



**ALL SAINTS**  
CATHOLIC COLLEGE

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ORARE LABORARE SERVIRE

Year 9 GCSE Progression  
Pathways Handbook  
2025

“I HAVE COME  
SO THAT YOU  
MAY HAVE LIFE—  
LIFE IN ALL ITS  
FULLNESS”

John 10:10

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# Pathway to the Future

In September 2025, you will be starting Key Stage 4 and your **GCSE studies**. GCSEs are very important qualifications and the courses you study, and the grades you achieve, are likely to determine the choices available to you at college, Sixth Form or in-work training. In turn, the choices you make at the end of Year 11 will impact upon the type of degree you are able to study, the university you could study at and the type of career you could pursue.

## Students considering University

If you are thinking of applying to university you will need to have a **GCSE pass in English and Maths** (at grade 5 or higher). The **Russell Group** universities (the top 24 in the UK) prefer you to take **facilitating subjects** – these are the subjects that will help you to gain entry to the top universities and onto competitive courses.

### Facilitating subjects include:

English Language & Literature	Maths
Sciences	Modern Foreign Language
History	Geography

## Coursework-based subjects

All **GCSE** qualifications are general academic studies of the subject and it is important to understand that even practical subjects have written exams. However, some courses are assessed more heavily through practical coursework and these may be more suitable for students who are interested in gaining access to vocational careers or programmes of study when leaving school. The following subjects have a strong coursework/practical element to the course:

Art & Design	Drama	Music	Photography
Citizenship (small amount of coursework)	Food & Nutrition	Music Tech	Sports Studies

## Pathway Model

The **Pathway model** involves the school placing students on a **Pathway** that is appropriately challenging to their ability level, with the aim of maximising their academic potential. It also allows subject teachers to deliver the curriculum content in as much depth as possible, whilst providing practical subjects more time to maximise coursework grades. Page 7 outlines the three different **Pathways** that students can be placed on.

# Post 16 Entry Requirements

Use this guide to give you an indication of the grades you will need to study A-Levels and BTECs at 6<sup>th</sup> form and college

Subject	Code	Minimum grades	Entry Requirements: English Language at Grade 4 is a compulsory <u>minimum</u> requirement for ALL subjects
Art & Design	Ar	5 x Levels 9 to 4	
Biology	Bi	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in Maths and 6 in Biology or 6-6 in Combined Science
Business	Bs	5 x Levels 9 to 4	5 in Maths
Chemistry	Ch	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in Maths <b>and</b> 6 in Chemistry or 6-6 in Combined Science
Computer Science		6 x Levels 9 to 4	7 in Maths <b>and either</b> a 6 in Computer Science <b>or</b> a 6-6 in Combined Science (6's in Triple Science)
Drama	Dr	5 x Levels 9 to 4	5 in English Language <b>or</b> a 5 in Drama
Economics	Ec	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in Maths <b>and</b> 5 in English Language
English Language	En	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in English Language
English Literature	El	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in English Language <b>and</b> 6 Literature <b>or</b> 7 in English Literature <b>and</b> 5 in English Language
Geography	Ge	6 x Levels 9 to 4	5 in Geography or if not studied a 5 in Maths, English Language and Sciences.
Politics	Pl	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in English Language
History	Hi	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in History
Law	Lw	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in English Language
Mathematics	Ma	6 x Levels 9 to 4	7 in Maths
Further Maths	Fm	6 x Levels 9 to 4	8 in Maths
Film Studies	Fi	5 x Levels 9 to 4	
Photography	Py	5 x Levels 9 to 4	
Physics	Ph	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in Physics or 6-6 in Combined Science. <b>Must also be studying Maths or Further Maths at A level.</b>
Product Design	Dt	6 x Levels 9 to 4	Preferably a 5 in a DT subject and a 5 in Maths
Psychology	Sx	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in English Language <b>and</b> 4 in Maths
Religious Studies	Rs	6 x Levels 9 to 4	6 in RE or, if not studied, then either a 6 History, Geography or English Language
Sociology	So	5 x Levels 9 to 4	5 in English Language
BTEC Business (2 A level equivalent)	Bv	4 x Levels 9 to 4	4 in Maths
BTEC Media (1 A level equivalent)	Mv	4 x Levels 9 to 4	

