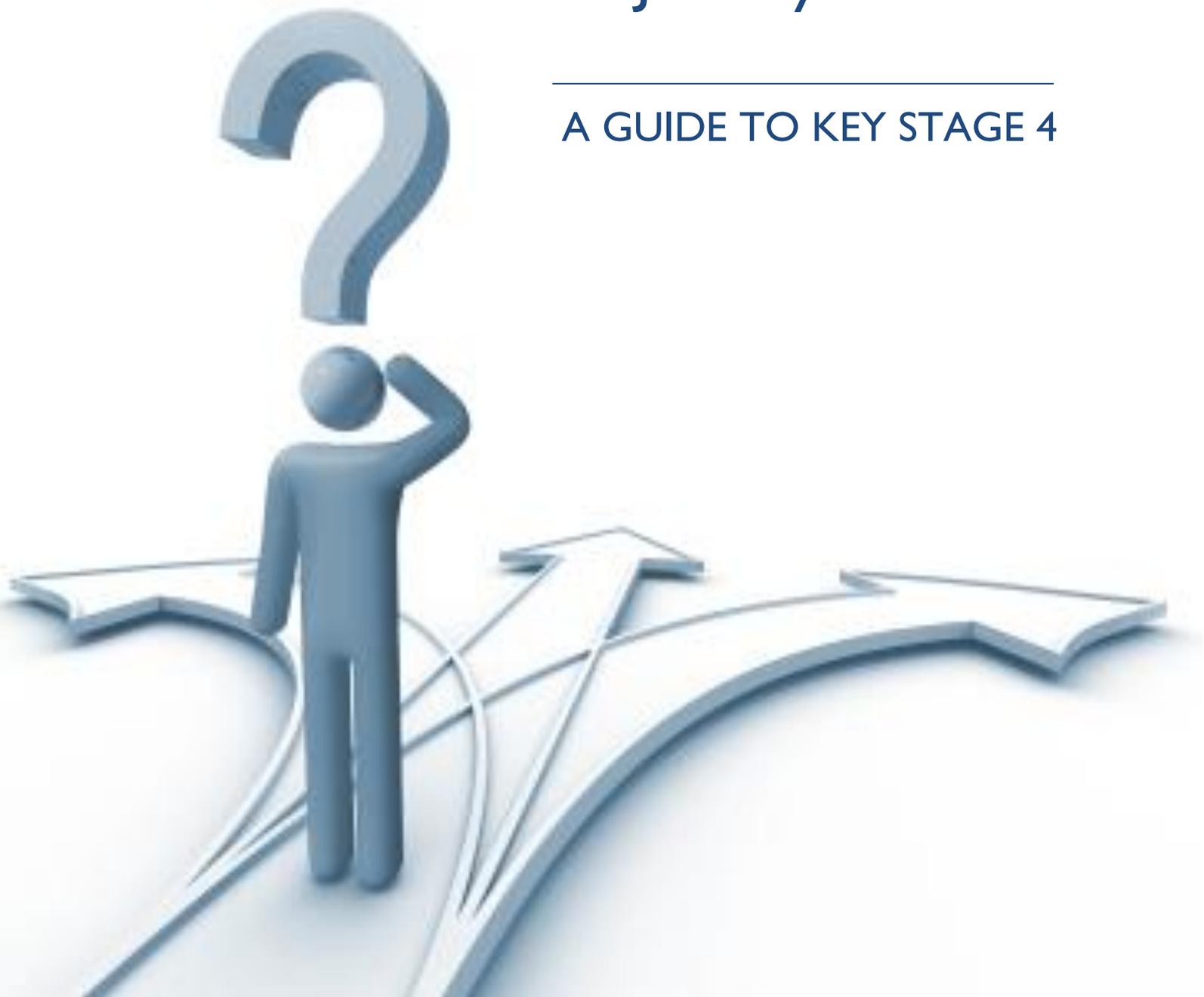


# OPTIONS

January 2019

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A GUIDE TO KEY STAGE 4



## What is this booklet about?

The purpose of this booklet is to provide pupils in Year 9 and their parents with information about Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) at St Leonard's. While I know that pupils are currently concentrating on achieving the best they can in all subjects during Year 9, you will also be aware that the following two years are very important. It also provides an indication of the progression routes which are currently available at St Leonard's post 16.

