



St Peter's  
Catholic School



*Faith is our Foundation*



*KS4 Pathways*  
*Taking the next steps:*  
*A guide for pupils and*  
*parents*

[Details](#)

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## Key Dates

### **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

- Y9 Pathways Assembly
- Y9 Pathways Evening – video on website
- Parents' Evening consultations online for English, Maths, Science, RE, MFL, History and Geography

### **Taster Lesson Days**

~~B band – Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2022~~ postponed

~~A band – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2022~~ postponed

5 sessions to include:

- Business Studies/BTEC Business
- Sociology
- Health and Social Care
- Catering
- DT

Subject Talks/Taster lessons in normal lessons for all other subjects taking place between 12<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **12<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

IAG meetings

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

Information Evening for Pathways subjects. A chance to speak to the teachers of History, Geography, Business Studies, Catering, Computing, Art, Music, Drama, PE, DT, Sociology, Health and Social Care. Rather than fixed appointments, this will (COVID permitting) be a face-to-face event to discuss courses with subject specialists. **This will now take place online.**

### **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022**

Final deadline for completed [online Pathways forms](#).

## Introduction

The information in this booklet is to help pupils make informed decisions about their future studies. During the next few weeks pupils will decide for themselves the combination of subjects which will form their Key Stage 4 curriculum.

## St Peter's KS4 Curriculum

**All** pupils follow The Core Curriculum. This ensures they follow a broad and balanced curriculum which does not limit their future choices.

Before making their final pathway choices all Y9 pupils have a one-to-one IAG (information, advice and guidance) interview with a member of staff to help them make informed choices.

KS4 pupils will take:

- one Humanities subject – Geography or History
- one Modern Foreign Language – French or Spanish
- one other pathway subject of their choice\*

A very small number of pupils may be advised to follow a bespoke pathway, including an MFL or humanities subject. These pupils will be identified by SLT, and discussions with these pupils and their parents will take place in the summer term of Y9.

Pupils and parents are also encouraged to discuss pathway choices and KS4 study with subject teachers at the information evening at the end of January.

\* We can only run courses with a viable class size. If only a small number of pupils select a subject, we may be unable to put on a class. For this reason, we ask pupils to make reserve choices.

## The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is not a qualification but will recognise pupils' achievements across a core of selected academic subjects. The English Baccalaureate indicator shows the percentage of pupils at the end of Year 11 achieving GCSEs at grades 9-5 in **all** elements of the EBacc academic subjects.

<b>EBacc core academic element</b>	<b>9-5 requirement to pass EBacc element</b>
English	GCSE English (Language) <b>or</b> GCSE English Literature
Mathematics	GCSE Mathematics
Science	GCSE Combined Science <b>or three of</b> GCSE Biology GCSE Chemistry GCSE Physics GCSE Computer Science
Humanities	GCSE Geography <b>or</b> GCSE History
A modern foreign language**	GCSE French <b>or</b> GCSE Spanish

The government's ambition is for 90% of pupils nationally to be studying an EBacc curriculum by 2025. It is St Peter's curriculum policy that almost all our KS4 pupils study a modern foreign language and either Geography or History.

The KS4 curriculum at St Peter's is structured so that all pupils may follow the EBacc curriculum.

\*\* Other modern foreign languages count towards EBacc but only French and Spanish are offered as taught courses at St Peter's. If pupils are fluent in speaking and writing a language other than English, which is offered at GCSE, please contact Mrs Crees to make enquiries.

# FAQs

## **How will I know whether I will enjoy a subject if I have not studied it before?**

Staff representing subjects that are only offered at KS4 will deliver taster lessons and you will be able to speak to them at the information evening.

## **Why can't I choose whatever subjects I want?**

We believe all pupils in KS4 have an entitlement to be taught the National Curriculum, St Peter's core curriculum adheres to this. Schools also have a legal duty to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils. Research shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides pupils with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.

The government's ambition is to see 90% of pupils nationally studying the EBacc subject combination at GCSE by 2025. It is our ambition that the vast majority of pupils will study the EBacc subjects because of their higher than average starting points.

