

Holy Family Catholic School & Sixth Form

Options Information 2024



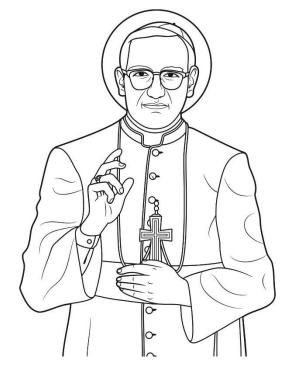
Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the Year 9 options evening.

This is a very important time for your child and one of the key milestones in their educational journey when they will need to make some important decisions.

This evening and this supporting booklet aim to give you all of the information you need to make sure your child makes the right decisions about the pathway and subjects they choose to study for GCSE. Please

take the time to discuss with your child and their subject teachers what the best choices are as they move from Year 9 into Year 10.



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The Core Curriculum

Within all pathways, students will study a core curriculum of English, English Literature, Maths, Science, RE, PE (non-examined) and PSHCE (personal, social, health and citizenship education, which is non-examined). However, the core curriculum will vary in each of the pathways to enable students to maximise their success. The table below gives a summary of the core curriculum in each pathway.

Pathway	Core curriculum	
Blue Pathway	English, English literature, Maths, Science (triple or combined), RE, PE (non-examined), PSHCE (non-examined).	
Green Pathway	English, English literature, Maths, Combined Science, RE, PE (non-examined), PSHCE (non-examined)	

Pathways information

Blue Pathway - English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

This pathway will enable students to access *level 3 courses after year 11 with progression to university. This is an academic pathway that will support students in accessing the Russell Group and other prestigious universities. Within this pathway, students will study combined science (equivalent to two GCSES) or triple science (which consists of Biology, Chemistry and Physics). In addition to this, students will study either French, Spanish or an approved home language and either history or geography. Students will then have one free choice from the subject list.

Green Pathway

This pathway will enable students to access *level 3 courses after year 11, with progression to Russell Group and other prestigious universities. All students in this pathway will study combined science. Additionally, students will study one of: French, Spanish, History or Geography. Students will have a further 2 option choices from the subject list.

Bespoke Pathway - Vocational and Support

At Holy Family we recognise that students develop and progress at different rates. For some students we understand that a more bespoke pathway is required to ensure success. If this applies to your child, the SEND department will contact you directly for a meeting where we will go through the curriculum offer for your child.

- * Level 3 course refers to A Level or BTEC/vocational equivalent
- * Level 2 course refers to GCSE or BTEC/vocational equivalent
- * Level 1 course refers to Entry level course

The Options Process and Support

In order to support your child through the options process the following support will be available for all students

- 1. Options evening Subject information for more in depth understanding of what students study within each subject will also be available on the school website.
- Completing the form Students should discuss their subject choices with their parents. Students
 will receive their options forms next week, which will need to be returned to the school office by
 Monday 25th March.
- 3. Assemblies, form time and lessons all students will have several assemblies to ensure that they are properly inducted into the options process. In addition all classes will be offered a Q&A session so that students get the opportunity to ask the class teacher about anything pertaining to choices. Finally, the PSHCE programme and form time will be used to ensure that students are fully informed to be able to make the right choices.

Curriculum Pathways

Pathway	Criteria	Core Subjects	Choice Subjects	Progression routes
Blue Pathway Ebacc	75% or above in end of year maths assessment to study Computer science	English GCSE English Lit GCSE Maths GCSE Science (combined or triple) RE GCSE PE (non-examined)	French/Spanish or approved home language. History / Geography 1 Free choice from options list	Up to 10 GCSEs Progression to sixth form studying 3 or 4 AS subjects and the EPQ. Progression to Russell Group Universities
Green Pathway	All other students	English GCSE English Lit GCSE Maths GCSE Combined Science RE GCSE PE (non-examined)	French, Spanish, history or geography 2 Free choices from options list	9 GCSEs Progression onto Level 3 course either A level, vocational in the sixth form or apprenticeship Progression to university
Bespoke Pathway Vocational and Support	The SEN department will contact parents where this is applicable.	GCSE English Language and Literature GCSE maths GCSE RE Combined Science PE (non-examined)	Additional maths and English/support Two choices from the subject list.	Progression onto a level 1/2/3 course at post-16 and progression to university.

Options subjects available in each pathway

Option choices	Art, Catering and Hospitality (Vocational), Computing, Design Technology, Digital Information Technology (BTEC), Drama, French, Geography,
	Graphics, History, Music, PE, Spanish, Textiles

Note that some subjects may not run depending on demand and staffing.

Core curriculum subjects

English Language and English Literature

English Language Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA English Language Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
English Literature Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA English Literature Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%

What will be studied in years 10 & 11	English Language qualification Students will develop their reading skills through the study of a range of fiction and non-fiction extracts, taken from both modern and classic texts. They will develop skills in the analysis of a range of texts. Students will develop insight into how writers have particular viewpoints and perspectives on issues or themes that are important to the way we think or live our lives. They will develop their ability to analyse and compare unseen fiction and non-fiction texts. Writing skills will focus on imaginative writing which engages the reader, and transactional writing skills for a variety of forms, purposes and audiences.
	English Literature qualification Students will study in-depth a complete Shakespeare play (Macbeth), a modern British play (An Inspector Calls), a nineteenth-century novel (A Christmas Carol), and a collection of poetry selected by the exam board. Students will develop skills in analysing how language, form, structure and the context of texts can create meaning. Students will revisit and revise all of the core texts across the two-year course.
Internal Assessment Details	Students will undertake a range of mock examinations based around the units studied per year. These will take place within curriculum time, as part of homework, and within the whole school assessment timetable.
External Assessment Details	Students will sit a total of four external assessments across the two qualifications. Every student will now sit the same examination as exams will no longer be tiered. There are no longer any controlled assessment or coursework components. All examinations are closed book. Students will not be allowed copies of the studied texts in the exam.
What you need to know	Students need to complete reading of their core Literature texts outside of lesson time, particularly the nineteenth-century novel and the Shakespeare text. Students should also read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction in order to improve their reading and writing skills. A key component of both courses is students' grasp of Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar (worth 20% of the marks), and students are encouraged to complete additional work in their own time to improve these areas.

