



Guided Pathways

Choices at 14+

2025



Irlam and Cadishead Academy
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning



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A Message from Our Principal

As the Principal of Irlam and Cadishead Academy, it gives me great pleasure to inform you about the Year 9 options process, which presents a unique opportunity for your child to shape their curriculum for the next two years.

At this crucial stage in your child's education, we believe it is important for them to have a say in the subjects they study. Our aim is to provide a well-rounded education that not only prepares them for their future careers but also caters to their individual interests and strengths.

To assist you and your child through this process, we have prepared a comprehensive booklet that outlines all the available options and provides detailed information about each subject. It is crucial that you take the time to read this booklet carefully, as it will help you make informed decisions regarding your child's educational journey.

We encourage you to sit down with your child and discuss their options. This is an excellent opportunity for them to explore their passions and consider the subjects that align with their future aspirations. By engaging in these conversations, you can support your child in making choices that will benefit and inspire them in the years to come.

Please note that we understand that this process can be overwhelming for both students and parents alike. Therefore, we are here to support you every step of the way. Our dedicated staff members are available to answer any questions you may have and provide guidance throughout the decision-making process.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment to your child's education. Together, we can empower them to make the best decisions for their future.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Leader
Principal

A Message from Our Assistant Principal

Dear Students and Parents/Carers

I am pleased to introduce you to this year's Key Stage 4 Curriculum Booklet, which outlines details of the courses offered in Years 10 and 11. This is an exciting moment for students where for the first time they will have the opportunity to make choices about their curriculum.

It can also be a daunting prospect for many and difficult to know where to start! You will be making choices which will affect not only what you study in the future but also your long-term career prospects. Accordingly, you need to think very carefully about the courses which are on offer before making decisions. This will ensure that what you study in the next two years suits your needs and aspirations.

At Irlam and Cadishead Academy we are committed to ensuring you are provided with a broad and balanced curriculum that allows you to progress into post-16 study whilst developing all the skills and talents needed for you to go on to realise your full potential in the future.

When making your choices, think about where studying those subjects can lead to, in terms of courses in further education, higher education and also in the world of work, as well as your aptitude and interest in those subjects. The information for each subject is included in this booklet and forms a starting point for you to begin making your decision. You will also have the opportunity to find out more about the different courses on offer through assemblies, form time activities and taster lessons. We suggest that you read this booklet thoroughly and talk to as many of your teachers as possible, as well as your parents/carers and other adults in your family, about your intended choices.

We are confident that all students will be able to find a suitable combination of subjects and that their Key Stage 4 studies will engage and motivate them, in order to allow them to achieve the highest possible success in the future.

Ms S Milner
Assistant Principal



A Message from Head of Year

As you begin to think about you and your child's GCSE options, I wanted to reach out and offer my support and guidance during this important time in their academic journey.

Choosing GCSE subjects is a significant decision that can shape their future educational and career pathways. I understand that this can feel like a big responsibility, and it's completely normal to have questions or feel uncertain about which subjects to choose. All of the staff at Irlam and Cadishead are here to help you and your child through every step of the process.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any member of the pastoral team if you need further advice or if you have any concerns around the choices of options your child is thinking of taking at GCSE.

Remember, this is an exciting time, and the decisions that are made now are just one step in a longer journey of learning and growth. Encourage them to take their time, ask teachers and members of staff any questions, and trust that they have the support they need to make the best choices for themselves.

If you need any further support, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Good luck with your options! **Mr Billinge**



Key Dates

- **16th January** - Options Information Evening
- **w/c 10th February** - Taster Sessions
- **w/c 27th January** - Form Tutor 1:1 conversations
- **w/c 27th January** - Assemblies Commence
- **27th February** - Year 9 Parents' Evening & Options forms submitted

Structure of the Curriculum for Year 10 and 11 Students

The structure of the curriculum for Year 10 and 11 students has 2 distinct parts:

Part 1

The core curriculum is compulsory for all students:

- English Language and English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science. You will be directed to one of two pathways in Science. This will depend on your performance in Year 9:
 - Triple Award Science: You can opt to take this via part two of the curriculum and via additional lessons will take three separate GCSEs in Science - one in each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, or
 - Combined Science (Trilogy). This course is made up of separate Biology, Chemistry and Physics modules. A double grade from 9-9 to 1-1 will be awarded.
- Core Physical Education.