“Nothing will  
work unless  
you do”

Maya Angelou

Poet & Civil Rights Activist

# Overview of Key Stage 4

## Core GCSE subjects

In Key Stage 4 all students will study the following GCSE core subjects:

Subject (Exam board/course number)	Number of GCSE qualifications	Number of lessons per week
English (AQA)	1x English Language GCSE 1x English Literature GCSE	6
Mathematics (Edexcel)	1x Mathematics GCSE	6
Combined Science: Trilogy (AQA 8464)	2x Science GCSE	6 (2 lessons per science)
Religious Studies (WJEC)	1x RE GCSE	3

## Pathways Programme

In addition to the core subjects, students will study two **Pathway** subjects with the aim of maximising their academic potential:

- ◆ Pupils on the '**Extended Pathway**' will study Geography or History and French or Spanish
- ◆ Pupils on the '**Academic Pathway**' will study either Spanish, French, Geography or History, and one other subject, from the list below
- ◆ Pupils on the '**Focused Pathway**' will study two subjects, with a greater focus on coursework, from the list below

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## Additional Information

All students will have 4 lessons per week for each optional subject, 1 Core PE lesson per week and will continue to follow their PSHE curriculum as standard.

# Art & Design

## Course Overview

If you enjoy making art and want to develop your practical skills in a range of media such as drawing, painting, printmaking and ceramics, Art & Design at GCSE is a great choice. The transferable skills you will gain, such as creativity, analysis and problem solving, complement a range of other subjects and careers. Art encourages self-expression, can build confidence and a sense of individual identity.

## Course details

*Exam board:* Edexcel

*Assessment:* Art and Design is marked against the Edexcel marksheet and four assessment objectives. A01, A02, A03, A04 (Developing ideas, refining work, experimenting with media, recording ideas and observations relevant to intentions)

## Course Units

*Component 1 (COURSEWORK)- 60% of final grade*

In year 10 you will explore the topic 'Organic forms' and develop a journey of art and design from start to finish. The theme allows you to explore different materials, techniques and processes and a series of final outcomes, including a Surreal piece in clay.

In Year 11 you will explore the topic 'Identity, disguise and distortion.' You will work independently in this project by making creative decisions, choosing your own artists to study and developing ideas based on your individual sub theme. You will build a portfolio of artwork based on a diverse range of media including digital art, 3D, drawing, painting, printing, collage, photography and relief.

*Component 2 (EXAM)- 40% of final grade*

Externally Set Assignment – Set in January of Year 11. You will prepare a project for this exam (Developing ideas, refining your work, experimenting with media, recording ideas and observations relevant to intentions) The 10 hour exam which is taken over two school days in April is your opportunity to create your final piece

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2024

*Duration:* Two year course (4 lessons per week)

*Entry Requirements:* To study Art and Design you need to be

- \* Passionate and creative
- \* Dedicated
- \* Can work independently or as part of a group
- \* Can work well to meet deadlines
- \* Critical and reflective of your own work
- \* Confident in interpreting, analysing and describing artwork in depth

*Beyond GCSE:*

London is a leading creative capital city, which attracts talent and enterprise from all over the world. The creative sector in London is vast and brings billions of pounds to the economy.

Studying Art and Design can lead to a wide range of creative careers, such as an Architect, Designer, Illustrator, Teacher, Community Arts Worker, Exhibition/Set designer, theatre designer, Fashion Designer, Fine Artist, Printmaker, Jewellery Maker, Sculptor, Web designer, art





# Citizenship

## Course Overview

GCSE Citizenship introduces students to key Citizenship issues and helps them develop a practical understanding of what it means to be a citizen today. They will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to think critically and play a positive role in public life.

Citizenship will allow students to deepen their knowledge of democracy and government, the law, rights and responsibilities and how we live together in society. Citizenship will also allow students to develop many transferrable skills such as evaluating evidence, debating ideas and making persuasive arguments.

