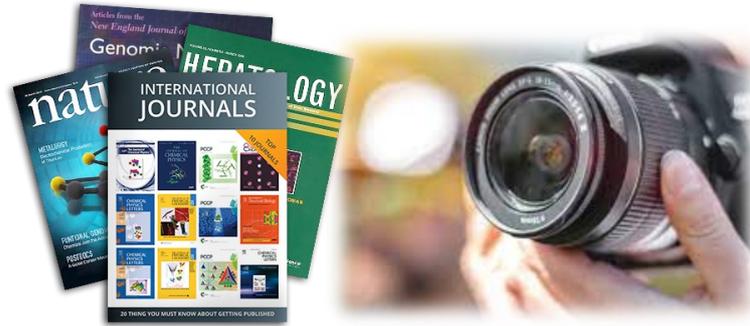
I wish you every success in your Key Stage 3 examinations and remember your future is extremely bright in St Louise's.

Yours faithfully



Miss McHenry





An Introduction to Courses in Arts, Media & Publication



SUBJECT: ART AND DESIGN

GCSE Art & Design is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

UNIT 1 60%

COURSE WORK PORTFOLIO (COMPLETED OVER 4 TERMS)

Candidates can choose a single theme or a range of themes to work from: **NO MORE THAN 20 A2 SHEETS (or equivalent)**

Candidates should include **ONE** task that is fully realised.

There should also be evidence of a broad and creative range of experiences in **both** 2 and 3 dimension in fine art, craft and design (where possible).

Hand in date for Unit 1 is at the end of term 1 of Year 12.

ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVES

- A01 (25%)** Develop their ideas through sustained and focussed investigations informed by contextual and other sources demonstrating analytical and cultural understanding.
- A02 (25%)** Refine their ideas through experimenting and selecting appropriate resources, media, materials, techniques and processes.
- A03 (25%)** Record ideas, observations and insights relevant to their intentions in visual and/or other forms.
- A04 (25%)** Present a personal, informed and meaningful response demonstrating analytical and critical understanding, realising intentions and where appropriate, making connections between visual, written, oral or other elements.

UNIT 2 40%

WORKING TO A STIMULUS

THE EXAMINATION PAPER WILL BE ISSUED TO CANDIDATES IN THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY (TERM 2 OF YEAR 12)

Progression Routes

GCSE Art and Design students develop the conceptual, visual literacy and communication skills necessary for critical thinking, independence of thought and self-expression. A great course suited to further study. GCSE Art and Design can start students on the path to a host of courses such as A-level Art & Design and careers including those in film, television, fashion, trend forecasting, publishing, journalism, academia, museum and art gallery work, landscape, architecture, photography, interior design and the creative industries.

SUBJECT: KS4 DANCE: BTEC LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD PERFORMING ARTS DANCE with AQA GCSE DANCE OPTION

BTEC Level 2 FIRST AWARD in Performing Arts Dance is accredited by Edexcel
BTEC Qualification Value: Equivalent to 1 GCSE's A-C (Pass-C, Merit-B, Distinction-A)
Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course
GCSE Dance is accredited by AQA

Course Content: All KS4 Dance students will complete the BTEC First Award qualification, those wishing to enrich their dance profile are able to audition for accelerated GCSE Dance in both year 11 and 12. This course is delivered through extended schools and will take place after school.

Students studying KS4 Dance will complete a selection of units in the following categories:

- ◆ Dance Skills
- ◆ Preparation Performance
- ◆ Individual Showcase

The Aims of this course include: The development of technical and performance skills in a number of Dance styles such as Contemporary, Urban, Jazz and Ballet. The development of choreographic skills and practices through study of professional practitioners and creation of own work. The development of reflective and evaluative skills to further enhance their capabilities as independent learners.

Assessment BTEC: **Assessment for BTEC qualification** is through internal/external practical moderation (100%)
 Students will undertake practical projects throughout their two years and these will provide a portfolio of evidence for grading.

Assessment for GCSE: **Qualification** is attained through practical moderation (60%) and written examination (40%)
 This course prepares students in the further Performance, Choreographic and Appreciation studies and is recommended foundation for A-Level Dance study.

Performance work: Individual and group tasks in performance and creative practices. Watching live and recorded performances and completing research and creative assignments based on this experience. Creating new work individually or in a group. Research, discussion and debate.

What kind of student will benefit from this course? Students who are interested in Dance as a performing art. No previous dance experience is required but enthusiasm to develop a wide range of dance skills is desired. Students who demonstrate a commitment and a desire to perform and work with others. Those who will extend their learning by working with extra curricula Dance activities. Students who will Dance for others in new choreography.

Progression Routes

After studying this course it will enable you to go on to study Dance at A-Level, BTEC National and Diploma. If you wish to pursue a career in Dance or Musical Theatre, this course is for you.

SUBJECT: DRAMA

GCSE Drama is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE and 1 Level 2

(Please note: ALL students who choose Drama GCSE will also complete Level 2 Performance Skills in Year 11 which is equivalent to a Grade C at GCSE)

Course duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

Breakdown of Assessment

60% of the course is practical and 40% written.

Students can choose to perform or opt for design.

THREE COMPONENTS

DEvised PERFORMANCE 25% Controlled Practical Assessment

In response to a stimulus, students either:

- present a group performance; or
- give a design presentation.

All students submit a student log.

Teachers submit a recording of every student's performance or presentation.

SCRIPTED PERFORMANCE 35% Controlled Practical Assessment

Using a playscript, students either:

- present a group performance; or
- give a design presentation.

Teachers mark the tasks, and a visiting moderator moderates the results.

KNOWLEDGE & UNDERSTANDING OF DRAMA External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes – 40%

Students answer three questions using one set text. The practical coursework assessments are completed over the two-year course and a final written examination is set at the end of Year 12. It is important that you attend school during the year and work hard to achieve success in this subject.

Progression Routes

Drama in general will help in the development of personality, confidence, artistic and social awareness, which are all important in any chosen career. This qualification can lead to continued study at Post-16 on the BTEC Performing Arts or A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies course. This in turn can be used to access a degree course of your choice at University.

SUBJECT: MUSIC

GCSE Music is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

The GCSE course is based around three Areas of Study, which cover different types of music, including: Classical, Irish, Film Music, Pop and Rock!

Through the GCSE Music course, you will develop skills in:

Listening to music

Composing music using music technology

Performing on an instrument of your choice e.g. voice, DJing, guitar, tin whistle

Listening (35%) - In the listening paper, students are asked to comment on musical styles. You will be asked questions on the set pieces and on other music related to the Areas of Study. This takes the form of one, one and a half hour long exam.