Subject: Mathematics

Course	Exam Board: Edexcel Linear (Mathematics A) 1MA1
Details:	Percentage of the course that is coursework: No coursework.
	Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%

What will be studied in years 10&11	Students will study the full range of topics under the umbrellas of algebra, shape & space, number and probability & statistics.
Internal Assessment Details	In year 10 and 11 there are numerous opportunities for assessments including Homework, quick end of chapter tests, in class tests, as well as 3 main assessment points through the year. In year 11 the assessment points become more regular, eventually happening every fortnight leading up to the public exam.
External Assessment Details	All External Assessments/ Public Exams (GCSE) are sat in May/June of year 11. There are three papers, a Non-Calculator and two Calculator Papers, all of 1 hour and 30 mins duration. There are two tiers: Foundation (grades 1-5) or Higher (grades 4 to 9).
What you need to know	Exam content has increased in difficulty under the new curriculum and so classroom teaching and assessment has changed to reflect this. Students will sit regular full GCSE papers so that we can monitor their overall attainment from the start of the GCSE.

Subject: Biology GCSE - Blue Pathway (with Chemistry and Physics)

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA 8461 Percentage of the course that is coursework: 0% Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%

What will be studied in years 10 & 11	Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences each year. 1. Cell biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and response 4. Bioenergetics 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology

Internal Assessment Details	Formative assessment of each topic covered in class. Major, synoptic assessments in line with the school assessment calendar. Both of these will consist of exam-style questions, including questions on mathematical and practical skills.
External Assessment Details	What's assessed Paper 1: Topics 1–4 Paper 2: Topics 5-7 How it's assessed 2 written exams Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes Each paper is 100 marks Each paper is 50% of the GCSE Foundation and Higher Tier papers are available A minimum of 10% of the questions will be based on maths skills A minimum of 15% of the questions will be based on required practicals Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. Questions may link different topics or areas of the specification.
What you need to know	Students will sit all their exams at the end of the course. Students will be expected to buy AQA revision guides and workbooks to support their learning during the course.

Subject: Chemistry GCSE - Blue Pathway (with Biology and Physics)

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA 8462 Percentage of the course that is coursework: 0% Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
What will be studied in	Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences

What will be studied in years 10 & 11	Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences each year.
	1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
	2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
	3. Quantitative chemistry
	4. Chemical changes
	5. Energy changes
	6. The rate and extent of chemical change
	7. Organic chemistry
	8. Chemical analysis
	9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
	10. Using resources
Internal Assessment	Formative assessment of each topic covered in class.
Details	Major, synoptic assessments in line with the school assessment calendar.
	Both of these will consist of exam-style questions, including questions on
	mathematical and practical skills.
External Assessment Details	What's assessed Paper 1: Topics 1–5 Paper 2: Topics 6-10
	How it's assessed
	2 written exams
	Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes
	Each paper is 100 marks
	Each paper is 50% of the GCSE
	Foundation and Higher Tier papers are available A minimum of 20% of the questions will be based on maths skills A minimum of 15% of the questions will be based on required practicals
	Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.
	Questions may link different topics or areas of the specification.
What you need to know	Students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.
	Students will be expected to buy AQA revision guides and workbooks to support their learning during the course.

Subject: Physics GCSE - Blue Pathway (with Biology and Chemistry)

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA 8463
	Percentage of the course that is coursework: 0%
	Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%

What will be studied in years 10 & 11	Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences each year.
years 10 & 11	1. Energy
	2. Electricity
	3. Particle model of matter
	4. Atomic structure
	5. Forces
	6. Waves
	7. Magnetism & Electromagnetism
	8. Space physics
	G. Space physics
Internal Assessment Details	Formative assessment of each topic covered in class.
	Major, synoptic assessments in line with the school assessment calendar.
	Both of these will consist of exam-style questions, including questions on
	mathematical and practical skills.
External Assessment	What's assessed Paper 1: Topics 1–4
Details	Paper 2: Topics 5-8
	How it's assessed
	2 written exams
	Each paper is 1 hour 45 minutes
	Each paper is 100 marks Each paper is 50% of the GCSE
	Lacif paper is 30 % of the GCSL
	Foundation and Higher Tier papers are available
	A minimum of 30% of the questions will be based on maths skills A minimum of 15% of the questions will be based on required practicals Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.
	Questions may link different topics or areas of the specification.
What you need to know	Students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.
	Students will be expected to buy AQA revision guides and workbooks to
	support their learning during the course.

Subject: Combined Science GCSE

Exam Board: AQA 8464

Course Details:

	Percentage of the course that is coursework: 0%
	Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
	Percentage of the course that is Biology: 33%
	Percentage of the course that is Chemistry: 33%
	Percentage of the course that is Physics: 33%
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	Lesson time will be structured to enable students to study all 3 sciences each year.
	Biology
	1. Cell biology
	2. Organisation
	3. Infection and response
	4. Bioenergetics
	5. Homeostasis and response
	6. Inheritance, variation and evolution
	7. Ecology
What will be studied	
in years 10 & 11	Chemistry
-	1. Atomic structure and the periodic table
	2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
	3. Quantitative chemistry
	4. Chemical changes
	5. Energy changes
	6. The rate and extent of chemical change
	7. Organic chemistry
	8. Chemical analysis
	9. Chemistry of the atmosphere
	10. Using resources
	Physics
	1. Energy
	2. Electricity
	3. Particle Model
	4. Atomic Structure
	5. Forces
	6. Waves
	7. Magnetism & Electromagnetism
	-
Internal Assessment	Formative assessment of each topic covered in class.
Details	Major, synoptic assessments in line with the school assessment calendar.

