

ULLSWATER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2026



vision: **BEST in County**

Ambitious • Caring • Equal

UCC is an ambitious, caring community where everyone is equal

#proudtobeUCC



INTRODUCTION



The options process in Year 9 arrives at an important point in your learning at Ullswater. Now is the time to focus on your aspirations and future goals in order to make the decisions that will help you to achieve these.

The idea of making decisions that will impact on your future can be extremely daunting. We understand this and have put together a programme of information, advice and guidance to help you make the most informed choices possible.

One of the most important factors to consider is the progress that you are making in your different subjects. This in turn means your attendance and attitudes in your classes (both things that you can control) are the two biggest factors influencing the grades you will achieve and your future choices when you finish school. As a result, your most recent grades are very important, as these will form the basis of the conversations that you will have with your form tutors, teachers and parents over the coming weeks.

This booklet includes lots of useful information that will support you in making your options choices. You should use it to understand what different subjects have to offer and to see how each fits in with your future aspirations.



MR GILBY – HEADTEACHER



Year 9 is a pivotal time in your school journey, especially in today's rapidly changing world. The subjects and qualifications you choose for Years 10 and 11 will not only shape your next two years at UCC but also play a significant role in your future 6th form, career or college path. It's important to approach these decisions thoughtfully.

If you already have a clear career goal in mind, take the time to research it thoroughly and select your options accordingly. Remember, every qualification has value, and no choice is ever wasted. If you're still uncertain about your future career, focus on choosing subjects that will keep your options open and provide flexibility later on. Most importantly, pick the subjects that interest and excite you! Whatever you do, do not pick a subject just because your friend is!

The more information you gather, the easier it will be to make informed decisions. Be sure to ask plenty of questions both staff and fellow students. I look forward to discussing your options with you all soon!



MR KEY – HEAD OF YEAR

MAKING YOUR OPTIONS DECISIONS

The Key Stage 4 Options at Ullswater Community College are designed to provide you with a broad and balanced curriculum that best meets your individual needs and aspirations.

At UCC we aim to provide everyone with the skills and qualifications to carry onto the next stage in their career; whether it's sixth form, college or further training.

THERE ARE THREE MAIN ROUTES THROUGH OUR KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM:

ACADEMIC ROUTE

Students take predominantly GCSEs and aim to achieve the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), a measure of higher grade passes (9-5) in English, maths, science GCSEs, one humanity and one modern foreign language.

ACADEMIC/ TECHNICAL ROUTE

A combination of GCSEs and Level 1/2 Technical subjects. Extra time might be available to secure grades in the core subjects of English and maths to secure your next steps into sixth form, college, apprenticeships and ultimately employment.

ACCESS

A very small number of students will require something unique to them and will be invited to a one to one conversation, with parents, to secure their route through years 10 and 11.

We are extremely proud of the wide-ranging curriculum that we offer. To help you make the most of the options that are available to you, carefully read your options form and follow the instructions.

- All students will study English Language, English Literature, mathematics, physics, chemistry and biology (as well as core PE, PSHE, Careers guidance...).
- From Option Block A, students must pick one of the subjects in this column.
- From Option Block B, students should pick **four** preferred choices. They will go on to study **two** of these. **PLEASE NOTE:** Choices should be selected in order of preference.

It is important that you choose carefully and are happy to be following any of the subjects you have chosen.

Course uptake is reviewed in March, after all option forms have been returned. A decision will then be made based on sufficient student numbers opting, timetabling restrictions and best combinations for future progress.

SUBJECT INDEX

KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM 2026-2028

Subject	Qualification Type	Options Route		Pg
English Language	GCSE	Core		7
English Literature	GCSE	Core		7
Maths	GCSE	Core		8
Science	GCSE	Core		9
French	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	10
Geography	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	11
History	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	12
Spanish	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	10
Animal Care	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		13
Art (Fine)	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	14
Art (Photography)	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	15
Art (Textiles)	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	16
Business / Enterprise	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		17
Child Development	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		18
Citizenship Studies	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	19
Dance (Performing Arts)	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		20
Design Technology	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	21
Digital IT	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		22
Drama	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	23
Hair & Beauty	Level 2*	Academic/Technical		24
Health & Social Care	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		25
Hospitality & Catering (Food)	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		26
Media Studies	GCSE or Level 1/2 **	Academic	Academic/Technical	27
Music	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		28
Physical Education	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	29
Sport	Level 1/2	Academic/Technical		30
Religious Education	GCSE	Academic	Academic/Technical	31

* Hair & Beauty is a Level 2 qualification only - all students will need to achieve a Grade 4 equivalent or better

** A decision will be made on the qualification type after options have been submitted

OPTION BLOCKS

CORE

English Language
English Literature
Mathematics
Science

OPTIONS A

PICK ONE

French
Geography
History
Spanish

OPTIONS B

**PICK FOUR,
STUDY TWO**

Animal Care	French
Art & Design:	Geography
• Fine Art	Hair & Beauty
• Photography	Health and Social Care
• Textiles	History
Business	Hospitality & Catering (Food)
Child Development	Media Studies
Citizenship	Music
Dance	PE / Sport
Design Technology	RE
Digital IT	Spanish
Drama	

Please note, due to health and safety requirements, class sizes in Animal Care and Design Technology are limited to 24 students, and in Hair & Beauty 15. Where appropriate, we will look to run multiple classes to accommodate as many students as possible. However, we cannot guarantee access to these courses. Where numbers of students exceed capacity, other data will be used to determine which students access the course. This will include attitudinal data, behavioural data and attendance.



OPTION CORE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

There are two different GCSEs for English: one for English Language and one for English Literature. For both GCSEs, we use the exam board Edexcel. There is no tiered entry.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

What will I study?

This course teaches you to read a variety of texts from various genres and time-periods of which you will learn how to comprehend, analyse, evaluate and compare the effect. You will also be taught how to plan and craft extended writing pieces of fiction and non-fiction (letter, article, review, speech and guide book excerpt).

How will I be assessed?

There are two exams (Paper 1: 1 hour and 45 minutes and Paper 2: 2 hours and 5 minutes. You will sit two papers at the end of Year 11 to assess your Reading and Writing skills.