Composing (30%) - Throughout the course, students will compose two pieces, which do not need to be linked to the areas of study. Much helpful teaching and guidance will be given, and the pieces will be assessed and marked by your teacher. Computer skills can be used effectively to help you hear, record and print out your compositions. Song writing is a popular choice for many of our students currently in Years 11 and 12.

Performing (35%) - Students can perform on any instrument, including voice, guitar, tin whistle etc.

One piece will be solo with piano or guitar accompaniment and another will be performed with a small group of three or more performers. This performance should last between 3-6 minutes. Any grade is acceptable but more demanding pieces attract higher marks: it is possible to achieve full marks through an outstanding performance of a Grade 3 piece. It is expected that you attend a weekly practical lesson with an instrumental teacher in school or outside school if you are already doing so. If you have a skill at playing music or singing, GCSE Music is a good way to earn reward for your talent and is something you are advised to choose!

All of these activities will be a gradual progression from class and instrumental work in Years 8-10.

Progression Routes - This course will enable you to go onto study Music at AS and A2 Level. It can also lead to a career in Performing, Studio Production, Teaching, Musical Theatre, Media, Music Therapy, Instrument making and repair, Sound Engineering and Radio and Television work.

SUBJECT: OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES - DIGITAL MUSIC

Digital Music and Sound Production is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: equivalent to 1 GCSE

Course duration: This is a 2 Year Course

Course Content

This course is being offered as part of the Occupational studies Single Award, which is equivalent to 1 GCSE. Students need to complete the following two units.

Unit: Digital Music

Unit: Sound Production

Do you enjoy music?

This course offers a taste of the music industry in terms of how digital music is created, edited and used in the industry. You will also learn about Musical Styles and how to be a DJ. This is better suited to those students who would prefer to generate a portfolio of work over two years. There is no formal summative examination at the end of the course.

Our Aim: To provide and ensure you, the student, work throughout the programme to achieve the highest standards possible as well as making the whole experience knowledgeable, fun and relevant to the world of work.

Your Aim: To be the best you can be, to work hard to develop and enhance skills that will have you ready to work in the music industry.

How will I be assessed?

Observation of practical work activities, recordings, performances, personal portfolios and logbooks, oral and written questioning.

Progression Routes

This will lead onto the Level 3 BTEC in Music.

SUBJECT: GCSE MEDIA STUDIES

GCSE Media Studies is delivered by WJEC

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Rationale: Media Studies is designed for students who have a genuine interest in the media and the world around them. It is the study of sound, vision and print: film, television, radio, magazines, newspapers, technology and the Internet. Media Studies enables students to explore and create a wide range of media, including digital media technologies.

Aims: The aims of the new GCSE Media Studies specification are to develop:

- *investigative, critical thinking and decision making skills* through the study of topics real and relevant to learners and the world in which we live.
- *an appreciation and critical understanding* of the media and its role in daily life.
- *practical & creative skills* through creative production.

Course Content: Candidates will be expected to:

- Demonstrate *knowledge and understanding* of: media language, media organisations & the texts they produce; their relationship to audiences and the variety of ways in which texts can be interpreted;
- Identify, describe *critically and compare* the distinctive features of specific media texts.
- Demonstrate *knowledge & understanding of media production* through production work.
- Evaluate their own production work.

TOPICS OF STUDY

Candidates will explore **a range of** topics for GCSE Media Studies Examination, including advertising, video games, newspapers, music, television and film. *The four main areas of study are:* media language, representation, media industries and audiences. This means that all topics studied are approached in the same way; students develop their knowledge & understanding as the course progresses, develop research skills, planning and production skills through creative work at all stages in the course.

External Examinations: 60% (2 papers, each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes)

Unit 1: Exploring the Media. Section A Music, Section B Representations (30% of qualification)

Unit 2: Understanding Television and Film. Section A Television, Section B Film (30% of qualification)

COURSEWORK/EVIDENCE FOLDER 40%

Unit 3: A media production with an individual reflective analysis of the production.

Progression Routes: Media Studies offers a path to courses e.g. A-Level Media Studies, Moving Images Arts, BTEC Creative Media Production; progression to careers e.g. Teaching, Advertising, Marketing, Journalism, Television Production and Presenting.

SUBJECT: PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE Photography is accredited by OCR

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year course

COURSE CONTENT

UNIT 01	PORTFOLIO
Assessment:	Teacher assessment of Portfolio. Externally moderated.
Weightings:	60% of total GCSE
Unit 02	EXTERNALLY SET TASK
Assessment:	Teacher assessment of Externally Set Task. Externally moderated.
Weightings:	40% of total GCSE

Progression Routes

GCSE Photography students develop the conceptual, visual literacy and communication skills necessary for critical thinking, independence of thought and self-expression. A great course suited to further study, GCSE Photography can start students on the path to a host of further education courses in the Creative Arts. Careers including those in Film, Television, Publishing, Journalism, Museum and Art Gallery work, Advertising, Commercial Photography, Interior Design, Graphic and Lens-based Media and Fine Art Photography.

Overview

This specification gives candidates a rounded exposure to different aspects of photography, allowing them to display their abilities in a variety of disciplines and demonstrate their understanding of these contexts.

This endorsement covers the following three specialist areas: Lens-based Imagery, Digital Imaging, The Moving Image



An Introduction to Courses in Business & IT



SUBJECT: BUSINESS & COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS

GCSE Business & Communication Systems is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Qualification Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

2 papers

Unit 1 – External Computer-based Examination 2 hours - **40%**

Unit 2 – External Written Examination 1 hour - **35%**

Controlled Assessment - Practical **25%**

What do I need to achieve success in this subject?

Students need to have good attendance and work hard in class.

Business and Communication Systems (BACS) is an exciting GCSE that provides life-long skills in today's world. It combines the world of work with ICT skills. Students apply the theory to a business context using Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Powerpoint, Databases etc.

Is this course for you?

Yes if you want a new GCSE that offers life long learning.

Yes if you want business knowledge, combined with essential ICT skills.

Yes if you like practical applications.

Yes if you would like to develop skills in File Management, Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Charts, Databases, Graphics and Clipart.

Yes if you like to solve business problems through practical applications of software.

Progression Routes

This qualification gives you an appropriate foundation for further study of Business Studies, including A-Level Business Studies and OCR Business and IT.

It also offers you the chance to work in areas such as Finance, Marketing, Customer Service, Human Resources, Project Management, Management Consultancy and Business Journalism.