	Both of these will consist of exam-style questions, including questions on mathematical and practical skills.
External Assessment Details	What's assessed: Paper 1 - Biology topics 1-4 Paper 2 - Biology topics 5-7 Paper 3 - Chemistry topics 1-5 Paper 4 - Chemistry topics 6-10 Paper 5 - Physics topics 1-4 Paper 6 - Physics topics 5-7
	How it's assessed 2 GCSEs 6 written exams Each paper is worth 17% of the pair of GCSEs Each paper is 1 hour 15 minutes Each paper is 70 marks
	A student's grade is based on their total mark across all 6 papers There are 18 grades available for combined science: 1-1, 2-1, 2-2, 3-2, 3-3 etc. up to 9-9.
	Foundation and Higher Tier papers are available. Higher Tier students can achieve grades 4-3 to 9-9 Foundation Tier students can achieve grades 1-1 to 5-5.
	A minimum of 20% of the questions will be based on maths skills A minimum of 15% of the questions will be based on required practicals Multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions. Questions may link different topics or areas of the specification.
What you need to know	Students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.
	Students will be expected to buy AQA revision guides and workbooks to support their learning during the course.
	The majority of students will study Combined Science at Holy Family. They will need to retain a vast amount of information over a three year course. Therefore good study and revision habits are crucial right from the very start.
	While Combined Science is two GCSEs, it involves the study of all 3 sciences. The double grade they achieve will be based upon their achievement across all 3 sciences.
	Triple Science students study each science in more depth, and will achieve a separate grade for each science studied.
	Students are able to study Biology, Chemistry & Physics at A Level, or the Applied Science L3 BTEC in sixth form regardless of whether they studied Combined Science or Triple Science at GCSE.

Subject: Religious Studies

Course Details:	Exam Board: Edexcel Spec A - Catholic Christianity
	Percentage of the course that is coursework: 0% Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
	Percentage of the course that is exam. 100%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Religious Studies A consists of three externally examined papers. All students must complete: • Paper 1: Area of Study 1 – Study of Religion (Catholic Christianity) • Paper 2: Area of Study 2 – Study of Second Religion (Judaism) • Paper 3: Area of Study 3 — Philosophy and Ethics (Catholic) Students must complete all assessments in May/June in any single year. Content overview Students must study all four content areas based upon their chosen religion. • Beliefs and Teachings • Practices • Sources of Wisdom and Authority • Forms of Expression and Ways of Life • Arguments for the Existence of God • Religious Teachings on Relationships and Families in the 21st Century
Internal Assessment Details	Each unit will be assessed with a set of GCSE exam questions at the end of each unit.
External Assessment Details	 Each unit is assessed by a written examination paper: Area of study 1: 1x 1 hour 45 minutes (50 % of the GCSE) Area of study 2: 1x 50 minute paper (25% of the GCSE) Area of Study 3/4: 1x 50 minute paper (25% of the GCSE) All units are externally assessed. All exams are taken in the same exam season.
What you need to know	Students learn about Catholic beliefs and practice, alongside a second religion (area of Study 2). The Bishop's Conference of England and Wales have directed Catholic schools to teach Judaism. The Catholic Education Service have worked closely with Ofqual and Edexcel to ensure the content of specification A is suitable for Catholic faith schools. Online Resource Our department website is a collection of resources and activities to support Religious Studies across the school. For year 9 we are bringing together materials to support the new GCSE structure.

http://hfcsw.net/login Kerboodle gives students on-line access to the school textbook - even from home. They are able to read it and add notes / highlight as they wish.
http://www.kerboodle.com

Subject: Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education/Citizenship (PSHCE)

Course Details:	Internally assessed, no formal examination.
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	Students will follow modules each half term. PSHCE is split into five key strands: RSE (Relationships & Sex Education) Health & Wellbeing Politics, Law & Citizenship Careers Finance Students cover a range of topics within the five strands including key transition points (e.g. transition to KS4), healthy and respectful relationships, financial literacy, diversity, human rights, the roles of parliament, careers & preparation for life beyond school, alcohol & drug awareness, managing mental health through building resilience, study skills & effective revision, social media and interventions.
Internal Assessment Details	There will be regular peer and self-assessment in class. Students will also take part in one dropdown day (an off-timetable enrichment day) each term.
External Assessment Details	PSHCE is not externally assessed at Holy Family.
What you need to know	Our PSHCE curriculum is bespoke to Holy Family and is made to suit the needs of our students. It is underpinned by our Catholic values and informed by the statutory content set by government. It is a compulsory subject.

Subject: Core Physical Education (Non-examined)

Course Details:	The core curriculum at KS4 encourages the involvement in a range of activities which develop personal fitness and promote an active, healthy lifestyle.
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	Students participate in a variety of activities. Sports offered include football, basketball, netball, personal fitness, badminton, table tennis, trampolining, athletics, rounders, tennis and cricket.
	Students 'opt' for an activity of their choice from those listed above. This activity can be changed every half term.
Internal Assessment Details	None
External Assessment Details	None

What you need to know

Physical Education is a compulsory subject in the KS4 curriculum. Students are expected to bring school PE kit and participate fully in the lesson.

