NIL SINE LABORE

BALLYCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

Post-16 Subject Choices

2026 - 2028

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**BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate – broadly equivalent to one GCE A Level*

***Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma – broadly equivalent to one GCE A Level*

**** Level 3 Cambridge Technical Foundation Diploma – broadly equivalent to two GCE A Levels*

MAKING CHOICES: KEY FACTS

USEFUL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

AS:

- Advanced Subsidiary
- Courses usually taken in Year 13
- 40% of an A level
- Qualification in its own right

A2:

- Courses taken in Year 14
- 60% of an A level

NVQ:

- National Vocational Qualifications
- Related to the world of work
- Can be studied at 5 different levels (level 3 = A levels)

BTEC/CTEC:

- Vocational qualification
- BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate - equivalent to 1 A level
- Cambridge Technical Level 3 Introductory Diploma – equivalent to 1 A level
- Cambridge Technical Level 3 Extended Certificate - equivalent to 1 A level
- Cambridge Technical Level 3 Foundation Diploma - equivalent to 2 A levels

HND / HNC / foundation degrees:

- Higher National Diploma / Certificate
- Diploma – work related qualifications
- Certificate – part-time version of HND
- Can allow entry to degree level qualifications

Degree:

- Course usually studied over 3 or 4 years (more for Medicine, Architecture etc.)
- Bachelor degrees are the most common degrees

- Masters degrees involve further study
- Sandwich courses include a year work placement related to the degree

Names of degrees:

- BSc Bachelor of Science
- BEng Bachelor of Engineering
- BA Bachelor of Arts
- MSc Master of Science
- MA Master of Arts

Modules:

- Course of study
- A levels can consist of both coursework and examination modules – check individual subjects for more details

Grades / Points:

- Each grade is equivalent to a specified number of points
- An A* grade has been introduced at A2 – to obtain an A* you need to get over 90% in all modules at A2 level

- UCAS points are standardised throughout the UK:

Grade	AS points	A2 points
A*	-	56
A	20	48
B	16	40
C	12	32
D	10	24
E	6	16

- BTEC/CTEC:

Grade	UCAS POINTS
D*	56
D	48
M	32
P	16

It is important to note that some universities may require higher grades for BTECs, for example Queen's University Belfast considers a D* to be equivalent to an A, a Distinction to a B and a Merit a C. Always check subject and grade requirements carefully, directly on the university's website.

Technical Diploma	UCAS POINTS
D*D*	112
D*D	104
DD	96
DM	80
MM	64
MP	48
PP	32

- CAO POINT VALUES

The Central Applications Office processes applications for undergraduate courses in Irish Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). Decisions on admissions to undergraduate courses are made by the HEIs who instruct CAO to make offers to successful candidates.

Grade	A-Levels 1st-3rd	4th A-Level / AS Level
A*	192	24
A	173	24
B	154	20
C	137	18
D	126	16
E	116	14

More information can be found at the following website: http://www.cao.ie/

MATHS

You should consider studying Maths if you are interested in any of the following:

- **Engineering** – almost all Engineering courses require Maths and some require a combination of Maths and Physics. Other subjects may be acceptable – check with the chosen university for specific requirements.

- Many **Computing Science** courses require Maths. Many require at least a grade B in GCSE Maths.

- Some **Accountancy, Economics and Finance** courses look favourably on Maths.

- Actuarial **Science** requires GCE Maths.

- Pure **Physics** degree courses require GCE Maths.

- Pure **Chemistry** degree courses look favourably on applicants with GCE Maths. Check with your chosen university for further details.

- Many **Architectural** courses require Maths and GCSE Art is recommended. QUB do not consider Technology and Design as an alternative to Art.

SCIENCE

You should consider studying the sciences if you are interested in any of the following:

- **Medicine, Dentistry or Pharmacology** – Chemistry is required and Biology is often preferred, but Physics or Maths could also be a requirement. Medicine very definitely requires 4 AS subjects.

- **Veterinary Science** – will require 3 A2 subjects including Science subjects (which must include Chemistry/Biology and one of Physics or Maths). GCSE Maths and English may also be required at Grade B or above. Relevant work experience is essential. Check with the chosen university for specific entry requirements.

- **Physiotherapy, Chiropractic and Radiography** – one science subject from Biology, Chemistry, Maths or Physics is essential (UU.)

- **Nursing and Midwifery** – At UU BBC is required – the C grade can be offered in any combination from accepted qualifications listed. For QUB, BCC is required, however a science background is not essential, but higher grades will be asked for in your A Levels if you are not presenting a science subject (BBC). A pass in GCSE Science is essential and Applied Science only at GCSE will not generally be accepted.

- **Speech Therapy** - one of the required 'A' level passes must be in English, Mathematics or a Science subject (UU.) Other subjects may be acceptable. Check with your chosen university for further information.

- **Dietetics** and **Food Science** – Chemistry is required by most, whereas Biology is preferred by some and required by others. Other subjects may be acceptable including Physics, Nutrition and Food science. Check with your chosen university for further information.

- **Optometry** – two science subjects required.

- **Forensic Science** – Chemistry is preferred but some courses will consider 3 A level passes in any combination of subjects.

- **Agricultural Science** – Chemistry and/or Biology A-levels are preferred by QUB. CAFRE require a science subject for the BSc degree in Sustainable Agriculture with Agri-Business.
  Other subjects may be required – see list of subjects supplied by chosen university.

PLEASE NOTE:

LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCE

Life and Health Science is not a replacement for Biology, Chemistry or Physics and is, therefore, not acceptable as a science A Level for the majority of science-related courses at QUB. It is accepted at UU for many courses.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN NURSING?

Nursing is a popular career choice among our students, with many choosing adult, children's or mental health nursing. Performance at GCSE is an important requirement with 4 GCSE passes at grade C or above required in English, Maths and a science subject.

While some universities only accept three A Levels, others will accept two A Levels with an equivalent Level 3 qualification.

You will need to check each university's requirements before applying. It is important to note that applicants will be requested to attend for an interview which can either be a group interview or an individual interview, when the suitability of applicants is further assessed. Assessments may include 'practical skills stations', literacy and/or numeracy skills. Relevant work experience is advisable.

STUDYING THREE OR FOUR AS SUBJECTS?

Four AS subjects will help you to keep your options open. If both you and the school are satisfied that you have the commitment and ability to complete them successfully, four AS options are likely to be the best choice.

- Applying to any university in the **Republic of Ireland** (Dublin, Galway, Cork etc.): Republic of Ireland universities have changed their entry requirements and now accept lower points than previously for some courses. However, students need to check individual universities for acceptable subjects, combination, types of exams and repeats. See Mrs Martin/Mr Rafferty for further details before progressing to A2 level.

- **Medicine**, **Dentistry**, **Pharmacy**, **Law**, **Veterinary Science** - you must study 4 subjects to AS Level and in some cases to A2 Level.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TEACHING?

- For primary teaching you must be able to offer an A level subject that is taught as part of the primary school curriculum (e.g. English, RE, PE, Maths, Science, History, Geography etc.)
- Universities outside of Northern Ireland require applicants to sit a Literacy and Numeracy skills test for both primary and secondary teaching courses and have relevant work experience.

ACCEPTABILITY OF BTEC / CTEC QUALIFICATIONS

- At QUB, BTEC / CTEC qualifications are NOT acceptable for Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry.

- Only **one** BTEC / CTEC qualification is acceptable for all other QUB courses, including CAFRE courses associated with QUB (e.g. Agriculture Degree courses at Greenmount College and Food Technology degree courses at Loughry College).

- Pupils choosing BTEC / CTEC Double Award or two BTEC / CTEC subjects must make sure this is an acceptable entry qualification for the university courses they are considering – two other A level subjects may be required.

DO ALL UNIVERSITIES ACCEPT VOCATIONAL A-LEVELS?

- Several universities in the Republic of Ireland do not yet accept Vocational A-Levels (BTEC / CTEC Construction, Health & Social Care, Applied Science, Applied ICT, Travel and Tourism etc.)

- Oxford and Cambridge do not accept Vocational A-Levels either.

OXBRIDGE

Oxford and Cambridge are collectively referred to as Oxbridge.

Cambridge have compiled lists advising students of A-levels they do not consider as challenging as more traditional subjects such as History, Maths and Languages. Cambridge advises that to give the best chance of being admitted to the University, students should take 2 or more traditional academic subjects (subjects not on the following list) in conjunction with no more than one of the subjects below:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Design and Technology
- Drama/Theatre Studies
- Home Economics
- Information and Communication Technology
- Media Studies
- Physical Education

This list may change and if you have a query about a particular subject, you should contact the admissions office.

Oxford does not operate a specific list but advises that those taking more traditional subjects will have an advantage.

MSAT, HPAT and UCAT TESTS

Applicants for medicine, dentistry and Allied Health Profession courses face an extensive application process which often involved entrance tests in addition to interviews. These online tests are aptitude tests, focused on a candidate's suitability for a clinical role, rather than simply their existing knowledge. These vary in format and content and applicants will need to invest time, and perhaps some money to prepare themselves for the test.

- Ulster University requires applicants to 6 of their Allied Health Profession courses to sit the MSAT test in March of Year 14. This forms part of the admissions process.
- Several universities in the Republic of Ireland require Medicine and some Allied Health Profession applicants to sit the HPAT Ireland test.
- All UK university medical and dental schools require applicants to complete an online test, the most commonly used (including Queen's) is UCAT. These are typically taken between July and September of Year 14. If you apply to medical school as a graduate (following an undergraduate degree in another subject) you may be required to sit a GAMSAT test.

If you are interested in applying for any of these courses, please check the requirements for your chosen course carefully. Requirements can change from year to year.

SOME GENERAL GUIDANCE ON WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR UNIVERSITY COURSES:

This list is for general guidance only.