## **Can I study other subjects as well as EBacc subjects?**

The curriculum is arranged so that all pupils can study the EBacc. Pupils who are interested in other areas can choose subjects that are not part of the EBacc to complement their learning and allow them to develop their creative talents or learn about new subjects. Equally, some pupils may wish to choose an additional humanities subject or a second language but only on the advice of their teachers.

## **Which subjects should I choose?**

- Choose subjects you enjoy.
- Choose subjects that you did well in at KS3.
- If you did not study the subject at KS3 find out more. Will you be interested?

## **I am worried about choosing subjects that my friends are not going to take. What should I do?**

Think very carefully about the subjects **you** want to study. Discuss your ideas with parents, subject staff, your tutor and whoever does your IAG. You will still see all your friends outside of lessons and who knows you might even form some new friendships!

## **Will I get my first choices?**

We hope that pupils will get their first choices, but this is not always possible. Therefore, we will ask for a reserve choice. Take some time to consider your first and reserve choice as you may be allocated your reserve subject.

## **What will happen if only a few pupils opt for a subject?**

If only a small number of pupils wish to study a particular subject, we may not be able to run the course. ***Pupils and their parents need to be aware that in some cases it is not possible to run courses offered, if viable numbers of pupils do not opt for them.***

## **How do I choose my pathways?**

Pupils will complete the online pathways form on Microsoft Forms.

## **Can I change my mind after I have submitted my form?**

No, please do not submit the form until you are one hundred percent decided on the subjects you wish to do. It will not be possible to resubmit the form once completed.

## **How long have I got to think about my choices?**

You have until 09.00 on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022, giving you plenty of time after IAGs and taster sessions to complete the form.

## **How will I know if I have got my first-choice subjects?**

Every possible effort is made to give all pupils their first-choice pathways. If we are unable to, we will speak to you individually.

## The Core Curriculum

Not all of the core curriculum is assessed by an examination at the end of the course. However, all aspects of this area of the curriculum are assessed regularly to ensure pupils make the best possible progress they can. St Peter's recognises that for pupils to be the 'best they can be' they need to learn to be well-informed, balanced and healthy citizens.

As part of the curriculum the government expects schools to promote the fundamental British values of democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of those with different faiths and beliefs. As a Catholic school, St Peter's embeds those values through its ethos and mission statement, which extends to all activities in school, within and outside the taught curriculum.

The subjects which form part of our core curriculum are:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE RE
- GCSE Sciences (Combined or Triple)
- Core PE
- PSHE
- Work Experience/work related learning

## GCSE English Language

### ***What will you learn?***

You will develop your reading, writing and speaking and listening skills through the study of creative writing and non-fiction.

### ***Who is the course for?***

This is a compulsory GCSE.

### ***Where can this course take me?***

Pupils may take Advanced Level courses in English Language or English Literature.

To access a degree course, you must have at least a grade 5 in GCSE English Language.

Pupils can study English in various forms in further Education. For example: journalism, creative writing, English literature and medieval English. With a qualification in English you could pursue a wide variety of careers. These include jobs in marketing, sales and advertising, teaching, journalism, reporting, editing, research, librarianship, administration.

Employers and training providers look for evidence of effective communication skills and literacy which English qualifications provide.

## GCSE English Literature

### ***What will you learn?***

You will study a Shakespeare play, a 19th Century novel, a modern prose or drama text and poetry.

### ***Who is the course for?***

This is a compulsory GCSE.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils may take Advanced Level courses in English Language, English Literature or combined English Language and Literature.

Pupils can study English in various forms in further education. For example: journalism, creative writing, English literature and medieval English. With a qualification in English you could pursue a wide variety of careers. These include jobs in marketing, sales and advertising, teaching, journalism, reporting, editing, research, librarianship, administration.

Employers and training providers look for evidence of effective communication skills and literacy which English qualifications provide.

# GCSE Mathematics

## ***What will you learn?***

- 1 Number.
- 2 Algebra.
- 3 Ratio, proportion and rates of change.
- 4 Geometry and measures.
- 5 Probability.
- 6 Statistics.

## ***Who is the course for?***

This is a compulsory GCSE.

High achieving pupils will work on GCSE Further Maths parallel to the GCSE and will take this exam at the end of Year 11.