In addition to the exams, you will be expected to deliver a short presentation for your Spoken Language grade (you will receive a Pass, Merit or Distinction for this and it's delivered in lesson time only).

How will the subject help me in the future?

English looks at a range of topics, issues and emotions that are as relevant to people today as they were four hundred years ago: relationships, love and death. Alongside this are the practical skills that any employer will be seeking, such as the ability to understand instructions, 'read between the lines' and present written work accurately.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What will I study?

You will study Shakespeare's *Macbeth*, Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*, Lemn Sissay's play adaptation of *Refugee Boy* and one poetry collection (15 poems from an anthology).

How will I be assessed?

There are two exams which are sat at the end of Year 11:

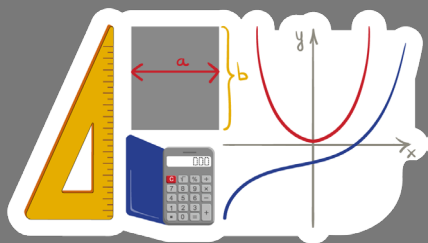
- Paper 1 (1 hour and 45 minutes) will test your knowledge of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* followed by your exploration of the modern drama, *Refugee Boy*. These questions test comprehension, analysis and evaluation.
- Paper 2 (2 hours and 15 minutes) will test your knowledge of *A Christmas Carol*, then the named poetry, followed by an 'unseen' poetry section. These questions test comprehension, analysis, evaluation and comparison.

How will the subject help me in the future?

English Literature is a popular, academic subject, highly regarded by universities. It requires independent thought and encourages debate and discussion. Many of our students, who have studied English at A-level, have gone on to study Law or journalism at university for example.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Feel free to talk to any member of the English department or see Mrs Wilson directly.



OPTION CORE

MATHS

What will I study?

You will study for the Edexcel GCSE Mathematics qualification.

This will require you to:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including: Number, Algebra, Geometry & Measures, Probability & Statistics, Ratio, Proportion & Rates of Change
- Reason, interpret and communicate your solutions
- Solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts, for example: real life situations

There are two tiers of entry for GCSE Mathematics; these are Higher Tier (currently grades 9-4) and Foundation Tier (currently grades 5-1). You will be recommended for either the Foundation or the Higher tier during Year 9, although movements do occur between the tiers during the GCSE course.

Learning will be supplemented by SPARX maths. This interactive platform allows students to be independent, resilient learners at home while also being direct to tasks by their teacher.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit three exam papers, each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes, (two calculator and one non-calculator paper) in May / June of Year 11. Each paper contributes equally to your final GCSE grade.

How will the subject help me in the future?

Mathematics is one of the most widely used subjects in the world. Every career uses some degree of maths. More importantly, doing mathematics helps the mind to reason and organise complicated situations or problems into clear, simple, and logical steps. Also:

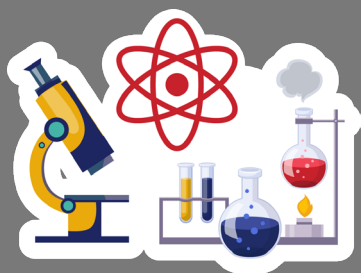
- Mathematics is one of the subjects included as part of the English Baccalaureate.
- It is a qualification valued by employers, colleges and universities.
- Achievement of a grade 6 or above at GCSE will allow students entry onto the AS Level Mathematics course in Year 12. Students achieving grades 8 or 9 at GCSE can also take 'Further Mathematics' at AS Level.

Is this a suitable course for me?

GCSE Mathematics is compulsory for all students. However, some students may study Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 before embarking upon the GCSE Course.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

You can speak to any member of the Mathematics Department or see Miss John.



OPTION CORE

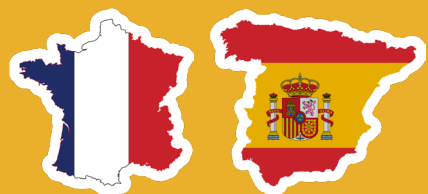
SCIENCE

There are two pathways

	Trilogy - Science	Separate - Science
Content	• Biology: Cells; organs & tissues; diseases; bioenergetics; homeostasis; inheritance, variation & evolution; ecology. • Chemistry: Bonding & structure; periodic table; quantitative chemistry; rates of reaction; organic chemistry; analysis techniques; atmospheric chemistry; using resources. • Physics: Forces, energy, waves, electricity, magnetism & electromagnetism, nuclear physics; particle model & kinetic theory; space physics.	
Exams	2 biology papers, 2 chemistry papers and 2 physics papers. Each 75 minutes long Two GCSE grades	One biology, one chemistry and one physics grade. Two 105 minute long exams in each subject Grade for each individual subject
Assessment	Planning and analytical skills are inherently tested in the papers, as well as content. Core practicals in class will be used to assess your manual practical skills and your teacher will decide if you have shown the level of skill expected at GCSE.	
Future	Either option allows entrance onto any of our KS5 courses. A qualification valued by employers, colleges and universities. Introduces and develops a range of analytical and practical skills transferable to other subjects and professions.	

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Mrs Priestley (Head of Science), Mr Ford (Head of Chemistry), Mr Bambury (Head of Biology), Mrs Grace (Head of Physics) or your current science teacher.



OPTION A AND B

FRENCH / SPANISH

What will I study?

You will study language from three main themes, which builds on what you have learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9:

- People and Lifestyle (identity and relationships with others, healthy lifestyle, education and work)
- Popular Culture (free time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations, celebrity culture)
- Communication and the world around us (travel and tourism, media and technology, the environment and where people live).

How will I be assessed?

Formative assessment is ongoing, so you will always have an idea of how you are doing and where you can improve. To determine your grade, you will sit four exams which cover listening, speaking, reading and writing. Each paper is worth 25% of your GCSE.

- Paper 1: a 35 minute (foundation) or 45 minute (higher) listening exam.
- Paper 2: a 7-12 minute speaking exam with your teacher.
- Paper 3: a 45 minute (foundation) or 1 hour (higher) reading paper.
- Paper 4: a 70 minute (foundation) or 75 minute (higher) writing paper.