Subject	Requirements
Veterinary	• At least 2 Sciences to A2, one of which must be Chemistry or Biology, and the other in Physics or Maths • Double Award or all 3 separate Sciences at GCSE
Medicine	• At least 2 Sciences to A2, one of which must be Chemistry, plus at least one from Biology, Physics or Maths • A fourth subject is required at AS level. • Double Award or all 3 separate Sciences at GCSE, plus GCSE Maths (C/4 minimum grade)
Dentistry	• At least 2 Sciences to A2, one must be Chemistry or Biology • GCSE Maths (C/4 minimum grade) • Double Award or all 3 separate Sciences at GCSE
Pharmacy	• At least 2 Sciences to A2, one of which must be Chemistry • Either Biology and Chemistry or Double Award Science at GCSE • GCSE Maths (C/4 minimum grade)
Optometry	• At least 2 Sciences (from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics) to A2 • Double Award or all 3 separate Sciences at GCSE
Architecture	• Some universities require either Mathematics and/or Physics to A2 • All require evidence of artistic ability (not necessarily A-level Art)
Nursing	• QUB - 5 GCSEs at grade C to include English Language or an equivalent qualification, Mathematics and a Science subject (NOT APPLIED SCIENCE) • **BCC** including a relevant Science (Biology/ Human Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics or Physics) ***OR* BBC** where a relevant Science subject is not offered. • CPLD will also be accepted for entry to nursing.
Engineering	• Mathematics to A2 • One other Science depending on the type of engineering course
Physiotherapy	• One Science to A2 • 2 Sciences results in a reduced offer
Law	• Any combination of subjects
Accountancy	• Any combination of subjects for most universities. Maths at A level is preferred.

- Remember all courses are different and it is always best to check with specific universities for their requirements.

- There are many university prospectuses in the library and careers room and most universities include admissions information on their websites.

CURRICULUM 2025 – 2027

- Please refer to the full admissions criteria for entry into Post-16, as published in the school prospectus.
- All subjects are 20 periods per fortnight (two-week timetable cycle)
- There are also some core periods: e.g. Enrichment Activities and Careers.
- Repeat GCSE English **or** Maths is available; you will need to have a Grade D to be accepted into a repeat class and you **will not** be able to repeat both.
- Some subjects have specific entry requirements – please check subject information carefully.
- Subjects will be placed into five groups. Most pupils will **choose 3 subjects** – **only 1 choice allowed from each group.**
- Pupils must have strong grade A/B GCSE profile to be considered for study of a 4th AS subject.
- Pupils are advised to choose only one BTEC Subject if combining BTEC and GCE courses.
- Speak with your teachers – they will be in a position to advise you as to the subjects that would make a good 'A' level choice for you.

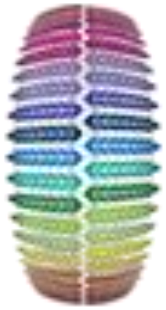
Sample Blocks (Please see application form for confirmed blocks)

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5
CTEC Business	French	BTEC Agriculture	Business Studies	Art
English Literature	History	CTEC Business	Chemistry	Biology
Health & Social Care	CTEC IT	BTEC Early Childhood Dev.	Geography	BTEC Construction
Mathematics	PE	BTEC Creative Media Production	Performing Arts	Life and Health Science SA/DA*
Nutrition & Food Science	BTEC Science	Life and Health Science DA*	Psychology	Irish
	Spanish	Music	CTEC Sport DA*	
	CTEC Sport SA / DA*	Physics	Technology	
		RE	BTEC Travel and Tourism	
		BTEC Science		

*DA – must be chosen in both groups

AGRICULTURE

BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate
(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel)



Overview:

This qualification offers an engaging programme to support learners who want to pursue a career in Agriculture. The qualification can prepare learners for a range of apprenticeships in the land-based sector, or direct entry to roles such as trainee agricultural technician or general farm worker.

When taken alongside further Level 3 qualifications, it supports progression to a range of higher education courses in Agriculture or Agricultural Sciences.

It is broadly equivalent to one A-Level and will provide progression opportunities within related areas of study at university or other institutions.

Assessment:

The course consists of 4 units that provide for a combined total of 360 guided learning hours (GLH) over two years for the completed qualification.

Core units include:

1. Professional Working Responsibilities
2. Work Experience in the Land-based Sectors
3. Applied Agricultural Farming Practice
4. Estate Skills

All units offer both theory and practical sessions to maximise understanding within this highly specialised work-related qualification.

Unit 1 will be assessed by an externally assessed, supervised assessment - (3 hours).
All other units are assessed via internally assessed portfolio work. You will complete assignments for each unit, which will be awarded Pass, Merit or Distinction and tasks will be submitted every 6-8 weeks to be marked.
All units require practical tasks to be undertaken in the pupils' own time and documented through photos/videos and logbooks.

Careers Opportunities:

By undertaking this qualification, it will help provide entry and progression within universities or other institution e.g. Greenmount College, Harper Adams University.
Related careers include agricultural crops and livestock, equine, environmental conservation, floristry, veterinary nursing, fishing and land-based engineering etc.
There are many employment opportunities in this country and abroad.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Must have access to farm and some background in farming environments.
Beneficial to have completed GCSE Agriculture and Land Use.

Teacher-in-charge: Mr McCandless

ART & DESIGN

GCE A Level

(Exam Board: WJEC)

Overview:

The course encourages creativity, sustained investigation and analysis, experimentation, and design and making as a means of developing technical and expressive skills. It gives pupils the opportunity to extend experience and personal response as well as developing imagination and critical and reflective thinking. The ability to innovate, adapt and work independently, which underlies all aspects of the qualification, is valued by higher education and employers alike.

Assessment:

Year 13:

Unit 1: Personal Creative Enquiry

In this unit pupils are enabled to demonstrate personal interests and abilities across a particularly broad course of study. They should explore selected practical and contextual areas of art, craft and design through a range of two and/or three-dimensional media and processes. Art, Craft and Design can involve use of an almost limitless range of materials, techniques and processes, but due regard should be given to achieving appropriate depth, as well as breadth of learning experiences.

Coursework - 40% of the total GCE marks

Year 14:

Unit 2: Personal Investigation

This unit incorporates both practical work and personal study, including integrated written elements (1000 words minimum). The investigation and development should show evidence of contextual understanding, creative making, reflective recording and personal presentation.

Coursework - 36% of the total GCE marks

Unit 3: Externally Set Assignment

The Externally Set Assignment includes a preparatory period with outcome produced during a 15-hour exam.

Pupils select one from a number of assignments and develop it in the form of: a personal response, an issue to be addressed, a problem to be considered, a specific design brief or another suitable starting point.

The unit should show evidence of contextual understanding, creative making, reflective recording and personal presentation.

Exam - 24% of the total GCE marks

Careers Opportunities:

Design (Graphics, Interiors, Fashion, Ceramics, Jewellery), Artist, Teaching, Photography, Film Animation, Arts Council, Architecture.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade B at GCSE Art is recommended.

Teacher-in-charge: Miss M Brown / Miss C McLaughlin

BIOLOGY

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:

Studying AS or A level Biology will allow you to delve much deeper into the subject than when studying at GCSE level. Topics which may be familiar to you from GCSE are studied in much more detail and are updated with contemporary developments in the subject. For example, you will learn about how a disrupted cell cycle contributes to the development of cancer, as well as finding out how some anti-cancer medications work to bring the disease under control.

In addition, new topics such as biochemistry and molecular biology will help to give you a deeper understanding of the subject as a whole and make links between different areas of biology.

Assessment:

Unit	Assessment Description
AS 1: Molecules and Cells *37.5% of AS* *15% of A level*	Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes. Structured questions and an essay.
AS 2: Organisms and Biodiversity *37.5% of AS* *15% of A level*	Written examination 1 hour 30 minutes. Structured questions and an essay.
AS 3: Practical Skills in AS Biology *25% of AS* *10% of A level*	Assessed practical tasks carried out over the course of the year. Written examination 1 hour. Structured questions.
A2 1: Physiology, Co-ordination and Control and Ecosystems *24% of A level*	Written examination 2 hour 15 minutes. Structured questions and an essay.
A2 2: Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends *24% of A level*	Written examination 2 hour 15 minutes. Structured questions and an essay.
A2 3: Practical Skills in Biology *12% of A level*	Assessed practical tasks carried out over the course of the year. Written examination 1 hour 15 minutes. Structured questions.

Careers Opportunities:
With this qualification, you could either go on to further study in biology or a wide range of other disciplines, or you could enter the world of work, where many of the skills you have developed will be highly sought after.

Knowledge of biological processes has implications for a wide range of fundamentally important areas, including health, food production, conservation and, increasingly, technology. Furthermore, a qualification in biology may be a recommendation or a prerequisite for entering further study in the fields of medicine, nursing, dentistry, veterinary science, speech and language therapy, pharmacology, physiology, biomedical science, forensic science and agriculture. Through following this specification, you will develop skills that are valued in Further and Higher Education, including an ability to understand complex processes, analysis, evaluation of practices, problem-solving and research, as well as practical skills such as using a microscope, handling apparatus and fieldwork.

Many of these skills are also highly valued in the workplace, where the ability to take on board new concepts quickly and to suggest improvements to established practices can be very useful. The ability to understand data presented in a variety of forms, including text, tables and graphs, is also an important transferable skill which is developed through the study of biology at this level.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Grades AB in GCSE Double Award Science – must have Grade A in Biology units
Grade B in GCSE Maths

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs K Simpson

BUSINESS STUDIES

GCE A Level

(Exam Board: WJEC)

Overview:

Business Studies provides pupils with a unique insight into the world of work.

This specification introduces learners to the dynamic business environment and the importance of entrepreneurial activity in creating business opportunities and sustaining business growth. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop a wide range of essential skills required for higher education and employment.

The focus of the specification is to nurture an enthusiasm for studying business using contemporary contexts, allowing pupils to develop an appreciation of the strategic, complex and inter-related nature of business issues from a local to global perspective.

Assessment:

AS 1: Business Opportunities

External written examination - 1 hr 15 mins

Short answer and structured questions (60 marks)

37.5% of AS 15% of A level

This unit focuses on new business start-ups and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs). The content in this section is based around the concept of starting a new business and the issues that surround the process of planning a new business. In addition to covering the main concepts of setting up a new business, pupils should be aware of other types of business organisations and the markets they operate in and their various stakeholders.

Pupils will need to study the content areas below:

- Enterprise
- Business plans
- Markets
- Market research
- Business structure
- Business location
- Business finance
- Business revenue and costs.

