



GCSE Options

Class of 2026

Introduction

Message from Miss Steele

This is an exciting time for you in your education; it is the first time you will have autonomy over the subjects that you will choose to master. We have designed the options to ensure you have a good range of subjects to choose from in order to have a broad and interesting education. To ensure that you are prepared for almost any degree or career you might want to pursue, the following subjects are still compulsory: English language, English literature, mathematics, science, Spanish, religious education, at least one humanities and one IT subject. You will still get to participate in co-curricular electives and the Duke of Edinburgh award, so you will have lots of variety and challenge in your learning!

Subject overview

Compulsory examined subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Spanish
- Religious Education
- Humanities Option

You will also continue to have lessons in PDS, co-curricular and Physical Education (non-GCSE)

Optional subjects:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geography• History• Art and design - Art• Art and design - Textiles• Art and design - 3D Design• Art and design - Photography• French | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Music• GCSE Physical Education• Sport, Activity and Fitness• Triple Science• Computer Science• Digital Information Technology |
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Research your options

- Time: allocate enough time to read and talk about each subject that you are interested in.
- Keeping notes: make notes when you talk to trusted adults or read useful information. This will help you remember any important points when making your final decision.
- Beginning to make long-term plans: knowing what degrees or careers interest you can help you choose GCSEs that will support you.

Be informed

- Look at prospectuses for universities. These will show you different degrees you can study when you are older and help you think about what you will need to study now in order to keep your options open. There are prospectuses in the iBase and every university lists its courses on its website.
- Other sources of information and advice: trusted relatives and family friends; older students; your teachers; your advisor; careers advisors and helplines; GCSE bitesize; the school website for useful careers links and the subject specification documents (to see an overview of what is studied in detail).

Top Tips

Good reasons to pick a subject

- “I enjoy it.”
- “I am good at it.”
- “It is relevant to a degree or career that interests me.”
- “I would like a new experience.”
- “I'm not sure about what I want to do in the future; this subject will help me to keep my options open for A-Level and university.”
- “It is a challenging subject, and I would like a challenge.”
- “It is a subject I would like to get better at; I'm ready to work hard to improve.”

Poor reasons to pick a subject

- “I like the teacher.” They might not be your teacher for GCSE. You are more likely to be successful if you have a good relationship with all of your teachers.
- “My friends are doing it.” You might not enjoy the subject and could lose motivation to revise and work hard. Studying something you like will help you to get to know even more people who have similar interests to you.
- “It sounds easy.” No GCSE is easy! Don't pick a subject that doesn't motivate you to work hard to get the best grade possible. If you are worried about getting the grades you want, speak to your teachers.
- “I'm in a rush and didn't research the other options.” Make sure you take the time to find out about all the options to avoid any regrets.
- “I am under pressure to take the subject.” You will already have a broad range of compulsory subjects that will help you to go to university (or a real alternative) and get a top job. Although others' advice is valuable, be guided by your own strengths and interests.

Where to find help to research your options choices

Listed below are a range of websites that you may find useful for finding out about more about future career options and the subject choices that would help you be successful. Links to each of these websites, along with many others, are available on the school website in the Careers education section.

Future Goals: This website uses Labour Market information, as well as employers and employees from local businesses to give an insight to employment opportunities within different sectors, including how your subject links with a range of careers.

A Level Explorer: This website helps you to consider different university degrees based on the subjects you enjoy and may study at A-Level, after GCSE.

Prospects: This website helps you to find out more about a range of career options for your future. It will give you an overview of key skills and subjects that would support the career choice.

BBC Bitesize: Use the course title, including the exam board you will be studying with, to find out more about what you will be learning in your GCSE course.

Case Studies

Miss Akudi, Head of Year 9

Option choices

Geography and history

What did you enjoy about studying at KS4?

Being able to choose the subjects I was studying meant that I was more motivated to work hard at them and that I found them more enjoyable. This meant I was successful in them too. I enjoyed studying in more depth.

How did you make your choices?