## Course details

*Exam board:* AQA

*Assessment:* Two 1 hour 45 minute examinations each worth 50% of final grade. This course is graded 100% from examination. Students will participate in taking citizenship action investigation which they will be questioned on in Paper 1.



## Course Units

### *Paper 1*

**Section A: Active Citizenship.** Developed around principle of how citizens can make a difference in society. You will explore through case studies and your own investigation how citizen actions are able to make a difference in society. This will involve your own research, action and reflection.

**Section B: Politics and Participation.** This gives you the understanding of the political process in the UK. Through this you will understand how to resolve issues, bring about change and empower citizens to be the heart of our society.

### *Paper 2*

**Section A: Life in Modern Britain.** The make up and dynamics of contemporary society, what it means to be British, the role of the media and the UK's role on the world stage e.g. NATO and censorship of the media.

**Section B: Rights and Responsibilities.** The nature of laws, rights and responsibilities within the UK. This has a global aspect due to the nature of international laws, treaties and agreements by which the UK abides.

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2024

*Duration:* 2 years (4 lessons per week)

*Entry Requirements:* Citizenship is a course that requires students to have shown an active interest in the Humanities subjects. Students will be required to write independently and cover a range of topics meaning students will need to take an pro active role in their studies.

*Beyond GCSE:* Citizenship is a great choice for students interested in progressing on to study Politics, History, Geography, International Relations and so on at A-Level and beyond. It also provides many transferrable skills that can be used in a variety of other subject areas.

Careers that would benefit from Citizenship GCSE would include:

Journalist, Reporter, Teacher, Civil Servant, Member of Parliament, Government Advisor, Charity Executive, Lawyer, Politician, Public Relations Officer, Advertising, Marketing and Business.

# Drama

## Course Overview

Drama GCSE promotes involvement in and enjoyment of theatre, as performers and/or designers. It provides opportunities to attend live theatre performances and to develop skills as informed and thoughtful audience members. Learners will investigate a practitioner or genre of drama, work collaboratively to develop ideas to communicate meaning and experiment with dramatic conventions, forms and techniques to produce and realise a piece of original theatre. They will also have the opportunity to participate in the performance of an extract from a published performance text. Learners will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama, including their ability to interpret texts for performance, in a written examination.

## Course details

*Exam board:* Eduqas

### *Component 1: Devising theatre*

Learners participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre using either the techniques of an influential theatre practitioner or a genre, in response to a stimulus set by WJEC. Learners must produce a realisation of their piece of devised theatre and a portfolio of supporting evidence.

*Assessment:* Devising/Performing  
Internally assessed. 40%

### *Component 2: Performing from a text*

Learners will be assessed on either acting or design. Learners study two extracts from the same performance text chosen by the school. Learners participate in one performance using sections of text from both extracts.

*Assessment:* Performing from a Text  
Externally assessed by a visiting examiner. 20%

### *Component 3: Written Exam*

Section A: Series of essay questions on a Set Text, studied over the two year course.

Section B: Live Theatre Review One question, from a choice of two, requiring analysis and evaluation of a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2025

*Duration:* 2 years & 4 lessons per week

*Entry Requirements:* A love for acting and working with others. An interest in reading and writing is desirable!

### *Beyond GCSE:*

Drama promotes **communication skills, teamwork, dialogue, negotiation, socialization**. It stimulates the **imagination and creativity**; it develops a better understanding of **human behaviour, tolerance and empathy** with situations that might seem distant.

Drama helps prepare students to live and work in a world that is increasingly **team-orientated** rather than hierarchical.

Drama helps with **confidence, self-presentation, time-management, organisational skills, self-awareness and self-discipline** all desirable **transferable skills** in an employee for any job.

*Jobs linked to drama GCSE:* Arts administrator, Broadcast presenter, Film director, Further or higher education lecturer or Secondary school teacher, stage manager, costume designer, lighting designer, drama therapist, actor, choreographer and cinematographer.