AS 2: Business Functions

External written examination – 2 hours

Data response Questions (80 marks)

62.5% of AS 25% of A level

This unit broadens the context for learners and will include all types of business organisations, ranging from recently formed small businesses to well-established multinational companies. Pupils need to understand that, in order to succeed in a competitive market, all businesses have to consider the core functions of business.

Pupils will need to study the content areas below:

- Marketing
- Finance
- People in organisations (human resources)
- Operations management.

A2 1: Business Analysis and Strategy
External written examination - 2 hours 15 min
Data response plus structured questions (80 marks)
30% of A level

As the title suggests, the emphasis in this unit is on understanding and using analytical techniques and developing appropriate business strategies. Pupils need to understand, construct and analyse a range of decision-making models and investment appraisal methods used by businesses to decide on their strategy. They need to develop analytical skills to investigate business opportunities and problems in a number of different contexts and evaluate a range of quantitative and qualitative data to suggest possible strategic responses from businesses.

Pupils will need to study the content areas below:

- Data analysis
- Market analysis
- Sales forecasting
- Analysing financial performance
- Analysing non-financial performance
- Aims and objectives
- Strategy and implementation
- Decision-making models
- Investment appraisal
- Special orders

A2 2: Business in a Changing World
External written examination - 2 hours 15 min
Six compulsory structured data responses (80 marks)
30% of A level

Unit 4 focuses on how businesses adapt to succeed in a dynamic external environment. Pupils need to understand that the business world never stands still and there are continuous opportunities and threats to businesses of all sizes. They need to understand that regardless of size, businesses now operate in a global marketplace and they need to consider a wide range of external factors that affect their day-to-day activities, decision-making and strategy.
Pupils are required to integrate the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in all four units to display a holistic understanding of business activity and the environment in which they operate.

Pupils will need to study the content areas below:

- Change
- Risk management
- PEST factors
- Ethical, legal and environmental factors
- International trade
- Globalisation
- The European Union

Careers Opportunities:
This course offers an excellent foundation for those wishing to pursue careers in management, marketing, project management, business accounting, management consultancy, human resources, and business journalism as well as those interested in continuing on to further study.

Specific Entry Requirements:
GCSE English and Maths – Grade B preferred.
GCSE Business Studies at Grade B or higher is recommended

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs M Campbell

BUSINESS

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma
(Exam Board: OCR)

Business

Overview:
Business Studies provides pupils with a unique insight into the world of work. Through its study, pupils discover how businesses operate and learn about their key elements and essential business functions.

Assessment:
Currently this qualification is portfolio based (no external exams).
You will undertake six units for which you present evidence based on real life work and studies. Progress is measured through on going assessment throughout your course allowing you to gauge your own performance on a continuing basis.

Units will include the studying of key business material. You will look into how businesses are organised, business ownership, stakeholders, recruitment, human resources, growth, finance and marketing.

Year 13:
Pupils will study **three** m**andatory units:**

- The Business Environment
- Business Resources
- Introduction to Marketing

Year 14:
Pupils will complete **three** units

- Business Communication
- Recruitment and Selection
- Business Accounting

Your work will be assessed by your teacher, and you will be given constructive feedback on how to improve. You are required to **meet all deadlines** set by your teacher.

Careers Opportunities:
The qualification leads to opportunities to study the subject of Business to degree level or equivalent.
Career paths: Banking, Administrative Assistant/Administrator, Management, Business Adviser, Bookkeeper, Human Resources Officer, Receptionist, Secretary, Teacher, Financial Adviser/Planner, Management Consultant, Manager.

Consequently, the range of employment options open to pupils with this qualification is limitless, even extending to managing your own business.

Specific Entry Requirements:
GCSE English and Maths at Grade C preferred.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs M Campbell

CHEMISTRY

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:
Chemistry is often described as the 'central science' as it ties all the other sciences together; you may already have discovered this in your GCSE course.

The understanding and application of chemistry is essential in our modern world. Everything you use on a daily basis will have been developed by a chemist. As our modern world develops further, we need to find ways to feed a growing population, cure new diseases and manage the world's energy resources.

Chemistry holds the answers to all these big questions. Studying GCE Chemistry will allow you to learn about new technologies which are being developed. Throughout the course you will build on your GCSE knowledge and develop a deeper understanding of the atom and the properties and analysis of different substances. You will also be developing your practical skills and ability to work with others as you and your peers synthesise and analyse many different substances.

Assessment:

Unit	Assessment Description
AS 1: Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry *40% of AS* *16% of A level*	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Multiple choice and structured questions
AS 2: Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and an Introduction to Organic Chemistry *40% of AS* *16% of A level*	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Multiple choice and structured questions
AS 3: Basic Practical Chemistry *20% of AS* *8% of A level*	Practical booklet A – taken in the laboratory 1 hour 15 minutes Practical booklet B – taken in examination hall 1 hour 15 minutes
A2 1: Further Physical and Organic Chemistry *40% of A2* *24% of A level*	External written examination 2 hours Multiple choice and structured questions
A2 2: Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry *40% of A2* *24% of A level*	External written examination 2 hours Multiple choice and structured questions
A2 3: Further Practical Chemistry *20% of A2* *12% of A level*	Practical booklet A – taken in the laboratory 1 hour 15 minutes Practical booklet B – taken in examination hall 1 hour 15 minutes

Careers Opportunities:
A GCE qualification in Chemistry will allow you to develop many important skills – for example analytical skills, working in a team and problem solving. You will be recognised as someone who has worked with determination to achieve the qualification.

Chemistry opens doors to many varied careers; this is because the subject requires such a broad skill set.

There are many websites which will highlight the career options. The following, from the Royal Society of Chemistry, is particularly good: www.rsc.org/careers/future/what-jobs-can-i-do

A GCE in Chemistry will give you many options for either pursuing the subject further or for studying in an area which is related to Chemistry. Many of the careers are laboratory-based but there are also a large number which are not.

The following website gives good advice about careers in Chemistry:
https://edu.rsc.org/future-in-chemistry

Finally, one of the biggest industries which Chemistry can lead to is chemical engineering. The following website is very useful for finding out more about chemical engineering: www.whynotchemeng.com

Specific Entry Requirements:
Grades AA in GCSE Double Award Science
Grade B in GCSE Maths

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs K Simpson

CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate
(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel)

Overview:
This course will enable pupils to gain a qualification equivalent to one A-Level and the opportunity to progress to a well-paid, prestigious career, within disciplines such as architecture, planning, civil engineering or surveying, equipped with industry standard skills recognised around the world.

Assessment:
There are four mandatory units:

- Construction Principles - Externally assessed, 1hr 30 min written examination
- Construction Design – Externally assessed supervised set task (12 hours over a two-week period)
- Construction Technology – Internally assessed
- Health and Safety in Construction – Internally assessed

Assessments will be awarded Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Careers Opportunities:
Pupils obtaining a subsidiary Diploma can also progress to a Higher National Diploma or Certificate (HND, HNC) or Foundation Degrees in a range of disciplines relating to construction and the built environment professions.

This course is primarily designed for those who wish to progress to university to study degrees in construction related disciplines such as architecture, civil engineering, building surveying, quantity surveying, planning and property investment.

Specific Entry Requirements:
None, however GCSE Construction is recommended.

Teacher-in-charge: Mr D McClelland

CREATIVE DIGITAL MEDIA PRODUCTION (Digital Content Production)

BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate
(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel)

Creative Digital Media Production

Overview:
The digital revolution is now taking place, with no end in sight. This is a practical qualification for pupils who ultimately see themselves working in the creative industries.

Assessment:
Unit 1: Media Representations
Learners will study how different media representations are constructed by media producers to create meaning, messages and values.
Exam onscreen set and marked by Pearson

Unit 4: Pre-production portfolio
Learners study the requirements of planning and delivering a digital media product, and will then produce pre-production tasks, creating a portfolio.

Unit 8: Responding to a Commission
This unit considers the commissioning process and how media producers respond to clients by generating ideas using a range of skills.
A task set and marked by Pearson and completed under supervised conditions.
Written submission.

Unit 14: Digital Magazine Production
Learners will explore codes and conventions of different magazine genres and platforms. They will select and prepare content, and create layouts for a specific genre of magazine.

Unit 4 and 14 will be internally assessed by your teacher and externally verified by an external moderator. You are required to **meet all deadlines** set by your teacher. (42%)

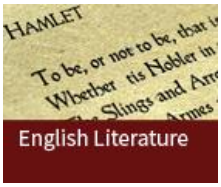
Careers Opportunities:
Industries such as web design, graphics, advertising, communications, journalism, games design or app design.

Universities that offer media courses like to see BTEC qualifications precisely because of their practical nature. Pupils are using industry standard software during the course learning invaluable skills which they can take to university or to a future employer.

Specific Entry Requirements:
None specifically, but a flair for English and Art is beneficial.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs R Martin

ENGLISH LITERATURE



GCE A Level
(Exam Board: WJEC)

Overview:
This course in English literature encourages learners to develop their interest in and enjoyment of literature and literary studies as they:

- read widely and independently both set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
- engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
- develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them
- undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions.

Assessment:
This specification is divided into a total of 5 units, 2 AS units and 3 A2 units.

Year 13:
Unit 1: Section A: Prose fiction pre-1900
One question in two parts, based on 'Jane Eyre'
Unit 1: Section B: Drama
One question based on 'A Streetcar Named Desire'

Unit 2: Section A: Critical analysis
One question requiring critical analysis of either Heaney or Sheers
Unit 2: Section B: Poetry comparison
One question requiring comparison of two poetry texts: Larkin or Duffy

Year 14:
Unit 3: Section A: Poetry pre-1900
One question in two parts, based on the reading of 'John Donne's Collected Poems'
Unit 3: Section B: Unseen poetry
One question requiring comparative analysis of two unseen poems.

Unit 4: Section A: Shakespeare extract
One question based on an extract from 'The Tempest'
Unit 4: Section B: Shakespeare essay
One essay question based on the reading of 'The Tempest'

Each of the above units will be assessed by formal examinations, lasting 2 hours each.

Unit 5: Section A: Prose Study

One 2500 – 3500 word assignment based on the reading of two prose texts – one pre-2000 and one post-2000, nominated by the centre.