I spoke to my teachers who gave me advice about what I would be good at. I wanted to be challenged and had enjoyed studying both geography and history. Ultimately, I was guided by what I enjoyed and was best at.

What advice do you have for the Class of 2026?

My advice would be to choose the subjects you enjoy the most, and feel you are going to be successful in. They don't always have to be related to your career choices. Even though I am a Science teacher, the skills that I learnt from taking history and geography, such as being able to analyse the importance of things, helped me with all my other subjects during my GCSE's and A-Levels.

Maryam Kapree, Class of 2021

Maryam is a former student who is currently studying 4 A levels in biology, English literature, history and PE at Dixons Sixth form. She has secured a place at the University of Leeds to study Human Physiology.

Option choices

History and GCSE PE

What did you enjoy about studying at KS4?

I realised that the subjects I selected offered me so much more than just an understanding of the content I was studying. There are so many transferable skills you can take from any of the options subjects and I have now developed such a strong passion for PE that I have continued it at A level and now considering careers in physiotherapy and sport science.

How did you make your choices?

When making my decisions, I spent time researching the different options I had to choose from by looking at their specifications online. I spoke with my parents and teachers but overall I chose the two subjects that I enjoyed the most and knew that if I continued to work hard, I would get good GCSE results in.

What advice do you have for the Class of 2026?

To a Year 8 student selecting their options, I would advise you to select the subject that you enjoy the most as, ultimately, you will be studying it for three years and if it is a subject you feel passionate about, you will feel motivated to achieve an exceptional grade. Although you may feel the need to select a subject that will relate to a specific career pathway, there are plenty of different options and careers which you can pursue and you do not have to be certain about what you want to do right now!

GCSE Geography (AQA – Grades 1-9)

What will I study?

The GCSE helps students to develop knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live through the study of physical geography and natural processes; human interactions with the natural world and current and relevant environmental challenges and issues that we are facing today. Students are exposed to a wealth of knowledge and are taught how to apply this geographically and through the use of skills and analysis. You will develop a solutions focussed approach in what we can do to solve the problems that are encountered. You will study a variety of places at a variety of scales from the local to the global allowing you to develop a sense of perspective and understanding of our planet and how it is entirely interdependent.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment

1 hour 30 minute paper - 88 marks (35% of GCSE)

- Challenge of Natural Hazards: Earth Hazards, Weather Hazards and Climate Change
- The Living World: Ecosystems, Tropical Rainforests and Cold Environments
- Physical Landscapes in the UK: Rivers and Coasts

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment

1 hour 30 minute paper - 88 marks (35% of GCSE)

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

Paper 3: Geographical Applications

1 hour 15 minute paper - 76 marks (30% of GCSE)

- Issue evaluation (Pre-Release)
- Human and Physical Fieldwork
- Geographical Skills

Skills required to be successful:

- A passion for the world, nature, people and science
- A desire to keep up to date with news and current affairs
- An ability to work hard to retain powerful knowledge
- An ability to provide supported opinions on a variety of key ideas and themes
- An ability to apply knowledge and skills to a variety of situations

Further study links:

- A-Level Geography
- A-Level Geology
- A-Level Business; Economics; Government and Politics; Law; Psychology and Sociology

Career opportunities:

Environmental Consultant, Cartographer, Town Planner, Travel and Tourism, Geographical Information Systems Analyst, Sustainability Office, Conservation Officer, Education, Landscape Architect, Ecologist, Aid Worker, Public Health, Civil Service, United Nations, Graduate Schemes and Opportunities.

GCSE History (OCR History B – Schools History Project - Grades 1-9)

What will I study?

