



Key Stage 4 Options 2024

Discovering and learning together so all can flourish

Key Stage 4 Options 2024	2
Key Information	3
Curriculum and assessment reforms	3
The English Baccalaureate.....	4
Making good option choices.....	5
Information, advice and guidance	6
Key Timings	7
Core Subjects.....	8
GCSE English Language	9
GCSE English Literature.....	10
GCSE Mathematics.....	11
GCSE Combined Science (Core)	12
GCSE Separate Science	13
GCSE Religious Studies.....	14
KS4 Core Physical Education	15
Option Choices.....	16
Alternative Curriculum	17
GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art.....	18
GCSE Art and Design: Photography.....	19
GCSE Art and Design: Textiles Design.....	20
GCSE Drama	21
GCSE Geography.....	22
Health and Social Care.....	23
Level ½ Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering.....	24
GCSE History.....	25
GCSE Music.....	26
GCSE Physical Education	27
GCSE Spanish.....	28
Sports Studies	29

Key Information

CORE CURRICULUM: All learners follow the core curriculum until the end of year 11. These courses and the qualifications, which they lead to, are shown in the table below. The core curriculum alone gives students the opportunity to achieve up to seven GCSEs. Further information about the core courses is given later in the booklet.

Subject	English	Maths	Science	RE	PE	ViP
Qualifications	2 GCSEs (i)	1 GCSE	2-3 GCSEs (ii)	1 GCSE (iii)	Not accredited	Not accredited

(i) All learners study GCSE English Language and English Literature.

(ii) Learners follow one of two science courses, either Triple Award (separate sciences) leading to three separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics or Combined Science leading to a double GCSE award.

(iii) The majority of learners will follow the full GCSE for RE. A small number will follow the short course GCSE that leads to half a GCSE qualification.

OPTIONS CHOICES: All learners must make four option choices, of which at least one must be Spanish, Geography or History. Learners will then have three other choices. Details of the choices learners can take can be found in this booklet.

Curriculum and assessment reforms

Following reforms to GCSEs from 2015, all courses have a revised content and use a numbered grade system ranging from 9 at the top to 1 at the bottom to replace the traditional A* - G letter grade system.

For those new to the 9-1 grading system, Ofqual (Office of Qualifications and Examinations regulation) state that nationally an approximately equal proportion of students will achieve a grade 4 and above in the new system as achieved a grade C and above in the recent past. In other words, the bottom of a grade 4 is aligned with the bottom of an old grade C. Broadly the same proportion of students will achieve a grade 7 and above as achieved an A-A*, while at the other end of the scale the bottom of a grade 1 is aligned with the bottom of a grade G. Under the new system finer grading is used for the upper part of the scale with 6 grades from 9-4 replacing the former 4 grades from A*-C, while broader grading is used for the lower part of the scale with 3 grades from 3-1 replacing the 4 grades from D-G.

The diagram below helps to illustrate how the new numbered grade system aligns to the old letter based system.

New grading for GCSEs

New grading		Old grading
9	=	A*
8		A
7		
6	=	B
5		C
4		
3	=	D
2		E
1		F
		G
U	=	U

PA graphic. Source: Ofqual

The new 9-1 grading system applies to all GCSE courses.

GCSE courses are now assessed linearly, i.e. all examinations take place at the end of the course. For most learners, this means that the vast majority of their examinations are at the end of year 11 and they will not have the opportunity to resit examinations during key stage 4.

The other main form of assessment in GCSE courses is called non-examination assessment (NEA), which is coursework completed in class in year 10 and/or year 11 under the supervision of the class teacher.

Non-examination assessment has either been phased out entirely or reduced in its contribution to the overall grade in many of the GCSE courses, increasing the importance of the examinations at the end of year 11. More details about the nature of non-examination assessment in each course and the contribution it makes to the overall grade can be found in the subject information, which follows.

The English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc) is a performance measure in school league tables introduced in 2010. It recognises those learners who achieve a GCSE grade 9-5 or equivalent in English, maths, two sciences (which may include computing GCSE), a modern or ancient foreign language and either geography or history.

The EBacc is not a qualification in itself and is not certificated for learners achieving the EBacc combination of subjects. While the EBacc includes academic subjects highly valued by universities, it is not required for entry to any Russell Group university (though a small number expect a language GCSE for any degree course). The purpose of the EBacc, as stated by the government, is to encourage learners to achieve a broad set of academic GCSEs.

At the Deanery, we know that for many, choosing EBacc subjects is a very sensible route at key

stage 4. However, for other learners a different combination of subjects may be better suited to their strengths and interests and the requirements of their post-16 route.

Here at The Deanery, we recommend that students considering A-levels and degree study in their future to take the English Baccalaureate. This however, remains just a recommendation, students should take the subjects that they believe will best suit their future needs.

Making good option choices

Making the right choice of courses at key stage 4 is very important because it may affect a learner's progression after year 11 and possibly their future career opportunities, as well as their enjoyment of years 10 and 11.



