



RAINEY
ENDOWED
SCHOOL
MAGHERAFELT

GCSE SUBJECT CHOICES 2026

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to the Year 10 Options process.

This is an exciting stage in your child's educational journey at Rainey Endowed School where students have the opportunity to make real choices about the subjects they wish to pursue for the GCSE programme. As a school, we are proud to offer a wide selection of courses, with over 20 GCSE programmes available.

Rainey Endowed's curriculum offers a broad range of pathways, and our aim is to ensure that every student chooses a balanced combination of subjects that will support their strengths, interests, and future success. To strengthen the 3-way partnership of parent -pupil school, we strongly encourage you to read through this booklet with your son/ daughter and to carefully consider the combination of subjects they choose. We also advise students to speak with their teachers and Registration Tutor to ensure they make the choices that are right for them.

Initially, students will have a free choice of subjects based within each of the option blocks located within this booklet. However, there are certain restrictions on class sizes and number of classes which mean that it is not always possible to satisfy 100% of choices. Nevertheless, we will do our best to meet first choice demand and, if necessary, we will discuss with your son/daughter why it has not been possible to allow them to have all their first choice subjects.

We realise that this is an important and sometimes stressful time, and we encourage pupils and parents to chat to the teachers at the upcoming Options evening. Please remember that we are all here to help your child make the final decisions about their subject choices. I trust that you will find the guidance in this booklet helpful to you and your child throughout the process.

Yours sincerely,



Principal

GCSE SUBJECT CHOICES

NOTES FOR STUDENTS & PARENTS

At Rainey Endowed School, we believe that all our students should follow a broad and balanced curriculum at Key Stage Four. In order to ensure this, all students must take the following:

- i. English
- ii. Mathematics
- iii. Either Triple Award Science[#] or Double Award Science or Single Award Science
- iv. Five optional subjects which are dependent on the options chosen in (iii) above

The full list of optional subjects available is shown below and further details on these and the compulsory subjects are provided on following pages of this booklet.

Agriculture	Further Mathematics	Triple Award Science [#]
Art & Design	Geography	
Business Studies	Health & Social Care	
Construction	History	
Digital Technology - Multimedia	Music	
Digital Technology - Programming	Physical Education	
English Literature	Religious Studies (full course) [†]	
French	Spanish	
Food & Nutrition	Technology & Design	

Notes:

- # Triple Award Science – students must list this as a preference if they have chosen this in section 1
- † Students who do not choose Religious Studies (Full Course) will follow the GCSE Religious Studies (Short Course)

This allows students to study at least 9 GCSEs.

When making choices, students should be aware of subjects that have a significant controlled assessment element (50% or more).

AGRICULTURE (CCEA)

Teacher: Miss L McNeill

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a Linear subject (no module examinations are available)

Content of Course:

The Agri-Food industry is the largest employer in Northern Ireland with over 100,000 people employed in the sector. It has been the one sector that has continued to grow and develop. The intention of this course is to help students adopt a systematic and scientific approach to the development of the skills, and acquisition of the knowledge, associated with the land-based, environmental and food processing sectors.

Assessment Arrangements:

Unit 1: Soils, Crops and Habitats	Unit 2: Animals on the Land
This unit covers the following themes: Composition of soils Horticulture Plant Biology Crop Production Care and Management of the Countryside Renewable Energy and Climate Change Careers	This unit covers the following themes: Livestock Farming Breeding and Reproduction Health and Welfare Nutrition Food Production and Food Processing Farm Economics Farm Health and Safety Pollution and Farm Waste
External written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (worth 25% of final GCSE grade)	External written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes (worth 25% of final GCSE grade)

Task 1	Task 2
Planning and Risk Assessment Data Collection Analysis and Conclusion Evaluation Report is 2000 words maximum	Planning Data Collection (Primary and Secondary) Analysis and Conclusion Evaluation Report is 3000 words maximum
Practical Investigation Task (worth 20% final GCSE grade)	Research Project (worth 30% final GCSE grade)

Each piece of Controlled Assessment is chosen from a selected list of CCEA tasks. It is marked by the Class Teacher and subject to external moderation.

Other Information:

This course will be practical in nature affording students a range of experiences inside and outside the classroom. We are building on the success of the school's Agriculture Club by allowing students to meet with a wide range of speakers from the Agri-Food industry. Potential career opportunities as well as conventional Farming are: Agricultural Sales & Marketing, Agriculture Engineering, Environmental Technology, Plant & Animal Husbandry, Renewable Energy, Food Production & Processing and Technical Advisory roles.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Agriculture teacher.

ART & DESIGN (CCEA)

Head of Department: Miss S McCracken

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a Linear subject (no module examinations are available)

Content of Course:

Students will be expected to use and experiment with a wide range of media, techniques, and new technologies. Such media and techniques include drawing, painting, digital media, textiles, and lens-based media, etc. It is important that students are able to develop their own ideas with teacher guidance and that they can discuss and develop them to produce a final outcome. Students are also expected to consider the work of other artists and crafts people by personal research. They should be able to analyse and evaluate their findings and relate it to their own work.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1a Exploratory Portfolio & Unit 1b Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries	This extends and develops across the two years and is completed in the spring term of Year 12.	60%
Unit 2 – Externally Set Assignment	This paper will be issued to students in January of Year 12. The school will provide a supervised period of ten hours within which a final piece of work should be completed.	40%

Controlled Assessment Details:

Unit 1a – Exploratory Portfolio. Students are encouraged to be innovative, creative and reflective and present their work in a sketchbook or other form of portfolio and it progresses. The production of final outcomes is not required in this unit.

In Unit 1b students are to complete one of the following tasks:

1. An investigation into an artist, designer, movement or other aspect of art and design leading to a personal response.
2. A response to a design brief or visual arts commission.
3. Participation in a collaborative project with a clearly defined role leading to an outcome that can be presented for individual assessment.

Students produce an outcome in the form of a personal response, a response to a brief or a design solution. The outcome may be presented in any appropriate format, including digital media.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

Students who wish to study Art & Design at A Level is on the standard of their GCSE portfolio and at the discretion of the Head of Department.