Part 2

We offer different option pathways to each student according to how well we feel they will achieve on the courses in that pathway. The options pathways are detailed overleaf.

Guided Options Pathways

At ICA we have high aspirations for all students and believe the options process reflects this. Your choices will be guided by your teachers based on assessments, data and aptitude in subject areas. The selection of an option will be seen as an expression of interest and we will try to ensure all students are able to study their chosen subjects. However, where students are not suited to a chosen subject we may advise against this.

Once all student options have been collated the school reserves the right to not run subjects with a low intake. If a subject is closed, we will work with any affected students to ensure they are entered for a suitable alternative.

There are 2 pathways dependent on students' performance during Key Stage 3.

Red Pathway

Most students will be guided to follow this academic pathway which will allow them to achieve an EBacc suite of qualifications. They provide a wide academic grounding which will help them progress to A Levels and further study at KS5. Whilst not part of the admissions criteria for university, they are highly valued by universities and seen as facilitating subjects.

Students following this pathway must select either History or Geography, alongside French. They will then have 2 further choices from the option blocks below

Green Pathway

Students will choose either History or Geography alongside 3 options from the choices below

Red Pathway	Green Pathway
GCSE History or Geography GCSE French	GCSE History or Geography
Guided Option Choices	
GCSE Triple Science GCSE History GCSE Geography GCSE Religious Studies GCSE Art GCSE Textiles GCSE Music Cambridge National Level 2 in Sport Studies BTEC Technical Award in Performing Arts Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering NCFE Technical Award in Engineering BTEC Creative Media Production NCFE Technical Award in Childcare	

Please note: only Art or Textiles can be chosen, not both.

Some subjects have maximum class sizes.

Option Blocks

Please find below the subjects we are intending to offer in each of the four proposed option blocks. You should be aware, however, that if too few students opt for a course then we may be unable to run it. It should be stressed that the selection of a subject is not an automatic guarantee, rather an expression of interest. Naturally, we will try to ensure that all students are able to study the subjects that they have expressed an interest in. However, if we feel that the student is not suited to a subject or type of course then we may advise against the selection. Also, some courses are very popular and may become oversubscribed. Therefore, to secure your place on a course, please attend the parents'/carers' evening on **Thursday 27th February**.

For each option block, please select your first-choice subject and a reserve choice.

Please note that students on the Red Pathway must select History or Geography and French, students on the Green Pathway must select History or Geography.

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
History	History	Sport Studies	Textiles
Geography	Geography	History	RE
Triple Science	Childcare	French	Engineering
Sport Studies	Art	Geography	Art
Engineering	French	Hospitality & Catering	Creative Media
Hospitality & Catering	Engineering	Drama	Hospitality & Catering
		Music	Sport Studies

Tips for making good choices...

When considering your option choices, you should try to balance the following factors:

- Interest and enjoyment
- Ability and progress
- Sensible combinations (those which are likely to ensure a broad education)



Do...

- Choose courses you are interested in and which you are likely to enjoy.
- Think about the variety within your curriculum as you select your subjects and try to arrive at a balance which matches your talents.
- Choose courses in which you are likely to achieve success.
- Choose courses that fit your future needs; although the core is designed to ensure breadth, a solid groundwork in a subject you may want to continue with at Post 16 will be helpful.
- Look up higher education degree courses that interest you on unistats.direct.gov.uk or www.ucas.com and see what subjects, qualifications and grades you will need to do these courses.
- Talk to your parents, your teachers and careers staff. They will each have an important perspective.