Learners should ask themselves the following four questions:

What am I good at and what courses will I succeed in?

Recent reports and scores in assessments will help learners to identify their areas of strength. If learners are unsure about their ability to succeed in a particular course, they should ask their subject teacher.

What am I interested in and what do I enjoy.

It is important to make sure learners choose a course because they find the subject interesting rather than solely because they like the teacher or the group of friends in their current year 9 class. It is good to be aware that learners may not have the same teacher or classmates in a particular subject next year.

What type of learner am I?

All courses are designed to have a variety of activities that appeal to learners with different learning preferences, although some courses may be particularly well suited to certain types of learner. Therefore, learners should aim to choose a combination of subjects that contain at least one or two courses that match their learning preferences. This might include more vocational courses, more practical courses or courses with more written content, for example.

What qualifications do I need for my next step after year 11 and beyond?

One of the most important outcomes of key stage 4 is that learners achieve the qualifications they need for progression to their desired next step after year 11 and their long-term aspirations.

If learners are clear, about what career they may wish to pursue they should seek advice about relevant courses. At this stage, many learners will not know exactly what career they want to pursue and should not be overly concerned if they are unsure about what they want to do after year 11, so long as they follow the

advice of choosing a balanced curriculum to help keep their post-16 options open.

Information, advice and guidance

Learners should be proactive in discussing their option choices with their families and seek advice and guidance from the relevant people in the table below.

Where to find advice	Area of advice
Tutor	Overview of a learner's strengths Knowledge of the options process Careers advice
Head of Faculty/Subject teachers	Further information about a particular course Learner's likely outcome from a course
Mr Dan (SENDCo)	Advice for learners with SEND
Mr McDonald	Options process Questions about school options policy
College and university web sites.	Entry requirements for post-16 courses.
Students in Year 10.	What is it really like to be studying the subjects.
The Options Booklet.	The courses on offer, exam boards, content etc.

Key Timings

29th January 2024 – Options assemblies.

8th February 2024 – Options evening.

9th February to 8th March – Careers and post 16 appointments

9th February 2024 – Options form shared with pupils.

22nd February 2024 – Year 9 parents evening.

29th February 2024 – Deadline for the options form to be completed.

Term 5 – Options confirmed with pupils.

September 1st 2024 – Students start their KS4 timetables.

September 30th 2024 – Final day for any options changes.

Core Subjects

GCSE English Language.....	9
GCSE English Literature.....	10
GCSE Mathematics	11
GCSE Combined Science (Core).....	12
GCSE Separate Science	13
GCSE Religious Studies.....	14
KS4 Core Physical Education.....	15

GCSE English Language

Why we study English Language

English students are critical thinkers; they are empathetic and can view the world in different ways. They are analytical, they are creative, and they can express their opinions thoughtfully. All are key and valued skills as you leave school and enter the wider world.

How will I learn?

Lessons will vary between studying a wide variety of fiction extracts, non-fiction texts, as well as creative writing. You will learn through class discussion, exploration of texts, multimedia approaches, creative writing, group work and independent study.

How will I be assessed?

There are two exams at the end of Year 11. These are divided into Fiction and Non-Fiction, with reading and writing sections. Both exams are each 50% of the GCSE.

Non-fiction paper

Focuses on reading and writing non-fiction texts. Students will:

- Read and compare two unseen non-fiction texts, one 19th century, and one 20th or 21st century
- Produce one piece of original non-fiction (writing to argue/persuade/inform/advise/explain)

Fiction paper

Focuses on reading literary prose texts and creative writing. Students will:

- Read one prose text, either 20th or 21st century.
- Produce one piece of original creative writing (writing to narrate or describe)

Non-Exam Unit Spoken Language presentation: Students will have to individually present on a topic of their choice, to their class, for 3-5minutes. The presentation must have a question and answer section. All students must be video recorded so videos are sent to AQA for external marking. This awards you a separate grade at Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Progression

English is a key skill essential to prepare you for life beyond school and is a core subject needed for many college courses. You could study English Language at A Level leading on to an English based, Linguistics, or Humanities degree. A GCSE English pass can also lead you to an array of A Level courses including Law, Psychology, History, Theatre Studies, Politics and more. English is a gateway to a wide variety of careers across many fields.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE English Language

Qualification Type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% exam

Examination Board: AQA

EBacc Subject? Yes

Further Information: See Mrs Scotford (elizabeth.scotford@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE English Literature

Why we study English Literature?

The course enables you to experience a wide variety of texts and authors from the literary canon. You will develop skills of analysis as you delve into the characters, settings, plots and themes that the writers create.

How will I learn?

Together, as a class, we will embark on a journey of reading the core texts. Discussing your ideas, opinions and interpretations will be at the heart of lessons. You will learn through class discussion, exploration of texts, multimedia approaches, creative writing, group work and independent study.

How will I be assessed?