## ***Where can this course take me?***

Numeracy Skills are essential Key Skills required in all aspects of life. Employers and further education providers regard GCSE Mathematics as a key qualification.

Mathematical thinking is important for members of a modern society for its use in the workplace, business and finance; and personal decision-making. Maths is vital to national prosperity in providing tools for understanding science, engineering, technology and economics. It is essential in public decision-making and for participation in the knowledge economy. Maths equips you with uniquely powerful ways to describe and analyse the world.

Those who are functional in Mathematics and financially capable are able to think independently in applied and abstract ways, and can reason, solve problems assess risk.

Higher GCSE Maths forms the pathway for Advanced Level studies in Maths and Further Maths offering a route to several careers ranging from medicine to computer animation.

## Level 2 – Further Mathematics

### ***What will you learn?***

- 1 Number.
- 2 Algebra.
- 3 Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)
- 4 Calculus
- 5 Matrix Transformations
- 6 Geometry

### ***Who is the course for?***

A number of pupils from the two highest sets will work on this course alongside the Maths GCSE.

### ***Where can this course take me?***

This course allows some of our gifted mathematicians to further explore more complex topics within mathematics.

The course will encourage learners to be inspired and challenged by following a rigorous and satisfying course of study which emphasises the power of mathematics.

Learners should be encouraged to reason logically and recognise incorrect reasoning, and to appreciate the power of generalisation and mathematical proof.

Although not essential, the course is extremely useful to help aid the transition into A Level Mathematics and A Level Further Mathematics.

Level 2 Further Mathematics forms the pathway for Advanced Level studies in Maths and Further Maths offering a route to several careers ranging from mechanical engineering to computer science.

# GCSE Religious Studies

## ***What will you learn?***

The course will allow pupils to undertake an in-depth study of Catholic Christianity, Judaism and Christian Philosophy and Ethics and encourages a critical and reflective approach to the study of religion.

The specification allows for a greater emphasis to be placed on the study of one religion and its development and brings to life the foundations of faith and practice in our world today.

## ***Who is the course for?***

This is a compulsory GCSE.

This course develops your faith and helps you to understand why Christians have certain beliefs and traditions. It will enable you to discuss your own belief and that of others. School assessments are designed to be accessible to all pupils with a clear structure and easy to follow command words.

## ***Where can this course take me?***

GCSE Religious Studies is a great foundation for life. You can continue your study of religion in Key Stage 5 and follow courses in Ethics, Philosophy and Developments in Christian Thought. With further training this study will support a career in professions such as the Law, Medicine, Policing, the Health Service, Education and Social Work.

## **KS4 Science Overview**

The two different science courses offered in Key Stage 4 are outlined on the following pages.

One class on each band are selected to study AQA Triple Science GCSEs, based on their performance in assessments during KS3. The remainder of the year group study AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy. The course content is the same for both courses, with extra units of work covering Triple Science only content, for those studying it.

On both the AQA Triple and Combined Science, there is no longer any coursework component, instead pupils are expected to complete a range of key practical activities during their science courses. These have been written into the schemes of work so that all pupils will experience practical, hands on science during KS4.

Pupils wishing to study A Levels in Biology, or Chemistry, Physics, or Environmental Science or a Diploma in Medical Science may do so after studying either the Triple or Trilogy courses, provided they meet the entry requirements.

## GCSE Combined Science

This is a general science course which includes Biology, Chemistry and Physics. You will develop a good scientific knowledge while exploring how science is important to society.

The Biology content covers cell biology and organisation, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

The Chemistry part of the course covers atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

The Physics component covers forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter and atomic structure.

### ***Who is the course for?***

It is compulsory to take GCSE Combined Science or GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

This course will suit pupils who want a broad and thorough knowledge of science.

### ***Where can this course take me?***

Pupils can use the knowledge and skills developed here in a wide range of courses at Key Stage 5, for example Medical Science or Environmental Science, and for those attaining the highest GCSE grades A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics

You will cover a broad range of topics in each of the three different subject areas.

In Biology you will cover cells, infection and response, bioenergetics, homeostasis and response, inheritance, variation and evolution and ecology.