The school offers Core and Optional subjects. As you will see from this booklet all students study the 'core' subjects and have some choice from the 'optional' subjects. Some pupils will be guided towards particular courses which are suited to their styles of learning.

I know that parents will discuss these important decisions with their sons and daughters and I urge you to consult subject teachers, tutors, Heads of Year, Heads of Department and Senior Staff if further guidance is needed.

**S Campbell**  
**Head Teacher**  
*January 2019*

## Who will help me choose?

Each pupil will get the chance to discuss their 'options' with a variety of staff.

<b>Subject Teachers</b>		ongoing support
<b>Head of Year</b>	Mr A Gray	ongoing support
<b>Assistant Head of Year</b>	Mr M Hughes	ongoing support
<b>Careers Adviser</b>	Mrs L Mole	ongoing support
<b>Parents' Evening</b>	All subject teachers	11th February 2019
<b>Information Evening for all Year 9 Parents</b>	Senior Staff	17th January 2019

You will have had plenty of time to read, think, ask, find out and take part in pastoral activities that are designed to help you make the right choice.

## Who else?

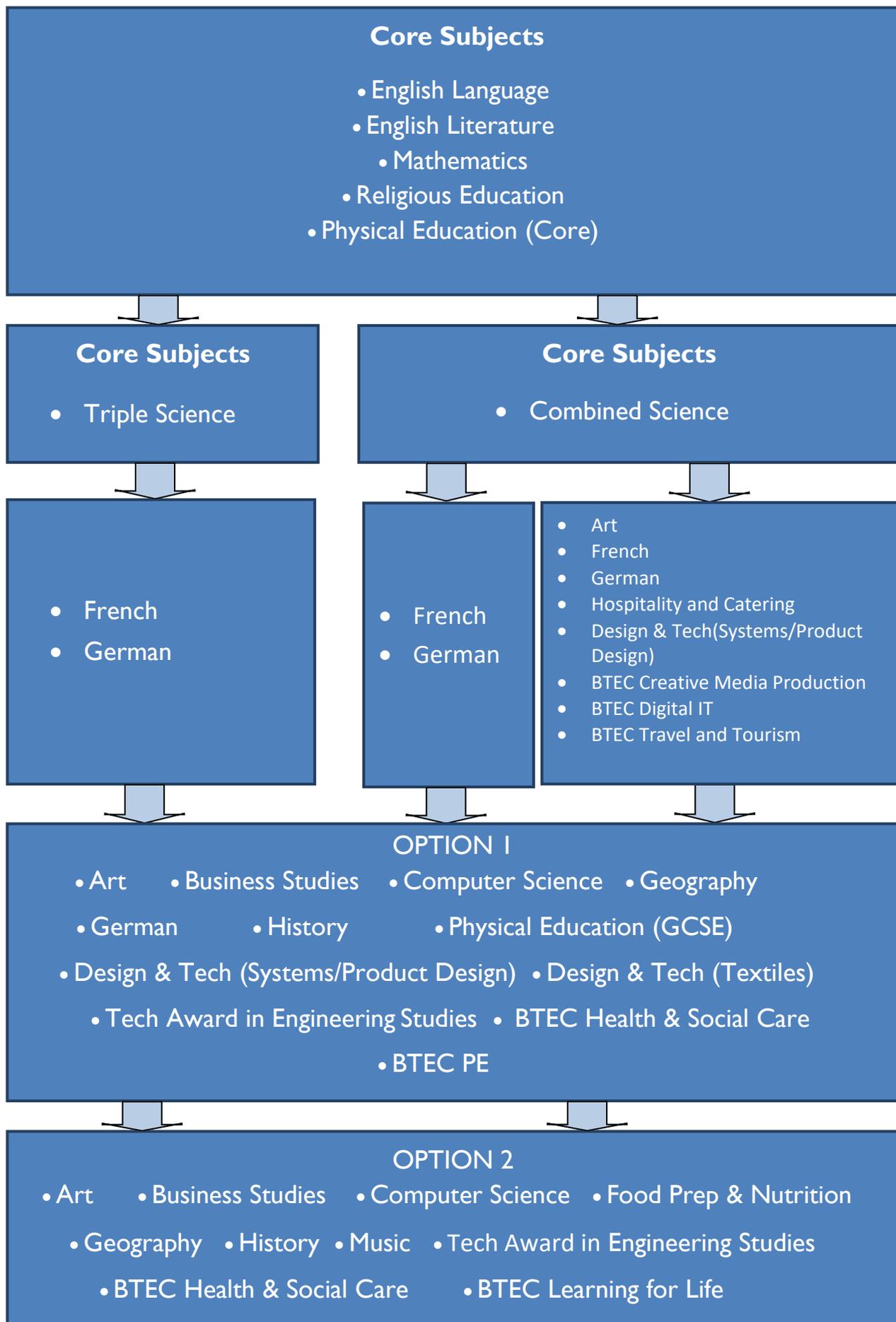
You can view this Options Booklet on the school website ([www.st-leonards.durham.sch.uk](http://www.st-leonards.durham.sch.uk)) or take a booklet home to discuss it with your parents. Everyone should consult with subject teachers for advice if they are thinking of choosing a particular subject.