# Food and Nutrition

**Course Overview** GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition enables students to develop a greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. They will learn about food from around the world and develop an understanding of where food comes from (food provenance) with the challenges surrounding food security. They will master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking. Students will develop transferable skills such as: analysis, evaluation, communication skills, working independently and the ability to interpret information and data.

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## Course Units

There are five core topics and coursework (NEA1 and NEA2) to be covered on the course:

### Year 10:

- Diet, Nutrition and Health
- Food Safety
- Food Choice
- Food Science

### Year 11:

- Food provenance
- Non examination assessment (NEA 1 and NEA 2)

### Assessment :

**50%** is a 2 hour written exam which will assess your knowledge based on all the five core topics above. (Year 11)

**15%** is the NEA 1 (non-examination assessment) which is to plan, conduct and evaluate a scientific food investigation. (Year 11)

**35%** is the NEA 2 (non-examination assessment) to research, plan, and conduct and evaluate a **food preparation** task (including a 3 hour practical cooking

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2025

*Duration:* 2 years & 4 lessons per week

*Entry Requirements:*

*Beyond GCSE:* Above 60% in your KS3 Food & Nutrition assessment.

To study Food and Nutrition, you must:

- Enjoy **experimenting** with different recipes, ingredients, and equipment to make food dishes and **be curious** about how food products are made and how they work on a scientific level.
- Want to develop your organisational skills.
- Enjoy **asking others** about their food products and develop adaptations based on their feedback.
- Enjoy **problem-solving** and developing realistic, scientific, and creative solutions.

You also need to be confident in analysing and evaluating dishes you have made in depth as part of your written non-examination assessment.

### **Beyond GCSE:**

The food & drink industry is one of the UK's largest manufacturing sectors. There are hundreds of job roles within the industry, such as:

- Food Science
- Food Technologist
- Teaching
- Nutrition and Public Health
- Food marketing
- Catering
- Agricultural science
- Dietitian
- Sports Science
- Food stylist
- Food Retailing
- Biochemist

# French

## Course Overview

The course develops the four skill areas of speaking, reading, listening and writing using a wide variety of materials and teaching techniques to interest the students. In order to be successful in French, you have to be ready to make mistakes and listen to the feedback given by your teacher and your peers. If you follow your teacher's advice, show perseverance and resilience, and do your homework and class-work to the best of your ability, you will fulfil your potential.

## Course details

*Exam board:* EDEXCEL

*Assessment:* All assessments have a Foundation and a Higher tier.

Paper 1: Listening and understanding

Paper 2: Speaking

Paper 3: Reading and understanding

Paper 4: Written examination

## Course Units

*Theme: Identity and culture* Who am I?: relationships; when I was younger; what my friends and family are like; what makes a good friend; interests; socialising with friends and family; role models Daily life: customs and everyday life; food and drink; shopping; social media and technology (use of, advantages and disadvantages) Cultural life: celebrations and festivals; reading; music; sport; film and television

*Theme: Local area, holiday and travel* Holidays: preferences; experiences; destinations Travel and tourist transactions: travel and accommodation; asking for help and dealing with problems; directions; eating out; shopping Town, region and country: weather; places to see; things to do

*Theme: School* What school is like: school types; school day; subjects; rules and pressures; celebrating success School activities: school trips; events and exchanges

*Theme: Future aspirations, study and work* Using languages beyond the classroom: forming relationships; travel; employment Ambitions: further study; volunteering; training Work: jobs; careers and professions

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2025

*Duration:* 2 years 4 lessons per week

*Entry Requirements:* A good understanding of the language and grammar. Besides, it is essential to have the capacity to memorise both vocabulary and grammar easily. French requires high commitment in the learning of the 4 skills as well as an interest in the French culture. Students accepted in the course should be performing at a 70% or above in their Year 9 assessments and must have studied the language in KS3 as it is a five year course that builds upon the foundation knowledge acquired in KS3.

*Beyond GCSE:* Looking beyond GCSE study, some UK universities ask for a modern foreign language at GCSE or above as part of their entrance requirements, even if the student is not planning to study a language. They feel that proof of studying a language shows great aptitude and flexibility. Also many employers look favourably upon a candidate offering a foreign language, particularly in light of globalisation. Studying French at GCSE can lead to enhancing your linguistic and communication skills at A-level. A modern language is useful in the worlds of business, leisure, tourism and education.