Option Subjects

Art and Design GCSE

Art and Design GCSE	<u> </u>
Course Details:	Exam Board: Edexcel
	Percentage of the course that is coursework: 60%
	Percentage of the course that is exam: 40%
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	The course teaches students about the full artistic process: studying the work of artists, generating ideas, experimenting with materials, and the technical side of producing finished drawings, paintings, prints, photographs and sculpture. As a teaching team we hope to inspire our students to become creative and critical thinkers in their own right.
What will be studied in years 10 &11	Component 1: Personal Portfolio 60% Thematic Project 30% – the first GCSE project introduces many new techniques and media, particularly drawing and painting, through short focused tasks leading to a sequence of small outcomes. Students also get experience in spray painting, printmaking and ceramics. Mock Exam Theme 30% – the final Coursework project allows students to select a title/theme from the previous year exam paper. Students will research, experiment and develop ideas into a final outcome.
	Completion of Mock Exam Theme Project by January of Year 11. Component 2: Externally Set Assignment 40% The Exam Project – this project requires you to work more independently on a chosen title/theme set by the exam board. The outcome and media is decided individually between teacher and student to choose what best suits you.
	What this subject can lead to in the future
	The course will: Give you the technical skills to draw and represent your ideas with confidence and flair; Show an employer you are creative, with original ideas and strong presentation skills; Develop the way you look at and think about the world around you; Enable you to study Art, Photography or Graphics at A-Level and eventually an Arts degree such as Fine Art, Fashion and Theatre Design, or university degrees in disciplines like Architecture, Advertising, Animation, Film and Media, Marketing, Illustration, Education, Photography, Fashion or Museum Work; You are well considered in degrees such as Law, Psychology and Philosophy too as the course shows you to be well rounded and a critical thinker!
Internal and	Component 1 and 2 are internally marked and standardised and then externally
External	moderated.
Assessment Details	Both components are graded by four Assessment Objectives, each worth 25%: Artist Analysis (AO1), Ideas and Experimenting (AO2), Recording Ideas (AO3), Final Outcomes (AO4)

What you need to know

All the work completed over the two years and where work takes longer than lesson time it needs to be completed in your own time. Homework makes up 50% of the book work.

An interest in art is key to success in this course! You can prepare by practising your drawing, whilst many London galleries run free Art courses during the summer about which the Art Department can provide information. If you have a camera, this will be really useful and you will be required to buy an art kit that contains all necessary equipment for you to do.

Computer Science GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board:OCR (J277) Percentage of the course that is internally assessed: No Coursework Percentage of the course that is an external exam: 100%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	J277/01: Computer systems This component will assess: 1.1 Systems architecture 1.2 Memory and storage 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols 1.4 Network security 1.5 Systems software 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming This component will assess: 2.1 Algorithms 2.2 Programming fundamentals 2.3 Producing robust programs 2.4 Boolean logic 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments
Internal Assessment Details	All students will be given the opportunity to undertake a programming task(s), either to a specification or to solve a problem (or problems), during their course of study. Students may draw on some of the content in both components when engaged in Practical Programming.
External Assessment	J277/01: Computer systems Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Details

50% of total GCSE

80 marks

This is a non-calculator paper.

All questions are mandatory.

This paper consists of multiple choice questions, short response questions and extended response questions.

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

Written paper: 1 hour and 30 minutes

50% of total GCSE

80 marks

This is a non-calculator paper.

This paper has two sections: Section A and Section B. Students must answer both sections.

All questions are mandatory.

In Section B, questions assessing students' ability to write or refine algorithms must be answered using either the OCR Exam Reference Language or the high-level programming language they are familiar with.

What you need to know

You also have the reassurance that OCR is the market leader in GCSE Computer Science provision across the UK.

The course focuses on:

- Computational thinking as its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence
- Applying the academic principles they learn in the classroom to real-world systems in an exciting and engaging way
- Giving students a clear progression into higher education, as the course was designed after consultation with members of BCS, CAS and top universities.

Design and Technology GCSE

Course Details:

Exam Board: AQA (8552)

Percentage of the course that is coursework: 50%

Percentage of the course that is exam: 50%

What will be studied in years 10 &11

Knowledge of Materials and Components

Investigate properties of plastics, card, metals, textiles and smart material through practical activities. During practical lessons, mini projects will be made using the above materials by up-cycling. The first mini project will be the Siege engine (card, wood, hot glue gun and string will be used). The second will be the use of recycled products to design and make a wall clock. Both mini projects will require students to show evidence of research, designing, safe working practices and critical evaluations.

The rest of the course is dedicated to the controlled assessment task related to the 'design and make' coursework. Single periods are used mainly to prepare the candidates for the theoretical knowledge to reinforce skills, understanding and use of resources for the successful completion of their coursework and final project. During the latter part of the course, single lessons will be used to learn how to answer exam style questions with special focus on the pre-release topic that is given by the exam board. All other lessons will be dedicated to the 'design and make 'coursework. These activities will be varied and offer opportunities for students to handle products, discuss products and key topics, quizzes and games. All students will then sit a final external examination at the end of year 11.

Internal Assessment Details

Assessment objectives

- · Identifying and investigating design possibilities
- Producing a design brief and specification
- Generating design ideas
- Developing design ideas
- Realising design ideas
- Analysing & evaluating

Unit 2: Design and Making Practice (Non-Exam Assessment)

50% of total GCSE marks Approximately 30-35 hours

100 marks

Consists of a single design and make activity selected from a range of board set tasks

External Assessment Details

Unit 1: Written Paper 1 50% of total GCSE marks

2 hours 100 marks

Candidates answer all questions in two sections

Pre-release material issued

Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks)

A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of technical knowledge and understanding.

Section B - Specialist technical principles (30 marks)

	Several short answer questions (2–5 marks) and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge of technical issues. Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks) A mixture of short answers and extended response questions.
What you need to know	Because students have to produce a coursework that comprises of 50% of their final GCSE mark, emphasis will be on good problem solving skills, good written communication, good graphical skills and the ability to use new making techniques. The use of graphical software will be a huge advantage. The entire course will be underpinned by correct health and safety regulations for all tools and machinery.

Subject: Digital Information Technology

Course Details: Exam Board: Edexcel Percentage of the course that is coursework: 60% Percentage of the course that is exam: 40%	F
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Comp	onent	1: Ex	plore

What will be studied in years 10 &11

Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques

Learners will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project. They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

Component 2: Develop

Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

Learners will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making. They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

Component 3: Apply

Effective Digital Working Practices

This component will give learners an opportunity to explore how the developments in technology over recent years have enabled modern organisations to communicate and collaborate more effectively than ever before. The component is designed to allow learners to explore the digital systems available to organisations and how their features have an impact on the way organisations operate. They will explore how developments in technology have led to more inclusive and flexible working environments, and how regulation and ethical and security concerns influence the way in which organisations operate.