All of these exams are taken at the end of the course in Year 11. The exams contain a mixture of multi-choice questions, translations and longer questions.

How will the subject help me in the future?

Having a language qualification can give you a big advantage in your future career, A-Levels and university choices. Employers and universities see people with language qualifications as intelligent, determined, hard-working and with good communication skills. From fashion in Paris or the architecture of Spain to aid work in North Africa, from interpreting, sports journalism and translation, to international business and finance; a foreign language qualification can help you succeed in virtually any career.

Is this a suitable course for me?

Although your ability in languages is important, it isn't everything. Do you enjoy languages? Are you interested in speaking a foreign language? Do you like to travel? Are you a good communicator? Are you interested in other cultures? Do you want to push yourself to develop new skills? If so, languages could be for you.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Any languages teacher would be delighted to talk to you, or see Miss Thurrell (Head of MFL).



GEOGRAPHY

OPTION A AND B

What will I study?

In this OCR A GCSE Geography (Geographical Themes) you will study:

- Paper 1 – Living in the UK: Landscapes of the UK (Rivers and Coasts), People of the UK and UK Environmental Challenges.
- Paper 2 – The World Around Us: Ecosystems of the Planet, People of the Planet and Environmental Threats to our Planet.
- Paper 3 - Geographical Skills: Synoptic assessment, fieldwork skills and geographical skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed in three exams at the end of Year 11, there is no coursework.

- Paper 1 – Living in the UK today – 1hr, 60 marks, 30% of the course.
- Paper 2 – The world around us – 1hr, 60 marks, 30% of the course.
- Paper 3 - Geographical Skills – 1hr 30mins, 80 marks, 40% of the course.

How will the subject help me in the future?

- Geography is highly valued by employers, colleges and universities because it gives you an invaluable range of transferable practical and academic skills.
- Geography shows employers you are able to be descriptive, analytical and evaluative in your thinking and able to communicate your ideas effectively (both orally and in writing).

Is this a suitable course for me?

If you're interested in the world around you and want to understand how you fit into it, then this is the course for you. Be prepared to work hard and think hard because GCSE geography is jam-packed full of human and physical content.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

- Your geography teacher or Dr Leathers (Head of Department) will be happy to chat to you to work out if this is the right course for you.
- You can obtain a copy of the syllabus and sample assessment material from the OCR exam board website.
- You can ask the Year 11 students or the A level geographers to get more insight into what it's like to study geography further as they are the experts.



OPTION A AND B

HISTORY

What will I study?

We currently offer the Edexcel history course, ensuring minimal overlap or repetition of previously taught courses.

Units include:

- Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18 injuries, treatment and the trenches
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88
- The American West, c1835–c1895
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918–1939

How will I be assessed?

The assessment takes place through three formal exams in the summer of Year 11. The exams include a range of short questions, source based and interpretation based questions and essay questions.

There is no coursework.

How will the subject help me in the future?

- History is one of the most highly valued academic subjects, by employers and universities
- It shows employers that you can read widely, make inferences, develop an overview of a situation and express yourself well both orally and in writing.

Is this a suitable course for me?

History is a challenging, yet rewarding, subject - there are no specific criteria by which we identify suitable applicants. If you are interested in people, willing to read a range of views and enjoy history then it is suitable for you.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

- Your history teacher or Mrs Greenhalgh would be more than willing to discuss your suitability for the course with either yourselves as students or your parents.
- The school can also provide sample assessment and teaching material upon request. There will be some information on the Edexcel website if you follow the subject links to GCSE History.
- Another valuable insight into the course and quality of teaching on offer is from current or past students. It makes perfect sense to talk to either current Year 11 or 12s about their experiences in the history classroom.



OPTION B

ANIMAL CARE

What will I study?

You will study the BTEC Level 1 / 2 Tech Award in Animal Care. This course is studied over 2 years for 5 lessons per fortnight.

The qualification is made up as follows:

Internal assessments

- Component 1 Animal Handling 90 marks
- Component 2 Animal Housing and Accommodation

External (terminal) exam

- Component 3 Animal Health and Welfare

How will I be assessed?

The Animal Health and Welfare unit is assessed externally by means of an exam in January of Year 11. The other components are assessed throughout Year 10. The assessments consist of three written and two practical elements. You will be awarded a pass, merit or distinction at Level 1 or Level 2 depending on which tasks you have achieved. Please note, completion of the course requires students to be filmed carrying out practical tasks. If you are not comfortable with this, please speak with Mr Foster.

How will the subject help me in the future?

You will learn animal management skills and become skilled in animal care. Theory lessons will provide you with an underpinning knowledge of the law, health and safety and principles of good animal management. You will be able to progress onto specialised Level 3 qualifications in animal management or onto an Apprenticeship.

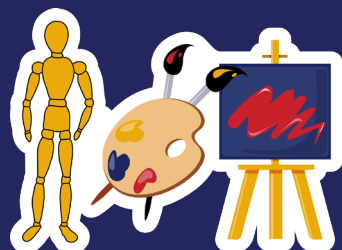
Is this a suitable course for me?

The course will be suitable for you if you wish to pursue a career working with animals or veterinary nursing.

You must be willing to handle any species of animals to be able to complete this course.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Please speak to Mr Foster.



OPTION B

ART & DESIGN (FINE ART)

What will I study?

Art has the power to move people, evoking emotions in ways that words cannot. Art makes us feel alive. Throughout history, Art has illuminated injustice, shaping our existence in profound ways. There is something innately human about making art and when we look across cultures it is one of the few things that truly connect us. During the two years you will be introduced to a wide range of media, techniques, and technologies. Drawing, painting, photography, ceramics and sculpture, film, installation, animation and other contemporary art processes can all be part of your Fine Art journey. Art students explore broad concepts, and through these broad concepts, they research, develop, and resolve artworks that are personal, meaningful, and challenge expectations. Recent concepts that have shaped student artwork have included Identity, Consumption, and Structure.

How will I be assessed?