SUBJECT: GCSE DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

GCSE is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Route A: Multimedia

Course Units:

Compulsory Core: Unit 1 Digital Technology

Multimedia Units: Unit 2 Digital Authoring Concepts

Multimedia Units: Unit 3 Digital Authoring Practice

COURSE STRUCTURE

Multimedia

Unit	Content	Assessment	Weighting
1	Digital Technology	External Exam	30%
2	Unit 4: Digital Development Concepts	External Exam	40%
3	Unit 5: Digital Development Practice	Controlled assessment	30%

The 'controlled' assessments will be carried out during supervised sessions in school and you will produce a portfolio of work. Unit 1 and 2 are theory units, students will sit two external exams.

Unit 1 Topics include: *Representing Data, Representing Images, Representing Sound, Software, Database applications, Spreadsheets, Hardware, Networks, Cyberspace and Ethics.*

Unit 4 Topics include: *Trends in Software, Digital Data, Design Principles, Programming Constructs, error handling, Test plans.*

Controlled Assessment will include: Unit 5 Topics include: *Designing solutions, Building a solution, Testing a Solution, Evaluating a Solution.*

HOW TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN THIS SUBJECT

To achieve grades A* to C good attendance is essential as you will be working to and meeting portfolio deadlines in class. Good literacy and numeracy skills are also very important.

WHY GCSE ICT?

ICT is important and is now recognised as a "life skill" - just like English and Maths. This course will help you: study ICT at a higher level and build on ICT work carried out in Key Stage 3; use ICT in other subjects e.g. for coursework in Geography, Science etc; learn ICT skills necessary for the world of work.

Progression Routes

You can progress to study Software Development at A-Level, OCR IT and pursue careers in Software development, System Design, System analyst, Tester etc.

SUBJECT: GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

WHY CHOOSE GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES?

This exciting and valuable qualification will help you to understand:

- How businesses operate?
- What you need to do to become more employable or indeed to set up your own business?
- The course is up-to-date and relevant, reflecting the blend of business knowledge, practical skills, communication and team-working skills needed by anyone who is thinking about a career in any business-related job.

COURSE CONTENT

There are 3 Units to complete :-

Unit	Unit Title	Unit Overview	Assessment
1	Starting a Business	You will examine why businesses start and the resources required to maintain and grow them. You will explore marketing options and the impact of e-business	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of GCSE
2	Developing a Business	You will examine recruitment and selection practices. You will identify the signs of business success and failure, and will learn about business finance	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of GCSE
3	Planning a Business	You will carry out research from any area of the specification and apply it to a case study to develop a portfolio	Controlled Assessment 20% of GCSE

Progression Routes

You can progress to study Business Studies at A-Level, or Level 3 OCR Business, and pursue careers in Finance, Marketing, Events, Management, Economics or any other related area.

SUBJECT: BTEC FIRST AWARD IN INFORMATION AND CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY LEVEL 2**Qualification Value: Equivalent to 1 GCSE****Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course****WHY CHOOSE BTEC INFORMATION AND CREATIVE TECHNOLOGY?**

This is a fun, practical course which lets you create exciting ICT portfolios.

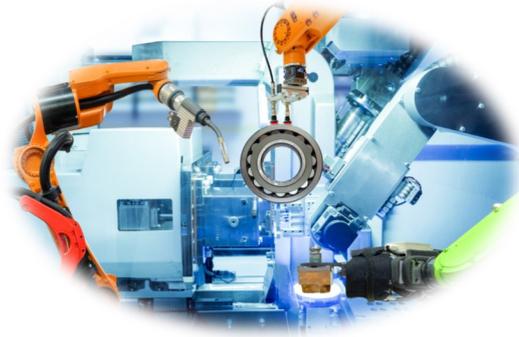
COURSE CONTENT

There are 3 units to complete:-

Unit Number	Unit Title	Unit Overview	Assessment
1	The Online World	Learn about how businesses use online services and online communication. Gain an understanding of the main technologies and processes behind the internet and range of digital devices.	External online test
3	A Digital Portfolio	Create a website to showcase and share your work. The digital portfolio will demonstrate your talents and achievements through various software packages.	Portfolio
10	Database Development	Design, develop and review databases used in different types of businesses.	Portfolio

Progression Routes

You can progress to study OCR Business/IT at A-Level and pursue careers in Publishing, Multi-Media and Web Design. However, there are many careers and courses which require you to have good ICT skills so this course will be beneficial for your future.



An Introduction to Courses in Engineering & Manufacturing



SUBJECT: TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

GCSE Technology & Design is delivered by EDEXCEL

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a 2 Year Course

Aim of the course:

This is a new two-year course, which provides young people with the opportunity to develop skills understanding and capability in Technology and Design. It builds on the wide experience already gained at KS3 level.

Course content:

Areas studied are: Manufacturing products using wood, metals, and plastics; Designing: Drawing and Graphical Communication skills; ICT: Computer Aided Design / Computer Aided manufacture / Desk top publishing / digital photography.

Assessment methods:

- 1. Coursework** accounts for 50% of the GCSE examination. This is based on a single project undertaken over the two years of the course. This means that students can get half of the marks in their own time and be rewarded directly for work undertaken in class time and prepared at home.
- 2. Written paper:** 50% of the exam marks are in the form of a single written paper taken at the end of Year 12.

Specialist Resources / Environment:

St Louise's has one of the biggest and best equipped departments in the country. The workshops and design rooms are newly built, bright, lively, and versatile.

Staff Profile / Experience:

Technology and Design teaching and technical staff are well qualified and experienced. Staff have key insight into the course as they also work as examiners and coursework moderators for the Examination authority. They will be able to provide students with all the support needed to be successful. All students in St Louise's normally obtain grades "A*" to "C" at GCSE in this subject.

Progression Routes:

Students can progress to AS and A2 Technology & Design. The list of potential career opportunities linked with Technology and Design is endless: Architecture, Computer technologies, Electronics industry, Civil engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Aeronautical engineering, Electrical engineering, Construction industry trades (joinery, plumbing etc.), Manufacturing industry, Structural engineering, Interior design, Furniture design, Product design, Graphic design, Jewellery design, Building surveying, Town and country planning, Quantity surveying, etc. Previous students are currently studying or have completed degrees in the following: Mechanical engineering, Quantity surveying, Law, 3-D Design, Textiles design, Fine art, Dance, D&T teaching, Architecture, Environmental science, Product Design etc.



An Introduction to Courses in Health Public Sector & Care



SUBJECT: GCSE FOOD AND NUTRITION

GCSE Food and Nutrition - Awarding Body - CCEA.

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Food and Nutrition is a very valuable course to study even if you don't pursue it at Post-16 level. The current focus on health and wellbeing makes it immediately relevant to you now, as well as in the future. It will equip you with the skills needed to lead a healthy, independent life and enable you to demonstrate high level practical skills. This course is also a potential pathway into a range of STEM careers and several A Level and BTEC courses.