Internal Assessment Details

Components 1 & 2 are internally assessed and both worth 30% each, which counts towards 60% of the total course.

We've retained the well-established BTEC approach, adapted to fit the specific needs of this qualification. Then the assignment brief is given to the students with a hand-in date and the assessment is internally and externally verified.

Can students resubmit?

There will be one opportunity to resubmit improved evidence, once approved by the Lead Internal Verifier.

External Assessment Details

We realise that BTEC students should be assessed in a way that suits vocational learning. That's why our new Tech Awards use scenario-based external assessments rather than traditional exam formats.

There is one externally assessed component (Component 3), which is worth 40% of the total course and designed to be synoptic (drawing together knowledge from the previous components) and taken near the end of the course. This is a 1 hour 30 minute exam to be taken in February or May/June in Year 11. Students will have one opportunity to resit if required.

What you need to know

How does the grading work?

Students achieve a grade for each component, which are allocated points. At the end of the course, we calculate the final grade by adding the points from each component, and matching this against the qualification grade point Thresholds.

What are students' options for progression after the course?

After completing their BTEC Tech Award, your students will be in a great position to continue in the digital information technology sector. This qualification prepares students for both technical and academic routes.

Recognised by employers and universities

In 2015, 1 in 4 students who entered university in the UK did so with a BTEC. BTEC is a recognised and well-known qualification suite, providing reassurance that students who study a BTEC meet the levels required by employers and Higher Education.

The average digital salary in the UK is significantly higher than the average nondigital salary.

Drama GCSE

Drama GCSE	
Course Details:	Exam Board: Edexcel Percentage of the course that is coursework/internally assessed: 40% Percentage of the course that is exam/externally assessed: 60%
What will be studied?	Component 1: Devising 40% of the qualification Students will create and develop a devised piece from stimulus and will be marked on either their Performance of this devised piece or their design realisation for this performance. This will take place in the Autumn Term of Year 11. Students will also create a portfolio,
	which will document the creating process, for which they will be marked on.
What will be studied	Assessment Overview:
in years 10 &11	This unit will be internally assessed by the classroom teacher and recorded. The recording of the devised performances alongside the portfolios are sent to the exam board for moderation. There are two parts to the assessment:
	a portfolio covering the creating and developing process and analysis and evaluation of
	this process (45 marks)
	2) a devised performance/design realisation (15 marks) Component 2: Performance from Text: - 20% of the qualification
	Content Overview:
	This unit will take place in the Spring Term of Year 11. Students will study and either:
	perform in or design for two key extracts from a performance of a chosen play.
	Assessment overview:
	This unit is externally assessed by a visiting examiner and is worth 48 marks (24 per
	extract)
	This exam which you have prepared for in year 9 and 10 will be sat during May-July of the Summer Term in Year 11
	Component 3: Written examination: (Preparation) - 40% of the qualification
	Content Overview:
	Students will practically explore and study the play text 'An Inspector Calls'. As well as
	this, students will visit the theatre to see a performance, chosen by their teacher.
	All work undertaken for this component will be in preparation for a written exam which
	will take place in the Summer of Year 11. This written paper will be 1 hour and 30
	minutes long.
	Assessment overview:
	The written exam will consist of:
	Section A: Bringing Texts to Life (45 marks)
	This section consists of one question broken into five parts (short and extended
	responses) based on an unseen extract from the play 'An Inspector Calls'.
	(Performance texts are not allowed in the examination as the extracts will be provided)
	Section B: Live Theatre Evaluation – free choice of production (15 marks)
	This section consists of two questions requiring students to analyse and evaluate a live
	theatre performance (students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words).

Internal Assessment Details	Component 1 is marked by your teacher (recording of practical performance and portfolio and sent to the exam board for moderation)
External Assessment Details	Component 2 and 3 are marked by an external examiner. For component 2 the examiner will visit the school and grade you individually within your performance of two extracts. For component 3 you will sit your written exam which will be marked by an examiner from the exam board.
What you need to know	Drama is a practical subject, however you must be able to write about your work in detail to get a good grade! As well as this there is now a written examination to prepare for and take!

French GCSE

Course Details:	AQA/PEARSON (TBC Sept 2024)
	Paper 1: Listening exam (25% of final award) Paper 2: Speaking exam (25% of final award) Paper 3: Reading exam (25% of final award) Paper 4: Writing exam (25% of final award)
	All papers will be taken at the end of Year 11 and will be externally marked.
	Students need to have studied French for at least 2 years to be able to opt to do it for GCSE

What will be studied in years 10 &11	Topics covered: • Me, my family and friends • Technology in everyday life • Free-time activities • Customs and festivals in French speaking countries/communities • Home, town, neighbourhood and regions • Social issues • Global issues • Travel and tourism • My studies • Life at school/college • Education post-16 • Jobs, career choices and ambitions Grammar: In addition to the above topics, GCSE students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge of grammar throughout their course. The grammar requirements for GCSE are set out in two tiers: Foundation and Higher. Vocabulary: • Students will gradually learn the GCSE French vocabulary list prescribed by the
Internal Assessment Details	 exam board and use it across a range of contexts and assessment tasks. Students will be given ongoing assessments on all 4 skills to assess and monitor progress throughout the course. Following these assessments students will be given next steps on how to improve their performance. Students will be given a Vocabulary, Grammar & Translation workbook which ties in with the textbook
External Assessment Details	 All exams are taken at the end of Year 11. The Speaking exam is conducted by the students' classroom teacher but externally assessed. This exam will be in three parts: role-play, reading aloud task and photo-card task. The Listening, Reading and Writing exams are externally set and marked. The course will finish by the end of March to allow for plenty of past paper practice.