You will be formatively assessed throughout the course, and you will receive regular feedback. The feedback you receive is designed to support you to develop the independence and confidence to pursue your ideas at a rate suited to you and how you learn, ensuring you fulfil and hopefully exceed your potential. Your final mark and grade are made up from two components. Component 1 is the 'portfolio' and is worth 60% of your final mark. This consists of a sustained project and a selection of further work. Component 2 is the 'externally set assignment'. This requires you to develop a creative response to one of seven themes issued by AQA. Component 2 starts in the January of Year 11 and finishes with a 10-hour period of supervised time. This is where you create a body of practical work under exam conditions over two days (breaks and lunch as per normal).

How will the subject help me in the future?

Studying Fine Art at GCSE is an important decision to make if you are curious about, or excited by creativity and the power of Art. It is also an important step to take if you are thinking of a career in the creative industries. Careers in visual art, galleries and museums, graphic design, film, theatre, stage design, costume and fashion design, advertising, photography, web design, animation, game design, all require a sound understanding of the working and thinking processes that Fine Art provides.

Furthermore, an education in Fine Art sets you up for a future that is characterised by complexity and change. Fine Art challenges you to develop and solve complex problems and demands discipline and self-direction. It asks you to look at and use established thinking and knowledge in new, novel, and unexpected ways. In essence, these are the building blocks of creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and through Fine Art you will be equipped with the mindset to make your mark on the world.

Is this a suitable course for me?

As with all subjects at GCSE level, Fine Art requires dedication and commitment. A talent for the subject is helpful but it is no substitute for enthusiasm, imagination, and a solid work ethic. Embracing trial and error, having an open mind, being willing to experiment and try new things, are all important if you are to find success in Fine Art.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Your Art teacher and/or Mr Glover (Head of Art Department)



OPTION B

ART & DESIGN (PHOTOGRAPHY)

What will I study?

Photography is all around us. We use it to communicate with each other and it is used to sell us products and lifestyles. Photography can shine a light on the oppressed and expose us to different cultures, communities, and ways of being. As a result, the power of the photographic image is undeniable and throughout history, photography has been at the forefront of creative practice. During the two years you will be introduced to a wide range of photographic processes, techniques, and technologies. You will be challenged to look at and respond to a diverse range of contemporary ideas and issues that are designed to help you to make sense of the world around you. Photography students explore broad concepts, and through these broad concepts, they research, develop, and resolve photographic work that is personal, meaningful, and challenges expectations.

How will I be assessed?

You will be formatively assessed throughout the course, and you will receive regular feedback. The feedback you receive is designed to support you to develop the independence and confidence to pursue your ideas at a rate suited to you and how you learn, ensuring you fulfil and hopefully exceed your potential. Your final mark and grade are made up from two components. Component 1 is the 'portfolio' and is worth 60% of your final mark. This consists of a sustained project and a selection of further work. Component 2 is the 'externally set assignment'. This requires you to develop a creative response to one of seven themes issued by AQA. Component 2 starts in the January of Year 11 and finishes with a 10-hour period of supervised time. This is where you create a body of practical work under exam conditions over two days (breaks and lunch as per normal).

How will the subject help me in the future?

Studying Photography at GCSE is an important decision to make if you are curious about, or excited by creativity and the power of the photographic image. It is also an important step to take if you are thinking of a career in the creative industries. Careers in photography, fashion, hair and beauty, graphic design, film and TV, photojournalism, advertising, social media, event management, web design and animation, all require a sound understanding of the working and thinking processes that photography provides.

Furthermore, an education in photography sets you up for a future that is characterised by complexity and change. Photography challenges you to develop and solve complex problems and demands discipline and self-direction. It asks you to look at and use established thinking and knowledge in new, novel, and unexpected ways. In essence, these are the building blocks of creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and through photography you will be equipped with the mindset to make your mark on the world.

Is this a suitable course for me?

As with all subjects at GCSE level, photography requires dedication and commitment. A talent for the subject is helpful but it is no substitute for enthusiasm, imagination, and a solid work ethic. Embracing trial and error, having an open mind, being willing to experiment and try new things, are all important if you are to find success in Photography.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Your Art teacher and/or Mr Glover (Head of Art Department)



OPTION B

ART & DESIGN (TEXTILE DESIGN)

What will I study?

From costume and stage design to furnishings and fashion design, through to fine art and installation, artists, designers and craftspeople use textile processes to communicate a wide range of ideas and develop innovative materials and techniques that impact on our lives. During the two years you will be introduced to a wide range of textile design processes, techniques, and technologies. You will create designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles that may have functional and/or non-functional purposes. Textile Design students explore broad concepts, and through these broad concepts, they research, develop, and resolve textile work that is personal, meaningful, and challenges expectations.

How will I be assessed?

You will be formatively assessed throughout the course, and you will receive regular feedback. The feedback you receive is designed to support you to develop the independence and confidence to pursue your ideas at a rate suited to you and how you learn, ensuring you fulfil and hopefully exceed your potential. Your final mark and grade are made up from two components. Component 1 is the 'portfolio' and is worth 60% of your final mark. This consists of a sustained project and a selection of further work. Component 2 is the 'externally set assignment'. This requires you to develop a creative response to one of seven themes issued by AQA. Component 2 starts in the January of Year 11 and finishes with a 10-hour period of supervised time. This is where you create a body of practical work under exam conditions over two days (breaks and lunch as per normal).

How will the subject help me in the future?

Studying Textile Design at GCSE is an important decision to make if you are curious about, or excited by creativity and the dynamic and ever-changing world of textile design. It is also an important step to take if you are thinking of a career in the creative industries. Careers in art, fibre art, fashion, interior design, costume and stage design, textile design, furnishings and furniture all require a sound understanding of the working and thinking processes that the Textile Design course provides.

Furthermore, an education in Textile Design sets you up for a future that is characterised by complexity and change. Textile Design challenges you to develop and solve complex problems and demands discipline and self-direction. It asks you to look at and use established thinking and knowledge in new, novel, and unexpected ways. In essence, these are the building blocks of creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, and through Textile Design you will be equipped with the mindset to make your mark on the world.

Is this a suitable course for me?