Don't...

- Choose courses just because your friends are choosing them.
- Choose a subject just because you get on well with your teacher. You might well have a different teacher at KS4.



GCSE Subjects

The background is a solid dark blue. In the lower half, there are several overlapping circles and arcs in lighter shades of blue. Some of these shapes contain small white dots, arranged in small clusters.

English Language and Literature

Compulsory for all students

What will I study?

Students will study the AQA specification in English Language and Literature.

All students will study GCSE English Language and English Literature in Key Stage 4. The English Language qualification involves the study of non-fiction, imaginative writing and transactional writing, whilst the English Literature qualification will require students to study a range of texts, including 19th century fiction, a play/performance, Shakespeare and poetry.



Subject Lead:
Mrs S Hutchinson



Details of External Examinations/Coursework Requirements

100% Examinations

- English Language Paper 1 (50% of grade): Reading analytical skills and writing to describe/narrate.
- English Language Paper 2 (50% of grade): Reading analytical skills and writing to argue/persuade/advise.
- English Literature Paper 1 (40% of grade): Essay responses to a Shakespeare text and pre-20th Century text.
- English Literature Paper 2 (60% of grade): Essay responses to a 20th Century text, conflict poems and an unseen poem.
- Controlled Assessment - Speaking & Listening: Students will develop and create a presentation about a topic they feel passionately about. A separate award is achieved graded as: Pass, Merit or Distinction.



Additional Information

These courses will enable students to:

- Develop their analytical skills, considering key themes and characters in relation to a writer's intention and purpose.
- Acquire a deeper understanding and appreciation of a range of contexts and settings.
- Develop creative and functional writing skills, whilst considering audience and purpose.
- Study language - its meaning, effect and development.
- Read for pleasure, whilst accessing a range of authors and styles.

Future Prospects/Career Options

Good GCSEs in English Language and Literature provide a strong foundation for further academic and vocational study in most areas. Future educational providers and employers will always consider an individual's English GCSE grade, as reading and writing skills are prevalent in most careers.

An English GCSE can prepare students for jobs such as teaching, media and marketing, law, travel and tourism, and many more.



Mathematics

Compulsory for all students

What will I study?

Pearson (Edexcel)
Mathematics (9-1)



Subject Lead: Miss A Noble

Knowledge and Understanding

The Mathematics qualification requires students to:

- Develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including: Number, Algebra, Shape and Space & Probability.
- Use their knowledge and understanding to make connections between mathematical concepts.
- Be able to apply the functional elements of mathematics to solve problems in real-life situations.

Skills and Problem Solving

Students are given the opportunity to develop the ability to:

- Acquire and use problem-solving strategies.
- Select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in mathematical, every day and real-world situations.
- Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions.

Assessment

This course covers algebra, number, ratio, shape and statistics. You learn how to breakdown and evaluate complex mathematical problems that appear in the real world. The qualification is assessed by three equally weighted examination papers:

- Each paper is 1hr 30mins in length. Paper 1 is non-calculator and Papers 2 and 3 are calculator allowed.
- Students will study either the Higher (Grades 9 – 3) or Foundation (Grades 5 – 1) Tier course, whichever enables them to perform to the best of their potential.
- All three examination papers must be completed in the same examinations series, at the end of Year 11, at the same tier.

Where will a qualification in Maths take me?

An understanding of mathematics is an understanding of the world around you. It will enable you to access the next steps of your life, whatever that will be, with choice and a sound base of knowledge. It is an 'enabling' qualification that will open future doors, in addition to developing your analytical and problem solving skills. A career from maths could be:

- Engineering
- IT, Computing
- Accountancy
- Science and Research
- Banking and Finance
- Consultancy
- Teaching



Science

Combined Science is compulsory for all students who are not studying Triple Science

There are two GCSE pathways in science, Separate (Triple) and Combined (Double) Science.