Other Information:

Students who choose Art & Design as a GCSE option should be genuinely interested in Art, be self-motivated, show ability and have produced well above an average standard of work during Key Stage 3. It is strongly advised that students consult their Year 10 Art teacher to discuss the possibility of taking this subject at GCSE Level. There are many career opportunities in the creative industries, plus creative roles in various sectors including fashion, film, animation, graphic design, publishing, product design, jewellery design, marketing, advertising and PR. GCSE Art & Design is also a minimum requirement for university applications to architecture courses. Many of our students go on to study Art and Design related courses at university; all of which have proved successful careers in this industry. There are many different areas where art and design skills are important and offers a varied and absorbing career choice. Our increasing reliance on goods will mean that there will be plenty of opportunities for committed individuals.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

BUSINESS STUDIES (CCEA)

(Acting) Head of Department: Mr I Francis

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a Modular subject (module examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

The topics in GCSE Business Studies which will be examined through the use of case studies, investigations and simulations.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1 Starting A Business - students are introduced to the fundamentals of starting a business. They examine why businesses start and the resources required to maintain and grow them. Students explore business aims and the impact that various stakeholder groups may have on businesses. Students explore marketing options and consider the impact of e-business on potential growth strategies. They also consider why businesses conform to quality assurance standards and health and safety legislation.	1.5 hours external exam (Year 11 exam entry)	40%
Unit 2 Developing A Business - students examine recruitment and selection practices and analyse the importance of a business having motivated and well-trained employees. They identify the signs of business success and failure and evaluate the different ways in which businesses grow. Students examine the sources of finance and complete basic cash flow forecasts as well as interpret simple financial statements. When analysing business performance, students consider concepts such as ratio analysis and break-even.	1.5 hours external exam	40%
Unit 3 Planning A Business (synoptic)- students apply knowledge and understanding drawn from across the whole specification to a real business context. Students carry out research and apply it, together with their own knowledge, to a range of circumstances. They examine and evaluate specified areas of a business plan and make reasoned recommendations.	Controlled Assessment	20%

Controlled Assessment Details:

Students undertake one research task and then undertake a structured report-writing task. Time is available during class to prepare for the controlled assessment and students will be supervised during the completion of the task.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

There are no subject specific requirements to study this subject at A Level; however, students who have studied GCSE Business Studies would be expected to have achieved at least a Grade B. It is also strongly recommended that students have at least a Grade B in GCSE English and a Grade C in GCSE Mathematics.

Other Information:

Students will be given the opportunity to visit local businesses. Students will apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to understand today's issues in local, national and global contexts. Students will develop as independent learners and be encouraged to use an enquiring, critical approach to distinguish facts from opinions, form arguments and make informed judgments. The knowledge, understanding and skills they develop will help them to understand current events and provide a basis for their future role as active citizens and possible further study. Studying Business Studies is excellent preparation for future study and employment in a wide variety of areas including Management, Business, Marketing, Law, Accountancy, Finance, Banking, Human Resource Management, Journalism and Teaching.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

CONSTRUCTION & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT (CCEA)

Teacher: Mr A Hutchinson

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Course Content

This course gives students a practical and realistic insight into the construction industry, helping them build genuine connections with real-world work environments. It introduces learners to Computer Aided Design (AutoCAD) and covers all key aspects involved in constructing a variety of structures. Students complete a craft project as part of their controlled assessment tasks, giving them the opportunity to develop practical joinery skills.

This subject aims to encourage students to:

- develop a broad background knowledge and core knowledge of the construction industry.
- apply their developing knowledge in relevant, enjoyable and work-related contexts for craft products and computer aided design (CAD) projects.
- investigate opportunities to progress into further education, training or employment in the construction industry.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment - students develop understanding of construction and the built environment, the importance of health and safety in the construction industry, and the employment opportunities in the industry.	1 hour external exam	20%
Unit 2: Sustainable Construction - students interpret drawings of domestic buildings and demonstrate awareness of the issues surrounding sustainable development in the construction industry.	1.5 hours external exam	30%
Unit 3: The Construction Craft Project - this project is made up of a craft folder and a craft product. Students must produce a product based on one of the themes provided by CCEA.	Controlled Assessment	25%
Unit 4: Computer Aided Design in Construction. This unit enables students to participate in practical aspects of construction using an industrial CAD package. It draws on the skills and knowledge that the students develop and apply in units 1 and 2.	Controlled Assessment	25%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

This course provides a sound basis of Construction level knowledge to progress to A Level. Suitable courses for further study (available as part of the MRLP or through external Colleges) would be the CCEA, A Level in Environmental Technology or the BTEC National Extended Certificate in Construction. Some students may also progress to apprenticeships in a construction craft.

Other Information:

The subject is particularly useful to any student who might be considering a career in any of the following: Architecture; Civil Engineering; Building Control; Architectural Technology; Computer Aided Design; Structural Engineering; Estate Management; Construction Management; Quantity Surveying or Building Services. There are also career prospects in construction crafts such as Joinery, Brickwork, Plastering, Plumbing or Electrical Installation.

Please note that due to Health and Safety requirements, class sizes are limited to 20 pupils.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Technology & Design Head of Department.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: MULTIMEDIA (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mrs S Parke

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.

This is a Modular subject (module examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

This course aims to encourage students to:

- become independent and discerning users of digital technology;
- acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of digital technology in a range of contexts;
- acquire creative and technical digital technology skills and apply these in a range of contexts;
- develop and evaluate digital technology-based solutions to solve problems;
- develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and the social and commercial impact of these technologies;
- develop their understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental impact of digital technology;
- recognise potential risks when using digital technology and develop safe, secure and responsible practice; and
- develop the skills needed to work collaboratively.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1 – Core Unit	1-hour external exam (Year 11 exam entry)	30%
Unit 2 – Digital Development Concepts	1.5 hours external exam	40%
Unit 3 – Digital Development Practice	Controlled Assessment	30%

Controlled Assessment Details:

Controlled Assessment is weighted at 30% of the qualification. A website and a database have to be created. Both tasks are based on a case study which can only be completed in Year 12.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

Students wishing to study A Level Digital Technology must achieve at least Grade B in GCSE Digital Technology. A Grade B or higher in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language is essential.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: PROGRAMMING (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mrs S Parke

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

This course aims to encourage students to:

- become independent and discerning users of digital technology;
- acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of digital technology in a range of contexts;
- acquire creative and technical digital technology skills and apply these in a range of contexts;
- develop and evaluate digital technology-based solutions to solve problems;
- develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and the social and commercial impact of these technologies;
- develop their understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental impact of digital technology;
- recognise potential risks when using digital technology and develop safe, secure and responsible practice; and
- develop the skills needed to work collaboratively.