In Chemistry the topics covered are atomic structure and the periodic table, bonding, structure, and the properties of matter, quantitative chemistry, chemical changes, energy changes, the rate and extent of chemical change, organic chemistry, chemical analysis, chemistry of the atmosphere and using resources.

In Physics you will cover forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism and electromagnetism, particle model of matter, atomic structure and space physics.

### ***Who is the course for?***

The content of three separate sciences is very demanding, so this course will suit pupils with a passion for science who are prepared to go above and beyond with their work.

Pupils will need to have demonstrated sustained high performance across all three sciences throughout Y9 to be eligible to study Triple Science.

### ***Where can this course take me?***

The natural progression at Key Stage 5 is to study one or more science subjects. This is good preparation for studying subjects such as pharmacy, medicine and physics in further education, as well as non-science subjects such as law.

## **Core PE**

Physical education is compulsory in schools until the end of Y11. All pupils, including those who opt for GCSE PE have timetabled 'core' PE lessons. Core PE gives everyone, especially those who would not otherwise take part in organised exercise the chance to be active. A range of sports and activities is offered, including off-site activities.

## **PSHE**

Personal, social and health and economic education are lessons that are intended to prepare pupils for life outside of school. They develop the knowledge, skills and attributes pupils need to manage life's challenges and make the most of life's opportunities. PSHE should give pupils the confidence and conviction so that they can act with others, have influence and make a difference in their communities.

PSHE is a compulsory subject that is studied for up to one period a week at Key Stage Four. This lesson helps pupils feel prepared for leaving St. Peter's by covering topics such as careers and finance, as well on building on life skills such as developing positive relationships. At the end of Year 10 and throughout Year 11, during mock exam periods the lessons will be used to develop effective revision techniques and give pupils time to prepare proficiently for their exams. There is no formal PSHE examination at the end of Year 11.

At Key Stage Four, PSHE continues to build on the Catholic ethos of the school through our values and virtues. All lessons build on the existing themes from Key Stage Three of relationships, physical health and mental wellbeing and the wider world. We actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect.

### Key Stage Four PSHE Curriculum Framework

	<b>Autumn Term One</b>	<b>Spring Term One</b>	<b>Summer Term One</b>
<b>Year 10</b>	How am I attentive and discerning when building relationships?	How can I be prophetic about democracy across the world?	How am I learned about my own physical health and mental wellbeing?
	<b>Autumn Term Two</b>	<b>Spring Term Two</b>	<b>Summer Term Two</b>
	As above including Relationships and Sex Education	How can I be compassionate to myself when considering alcohol?	How am I curious about my journey after St. Peter's? (Careers and Life Skills)
	<b>Autumn Term One</b>	<b>Spring Term One</b>	<b>Summer Term One</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	How am I attentive and discerning about my future after St. Peter's? (Careers)	How can I be intentional when preparing for life after St. Peter's? (Life Skills and Mental Health)	Dedicated revision time
	<b>Autumn Term Two</b>	<b>Spring Term Two</b>	<b>Summer Term Two</b>
	How am I discerning in the choices I make online?	How can I be intentional when preparing for life after St. Peter's? (Life Skills and Mental Health)	

## Citizenship

Citizenship education is about helping people understand how things work and how to challenge and change them for the better.

The Citizenship programme at KS3 and KS4 is delivered through formal lessons and as part of the form tutor period. As part of our ethos St Peter's embeds SMSC (spiritual, moral, social and cultural) aspects across the curriculum. We actively promote the fundamental British values of democracy, rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect for and tolerance of those with different faiths and those without faith across all subjects in the curriculum and through extra-curricular activities.

Citizenship is a core subject in KS4. There is no formal examination at the end of Year 11. Pupils study a range of topics to help them become informed and critical citizens. It gives them the confidence and conviction so that they can act with others, have influence and make a difference in their communities.

Topics include:

- Human rights.
- How and why laws are made.
- Consumer rights and responsibilities.
- Crime.
- Producing the news.
- Rights and responsibilities in the world of work.
- Racism and discrimination.
- Local issues and global action.
- How does the economy work?

## Work Experience

If you need some Careers support and are not sure where to begin, you can use our dedicated online platform, Start. When you fill in your profile with your interests, work preferences, skills and qualities it will suggest possible careers for you and will keep updating these for you as long as you keep your profile up to date. You can like specific careers, qualifications and possible destinations and these will also help keep your profile up to date.