This is a coursework unit, which is taught across both years, with wider reading and preparation undertaken in Year 13 and research/production of the final piece in Year 14.

Careers Opportunities:

Whilst there are a range of obvious career choices that will naturally benefit from the study of Advanced Level English Literature, such as publishing, law, journalism, teaching, writing, PR and working in the arts, to name a few, every career will benefit from the transferable core skills involved in the study of literature.

A level English Literature is a 'preferred subject' for a range of courses, particularly in Scottish universities. In recent years this has included courses in: Law, Business, Midwifery, Nursing, Sport and Exercise Science, Teaching.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade B in GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature is desirable.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs R Martin

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate Alternative Academic Qualification
(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel)

Overview:
This qualification offers an engaging programme for those interested in the area of Child Development. The course provides an exciting mixture of both academic study of children; their learning and development up to 8 years of age, and application of this learned content in the context of various childcare settings.
It is broadly equivalent to **one A-Level**

Assessment:
There are four mandatory units:

- Unit 1 Children's Development - Externally assessed, 1hr 45 min written examination
  Children's developmental progress from birth up to eight years, including the theories, principles and factors relating to development, and the potential impact of a range of factors on a child's progress through the developmental milestones.
- Unit 2 Keeping Children Safe – Externally assessed, 1hr 45 min written examination
  Health and safety and safeguarding responsibilities of an individual working in an early years setting; emergency best practices and when to address concerns about a child's welfare.
- Unit 3 Play and Learning – Internally assessed coursework portfolio
  The concept of play, the influence of theories and approaches to play, and the benefits of play and learning activities for children.
- Unit 4 Research and Reflective Practice in an Early Childhood setting – Internally assessed coursework portfolio
  The influence of research findings on policy and provision for children and how this influences the behaviours and expectations of an individual working in an early years setting.

You will be awarded Pass, Merit or Distinction.

Careers Opportunities:
This qualification is primarily designed to support progression to higher education when taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels. However, this qualification will also be relevant for those who choose to enter employment, e.g. an Early Years/Child Care role.

Specific Entry Requirements:
None, however, if you wish to progress to a teaching degree with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS), or a nursing degree, you will require Science, Mathematics and English at GCSE grade C.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs R Martin

FRENCH

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:
If you have an interest and a desire to learn about and experience the world around you then you will be well suited to this course. We live in an interconnected world where international and cross-cultural working relationships are commonplace and a key aspect of the global workplace.

GCE French will give you a fascinating insight into the French language and culture. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in French in both speaking and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of French-speaking countries and communities.

AS Areas of Study
- Relationships
- Culture and Lifestyle.

Literature: Vigan – No et moi

A2 Areas of Study
- Young People in Society
- Our Place in a Changing World

Literature: Text (TBC)

Assessment:
AS 1: Speaking
Question 1: students give a presentation based on an AS level theme related to an aspect of a French-speaking country or community. (approximately 3 mins)
Question 2: conversation. (approximately 8 mins)
30% of AS level 12% of A level

AS 2: Section A – Listening (40 mins)
Students answer **two** sets of questions based on **two** discrete listening in the target language.
Recording 1: students answer in French.
Recording 2: students answer in English.

AS 2: Section B – Reading (50 mins)
Question 1: students answer **one** set of questions in French based on **one** passage.
Question 2: students translate a passage from French into English.

AS 2: Section C – Use of Language (30 mins)
Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4: students complete a series of short grammatical and lexical exercises.
Question 5: students translate short sentences from English into French.

40% of AS level 16% of A level

AS 3: Extended Writing (1 hour)

Students write one essay in French in response to a set film or literary text.

30% of AS level 12% of A level

A2 1: Speaking

Question 1: students introduce and discuss **one** individual research project based on either:

• a cultural aspect of a French-speaking country or community;

• a historical period from the twentieth century of a French-speaking country or community; or

• a region of a French-speaking country or community. (approximately 6 mins)

Question 2: conversation (approximately 9 mins)

18% of A level

A2 2: Section A – Listening (45 mins)

Students answer **two** sets of questions based on **two** discrete listening passages in the target language.

Recording 1: students answer in French.

Recording 2: students answer in English.

A2 2: Section B – Reading (2 hours)

Students answer **two** sets of questions and complete **one** summary exercise and **one** translation exercise.

Question 1: students complete a gap-filling exercise in French.

Question 2: students answer a set of questions in French based on **one** passage.

Question 3: students read a passage in French and summarise it in English.

Question 4: students translate a passage from English into French.

24% of A level

A2 3: Extended Writing (1 hour)

Students write **one** essay in French in response to a set literary text.

18% of A level

Careers Opportunities:

Being able to speak another language, understand other cultures and empathise with colleagues who are working in a different language are valuable skills for pupils and will broaden the range of possible career plans open to you.

Learning a language also gives pupils opportunities to develop confidence, independence, communication skills, presentation techniques and IT competence, as well as skills in research, evaluation and analysis that colleges, universities and employers value highly. Jobs directly related to French include: interpreter, secondary school teacher, and translator. Jobs where French would be useful include broadcast journalist, diplomatic services operational officer, English as a foreign language teacher, international aid /

development worker, logistics and distribution manager, marketing executive, patent examiner, sales executive and tour manager.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Grade A or A* in GCSE French

Teacher-in-charge: Ms R Clarke

GEOGRAPHY

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:
The world in which we live is constantly changing; people move around for different reasons, countries change economically and politically, wars occur, natural disasters are frequent and caught on camera, goods are bought and sold across the world and we travel more than ever before. The growth of digital media means that we are more aware of what is happening in the world around us. We see the migrant issues in Europe, we hear about terrorist threats across the world and we see the devastation that earthquakes cause to people's lives.

By studying Geography you will:

- develop an understanding of the interaction between people and the environment;
- be able to understand and empathise with issues that affect you as a global citizen;
- apply your knowledge and understanding to real life situations;
- collect geographical data in the field and test geographical theory; and
- develop ICT skills through new technologies including Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Assessment:
In the AS units, students will have the opportunity to study fundamental aspects of both physical and human geography.

AS 1: Physical Geography: Exam 1 hour 15 mins; 40% of AS 16% of A level
In **AS 1** you will study human interaction in fluvial environments, human impact on ecosystems, and weather and climate including global weather issues such as El Niño and hurricanes.

AS 2: Human Geography: Exam 1 hour 15 mins; 40% of AS 16% of A level
In **AS 2** you will study aspects of natural population change including the need for fertility policies, planning in rural areas, and the challenges posed in urban areas both in MEDCs and LEDCs.

AS 3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography: Exam 1 hour;
20% of AS 8% of A level
Completing **AS 3** gives students the opportunity to take part in primary data collection relevant to a chosen geographical issue or question.

Students who continue to A2 will explore key themes within Geography.

A2 1: Physical Processes, Landforms and Management: Exam 1hr 30 mins; 24% of A level
In **A21** they will study the processes responsible for and challenges posed by earthquakes and volcanoes, the processes shaping our coastline, global climate change, and the need for sustainable planning policies to manage global climate change.

A2 2: Processes and Issues in Human Geography: Exam 1hr 30 mins; 24% of A level
In **A2 2** students will have the opportunity to study cutting edge themes such as cultural geography and the need for sustainability in both settlements and tourism.

A2 3: Decision Making in Geography: Exam 1hr 30 mins; 12% of A level
In **A2 3** students will investigate real-life issues in a decision-making exercise.

Careers Opportunities:
Through your study of geography at A level you will develop a range of transferable skills that will be valuable for the world of work including working as part of a team, problem-solving, decision-making, creative thinking and managing information.

Many of the topics or issues that you will study will be reported in the media, for example, environmental concerns such as flooding, earthquakes and global warming as well as human issues including migration, conflict, terrorism and war. This close link between studying geography and global issues could lead to careers in aid work, environmental management or governmental occupations.

Many geography students go on to have successful and interesting careers in a wide and diverse range of areas such as urban planning, cartography, GIS applications, climatology, environmental management, weather forecasting, research, teaching and demography. Others use the skills acquired through the study of geography to pursue careers that require similar skills, for example, GIS related jobs, which is a growth area.

Geographers in Emergency Management/Market Researcher/Traffic Manager (Shipper)/Route Delivery Manager/Real Estate Agent/Broker/Appraiser/ Environmental Manager/Forestry Technician /Hazardous-Waste Planner/ Teacher/ /Computer Mapper/ /Remote-Sensing Analyst.
The list is endless and varied!

Specific Entry Requirements:
None, however GCSE Geography is recommended at Grade B.

Teacher-in-charge: Mr G McCandless

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:
Health and Social Care is a stimulating, relevant and interesting subject. The health, social care and early years sectors are major employers in Northern Ireland. By choosing this subject you will be given the opportunity to study a wide range of subjects including communication, social policy, health promotion, physiology and psychology. If you are interested in health and well-being or pursuing a career in the caring professions then this subject will develop knowledge and understanding relevant to degrees in nursing, allied health professions, social sciences, social policy, social work and early years.

Assessment:
Year 13 Units
1. Promoting Quality Care – practices in health and social care settings (Portfolio)
2. Communication in health and social care – how the use of communication skills promotes quality care (Portfolio)
3. Health and Well-Being – organisations that promote health, factors affecting health and well-being (Exam)

Year 14 Units
1. Supporting the Family – investigating the effects of an illness / condition for the whole family (Portfolio)
2. Health Promotion – planning and carrying out a small-scale health promotion (Portfolio)
3. Providing Services – a synoptic unit based on pre-release material (Exam)

Portfolio units, which account for approximately 50% of the course, are prepared and marked internally. Portfolio units require pupils to carry out research, evaluate evidence and draw conclusions which are typed up and presented in the completed unit of work.
External exams make up the remaining 50% of the course. All exams are taken in May /June. There is one 2 hour exam at AS and another at A2. Preparation for external exams requires thorough revision and practice with past paper questions.

Careers Opportunities:
Health and Social Care qualifications lead to many career paths. Many pupils continue their studies in the health sector or move towards the care sector. Many have also used this qualification to pursue careers in teaching in primary schools and nursery units. Some pupils have combined this qualification with P.E. and taken up degrees in Sports related areas. Others have gone on to train in nursing, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and counselling.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Grade C* in GCSE English.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs H Dalzell / Mrs N McFeeley

HISTORY

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:
If you have an inquisitive mind and enjoy finding out about the past, you will enjoy studying GCE History.