As with all subjects at GCSE level, Textile Design requires dedication and commitment. A talent for the subject is helpful but it is no substitute for enthusiasm, imagination, and a solid work ethic. Embracing trial and error, having an open mind, being willing to experiment and try new things, are all important if you are to find success in Textile Design.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Your Art teacher and/or Mr Glover (Head of Art Department)



OPTION B

BUSINESS / ENTERPRISE

What will I study?

You will study towards a Level 2 qualification in GCSE Business Studies or BTEC Technical in Enterprise.

Students will develop business and enterprise skills, looking at:

- How to spot a business opportunity – understanding customer needs, analysing competition, adding value, invention and innovation.
- Entrepreneurial thinking – creative thinking, asking questions, calculating risk.
- Making things happen – predicting revenue, raising finance, setting objectives.
- Getting it right – customer focus and the marketing mix, being effective.

Students look at how to manage a business, learning how businesses are organised and funded, how they recruit and motivate staff, how they develop and promote products and how they budget and plan for financial success. Students also have the opportunity to study the practicalities of running a business, understanding how businesses operate, profit maximisation and the risk of making a loss if they make the wrong choices.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE & BTEC both have externally assessed elements; with the BTEC also including internally assessed components that are assessed as a controlled assessment, the expectation is that students complete these independently in a controlled environment.

Your suitability for either course can be discussed with Miss Stowers.

How will the subject help me in the future?

Students understand how to make decisions that are appropriate for the business world, whether running their own business or working for others, so they develop practical business skills.

The courses combine analysis skills with effective presentation and marketing skills, developing well rounded students. Prepares students for A level study in GCE Business or BTEC Business.

Is this a suitable course for me?

If you enjoy challenge and problem solving, want to work for yourself eventually, or have a desire to develop your practical business skills to enable you to better access business employment, then this course is suitable for you.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Miss Stowers or Mr Jackson would be more than willing to discuss your suitability for the course and also to what extent it will fit with your future plans.



OPTION B

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

What will I study?

The period of early childhood development is the most important period of life. In order to reach their full potential, children need appropriate support from families, education and healthcare professionals during this period.

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 3 components of this qualification.

Content areas

- Component 1: Children's Growth and Development
- Component 2: Learning Through Play
- Component 3: Supporting Children to Play, Learn and Develop

How will I be assessed?

The qualification has 2 Non-exam internal assessments, externally set by Pearson and marked in the centre and one written examined assessment:

- Assessment breakdown: 2 hours examined assessment (weighting 40%)
- Two non-exam assessments (NEA): weighting (60%), externally-set, internally marked and externally moderated. synoptic projects.
- Overall qualification grades: L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D*
- (Equivalent to GCSE grades 1 to 8.5)

How will the subject help me in the future?

Successful completion of this course will provide the opportunity to progress onto the NCFE T-Level in Education and Early Years (Early Years Educator) Level 3 course or Health and Social Care Level 3 available in sixth form. These courses are nationally recognised qualifications for anyone seeking employment in areas related to work with children 0 - 18 years. The course develops a wide range of skills required for work in the Early Years, Health and Social Care sector, Teaching, Assisted Teaching or Mentoring.

Is this a suitable course for me?

You must have a genuine interest in children and families.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Mrs A Rutherford (head of department, room 65).



CITIZENSHIP STUDIES

What will I study?

You will study how citizens can try to make a difference in society. You will gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government, and law, while developing skills to create sustained arguments and plan practical actions. This will include studying:

- **Life in Modern Britain:** What are the values that underpin British society? What does it mean to be British? What is the role of the media and free press? What is the UK's role in international organisations like the UN and NATO?
- **Rights and Responsibilities:** How does the justice system work? How do we deal with criminals and what are the different forms of punishment? What are our universal human rights? How do laws protect the citizens?
- **Politics and Participation:** Where does political power reside in the UK? How do parliament and government work? How can citizens bring about political change? How do other countries govern themselves?
- **Active Citizenship:** How can I take part in real practical citizenship actions to benefit others? You will investigate a contemporary issue and take informed action to address it.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit two written exams in Year 11; both exams will last 1 hour 45 minutes and each counts for 50% of your overall marks.

- **Paper 1:** Covers Active Citizenship (questions on the action of others and your own investigation) and Politics and Participation.
- **Paper 2:** Covers Life in Modern Britain and Rights and Responsibilities. While you will carry out a practical investigation, there is no separate coursework or controlled assessment mark; your investigation is assessed through questions within the Paper 1 exam.

How will the subject help me in the future?

This course helps you become a thoughtful and active citizen. The skills you develop - such as recognising bias, critically evaluating arguments, weighing evidence, and looking for alternative interpretations - are essential skills valued by higher education and employers. Occupations that Citizenship Studies students often go into include: law, journalism, politics, the police force, the civil service, charity work, social work, and teaching.

Is this a suitable course for me?

Do you have an interest in what is happening in the world today? Do you want to understand your rights and how the law protects you? Do you enjoy debating current affairs and expressing your opinion? Are you interested in how the country is run? Do you want to learn how to make a real difference in your community? Yes? Then GCSE Citizenship Studies is for you!

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Speak to Mrs McCanny for more information.



OPTION B

DANCE

Course Overview

The BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Performing Arts is a dynamic and hands-on qualification designed to develop students' creativity, confidence, and performance skills. With a focus on the **Dance Pathway**, this course provides an excellent opportunity for students to explore the exciting world of performing arts while honing their dance abilities.

This qualification is aimed at students who have a passion for dance and wish to build foundational skills in the performing arts industry. Through a blend of practical and theoretical learning, students will develop the technical, creative, and professional skills needed to succeed in further education or a career in the performing arts.

What Will You Study?

Students will engage in three key components:

1) Exploring the Performing Arts

- Study different dance styles, genres, and professional works.
- Gain an understanding of the processes and techniques used by professional dancers and choreographers.

2) Developing Skills and Techniques

- Participate in workshops to refine technical dance skills.
- Learn how to interpret choreography and deliver compelling performances.
- Receive feedback to improve and develop resilience as a performer.

3) Performing to a Brief

- Work as part of a group to create and perform an original dance piece based on a given brief.
- Showcase creative skills and demonstrate an understanding of audience engagement.