[www.startprofile.com](http://www.startprofile.com)

During 2023, all Year 10 pupils take part in Work Experience. Placements vary a great deal and have included experiences in the Army, offices, nurseries and schools, theatres, engineering companies, catering, journalism, archaeology, the RAF, banking, travel agencies and so on.

During their placement, each pupil will complete a journal. The employer will also appraise the pupil on their placement.

It is the responsibility of pupils to find a suitable placement but, the careers team, your lead tutor and your form tutor will give advice and guidance. Year 10 pupils will receive a detailed assembly outlining all the necessary information they need for finding a successful work experience placement. There is a dedicated area on the school portal entitled 'Work Experience' which gives exemplar emails and letters that could be sent as pupils seek potential placements. There is also a logon and password which lists placements that were used in previous years. These details are listed below.

Website is: [www.solihullwex.co.uk/school\\_login.html](http://www.solihullwex.co.uk/school_login.html)

Pupil username: stpeterstudent

Pupil password: stpeter884

We hope that our Year 10 pupils strive hard to find a suitable placement for their Year 10 work experience as we see this as an important aspect of their personal development and insight into their future pathways.

## Pathway Subjects

As described earlier pupils can choose from a number of pathway subjects.

These are listed alphabetically in the following pages.

### Important Points

We can only run classes when sufficient numbers of pupils opt for them. If numbers are not viable, we are not always able to run courses we have offered.

It is not always necessary to study a subject at GCSE in order to study it at post-16 level. Courses that fall into this category are marked with an asterisk\* throughout the booklet.

All courses will give access to further study at Level 3 (A Levels, L3 BTECs, NVQs and Apprenticeships) and on to Level 4 and Level 5 in further education:

KS4 pupils will take:

- one Humanities subject – Geography or History
- one Modern Foreign Language – French or Spanish
- one other pathway subject of their choice

## GCSE Art and Design

### ***What will you learn?***

Pupils will develop their skills using a variety of media and techniques. This includes acrylics, inks, pastels, water colours, textiles, photography and printmaking.

They will focus on how to develop and refine ideas from conception to the finished piece.

Pupils will link their own work to that of artists, designers, photographers and architects.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who have an interest in or enjoy art and design.

Pupils who enjoy exploring new ideas and communicating through visual and tactile media.

Pupils who wish to work with independence in the areas that they choose to research and develop.

Pupils who aspire a career in art or design.

### ***Where can this course take me?***

Pupils can follow an A Level course and progress to a further education course in areas such as fine art, fashion, architecture, games design, theatre design, or any of over 200 potential courses.

Art offers routes into advertising, printing, graphic design and hairdressing.

Art offers an opportunity to link skills from all subjects and use these holistically which employers see as an asset.

## **GCSE Business Studies/BTEC Enterprise \***

### **What will you learn?**

These courses cover all aspects of business knowledge including; marketing, people, production and the economy.

### **Who is the course for?**

Pupils with the ambition to create wealth through enterprise or who would like to pursue professional business careers.

### **Where can this course take me?**

This course leads on to the A Level Business Course which covers a wide range of business topics. Pupils can also study L3 BTEC Business which leads to a single or double Advanced Level qualification.

## WJEC Hospitality and Catering L1/2\*

### ***What will you learn?***

Catering focuses on the basic cookery skills, food preparation and the service aspect of the hospitality and catering industry. Pupils will develop a range of practical skills, learning about food preparation, cooking methods and presentation and will produce food products of a high quality. Other areas of study covered include: knife skills, food and its functions in the body, as part of a balanced diet and as well as modifications of recipes for health. Pupils will learn how to cost meals and understand portion control and the importance of nutrition and menu planning. The course also introduces pupils to the use of specialist equipment.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who have a passion for cooking and food products and who may have an interest in the hospitality and catering industry, nutrition and diet.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils will have a variety of pathways available to be them; they may continue in further education within the field or may opt to study Nutrition based courses. Possible opportunities that the course could lead onto: HND or Degree in Culinary management, Bakery, and Hotel and Tourism management. Alternatively, for those interested in health care jobs, Dietician and Nutritionist.