What you need to know

- Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the subscription to ActiveLearn which mirrors the ActiveTeach resources used in lessons.
- Past papers, mark schemes and MP3 sound files can be accessed on the Exam Board website.
- All students are provided with a Student Guide to Success with exam strategies, vocabulary pages and assessment criteria, as well as a Vocabulary book covering the course's vocabulary content.
- Students will be entered for Higher (9-4) or Foundation (5-1) tier for all four exam papers. Students must do the same tier in all papers.
- French is one of the EBacc subjects and is valued highly by both employers and universities.

Geography GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA
	Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
	Paper 1: Living with the Physical Environment (1 hour 30 mins; worth 35% of
	GCSE)
	Paper 2: Challenges in the Human Environment (1 hour 30 mins; worth 35% of
	GCSE)
	Paper 3: Geographical Applications (1 hour 30 mins; worth 30% of GCSE)
	All papers will be taken at the end of Year 11 and will be externally marked.

What will be studied in years 10 &11	Unit 1: LIVING WITH THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT A: The challenge of natural hazards (Tectonic Hazards, Atmospheric Hazards, Climate change) B: The living world (Ecosystems) C: Physical landscapes of the UK (Coastal and River Landscapes) Unit 2: CHALLENGES IN THE HUMAN ENVIRONMENT A: Urban issues and challenges B: The changing economic world C: The challenge of resource management Unit 3: GEOGRAPHICAL APPLICATIONS Part A: Issue evaluation (place study / synoptic assessment): Assessment will consist of a series of questions related to a contemporary geographical issue(s). A resource booklet for this will be released in March of Year 11. Part B: Fieldwork: Two geographical fieldwork enquiries, with questions based on the use of fieldwork materials from an unfamiliar context and students' individual project work.
Internal Assessment Details	Formal end of unit tests, to be held at the end of every half term. Students will be required to improve their work throughout the course, based on their teacher's feedback.
External Assessment Details	All three exams in May/June of Year 11
What you need to know	With a focus on contemporary topics and challenges facing the world in the 21st century, students will understand the world economy and environment and their place within it. Geography is an excellent introduction for students interested in studying Economics or business in the future as well as the sciences. Geography is future-orientated, exploring how human actions and decisions made now affect our common future and discovering and understanding specific solutions to these problems. As an EBacc subject for GCSE and a facilitating subject at A Level, qualifications in the subject facilitate entry into the Russell Group of universities. Students that study Geography are in very high demand amongst universities and graduate employers. A healthy proportion of students from Holy Family choose to study geography at university each year, many at some of the top universities in the country. The main benefit of studying Geography is that it

develops a range of transferable skills which are so valued by employers and,
therefore, it is a key that opens doors to many careers.

Graphics GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA Percentage of the course that is internally assessed: 60% Percentage of the course that is an external exam: 40%
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What will be studied in years 10 & 11

Graphic Communication is an exciting and creative course that introduces students to a visual way of conveying information, ideas and emotions, using a range of graphic media, processes and techniques. Areas of study include communication graphics, advertising, branding, packaging design, typography, web/app and motion graphics. Students will look at different approaches to design and will develop their skills both physically and digitally, with emphasis on industry standard design programmes such as Photoshop, Illustrator and in Design.

Component 1: Personal Portfolio - 60%

Each student must work through a sketchbook in order to submit a portfolio representative of their course of study. The portfolio must demonstrate a personal creative journey including initial ideas, experiments and the final outcome. There is no restriction on the scale of work, media or materials used. The portfolio must include both:

- 1. **A sustained project** developed in response to a task or brief evidencing the journey from initial ideas to the finished outcome.
- 2. **A selection of further work** resulting from activities such as trials and experiments; skills-based workshops; responses to gallery, museum or site visits and independent study.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment - 40%

AQA will provide students with different design briefs and students must choose one to work on. Students are given preparation time followed by 10 hours of supervised time to make the final piece in school. Outcomes may be evidenced in any two-dimensional, three-dimensional, digital or non-digital format. There is no restriction on scale of work, media or materials used.

Internal & External Assessment Details

Components 1 & 2 are marked by the school and then moderated by AQA. Each component is out of 96 marks.

What you need to know

- This course can lead students into a range of creative career paths such as graphic design, packaging design, web developing, interior design, illustration, animation and architecture.
- Students will work solely in a sketchbook that they will be required to take home for independent study outside of school
- This course will enrich and broaden students curriculum, providing them with transferable skills that will complement a range of other subjects and careers
- Access to a computer/laptop would be very useful for this course.

History GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: Edexcel Percentage of the course that is coursework: 0%
	Percentage of the course that is exam: 100%
	Paper 1 - A thematic study and historical environment. Medicine in Britain 1250- present and The British sector of the Western front. In this unit you will learn about developments in medicine from the middle ages
What will be studied in years 10 &11	until the modern day. You will need to evaluate the difference between the time periods by using case studies as examples to back up your points. You will study the achievements of fascinating people such as Mary Seacole, Walter Tull, Florence Nightingale and Louis Pasteur.
	You will also study how medical treatment developed on the Western front during WW1 and how it subsequently led to better medical treatment.
	This unit is assessed at the end of Year 11 through a 1-hour and 15 minute examination and is worth 30% of the final grade.
	Paper 2 - A British depth study and a worldwide study of 50 years. The reigns of King Richard I and King John, 1198-1216 and Conflict in the Middle East 1945-1995.
	The first half of this paper assesses how British life changed under the two Kings. It will focus on their role in England and abroad, through the crusades and in
	France. This unit concludes by studying King John's downfall as the barons turned against him and imposed the Magna Carta.
	The second half of this paper is about how Israel was created after WW2 and the problems faced between the Palestinians and Israelis. There will be a focus on how conflict escalated between 1964-1973 and how peace was attempted between 1974-1995. We will reflect on how the events of the past have affected the Middle East today. This unit is assessed at the end of Year 11 through a 1 hour 45 minute examination and is worth 40% of their final grade.
	Paper 3 - A modern depth study. Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1938. In this unit you will learn about the reasons for and the impact of the development of Nazism in Germany. The unit focuses on Germany's position post WW1 and how numerous events led to Hitler being voted into power and consequently ruling as a totalitarian leader. This unit is assessed at the end of Year 11 through a 1-hour and 15 minute
Internal Assessment Detail	Students will complete past questions fortnightly and sit end of unit exams which do not go towards their final exam. They will also partake in mock exams in line with the school assessment calendar.