Separate Science (Triple)

You take three separate GCSEs in Science - one in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Combined Science

Taken together these cover all three sciences Biology, Chemistry and Physics but with a reduced content. This still allows progression to all post-16 courses.



Subject Lead:
Mrs John-Charles



Combined Science

What will I study?

AQA GCSE Combined Science (Trilogy course).

Throughout the course you will study in separate lessons in Biology, Chemistry and Physics leading to all the Science examinations at the end of Year 11. Across the three sciences a total of 24 units will be studied across Years 10 and 11.

Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Details of External Examinations/Coursework Requirements

Examinations for all GCSE Combined Science modules will be taken at the end of Year 11. There will be two examinations for each science making a total of 6 exams. Each examination will be 1 hour 15 minutes long.

Additional Information

The scientific ideas which feature in this specification have a significant cultural influence on how people think about themselves and their environment. Also, candidates gain more insight into the reliability and significance of scientific data. All exams can be taken at either Foundation or Higher Tier and re-sits are NOT allowed.



Separate Science (Triple)

Option choice

Key Information

The GCSE Separate Science course is available to pupils selected by their teachers, based on progress at Key Stage 3, and is conditional on continued hard work and performance in modular tests. Pupils should also be able mathematicians.

Students taking Separate Science will get a grade for each subject. These grades may be different. There are tiers of assessment- Foundation (1-5) and Higher (5-9).

What will I study?

AQA GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Across the sciences a total of 25 topics will be studied.

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Space Physics

Details of External Examinations/Coursework Requirements

All examinations will be taken at the end of Year 11. There will be two 1 hour 45-minute examinations for each science. Each examination will make up 50% of the relevant GCSE.

The other topics will be in the second paper examination in Science.

Additional Information

The scientific ideas which feature in this specification have a significant cultural influence on how people think about themselves and their environment. Also, candidates gain more insight into the reliability and significance of scientific data. All exams can be taken at either Foundation or Higher Tier and re-sits are NOT allowed.

What will I study?

Paper 1: Understanding the Modern World

- Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship: This unit focuses on the rule of the Kaiser, the Great Depression and the rise of Hitler and the Nazis.
- Conflict and Tension 1894-1918: This unit studies the causes of World War One and the battles that took place including the Somme and Gallipoli.

Paper 2: Shaping the Nation

- Health and the People c1000-Present Day: This thematic study analyses how healthcare and medicine have developed across 1000 years. Topics include Medieval Health and the Black Death, medicine in wartime and the development of the NHS.
- Elizabethan England c1568-1603: This unit studies the final 35 years of Queen Elizabeth I's reign. Topics studied include the Spanish Armada, voyages of discovery and Mary, Queen of Scots.

History

Option choice

Details of External Examinations/ Coursework Requirements

2 external examinations, both to be sat at the end of the GCSE course:

- Paper 1: **Understanding the Modern World**, 50% of the GCSE Qualification (2 hours)
- Paper 2: **Shaping the Nation**, 50% of the GCSE Qualification

Additional Information

The AQA History specification was chosen to enable students to study different aspects of the past, so that they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understand what drives change and learn how the past influences the present.

The course looks at a variety of fascinating periods in our history as well as that of the wider world. History is a subject which fires the imagination, develops creativity, enables debate and discussion and teaches students the importance of analysis and evaluation.

Most importantly of all, History is a subject which is interesting and enjoyable, providing thought provoking lessons on how the past shapes the very world we live in now.



Subject Lead: Mr Thomas

Geography

Option choice

What will I study?

GCSE Geography offers students the opportunity to study aspects of both the physical and human world and their associated processes. The course aims to make students of Geography effective and independent learners, critical and reflective with enquiring minds. We develop a knowledge and understanding of geographical concepts and appreciate the relevance of these concepts to our changing world. We explore the differences and similarities between people's views of the world, its environments, societies and cultures. We strive to understand the significance of values and attitudes towards the development and resolution of issues. We develop and apply our students' learning to the real world through fieldwork and other out of classroom activities.