## GCSE Computer Science

### ***Who is the course for?***

This carefully planned course gives pupils a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. It offers an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many pupils find absorbing. This is a challenging course and contains a high level of mathematics. Pupils will need to be confident applying mathematical skills in an unfamiliar situation.

### ***Why choose Computer Science?***

Computing is an ever-growing industry around the world and is becoming more and more important in the way we live our everyday lives. This course is a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills, which can be transferred to higher learning and to everyday life. Students will learn the fundamental principles of Computer Science and an understanding of the components that make up digital systems. They will also expand their knowledge of how many people around the world communicate with each other from their computers, including their phones, games consoles, tablets and laptops.

### ***Where can this course take me?***

Pupils who want to go on to higher study and employment in the field of computer. Many of our past pupils have used this course as steppingstone to university studying courses such as Game Development and Computer Science and Mathematics.

# BTEC Digital Information Technology

## ***Who is the course for?***

The digital IT sector is a major area of employment in the UK, with over 1.4 million people working in digital companies. These span most industries since most employers expect their employees to have a good standard of digital literacy. This course will provide students with the necessary skills required to help students build their digital literacy skills and prepare them for many aspects of a huge variety of industries.

## ***Why choose Digital IT?***

This will develop your technical skills in data interpretation, data presentation and data protection. Cybercrime is an ever-growing threat, so it is vital that all businesses understand how to manage and protect their data. This will develop your understanding of this as well as understanding the process behind large IT project planning.

## ***Where can this course take me?***

The digital aspects in this course are not covered in the GCSE. This qualification will develop the skills and knowledge required for the modern digital world.

Once completed you could move onto further studying of IT or Computing or move into one of the many IT apprenticeships that are currently available.

## GCSE Dance\*

### ***What will you learn?***

GCSE Dance is a fresh and vibrant course which includes performances and choreography, alongside a new collection of diverse professional works. Pupils need to have experience in Dance, both performing and choreographing. Experience in contemporary dance would be very beneficial for practical exams.

### ***Who is the course for?***

GCSE Dance recognises the role of dance in young people's lives and pupils will study a range of dance styles and style fusions. Apart from the solo performance, they can choose any style in which to perform and choreograph, providing it meets the assessment criteria. They will also study the anthology of professional works which will develop their ability to critically appraise professional dance works and provide a springboard for engaging in practical tasks.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Dance develops creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. This course gives pupils the skills and experience to better prepare them for the demands of AS and A-level Dance and the demands of higher education or the workplace.

# GCSE Design & Technology

## ***What will you learn?***

Pupils will initially complete small focused projects, which involve a variety of materials such as wood, metals, plastics and textiles, use of the laser cutter and 3D printer. These projects have been designed to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding required for the successful completion of both coursework and the examination. As products need to be commercially viable, pupils will also learn about industrial manufacturing. Pupils will complete a coursework project at the end of year 10 through to year 11 following a design brief set by the exam board. The project will consist of a design portfolio and a made product from a material of your choice.

## ***Who is the course for?***

Do you love design, tech, fashion or beauty? Then this course is designed for you, we do not focus on just traditional craft skills, the course enables you to actively contribute to your creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of yourself and your community. It teaches you how to take risks and become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable.

This course has been designed for pupils who enjoy developing creative design solutions and working within the workshop environment and for pupils who aspire to a career in art or design or wish to move into the engineering, manufacturing industry. It also gives pupils the opportunity to answer the "what if. . ." question. It is a chance to show innovation, problem solve and develop life skills.

## ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils can study Product Design at A Level and in further education. In addition, a Design and Technology qualification can lead to a career in engineering, a rapidly growing job sector in the UK, unearth your problem-solving skills and make a difference in the world.

Pupils can move onto an apprenticeship after their GCSEs, a Diploma, HNC (higher national certificate) or foundation degree.

Design and Technology is a practical and valuable subject and can lead to employment within these industries: architecture, advertising, product design, fashion, aerospace engineering, electrical engineer, jewellery designer, interior design, web design and much more.