Refer to progression routes.

COURSE CONTENT: The course is made up of two components allowing more time for food practical work.

Component 1: Food and Nutrition — covers areas such as Food Provenance, Food processing and production, Food and nutrition for good health ,Energy and nutrients, Macronutrients, Micro Nutrients, Dietary Fibre, Water, Dietary needs, Priority health issues, food safety, factors affecting food choice, Resources management, Food preparation, cooking and presentation skills.

Component 2: Practical Food and Nutrition — Controlled Assessment - only 1 piece of coursework

Planning and practical activity based on a set title from CCEA involving research and viewpoints justification of choice, planning, practical cooking activity, evaluation and presentation of the practical dishes.

Methods of Assessment

Food and Nutrition is assessed by one external 2-hour examination plus **one** internally assessed controlled assessment - written and practical.

Progression Routes and Future Opportunities: Students may study GCE Nutrition and Food Science at Post-16 .

Current health priorities focus primarily on the importance of food and nutrition for good health and to minimise disease risk. Consequently, there is high demand for quality graduates in this area and varied employment opportunities in health, industry, research, medical fields, sports and exercise nutrition and in education/ or in relation to marketing and consumer work.

The Ulster University offer a range of degree courses such as BSc (Hons) Food and Nutrition with placement year, BSc Hons Dietetics, BSc Hons Human Nutrition with placement year, BSc (Hons) Consumer Management and Food Innovation, BSc (Hons) Culinary Arts Management. Queen's University offer courses such as the BSC Food Quality Safety and Nutrition. Caffrey College offer a range of degree and diploma courses such as Bs Hons degree in Food Business and Management or Food Innovation and Nutrition, or extended Diploma in Food Technology and Science.

Talk to your Home Economics teacher for more information on other careers.

SUBJECT: HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

GCSE Health and Social Care is delivered by CCEA.

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

WHY STUDY HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE?

This course introduces you to health, social care and early years and children's services sectors and provides a foundation for further study and employment. Health and Social Care is a stimulating, relevant and interesting subject. The Health, Social Care and Early Years sectors are major employers in Northern Ireland.

In studying this course:

- You can actively engage in Health and Social Care processes to develop as an effective and independent learner;
- Understand aspects of personal development by investigating and evaluating a range of services and organisations;
- Develop a critical and analytical approach to problem solving;
- Examine issues that affect the nature and quality of human life, giving consideration to cultural and diversity issues.

Course Content

Unit 1: Personal Development, Health and Well-Being

In this unit, students investigate human development throughout the life stages and factors affecting health and well-being, including relationships and the impact of major life changes.

Unit 2: Working in the Health, Social Care and Early Years Sectors

In this unit, students develop their understanding of the world of work in the health, social care and early years sectors and how the needs of different service user groups are met. Students learn about a range of job roles in the health, social care and early years services and how practitioners apply the values of care.

Methods of Assessment

Unit 1: Assessed by a 1 hours 30 minutes external examination worth 50%

Unit 2: Assessed by one Controlled Assessment worth 50%

Progression Routes and Future Opportunities - Students can progress to study GCE Health and Social Care. Many students who study GCE Health and Social Care continue to third level education in a wide range of courses including Childcare, Nursing, Midwifery, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Teaching and similar courses.

SUBJECT: OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES - CARE

The Care qualification is awarded by CCEA

Qualification Value: equivalent to 1 GCSE

Course Duration: You will do these two Care Units over one school year

What will I learn about?

If you had a brother or sister and have been interested to find out about their development, this is the ideal course for you. This course has also been designed to provide a more 'hands on' approach to learning and will appeal to you if you wish to develop your skills in more practical surroundings. Ideally you need to be interested in working with young children.

COURSE CONTENT

Child Care: The Play Environment - You will learn about:

The importance of Language and communication activities in children's play, choosing suitable books, poems and rhymes to encourage good communication skills at different stages of the child's development. You will explore how the use of suitable activities, experiences and equipment will encourage children to talk and listen and how different games encourage learning at different stages of a child's development. You will have opportunities to engage in story-telling, set up a book corner, devise games for use by young children and make visual aids, such as props for story-telling, to support a child's learning.

The Physical Care of Babies - You will learn about:

How to care for and meet the needs of a young child eg, bathing, feeding, toileting, care of the teeth and hair, selecting suitable clothing and footwear and caring for children with special needs. You will also learn how to provide a safe and secure environment for young children, for example, how to prevent cot death. You will learn about the importance of adults being good role models in a child's life. You will have the opportunity to do practical activities in this unit also e.g. bathing a doll, making up bottles etc.

Entry requirements: Ideally you should have an interest in working with children.

Methods of assessment: You will be assessed on what you achieve rather than writing about it, so you will need to collect evidence to show what you have done.

You can use the following types of evidence. Items you have made, photographs, recordings, drawings, witness statements, letters, brief notes, work log, notebook, tape, observations etc.

Progression Routes: This course is designed to allow students to progress to further qualifications such as the Level 2 and 3 Children's Care Learning and Development Courses (CCLD) on offer in 6th Year. These CCLD qualifications can lead to employment in Nursery and Primary schools or Day Care Centres as a Classroom Assistant or follow other further and higher education courses in BMC, SERC.



An Introduction to Courses in History & Theology



SUBJECT: HISTORY

GCSE History is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

What will I learn?

During your two years of study you will follow the CCEA GCSE course, which consists of the following:

A Study in Depth: Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1945 and Changing Relationships: Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland 1965-1998

An outline Study: The Cold War in Europe & the World 1945–2003

Skills Examined

You will be expected to display in examination all the skills you have developed in your first three years of study. This will involve being able to handle different types of evidence, being able to detect bias, distortion and exaggeration. You will also be expected to know and understand something of the role of the Historian as well as the problems and difficulties he/she might face in handling evidence. Above all you will be tested on your ability to present a reasoned argument using all the available evidence to support your case.

WHY STUDY HISTORY?

History is full of interesting and exciting stories about both ordinary and extraordinary people. A study of History is also very relevant to your life outside school. It can help you understand and make sense of the world you are growing up in. It can help you to think about and question the sort of information which is passed on to you every day in newspapers, magazines, television, radio and on the internet. It can train you to make informed choices and decisions based on evidence, which is an important part of modern life and may well be part of any job or career you may choose to follow.

Progression Routes

You may go on to study History at AS and A2 level. History can lead to you following careers in Teaching, Business, Law, Social Work, Media and Humanities.

“There are many careers in which knowledge of History and its techniques, if not essential, will be regarded as an asset.”