# Geography

## Course Overview

GCSE Geography helps students to develop a clear understanding of the human and physical elements of our planet. They will acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to contribute to the way the world works and encourage them to become global citizens. Students will develop their understanding of hazards formation and impacts, how our world has changed over time economically, how the UK has changed physically and future challenges our planet faces. Geography will encourage pupils to improve on transferrable skills such as assessing outcomes, evaluating projects/systems, and analysing data.

## Course details

*Exam board:* Edexcel B

*Assessment:* Three 1 hour 30 minute examinations. Paper 1 and 2 are weighted at 37.5% each, whereas paper 3 is weighted at 25%. This course is 100% examination.

## Course Units

### Paper 1—Global Geographical Issues.

- Topic 1: Hazardous Earth
- Topic 2: Development dynamics
- Topic 3: Challenges of an urbanising world

### Paper 2— UK Geographical Issues

- Topic 4: The UK's evolving physical landscape – including sub-topics 4A: Coastal change and conflict and 4B: River processes and pressures.
- Topic 5: The UK's evolving human landscape – including a Case Study – Dynamic UK cities.
- Topic 6: Geographical investigations – including one physical fieldwork investigation and one human fieldwork investigation linked to Topics 4 and 5.

### Paper 3—People and environmental issues: Making Geographical Decisions

- Topic 7: People and the biosphere
- Topic 8: Forests under threat
- Topic 9: Consuming energy resources

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2025

*Duration:* 2 years & 4 lessons per week

*Entry Requirements:* GCSE Geography is a course which requires the pupil to have a vested interest in the subject. The course requires students to work independently and write extensive, evaluative answers. Students who wish to be accepted on this course have to show these skills in abundance.

*Beyond GCSE:* Geography GCSE is the first stepping stone if you wish to take the subject as an A-Level and subsequently can be taken further into degree level.

Careers which would benefit from a degree in Geography include:

- Disaster management
- Politics
- Town planning
- Travel and tourism
- Education
- Law
- Journalism
- Charitable organisations

“Choices are  
the hinges of  
destiny”

Pythagoras

Greek Philosopher



# History

## Course Overview

GCSE History develops and extends students' knowledge and understanding of key historical events, periods and societies in local, British, and wider world history. They will engage in historical enquiry, developing them into independent thinkers and allowing them to think critically and reflectively about the world.

GCSE History students will gain a better awareness of why people, events and developments have historical significance and how varied the interpretations of our past can be. They will gain many transferable skills and be able to better understand the wide diversity of human experience and why society

## Course Units

**Paper 1:** Thematic study and historic environment **Crime and Punishment in Britain, c1000–present and Whitechapel, c1870–c1900: crime, policing and the inner city**

*Looking at the nature of crime and what is criminal, policing, trials and punishment and its purpose through time. The Whitechapel section focuses on crime and policing in Victorian London, with a focus on the Jack the Ripper murders.*

**Paper 2:** Period study & British depth study **Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941–91 & Henry VIII and his ministers, 1509–40**

*The Cold War topic looks at the tension between the USA and the USSR and how close the world really came to nuclear war. The Henry VIII topic looks at the era of the King who had six wives and how he navigated power in England.*

**Paper 3:** Modern depth study **The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad**

*Looking at the civil rights movements of the 1950's and 60's in America. Students then cover the unfolding of military involvement in Vietnam and the huge public reaction in America itself.*



## Course details

**Exam board:** Edexcel Pearson GCSE (9-1)

**Assessment:** This course is graded from 100% examination—through three exams.

Paper 1 (1h 15min) – 30%

Paper 2 (1h 45min) – 40%

Paper 3 (1hr 20min) – 30%

## Important information

**Start date:** September 2025

**Duration:** 2 years & 4 lessons per week

**Entry Requirements:** GCSE History students should have shown an active interest and ability in History at KS3. Students will be required to work independently and cover a range of topics meaning students will need to take an proactive role in their studies.