Studying GCE History will give you the opportunity to explore key political, economic and social events which have shaped our present. It will build upon your understanding of the past and ability to make links and draw comparisons between historical periods and to identify significant turning points.

Assessment:
Year 13 (AS Level):
Module 1 – Germany 1918-1945 (1 hr 30 mins exam paper using source material)
Module 2 – Russia 1914-1941 (1 hr 30 mins exam paper requiring two short and two long essay responses)

Year 14 (A2 Level):
Module 1 – Clash of Ideologies 1900-2000 (1 hr 15 mins exam paper requiring one essay response)
Module 2 – Partition of Ireland 1900-1925 (2 hr 30 min exam paper using source material)

No coursework is undertaken in History.
All candidates at AS and A2 level are entered for the summer examinations.
There are no January examination entries at A Level.

AS level contributes 40% of the total Advanced GCE marks.
The A2 makes up the other 60% of the marks.

Careers Opportunities:
History can open up a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education and interesting and rewarding careers.

Through following this course, you will have the opportunity to develop skills that are transferable and are highly sought after by employers. You will have the opportunity to develop your skills and increase your self-confidence through research, having a questioning approach to evidence, arguing a case, reaching balanced conclusions based on the evidence and writing in a clear and coherent way.

Many history students go on to have interesting and challenging careers, for example in the media, politics, teaching, business, finance or civil service. An interest in history may even direct you to a more specialist career as an archaeologist, archivist historical researcher, solicitor, barrister, museum curator or genealogist.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Grade B in GCSE History or GCSE English Literature is desirable.

Teacher-in-charge: Miss J Elliott

IT

Level 3 Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma
(Exam Board: OCR)

Information Technology

Overview:

- The Introductory Diploma comprises 5 units, two core units and 3 optional units.
- At the end of the first year the Cambridge Certificate in IT – equivalent to one AS Level - is awarded.
- The final grade awarded at the end of the second year – the Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT - is graded Pass, Merit or Distinction or Distinction*.
- The OCR Cambridge Technical Introductory Diploma in IT is equivalent to one GCE A Level

Assessment:

Year 13

Unit 1: Fundamentals of IT

Understand the fundamentals of hardware, networks, software, the ethical use of computers and how business uses IT.

1 ½ hour written examination

Unit 2: Global Information

Learn about how information is used in the public domain, including its management, processing, storage and associated legislation.

1 ½ hour exam paper based on a pre-released case study

Examinations account for 50% of the total mark.

Year 14:

The Year 14 pathway is the **Application Developer Pathway**

Unit 6: Application Design - Design, create and pitch a prototype of an application.

Unit 17: Internet of Everything - Carry out a feasibility study and pitch a potential idea.

Unit 15: Games design and prototyping - Design and create a prototype of a computer game.

All Year 14 units are Portfolio based and account for 50% of the total mark.

Careers Opportunities:

Further education, Higher education, IT-based apprenticeships.

Application development, Web development, IT Support, Software testing, Software Analysis, Project management, Business analysis.

Specific Entry Requirements:

None, although GCSE Digital Technology or GCSE Computer Science would be desirable.

Teacher-in-charge: Mr R Gabe

LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCE

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:

In this course, pupils learn to appreciate how science contributes in a fundamental way to both economic success and the success of society. They explore how different scientific industries rely on one another in order to grow and develop. The course will also develop pupils' competence in a full range of key practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills.

Key Facts:

- Innovative science qualification developed with key industry partners.
- Growing sector generates £800m turnover per year in Northern Ireland.
- Equips learners for a wide range of STEM careers and higher education pathways.
- Varied topics include genetics, medicine, clinical trials and analytical chemistry.

This qualification is available in Single Award (one 'A' level) or Double Award (two 'A' levels)

Assessment:

Single Award

Unit AS 1: Experimental Techniques
Pupils produce a portfolio of 12 practical reports – 4 from each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.
Internally assessed.
33.34% of AS 13.34% of A Level

Unit AS 2: Human Body Systems
External Written Exam – 1 hour 30 min
33.34% of AS 13.34% of A Level

Unit AS 3: Aspects of Physical Chemistry in Industrial Processes
External Written Exam – 1 hour 30 min
33.34% of AS 13.34% of A Level

Unit A2 1: Scientific Method, Investigation, Analysis and Evaluation
Pupils produce a portfolio of evidence on a scientific investigation of their choice.
20% of A Level

Unit A2 2: Organic Chemistry
External Written Exam – 1 hour 45 min
20% of A Level

Unit A2 3: Medical Physics
External Written Exam – 1 hour 45 min
20% of A Level

Double Award
Pupils must complete the above single award units and:

Unit AS 4: Brain Science
Internally assessed portfolio unit
16.66% of AS 6.66% of A Level

Unit AS 5: Material Science
External Written Exam – 1 hour 30 min
16.67% of AS 6.67% of A Level

Unit AS 6: Medicine, Drugs and Clinical Trials
Internally assessed portfolio unit
16.66% of AS 6.66% of A Level

Unit A2 4: Sound and Light
External Written Exam – 1 hour 45 min
10% of A Level

Unit A2 7: Oral Health and Dentistry
Internally assessed portfolio unit
10% of A Level

Unit A2 9: Analytical Chemistry Techniques
Internally assessed portfolio unit
10% of A Level

Careers Opportunities:
This course aims to develop pupils' advanced practical skills and knowledge, preparing them for employment or third-level study and a career in the life and health sciences.
It will open doors to a wide range of careers including pharma, biomedical science, nursing and radiography.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Pupils will require a minimum of grade BC* at GCSE Double Award Science (Higher Tier).

Applicants who have studied individual Science subjects are required to have studied Biology and Chemistry and have gained at least a grade C in each (Higher Tier).

Pupils will also require a minimum of a grade C in GCSE Maths (Higher Tier).

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs K Simpson

What can you do with Life & Health Sciences?

- The following information is a guide only and focuses on courses available in NI.
- Most other UK universities will accept Life and Health Sciences where they have listed Applied Science as an acceptable subject.
- It is your responsibility to check entry requirements for particular courses – if in doubt, contact the university!

GCE Life and Health Sciences – indicative University Entry (February 2020)

Below is a list of courses that have been reported as accepting GCE Life and Health Sciences at Stranmillis College, Queens University Belfast and Ulster University.

A number of pupils also gain entry to:

- Agriculture and related courses at **CAFRE** or elsewhere; and
- Higher Level Apprenticeship in Applied Science through **Southern Regional College**.

Please note: This list is not complete - GCE Life and Health Sciences is recognised for courses where other criteria have been met or where individual subject requirements are not specified. Entry criteria for individual courses can change and should always be checked with the relevant institution.

St Mary's University College

Accept Single or Double award Life and Health Sciences as part of their entry criteria for:

- BEd (Hons) Primary Science
- BEd (Hons) Post-Primary where subsidiary option in Science is available

Stranmillis University College

Accept Single or Double Award Life and Health Sciences as part of their entry criteria for:

- BEd (Hons) Post-Primary – Mathematics and Science
- BSc (Hons) Health, Physical Activity and Sport

Queens University Belfast

Accept Single Award Life and Health Sciences as part of their entry criteria for:

- Nursing (lower offer entry)
- Midwifery Sciences (lower offer entry)
- Agricultural Technology

Accept Double Award Life and Health Sciences as part of their entry criteria for:

- Food Quality, Safety and Nutrition
- Biological Sciences
- Marine Biology
- Microbiology
- Zoology

For the BEng courses below, Double Award Life and Health Sciences must be taken in conjunction with A-level Mathematics. In all cases where Physics is not offered at A-level applicants must have a minimum of grade C in GCSE Physics or grades CC in Double Award Science.

- Aerospace Engineering
- Chemical Engineering
- Civil Engineering
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Product Design Engineering
- Software and Electronic Systems Engineering

Other UK and ROI universities

Many pupils successfully gain entry to universities elsewhere in the UK and ROI.

Life and Health Sciences (single and double award) is an approved subject and is accepted as meeting the Laboratory Science Subject requirement across the National University of Ireland (NUI) universities.

Ulster University

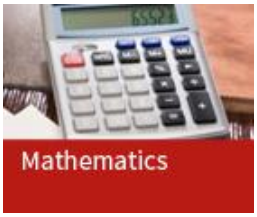
Architectural Engineering	Single or Double award	Single Award meets one of the subject requirements. Double award meets both subject requirements.
Architectural Technology and Management	Single or Double award	Single or Double Award meets the subject requirement
Biology	Single or Double Award	Single or Double Award meets the science subject requirement
Biomedical Engineering	Single or Double award	Single or Double Award meets the subject requirement
Biomedical Science	Single or Double Award	Single Award only acceptable as a Group B subject, Double award meets both Group A&B science requirement
Biomedical Science with DPP Pathology	Single or Double Award	Single Award only acceptable as a Group B subject, Double award meets both Group A&B science requirement
Building Surveying	Single or Double Award	Single or Double Award meets the subject requirement
Civil Engineering	Single or Double award	Single or Double Award along with Mathematics meets the science subject requirement for BEng. Single award meets one of the subject requirements. Double award meets both subject requirements for the BSc.
Construction Engineering and Management	Single or Double Award	Single or Double Award meets the subject requirement
Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Dietetics	Single or Double Award	Double Award meets the science requirement. Single Award acceptable as 1 science subject along with a second science from A-level Biology, Chemistry or Physics
Energy	Single or Double Award	Single award acceptable along with another specified subject. Double award acceptable as two specified subjects.
Environmental Health	Single or Double Award	Single or Double Award meets the subject requirement
Environmental Science	Single or Double Award	Single Award acceptable as 1 science subject and Double Award acceptable as 2 sciences)
Environmental Science with DPP/DIAS	Single or Double Award	Single Award acceptable as 1 science subject and Double Award acceptable as 2 sciences)
Environmental Science with Education	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement

Environmental Science with Psychology	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Food and Nutrition	Single or Double Award	Double Award meets the science subject requirement, Single Award acceptable along with AS Level Chem, Biol, Physics or Maths Grade C or above
Geography	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement. A-Level Geography or stem subject preferred.
Geography with DPP/DIAS	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement. A-Level Geography or stem subject preferred.
Geography with Education	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement. A-Level Geography or stem subject preferred.
Geography with Psychology	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement. A-Level Geography or stem subject preferred.
Health Physiology/Healthcare Science	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Healthcare Science (Cardiac Physiology or Respiratory and Sleep Physiology)	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Human Nutrition	Single or Double Award	Single Award acceptable as a Group B subject, Double award meets both Group A&B science requirement
Marine Science	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Nursing (Adult)	Single or Double Award	No subject requirements
Nursing (Mental Health)	Single or Double Award	No subject requirements
Occupational Therapy	Single or Double Award	No subject requirements
Optometry	Double Award only	Meets the science subject requirement
Paramedic Science	Single or Double Award	No subject requirements
Personalised Medicine (previously called Stratified Medicine)	Double Award only	Double award acceptable as a Group B subject. Group A required from: Information Technology, Digital Technology, Physics, Mathematics or a comparably numerate subject.