SUBJECT: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCSE Religious Studies is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

What will I learn in this subject?

Paper 1 - In this paper, which I will study in Year 11, I will learn about Christian life and St Matthew's Gospel. I will explore the relevance of themes such as, Discipleship, Kingdom of God, and Suffering and Death, for the first Christians and Christians today.

Paper 2 - In this paper, which I will study in Year 12, I will explore Christian ethics, in particular Christian Lifestyle and Behaviour. Some of the themes I will study for this Paper are Matters of Life and Death, Bioethics, Contemporary Issues and Modern Warfare.

How will I be assessed?

I will complete two externally set examinations: one in Year 11 and one in Year 12, each examination is worth 50% of the marks available). During my course I will complete tasks set by my RE teacher, home learning tasks, weekly tests and regular end of topic tests and standardised tests.

How will this help me in the future?

GCSE Religious Studies will:

Challenge me to look at my own relationship with God and others.

Help me to gain a better understanding of my own Christian Tradition, the Roman Catholic Church.

Give me opportunities to develop many skills, such as independent thinking, working with others, decision-making, managing information and e-learning.

Enable me to gain entry to other courses I will study in the Sixth Form.

NB: Religious Studies is recognised by all Universities and Colleges of Further Education.

Progression Routes

A great course suited to further study, GCSE Religious Studies can start students on the path to a host of courses such as AS and A2 Religious Studies. You can also progress to careers and Higher Education in areas such as, Teaching, Theology, Law, Social Work and the Arts.

SUBJECT: OCN LEVEL 2 AWARD IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

OCN Religious Studies is delivered by OCN NI

Qualification Value: GCSE Grade B equivalent

Course Duration: This is a One-Year Course

Course Content

OCN Level 2 award in RS consist of 9 units which must all be completed. They are:

- Addiction
- Charity and Religious Charities
- Exploring Personal Identity and Faith
- Exploring Religious Traditions within Own Community
- Life and Death Issues
- Life of a Famous Person of Faith
- Marriage and Divorce
- Prejudice and Reconciliation
- World Faith

How will I be assessed?

There are no examinations and the course is assessed by a coursework portfolio.

Course breakdown

All coursework based with no exams. 9 units are completed. Equivalent to a grade B

How will this help me in the future?

OCN Religious Studies will:

Challenge me to look at my own relationship with God and others.

It will help me to engage with and think about a range of moral and ethical issues.

Help me to gain a better understanding of my own Christian Tradition, the Roman Catholic Church.

Give me opportunities to develop many skills, such as independent thinking, working with others, decision-making, managing information and e-learning.

Progression Routes

OCN RS is a great course that will help towards any course at level 3 as students will work towards meeting the demands of a coursework portfolio. It will enable students to consider a range of topical issues that will also be useful within a range of subjects.

SUBJECT: PERSONAL SUCCESS AND WELL-BEING

PSWB is delivered by OCNNI

Qualification Value: GCSE Grade B equivalent

Course Duration: This is a One-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

- Stress Management Techniques
- Understanding Drugs and Substance Misuse
- Cyberbullying
- Prejudice and Discrimination
- Influences on Well-being
- Understanding Teamwork Skills
- Understanding Healthy Lifestyles
- Understanding and Dealing with Bullying
- Using Interpersonal Skills

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed by a coursework portfolio. There is no examination.

How will this help me in the future?

This course helps me to develop many skills - communication, inter-personal and leadership skills.
The course gives me a deeper insight into some issues concerning young people today.



An Introduction to Courses in Languages, Literature & Culture



SUBJECT: MODERN LANGUAGES

GCSE languages are delivered by CCEA or AQA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

The Modern Languages department offers four languages, French, Irish, Gaeilge and Spanish to GCSE. The aim of the course is to enable students to communicate in a foreign language.

The four skills developed are:

- **Listening** (to cds, audio files, video clips and the Language Assistant - questions and answers may be in English or the target language)
- **Speaking** (presentation and discussion, role play, conversation or interview with the Language Assistant and class teacher)
- **Reading** (understanding texts in the target language - translation activities and reading comprehensions with questions in English or in the target language)
- **Writing** (writing both short and extended pieces of writing in the target language including prose activities)

The course also develops many key skills and capabilities, teamwork, self-motivation, problem solving, managing information, creativity and ICT.

How will I be assessed?

Candidates will be assessed in each of the four skill areas outlined above. Students are examined in all four skill areas at the end of the course and each skill is worth 25%. Students can enter for the most appropriate tier in each skill, either Foundation or Higher.

Teaching and Learning

The Modern Languages Department is committed to using a wide range of teaching and learning strategies. There are also foreign language assistants to give students a flavour of the life and culture in the target language country as well as to assist with the development of oral and aural communication.

Why learn a language?

With globalization within the workplace and the recent increase in tourism in Northern Ireland, our country needs many people who can use foreign languages, at home and abroad.

Progression Routes - You will be able to go on and study your chosen language at AS and A2 Level. Languages are useful as an accompaniment to traditional degrees as well as if you would like a career in Business, Hotel Management, Law, Journalism and Marketing.

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

GCSE English is delivered by CEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

During the two year course in English at GCSE level you will be assessed in three areas:

- Talking and Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Unit 1 and 4 – External Examinations

These units will focus on non fiction materials and will assess your reading and writing skills. You will be required to read and understand a number of non-fiction and narrative texts as well as produce your own non-fiction accounts and creative responses. You will sit two examinations. There are two sections in each paper; Section A will assess your writing skills and Section B will assess your reading skills.

Each examination accounts for 30% of the total marks.

Unit 2 Talking and Listening

Your teacher will assess your ability to talk and listen in large and small groups. You can be awarded up to 20% for Talking and Listening.

Unit 3 Controlled Assessment

Over the two years you will complete a number of written assignments in controlled conditions.

These tasks will consider themes such as love and conflict, characterisation and voice, as well as genre and form. In total these assignments will account for 20% of the total marks for the examination. You will have the opportunity to experiment with many types of writing including:

Assignment A: A written analysis of a prose text

Assignment B: An assignment based on the analysis of spoken language

SUBJECT: ENGLISH LITERATURE

GCSE English Literature is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

GCSE English Literature is a popular and interesting subject for students who enjoy studying novels, plays and poems. The examination consists of both written papers and controlled assessment. The controlled assessment is worth 20% of the marks and the examinations are worth 80%.

Unit 1: The Study of Prose

There are two sections in this Unit. The study of prose provides an element of familiarity, either through themes and issues or through language. This allows you to engage with Literature before you move on to looking at texts that are further removed from your own experience in Unit 2. You will study a prose text such as *Of Mice and Men* or *To Kill a Mockingbird* and complete an analysis of an extract from a nineteenth century novel. This unit is worth 30% of the total GCSE marks.