## What makes a good choice?

- ☺ Ask yourself; 'How do I learn best?' ... 'Do I prefer practical subjects?'
- ☺ Ask yourself; 'What are my strongest subjects?'
- ☺ Which career would you like? Find out which subjects are best for this.
- ☺ Look at new choices that will interest you?

## What makes a bad choice?

- ☹ Do not choose a subject because a friend has chosen it.
- ☹ Do not choose a subject because you like the teacher.
- ☹ Do not choose a subject without care and thought.
- ☹ Do not choose a subject because you think it will be easy.
- ☹ Do not ignore a subject that may be new to you. Find out about it.



# EXAMINATION FORMAT

## The GCSE Examination

The General Certificate of Secondary Education, or GCSE, is the main means of assessing students at the end of Key Stage 4. All students in our school follow a programme of study leading to GCSE qualifications. In most of the subjects there is a final examination that you sit at the end of Year 11. In a small number of subjects there may be a choice of examination papers to allow for students of different abilities. Your teachers will advise you on the best papers for you to take to achieve the best results. A small number of subjects have a coursework element which is part of the assessment. The new GCSEs will be graded 9-1.

## Vocational Qualifications

The vocational qualifications are recognised equivalents to GCSE qualifications. They are designed to develop knowledge, skills and understanding in broad vocational areas. Success in these courses leads to grades Pass, Merit or Distinction. A vocational course is intended to motivate young people of all abilities and help them achieve higher standards. Assessment is by portfolio and there will be some external assessments. Work is based in a vocational context and is enhanced by provision outside the classroom. The evidence suggests that all vocational students develop positive attitudes and behaviour and high levels of adaptability and self-reliance.

## CORE SUBJECTS

The courses that you must follow in Years 10 and 11 are:

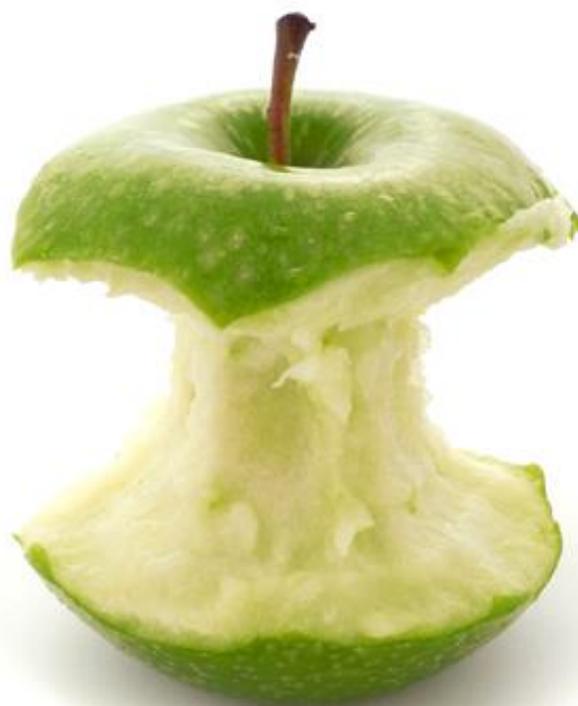
- **Religious Education**
- **English Language and English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**

All students on Pathway 1 will study Triple Science. All students on Pathway 2 or 3 will study Combined Science.