## GCSE Drama\*

### ***What will you learn?***

Analytical and evaluative writing; physical and vocal skills; performance skills; how to approach a text and the process it takes to get from page to stage; methods and strategies to create original pieces of theatre.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Anyone who is willing to work hard and interested in being creative, communicating to an audience and understanding what makes great theatre. This is a practical course and the willingness to perform to others is a must. This is also a course that is 70% written, so enjoying reading and stories is useful. However, if this concerns you speak to one of the Drama teachers, support is readily available.

### ***Where can this course take me?***

Film and Television is a booming industry in Great Britain, and there are many career paths in these industries that aren't acting. The same can be said for the theatre industry, costume designers, lighting and sound designers and engineers, producers, stage management etc – there's a lot out there! Outside of the arts Drama GCSE is an opportunity to show others that you can communicate effectively, have skills in analysing and evaluating not just texts but live events. These skills are invaluable for further education and the workplace. Creative workers who can meet deadlines and targets are in great demand. At Key Stage Five, Drama and Theatre Studies offers even greater opportunities to explore more powerful texts and devise work that challenges audiences and the role of theatre within society. A Level Drama goes well with English and History.

## GCSE French

### ***What will you learn?***

Pupils will develop their use of transactional language in role-plays. They will broaden their vocabularies and their knowledge of grammar whilst covering the topics of identity and culture, local area and travel, school and future aspirations and global issues. They will also have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the culture of the target language countries.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who are ambitious and want to be able to offer an employer a valuable skill. Pupils who enjoy communicating. Pupils who want to learn more about other countries and cultures. Pupils who want to make themselves understood in a foreign language. Pupils who enjoy travelling.

### ***Where can this course take me?***

Pupils can choose to study at A level, then study languages in further education. Languages help pupils to study other subjects from law to business, travel to engineering and many more as it is a facilitating subject. Employers look for language speakers: studying a language develops analytical skills, enables pupils to think quickly and clearly and makes pupils effective communicators.

## GCSE Geography\*

### ***What will you learn?***

**Living with the physical environment:** hazards, landscapes in the UK and geographical skills.

**Challenge in the human environment:** urban issues, the changing economic world and the challenge of resource management.

**Geographical applications:** issues evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils with an interest in Geography.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils can take A Level Geography, then Geography related courses in further education.

Geography can lead to careers in travel and tourism, local government and planning, the transport industries, cartography and meteorology, agriculture and horticulture, civil engineering, mining and the energy industries, surveying, valuing and estate agency, administration, marketing, retail management and public relations.

## L2 Cambridge National Health and Social Care\*

### ***What will you learn?***

Health and Social Care is a broad subject which looks at topics including, human growth and development, the effects of life events, relationships and self-concept.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who enjoy project-based work rather than exams and have an interest in human development and the effects of different life events on development and how this effects care needs.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils can study at Health and Social Care at Level 3 and then in further education.

Studying Health and Social Care leads to careers in the NHS; psychiatric nursing, midwifery, social work and early years teaching amongst many more.

## GCSE History\*

### ***What will you learn?***

**Depth Study – Conflict and Tension, 1918 – 1939**, including the post-war peace settlements, the League of Nations' failed attempts to achieve peace and the causes of World War II.

**Depth Study—America, 1920-1973**, including the Roaring 20s, The Depression and The New Deal, the Red Scare and Black American Civil Rights.

**Depth Study— Norman England, c1066–c1100** including the Norman Conquest, life under Norman control, religion in Norman England and a Historical Environment Study in Norman England.

**Thematic Study— Britain: Power and the people: c1170 to the present day**, including the Peasants Revolt, the English Civil War, the Anti-Slavery protests and the campaigns for Women's Suffrage.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who have an interest in history and how the past has shaped the modern world. Pupils who enjoy researching and answering questions. Pupils who like the challenge of discussing and debating key issues. Pupils who enjoy reading and want to develop their writing skills to become effective communicators.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils can take an A level in History or Politics and study History in further education.

History qualifications lead to a wide range of careers including law, teaching, media, business, management, psychology, sociology, politics, accountancy and archaeology.

Historians develop higher order thinking skills, logic, analysis, hypothesis, argument and critical evaluation as well as the ability to communicate effectively. Employers and Universities like to see that a balanced course has been followed at school. History is an important part of keeping that balance.