Assessment

The course combines practical and written assessments, enabling students to showcase their talents in real-world scenarios. Assessment is through:

- Practical performances and rehearsals.
- Written logs, evaluations, and reflective journals.
- A final externally assessed performance project.

Is this a suitable course for me?

- **Practical Focus:** The emphasis on hands-on learning ensures students gain experience and confidence in live performance settings.
- **Industry-Relevant Skills:** Develop transferable skills such as teamwork, time management, communication, and creative problem-solving.
- **Progression Opportunities:** This qualification provides a strong foundation for further study, including Level 3 courses in Dance, Performing Arts, or related fields, as well as vocational pathways in the arts sector.

Whether you aspire to become a professional dancer, choreographer, or simply wish to explore your passion for performance, the BTEC Level 1/2 Technical Award in Performing Arts (Dance Pathway) is an exciting first step toward achieving your goals.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Mrs Key.



OPTION B

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

What will I study?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. Our GCSE allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

How will I be assessed?

50% Non Examined Assessment (NEA - coursework) 50% Written examination

Non - exam assessment (NEA) - 50% of GCSE, 100 marks

- Identifying and investigating - 10 marks
- Brief and specification - 10 marks
- Generating and developing design ideas - 40 marks
- Realising design ideas (Manufacture) - 20 marks
- Evaluating - 20 marks

1 x 2 hour exam. Exam - 50% of GCSE marks, 15% of which is maths content

- Section A - Core technical principles (20 marks) A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.
- Section B - Specialist technical principals (30 marks) Several short answer questions (2-5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in-depth knowledge of technical principles.
- Section C - Designing and making principles (50 marks) A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

How will the subject help me in the future?

You will develop valuable key skills that are vital for your next steps of education and or in the world or work. These include the ability to work independently, leadership and management, teamwork and collaboration, creative problem solving, adaptability, communication and interpersonal skills, dependability and time management.

Students who study DT at UCC have gone on to study product design, graphic design, industrial design, architecture, engineering, motor vehicle, theatre design, textiles design and fashion at universities all across the country. It can also lead to apprenticeships in a range of fields.

Is this a suitable course for me?

Do you like being creative and solving problems? Do you enjoy learning about the world of technology? Are you open to making mistakes and finding solutions? Do you enjoy testing and experimenting with materials and processes? Are you hard working?

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Miss Forknall or Miss Warren



OPTION B

DIGITAL IT

What will I study?

You will study for a BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology, this is for those of you who want to acquire sector-specific knowledge and skills through vocational contexts. You will study project planning, data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of your Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs.

The components of the course include:

- Development of key skills, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces, creating dashboards to present and interpret data.
- Process, such as project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct.
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, process and attitudes in the sector such as: how different user interfaces meet user needs; how organisations collect and use data to make decisions; virtual workplaces; cyber security and legal and ethical issues important in digital information technology, including personal management and communication.

How will I be assessed?

The three components in the qualification give learners the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the digital sector. Components 1 and 2 are completed in Year 10 and are internally assessed as a controlled assessment, the expectation is that students complete these independently in a controlled environment. Component 3 is an externally assessed exam completed in the January of Year 11.

How will the subject help me in the future?

Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

Future job prospects through achieving on this course could be roles such as, Software Engineering; Programming; Web and Multimedia Production; Computer Games Development.

Is this a suitable course for me?

This course is for learners who want to acquire technical knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, understanding and skills related to data management, data interpretation, data presentation and data protection as part of their Key Stage 4 learning.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Ms Stowers or your ICT teacher.



OPTION B

DRAMA

What will I study?

Year 10

Year 10 starts with an introduction to GCSE Drama and the chance to explore the creation of Drama in a number of different styles. In this year you will complete the first main component of the GCSE, which requires the development of an original performance piece for an audience. This devised performance is recorded and accompanied by a written coursework element.

Year 11

Year 11 will focus on preparation for and assessment in the final two components, a practical performance examination and a written examination. The study on the course will be a mixture of practical skill development and academic study of a play text and the way that theatre is created.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment in Drama for GCSE is made up of three components:

- The first is a devised performance and accompanying coursework document, which is completed in Year 10.
- The second component is a practical performance examination of extract(s) from a studied play. This exam will be assessed by a visiting examiner and will require you to demonstrate either a performance or technical skill.
- The third component is a written examination. In this exam you will be expected to answer questions in essay form about the play studied and demonstrate your understanding of Drama.

How will the subject help me in the future?

If you plan to pursue Drama or Theatre Studies to university level, GCSE Drama will set you on your way. If you don't plan on pursuing Drama further, the course will give you skills that are highly desirable for any future course or employment. Some benefits are: a self-confidence boost in presenting to an audience; enhanced team working skills; improved creativity; time management skills as you work within strict timed conditions; increased empathy skills as you take on roles and characters.

Is this a suitable course for me?

The GCSE in Drama is open to all students, however it is essential that a suitable standard has been attained in English, owing to the academic elements of the course. The subject requires a high level of commitment and there is an expectation of pupils that they will give up additional hours after school to their studies, an absence from which will have a detrimental effect and cannot be considered acceptable. If you are unsure about the subject as an option, or if you are considering taking it at GCSE, it is imperative that you discuss the matter with your Drama teacher.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Mrs O'Brien.



OPTION B

HAIR AND BEAUTY

What will I study?

You will study the City & Guilds Level 2 Technical Award in Hair and Beauty Studies. Your study will take place in The Salon within the Applied Learning Centre. This course gives learners an introduction to the hair and beauty sector.

This qualification allows learners to explore the exciting world of hair and beauty and the environment in which its industries operate. Learners will explore historical trends and developments and how hair and beauty has developed from ancient times to the present day. The qualification gives learners an opportunity to investigate how science is used to create products, the ethics of product testing, effects of ingredients on hair and skin and how disorders of the hair and skin can impact services. In addition, learners will understand the importance of images for business use and develop hair styling, make-up and manicure technical skills to produce their own photographic images.

You will study these units:

This qualification has three units:

- exploring the world of hair and beauty
- science of hair and beauty
- design in the hair and beauty sector

How will I be assessed?

Assessment takes place through an externally set and externally marked exam and a synoptic assessment.

How will the subject help me in the future?