Assessment Arrangements:

There are 2 written papers (1x1 hour and 1x1.5 hour).

There is 1 piece of Controlled Assessment.

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1 – Core Unit	1-hour external exam (Year 11 exam entry)	30%
Unit 2 – Digital Development Concepts	1.5 hours external exam	40%
Unit 3 – Digital Development Practice	Controlled Assessment	30%

Controlled Assessment Details:

Controlled Assessment is weighted at 30% of the qualification. Students are required to design, develop and test coded solutions when creating digital systems. Students will complete their solution using the programming language C#. These tasks are based on a case study which can only be completed in Year 12.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study A Level Software Systems Development should achieve a Grade A in GCSE Digital Technology: Programming. Students who achieve a Grade B may be permitted to study A Level at the discretion of the Head of Department. A Grade B in both Mathematics and English Language is essential. Students are not permitted to study both A Level Digital Technology and A Level Software Systems Development.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE (CCEA)

Subject Co-ordinator: Dr L Peggs

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A*A* to EE. Foundation Tier covering Grades CC to GG. Mixed Tier yielding BB and BC grades.

This is a Modular subject (module examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

The course is designed to provide our students with sufficient knowledge and understanding to enable them to take an informed interest in matters of scientific import, even if they do not pursue their studies in Science beyond GCSE. It can also be used to facilitate the study of Biology Chemistry, Physics and Life and Health Sciences at AS and A2 levels. This specification encourages students to develop their curiosity about the living, material and physical worlds and provides insight into and experience of how Science works. It enables learners to engage with Science, improving practical and problem-solving skills and to make informed decisions both about further study in Science and about their future careers.

Assessment Arrangements:

All students sit six written papers and complete a practical skills assessment in 5th form.

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Biology Unit 1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity (1 hour)	Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.	11%
Chemistry Unit 1: Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis (1 hour)		11%
Physics Unit 1: Force and Motion, Energy, Moments, Kinetic Theory and Radioactivity (1 hour)		11%
Biology Unit 2: Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health (75 mins)	Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.	14%
Chemistry Unit 2: Further Chemical Reactions, Calculations, Organic Chemistry and Rates and Equilibrium (75 mins)		11%
Physics Unit 2: Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism and Space Physics (75 mins)		11%
Unit 7: Practical Skills	Booklet A: 3 pre-release practicals. (No time limit). Carried out in centres in the final year of the course and marked externally.	7.5%
	Booklet B: external written examination. (90 mins). Students answer compulsory questions, set in a practical context that provide opportunities for short answers, extended writing and calculations.	17.5%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

Students wishing to study A Level Biology/Chemistry/Physics must achieve at least 80% in that subject component of GCSE Double Award Science. In addition, students wishing to study:

A Level Biology, a Grade B in GCSE Mathematics is required.

A Level Chemistry, a Grade A in GCSE Mathematics is required.

A Level Physics, it is preferable that students achieve a Grade A in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics; a Grade A* in both subjects is strongly recommended (students' grade of GCSE Mathematics and Further Mathematics is at the discretion of the Head of Department).

Students wishing to study A Level Life and Health Sciences must achieve a minimum Grade B in GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics, or Grades BB or better in Double Award Science or Grade A in Single Award Science. It is also desirable that students have achieved a minimum Grade B in GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Subject Co-ordinator.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE (CCEA)

(Acting) Head of Department: Mrs P Cooke

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Course Content:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Section A - Writing for Purpose and Audience. Section B - Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts	1 hour 45 minutes external written exam (Year 11 exam entry)	30%
Unit 2 – Speaking and Listening This unit assesses students' abilities in verbal communication. Students must be examined in individual, role play and group discussion tasks.	Controlled assessment Internal assessment will be carried out by the class teacher and moderated by an external examiner.	20%
Unit 3 – Studying Spoken and Written Language This unit consists of two pieces of written work: Task 1 – The Study of Spoken Language Task 2 – The Study of Written Language Controlled Assessment worth 20% of final mark.	Controlled Assessment Internal assessment will be carried out by the class teacher and moderated by an external examiner.	20%
Unit 4 - Section A - Personal/Creative Writing Section B - Reading Literary and Non-fiction Texts	45 minutes external written examination of 1 hour	30%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

This subject is not available post GCSE in this school. It is highly recommended that students who wish to study English Literature at A Level should have studied it at GCSE Level and achieved at least a Grade B. However, in certain circumstances students may be able to study English Literature at A Level without having studied it at GCSE, providing they have achieved a good grade in GCSE English Language and can demonstrate an interest in English Literature.

Other Information:

A good grade in GCSE English is essential for all students in the modern world. The new specifications for this subject seek to encourage and develop the kind of transferable literacy skills which are increasingly sought in further education, as well as in the working world. A pass at Grade C or better in GCSE English is essential for most careers and is a requirement for all Further and Higher Education courses at Universities and College.

ENGLISH LITERATURE (CCEA)

(Acting) Head of Department: Mrs P Cooke

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a Modular subject (module examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course

Unit 1: The Study of Prose

In this unit students will study one modern novel and will also prepare for analysis of an unseen extract from a nineteenth century novel.

External examination of 1 hour 45 minutes (Year 11 exam entry - 30% of final mark).

Unit 2: The Study of Drama and Poetry

In this unit students will study a play by a modern dramatist. Section B of the examination will allow students to respond critically and imaginatively to a range of poems, which they have studied in class.

External examination of 2 hours (50% of the final mark).

Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare

This unit involves focused study of a play by Shakespeare. This module will be assessed by the class teacher, moderated internally and by an external examiner.

Controlled assessment of 2 hours (20% of the final mark).