Across both papers, students will closely analyse **modern** texts, a **pre-20th Century text**, along with a **Shakespeare** play. They will also study a thematic **poetry anthology**.

In addition, we will strongly encourage wider reading across a range of diverse literature to foster an enjoyment of reading.

Progression

English literature provides you with key analytical skills and the ability to write clearly and cogently. You could go on to study English Literature at A Level or a whole range of linked A Levels such as history, sociology, law, psychology, media studies, theatre studies, politics and more. Beyond this, English literature can open many doors for a whole range of careers.

Key facts at a glance Qualification Name:

GCSE English Literature

Qualification Type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% exam

Examination Board: AQA

Ebacc Subject: Yes

Further Information: See Mrs Scotford
(elizabeth.scotford@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE Mathematics

Why should I study Mathematics?

Learners of maths develop key skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, numerical awareness and logical argument. There is no doubt that being equipped with these skills will be key as you leave The Deanery and enter further study, the world of work, and society at large.

How will I learn?

Maths can broadly be broken down into six topics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Statistics
- Geometry & measure
- Ratio & proportion
- Probability

In lessons, we will tackle these topics in a variety of different ways, encompassing a blend of theoretical mathematics with the practical application to the real world. We will complement our in school lessons with a range of online and independent platforms including Sparx, Mathsbox, Corbett Maths and Pearson ActiveLearn.

How will I be assessed?

There are two different tiers of entry (Higher and Foundation), each with three exams at the end of Year 11. These three exams have equal weighting, each contributing the same amount to your final grade.

- Paper 1: Non-calculator (90 minutes, 80 marks)
- Paper 2: Calculator 1 (90 minutes, 80 marks)
- Paper 3: Calculator 2 (90 minutes, 80 marks)

Progression

Maths is one of the “core” GCSE subjects, and as such develops key skills that are essential to prepare you for life after secondary school. Many college and sixth form courses require you to have a good maths grade to take part in their courses. Studying maths at GCSE can lead you on to study maths at A-Level. A-Level Maths is consistently ranked amongst the most desirable and prestigious A-level courses by universities. Maths is also the foundation for many other courses and degrees, including the sciences, engineering, computer Science, psychology, and many more.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Mathematics

Type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% Exam

Examination Board: Edexcel

EBacc Subject? Yes

Further Information: See Mrs Koza (freya.koza@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE Combined Science (Core)

Why should I study Combined Science?

Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. The GCSE Combined science specification provides a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. This is a 2-year course and at the end of the 2 years, you will gain two GCSEs in science. Within this course, learners will have the opportunity to study the subjects of biology, chemistry and physics and to develop their scientific literacy and numeracy skills. Alongside this, learners will be taught the skills they need to work scientifically. The course encourages learners to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, science and to recognise its importance in their own lives and to society.

How will I learn?

Learners will learn using a variety of learning styles, including pair work, whole class discussion, practical investigations and individual presentation. There is a strong focus on learning through exploration: There are 21 required practicals, which will be examined in the final examinations at the end of Year 11. You will also learn to solve problems creatively, using a range of skills and techniques that are useful in the working world.

How will I be assessed?

Learners will sit six exams at the end of Year 11, two for each science subject: two biology, two chemistry and two physics papers. Each paper is 1 hour and 15 minutes in duration. The results from each will be weighted equally to provide the combined GCSE grades. In each paper, learners will have to answer the following question styles – multiple choice, structured closed short answer and longer structured responses. Key mathematical skills will be required in all papers. There is no coursework or controlled assessment component to the GCSE in combined science. Learners will be taught practical skills as part of their study of the course and these skills are assessed in the written papers. Two grades are awarded at the end of the course.

Progression

GCSE Combined science is a prerequisite qualification for studying certain A Level and vocational courses. This route does not inhibit A level progression, applications to university (including medical courses) or the ability to attain top grades. Careers within Science are developing rapidly and anyone with good grades and skills in this area will be in demand when they enter the workplace. This course will provide learners with important transferable skills for employment and is vital for university entry into courses such as teaching, nursing, electronics, engineering and many other professional careers.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Combined Science
– Trilogy 8464

Type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% Exam

Examination Board: AQA

EBacc Subject? Yes

Further Information: See Mrs Hockin
(claire.hockin@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE Separate Science

Why should I study Separate Science?

Studying separate science results in learners gaining three separate science GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. These separate sciences are suitable for those learners who enjoy thinking outside the box and participating in practical activities. Studying separate sciences at GCSE allows learners to unpick how the world around them works and consider how advances in science have led to some incredible breakthroughs. Three science GCSEs can open the door to many career opportunities, however, it should not be undertaken lightly as learners will have many hours of science lessons a fortnight, and therefore a passion for Science is important.

How will I learn?

Learners will learn using a variety of learning styles, including pair work, whole class discussion, practical investigations and individual presentation. There is a strong focus on learning through exploration: There are 28 required practicals, which will be examined in the final examinations at the end of Year 11. You will also learn to solve problems creatively, using a range of skills and techniques that are useful in the working world. In all three sciences, there is a strong literacy and numeracy component so you can expect extended writing and calculation tasks as well as data analysis and graph drawing.