On completion learners will gain the skills and knowledge that may enable them to progress onto a Level 2 course. It will also provide learners with valuable life skills.

Is this a suitable course for me?

The course is suitable for anyone who is interested in working in the hair and beauty industry.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Come and visit Mrs Crocker in the salon.



OPTION B

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

What will I study?

Health and Social Care is all about understanding and striving to improve the lives of people in society, from birth to end of life care. Over 2.5 million people across England work in health and social care related roles.

To be awarded this qualification, learners are required to successfully demonstrate the knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all 3 components of this qualification.

Content areas:

- Component 1: Human Lifespan Development
- Component 2: Health and Social Care Services and Values
- Component 3: Health and Wellbeing

How will I be assessed?

The qualification has 2 non-exam internal assessments, externally set by Pearson and marked in the centre and one written examined assessment:

- Assessment breakdown: 2 hours examined assessment (weighting 40%)
- Two non-exam assessments (NEA): weighting (60%), externally-set, internally marked and externally moderated. synoptic project
- Overall qualification grades: L1P, L1M, L1D, L2P, L2M, L2D, L2D* (Equivalent to GCSE grades 1 to 8.5)

How will the subject help me in the future?

This course will be really useful if you wish to work in the Health and Social Care sector and any career working with people. It will help you in whatever direction you decide to take in the future. The skills you learn will be useful across a broad range of options in the next stage of your studies.

Successful completion of this course will enable learners to progress to Level 3 qualifications, including Health and Social Care, Mental Health: individuals and Society and other A-levels available in sixth form.

Is this a suitable course for me?

If you are interested in people and the way they develop, relationships, life events and the way care is provided in the UK (Health care and Social care) then this course is for you.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Mrs Rutherford (head of department). R65



HOSPITALITY AND CATERING (FOOD)

What will I study?

In GCSE Hospitality and Catering, you will study both the theory behind the hospitality industry and practical cooking skills.

Unit 1 Hospitality and Catering Industry - You will learn about the hospitality and catering industry, including different types of businesses, job roles and career pathways, and the skills needed to work in the industry. You will also study food safety, hygiene, health and safety laws, and how to prevent food poisoning. Nutrition is a key part of the course, helping you understand how food choices affect health.

Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action - You will develop practical cooking skills, learning how to plan, prepare and present dishes. You will practise knife skills, cooking methods, portion control, time management and organisation. You will also learn about menu planning, including designing menus for specific customers, considering dietary needs and budgets, costing dishes and reducing food waste.

How will I be assessed?

- Unit 1 written exam: 1 hour and 20 minutes = 40% of qualification.
- Unit 2 controlled assessment: 12 hours (coursework and practical) = 60% of qualification

How will the subject help me in the future?

Hospitality is one of the biggest industries in the UK and offers many opportunities linked directly to careers in catering, tourism, events, food science, nutrition and business. The subject will provide you with skills that are highly valued by employers, colleges and universities, leading to Level 3 courses and apprenticeships.

Potential careers include head chef, recipe designer, nutrition and wellbeing industries, food stylist, food product development, dietician, butcher, hotel management, cake designer, food technologist, baker, social event organisers, barista, restaurant manager, micro brewers and farmers who diversify their businesses to include catering outlets.

Is this a suitable course for me?

GCSE Hospitality and Catering is a practical, engaging course that develops valuable life skills alongside subject knowledge. It is ideal for students who enjoy hands-on learning and want a qualification that links directly to real-world careers.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Talk to Ms Longman, Ms Farrant or Miss Forknall to discover more about this exciting new opportunity.



OPTION B

MEDIA STUDIES

What will I study?

You will study media language, media industries, media representations and media audiences. Over the two years you will develop an understanding of how the media we consume is constructed. You will become knowledgeable about how media industries such as the film, TV or computer industry work and how they create their media products. Being able to analyse products such as TV programmes is an important skill that goes beyond description, and uncovers the meanings created by the producers of the text.

You will also be expected to create media products of your own, such as film posters, magazine covers or short films, based on your analysis of recent products such as film, youtube, newspapers etc, and this will be assessed as part of your final grade.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on the basis of analysing how the professionals make media products, looking at the **media language** used, the **representations** created, the **industry** itself, what **audiences** use the media products and how they respond to the media. You will need to know the **context** in which media products are created. Assessment in media studies is comparable to analysing techniques in English but discussing camera angles and costume or body language instead of metaphors or sentence structure.

How will the subject help me in the future?

The benefits of studying Media are considerable. The skills you develop in year 10 & 11 will alter the way you see the world around you. You will be able to be analytical of the media and understand how it influences the way we think and behave. If you don't plan on taking Media Studies to a higher level, your study in years 10 & 11 will have given you plenty of valuable skills in IT and critical thinking. Media Studies changes the way you look at the world and how different ideologies are shown across the world.

Is this a suitable course for me?

If you are interested in any aspects of the media and especially in how it works, you will enjoy this course. You will need to study theories and use specific media vocabulary, and the emphasis is very much on being able to analyse and work out how a media product was made and what it's saying. If you are creative with IT, you will enjoy making your own media products but this isn't the only skill - Media suits students who are creative, like language and finding out what images can mean.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Speak to Mr Shearer, W81, for more advice and information.



OPTION B

MUSIC

What will I study?

BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

The BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice is a dynamic, hands-on course designed for students who want to explore the world of music in depth. Whether you're a budding performer, a songwriter, an aspiring producer, or just love experimenting with sound, this course gives you the tools and opportunities to shine. BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice is a GCSE level course and is equivalent to one GCSE grade.

Component 1: Exploring Music Products & Styles

- Dive into the diverse world of music genres and products! You'll study a range of musical styles, analysing what makes each one unique. Put your learning into action through a performance, a composition, and creating your own multi-track recording

Component 2: Music Skills Development

- Develop your instrumental or vocal abilities to the next level. This component focuses on refining your craft, producing a portfolio that tracks your skill development and showcases your progress

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief

- In Year 11, you'll receive a brief that inspires you to reimagine a song in a completely different musical style. This final component tests your creativity, adaptability, and technical skills in a professional context.

How will I be assessed?