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

It is highly recommended that students who wish to study A Level English Literature should have studied it at GCSE Level and achieved at least a Grade B. However, in certain circumstances students may be able to study English Literature at A Level without having studied it at GCSE, providing they have achieved a good grade in GCSE English Language and can demonstrate an interest in English Literature.

Other Information:

The study of English Literature at GCSE will be appealing to all students who enjoy reading, analysing literature and lively discussion. Furthermore, this is a subject, which effectively develops and promotes key communication skills, which are increasingly valued in the competitive world, which our school leavers are entering today.

English Literature is recognised by employers and universities alike as an academically rigorous subject, which helps students to develop an invaluable range of communicative, analytical and interpersonal skills; transferable skills which they may not have the opportunity to practise outside the English classroom. In this increasingly competitive climate, it is worth noting that university admissions tutors in a number of disciplines have indicated that they are impressed with what this subject's inclusion on a CV suggests about a candidate's breadth of interest and skills.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

FOOD & NUTRITION (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mrs M Watson

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a linear subject (no modular examinations are available)

Content of Course:

The subject content is organised as a unitised GCSE. The content is organised in two units.

Component 1: Food and Nutrition

In this unit, students learn about the nutritional content of foods and how to meet the specific nutritional and dietary needs of different groups of people. To do this, they modify recipes and plan, prepare and cook meals and dishes that reflect current government nutritional guidelines. They also study how to be an effective consumer in relation to food choice, food safety and managing resources.

Component 2: Practical Food and Nutrition

In this unit, students carry out a task that develops unique transferable skills. They research the given task title and various viewpoints on it. They choose and justify a practical activity using a range of criteria. They complete the activity in a single session and evaluate all parts of the task.

Assessment Arrangements & Controlled Assessment Details:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Food and Nutrition	External written examination (120 marks) 2 hours The written paper includes multiple-choice, short and structured questions, and questions requiring extended writing.	50%
Unit 2: Practical Food and Nutrition	Controlled assessment (120 marks) CCEA will issue the title of the task on 1 September of the academic year in which the award is to be made. Students complete one task that involves the following: • Part A: Research & Viewpoints; • Part B: Justification of Choice; • Part C: Planning; • Part D: Practical Activity; • Part E: Evaluation. Students present the written report on the task in the required format. Teachers mark the task and CCEA moderate the results.	50%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study A Level have at least Grade B in GCSE HE/Food & Nutrition and Grade B in English Language. Consideration will also be given to students who achieve a Grade AB in Double Award Science where GCSE Nutrition and Food Science was not offered. Students choosing this subject must be aware that controlled assessment (50% of qualification) has ongoing submissions and time management is essential during delivery. It is essential for students to have access to their own device during controlled assessment lessons.

Other Information:

Food and Nutrition is an education for life. Potential career opportunities are: Dietetics, Nutritionist, Social Welfare, Retailing, Environmental Health, Family Therapy, Food Technology, Food Science, Housing, Education, Consumerism and Health Promotion. It is also recognized as a science for career paths such as Medicine, Veterinary.

Please note that due to Health and Safety requirements, class sizes are limited to 20 pupils.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

FRENCH (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mrs C Patterson

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A* to C. Foundation Tier covering Grades D to G. Every student can obtain, at least, a C grade.
This is a Linear subject (no module examinations are available)

Content of course:

There are four assessment modules.

1. Speaking
2. Writing
3. Listening
4. Reading

The Specification is based on three Contexts for Learning which indicate the topics to be covered:

1. Identity, Lifestyle and Culture
2. Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
3. School Life, Studies and the World of Work.

Assessment arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Speaking	One teacher-facilitated and externally marked speaking examination consisting of 2 role-plays and up to 8 minutes general conversation.	25%
Writing	Students answer 4 questions to include short translation sentences from English to French and 1 extended writing task from a choice of 3	25%
Listening	One externally assessed written paper	25%
Reading	One externally assessed written paper. Students will answer questions in English and in French, as well as translating short sentences from French into English	25%

Controlled Assessment Details:

There is no coursework for GCSE French.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post-GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study A Level French have at least Grade B at GCSE in this subject. It is also recommended that students have at least a Grade B in GCSE English Language.

Other Information:

This subject enhances social mobility and is an asset for the following career paths: Language teaching, Interpreting and Translating, work in the Import and Export trade, the Foreign Exchange branches of banks; and it is becoming increasingly valuable in most fields of employment including International Business, Law, Accountancy, Engineering, Journalism, the Visual media, Entertainment, Civil service, Hospitality industry, Catering, Tourism, Travel, Secretarial, Administration, Local government and many other jobs and professions which may be Medicine or Science related since fluency in a foreign language will be a major advantage when liaising with foreign contacts.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mr R Brown

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to E.
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

GCSE Further Mathematics was originally known as Additional Mathematics. This course is intended to cater for those students who require knowledge beyond that provided by the GCSE Higher Tier specification in Mathematics and who are capable of working beyond the limits of the existing GCSE Mathematics specification. The course is designed to broaden the mathematical experience of students and includes elements of Pure Mathematics, Mechanics and Statistics. It will give students an insight into many key branches of Mathematics. Further Mathematics could be looked upon as the 'half-way house' between GCSE and 'A' Level.

Assessment Arrangements:

The scheme of examination is a broad-based scheme of assessment in which students are required to take three written papers:

Paper 1	(Pure Mathematics 2hr)	50%
Paper 2	(Mechanics 1hr)	25%
Paper 3	(Statistics 1hr)	25%

Controlled Assessment Details:

This subject has no Controlled Assessment.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

Students who intend to study A Level Mathematics must achieve at least a Grade A in GCSE Mathematics and at least a Grade B GCSE Further Mathematics. A Grade A in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics is a requirement for A Level Physics.

Other Information:

As a result of the advanced nature of this subject, students who plan to study Further Mathematics will be expected to perform at a consistently high level in KS3 Mathematics. In particular, their performance in the Year 10 Winter and Summer Examinations will better inform students, parents and teachers and may be used to decide on the suitability of Further Mathematics as a subject choice.