- **Physical Education (non exam)**
- **Modern Foreign Languages**
- Students will study a GCSE Modern Foreign Language (either French or German) unless they are following Pathway 3.
- **Careers**

Careers is delivered to all pupils through collapsed timetable half days, supported by Information, Advice and Guidance at various times during Key Stage 4.

# THE CORE SUBJECTS



Core Subjects are those subjects, which all students are required to study.

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

At present all pupils follow the AQA Specification A for English Language and English Literature.

Course Description	English Language builds upon the work covered at Key Stage 3. There are three units which are assessed in class and by external examinations over the course of 2 years.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE
Examinations	Two written papers. Paper 1 – 50% -Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing. Paper 2 – 50% - Writers’ Viewpoints and Perspectives.
Coursework	No coursework.
Non – examination assessment	Spoken language is a separate endorsement - 0% of GCSE.
Post 16 Education	A Level English Literature, English Languages, Media Studies and a variety of other courses.
Careers	Successful oral and written communication is essential for the majority of careers.
Skills and Attributes	You will need to be hard-working, organised and observant.

For further information please see Mrs B Grehan-Bradley (Head of English)

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

At present all pupils follow the AQA Specification A for English Language and English Literature.

Course Description	English Literature builds upon the work covered at Key Stage 3. There are two units which are assessed in class and by external examination over the course of 2 years.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE
Examinations	Two written papers. Paper 1 – 40% - Shakespeare plus 19 <sup>th</sup> century novel. Paper 2 – 60% - Modern Texts and Poetry.
Coursework	No coursework.
Assessment	No controlled assessment.
Post 16 Education	A Level English Literature, English Languages, Media Studies and a variety of other courses.
Careers	Successful oral and written communication is essential for the majority of careers.
Skills and Attributes	You will need to be hard working, organised and willing to read.

For further information please see Mrs B Grehan-Bradley (Head of English)

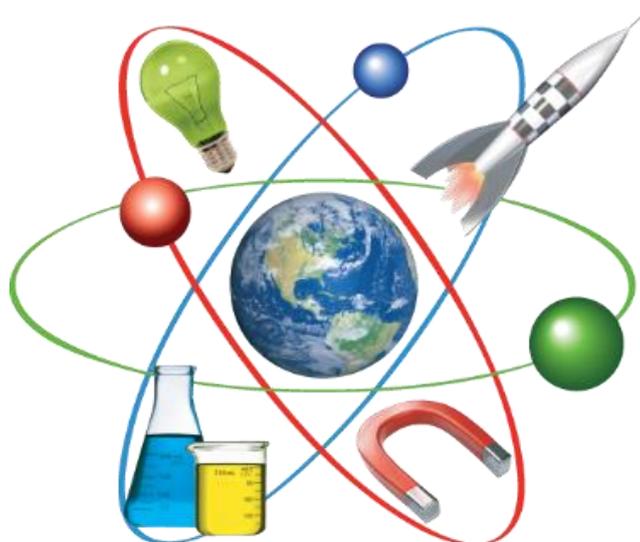
## MATHEMATICS

GCSE Mathematics is a core subject and is studied by all students. Pupils will follow the EdExcel GCSE Mathematics syllabus.

Course Description	The GCSE Mathematics assessment objectives are to: use and apply standard techniques; reason, interpret and communicate Mathematically; solve problems within mathematics and in other contexts.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	Pearson Edexcel Level 1 / Level 2 GCSE (9 to 1) in Mathematics.
Examinations	3 examinations at the end of Year 11.
Coursework	No coursework.
Assessment	2 Calculator Papers 67% Non-Calculator Paper 33%
Post 16 Education	A Level Mathematics, Sciences, Psychology, BTECs, Geography.
Careers	Most employers require a level of functional skills in Mathematics.
Skills and Attributes	Numeracy skills will be required in many aspects of life and with logical thought is an important transferable skill.
For further information please see Mr N Hamilton (Head of Mathematics)	