Internally Assessed (Components 1 & 2)

- Explore, analyse, and create. You'll combine academic understanding with practical application to produce performances, compositions, recordings, and a professional portfolio.

Externally Assessed (Component 3)

- Demonstrate your versatility by transforming a given song into a new style, culminating in a performance or recording that aligns with the exam board's brief.

How will the subject help me in the future?

Achieving this qualification isn't just about learning music—it's about developing life-long skills. Employers and educators value the self-discipline, creativity, and problem-solving abilities that studying music nurtures. You'll gain confidence, adaptability, and a competitive edge that sets you apart in any field, whether you pursue music professionally or not.

Is this a suitable course for me?

- Do you love music?
- Can you play an instrument or sing - or are you eager to learn?
- Are you motivated to challenge yourself creatively and technically?

If the answer is "yes," then this is the perfect course for you! You'll also have the chance to enrich your experience by joining one of our many extra-curricular music groups at UCC.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Please talk to anyone in the Music Department - Mr Marshallsay (Head of Music) or Miss Gazard.



PE

What will I study?

There are two elements to the final grade: practical worth 40% and theory worth 60%.

- Practical: You will be assessed in three different sports and produce one written piece related to one of those sports.
- These are marked out of 25, 10 marks for skills and 15 marks for the application of the skills to a competitive situation. You will need to complete 1 team sport, 1 individual sport plus one other.
- Theory: You will study applied physiology/movement analysis/physical training/use of data/sports/psychology/socio-cultural differences/health, fitness and well-being.

How will I be assessed?

- The assessment of practical activities is completed internally and is worth 40% of the final mark. Grades are submitted in March of Year 11.
- The theoretical side is examined in two 1 hour 15 minute papers, each worth 30% of the final grade.

How will the subject help me in the future?

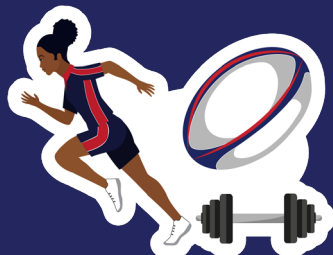
- This is an academic qualification highly valued by employers, colleges and universities.
- You will acquire a range of invaluable and transferable practical and academic skills.
- You will gain access to numerous A level courses, including A level Physical Education and Level 3 BTEC sport.
- You will develop a lifelong knowledge of physical education.

Is this a suitable course for me?

- If your attainment in Physical Education is consistently good, you are willing to work hard and you are interested in the subject, then this course is for you.
- If your work in key academic subjects in Year 9 is of a consistently good standard, then this course is for you.
- If you are capable of achieving a high standard in at least 3 practical activities then this course is for you.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Your core PE teacher, Mrs Castle or Mr Greenwood (Head of Department).



OPTION B

SPORT

What will I study?

You will study a range of components that provide a variety of opportunities to learn about different aspects of sport. Some will be more practically based than others but all will have a written assignment or presentation at the end. There is a lot of theory work but practical work is combined to help with understanding.

Components:

- Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in physical activity.
- Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance.
- Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants' performance in sport and physical activity.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed through written assignments and presentations, some of which involve being videoed.

Components 1 and 2 are completed in Year 10 with a resit option in Year 11. There are both written and practical elements. **You will need to be videoed** as part of the assessment process.

Component 3 is a terminal exam which is sat in the January of Year 11, with a resit option in June. This is based on fitness / testing and training.

After each component you will be graded with a pass, merit, distinction or referral at either level 2 or level 1; these grades will be combined to give you an overall grade at the end of Year 11.

How will the subject help me in the future?

This subject will allow you to gain the knowledge to go on to study BTEC sport at Level 3. Having a BTEC sport qualification will also help you if you want to go and work in the leisure industry or as a sports coach or PE teacher. Even working as a physiotherapist or sports therapist could be an option with further training and qualifications.

Is this a suitable course for me?

This course is designed for those that enjoy taking part in sport and wish to further their knowledge in all areas, not just practical. It is also ideal for those that don't like the pressure of exams and would rather do coursework as the majority of the course is coursework based. If you have a passion for sport and are keen to learn more in other areas of sport then this is the course for you.

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Your PE teacher or Mr Greenwood (Head of Department), or Mr Castle.



RE

What will I study?

You will study two world religions in detail, Christianity and Buddhism, and consider and evaluate their responses and your own to philosophical and ethical issues in the modern world. This will include studying:

- The nature of God: Does God exist? Do miracles happen?
- Religion and Science: Does science disprove religion? How did life begin? Why are we here?
- Death and Afterlife: Do people have souls? What happens when we die?
- Good and Evil: Why is there suffering? Should people lead their lives just as they want?
- Religion and Human Relationships: Why do people marry? Are men and women the same?
- Religion and Medical Ethics: Should we allow the suffering to die? Genetic engineering: OK?
- Religion, Poverty and Wealth: Should rich countries help poor countries? Why poverty?
- Religion, Peace and Justice: Can we have a just society? Can war be right?

How will I be assessed?

You will sit three exams in Year 11; one for Christianity and one for Buddhism - each exam will last one hour and count for 25% of your overall marks. There is also one 2 hour paper examining philosophical and ethical issues in the modern world; this paper will count for 50% of your overall marks. There is no coursework or controlled assessment in this GCSE. This course is worth 1 GCSE.

How will the subject help me in the future?

The skills that you will develop in this course are considered 'higher thinking skills' (debating, critical thinking and analysis to name a few) and they will equip you with the confidence and ability to be successful in A level / university and the workplace. Occupations that GCSE Religious Studies students have gone on to include: management and leadership, therapy, business, journalism, police force, stock broking, retailing, social work, librarian, nursing, radio and TV, acting... to name a few, and don't forget teaching and religious leadership.

Is this a suitable course for me?

Do you enjoy finding out what others believe? Do you enjoy debating and sharing your views? Do you want to discuss different moral issues? Do you have the ability to 'stand in someone else's shoes'? Are you willing to listen to other people's points of view? Are you prepared to express your own ideas? Yes? Then GCSE Religious Studies is for you!

Who can I talk to if I want to know more?

Mr McCanny or your RE teacher



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