Pharmaceutical Biosciences	Single or Double Award	Double Award meets the science (including Chem) subject requirement as long as unit 9 Analytical Chemistry is completed. Single Award acceptable as 'other' science along with A-Level Chemistry
Pharmacy	Single or Double Award	Meets the requirement for 'other' science subject along with A Level Chemistry
Physiotherapy	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Podiatry	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Psychology	Single or Double Award	No subject requirements
Psychology, Social	Single or Double Award	No subject requirements
Radiotherapy and Oncology	Double Award only	Meets the science subject requirement
Speech and Language Therapy	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Sport and Exercise Sciences	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Sport Studies	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement
Sport, Physical Activity and Health	Single or Double Award	Meets the science subject requirement

MATHS

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)



Overview:
This specification aims to encourage pupils to:

- understand mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence, fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study;
- extend their range of mathematical skills and techniques;
- understand coherence and progression in mathematics and how different areas of mathematics are connected;
- apply mathematics in other fields of study and be aware of the relevance of mathematics to the world of work and to situations in society in general;
- use their mathematical knowledge to make logical and reasoned decisions in solving problems both within pure mathematics and in a variety of contexts, and communicate the mathematical rationale for these decisions clearly.

It includes four externally assessed units.

Assessment:
AS 1: Pure Mathematics
External written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes
60% of AS 24% of A level

AS 2: Applied Mathematics (Mechanics and Statistics)
External written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes
40% of AS 16% of A level

A2 1: Pure Mathematics
External written examination: 2 hours 30 minutes
36% of A level

A2 2: Applied Mathematics (Mechanics and Statistics)
External written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
24% of A level

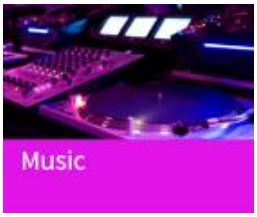
Careers Opportunities:
The skills gained from studying mathematics will support pupils in most further education courses or employment, particularly:
Accountancy, Actuary, Architecture, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computing, Construction, Economics, Engineering, Environmental Studies, Finance, Geography, ICT, Mathematics, Medicine, Physics, Technology.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Preferred - Grade A/A* in GCSE Maths. Must have completed GCSE Modules M4 and M8.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs G Neill

MUSIC

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)



Overview:
This specification offers opportunities to build on the skills and capabilities developed through the delivery of the Key Stage 4 curriculum.

It includes two externally assessed components and one internally assessed component, moderated externally.

It also includes the three fundamental musical activities:
- performing and appraising
- composing
- listening and appraising.

Assessment:
AS 1: Performing
External assessed by visiting examiner
• Solo performance
• Viva voce
32.5% of AS 13% of A level

AS 2: Composing
Internally assessed, externally moderated
• A: Composition task, or
• B: Composition with Technology Task
• Written commentary
32.5% of AS 13% of A level

AS 3: Responding to Music
Two external written examinations
• Test of aural perception (1 hour)
• Written examination (2 hours)
35% of AS 14% of A level

A2 1: Performing
External assessed by visiting examiner
• Solo performance
• Viva voce
19.5% of A level

A2 2: Composing
Internally assessed, externally moderated
• A: Composition task, or
• B: Composition with Technology Task

- Written commentary
- 19.5% of A level

A2 3: Responding to Music
Two external written examinations
- Test of aural perception (1 hour 15 mins)
- Written examination (2 hours)

21% of A level

Careers Opportunities:
This specification encourages pupils to acquire the knowledge, skills and understanding needed to:
- Communicate through music and to take part in music-making
- Develop a life-long interest in music and appreciate the extent of music related careers
- Progress to further study, e.g. third level education

Possible careers include:
Instrumentalist, Composer, Lawyer, Arts Manager/Coordinator, Community Development Specialist, Music Critic, Editor (Film Music)/ Music Magazine/Book, Ethnomusicologist, Instrument designer/repairer/sales, Performing Art Administrator, Publisher, Recording Engineer, Music Therapist, Teacher (College/ University/Secondary/Primary), Music Media (T.V./Radio).

Specific Entry Requirements:
GCSE Grade B or Grade 3 Theory (external) and a minimum Grade 3 in Practical Music exams.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs L Elliott

NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:
Every day, food choices affect our health. Good nutrition is an important part of leading a healthy lifestyle. It can help to reduce the risk of chronic illness and promote overall health. Issues such as food security and sustainability are significant concerns. We are also more conscious of the quality of our food quality and how it is produced.

Assessment:

Year 13
AS:1 Principals of Nutrition
Primarily studying; macro and micronutrients, trace minerals, water and other fluids and nutrition through the lifespan.

AS:2 Diet, Lifestyle and Health
Primarily studying; Eating patterns, Energy and energy balance, Diet-related disorders, Alcohol and Physical Activity.

AS units are externally assessed in one exam and make up 40% of overall weighting.

Year 14
A2:1
Option 1 - Food Security and Sustainability
In this unit, students examine consumer behaviour when making food purchasing decisions and consider the issues and implications of consumer food choice
or
Option 2 – Food safety and Quality
In this unit, students explore securing a safe food supply from the primary producer to the consumer.
Only one of the above options will be studied and this is at the discretion of both schools.

A2:2 Research project – 4000 words
A2 units are externally assessed one exam and the Research Project which make up 60% of overall weighting.

Careers Opportunities:
There are **many** career opportunities in this field of work as scientific knowledge and research develops. Food and nutrition can open up a wide range of possibilities in the world of work, both at home and worldwide, with opportunities for further and higher education.

Together with other relevant qualifications at Level 3, such as A levels in Biology, Chemistry, Life and Health Science, and Maths and/or Level 3 qualifications in Science, pupils will gain the required knowledge to be able to use the qualification to support entry to higher education courses such as:

- BSc (Hons) Dietetics – Ulster University
- BSc (Hons) Food and Nutrition – Ulster University
- BSc (Hons) Human Nutrition – Ulster University
- BSc (Hons) Food Innovation Management – CAFRE
- BSc (Hons) Food Science and Nutrition – Queen's University
- BSc (Hons) Culinary Arts Management – Ulster University
- BSC (Hons) Sustainable Agri-food Management – CAFRE
- FdSc Food Innovation and Technology - CAFRE
- Higher Level Apprenticeship in Food and Drink Manufacture – CAFRE
- Food and Drink Academy - CAFRE

Careers Opportunities include: Food Technologist, Environmental Health Officer, Hotel and Hospitality Management, Catering and Professional Chef, Food buyer, Teacher, Food Scientist, New Product Development Technologist, Food Safety Auditor, Nutritionist, Dietician.

Specific Entry Requirements:
GCSE Food and Nutrition: Grade B or above.
Or
GCSE Double Award Science: Grades AA or above.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs J Knox

PERFORMING ARTS

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:
Performing Arts encompasses drama, dance, music and any genre that involves performing to an audience. Participating in performing arts, whether as a performer or in the more technical production aspects, will develop your self-confidence, self-awareness, personal discipline and creativity. Performing Arts is a collaborative discipline, involving teamwork and self-management.
Performing Arts is a growth industry in Northern Ireland.

There are four units in this course, two at AS and two at A2.

(YOU SELECT YOUR DISCIPLINE – ACTING/SINGING/MUSIC/COSTUME DESIGN/DIRECTING)

Assessment:

AS 1: Choice and development of one discipline (Performance or Production)
- Skills research and skills audit;
- Exploration and presentation of two contrasting extracts (Monologue and Group Performance -20 min max for both)
- Self-evaluation
- Portfolio - Internally Assessed – Externally Moderated
- Live performance (video of monologue and group performance at 3 different stages)
- 60% of AS 30% A-Level

AS 2: Planning and Realising a Performing Arts Event
- Research a range of performing arts events;
- Planning and preparing for a performance or production;
- Evaluation of contribution to the event
- Supporting document –written work under controlled conditions
- Live performance (Visiting Moderator)
- Externally set – Externally Moderated
- 40% of AS 20% of A-Level

A2 1: Planning for Employment
- Investigation of employment opportunities;
- Preparation of a portfolio for employers;
- Participation in an audition and interview;
- Final evaluation
- Internally Assessed
- Record of work - research, report, evidence
- Audition and interview
- 30% of A-Level

A2 2: Performing to a Commission Brief

- Formation of a production company;
- Analysis of professional practice;
- Research, planning and promoting a performance production of an original event (devised piece including all production elements);
- Evaluation of problems and solutions, and individual contributions
- Externally set- Externally Assessed
- Record of work – research, report, evidence
- Evaluation - Controlled Conditions
- Performance/presentation
- 20% of A-Level

Careers Opportunities:

This GCE course provides a solid foundation for progression to further study, training or employment in the performing arts industry. Qualifications in performing arts can lead to employment in areas such as dance, drama, music, theatre, film, television, puppetry, costume design, set design, direction, sound engineering, lighting, make-up or special effects. The course will also provide you with creative skills valued by many employers.

Future courses:

Single or combined Honours Degrees at University, Performing Arts Degree, Drama School, and HND in Performing or Technology based courses.

Possible careers:

Primary or Secondary Teacher, Sports presenter/commentator, Actor/Actress, work within the BBC/UTV – media industry, Broadcaster, Director, Therapist, Community worker, Social worker.