Further Mathematics at GCSE and GCE A Level provides excellent training in logical thinking, presenting a structured argument and applying knowledge to a range of practical problems. It is essential for careers such as Architecture, Mechanical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Aeronautical Engineering, Actuarial Studies, Statistician, Mathematics/Science Teacher, Investment Analyst, Meteorology etc. Mathematics is also useful in careers involving Science and Scientific Research, Banking and Finance, Accountancy, Medicine, Dentistry, Law etc.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

GEOGRAPHY (CCEA)

(Acting) Head of Department: Mr C McDonnell

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a Modular subject (module examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of course:

Students taking GCSE Geography should have an interest in the world around them. Geography involves the acquisition and application of knowledge and the development of subject-specific and transferable skills. The study of Geography will allow you to:

- take part in collecting fieldwork data at first hand;
- explore the interrelationships between people and their environments;
- investigate how physical and human resources are managed;
- consider interdependence between countries and the need for cooperation on global issues; and
- have opportunities to use geographical skills including technologies such as GIS.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Understanding Our Natural World This unit covers the following themes: • Theme A: River Environments • Theme B: Coastal Environments • Theme C: Our Changing Weather and Climate • Theme D: The Restless Earth	External written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes (Year 11 exam entry)	40%
Unit 2: Living in Our World This unit covers the following themes: • Theme A: Population and Migration • Theme B: Changing Urban Areas • Theme C: Contrasts in World Development • Theme D: Managing our Environment	External written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes	40%
Unit 3: Fieldwork Based on primary data collection from the River Roe.	External written exam 1 hour	20%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study A Level in Geography have at least a Grade B at GCSE level in this subject. A Grade B in GCSE English Language would also be recommended. Whilst it is not essential to have taken the subject at GCSE it is, in our experience and judgement, an advantage to have done so.

Other Information:

Geography is a traditional academic subject and is widely accepted as a rigorous discipline. Geography bridges the gap between the Arts and the Sciences, giving flexibility for Higher Education courses. It is recognised as a qualifying subject for a wide variety of careers including Accountancy, Finance, Law, Journalism, Environmental Management, Leisure and Tourism, Planning and Business. Further to this Geography enable students to enter into newly emerging job markets such as GIS Analytics and Climatology. Geography arms students with widely transferable skills that employers are looking for thus making them more employable.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mrs M Watson

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr11)

Content of Course:

GCSE HSC offers opportunities to build on the skills and capabilities developed through the delivery of the Key Stage 3 curriculum in Northern Ireland.

GCSE Health and Social Care: Single Award presents students with a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study and allows students to gain an insight into related Health and Social Care disciplines. It prepares students to make informed decisions about future learning opportunities and career choices.

This specification aims to enable students to:

- increase understanding of the health and social care sector to develop as effective and independent learners;
- understand aspects of personal development and the health, social care, and early years and children's services sectors by investigating and evaluating a range of services and organisations;
- develop a critical and analytical approach to problem-solving within the health, social care, and early years and children's services sectors; and
- examine issues that affect the nature and quality of human life, including an appreciation of diversity and cultural issues.

Assessment Arrangements & Controlled Assessment Details:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Personal Development, Health and Well-Being	External written examination (100 marks) 1.5 hours Students answer three questions that require short responses and extended writing. (Year 11 exam entry)	50%
Unit 2: Working in the Health, Social Care and Early Years Sectors	Controlled assessment (100 marks) CCEA will issue the title of the task on 1 December of the academic year in which the award is to be made. Three tasks A – C. Students present the task in the required format. Teachers mark the task and CCEA moderate the results.	50%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

There are no subject specific requirements for this subject. However, students must have at least Grade B in GCSE English Language or GCSE English Literature and Grade C in GCSE Mathematics. Students choosing this subject must be aware that controlled assessment (50% of qualification) has ongoing submissions and time management is essential during delivery. It is imperative that students organise their placement in a vocational setting to fulfil AS controlled assessment requirements. Students are required to have access to their own device for all controlled assessment lessons.

Other Information:

Students investigate human development throughout the life stages. They also investigate factors affecting health and wellbeing, including relationships and the impact of major life changes. Health and Social Care is a vocational course. Potential career opportunities are: Social Welfare, Family Therapy, and Caring Occupations such as Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Physiotherapy, Housing, Education, and Health Promotion.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

HISTORY (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mrs L Lubwama

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.

This is a Modular subject (module examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

The GCSE syllabus should certainly appeal to all those who enjoyed history in KS3. The syllabus focuses on aspects of the 20th century in Britain and Ireland, Europe and the world.

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1 (i) A detailed study of Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany c1933-1945 (ii) A study of Northern Ireland 1968-1998.	External written exam: (Year 11 exam entry)	60%
Paper 2 This deals with international relations after 1945 and up to 2003. It will focus mainly on Cold War issues such as communism versus democracy and flashpoints such as the Korean and Vietnam wars. It also touches on the war on terror.	External written exam:	40%

Assessment Arrangements:

Students are required to sit two written papers. There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study A Level History must achieve a Grade B at GCSE Level. However, it may be possible to study History at A Level without having studied it at GCSE providing students obtain a grade A or more in GCSE English/English Literature/Religious Studies or other literacy based related subjects and/or can demonstrate an interest in History. Whilst it is not essential to have taken the subject at GCSE the Head of Department must be consulted prior to selection of the subject for A Level study. Priority will always be given to those who have studied GCSE History should the class be oversubscribed.

Other Information:

The study of GCSE History is open to all students who are interested in the subject and who, in KS3, have demonstrated to their teachers an enthusiasm as well as success in exams and assessments. However, first and foremost an aptitude for the subject based upon their Year 10 examination results in the subject must be demonstrated otherwise admission for GCSE study will be refused. We would expect students to have obtained an average of 75% or more. History is widely accepted as a rigorous discipline and so is welcomed for entry into most areas of industry, commerce and public service. Here are a few of the careers which some recent History graduates have entered: administration and operational management, research, design development, scientific and engineering support, environmental planning, sales, marketing, buying, management services, financial work, legal work, literary entertainment and other creative work, information, library and museum work, personnel work, health and social welfare, and teaching and lecturing as well as history related careers in research, academia, ancestry and the tourist industry.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

MATHEMATICS (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mr R Brown

Tier of Entry: See below for further details
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

The tier of entry at GCSE Mathematics determines the content of the course at KS4. The course is designed to meet the requirements of the CCEA specification in Mathematics for GCSE in all 4 attainment targets; Processes, Number and Algebra, Shape, Space and Measures and Handling Data. In GCSE Mathematics there are two Tiers of entry – Higher and Foundation.