Subject Lead:
Miss Daly

Unit 1: Living With The Physical Environment

- **Physical Landscapes** - UK physical landscapes, coasts and rivers.
- **The Living World** - ecosystems, tropical rainforest and cold environments.
- **The Challenges of Natural Hazards** - earthquakes, volcanoes, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK and climate change.

Unit 2: Challenges In The Human Environment

- **Urban Issues and Challenges** - urbanisation, squatter settlements, urban areas in the UK, regeneration and urban sustainability.
- **The Challenges of Resource Management** - food, water, energy.
- **The Changing Economic World** - the development gap, Economic development, Transnational corporations, Economic futures in the UK.

Unit 3: Key Geographical Themes

- **Geographical Skills** - a wide variety of skills will be developed throughout the course. These are Cartographic, Graphical, Numerical and Statistical skills.
- **Issue Evaluation** - contemporary geographical issue. A resource booklet is released 12 weeks prior to the exam. Students will develop a critical perspective on the issue(s) studied, consider the points of view of the stakeholders involved, make an appraisal of the advantages and disadvantages, and evaluate the alternatives.
- **Fieldwork** - we undertake two geographical enquiries, in contrasting environments. Students will follow an enquiry process; formulate a hypothesis, collect primary and secondary data, data presentation, data analysis, conclusion and evaluation.

Details of External Examinations/Coursework Requirements

- **Unit 1: Living With The Physical Environment** - 35% - 1 Hour 30 Minute Exam
- **Unit 2: Challenges In The Human Environment** - 35% - 1 Hour 30 Minute Exam
- **Unit 3: Key Geographical Themes** - 30% - 1 Hour 30 Minute Exam

Fieldwork

Students will complete two pieces of fieldwork; one on coastal management and the other will explore urban regeneration in Blackpool.

Additional Information

Geography is a broad-based academic subject which will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see geography as a robust academic subject, rich in skills, knowledge and understanding.

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant, and it is fun. The GCSE course is a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

It is very practical, with opportunities to learn new skills such as map skills, interpreting photographs, fieldwork skills, presenting, and debating techniques. You will improve your literacy through your report writing and written work and make practical use of numeracy skills when you interpret data and construct graphs.

French

Red Pathway

Details of External Examinations/Coursework Requirements

This is a two-year course and examinations in all skills will take place in the summer of the second year of study.

The examination award system is as follows:

- Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5)
- Higher Tier (Grades 4-9)

The examination structure is as follows:

- Listening Exam (25%)
- Speaking Exam (25%)
- Reading Exam (25%)
- Writing Exam (25%)

Students must sit all four question papers at the same tier and all questions papers must be taken in the same examination period.

What will I study?

Edexcel GCSE French (9-1)
There are five themes to study:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension



Subject Lead: Mrs Preece

Additional Information

By choosing to study French to GCSE level, you will have the benefit of following a study programme which is carefully tailored to build on and revise, in its initial stages, the topics and grammar covered in KS3, meaning that there is a steady transition into Year 10.

You will be encouraged to develop a more independent approach to language learning which will enable you to achieve your potential at GCSE and help you gain a valuable insight into the language, culture and people of French speaking countries.

Vocational Subjects



Religious Studies

What will I study?

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (8062).

Unit 1: **The study of religions:** beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Islam.

Unit 2: **Thematic studies of philosophical and ethical issues.**



Subject Lead: Mrs Hren

The course deals with fundamental questions about religious belief and a fascinating range of ethical issues facing human beings.

Component A builds on work already covered in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics lessons while going on to explore the place of religion in the world today.

Component B allows students to specialise in areas of philosophical and ethical interest. These may include – modern medical research such as cloning or embryo research; crime & the death penalty; human rights; warfare & terrorism; euthanasia; life after death, and so on.