The GCSE helps students to develop a range and depth of history knowledge and to use historical evidence. KS4 further develops students' ability to engage in historical enquiry with a greater focus on evaluating evidence and testing interpretations about the past. Students learn to make and support their own judgements grounded in the evidence.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: Thematic Study and British Depth Study

1 hour 45 minute paper (40% of GCSE)

- Thematic Study: Migrants to Britain, 1250 to present
- British Depth Study: The Elizabethans, 1580-1603

Paper 2: History Around Us

1 hour paper (20% of GCSE)

- Site study of Fountains Abbey

Paper 3: Period Study and World Depth Study

1 hour 45 minute paper (40% of GCSE)

- Period Study: The Making of America, 1789-1900
- World Depth Study: Living Under Nazi Rule, 1933-1945

Skills required to be successful:

- An interest in the lives and experiences of people from the past
- A curiosity about what evidence can (and can't!) tell us about the past
- An open mind and a willingness to understand experiences that differ to our own
- An enjoyment of debate and discussion about interpretations (viewpoints) about the past
- Analysis and critical thinking
- Making supported judgements based on evidence

Further study links: (What could students go on to study at 6th Form or college?)

- A-Level History
- A-Level Politics
- A-Level Law

Career opportunities:

Politics, Law, Journalism, Public Service, Teaching, Museum Curator, Archaeologist, Archivist, Media Researcher, Human Resources, University Research, Heritage Industry Role, Genealogist. Any career in which you are required to communicate your opinions and conclusions effectively.

BTEC Tech Award Art and Design – Fine Art (Pass-Distinction*)

What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, skills and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes;
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in art and design practice, such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement;
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

How will I be assessed?

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

Portfolio: 60%, started in Y9 and completed by December of Y11.

- Component 1: Generating Ideas in Art and Design
- Component 2: Develop practical skills in Art and Design

Externally Set Task: 40%, 20 hours of sustained, focused study after an extended period of preparation (Jan-May of Y11).

- Component 3: Responding to a Client Brief

Skills required to be successful:

You will learn how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point or theme, demonstrating investigation, experimentation, observation and presenting a creative outcome.

You will develop new skills on this course influenced by historical and contemporary artists in response to a theme and client brief. You will learn a wide range of photographic techniques such as: observational and experimental drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, mixed media and photography.

You will also photograph from direct observation, analyse the work of others, present a portfolio and learn how to be an artist in the art and graphic industries.

Career opportunities:

Artist, Illustrator, Graphic Designer, Interior Designer, Gallery Manager, Artistic Director, Set Designer, Architect, Art Therapist, Art Historian, Studio Director, Artist/studio Manager, Museum Curator, Magazine Art Editor, Art Teacher, Animator, Photographer, Product Designer, Community Arts Worker, Conservator and Exhibition Designer.

BTEC Tech Award Art and Design – Textiles (Pass-Distinction*)

What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, skills and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes;
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in art and design practice, such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement;
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

How will I be assessed?

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

Portfolio: 60%, started in Y9 and completed by December of Y11.

- Component 1: Generating Ideas in Art and Design
- Component 2: Develop practical skills in Art and Design

Externally Set Task: 40%, 20 hours of sustained, focused study after an extended period of preparation (Jan-May of Y11).

- Component 3: Responding to a Client Brief

Skills required to be successful:

You will learn how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point or theme, demonstrating investigation, experimentation, observation and presenting a creative outcome.

You will develop new skills on this course influenced by historical and contemporary textile artists and fashion designers in response to a theme and client brief. You will learn a wide range of textile techniques such as: pattern cutting, draping, garment construction, decoration, fabric manipulation, free machine embroidery, applique, printing and felting.

You will also record and draw from direct observation, analyse the work of others, present a portfolio and learn how to be a designer in the fashion and textile industries.

Career opportunities:

Fashion Designer, Textile Designer, Children's Wear Designer, Pattern Cutter, Fashion Buyer, Costume Designer, Bridal Wear Designer, Machinist, Print Designer, Homeware Designer, Interior Designer, Visual Merchandiser, Fashion Merchandiser, Fashion Stylist, Fashion Editor and Journalist.

BTEC Tech Award Three Dimensional (3D) Design (Pass-Distinction*)

What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, skills and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes;
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in art and design practice, such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement;
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

How will I be assessed?