Tier of Entry:

At present the Tiers/Units of entry are as follows

Tier	Units	Obtainable Grades
Higher	M4 + M8*	A* - B
	M4 + M7*	A - C
Foundation	M3 + M7*	B, C*, C

M8/M7 is the Higher/Foundation Completion Paper

As a department we adopt the following approach:

- Sets 1 & 2 will be entered for Higher Tier (using Units M4 & M8) – maximum grade A*
- Set 3 will be entered for Higher Tier (using Units M4 & M7) – maximum grade A
- Set 4 will be entered for Higher Tier (using Units M3 & M7) – maximum grade B.

All Yr11 students will complete their M4/M3 module in June of Year11. They will then sit their completion paper (M8/M7) in June of Year12. This will ensure that students are entered for the appropriate tier thus maximising their GCSE grade.

Please note - The appropriate set and Tier of entry for all students in Year11 will be determined by their performance in Mathematics examinations in Year 10.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Paper 1 – appropriate Unit Test (i.e. M3 or M4)	Calculator Paper - written paper	45%
Paper 2 – appropriate Completion Test (i.e. M7 or M8)	Calculator and Non-Calculator Paper - written paper	55%

Controlled Assessment Details:

There is no Controlled Assessment for this subject.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

Students who intend to study A Level Mathematics must achieve at least a Grade A in GCSE Mathematics and at least a Grade B GCSE Further Mathematics.

Other Information:

Students aspiring to the Higher Tier at GCSE should have displayed above average ability in Mathematics throughout their first three years. A pass at Grade C or better in GCSE Mathematics is essential for most careers and is a requirement for almost all Further and Higher Education courses at Universities and Colleges. Numerous courses now indicate a preference for a Grade B or above in GCSE Mathematics.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

MUSIC (CCEA)

(Acting) Head of Department: Mrs L Glenn

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a Linear subject (no module examinations are available)

Content of Course:

The Music course at GCSE level is focused on these three main areas: composing and appraising, performing and appraising, and listening and appraising. These activities and skills are developed within the Areas of Study. The areas of study are: Western Classical Music, Film Music, Musical Traditions in Ireland and Popular Music (1980-present day). Within each area of study, students will have the opportunity to study a number of set pieces and to undertake a range of composing assignments. Music technology - work using computer programmes or recording equipment - may play a part in composing. Students perform individually and as part of ensembles. They are expected to continue personal instrumental (or vocal) lessons and to maintain a satisfactory level of private practice. They should also be prepared to take part in rehearsals and performances with the instrumental and choral groups as directed by the Head of Department.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Composing & Appraising	Candidates must create two contrasting compositions. One composition is free choice, the other will relate to a pre-released stimulus.	30%
Performing & Appraising	Assessed by a visiting examiner. Candidates must present one solo and one ensemble performance. The performance programme should last no longer than 6 minutes in total. Candidates will discuss their chosen programme with the examiner in a conversation that should last around 3 minutes.	35%
Listening & Appraising	A listening exam based on the set works studied throughout the two-year course.	35%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

Students should have gained a Grade B in Music at GCSE. They should be fluent readers of standard music notation. They should have reached a performing standard of at least Grade 4 by Lower 6th and should be committed to continued study of their chosen instrument or voice.

Other Information:

GCSE Music is suited to anyone who has already reached a good standard of performing on their own instrument (a Grade 2 qualification or the ability to perform at an equivalent standard in their chosen instrument, by the end of Year 10 is ESSENTIAL) and who has achieved good marks in listening and composing during Year 10. The course develops a wide range of skills and abilities, primarily practical but also analytical, academic and social. These skills will be of use in whatever further courses of study a student chooses to pursue, with very direct relevance to any more advanced study of music or of the other arts.

The music industry, in all its forms, is one of today's largest employers and covers a very wide range of jobs. Musicians can be found in all types of performing, composing, teaching, sound engineering, recording and broadcasting, retail and marketing, arts administration, music publishing, music journalism, specialist travel and tourism, archive work and research, instrument making and repair - and many other areas of work. Practical musical skills are of use in some other jobs - for instance, musical ability is very much in demand in primary education. Many other jobs, which require no specific musical qualification, nevertheless use skills developed by the study of music. For instance, many music students are eventually employed in the computer industry.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mr R Hunter

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

The course aims to develop an appreciation of Physical Education in a wide range of contexts. It also promotes the knowledge and understanding of health and performance, therefore improving health and performance in physical activities and sports. It encourages students to be inspired, motivated and challenged and enables them to make informed decisions about further learning and career pathways.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Factors underpinning Health and Performance	External Assessment 1 hour 15 minutes Students answer short response questions and questions that require extended writing. 100 marks	25%
Unit 2: Developing Performance	External Assessment 1 hour 15 minutes Students answer short response questions and questions that require extended writing. 100 marks	25%
Component 3: Individual Performances in Physical Activities and Sports	Controlled Assessment (a) Students are assessed on the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of their performances in physical activities and sports. Students perform three physical activities or sports from the supplied list. 3 x 50 = 150 marks For one physical activity or sport, the assessment may be based on the consistent quality, efficiency and effectiveness of the student's performance as an event manager. And (b) Students are assessed on the quality of their analysis and evaluation of their own and others' performances. 50 marks	50%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

Although it is not a requirement that students should have studied Physical Education at GCSE Level in order to take an advanced course, it is recommended that students wishing to study A Level have at least a Grade B at GCSE PE. Several topics covered in the course are developments of work covered at GCSE but others are new. It would also be an advantage and desirable, though not necessary, to be studying Biology or Life and Health Science at 'A' Level.

Other Information:

A genuine interest in Physical Education and Sport in general is essential.

Physical Education is therefore a valuable qualification for many possible careers in Teaching, Leisure and Tourism, Physiotherapy, Sports Medicine, Journalism, Personal Trainer, Coaching and Sports Science.