**Beyond GCSE:** History is an excellent general subject that is viewed highly by employers and higher educators. It also provides many transferable skills that can be used in a variety of other subject areas, such as debating, thinking critically and coming to a justified conclusion.

Careers that would specifically benefit from a History GCSE would include:

Historian, Archaeologist, Journalist, Reporter, Teacher, Civil Servant, Member of Parliament, Government Advisor, Lawyer, Museum Curator, Academic Researcher.



# Music

## Course Overview

GCSE Music has three engaging components which are assessed through practical performances (30%), compositions (30%) and one externally examined paper (40%). Students will explore a wide variety of music focusing on the following four categories; **Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen, and Fusions** where they will study 8 set pieces and explore wider listening. The set works enable students to conduct in-depth studies into different musical styles and genres, and put them in a wider context. Students will learn to perform, compose (using the latest Apple Mac computers with Logic Pro and Sibelius software) and appreciate different types of music. Students taking Music will receive 30 minutes free 1-1 tuition on their instrument each week.



## Course Details

There are three main aspects to the assessment of Music GCSE:

Solo & Ensemble performance—30%

Composition x2—30%

Listening and Appraising Exam—40%

### Assessment Objectives:

AOS1: Instrumental Music (1700-1820)

- Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No.5
- Beethoven: Piano Sonata No 8

AOS2: Vocal Music

- Purcell: Music for a While
- Freddie Mercury: Killer Queen

AOS3: Music for Stage and Screen

- Stephen Schwartz: Defying Gravity
- John Williams: Star Wars

AOS4: Fusions

- Afro Celt Sound System: Release
- Esperanza Spalding: Samba Em Preludio

## Important information

**Start date:** September 2025

**Duration:** 2 years & 4 lessons per week

**Entry Requirements:** To succeed in Music GCSE, students need a basic understanding of music notation and experience learning an instrument (with a teacher - preferably not self taught).

### Beyond GCSE:

You don't have to go on to be a professional musician after taking GCSE Music. Of course, this is an exciting option. As well as a well-rounded and academic subject, music also develops highly desirable interpersonal skills which universities will look for when students apply for further education or employment. You should take Music if you enjoy it as you will be willing to put in practice time and will do well!

Music helps with **confidence, resilience, time-management, organisation, leadership and self-discipline**—all desirable, transferable skills for any job.

### Careers directly linked to music:

Musician, Musical Director, Songwriter, Orchestrator, Lyricist, Producer, Conductor, Teacher, Event manager.

# Music Technology

## Course Overview

The aim of this course is to provide learners with the knowledge and range of skills needed to progress towards being able to operate successfully as producers/composers. Students will gain significant skills on Logic Pro and cover a range of production and arrangement techniques. There is a focus on contemporary/popular music, but students will have the freedom to arrange in whatever style they chose for most of the course.

## Course details

*Exam board:* RSL - Level 2 Certificate in Technology and Composition for Music Practitioners (Technology and Composition)



*Assessment:*

Coursework only - no written exam.

Two internally assessed units. One externally assessed unit.

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2025

*Duration:* 2 years & 4 lessons per week

*Entry Requirements:* No specific musical experience required. Understanding of the keyboard is desirable. Students must enjoy working on computers and have an interest in sound production and manipulation and creating modern music.

*Beyond GCSE:*

Sound production; Sound engineering; Project management; Composer/Arranger

## Course Units

*201ta - Musical Knowledge (4 units)*

Internally assessed coursework

- Identify and describe contrasting musical styles
- Recognise and discuss key musical elements

*203ta - Music Sequencing and Production (8 units)*

Externally assessed coursework.