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

Portfolio: 60%, started in Y9 and completed by December of Y11.

- Component 1: Generating Ideas in Art and Design
- Component 2: Develop practical skills in Art and Design

Externally Set Task: 40%, 20 hours of sustained, focused study after an extended period of preparation (Jan-May of Y11).

- Component 3: Responding to a Client Brief

Skills required to be successful:

You will learn how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point or theme, demonstrating investigation, experimentation, observation and presenting a creative outcome.

You will develop new skills on this course influenced by historical and contemporary 3D artists and product designers in response to a theme and client brief. You will learn a wide range of designing and modelling techniques such as: CAD/CAM, technical drawing, printing, paper and card modelling, cutting, joining, and finishing skills.

You will also record and draw from direct observation, analyse the work of others, present a portfolio and learn how to be a designer in the 3D and product design industries.

Career opportunities:

Architect, Ceramicist, Product Designer, Furniture Designer, Set Designer, Interior Designer, Design Consultant, Teacher, Landscape Architect, Jewellery Designer, Exhibition Designer, Graphic Designer, Production Manager and CAD/CAM Technician.

BTEC Tech Award Art and Design – Photography (Pass-Distinction*)

What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice is for learners who wish to acquire knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, skills and processes related to investigating, exploring and creating art and design work as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance, which cover the:

- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as roles, responsibilities, creative process, art and design disciplines and approaches, materials, techniques and processes;
- development of key skills that prove aptitude in art and design practice, such as generating and visually communicating creative responses to art and design briefs;
- process that underpins effective ways of working in art and design practice, such as generating ideas, prototyping, development, review and refinement;
- attitudes that are considered most important in art and design practice, including planning, organisation and communication.

How will I be assessed?

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Art and Design Practice

Portfolio: 60%, started in Y9 and completed by December of Y11.

- Component 1: Generating Ideas in Art and Design
- Component 2: Develop practical skills in Art and Design

Externally Set Task: 40%, 20 hours of sustained, focused study after an extended period of preparation (Jan-May of Y11).

- Component 3: Responding to a Client Brief

Skills required to be successful:

You will learn how to build a portfolio of work from a given starting point or theme, demonstrating investigation, experimentation, observation and presenting a creative outcome.

You will develop new skills on this course influenced by historical and contemporary artists and photographers in response to a theme and client brief. You will learn a wide range of photographic techniques such as: operating a professional camera, using studio set ups and lighting efficiently, skills at Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Bridge.

You will also photograph from direct observation, analyse the work of others, present a portfolio and learn how to be a photographer in the art, fashion, media and marketing industries.

Career opportunities:

Fine Art Photographer, Film Maker, Magazine Features Director, Television Camera Operator, Graphic Designer, Press Photographer, Wedding and Event Photographer, Fashion Photographer, Gallery Manager, Artistic Director, Advertising Art Director, Studio Director, Studio Manager, Museum Curator, Magazine Art Editor, Teacher, Animator, Photographer, Photographic Collector and Curator, Exhibition Designer, Web Content Manager, Web Designer, Visual Merchandiser, Digital Marketer and Media Planner.

GCSE French (AQA – Grades 1-9)

What will I study?

New to Dixons Trinity in 2022, the GCSE French course offers an additional Modern Language to study alongside Spanish. **Please note that GCSE French must be taken alongside GCSE Spanish as a second Modern Foreign Language.** You will be covering a wide variety of engaging topics such as:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

How will I be assessed?

External exams:

Paper 1: Listening and understanding (40-50 mins)

Paper 2: Speaking in French (9-12 minutes)

Paper 3: Reading and understanding (45 minutes – 1 hour)

Paper 4: Writing in French (1 hr 10 mins – 1 hr 20 mins)

Skills required to be successful:

Learning a Modern Language will develop you academically, personally and socially. You will be able to:

- develop listening and reading via authentic resources;
- speak with increasing fluency and spontaneity, including the use of repair strategies;
- write in different contexts, using an increasing amount of vocabulary and structures;
- increase your independent language learning strategies;
- make links to other areas of the curriculum to enable bilingual and deeper learning.