Unit 2: The Study of Poetry and Drama

In Section A you will study a Drama text such as *An Inspector Calls* or *Blood Brothers*. In Sections B candidates will take a skills-based approach to poetry, learning how to make an informed personal response to a range of poems based on the theme of conflict. You will explore aspects such as form, structure, language and themes. This unit is worth 50% of the total GCSE marks.

Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare

In the controlled assessment you will complete one written assignment based on the significance of Shakespeare. Candidates will write a response to a Shakespeare play based on a theme such as conflict or love. This Unit is worth 20% of the total GCSE marks.

This subject is a very important support to GCSE English and must be undertaken if you are hoping to study English Literature at Advanced Level.

Progression Routes

After studying English at this level you may go on to study it at A-Level. It will also allow you to gain University degrees in English, Drama, History, Media, Law and so on which you could then pursue as a career. It will also allow you to go into teaching and writing.



An Introduction to Courses in Travel & Tourism Sport and Fitness



SUBJECT: PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE Physical Education (Delivered by WJEC)

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

This course allows you to develop your interest in sport while encouraging you to become an informed and competent participant in physical activity, with the bonus of achieving a recognised GCSE qualification. You will be examined on both your practical ability and your knowledge of PE and Sport, therefore **it is essential that you play at least 2 sports in school or local club.**

PRACTICAL 40%

Assessed in three activities in the role of performer in at least one individual sport, one team sport and one other. You are required to take part in a Residential at Delamont Outdoor Education Centre as part of your Assessment, there is also an 8-week personal exercise programme which is the coursework element of the course.

THEORY 60%

Effects of Exercise; Drugs; Training; Heart and Circulation, the Body in action and responses to exercise, Fitness Testing; Respiration; Diet and Exercise; Violence in Sport; Amateurs and Professionals, the National Curriculum and Organisation of Sport.

ASK YOURSELF WHEN DECIDING TO TAKE GCSE PE

- Do I play more than one sport?
- Am I involved in a team or club? Do I play in School?
- Am I prepared to take part in different roles?
- Do I have a fair understanding of the rules of sport?
- Am I interested in issues surrounding sport?
- Do I always bring my PE kit and take part as well as I can?

Progression Routes

The course provides a sound foundation for those who may wish to enter a job in the sports and leisure industry. It also provides a very good grounding for you to continue studies related to the sports and leisure industry in Year 13 such as Cambridge Technical Level 3 in Sport.

This is a two-year course. This qualification is suitable for those who may be studying in preparation for employment in the leisure and sports industry, particularly in job roles where you will be expected to use communication and leadership skills to work with children or adults in sporting or sport related situations.

SUBJECT: OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN SPORT SCIENCE LEVEL 2

OCR CAMBRIDGE National Certificate of Sport Level 2 delivered by OCR

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT - What does it cover?

- ◆ Injury in sport
- ◆ Applying Principles of Training
- ◆ Sports Psychology
- ◆ Sports Nutrition

Assessment and Grading

Staff in school (through students' project work, role-play and other activities) assess 3 Units. One unit is assessed by external examination, 'Injury in Sport'. Students achieving the full qualification – Level 2 – receive an award equivalent to 1 GCSE. This qualification is suitable for those who may be studying in preparation for employment in the leisure and sports industry, particularly in job roles where you will be expected to use communication and leadership skills to work with children or adults in sporting or sport related situations.

ASK YOURSELF WHEN DECIDING TO TAKE GCSE PE

- Do I play sport? Do I have knowledge of the world of sport?
- Am I involved in a team or club? Do I play in School?
- Do I have a fair understanding of the rules of sport and am I interested in issues surrounding sport?
- Do I always bring my PE kit and take part as well as I can?

What does it cover?

Health safety and prevention of injury in leisure pursuits. Applying principles of training in sport including designing a fitness programme. There is a full unit of practical and students must be prepared to take part in fitness and exercise. Sports Nutrition - looking at the healthy athlete and a healthy diet. Sports Psychology - what makes the athlete's mind work and how can mental training improve performance.

How can I progress from the OCR Level 2 National Certificate?

To employment: a leisure centre attendant, fitness assistant, assistant coach, and receptionist in a leisure facility.

SUBJECT: BTEC FIRST AWARD IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

BTEC First Award in Travel and Tourism

Qualification Value: First Award is equivalent to 1 GCSE

Course duration: This is a Two-Year Course

Course Content

- ◆ Unit 1 The UK Travel and Tourism Sector (external examination)
- ◆ Unit 2 UK Travel and Tourism Destinations
- ◆ Unit 3 The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience
- ◆ Unit 4 International Travel and Tourism Destinations

How will I be assessed?

For the Travel and Tourism First Award there will be one externally marked exam worth 25% and three other units which are internally assessed

Why study Travel and Tourism?

The Travel and Tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world, and in particular in Northern Ireland. This course gives students knowledge, understanding and skills to work in the tourism industry.

You will take part in group discussions and use your ICT skills to research and produce case studies and presentations.

Entry requirements

You are required to demonstrate an enthusiasm and commitment to this course through good attendance, independent research and completion of assignments.

All deadlines must be met throughout the two years.

Progression Routes

This course will prepare students for the world of work in the travel and tourism industry such as travel consultants, hotel receptionist, air cabin crew, tour guides or holiday representatives.

This qualification also offers progression onto the BTEC Travel and Tourism Level 3 course.

SUBJECT: LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK

GCSE Learning for Life and Work is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

This is a GCSE course made up of three study modules and a Controlled Assessment Module.

In this course you will have the opportunity to explore and express your own values and attitudes while developing your knowledge and skills about a range of issues affecting your everyday life and that of others.

MODULE 1 Local and Global Citizenship	MODULE 2 Personal Development	MODULE 3 Employability	MODULE 4 Controlled Assessment Task
<p><i>In this module you will study:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Diversity and Inclusion and responsibilities ◆ Government and civil society ◆ Democratic institutions ◆ Democracy and active participation ◆ The role of the NGOs 	<p><i>In this module you will study:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Personal Health and well-being ◆ Emotions and reactions to life experiences ◆ Relationships and sexuality ◆ Personal safety and well-being ◆ Responsible parenting ◆ Making informed financial decisions 	<p><i>In this module you will study:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ The impact of globalisation on employment ◆ Preparing for employment ◆ Rights and responsibilities of employers and employees ◆ Social responsibility of businesses ◆ Exploring self-employment ◆ Personal career management 	<p><i>In this module you will have to complete:</i></p> <p>One task which involves the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Planning, Research, Communicating Findings, Self- Evaluation; <p style="text-align: center;">and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Presentation of Task (40% of the exam total)

ASSESSMENT

Each module will be assessed by an hour examination which will consist of short answer, structured, stimulus response and free response type questions. (The module examinations in total will amount to 60% of the total examination mark).