Religious Studies provides you with an opportunity to think about philosophical, moral and ethical issues, to evaluate and make choices related to them. You will be studying topics related directly to modern life and develop an understanding of the issues as well as an appreciation of how belief influences behaviour. You will never need to ask why we are learning about an issue as most are regularly in the media. You will become aware of issues of local, national and global concern and placing them in spiritual and moral contexts.

Details of External Examinations/Coursework Requirements

Each component has an exam of 1 hour 45 minutes. Students will take the exams for both units at the end of Year 11.

Additional Information

The course does not require or presuppose faith and is designed to be accessible to students of any religious tradition or those with no religious beliefs at all.

Students who enjoy the acquisition of knowledge will appreciate the opportunity to apply this to specific questions. Students who like to form opinions and include their own ideas can do so in several questions and are invited to support them.

Sport Studies

What will I study?

OCR Level 2 - Cambridge National in Sport Studies.

Mandatory Units:

- Unit R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport.
- Unit R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities.

Additional Unit:

- Unit R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities.

Unit R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities

- Provision for different types of outdoor and adventurous activities in the UK.
- Equipment, clothing and safety aspects of participating in outdoor and adventurous activities.
- Plan for and be able to participate in an outdoor and adventurous activity.
- Evaluate participation in an outdoor and adventurous activity.

Details of External Examinations/ Coursework Requirements

- Examination - Unit R184 is a 75 minute (70 mark) exam.
- Coursework - Unit R185 and R187 are both set assignments (coursework).

Unit R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport

- Issues which affect participation in sport.
- The role of sport in promoting values.
- The implications of hosting a major sporting event for a city or country.
- The role National Governing Bodies (NGBs) play in the development of their sport.
- The role of technology in sport

Unit R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities

- Key components of performance.
- Applying practice methods to support improvement in a sporting activity.
- Organising and planning a sports activity session.
- Leading a sports activity session
- Reviewing your own performance in planning and leading a sports activity session.



Subject Lead:
Mr Prescott

Art

(please remember you cannot choose
Art and Textiles together)



Subject Lead: Mrs Colquitt

Details of External Examinations/ Coursework Requirements

- Portfolio - 60% of GCSE - January 2026 to December 2026
- Set Task (Examination) - 40% of GCSE - prepared January 2027 to April 2027 with an unassisted controlled assessment to take place in the art studio over 2 days. (10 hours)

What will I study?

OCR Art and Design.

This is a well-established course for those students who wish to study the practical aspects of visual arts. The course gives students the opportunity to develop their interests in drawing, painting, ceramics, textiles, print making, photography and computer aided design through a series of taught workshops.

Coursework projects start in the spring term of year 10 until the autumn term of year 11 contribute 60% of the final marks; An exam project in spring term of year 11 account for the remaining 40% leading to a single GCSE grade (9-1).

Additional Information

This is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes and new media and technologies. It is an unendorsed course where candidates can work in appropriate art, craft and design materials and processes.

Textiles

(please remember you cannot choose Art and Textiles together)

What will I study?

OCR Art and Design - Textiles Design.

The Art and Design Textiles qualification offers students the opportunity to work with a variety of materials and techniques such as tie dye, appliqué, hand and machine embroidery, quilting and printing through a series of taught workshops throughout year 10. In addition to this, students will explore a variety of artists from both the fashion and art industry.

Coursework projects start in the spring term of year 10 until the autumn term of year 11 contribute 60% of the final marks; An exam project in spring term of year 11 account for the remaining 40% leading to a single GCSE grade (9-1).



Subject Lead: Mrs Colquitt

Details of External Examinations/ Coursework Requirements

- Portfolio - 60% of GCSE - January 2026 to December 2026.
- Set Task (Examination) - 40% of GCSE - prepared January 2027 to April 2027 with an unassisted controlled assessment to take place in the art studio over 2 days. (10 hours)

Additional Information

This is a broad course exploring practical and critical/contextual work through a range of 2D and/or 3D processes where candidates can work in appropriate disciplines of surface and construction techniques.