Further study links:

- French A-level
- Spanish A-level
- Business studies
- Year abroad opportunities in university courses

Career opportunities:

Hugely valued by universities and employers alike, qualifications in Modern Languages are highly flexible. They lead to a wide variety of career paths, including Business, Commerce, Culture and Tourism, Economics, Education, Government and Politics, Globalisation, Health, International Relations, Law, Linguistics, Literature, National Security, Teaching, Technology and Translation.

BTEC Music (Pass-Distinction*)

What will I study?

The BTEC Music course is designed to place an emphasis on practical activities. Time is equally divided between learning new skills and documenting what you're learning about. You will continue to focus on aspects you have already covered at KS3 music, but also develop new musical skills. It isn't always about playing instruments, part of the course is dedicated to using technology, organising events and maintaining equipment. Year 9 is an exploration year, so that you can discover new skills and develop your group work skills and communication. The course is divided into 4 units.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: The Music Industry

30 Guided Learning Hours (25% of BTEC)

- This unit is externally assessed in the form of a 1 hour exam
- Learning about careers in the music industry and what qualifications / experience is needed for each
- Learning about types of contracts, types of company and legal bodies

Unit 2: Planning a music event

30 Guided Learning Hours (25% of BTEC)

- Working as a team to plan, deliver, promote and evaluate a music concert. You will be in charge of organising every element of a Trinity Cycle Showcase
- This unit is 100% coursework and is marked and verified by Trinity staff

Unit 3: Introduction to Live Sound

30 Guided Learning Hours (25% of BTEC)

- Learning about live sound equipment and how to use it
- Planning the live sound set up for a concert and running the sound desk at an event
- Demonstrating your understanding of Health and Safety whilst using live sound
- This unit is 100% coursework and is marked and verified by Trinity staff

Unit 4: Introduction to Performance

30 Guided Learning Hours (25% of BTEC)

- Developing performance skills and tracking these using weekly video blogs
- Performing two pieces in a mock audition for 6th Form College
- This unit is 100% coursework and is marked and verified by Trinity staff

Skills required to be successful:

Performing, communication, organisation, practical technology skills, teamwork.

Further study links:

- BTEC Level 3 in Music or Music Technology

Career opportunities:

Session Musician, TV and Film Composer, Film Music Director, Arts Management, Sound Engineer, Producer, Teacher, Musical Director, Music Therapist, Musicologist, Promoter, Radio Researcher and Sound Technician.

GCSE Physical Education (AQA – Grades 1-9)

What will I study?

The GCSE helps students to develop knowledge and understanding from many different aspects of physical activity and sport including detailed analysis of our body systems, socio-cultural influences and application of fitness and training programmes to specific athletes. During this course, students will learn to make and support their own judgements grounded in the factual knowledge presented to them. Students will also be assessed practically in 3 sports based on their skill set and application to the game.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport

1 hour 15 minute paper - 78 marks (30% of GCSE)

- Applied anatomy and physiology
- Movement analysis
- Physical Training

Paper 2: Socio-cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport

1 hour 15 minute paper - 78 marks (30% of GCSE)

- Sports Psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being

Non-Exam Assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

100 marks (40% of GCSE)

- Performance assessment (in 3 sports)
- Performance analysis assessment (analysis and evaluation)

Skills required to be successful:

- Passion for sport and science
- Application of knowledge to sporting situations
- Analysis and evaluation
- Practical strengths in at least 3 sports (individual and team)
- Motivation to participate in sport outside the Academy day

Further study links: (What could students go on to study at 6th Form or college?)

- A-Level Physical Education
- L3 BTEC National in Sport
- L3 OCR Cambridge Nationals in Sport and Physical Activity

Career opportunities:

Sports Scientist, Physiotherapist, Sports Doctor, Teacher, Coach, Journalist, Nutritionist, Strength and Conditioning, Psychologist, Fitness Instructors, Sports Business and Management.