Specific Entry Requirements:

GCSE in a performing Arts subject, e.g. Drama and Music: grade C or above
GCSE English grade C or above
Experience in your chosen area in a performance setting -

If you do not meet the above criteria you will need to attend an audition.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs R Martin

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: WJEC)

Overview:
This specification has been designed to allow pupils to develop an appreciation of physical education in a wide range of contexts. It is designed to integrate theory and practice with an emphasis on the application of theoretical knowledge. Pupils will develop an understanding of how the various theoretical concepts impact on their own performance, through the integration of theory and practice.

Assessment:
This specification is divided into a total of 4 units, 2 AS units and 2 A2 units.

AS Unit 1: Exploring physical education
Written examination: 1¾ hours - 24% of qualification (72 marks)
Question types: Contextualised questions to include multiple choice, data response, short and extended answers

AS Unit 2: Improving personal performance in physical education
Non-exam assessment - 16% of qualification (48 marks)
To assess:
- practical performance in one activity as a player/performer
- practical performance as a coach or official
- Personal Performance Profile

A2 Unit 3: Evaluating physical education
Written examination: 2 hours - 36% of qualification (90 marks)
Question types: A range of questions to include data response, short and extended answers

A2 Unit 4: Refining personal performance in physical education
Non-exam assessment - 24% of qualification (60 marks)
To assess:
- practical performance in one activity as a player/performer, coach or official
- Investigative Research

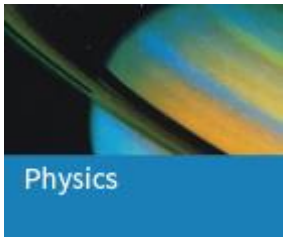
Careers Opportunities:
There are numerous potential areas of employment – PE teaching, Leisure industry – management, Coaching, Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Marketing, Sports Psychology, Sports Development Officer.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Grade B or above in GCSE PE. If you do not have GCSE PE, you must compete in one sport to a high standard. Also GCSE English minimum grade C is required as there is substantial written content to the exams and coursework.

Teacher-in-charge: Ms A Harpur / Mr A Milligan

PHYSICS

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)



Overview:

Physics is a highly regarded subject and develops many high order skills which are sought after by higher and further education and employers. The study of physics is essential in our modern world. Physics holds the answer to many of the biggest questions of our time. There has never been a more exciting time to be involved in physics: it is a period of huge innovation and discovery.

In the study of GCE Physics you will develop your practical skills and your teamwork, your communication and problem-solving skills, and your skills of analysis and investigation. You will also gain valuable experience in research and mathematical skills.

If you enjoy exploring the latest cutting edge developments and being at the forefront of finding solutions to some of the biggest questions facing us then this subject is for you. There has never been a more exciting time to study this subject. This qualification is for students with an interest in science, and strengths in maths, chemistry or computer science at GCSE.

Assessment:

Unit	Assessment Description
AS 1: Forces, Energy and Electricity *40% of AS* *16% of A level*	Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes. Structured questions and extended writing.
AS 2: Waves, Photons and Astronomy *40% of AS* *16% of A level*	Written examination 1 hour 45 minutes. Structured questions and extended writing.
AS 3: Practical Techniques and Data Analysis *20% of AS* *8% of A level*	Two (1 hour) components Four short experimental tests and a separate paper requiring the analysis of experimental results.
A2 1: Deformation of Solids, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics *40% of A2* *24% of A level*	Written examination 2 hours. Structured questions and extended writing. Synoptic Element
A2 2: Fields, Capacitors and Particle Physics *40% of A2* *24% of A level*	Written examination 2 hours. Structured questions and extended writing. Synoptic Element
A2 3: Practical Techniques and Data Analysis *20% of A2* *12% of A level*	Two (1 hour) components Two short experimental tests and a separate paper requiring the analysis of experimental results.

Careers Opportunities:

A qualification in Physics opens up a diverse range of opportunities. Most students that study Physics GCE aspire to further study at university and beyond. Physics provides access to a diverse range of options at university, from manufacturing and medical occupations to computer gaming and the finance sector. Research shows Physics graduates can expect to earn more on average than graduates of most other subject areas.

Physics also complements a range of other subjects including maths and other sciences.

This qualification is best suited to students who aspire to university level education. An A Level in Physics opens doors to many wide and varied career options: in medicine, sciences, research, teaching, nursing, dentistry, veterinary science, technology, forensic science and others.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grades AB in GCSE Double Award Science – must have Grade A in Physics units
Grade B in GCSE Maths

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs K Simpson

Psychology

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: WJEC)

Overview:
Ever wondered if prison really does change criminal behaviour?
Or why some people conform?
Or perhaps if the experiences you had before the age of five really do shape the person you are today?

A-level Psychology will give you an understanding of the way people think and why people behave in certain ways.

You will learn a variety of skills including analytical thinking, improved communication, problem solving and many more that will prepare you for an exciting future with the possibility of a range of fantastic careers.

Assessment:
Unit 1: Approaches in Psychology:
The purpose of this unit is to give a solid grounding in some of the basic core elements of psychology. The intention is to allow the learner, through the study of classic research to gain an appreciation that psychology continues to develop and evolve.
The **5 psychological approaches**. Each explains human behaviour in a slightly different way (eg Biological and Cognitive).
1 hour 30 mins Written Exam worth 20% - Year 13

Unit 2: Using Psychological Concepts:
5 Contemporary Debates- including 'The Ethics of Neuroscience' and 'Reliability of Eyewitness Testimony'
Principals of Research- from the initial planning stage of psychological research, right through to the final stage of analysis and evaluation
1 hour 30 mins Written Exam worth 20% - Year 13

Unit 3: Implications in the Real World
Having learnt about the various psychological approaches in Unit 1, learners are expected to apply this knowledge and understanding to human / animal behaviours. Learners should be able to explain and draw conclusions about the possible causes of these behaviours and understand that psychology then has the potential to impact on society as a whole by developing methods of modifying behaviour.
3 specific behaviours

* Criminal Behaviour
* Schizophrenia
* Addiction

Controversies in Psychology- including 'Cultural Bias' and 'Using non-human animals in research'

2 hours 30 mins Written Exam worth 40% - Year 14

Unit 4: Applied Research Methods

Carry out 2 personal investigations relating to research titles set by the exam board. For example 'A Questionnaire on Pet Ownership and Stress'

1 hour 30 mins Written Exam worth 20% - Year 14

Careers Opportunities:

Psychology can help your career either directly or indirectly. Of course, if you wish to become a psychologist, therapist or mental health worker, this A Level is of direct value. Any student, who wishes to pursue a career in any of the caring professions, or in teaching, marketing and business, will find an understanding of psychology useful.

In 2023, Psychology was the UK's **2nd most popular A Level**, behind Maths, English and Biology. The majority of A Level Psychology students went on to **study Law, Social Sciences, Teaching and Business** at University.

Studying psychology at university can give you a whole host of exciting career options, including:

- Marketing
- Business development
- Accountancy
- Human resources
- Forensic psychology
- Occupational therapy
- Clinical psychology
- Nursing
- Teaching.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C in GCSE Maths; Grade B in English; BB in DA Science or B in SA Science (Higher Tier).

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs R Martin

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:
GCE Religious Studies offers an academic approach to the study of religion, ethics and philosophy. It is open to all pupils of any religious persuasion or none.

Religion plays an important role in many different cultures. Religious Studies enables you to develop an insight and interest in areas of knowledge, belief and thought central to an understanding of the modern world. As part of this course, you will discuss, debate and critically evaluate contemporary religious ideas. You will also investigate and speculate about the ultimate meaning and purpose of life.

Assessment:
AS 1: An Introduction to Luke's Gospel
Pupils will explore the content of Luke's Gospel, how it was written, the religious and political background of Palestine, themes in Luke's Gospel and the ministry of Jesus. Pupils will also look at the relationship between Luke and other aspects of human experience.
Written examination – 1 hour 20 mins
50% of AS 20% of A Level

AS 5: The Celtic Church in Ireland in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Centuries
Pupils will explore the origins, development and nature of the Celtic Church in Ireland from its pagan roots. They will study Saint Patrick, Celtic monasticism and the Celtic Penitentials. Pupils will also look at the relationship between the Celtic Church in Ireland in the fifth, sixth and seventh centuries and other aspects of human experience.
Written examination – 1 hour 20 mins
50% of AS 20% of A Level

A2 1: Themes in the Synoptic Gospels
This builds on the study of Luke's Gospel completed at AS Level. Pupils will study the Synoptic Problem and the person of Jesus in the Synoptic Gospels. The Passion and Resurrection narratives will be compared and themes of Religious Text, Authority and Interpretation will be studied.
Written examination – 2 hours
50% of A2 30% of A Level

A2 5: Themes in the Celtic Church, Reformation and Post Reformation
Pupils will study missionary outreach in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and the challenges of secularisation and atheism. They will also study the themes of faith, morality and the state in relation to the Celtic Church and Post-Reformation Church History.
Written examination – 2 hours
50% of A2 30% of A Level

There is a synoptic element at A2 where both modules are considered alongside a theme.

Careers Opportunities:
Religious Studies opens a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education and interesting and rewarding careers. By engaging in discussion and debate, pupils learn to hone their skills in "arguing a case", supported by relevant evidence – a skill which is central to progress in the world of work.

Pupils can progress to university to study courses in Arts and Humanities, Social Sciences, Law, and Teaching. They can also undertake occupations which involve working with people, e.g. Social Work, Youth Work, Journalism and Childcare.

Specific Entry Requirements:
A grade B in GCSE RE or another literacy-based subject such as History or English Literature is preferred.

Teacher-in-charge: Miss L Hegarty

APPLIED SCIENCE

BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate
(Exam Board: Pearson)

Overview:

This qualification reflects aspects of employment within science organisations or organisations that use science and enables learners to develop practical scientific skills.

Units within the qualification cover areas of laboratory science, forensic science, medical science, environmental science and biological, chemical and physical science.

Assessment:
Pupils will study 4 units – 3 mandatory and one optional unit.