External Assessment Detail	All 3 papers are completed at the end of Year 11. They are assessed on a range of skills; source, interpretation, essay writing and evaluative skills.
What you need to know	The department supports the process of 'decolonising the curriculum'. This means we make it a top priority to teach history in a way that challenges the racist and prejudiced ideas embodied in traditional history teaching.
	History is taught using a variety of teaching methods and activities. The examinations themselves are based around essays and source questions. History is one of the baccalaureate subjects and is considered highly by both employers and universities.
	History is a great choice in order to make sense of what is going on today. It is important to study the past, as everything which is happening around us has been influenced by, and is a direct result of, that which preceded it. By looking at the history of different cultures, a History student can build up a better understanding of why people behave the way they do.

WJEC Level 1/2 Hospitality and Catering

Exam Board: WJEC

Course Details:

Course Details.	Percentage of the course that is coursework: 60% Percentage of the course that is exam: 40%
What will be studied in years 10 &11	In Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry you will learn about the following: The Industry - Operations in Hospitality and Catering sector. Hygiene and Safety Types of Service Job Roles Food Poisoning Laws within the Hospitality and Catering Industry. Environmental Health Officer In Unit 2 - Hospitality and Catering in Action you will about the following: Nutrition Dietary requirements - Catering for specific groups/dietary need Menu Planning Environmental considerations Developing practical skills and techniques of cooking Commodities Serving and Presentation of food Students will know and understand how to prepare dishes using a range of ingredients: such as Meat (and alternatives), Pastry, Fish, Rice, Pasta, Fruit, Vegetables.
Internal Assessment Details	60% - Practical based coursework with written elements. The task will assess the student's ability to effectively draw together their knowledge, understanding and skills from across the whole vocational area. The task will be externally set by WJEC, internally graded by the school and externally quality assured by WJEC. This unit is completed in school under exam/coursework conditions. You will be required to safely plan, prepare, cook.and present dishes to satisfy the task. You will be graded as follows: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction
External Assessment Details	40% - written examination: 80 marks 1 hour 30 minutes A mixture of multiple-choice, short-answer and extended-response questions. The written examination will assess the student's knowledge and understanding of content from Unit 01. You will be graded as follows: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction
What you need to know	This qualification is designed for students who have an interest in food and cooking. It will provide them with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food. They will cook every week so will need to be organised so that they are prepared to cook.

The food industry is one of the largest on the planet, and people will always have to eat. This means if you are working anywhere along the food supply chain, you will always have a job. When working in the food industry, there are literally thousands of different jobs available. You aren't limited to lab work or a desk job or working in a kitchen. There is something for everyone, whether it be in quality, research and development, sales, marketing, manufacturing, hospitality, teaching or in government. Studying food is inherently multidisciplinary, which opens up a myriad of opportunities. Working in Hospitality and Catering requires you to have a passion for food, an interest in and understanding of how it impacts on the body and a wide range of skills depending on your job role and the setting you work in.

Music GCSE	
Course Details:	Exam Board: Eduqas
	Percentage of the course that is controlled assessment: 60%
	Percentage of the course that is exam: 40%
	Performance
	Solo and Ensemble performing
	Approaches to performing
	Composing
	Developing musical ideas
What will be studied	Compositional techniques and strategies
in years 10 &11	Ensuring technical control and coherence
	Methods of notating composition scores
	Appraising
	Area of study 1
	Western Classical Tradition
	Structural Forms
	Devices
	SET STUDY: Badinerie
	Area of study 2
	Sonority, Timbre and Texture
	Musical Ensembles
	Chamber Music
	Musical Theatre
	Jazz and Blues
	Area of study 3
	The Film Industry
	Use of Elements in Film Music
	Devices and Techniques in Film Music
	Composing to the Film Brief
	Appraising Film Music
	Area of Study 4
	Rock and Pop
	Musical Features of Pop music
	• Fusion
	Bhangra

Internal Assessment Details

30% Component 1: Performing - You must perform at least 2 pieces: One piece must be an **ensemble**, the other(s) can be ensembles or solos. You can sing or play any instrument.

• SET STUDY: Africa by Toto

	30% Component 2: Composing - You must compose two original pieces of music. Each is equally weighted. One is a free composition, which you can complete at any time in the course. The other must be written in response to a brief released by Eduqas on the 1st September in the same school year as you take the exam.
External Assessment Details	40% In your exam there will be 8 questions. Each will have an extract of music which is played out loud for you to answer the questions on what you hear. Question 1 and question 7 will always be on the set works. The questions will focus on three things Elements of Music – melody, harmony, tonality, form and structure, dynamics, sonority, texture, tempo, rhythm, metre. The context – the time, place or purpose of the music Musical Language – the list of musical terms, notes in the treble and bass clef and any specific vocabulary which goes with the set works.
What you need to know?	Playing an instrument or having a good singing voice are essential skills to passing a GCSE in Music. To achieve a good grade, a performance assessment at Music Grade 3 or above is necessary, therefore instrumental / vocal lessons are highly recommended. GCSE music is 40% music analysis which is a very academic aspect of music, this requires students to remember key facts about set pieces and write about them under exam conditions. Being good at performance and composing alone is not enough to achieve a good grade at GCSE Music.