How will I be assessed?

The three science GCSEs are all assessed at the end of Year 11. Final grades for the biology, chemistry and physics GCSEs are gained from two 1 hour and 45 minute exams (six science examinations in total). Learners will be awarded separate qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics and therefore could attain the same grade in all three or attain different grades depending on their performance.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component to the GCSE in science. Learners will be taught practical skills as part of their study of the course and these skills are assessed in the written papers.

Progression

This course provides learners with a fundamental knowledge and understanding of the three sciences that could open up a range of post 16 courses, including all A Level subjects and other Level 3 qualifications. It provides learners with important transferable skills for employment and is vital for university entry into courses such as teaching, nursing, electronics, engineering and many other professional careers.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry, GCSE Physics

Type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% Exam

Examination Board: AQA

EBacc Subject? Yes

Further Information: See Mrs Hockin (claire.hockin@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE Religious Studies

Why should I study Religious Studies?

Learners will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues.

Learners will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help to prepare you for further study.

How will I learn?

Lessons will vary between studying the beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions (Christianity and Islam), including critically analysing holy books and texts, and applying these beliefs and teachings to ethical and philosophical questions. For example: *is it ever right to use the death penalty? Should we be concerned about the environment?* We will use enquiry questions to delve into the foundational beliefs of the two religions and use our knowledge and skills to critically evaluate and deconstruct how these beliefs influence the lives of believers, as well as the wider world.

How will I be assessed?

There are two written exams at the end of Year 11 – *each 1-hour 45minutes*. These two exams are divided into two components:

- Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices
- Component 2: Thematic studies

Progression

Religious Studies allows learners to develop and grow their skills of enquiry and evaluation and allows us to ask those big questions in the context of our lives and the lives of our worldly neighbours. Religious Studies enables learners to engage with the beliefs and cultures of others and will develop those skills needed to work well with others. The skills learners develop during their studies will enable them to go further in their academic studies, and it is a subject that lends itself to many subjects at A-level and beyond. Almost all careers need learners to work with others and this is a subject, which helps us to make sense of how the world works and helps learners to engage with others in a positive and understanding way.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Religious Studies A

Type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% Exam

Examination Board: AQA

EBacc Subject: No

Further Information: See Mrs Gallagher (Sarah.gallagher@DCEA.org.uk)

KS4 Core Physical Education

Why should I study core PE?

The study of 'core' PE is a compulsory subject that enables learners to continue to access the inclusive development of their cognitive (i.e. mental), affective (i.e. emotional) and psychomotor (i.e. physical) domains through participation in sport and physical activity.

How will I learn?

Lessons will be entirely practical, making best use of The Deanery's fantastic facilities. Students will have the opportunity to select a pathway that suits their own personal sporting preference. This will comprise of a competitive/traditional based route and a non-competitive/alternative sport pathway. No matter which pathway is selected, a broad range of activities spanning Invasion games, net and wall games, health related exercise, creative activities and much more will be experienced.

How will I be assessed?

Although not an examined qualification, PE remains a core subject in the National Curriculum and as such, students continue to study PE into key stage 4 in order to access the physical, mental and social benefits regular participation in sport/ physical activity offers. Therefore, students will NOT be terminally assessed at the end of Year 11.

Progression

Core PE prepares learners for further participation in Physical Education, sport or physical activity such as the completion of qualifications in sport and leisure or further participation via clubs and/or memberships. The knowledge acquired during the course of study will also be valuable to students as they seek to maintain their physical, mental and social health and fitness in everyday life.

Key facts at a glance

Type: NA

Assessment: 100% practical

Examination Board: NA

EBacc Subject? NA

Further Information: See Mr Harmer
(david.harmer@dcea.org.uk)

Option Choices

Alternative Curriculum	17
GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art	18
GCSE Art and Design: Photography	19
GCSE Art and Design: Textiles Design.....	20
GCSE Drama.....	21
GCSE Geography.....	22
Health and Social Care.....	23
GCSE History.....	25
GCSE Music.....	26
GCSE Physical Education.....	27
GCSE Spanish.....	28
Sports Studies	29

Alternative Curriculum

Why should I study Alternative Curriculum?

Alternative Curriculum courses enable learners to expand their personal skills and social effectiveness, through a series of units that are applied to activities inside and beyond the Academy. They help the learners to develop their personal skills and qualities, abilities and achievement, to assess their strengths and to develop areas where they lack skills or confidence. The course aims to support learners to prepare for their next phase of education and training, with a strong focus on careers advice and guidance, transition support and preparation for adult life.

How will I learn?

The course is taught through interactive sessions, application to other activities within school (such as work experience), and through self-reflection and assessment.

Who is this course for?

The Alternative Curriculum course is an invitation only course for learners who would struggle with accessing a full series of Key Stage four qualifications.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is through a portfolio of evidence, built around the activities within each unit.

GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art

Why should I study Art and Design?

Art is a fascinating subject. Learning through and about the arts enriches the experience of studying while at school as well as preparing students for life after school. Arts subjects encourage self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a self of individual identity. Russell Group universities now suggest that a student should combine more academic subjects like science with art subjects to flourish.

The arts develop the broader dimensions of the human being – mind, body and soul. The arts can express the inexpressible and make sense of things that otherwise do not seem to. This can be very fulfilling and helps us function as human beings – which can only be good for society as a whole.

How will I learn?

Learners will have the opportunity to experiment with different materials, techniques and processes building on the skillset they have already developed in key stage three. This will include ceramics, sculpture, painting, drawing, print making, collage, mixed media, photography and digital manipulation. Learners will take inspiration from artists, designers and cultures to help develop their own work.

Learners will be encouraged to come up with their own ideas and areas of interest within the broad topics they are given, ensuring all learners find something they are excited and inspired by to focus on in the course. Learners will develop skills to work independently. They will also be able to think creatively and use their imagination to problem solve and develop their work.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio (60% of overall grade)

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40% of overall grade)

Progression

Architect
Landscape designer Website
owner/blogger Prop designer
Television/film maker Special effects
designer Costume designer Interior
designer
Game design

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Art and Design Fine Art

Type: GCSE

Assessment: 40% Externally Assessed Unit, 60% Non-Examined Assessment

Examination Board: AQA

EBacc Subject? No

Further Information: See Miss Pickles
(emma.pickles@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE Art and Design: Photography

Why should I study Photography?

Photography offers students a captivating journey into the world of visual storytelling through the lens. The subject allows you to develop your creative and technical skills as well as bringing your own interests into the subject. It has endless opportunities and pathways into exciting careers in the future. Russell Group universities now suggest that a student should combine more academic subjects like science with art subjects to flourish.

Photography aims to develop your practical skills both in terms of taking and editing photographs, through a range of ideas and approaches. You will explore the work of artists and photographers, gaining insight into different genres and Photographic history.

How will I learn?

Learners will have the opportunity to experiment with a range of photographic techniques and processes. This will include lighting, viewpoint, aperture, shutter speed and movement, depth of field and image manipulation. Learners will take inspiration from photographers, artists, designers, cultures and issues-based contexts to help develop their own work.

Learners will be encouraged to come up with their own ideas and areas of interest within the broad topics that they are given, ensuring all learners find something that they are excited and inspired by to focus on in the course. Learners will develop skills to work independently. They will also be able to think creatively and use their imagination to problem solve and develop their work.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio (60% of overall grade)

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40% of overall grade)

Progression

Fashion photographer
Sports photographer
Journalism
Designer
Marketing
Advertising

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Art and Design Photography **Type:** GCSE
Assessment: 40% Externally Assessed Unit, 60% Non-Examined Assessment
Examination Board: AQA
EBacc Subject? No
Further Information: See Miss Pickles (emma.pickles@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE Art and Design: Textiles Design

Why should I study Textiles design?

Textiles Design is an exciting subject which will develop your creativity and independent thought, allowing you to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish. Textiles design is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for other subjects. Russell Group universities now suggest that a student should combine more academic subjects like science with art subjects to flourish.

How will I learn?

Learners will have the opportunity to develop skills over a broad range of textile techniques and applications, such as printing, weaving, mixed media, knitting, digital applications, surface design and embroidery. Learners will take inspiration from artists, designers and cultures to help develop their own work.

Learners will explore traditional textiles techniques and modern approaches to textiles, within an art context. They will be encouraged to come up with their own ideas and areas of interest within the broad topics they are given, ensuring all learners find something they are excited and inspired by to focus on in the course. Learners will develop skills to work independently. They will also be able to think creatively and use their imagination to problem solve and develop their work.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio (60% of overall grade)

Component 2: Externally set assignment (40% of overall grade)

Progression

Costume designer
Interior designer
Fashion designer
Retail buyer
Upholsterer
Digital textiles designer

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Art and Design Textiles Design
Type: GCSE
Assessment: 40% Externally Assessed Unit, 60% Non-Examined Assessment
Examination Board: AQA
EBacc Subject? No
Further Information: See Miss Pickles (emma.pickles@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE Drama

Why should I study Drama?

This Key Stage 4 Drama course is a practical based qualification that builds upon students' prior knowledge of dramatic techniques and performance skills acquired in Key Stage 3. Over the two years, students will be given an opportunity to explore a range of different themes, issues and topics and express them in a practical nature. Students will usually receive 4 sessions over the 2-week timetable. These sessions will be taught by the Performing Arts Drama Specialist Mr Halpin and Miss Douglas. As part of this course, there will be trips to a variety of performances to both local and national theatres. Within these trips, you will see a performance of your set text and a variety of different styles of performance.

How/What, will I learn?