## GCSE Music

### ***What will you learn?***

You will learn a range of practical and theoretical approaches to Music, while having the opportunity to perform, compose and listen to a wide variety of music. You will have the opportunity to develop your skills on your chosen instrument/and or voice as well as learn new skills in composition. You will study a range of genres, from orchestral to pop and various composers/artists.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who have had prior interest in music and enjoy both performing and creating music. The course is accessible to both instrumentalists and vocalists. This course would suit pupils who have a solid foundation of knowledge and are willing to learn how to enhance their musical skills.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

This course gives an excellent grounding for studying music at higher education (A-Level, B-Tec, Apprenticeships, University) and would be strongly recommended for those looking at a music-based career e.g. Performing, Music Tech, Music Journalism, Theatre.

## GCSE PE

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who are interested and enthusiastic about physical education. Pupils with a good, broad range of practical sporting ability in at least four sports. You will also focus on the theoretical part of the course and learn about how the body works and reacts to exercise.

### ***What will you learn?***

This GCSE in Physical Education will equip pupils with the knowledge, understanding, skills and values they need to be able to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities. Pupils will also gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness and well-being.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils can study A Level Physical Education or take the BTEC National Certificate at Key Stage Five. Courses in physiotherapy, sports science, sports management, sports coaching and sports retail are all available in further education or as future careers.

## BTEC Sport\*

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who are interested in personal health and fitness and wish to understand more about the benefits of fitness, the functions of the body and how diet and exercise impact lifestyle.

### ***What will you learn?***

Pupils will also gain understanding of how physical activities benefit health, fitness

and well-being. They will also develop transferable skills in communication, research,

teamwork, planning and health and safety.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils can study A Level Physical Education or a diploma in exercise, health and fitness.

## GCSE Sociology\*

### ***What will you learn?***

Topics such as crime and deviance (whether criminals are born or made), the effects of family and education on an individual and the effect of media.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who are interested in understanding why people behave and develop in certain ways. Pupils who are interested in how different influences, such as social class, affect people's lives.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils can study sociology at Key Stage Five and in further education. Sociology leads to careers which involve people and the study of society, for example, the police force, teaching, criminology, social work, or working within government.

Sociology develops the ability to analyse information and good use of language. Sociology candidates are attractive to course providers in further education and employers; even if pupils are pursuing a different path.

## GCSE Spanish

### ***What will you learn?***

Pupils will develop their use of transactional language in role-plays. They will broaden their vocabularies and their knowledge of grammar whilst covering the topics of identity and culture, local area and travel, school and future aspirations and global issues. They will also have the opportunity to increase their awareness of the culture of the target language countries.

### ***Who is the course for?***

Pupils who are ambitious and want to be able to offer an employer a valuable skill. Pupils who enjoy communicating. Pupils who want to learn more about other countries and cultures. Pupils who want to make themselves understood in a foreign language. Pupils who enjoy travelling.

### ***Where will this course take me?***

Pupils can choose to study at A level, then study languages in further education. Languages help pupils to study other subjects from law to business, travel to engineering and many more as it is a facilitating subject. Employers look for language speakers: studying a language develops analytical skills, enables pupils to think quickly and clearly and makes pupils effective communicators.

## Further Information

Not sure where to start? Discover more about your personality type and your strengths with this personality profile quiz. It only takes a couple of minutes and gives suggestions for careers that would suit you at the end.

[http://icould.com/buzz/?buzz\\_page=0](http://icould.com/buzz/?buzz_page=0)

Success at School is the place for young people to explore careers, get the lowdown on top employers, and search for the latest jobs, courses and advice.

<https://successatschool.org/>

Explore different careers with these videos:

<http://icould.com/watch-career-videos/>

National Careers Service:

<https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

For parents:

Choosing GCSE Pathways: Parents' Guide

[http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/08/14/choosing-gcse-options-the-parentdish-guide\\_n\\_7334326.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/2014/08/14/choosing-gcse-options-the-parentdish-guide_n_7334326.html)

Looking ahead, how important are GCSE choices when it comes to university?

<http://university.which.co.uk/advice/gcse-choices-university/how-important-are-gcse-choices-when-it-comes-to-university>