- Plan a music production project
- Demonstrate use of DAW software to create a music production project
- Reflect on the music production project and consider ways to improve future endeavours

*207ta - Using a DAW (8 credits)*

Internally assessed coursework

- Describe the operation of Digital Audio Workstation (DAW software) – Logic Pro
- Demonstrate the skills to use a keyboard to input and edit music
- Evaluate their work and consider ways to further enhance their skills



# Photography

## Course Overview

- Component 1 (COURSEWORK) – 60% of final grade
- Component 2 (Externally Set Assignment) – Theme based: SET BY Edexcel EXAM BOARD. Set in January of Year 11. You will prepare a photography project and have a 10 hour exam to create a final piece – 40% of final grade

## Course details

*Exam board:* Edexcel

*Assessment:* Photography is marked against the Edexcel marksheet and four assessment objectives. A01, A02, A03, A04 (Developing ideas, refining work, experimenting with media, recording ideas and observations relevant to intentions)

## Course Units

### Component 1 (COURSEWORK)- 60% of final grade

In year 10 you will explore two topics and develop a journey of Photography from start to finish. The themes allow you to explore many photography skills including digital manipulation, portraiture, black and white photography, studio photography, photograms, cyanotypes and photo-weaving. In Year 11 you will explore the topic 'Identity' working independently by making creative decisions, choosing your own artists to study and developing ideas based on your individual sub theme. You will build a portfolio of digital work based on these topics, investigating artists and experimenting with a diverse range of photography styles and techniques.

### Component 2 (EXAM)- 40% of final grade

Externally Set Assignment – Set in January of Year 11. You will prepare a project for this exam (Developing ideas, refining your work, experimenting with media, recording ideas and observations relevant to intentions). The 10-hour exam takes place across two school days in April when you create your final photography piece.

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2025

*Duration:* Two year course & 4 lessons per week

### *Entry Requirements:*

Above 60% in your KS3 Art/digital art assessments.

To study Art and Photography you need to be—

- Passionate and creative
- Dedicated
- Can work independently or as part of a group
- Can work well to meet deadlines

You also need to be confident interpreting, analysing and describing artwork in depth both in writing and verbally.

### *Beyond GCSE:*

London is a leading creative capital city, which attracts talent and enterprise from all over the world. The creative sector in London is vast and brings billions of pounds to the economy.

Studying Photography at GCSE and beyond can lead to a wide range of creative careers. Careers in the arts include jobs as a professional photographer, fashion and Photographic Stylist, Commercial/Advertising Photographer, Editorial and press photographer, Graphic Designer, Animator, roles within Film and Television, Forensic photography, Sports Photographer and many more.

# Sports Studies

## Course Overview

The sports studies course is a broadly assessed course following the OCR Cambridge Nationals exam board. Students are assessed in three units with a combination of exam, coursework and practical-based assessments.

Students are expected to participate in and analyse their performance in a range of sporting activities. It is therefore expected that students participate in sport regularly both in lessons and outside of school.

## Course details

**Exam board:** OCR Cambridge Nationals

**Assessment:** This course is graded from a combination of exam, coursework and practical assessments.

### Exam

R184 (1 hour 15 mins, 70 marks)- 40%

### Coursework/ practical

R185 (80 marks) - 30%

R187 (40 marks) -30%

## Important information

**Start date:** September 2025

**Duration:** 2 years & 4 lessons per week

**Entry requirements:** Students should have an interest in and participate in sport. Students will be expected to work independently and take a proactive role in completing coursework to the highest standard.

**Beyond GCSE:** Through completing the sports studies course, students will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that can be used in the Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health sector.

## Course Units

R184: Contemporary issues in sport	
TA1: Issues which affect participation in sport	Exam
TA2: The role of sport in promoting values	Exam
TA3: The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country	Exam
TA4: The role National Governing Bodies play in the development of sport	Exam
R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities	
TA1: Key components of performance	Practical
TA2: Apply practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity	Coursework
TA3: Organising and planning a sports activity session	Coursework
TA4: Delivering a sports activity session	Practical
TA5: Reviewing your own performance in leading a sports session	Coursework
R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities	
TA1: Provisions for different types of outdoor activities in the UK	Coursework
TA2: Equipment, clothing and safety of outdoor activities	Coursework
TA3: Plan for and participate in outdoor activities	Practical
TA4: Evaluate participation in outdoor activity	Coursework

# Spanish

## Course Overview

The course develops the four skill areas of speaking, reading, listening and writing using a wide variety of materials and teaching techniques to interest the students. In order to be successful in Spanish, you have to be ready to make mistakes and listen to the feedback given by your teacher and your peers. If you follow your teacher's advice, show perseverance and resilience, and do your homework and classwork to the best of your ability, you will fulfil your potential.