An Introduction to Courses In Retail & Commercial Enterprise



SUBJECT: OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES - HAIRDRESSING

Hairdressing course is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: equivalent to 1 GCSE

Course duration: This is a One-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

This course is being offered as part of the Occupational studies Single Award, which is equivalent to 1 GCSE. Students need to complete the following two units.

Unit: Total Beauty

Unit: Creative Styling Using Blow-Drying Techniques

Delivered on site by Belfast Metropolitan College staff and supervised by the St Louise's Hair and Beauty Department Coordinator to guarantee you accomplish your full potential and that high standards are met.

Do you enjoy hair or beauty?

This course offers a taste of the Salon environment throughout Hair and Beauty. Enjoy the state-of-the art facilities, created to inspire you throughout your learning journey.

Our Aim: To provide and ensure you, the student, work throughout the programme to achieve the highest standards possible as well as making the whole experience knowledgeable and fun.

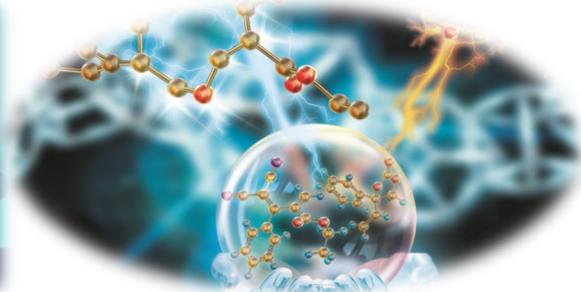
Your Aim: To be the best you can be and work hard to enhance those creative skills, even if you think you don't have any!

How will I be assessed?

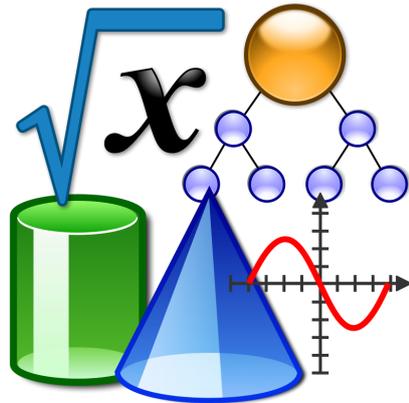
Observation of practical work activities, client consultations, personal portfolios and logbooks, oral and written questioning.

Progression Routes

Students can take this course in order to progress to NVQ Level 2 in Hair or Beauty which is now being offered within the Hair and Beauty Department. Further study is possible into NVQ Level 3.



An Introduction to Courses in Science & Maths



SUBJECT: FURTHER MATHEMATICS

GCSE Further Maths is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course - Completed in Year 12

COURSE CONTENT

Further Mathematics is a two-year course covering three main areas - ***Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics.***

The course is suitable only for those students who have achieved top marks in their Key Stage 3 tests and who intend to study A-Level Mathematics.

It would also be of great benefit to students who intend to study subjects like Physics or Geography at A-Level.

Assessment

The examination consists of **three** written papers with grades A* - E available.

Unit 1	2 hours	50% of overall mark	Pure Mathematics
Unit 2	1 hour	25% of overall mark	Mechanics
Unit 3	1 hour	25% of overall mark	Statistics

A Scientific Calculator is allowed in **ALL** papers

There is no coursework component for this course

Progression Routes

After studying this course you may go on to study Mathematics at AS and A2 Level.

Maths is useful if you wish to pursue a career in computers, marketing, accountancy, engineering or finance.

SUBJECT: MATHEMATICS**GCSE Maths is delivered by CCEA****Qualification Value: 1 GCSE****Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course****COURSE CONTENT**

GCSE Maths is a two Year course which covers five Attainment Targets:

- ◆ Number
- ◆ Algebra
- ◆ Shape and Space
- ◆ Data Handling
- ◆ Processes

The course is comprised of two papers which are sat in Year 11 and Year 12 and contain elements of all of the 5 attainment targets as outlined above.

Assessment

There will be a number of tiers of entry to allow a full and balanced opportunity for students at each level to show what they know, understand and can do. There are many combinations which can allow the grades shown to be attained.

Paper Combinations

M2 and M5
 M2 and M6
 M3 and M5
 M3 and M6
 M3 and M7
 M4 and M7
 M4 and M8

Grades Possible

C, D, E, F
 C*, C, D, E
 C*, C, D, E
 B, C*, C, D, E
 B, C*, C, D
 A*, A, B, C*, C, D
 A*, A, B, C*

For both Foundation and Higher levels the assessment of the work is done by:

M1, M2, M3 or M4 - Calculator Paper (45% of overall assessment)

M5, M6, M7 or M8 - 2 papers - one of which is calculator and one is non-calculator (55% of overall assessment).

It is essential therefore, that students have their own calculator throughout the course so they can learn how to work it. Students should also have pen, pencil, ruler, protractor and compass for this subject.

SUBJECT: GCSE SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE

GCSE Single Award Science is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

This course leads to a single award GCSE Science.

It must be stressed that this subject is intended for students who do not wish to study Science beyond GCSE.

This course does **NOT** provide a suitable basis for A-Level study in any of the Sciences.

This course is available in two tiers: -

Foundation: Grades G-C*

Higher: Grades D-A*

What will I learn about?

In Year 11 the following units will be studied:

Unit 2: Chemistry

Unit 3 (a): Physics

In Year 12 the following units will be studied:

Unit 3 (b): Physics

Unit 1: Biology

Unit 4: Practical Skills

How will I be assessed?

Each unit is assessed externally by a unit test in November, February and Summer.

There is a Practical Skills Unit assessing Practical Skills.

Unit Tests = 75%

Practical Skills Unit = 25% - Practical Skills Unit 4: Students carry out 2 pre-released Practicals in Year 12, followed by an external written examination set in a practical context.

There is no terminal examination.

A good pattern of attendance is necessary if you are to achieve good grades in these modular examinations.

Progression Routes

A great course suited to further study and employment, Single Award Science can start students on the path to a host of courses such as, OCR Level 3 Sport, Applied Health & Social care and careers such as laboratory work in schools and hospitals, and progression to sports related courses.

SUBJECT: GCSE DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE

GCSE Double Award Science is delivered by CCEA

QUALIFICATION VALUE: 2 GCSES COURSE DURATION: THIS IS A TWO-YEAR COURSE**COURSE CONTENT**

This specification is designed to promote continuity, coherence and progression within the study of Science. It builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed within the KS3 programme.