Sport, Activity and Fitness (Pearson BTEC Tech Award – Level 1/2)

What will I study?

The BTEC Tech Award in Sport, Activity and Fitness provides you with the opportunity to improve your knowledge and understanding of health, fitness, activity and sport. Examples of topics that will be covered are:

- knowledge of body systems (how the body functions in sport);
- common sports injuries and technological advances that impact on sport and activity;
- key skills that support your understanding of the training, nutrition and psychological factors that influence and impact on engagement in sport and activity;
- The principles of leadership that impact sport and physical activity engagement.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Understand the Body and the Supporting Technology for Sport and Activity

- Internally assessed (coursework).
- Completed through coursework assignments set by your teacher to assess your understanding of the impact of sport and activity on body systems, common injuries in sport and rehabilitation, and the use of technology for sport and activity.

Component 2 – The Principles of Training, Nutrition and Psychological for Sport and Activity

- Externally assessed (exam).
- Contributes to 40% of your overall grade. The remaining 60% is internally assessed (components 1 and 3).
- 1 hour and 30 minutes exam worth 70 marks.
- Requires you to apply knowledge and understanding to plan a fitness-training programme and to recommend nutritional guidance for participants to improve fitness and performance.

Component 3 – Applying the Principles of Sport and Activity

- Internally assessed (coursework).
- You will study the attributes of a successful sports leader and the physical and psychological benefits for the people taking part in their sessions. You will also plan and lead an engaging activity session.
- This component applies knowledge from components 1 and 2 through planning and delivering a session to encourage participation in exercise.

Skills required to be successful:

- Confident in typing extended pieces of work using Microsoft Word
- Organisational skills to keep coursework files saved and backed up
- Consistency in meeting of deadlines for coursework completion
- Verbal communication skills (when delivering your planned session)
- An interest in sport and physical activity

Further study links:

Learners who generally achieve a Level 2 grade may consider progressing onto:

- A-Levels as preparation for entry into higher education (University) in a range of subjects.
- The study of a vocational qualification at Level 3. For example, BTEC National in Sport.

Career opportunities:

Sports Coach, Sports Therapist, Sport Development Officer, PE Teacher, Nutritionist, Exercise Physiologist and Sports Physiotherapist.

GCSE Separate Science (AQA – Grades 1-9)

What will I study?

Triple science covers much of the same content as combined however, some of the topics are extended. Infection and response in biology will require students to learn additional content such as monoclonal antibodies and plant diseases. In homeostasis and response students will study the brain, heart, eye and the kidney in detail which is surplus content. In chemistry students will study energy changes and acquire key information on fuel cells and batteries. In structure and bonding students will cover additional content of bulk and surface properties of matter including nanoparticles. Students will carry out additional required practical in titrations. Additionally students will be completing an extra unit for physics looking closely into space and the life cycle of a star, the solar system and orbits and the red shift and the big bang.

How will I be assessed?

Biology: 2 exam papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each

- Paper 1: B1 cells, B2 organisation, B3 infection and response, B4 bioenergetics.
- Paper 2: B5 homeostasis and response, B6 inheritance, variation and evolution, B7 ecology

Chemistry: 2 exam papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each

- Paper 1: C1 Atomic structure and periodic table, C2 Structure and bonding, C3 Quantitative chemistry, C4 Chemical Changes, C5 Energy Changes
- Paper 2: C6 Rate and extent of chemical change, C7 Organic Chemistry, C8 Chemical Analysis, C9 Chemistry of the Atmosphere, C10 Using resources

Physics: 2 exam papers, 1 hour 45 minutes each

- Paper 1: P1 Energy, P2 Electricity, P3 Particle model of matter, P4 Atomic Structure
- Paper 2: P5 Forces, P6 Waves, P7 Electromagnetism, Space physics

Skills required to be successful:

- Organisational skills
- Resilience
- Communication
- Ability to analyse
- Ability to evaluate

Further study links:

- A-level Biology
- A-level Chemistry
- A-level Physics

Career opportunities:

Optometrist, Audiologist, Oncologist, Dentistry, Medicine, Chemical Engineer, Environmental Chemist, Pharmacist, Physiotherapist, Forensic Scientist, Astrophysicist, Astronomer and Meteorologist.