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

GCSE Religious Education is a core subject and is studied by all students.	
Course Description	The course offers a structured, progressive and developmental approach to GCSE Religious Education to build upon the work covered at Key Stage 3 and develop evaluative thinking skills. Both Catholic Christianity and Judaism are studied.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE
Examinations	Eduqas Route B Religious Studies.
Coursework	No coursework.
Assessment	2 x 90 minute examinations, 1 x 60 minute examination. All 3 examinations are taken at the end of Year 11.
Post 16 Education	A Level Religious Studies, Social Sciences (Law, Sociology, Psychology) Business, Geography, Economics as well as History, English.
Careers	Law, Medicine, Media, Armed Forces, civilians services (police, fire brigade) and the caring professions (nursing, social work), environmental studies, politics.
Skills and Attributes	You need an open mind and willingness to discuss important and complex issues. It enables you to think about yourself as well as religious and moral issues.
For further information please see Mr N McTernan (Head of Religious Education)	



## **PATHWAY I**

### **Triple Science**

Students following Pathway I will study Triple Science:- Biology, Chemistry & Physics.

## SCIENCE (TRIPLE AWARD)

<p>Triple Award Science is designed for those students who are particularly interested in Science, especially at A level. The pace of the course will be fast as this will result in three GCSE qualifications.</p>	
Course Description	Students will study three separate subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics delivering a more in-depth understanding of Science.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE awarded by AQA in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (three GCSE grades)
Examinations	Examinations in May/June of Year 11, with three exams per subject.
Assessment	For each subject: Examinations 100% each Students are required to complete 8 practical tasks per subject.
Post 16 Education	A level Biology A level Chemistry A level Physics
Careers	Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary medicine, Biomedical, Physics, Chemist, Sports Science, Forensics.
Skills and Attributes	Students who follow this course will be taking an extra GCSE in Science and this demands more study time.
<p>For further information please see Mr N Robertson (Head of Science)</p>	



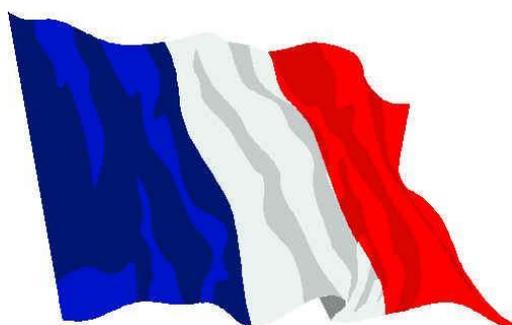
## **PATHWAY 2**

### **Combined Science**

Students following Pathway 2 will study Combined Science.

## SCIENCE (COMBINED SCIENCE)

GCSE Science is concerned with developing an understanding of scientific principles and, through the work on 'How Science Works', relating this understanding to the world we live in.	
Course Description	Students will study the Combined Science units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, resulting in two GCSE Awards in Science.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE in AQA Combined Science (two GCSE grades).
Examinations	Combined Science examinations in May/June of Year 11.
Assessment	For Combined Science: Examinations 100% Students are required to complete 16 practical tasks.
Post 16 Education	A level Biology A level Chemistry A level Physics
Careers	Medicine, Pharmacy, Veterinary medicine, Biomedical, Physics, Chemist, Sports Science, Forensics.
Skills and Attributes	Ability to learn facts as well as being able to evaluate and analyse areas of controversy in Science. Ability to carry out practical work safely and to analyse the results using Scientific information.
For further information please see Mr N Robertson (Head of Science)	