Unit 1 –DEVISING DRAMA (60 Marks—30%) - Internally Marked

This Unit is completed in Year 10 and is internally assessed. You will work in groups to create a performance based on a stimulus set by the exam board (there are ten to choose from). You will also create a 20-page portfolio documenting your process throughout your devised piece. (With guidance given throughout) You will also study styles of theatre and theatre practitioners and apply their work to your own.

Unit 2—Presenting & Performing Texts (60 Marks—30%) Externally Marked Unit

You will develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design and perform a showcase of two extracts from one performance text. The timing of your extract will depend on the size of your group, with group sizes ranging from 1-6. This unit is marked by a visiting examiner who will watch you perform both of your extracts

Unit 3— Performance & Response (80 Marks—40%) Externally Marked

The final unit is completed at the end of year 11 and is the written exam paper. This paper will last 1 hour and 30 minutes and has two parts. Analysis of a text studied during the year and a live theatre review. You will explore practically a performance text (chosen from a list from the exam board) to demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of Drama.

Progression– Where could this course take me?

This course is about starting you on your journey to becoming a professional actor and prepares students for A Level Drama, Theatre Studies & Performing Arts.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Performing Arts

Type: GCSE

Examination Board: OCR

EBacc Subject? No

Further Information: See Mr Halpin
(Daniel.halpin@DCEA.org.uk)

GCSE Geography

Why should I study Geography?

Learners will be challenged to think about the world beyond their doorstep, broadening their horizons and knowledge about the world we live in from within and outside the classroom.

Learners will appreciate the importance of both the natural and human worlds. Whilst developing their understanding of how best to care for it. They will develop a core understanding about how the earth works and how we as humans use it.

How will we learn?

Lessons will vary between learning about physical and human geography. We will learn using a variety of methods including using technology to develop learners understanding of geographical information systems. We will also use current and up to date case studies to help visualize our learning. We will also go on two compulsory field trips where we will investigate one of the many processes we learn about. We will then analyse our own data to prove or disprove our theories.

How will I be assessed?

Paper 1 written exam: Living with the physical environment (1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper 2 written exam: Challenges of the Human Environment (1 hour 30

minutes) Paper 3 written exam: Geographical Applications (1 hour 30 minutes)

Progression

Geography allows learners to develop their skills in a wide variety of areas. It allows us to ask questions about the earth its people and how we treat it. It also teaches statistics and lessons on current issues surrounding the climate, population and the economy. It teaches the challenges a lot of our world face and can give learners an understanding of peoples and place outside of their hometown. All the skills the learners learn will allow learners to go further within their academic studies the subject combines literacy, maths and science therefore can lend itself to many other subject areas and lead to a wide variety of careers. It can also lend its self directly to A-levels in Geography, Environmental studies and Travel and Tourism.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Geography **Type:** GCSE

Assessment: 100% exam

Examination Board: AQA

EBacc Subject? Yes

Further Information: See Mrs Gallagher (sarah.gallagher@dcea.org.uk)

Health and Social Care

Why should I study Health and Social Care?

Health and social care is an ideal course to discover and explore the numerous careers within the health and social sectors. During the course we will look at areas such as: Early years development, Care for the elderly, How disability can impact life chances, and what qualities and skills an individual needs to be successful in this industry.

How will we learn?

Lessons will alternate between in the classroom lessons and time spent using the IT facilities to complete research tasks and coursework.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1 – Human lifespan and development: **non-exam internal assessment**

Component 2 – Health and social care Services and Values: **non-exam internal assessment**

Component 3 – Health and wellbeing: **External assessment (2hour exam)**

Progression- where could this course take me?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification.

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 Health and Social Care, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the health or social care sector.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 1 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, employment, apprenticeships or further study at Level 3. Learners who perform well in this qualification compared to their overall performance, should strongly consider this progression route as it can lead to employment in the health and social care sector
- study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, progression to employment via apprenticeships or further study at Level 3.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care

Type: BTEC

Assessment:

Examination Board: Pearson

EBacc Subject? No

Further Information: See Mrs Gallagher (sarah.gallagher@dcea.org.uk)

Level 1/2 Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering

Why should I study Food Hospitality and Catering?

The Catering industry is fast paced and exciting. You will learn transferable skills that will enable you to travel and work anywhere in the world. Studying a vocational course in Catering offers a fantastic opportunity to progress into the industry. The vocational award in Hospitality and Catering has been developed in partnership with employers to ensure students are learning the skills they will need in the industry.

How will I learn?

Unit 1 enables learners to develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety and food safety.

Unit 2 enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively.

How will I be assessed?

This is a unitised qualification consisting of 2 mandatory units:

Unit 1. The hospitality and catering industry. This is a written examination worth 40% of the qualification.

Unit 2. Hospitality and catering in action. Controlled assessment which is worth 60% of the qualification.

Progression – where could this course take me?