GCSE Computer Science (OCR – Grades 1-9)

What will I study?

The GCSE helps students to develop knowledge and understanding in different concepts of Computer Science, this includes programming, algorithms and data structures. A key skill that is developed is 'computational thinking' and this offers insightful ways to view how information operates in many computer systems. Another core skill in Computer Science is computer programming which develops logic and problem solving techniques.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: 1 hour 30 minute paper - 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

- 1.1 Systems architecture
- 1.2 Memory and storage
- 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols
- 1.4 Network security
- 1.5 Systems software
- 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

Paper 2: 1 hour 30 minute paper - 80 marks (50% of GCSE)

- 2.1 Algorithms
- 2.2 Programming fundamentals
- 2.3 Producing robust programs
- 2.4 Boolean logic
- 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Skills required to be successful:

- Passion for Computing/technology
- Motivation for computer programming
- Strong in Maths and Science
- Resilience

Further study links:

Post 16 options:

- A-level in Computer Science
- L3 BTEC Nationals in Information Technology
- L3 BTEC Specialist in Programming

Higher Education:

- BSc Computer Science (Digital & Technology Solutions)
- BSc (Hons) Applied Computing

Career opportunities:

Application Analyst, Applications Developer, Cyber Security Analyst, Data Analyst, Database Administrator, Forensic Computer Analyst, Network Manager, Information Systems Manager, IT Consultant, Software Engineer and Systems Analyst.

BTEC Tech Award Digital Information Technology (Pass-Distinction*)

What will I study?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology, allows students to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to User Interface, data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Internally assessed (30% of BTEC)

- Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques

Component 2: Internally assessed (30% of BTEC)

- Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

Component 3: External Assessment (40% of BTEC)

- Effective Digital Working Practices
- Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes – 60 marks
 - Modern technologies, Cyber security, The wider implications of digital systems, Planning and communication in digital systems

Skills required to be successful:

- Passion for Information Communication Technology
- Imagination
- Able to plan, design and evaluate
- Strong Literacy skills
- Self-management/ independence
- Organisation
- Problem solving

Further study links:

Post 16 options:

- L3 BTEC Nationals in Information Technology Communications
- L3 BTEC in Computing
- A-Level in Computer Science

Higher Education:

- BSc Computer Science (Digital & Technology Solutions)
- BSc (Hons) Applied Computing

Career opportunities:

Students may want to progress to an apprenticeship, for example at Level 5 in Digital Marketer, Infrastructure Technician or Software Development Technician. Other careers could include a role as a Web Designer, System Analysis, Games Development, IT Consultant, Application Developer, Network Manager, Database Manager, ICT Technician, Teacher.

Options - Class of 2026

Student name: **Advisory:**

Humanities

Students have to study either History or Geography. Please **tick** your preference below. Those students wishing to study both History and Geography, please still select your preference below and then choose the other Humanities subject as one of your options subjects on the table below.

Humanities	Choice
History	
Geography	

Options Subjects

Please state what your 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th choice option subjects would be. Where possible we will facilitate first and second choice options for all students, however, where this is not possible due to class size and course popularity, we will discuss appropriate alternatives with each individual, but will seek to select your third and fourth choices.

Subjects	Options preferences			
	1 st Choice	2 nd Choice	3 rd Choice	4 th Choice
History				
Geography				
Art				
3D-Design				
Textiles				
Photography				
GCSE PE				
Sport, Activity and Fitness				
Music				
Computer Science				
Digital Information Technology				
French				
Triple Science				

Student signature:

Parent / carer signature:

SLT signature:

*Please hand your completed options form back to your advisor by **Monday 10 May**.*