Subject: PE (GCSE)

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA Percentage of the course that is internally assessed: 40% Percentage of the course that is an external exam:60%
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	 1. Applied anatomy and physiology 2. Movement analysis 3. Physical training 4. Use of data 5. Sports psychology 6. Socio-cultural influences 7. Health, fitness and wellbeing
Internal Assessment Details	Component 3: Performance in Physical Education (40%) Practical performance - Performance of three activities taken from the two approved lists*. • One from the 'individual' list (10%) • One from the 'team' list (10%) • One other from either list (10%) • Evaluating and analysing performance (10%) • This unit is assessed under controlled conditions. • This unit is externally moderated. • The total raw mark available is 100.
External Assessment Details	Component 1: Physical factors affecting performance (30%) Applied anatomy and physiology Physical training This unit is assessed through an externally set examination. The examination is 1 hour 15 minutes long The total raw mark available is 78 Component 2: Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology (30%) Socio-cultural influences Sports psychology Health, fitness and well-being This unit is assessed through an externally set examination. The examination is 1 hour 15 minutes long. The total raw mark available is 78
What you need to know	Why Choose GCSE PE? If you enjoy sport and wish to develop as a sportsperson. If you have enjoyed and experienced success in KS3 Physical Education. If you have an interest in the theoretical aspect of Physical Education. If you wish to study Physical Education or other related courses at A Level and/or university. If you

desire to work within the sports industry in some capacity in the future. If you wish to develop key employability skills: leadership, teamwork and communication.

Spanish GCSE

Course Details:	AQA/PEARSON (TBC Sept 2024)
	Paper 1: Listening exam (25% of final award) Paper 2: Speaking exam (25% of final award) Paper 3: Reading exam (25% of final award) Paper 4: Writing exam (25% of final award) All papers will be taken at the end of Year 11 and will be externally marked.
	Students need to have studied Spanish for at least 2 years to be able to opt to do it for GCSE

What will be studied in years 10 &11	Topics covered: Identity and relationships with others Healthy living and lifestyle Education and work Free-time activities Customs, festivals and celebrations Celebrity culture Travel and tourism, including places of interest Media and technology The environment and where people live Grammar: In addition to the above topics, GCSE students will be expected to develop and use their knowledge of grammar throughout their course. The grammar requirements for GCSE are set out in two tiers: Foundation and Higher. Vocabulary: Students will gradually learn the GCSE Spanish vocabulary list prescribed by the exam board and use it across a range of contexts and assessment tasks. The vocabulary list includes 1,200 lexical items for Foundation tier, and a further 500 lexical items for Higher tier.
Internal Assessment Details	 Students will be given ongoing assessments on all 4 skills to assess and monitor progress throughout the course. Following these assessments students will be given next steps on how to improve their performance. Students will be given a Vocabulary, Grammar & Translation workbook which ties in with the textbook.
External Assessment Details	 All exams are taken at the end of Year 11. The Speaking exam is conducted by the students' classroom teacher but externally assessed. This exam will be in three parts: role-play, reading aloud task and photo-card task. The Listening, Reading and Writing exams are externally set and marked. The course will finish by the end of March to allow for plenty of past paper practice.
What you need to know?	Students are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the subscription to ActiveLearn which mirrors the ActiveTeach resources used in lessons. 40

- Past papers, mark schemes and MP3 sound files can be accessed on the Exam Board website.
- All students are provided with a Student Guide to Success with exam strategies, vocabulary pages and assessment criteria, as well as a Vocabulary book covering the course's vocabulary content.
- Students will be entered for Higher (9-4) or Foundation (5-1) tier for all four exam papers. Students must do the same tier in all papers.
- Spanish is one of the EBacc subjects and is valued highly by both employers and universities.

Textiles GCSE

Course Details:	Exam Board: AQA Textile Design Percentage of the course that is internally assessed: 60% (Coursework) Percentage of the course that is an external exam: 40% (Practical based exam)
What will be studied in years 10 & 11	 You will learn a range of textile materials, techniques and processes, such as printed, digital and decorative textiles. How to use a range of specialist tools and equipment such as the sewing machine, heat press and sublimation printer. You will develop a range of practical skills, such as weaving, stitching, embroidery and applique. We will explore a range of areas within Fashion and Textiles, such as art textiles, fashion design and illustration, fashion photography, costume design, constructed textiles, interior design, printed and digital textiles, surface pattern and embellished textiles. How to use the 4 assessment objectives; researching, experimentation, recording and realisation of creative intentions to create portfolio/project-based work.
Internal Assessment Details	Component 1: Coursework Portfolio - 60% A portfolio that shows coverage of the four assessment objectives. This will evidence your creative journey from initial ideas, researching, practical experimentation, development and refinement of ideas, to the realisation of a final piece based on a chosen theme. This portfolio is made up of two projects - one which focuses on fashion illustration and 3D garment construction and a second project exploring decorative techniques through pattern and texture to produce a 2D art textiles piece.
External Assessment Details	Component 2: Practical Based Exam - 40% You will respond to a chosen starting point from an externally set exam paper. You will have several weeks to research, experiment and record your creative design ideas; evidencing all four assessment objectives. The final piece of work is produced independently under controlled conditions in a 10 hour practical exam carried out over two days.
What you need to know	 This is a practical/skill based course which explores a range of skills needed for future studies and potential careers in Fashion and Textiles. You will use and develop skills required in the design industry, such as problem solving through designing, how to produce professional portfolios, designing to meet customer needs and use of computer aided design. This course will strengthen your creativity by allowing you to be expressive and come up with innovative designs. You must be able to follow health and safety regulations to use all tools, equipment and machinery in the textiles workshop. Your assessment portfolios are created over two year; during lesson time and through tasks which are set as homework. You can prepare by practising your designing/drawing skills, using computer aided design tools such as ProCreate; watching fashion/textile based shows such as The Great British Sewing Bee and visiting galleries such as the V&A, The Fashion and Textiles Museum and William Morris Gallery.