A school PE Kit will be required for practical activities.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES FULL COURSE (CCEA)

Head of Department: Miss C Bingham

Tier of Entry: There is only one Tier covering Grades A* to G.
This is a Linear subject (no module examinations are available)

Content of Course:

By choosing GCSE Religious Studies, students will be given the opportunity to study and develop their views on topical moral and ethical issues, broaden their insight into other Christian Traditions, while furthering their knowledge of Jesus' teaching.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Module 1 - The Gospel of Matthew Students will undertake a systematic study of the Gospel of Matthew. Through this they will study the life of Jesus; his treatment of the poor, social outcasts, sinners and his teachings and their relevance for us today.	External written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes	50%
Module 2 - Christian Ethics Students will study relevant moral and ethical issues including abortion, euthanasia, justice, developments in bioethics, equality and the just war theory.	External written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes	50%

There is no controlled assessment in GCSE Religious Studies.

Subject Specific Requirements for post GCSE study:

It is highly recommended that students who wish to study Religious Studies to A Level have a Grade B at GCSE Level in this subject (either full or short course). Examination grades in subjects with similar skills sets (such as History and English Literature) will be considered for students with a short course grade. Preference will be given to higher grades at full course.

Other Information:

Religious Studies teaches valuable life and study skills. The analytical, evaluative and research qualities students develop in this course would enable them to deal with people in varying situations and careers. R.S. also gives students the opportunity to evaluate themselves and their belief systems and promotes tolerance and respect for others. R.S. is therefore a valuable qualification for many possible careers including Social work, Medicine, Management, Journalism, Law, Teaching and Ministry.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE (CCEA)

Subject Co-ordinator: Dr L Peggs

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A* to G.
Foundation Tier covering grades C-G.

This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

The course is designed to allow our students to develop their knowledge and understanding of the material, physical and living worlds. They will explore the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations. A mixture of theory and laboratory work will facilitate the acquisition of observational, practical and problem-solving skills. The course provides a meaningful, relevant programme of study to equip students for vocational studies in Science.

Level of Entry:

Most students will be entered at the Higher Tier, which covers the range of grades from A* to G. Foundation Tier entries cover the range of grades from C-G.

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Biology Unit 1: This unit provides students with a broad introduction to key biological concepts and allows them to investigate a range of practical applications of Biology. (1 hour)	Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.	25%
Chemistry Unit 1: This unit provides students with a broad introduction to key Chemistry concepts and allows them to investigate a range of practical applications of Chemistry. (1 hour)		25%
Physics Unit 1: This unit provides students with a broad introduction to key Physics concepts and allows them to investigate a range of practical applications of Physics. (1 hour)		25%
Unit 7: Practical Skills	Booklet A: Two pre-release practicals (two from Biology, Chemistry and Physics). (2 hours). Carried out in centres in the final year of the course and marked externally.	7.5%
	Booklet B: external written examination. (75 mins). Students answer compulsory questions, set in a practical context for Biology, Physics and Chemistry that provide opportunities for short answers, extended writing and calculations.	17.5%

Assessment Arrangements:

All students sit 3 written papers with an option for a mix of February, summer and November entries. Students can resit each unit once and, in addition, are required to complete a practical skills assessment in Year 12.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

This course is generally not suitable for post GCSE studies in A Level Sciences and A Level Life and Health Sciences.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Subject Co-ordinator.

SPANISH (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mrs C Patterson

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A* to C. Foundation Tier covering Grades D to G. Every student can obtain, at least, a C grade.
This is a Linear subject (no module examinations are available)

Content of Course:

There are four assessment modules.

1. Speaking
2. Writing
3. Listening
4. Reading

The Specification is based on three Contexts for Learning which indicates the topics to be covered:

1. Identity, Lifestyle and Culture
2. Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
3. School Life, Studies and the World of Work.

Assessment arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Speaking	One teacher-facilitated and externally marked speaking examination consisting of 2 role-plays and up to 8 minutes general conversation. Year 12 exam entry	25%
Writing	Students answer 4 questions to include short translation sentences from English to Spanish and 1 extended writing task from a choice of 3	25%
Listening	One externally assessed written paper	25%
Reading	One externally assessed written paper. Students will answer questions in English and in Spanish, as well as translating short sentences from Spanish into English	25%

There is no controlled assessment for GCSE Spanish.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post-GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study A Level Spanish have at least a Grade B in GCSE Spanish. It is also recommended that students have a Grade B in GCSE English Language.

Other Information:

This subject enhances social mobility and is an asset for the following career paths: Language teaching, Interpreting and Translating, work in the Import and Export trade, the Foreign Exchange branches of banks; and it is becoming increasingly valuable in most fields of employment including International Business, Law, Accountancy, Engineering, Journalism, the Visual media, Entertainment, Civil service, Hospitality industry, Catering, Tourism, Travel, Secretarial, Administration, Local government and many other jobs and professions which may be Medicine or Science related since fluency in a foreign language will be a major advantage when liaising with foreign contacts.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE: BIOLOGY (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mrs W McAlister

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A* to E.
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

During the GCSE Biology course students will have the opportunity to continue the themes already touched on at Key Stage 3 and also to study some new topics.

These include the environment, with emphasis on the interaction of organisms; plant and human physiology; microbiology and the combat of disease; genetics, including such topics as cloning and genetic engineering.

Assessment Arrangements:

The table below summarises the structure of the course.

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity	An externally assessed written examination consisting of a number of compulsory structured questions that provide opportunities for short answers, extended writing and calculations (1 hour 30 mins - Year 11 exam entry)	35%
Unit 2: Body systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health	An externally assessed written examination consisting of a number of compulsory structured questions that provide opportunities for short answers, extended writing and calculations (1 hour 45 mins)	40%
Unit 3: Practical Skills	Booklet A – students carry out two externally assessed practicals (7.5%) Booklet B – external examination on practical work (17.5%)	25%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study A Level Biology must achieve a minimum Grade A in GCSE Biology or at least 80% in the Biology component of GCSE Double Award Science. In addition, it is strongly recommended that students have at least a Grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

Other Information:

Students taking Triple Award Science - Biology must also take Triple Award Science - Physics and Chemistry.