Year 13
- Principles and Applications of Science 1 – Externally assessed written examination (2 hr)
- Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques – Internally assessed portfolio

Year 14
- Scientific Investigation Skills – Externally assessed practical investigation (3 hr) and Written examination (1.5hrs)
- Physiology and Human Body Systems – Internally assessed portfolio

Each unit will be awarded pass, merit or distinction.

The specification will be delivered in a science laboratory. Pupils will be prepared for the exams through normal teaching tutorials and exam question practice, and carry out practical work in order to learn how to deal with results and evaluate scientific procedures. Exam units will require homework and class tests and portfolio units will require the write up of scientific reports.

Careers Opportunities:

Units within the qualification provide a route to employment in the science industry or within organisations that use science.

These can include roles such as working as a quality control technician/analyst; working in a research laboratory in the development of new drugs; working in the chemical industry; involved with testing materials; working in chemical companies developing fertilisers and other plant feeds; working for a scientific magazine or journal; working in a biotechnology laboratory carrying out fermentation and purification processes.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Preferred - Grade C in GCSE Maths, English and Science.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs K Simpson

SPANISH

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

If you have an interest and a desire to learn about and experience the world around you then you will be well suited to this course. We live in an interconnected world where international and cross-cultural working relationships are commonplace and a key aspect of the global workplace.

GCE Spanish will give you a fascinating insight into the Spanish language and culture. Whilst developing the ability to communicate confidently and effectively in Spanish in both speaking and writing, you will also learn about the contemporary society, cultural background and heritage of Spanish-speaking countries and communities.

Assessment:

AS Areas of Study

- Relationships
- Culture and Lifestyle.

A2 Areas of Study

- Young People in Society
- Our Place in a Changing World

AS 1: Speaking
Question 1: students give a presentation based on an AS level theme related to an aspect of a Spanish-speaking country or community. (approximately 3 mins)
Question 2: conversation. (approximately 8 mins)
30% of AS level 12% of A level

AS 2: Section A – Listening (40 mins)
Students answer **two** sets of questions based on **two** discrete listening passages in the target language.
Recording 1: students answer in Spanish.
Recording 2: students answer in English.

AS 2: Section B – Reading (50 mins)
Question 1: students answer **one** set of questions in Spanish based on **one** passage.
Question 2: students translate a passage from Spanish into English.

AS 2: Section C – Use of Language (30 mins)
Questions 1, 2, 3 and 4: students complete a series of short grammatical and lexical exercises.
Question 5: students translate short sentences from English into Spanish.
40% of AS level 16% of A level
AS 3: Extended Writing (1 hour)
Students write one essay in Spanish in response to a set film or literary text.
30% of AS level 12% of A level

A2 1: Speaking
Question 1: students introduce and discuss **one** individual research project based on either:
• a cultural aspect of a Spanish-speaking country or community;
• a historical period from the twentieth century of a Spanish-speaking country or community; or
• a region of a Spanish-speaking country or community. (approximately 6 mins)
Question 2: conversation (approximately 9 mins)
18% of A level

A2 2: Section A – Listening (45 mins)
Students answer **two** sets of questions based on **two** discrete listening passages in the target language.
Recording 1: students answer in Spanish.
Recording 2: students answer in English.

A2 2: Section B – Reading (2 hours)
Students answer **two** sets of questions and complete **one** summary exercise and **one** translation exercise.
Question 1: students complete a gap-filling exercise in Spanish.
Question 2: students answer a set of questions in Spanish based on **one** passage.
Question 3: students read a passage in Spanish and summarise it in English.
Question 4: students translate a passage from English into Spanish.
24% of A level

A2 3: Extended Writing (1 hour)
Students write **one** essay in Spanish in response to a set literary text.
18% of A level

Careers Opportunities:
Being able to speak another language, understand other cultures and empathise with colleagues who are working in a different language are valuable skills for pupils and will broaden the range of possible career plans open to you.

Learning a language also gives pupils opportunities to develop confidence, independence, communication skills, presentation techniques and IT competence, as well as skills in research, evaluation and analysis that colleges, universities and employers value highly.

Jobs directly related to Spanish include: interpreter, secondary school teacher, and translator. Jobs where Spanish would be useful include broadcast journalist, diplomatic services operational officer, English as a foreign language teacher, international aid / development worker, logistics and distribution manager, marketing executive, patent examiner, sales executive and tour manager.

Specific Entry Requirements:
Grade A or A* in GCSE Spanish

Teacher-in-charge: Ms R Clarke

SPORT AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Level 3 Introductory Diploma / Level 3 Foundation Diploma
(Exam Board: OCR)

Sport

Overview:

The CTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport is broadly equivalent to one GCE A Level. The CTEC Level 3 Foundation Diploma, which is a 'two' A-level equivalent is also available.

Assessment:

Extended Certificate

You must study the following units:

Year 13

- Body Systems and the Effects of Physical Activity - Externally Assessed 1.5 hour exam
- Sports Coaching and Activity Leadership – Internally Assessed Portfolio

Year 14

- Sports Organisation and Development - Externally Assessed 1.5 hour exam
- Performance Analysis in Sport - Internally Assessed Portfolio
- Organisation of Sports Events - Internally Assessed Portfolio

Foundation Diploma

You will study the following units in addition to those above:

Year 13

- Working Safely in Sport, Exercise, Health and Leisure – Externally Assessed 1.5 hour exam
- Physical Activity for Special Groups – Internally Assessed Portfolio
- Practical Skills in Sport and Physical Activity – Internally Assessed Portfolio

Year 14

- Sport and Exercise Psychology - Internally Assessed Portfolio
- Health and fitness Testing - Internally Assessed Portfolio
- Sports Injury and Rehabilitation - Internally Assessed Portfolio

You will complete a range of assignments for each unit, which will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction

Careers Opportunities:

This subject provides an introduction for those wishing to build a career in sport. These areas include careers in Primary or Secondary Teaching, Sports Presenter/Commentator, Sports Coach, Sports media industry, Sports Broadcaster, Manager, Sports Community worker, Sports Club Organiser, Personal Fitness Coach, Sports Development Officer, Trainer of Sports Leaders and so on!

You can also progress on to Higher Education.

Specific Entry Requirements:

No particular requirements, but an interest in sport would be useful.

Teacher-in-charge: Ms A Harpur / Mr A Milligan

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

GCE A Level
(Exam Board: CCEA)

Overview:

The world we live in is populated with products, some simple, some complex, which we make use of each day of our lives in a wide range of contexts. We use products to help us in our work, to relax, to communicate with each other and in practically every part of our existence. All of these have had to be designed from an initial idea or developed from an existing idea or product.

This specification promotes the concept of design allied with the application of scientific principles to realise solutions to real-life problems and everyday situations. It gives you the opportunity to get involved in the world of design. It will equip you with the skills required to take an initial idea through the process of design, utilising a range of scientific and engineering principles, with the ultimate goal of realising a practical outcome.

Assessment:

<u>AS Unit 1 T&D Theory Section A & D</u>
One external written examination consisting of two papers:
Paper 1: Pupils answer seven questions from a common core paper.
Paper 2: Specialist area of study – Product Design – 2 questions.
Each paper is 1 hour with a 20 minute break in between.
50% of AS 20% of A2

<u>AS Unit 2 Product Design</u>
This unit draws on knowledge and skills covered in Unit AS 1. Pupils must analyse an existing product with a view to redesigning it, or an aspect of it. It involves Investigation, Redesign Development and Evaluation.
Controlled Assessment of 45 hours:

- Portfolio = Maximum 10 x A3 pages
- Manufacture a 3D model or proto-type

50% of AS 20% of A2

<u>A2 Unit 1 T&D Theory</u>
This unit focuses on Product Design - 1 external written exam – 2 hrs – Pupils answer 2 questions.
30% of A2

<u>A2 Unit 2 Product-Systems, Design and Manufacture</u>
Design and Manufacture a technological product that will reflect the chosen option in Unit 1 – Product Design.
Identification of a Problem, Specification, Solutions, Development and Evaluation
Controlled Assessment of 60 hours:

- Portfolio = Maximum 20 X A3 pages

- Manufacture your final idea

30% of A2

A contribution of £10 towards materials is required for the course in both Year 13 and 14.

Careers Opportunities:

Architect, Architectural drafter, Graphic Designer, Cartographer, Landscape architect, Joiner/carpenter Engineering associate (mechanical/electrical), Teacher

Specific Entry Requirements:

None - although an A* - B grade at GCSE in either Technology or Engineering is highly advisable in order to achieve a good grade at this level and to have gained a base in the Technological skills required in the subject. GCSE Construction does not prepare pupils for this course.

Teacher-in-charge: Mr D McClelland

TRAVEL AND TOURISM

BTEC National Level 3 Extended Certificate
(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel)

Overview:

The travel and tourism sector continues to grow at a rapid pace, with the amount of travel undertaken by individuals for both leisure and business purposes continuing to increase. An expansion in the short-break market has led to a growth of regional airports in the UK and across Europe and a rise in the number of new hospitality enterprises including health spas and boutique hotels. This rapid expansion has led to huge demand for a more flexibly skilled workforce.

This qualification is designed to support learners who are interested in learning about the travel and tourism industry alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in travel and tourism-related subjects.

Assessment:

There are 3 mandatory units of work:
Unit 1 – The World of Travel and Tourism – Externally Assessed Written Examination (1hr 30min)
Unit 2 – Global Destinations – Externally Assessed set task (6 hrs supervised preparation, 3 hr exam)
Unit 3 – Principles of Marketing in Travel and Tourism (portfolio)

And 1 optional unit:
Unit 9 – Visitor Attractions (portfolio)

- Pupils will undertake various roles, e.g. tour operators, travel reps, and complete a number of tasks. These may include: travel brochures, posters, and itineraries.
- Learning is undertaken in a variety of formats: textbook, PowerPoint, research, site visits, and guest speakers.

Careers Opportunities:

This qualification is recognised by colleges, universities and employers.
Pupils may progress to further education, training or employment in areas such as Travel Agent, Holiday Reps, Tourist Information Manager, Hotels, events, marketing or customer services. Many past pupils have gone on to study Travel and Tourism undergraduate courses.

Specific Entry Requirements:

Grade C in GCSE English is required.
Grade C in GCSE Maths is desirable.

Teacher-in-charge: Mrs M Campbell /Mrs N McFeeley