Subject Lead:
Mrs Colquitt

What will I study?

Eduqas GCSE Music

Component 1 – Performing

- Perform two contrasting pieces on an instrument (one to be an ensemble piece).

Component 2 – Composing

- Compose two pieces of music (one to a brief and the other free composition).

Component 3 - Appraising

- Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices
- Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble
- Area of study 3: Film Music
- Area of study 4: Popular Music

Details of External Examinations/ Coursework Requirements

Component 1 - Performing

- 30% of GCSE
- 4-6 minutes
- Internally assessed, externally moderated

Component 2 - Composing

- 30% of GCSE
- 3-6 minutes
- Internally assessed, externally moderated

Component 3 - Appraising

- 40% of GCSE
- 1 hour 15 minutes
- Externally assessed

Additional Information

You need to pass each component in order to pass the qualification, this means that you **MUST** be able to perform to an audience at a high standard. Students therefore need to already play an instrument or have had prior coaching in vocals in order to be accepted onto this course.

Careers in Music include:

Performer, composer, DJ, event manager, music PR, music teacher, musical director, musician, radio producer, recording engineer, singer, songwriter.

Drama

What will I study?

BTEC Tech Award in Drama.

BTEC Drama enables students to express their personalities and inner emotions through a range of workshops, rehearsals and performances. Students studying Drama will explore a variety of Performance styles from different time periods; experience the workings of different Practitioners, Directors and Choreographers; and additionally, strengthen their technical ability and deepen their knowledge of the Drama industry.

This BTEC option will allow students to gain knowledge and understanding of key events within the Drama world. Grow as individuals and as performers. It will provide students with the opportunity to experience Drama through the ages and performing in front of audiences. (Which is an essential part of the course)



Subject Lead:
Mrs Colquitt

Students can explore Drama whilst:

- Devising and delivering a workshop performance.
- Developing specific skills and techniques.
- Analysing, evaluating and enhancing their skills.

Details of External Examinations/Coursework Requirements

- Component 1: **Devising**:- 40% of grade - internally assessed.
- Component 2: **Scripted Work** - 20% of grade - Externally assessed.
- Component 3: **Written Examination** - 40% of grade - Externally assessed.

Additional Information

This course will help prepare students for any job through the development of life skills such as; presentation skills, communication skills, teamwork, working to a deadline, creative thinking and personal management.

What will I study?

Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering.

For 14 -16 year olds. All units in WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering have been designed to require learners to develop their learning by working towards work related purposeful tasks.

Learners will select and apply their learning in completion of these tasks. Each unit has also been designed to provide learners with an understanding of how the learning is relevant to the sector. Completion of the WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering requires learners to complete assessments where they select relevant learning to be applied to a key task that is relevant to the Hospitality and Catering sector.

Details of External Examinations/ Coursework Requirements

Unit 1: **The Hospitality and Catering Industry** - Written Exam (40% of qualification)

- This unit provides a broad introduction to the vocational sector in a way that is purposeful and develops a range of transferable skills.

Unit 2: **Hospitality and Catering in Action** - Controlled Assessment (40% of qualification)

- Learners apply their learning to safely prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. They will draw on their learning of different types of provision for kitchen and front of house operations in Unit 1.

Additional Information

- This course supports career paths into the Hospitality and Catering industry and related areas.
- The course can lead directly to apprenticeships in the Hospitality industry.
- Progress to level 3 courses at college.

Catering



Subject Lead:
Mr Howarth

Engineering

(please note class sizes are limited due to health and safety - students will be allocated on a first come first serve basis)



Subject Lead:
Mr Howarth

Details of External Examinations/ Coursework Requirements

- Written Exam (40% of qualification - externally assessed).
- Synoptic Project (60% of qualification - internally assessed).