A course based on this specification should help facilitate the study of Biology and related subjects at a more advanced level, for example Advanced Subsidiary Biology and Advanced Biology. For those progressing directly into employment, a GCSE in Biology is relevant not only to the fields of science and medicine, but also to areas of commerce and public service that value problem-solving and practical skills.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE: CHEMISTRY (CCEA)

Head of Department: Dr L Peggs

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A* to E.

This is a module subject (module examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

Chemistry is the study of elements and the compounds they form. During this course students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the material world; the effects of Chemistry on society and the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations. They will develop greater awareness of risk and the ability to assess potential risk. They will develop and apply their observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills and understanding in laboratory, field and other learning environments.

The subject content includes the study of such areas as: Atomic Structure and Bonding; Periodic Table; Nano chemistry; Quantitative Chemistry; Chemical Analysis; Reactions of Metals, Non-metals and their Compounds; and Rates of Reaction. A course based on this specification will help prepare students for the study of Chemistry and related subjects at a more advanced level, for example: Life & Health Sciences and A2 Chemistry. For those progressing directly into employment, a GCSE in Chemistry is relevant to all areas of commerce and public service that value problem-solving and practical skills.

Assessment Arrangements:

All students sit two written papers and complete a 2-part practical skills assessment

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions/ Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis	Externally assessed written examination, comprising questions that provide opportunities for short answers, extended writing and calculations. (1 hour 15 mins)	35%
Unit 2: Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium Calculations and Organic Chemistry	Externally assessed written examination, comprising questions that provide opportunities for short answers, extended writing and calculations. (1 hour 30 mins)	40%
Unit 3: Practical Skills	Booklet A: 2 pre-release practical. (No time limit). Carried out in centres in the final year of the course and marked externally.	7.5%
	Booklet B: external written examination. (1 hour). Students answer compulsory questions, set in a practical context that provide opportunities for short answers, extended writing and calculations.	17.5%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study A Level Chemistry must achieve a minimum Grade A in GCSE Chemistry or at least 80% in the Chemistry component of GCSE Double Award Science. In addition, it is strongly recommended that students have at least a Grade A in GCSE Mathematics.

Other Information:

Students taking Triple Award Science - Chemistry must also take Triple Award Science - Biology and Physics. In their study of Chemistry, both at GCSE and especially at 'A' Level, students have the opportunity to develop their communication skills, practical and problem-solving skills, powers of observation and interpretation. These qualities form an excellent foundation for a wide range of university courses. These courses include Biological Sciences, Chemical Sciences, Environmental Studies, Geological Sciences, Medical Sciences and Medicine and Dentistry.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

TRIPLE AWARD SCIENCE: PHYSICS (CCEA)

(Acting) Head of Department: Mr A Darragh

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A* to E.
This is a modular subject (examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

The GCSE Physics course is designed to foster enthusiasm, understanding and critical evaluation through exploration and investigation. The subject content includes the great themes of Physics - Energy, Forces, Waves, Sound, Light, Electricity and Magnetism, Radioactivity and the Earth in Space. Thus, the study of Physics ranges from the smallest atoms to the largest galaxies in our universe. Emphasis is placed on the many practical applications of Physics, such as the development of renewable energy sources, fibre optics, cameras, electricity in the home, and the uses of radioactivity in medicine and agriculture. The syllabus also develops the students' communication skills and their appreciation of the social, economic and environmental contributions and applications of Physics.

Assessment Arrangements:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1	An externally assessed written examination (1 hour 30 mins)	37.5%
Unit 2	An externally assessed written examination (1 hour 30 mins)	37.5%
Unit 3: Practical Skills	Booklet A – practical skills booklet (7.5%) Booklet B – external examination on practical work - (1 hour) (17.5%)	25%

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

To study A Level Physics, students must achieve a minimum of Grade A in GCSE Physics; a Grade A* in GCSE Physics is strongly recommended. In addition, it is preferable that students achieve a Grade A in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Further Mathematics; a Grade A* in both subjects is strongly recommended (students' grade of GCSE Mathematics and Further Mathematics is at the discretion of the Head of Department).

For Double Award Science, it is strongly recommended that students achieve grades AA, A*A, or A*A*, and students must obtain at least 80% in the Physics component.

Other Information:

In their study of Physics, both at GCSE and especially at 'A' Level, students have the opportunity to develop their mathematical ability, communication skills, sense of enquiry, practical capabilities and powers of observation. Together, these qualities form an excellent foundation for a wide range of careers. These include communications, computing, all branches of engineering, environmental science, education, health and medicine, scientific civil service, industry, space science and transport.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN (CCEA)

Head of Department: Mr J Palmer

Tier of Entry: Higher Tier covering Grades A* to E.

This is a modular subject (module examinations are taken in Yr 11 & Yr 12)

Content of Course:

The course is intended to give a broad knowledge of all aspects of Technology - including design, resistant materials, mechanisms, pneumatics, electronics and computer control. Product Design is studied in more detail than the other aspects. The emphasis is on designing, making and evaluating technological products.

Assessment Arrangements:

The scheme of assessment consists of two terminal examinations and controlled assessments. Both methods aim to promote the holistic nature of Technology and Design.

Examinations (2 x 1.5 Hours) - 50% (Year 11 exam entry = 25%)

Controlled Assessment Details:

Controlled Assessment - Design & Manufacturing Project - 50%

The Design Project is started in Year 11 and completed in Year 12. Each student chooses his/her design project from a CCEA set theme and will produce a product accompanied by a portfolio detailing the development of that product. The mark obtained always reflects the amount of effort put into the project - it is quite possible to obtain very high marks.

Subject Specific Requirements for Post GCSE Study:

It is recommended that students wishing to study Technology & Design at A Level have at least a Grade B in GCSE Technology and Design.

Other Information:

For an increasingly technological society it is becoming essential to have some experience of this subject. It is useful for most branches of engineering, industrial design, product design, architecture, careers involving Computer Analysis/Programming/Control, Systems Analysis, Medical Technology, Space Technology Materials Science and many others.

Please note that due to Health and Safety requirements, class sizes are limited to 20 pupils.

In terms of entry, oversubscription and suitability of students to the course, SLT will make the final decision on the number of students for each subject in conjunction with the Head of Department.

NOTES





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