The course is suitable for students who wish to study Science beyond GCSE And have reached **an agreed level of performance**.

Students who take this course should find that it helps to facilitate the study of Physics, Chemistry and Biology to AS and Advanced Level. This course can be taken at Foundation AND Higher.

YEAR 11

Biology Unit B1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity (11% of total mark)

An externally assessed written examination
Every November, February and Summer

Chemistry Unit C1: Structures, Trends and Chemical Reactions (11% of total mark)

An externally assessed written examination every November, February and Summer

Physics Unit P1: Force and Motion, Energy, Moments, and Radioactivity (11% of total mark)

Nuclear Fission and Fusion - An externally assessed written examination every November, February and Summer

YEAR 12

Biology Unit B2: Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health (14% of total mark)

Chemistry Unit C2: Further Chemical Reactions Rates, Calculations and Organic Chemistry (14% of total mark)

Physics Unit P2: Waves, Sound and Light, Electricity, Magnetism Electromagnetism and Space Physics (14% of total mark). All are externally assessed written examinations Summer only

Practical Skills Unit 7 - taken in Year 12 (25% of total marks)

Students carry out 3 pre-released Practicals in Year 12, followed by an external written examination set in a practical context.

Progression Routes

After studying this course you may go on to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at AS and A2 Level.

This route leads to Medicine, Dentistry, Engineering, Biomedical and Teaching.

SUBJECT: BTEC LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE IN APPLIED SCIENCE

BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science is delivered by Edexcel

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course Duration: This is a Two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

BTEC Firsts are NQF Level 2 qualifications designed to provide learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment.

The qualification is divided into two parts.

Once both parts are completed students will achieve a certificate broadly equivalent to 1 GCSE.

How will I be Assessed?

Year 11 and Year 12:

10 pieces of Coursework completed over the two years and 1 Externally Assessed Unit.

Progression Routes

A great course suited to further study and employment, BTEC Applied Science can start students on the path to a host of courses such as laboratory work in schools and hospitals, and progression to sports related courses.



An Introduction to Courses In Social Sciences



SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY

GCSE Geography is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE Course Duration: This is a two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT You will:

- Study a range of interesting topics and environmental issues
- Build on your knowledge of KS3 Geography
- Participate in a fieldwork residential

GCSE Geography Topics

YEAR 11 Unit 1 (40%)

- Rivers and Coasts
- Weather and Climate
- The Restless Earth

YEAR 12 Unit 2 (40%)

- Population and Migration
- Changing Urban Areas
- Contrasts in World Development
- Managing Our Environment

Year 12 Unit 3 (20%):

Examination based on fieldwork experience and knowledge

How will I be Assessed?

You will have three written external examinations, one examination in Year 11 and two examinations in Year 12

Progression Routes

You will gain skills and knowledge that will allow you to understand more about places and people. Geography skills are highly valued by employers. So you could apply these skills in the fields of business, travel and leisure, the Civil Service, weather forecasting, teaching, town planning, media, environmental agencies and law. After studying GCSE Geography you may go on to study Geography at A-Level. There is a world of opportunities that Geography can take you to.

Geography is important because understanding our planet, it's people and it's processes will enable us to preserve and protect it for future generations.

SUBJECT: GCSE SOCIOLOGY

GCSE Sociology is delivered by WJEC

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE

Course duration: This is a Two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

Why Sociology?

Sociology is a very popular subject in our school and is successful at GCSE.

Sociology is the study of society, it examines the world around us.

It is a lively, relevant and interesting subject that explores issues such as family life, crime, poverty, education and work. Sociology helps you to develop a range of skills that can be used in a variety of careers such as law, journalism, teaching, social work, nursing etc.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will be required to sit two examination papers both at the end of Year 12 . There is no controlled assessment in Sociology.

GCSE SOCIOLOGY TOPICS

Year 11 - Understanding Social Processes - Exam - 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)

- Families - diversity, changes within family structure, family relationships and theoretical criticisms.
- Education - processes inside school, patterns of educational achievement and factors affecting achievement.
- Sociological Research Methods - Different types of data, practical and ethical issues affecting research.

Year 12 - Understanding Social Structures - Exam - 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of GCSE)

- Social Stratification - different forms of power and authority, inequality and poverty.
- Crime and Deviance - explanations of deviant and criminal behaviour, patterns of criminal behaviour.
- Applied methods of sociological inquiry - the process and interpretation of designing a research project.

Progression Routes

A great course suited to further study, GCSE Sociology can start students on the path to a host of courses such as AS and A2 Sociology, Applied Health and Social Care. You can also progress to careers in areas such as, Teaching, Law, Social Work and Nursing.

SUBJECT: GCSE POLITICS

GCSE POLITICS is delivered by CCEA

Qualification Value: 1 GCSE - Course duration: This is a Two-Year Course

COURSE CONTENT

Why study Politics?

Politics is an engaging and highly relevant subject that enhances students' understanding of political issues and the impact of politics on our everyday lives. Studying Politics allows us to think critically about the political systems in which we live and how we might participate in those systems. Politics helps you to develop as an effective and independent learner in order to analyse and critically evaluate a range of differing political viewpoints.

How Will I Be Assessed?

You will be required to sit two examination papers, one at the end of Year 11, the other at the end of Year 12. There is no controlled assessment in Politics

What will I study? GCSE POLITICS TOPICS:

YEAR 11 – Democracy in Action- Exam - 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of GCSE)

- ◆ **Decision making in a Democracy** - Different layers of government, their elected representatives and areas of responsibility.
- ◆ **Political Parties in a Democracy** - The policies of Political parties – including similarities and differences – on the major issues of: - the economy - education - the environment - immigration
- ◆ **Taking action in a Democracy** - The range of actions an individual citizen can take to achieve their aims and hold the powerful in society to account.

YEAR 12 – International Politics in Action- 1 hour 30 minutes (50% of GCSE)

- ◆ **The European Union** - Arguments for and against of being members of the European Union.
- ◆ **Conflict and its Resolution** - Factors that cause conflict within and between countries and the different ways to attempt peace and security.
- ◆ **Conflict resolution in practice - Northern Ireland** - The Good Friday Agreement's provisions for securing peace in Northern Ireland.

Progression Routes

GCSE Politics is a dynamic course which can support progression to A Level Politics and develop an interest in a wide range of careers such as political journalist, local government officer, government research officer, political risk analyst and human rights campaigner.



My Notes



My Notes



MISSION STATEMENT

*"In partnership with parents, guardians, staff, governors and students
St Louise's promotes excellence in learning and teaching
within a Catholic, Vincentian, Comprehensive ethos"*

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