Upon completion of this course, learners will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: Level 1/2 Vocational award Hospitality and Catering

Type: Technical award

Assessment: 40% Externally Assessed Unit, 60% Non-Examined Assessment (practical and written)

Examination Board: WJEC

EBacc Subject? No

Further Information: See Mr Jones (alastair.jones@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE History

Why should I study History?

People who study history are fearless explorers of the past. They investigate past politics, societies, cultures, languages, health, art, education, money, conflicts and more, look at how things have developed over time and connect the dots to understand how we got where we are today. By studying GCSE History, you will prove your ability to develop and extend your knowledge and understanding of specific key events, eras and societies in national and world History. You will become a successful independent learner and a critical and reflective thinker. You will know which questions are relevant to give you the information you need. Taking on investigations with an impartial stance, analysing them in detail to draw substantiated conclusion, by using a range of sources in their context.

How will I learn?

Students will study four topics: Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939; Anglo-Saxon and Norman England 1060-1088; Super-Power Relations and the Cold War, 1944-1991; Medicine in Britain ,1250 – present day including a case study on Medicine on the Western Front. A large part of what we do will consist of analysing primary sources (evidence from the past e.g. extracts of diaries, speeches, photographs etc) to build up our analytical skills and engaging with different interpretations of the past. You will learn how to form arguments and make judgements based on evidence and evaluation.

How will I be assessed?

100% written examinations, long-answer style questions, across three papers:

Paper 1: Medicine in Britain 1250-present day (*1hr 15 minutes*)

Paper 2: The Cold War, Anglo-Saxon and Norman England (*1hr 45 minutes*)

Paper 3: Weimar and Nazi Germany (*1hr 20 minutes*)

Progression

The subject can help to gain employment in numerous industries and roles. Heritage organisations, museums and libraries can be a common choice. Though national and local government, public services, NHS management, the police force and armed services are also popular avenues. The high level of Literacy required to successfully study History means that further study in lots of other subjects is also an option. A GCSE in History shows prospective employers that you are able to investigate and navigate your way through complex situations.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE History

Type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% exam

Examination Board: Edexcel

EBacc Subject?: Yes

Further Information: See Miss Price (amelia.price@dcea.org.uk)

GCSE Music

Why should I study Music?

This Key Stage 4 Music course is a practical based qualification that builds upon students' prior knowledge of music techniques and performance skills acquired in Key Stage 3. Over the two years, students will be given an opportunity to explore a wide range of musical styles studying music of the classical era, music in films, pop music and ensemble music. These sessions will be taught by music and performance specialists Mrs Matthews, Miss Godwin and Miss Douglas. As part of this course, there will be trips to a variety of performances to both local and national theatres. Within these trips, you will see a performance of your set works and a variety of different styles of performance.

How/What, will I learn?

Unit 1 – PERFORMANCE (72 marks - 30%) Internally Marked – Externally Moderated

Students will provide a minimum of 2 performances for assessment – one solo and one ensemble. A GCSE equivalent grade would be a Grade 3 ABRSM or Trinity exam board and students need to develop a certain level of skill to achieve a good mark in this section. Taking individual lessons with a music teacher is one way to support this part of the course. Performances are recorded, graded and marked according to how well the printed music is interpreted into sound.

Unit 2—COMPOSITION (72 Marks—30%) Internally marked – Externally Moderated

Students will provide a minimum of 2 compositions for assessment – one free composition and one to a set brief. Students will use Musescore and Bandlab to produce their pieces and – after a certain level of competence – marks are gained on how well students have written to their brief. Past briefs include setting appropriate words to music to celebrate Christmas in a local concert hall, composing an instrumental piece for a chamber concert or composing a solo with accompaniment for a performance for dignitaries in the town hall.

Unit 3— Performance & Response (96 Marks—40%) Externally Marked Unit

The final unit is completed at the end of year 11 and is the written exam paper. This paper will last 1 hour and 15 minutes and has 12 questions. Analysis of 2 set works studied through the course will take two questions, there is 1 essay question and the rest are all either multiple choice answers or short text questions.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by a variety of practical performances, written coursework and a written exam.

Progression

This course is about starting you on your journey to be coming a professional musician and prepares the students for the A Level Music, Music Production and Performing Arts.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Music **Type:** GCSE

Examination Board: Eduqas

EBacc Subject? No

Further Information: See Mrs Matthews, Miss Godwin Miss Douglas

debora.matthews@dcea.org.uk

GCSE Physical Education

Why Should I Study Physical Education?

This new and engaging course introduces students to the study of sport and has been designed to allow learners to study Physical Education (PE) in an academic setting. The combination of practical and classroom-based learning allows students to critically analyse and evaluate physical performance and apply their experience of practical activities in developing their knowledge and understanding of the field.

How Will I Learn?

The majority of lessons will be delivered in the classroom, however a range of theoretical concepts are developed and then applied practically. Learners will experience a range of 'lecture-style' sessions, group work, experiments and sport-specific practicals throughout the course to ensure learning is engaging, memorable, contextual and fun!

How Will I Be Assessed?