## Course details

*Exam board:* EDEXCEL

*Assessment:* All assessments have a Foundation and a Higher tier.

Paper 1: Listening and understanding

Paper 2: Speaking

Paper 3: Reading and understanding

Paper 4: Written examination

## Course Units

Theme: Identity and culture:-

- Relationships
- Daily life:
- Cultural life
- Local area
- Holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations,
- Study and work
- International and global dimension

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2025

*Duration:* 2 years & 4 lessons per week

*Entry Requirements:* A good understanding of the language and grammar. Besides, it is essential to have the capacity to memorise both vocabulary and grammar easily. Spanish requires high commitment in the learning of the 4 skills as well as an interest in the Spanish culture. Students accepted in the course should be performing at a 70% or above in their Year 9 assessments and must have studied the language in KS3 as it is a five year course that builds up on the foundation knowledge acquired in KS3.

*Beyond GCSE:* Looking beyond GCSE study, top UK universities (known as Russell Group Universities) ask for a modern foreign language at GCSE or above as part of their entrance requirements, even if the student is not planning to study a language. They feel that proof of studying a language shows great aptitude and flexibility. Also many employers look favourably upon a candidate offering a foreign language, particularly in light of globalisation.

Studying Spanish at GCSE can lead to enhance your linguistic and communication skills at A-level. A modern language is useful in the world of business, leisure, tourism and education.

# Work-skills

## Course Overview

If you would like to explore the different skills you will need in the workplace, including developing desirable characteristics potential employers look for when employing young adults, including developing your personal CV and interview skills, then this course may be for you. This course is not currently delivered at the GCSE level, so is not appropriate for all students. Those that are selected for this course will achieve a BTEC Level 1 certificate. You will seek to explore the 'need-to-knows' about full-time employment and how best to prepare for earning a salary.

## Course details

*Exam board:* EDEXCEL

*Qualification:* BTEC Level 1 Award in Work-Skills

*Assessment:* Demonstration within your portfolio that you have met criteria for each unit outcome

## Course Units

Course units are flexible and we will tailor these towards the needs of the students in the course. Some potential units which you may take part are:

- Considering your own work related skills and behaviours
- Selecting and applying for a job
- Recognising types of employment contract
- Prepare and participate in an interview
- Understanding equality and diversity in the workplace
- Knowing workplace rights and responsibilities
- Planning for career entry
- Developing work related literacy skills
- Developing work related numeracy skills
- Supporting health and safety at work
- Participating in a work experience placement

## Important information

*Start date:* September 2025

*Duration:* 2 years & 4 lessons per week

*Entry Requirements:* This course is best for students who have been advised not to take three GCSE option subjects. You need to be able to reflect upon your own workplace skills, as it is likely you will be at the very stages of developing these. You will need a positive attitude and be willing to step out of your comfort zone. Finally, you will need to be ready to enter and work in a professional environment outside of school and meet the expectations of potential employers.

*Beyond Work-skills:* You will be better prepared to meet potential employers, seek work, interview and sell yourself as a desirable employee that a company or institution will want to employ.

# Next Steps

## Access the Pathways Programme Online Form

To access and complete the online form, you must scan the QR code on your **Pathways** letter, enclosed with this booklet. The school will then consider your choices and review your Lenten assessment before confirming your **Pathway** subjects in the summer term.

The **Pathway** selected for you has been chosen to maximise your academic outcomes at the end of Year 11. In determining your pathway, we have reviewed your Year 6 SATs scores and analysed your assessment scores throughout Key Stage 3 in all of your subjects. **We have also taken into account whether you speak an additional language, which you might be able to take as an optional GCSE at the end of Year 11.**

# Key dates

Thursday 6th March	Year 9 Pathway Evening
Friday 14th March	Pathway Deadline

*When you have made your final choice, complete the online form by scanning the QR code on the letter enclosed, no later than **14th March 2025***



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