Additional Information

Engineering is currently one of the most 'in demand' professions in the UK and the Academy wants to be forward thinking in offering a qualification that will enable better prospects and job opportunities for the future.

Depending upon the grade the student achieves in this qualification, they could progress to:

What will I study?

Technical Award in Engineering (Level 1/2).

The Engineering qualification provides the opportunity to work with a variety of materials including wood, metal and plastic to design and manufacture products that fit the engineering project briefs set out in the course specification. In addition to this, Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM) will be an integral part of all of the units of study.

The Engineering Technical Award scheme of assessment provides an excellent opportunity for students to demonstrate their knowledge and skills in project-based assignments.

- A Level in Design Technology or Physics
- Level 3 course in Engineering
- An apprenticeship in the Engineering sector

BTEC Creative Media

What will I study?

Component 1: Exploring Media Products

Students will develop their understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences, as well as examining existing products and exploring media production techniques.

Component 2: Developing Digital Media Production

Students will develop and apply skills and techniques in media production processes by creating a media product from one of the following sectors: audio/moving image, print or interactive design.

Component 3: Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief

Students will apply and develop their planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a brief.



Subject Lead:
Mrs Lancaster

Additional Information

Component 1 and 2 are internal assessments which are marked by the teacher - both are worth 30% of the course

Component 3 is externally assessed and worth 40% of the course

With a Tech Award your students will:

- Get a taste of what a sector is like.
- Gain transferable skills and confidence that will help them in the world today and prepare them for their futures.
- Receive an introduction to vocational study.
- Have opportunities to apply learning from their GCSE subjects to every day and work contexts.
- Build applied knowledge and skills that show an aptitude for further learning, both in the sector and more widely.

Childcare

What will I study?

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care (603/7012/9).

- Child development
- Factors that influence the child's development
- Care routines, play and activities to support the child
- Early years provision
- Legislation, policies and procedures in the early years
- Expectations of the early years practitioner
- Roles and responsibilities within early years settings
- The importance of observations in early years childcare
- Planning in early years childcare



Subject Lead:
Mrs Lancaster

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the Early Years is designed for students who want an introduction to child development and care that includes a vocational and project based element. The qualification will appeal to students who wish to pursue a career in the early years sector or progress onto further study.

Details of External Examinations/Coursework Requirements

- Coursework - 50% - 14 hours completion time.
- Examination - 50% - 1 hour 30 minutes.

Additional Information

Students need to have good literacy skills and an interest in creativity along with good creative skills. Students also need to have an interest in the development and learning of children particularly the under 5s.

Some students who succeed in this course go on to study the Level 3 Award, Certificate and Diploma in Child Care and Education. Other students continue to study through an apprenticeship within the Childcare industry. This course would lead to work in the Childcare industry such as a nursery nurse, a pre-school worker or primary school teacher.

NEXT STEPS

OPTIONS CHECK LIST

A blue line-art icon of a staircase with four steps, positioned to the right of the title.

DO YOUR RESEARCH

Read through this booklet, make notes, ask questions, talk through with parents and carers.



ATTEND OPTIONS INFORMATION EVENING

Come along with your parents and carers to discuss the process and ask any questions to the teachers.



COMPLETE FORM

Complete the options form that has been provided to you ready for submission.



ATTEND PARENTS EVENING

Attend parents evening and submit your final options choices on Thursday 27th March 2024

Contact Information

We are here to help if you have any questions or queries you can contact the following staff members using the details below:

Ms S Milner - Assistant Principal

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Miss A Noble - Maths Lead

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Mrs John-Charles - Science Lead

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Mr C Thomas - History Lead

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Miss A Daly - Geography Lead

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Mrs Lancaster - Creative Media and Childcare Lead

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Mrs Preece - French Lead

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Mrs Hren - Religious Education Lead

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Mr Prescott - Sport Studies Lead

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Mr Howarth- Catering and Engineering Lead

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Mrs Colquitt - Art, Textiles, Music & Drama Lead

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