Learners must complete four 'Components' (01, 02, 04 and 05) to be awarded the OCR GCSE in Physical Education.

Component 01—1-Hour written exam on the 'Physical Factors Affecting Performance'.

Component 02—1-Hour written exam on 'Socio-cultural Issues and Sports Psychology'.

Component 04—Assessment of 'Practical Performance' across three Sports.

Component 05— Non-examined Assessment - 'Analysis and Evaluation of Performance'

Progression – Where could this course take me?

For Sports Science courses, such as A Level Physical Education as well as other related subject areas such as Psychology, Sociology and Biology. Learners will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand by Further Education, Higher Education and employers in all sectors of industry. The knowledge acquired during the course of study will also be valuable in a range of job roles in the sports industry ranging from sports participation, performance, management and media.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: Physical Education **Type:** GCSE

Assessment: 60% Written Paper, 30% Practical Assessment, 10% Written Assessment

Examination Board: OCR

EBacc Subject? No

Further Information: See Mr Harmer

***Please note, learners will register their interest in studying Sport, providing a preferred option. Your teacher will then use their professional judgement to decide which course (GCSE PE or Sports Studies) will suit best, based on where the level of expertise lies.**

GCSE Spanish

Why should I study Spanish?

Learning a foreign language is a door to another world, and with Spanish, that door includes 475 million people on every continent. Not only that, but Spanish is also an official language of 21 countries and many international organisations such as the United Nations, The African Union, and the European Union. Further to that, learning a foreign language will really set you apart when applying for jobs or further education, and is a huge asset in an ever-connected world where 70% of British businesses want people who can speak more than one language. Ultimately, there is no better way to ensure that you have the best start at not only being able to travel the world, but establish a successful career, than to study French.

How will I learn?

Lessons will include furthering your grammar skills and applying grammatical knowledge to topics such as inter-personal relationships, holidays and travel, further education and careers, and pop culture. The vocabulary list contains 1,200 of the most frequently-used words and then an additional 500 words will be added to the higher tier lists. All students will be exposed to higher tier vocabulary and grammar throughout the course. We will also be studying the culture of many Spanish-speaking places such as Latin-America, The Caribbean, and of course Spain itself. You will be given to opportunity to refine reading and writing skills as well as developing your listening and speaking skills through practice, games, and potentially trips abroad.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit four exams at the end of the 2-year course, which encompass the four skills taught- reading, writing, listening, and speaking. You will be entered for either Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (grades 4-9). As each exam is worth 25% of the overall grade, you will receive one grade for Spanish.

Progression

A GCSE in Spanish will always help you stand out from the crowd but is an essential qualification for taking your Spanish studies to A-Level and beyond. However, it is also a great skill to combine with other areas such as history, law, creative arts, and the sciences. Not only that but it could lead to careers in international business, finance, law, linguistics and translation.

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: GCSE Spanish

Type: GCSE

Assessment: 100% examination

Examination Board: Edexcel

EBacc Subject? Yes

Further Information: See Mr Oldroyd (matthew.oldroyd@dcea.org.uk)

Sports Studies

Why should I study sports studies?

Sport Studies is an engaging qualification where you will see your learning in practical, real-life situations. This will help you develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector. This qualification will also help you develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations such as: completing research, working with others, planning training programmes, and evaluating and making recommendations to help improve performance.

How will I learn?

Lessons will be delivered in both the classroom and in the field, as a range of theoretical concepts are developed and then applied practically. You will learn how to be a leader in a sporting context as well as learning through more conventional 'lecture-style' sessions and group tasks, when studying the reasons behind sports participation. Variety throughout the course will ensure learning is engaging, memorable, contextual and fun!

How will I be assessed?

Learners must complete three units to be awarded the OCR (Level 1/ Level 2) Cambridge National in Sports Studies.

- Examined assessment - 'Contemporary Issues in Sport' - 1hr15 written paper.
- Non-examined Assessment - 'Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities' - practical element of course.
- Non-examined Assessment - 'Sport and the Media' - assignment completion in school

Progression – where could this course take me?

This course prepares learners for the further study of Sports Studies courses, such as Cambridge Technical in Sport as well as other related subject areas such as Social Science, Leadership or Media. Learners will also develop the transferable skills that are in demand by Further Education, Higher Education and employers in all sectors of industry. The knowledge acquired during the course of study will also be valuable in a range of job roles in the sports industry ranging from sports participation, performance, management and media.

***Please note, learners will register their interest in studying Sport, providing a preferred option. Your teacher will then use their professional judgement to decide which course (GCSE PE or Sports Studies) will suit best, based on where the level of expertise lies.**

Key facts at a glance

Qualification Name: Cambridge National in Sports Studies

Type: Level 1/Level 2

Assessment: 40% Externally Assessed Unit, 60% Non-Examined Assessment (practical and written)

Examination Board: OCR

EBacc Subject? No

Further Information: See Mr Harmer (david.harmer@DCEA.org.uk)