## **PATHWAY 1 and PATHWAY 2**

### Modern Foreign Languages

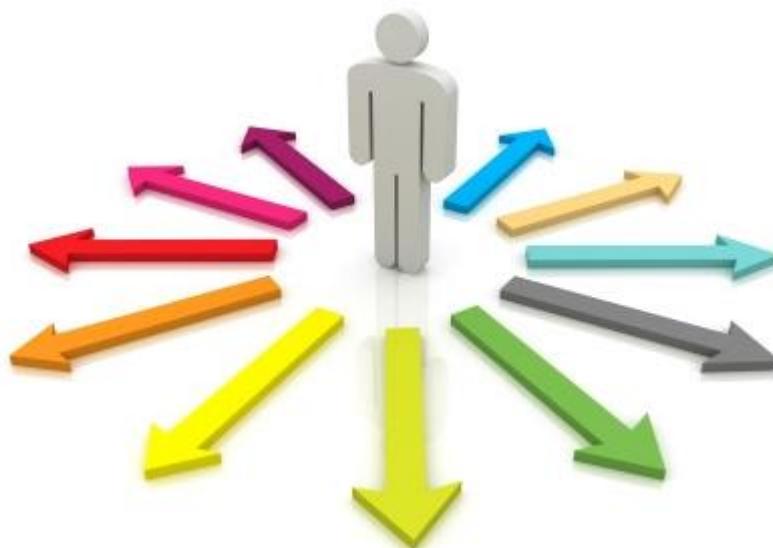
Students following Pathway 1 or Pathway 2 must study a Modern Foreign Language

# FRENCH

GCSE French uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	The course covers three themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identity and culture</li> <li>2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest</li> <li>3. Current and future study and employment</li> </ol>
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE French
Examinations	Four exams at the end of Year 11 <b>Listening:</b> Foundation 35 mins Higher 45 mins <b>Reading:</b> Foundation 45 mins Higher 1 hour <b>Speaking:</b> Foundation 7-9 mins Higher 10-12 mins <b>Writing:</b> Foundation 1 hour Higher 1 hour 15 mins
Assessment	Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade.
Post 16 Education	A vast number of higher education courses are available with languages. French can be taken in almost any combination with other subjects;
Careers	Languages are hugely important to future economic prosperity. Languages often open up a wide range of career opportunities and employment routes.
Skills and Attributes	Good for pupils with strong communication skills, attention to detail and a desire to show a broad educational background.
For further information please see Mrs H Munro (Head of MFL)	

## GERMAN

GCSE German uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	The course covers three themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identity and culture</li> <li>2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest</li> <li>3. Current and future study and employment</li> </ol>
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE German
Examinations	Four exams at the end of Year 11 <b>Listening:</b> Foundation 35 mins Higher 45 mins <b>Reading:</b> Foundation 45 mins Higher 1 hour <b>Speaking:</b> Foundation 7-9 mins Higher 10-12 mins <b>Writing:</b> Foundation 1 hour Higher 1 hour 15 mins
Assessment	Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade.
Post 16 Education	A vast number of higher education courses are available with languages. German can be taken in almost any combination with other subjects;
Careers	Languages are hugely important to future economic prosperity. Languages often open up a wide range of career opportunities and employment routes.
Skills and Attributes	Good for pupils with strong communication skills, attention to detail and a desire to show a broad educational background.
For further information please see Mrs H Munro (Head of MFL)	



## **PATHWAY 3**

Students following Pathway 3 must choose 1 subject from this section:- Art, French, German, Hospitality & Catering, Design & Tech (Systems/Product Design), Creative Media, Digital IT, Travel & Tourism.

## ART

GCSE Art uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	Students explore and investigate inter-relationships of line, shape, colour, texture, tone, pattern and form from observation and imagination. Students experiment with creative media to explore a variety of processes and techniques and could be working with traditional materials such as paints and pastels on making 3D constructions. Drawing with a variety of media and Digital Photography is included in each project.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE Art & Design
Examinations	10 hour examination with 10 weeks preparation time at the end of Year 11
Coursework	Portfolio of work Sept 2019 – Jan 2021 (2 full units of work)
Assessment	Portfolio of Work: 60% Examination: 40% ( Jan 2021- May 2021)
Post 16 Education	A Level Art and Design, Fine Art, Photography, Textiles, Graphics, 3D Design BTEC Art & Design
Careers	Leading to a range of career opportunities. It is particularly useful for employment in the Creative industries; Fashion & Textile Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Illustration, Architecture, Advertising, Film and Television, Photography & Games Design.
Skills and Attributes	The ability to work independently to strict deadlines. You will need to be able to research, analyse and problem solve.
For further information please see Mr P J Sutcliffe (Head of Art)	

# FRENCH

GCSE French uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	The course covers three themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identity and culture</li> <li>2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest</li> <li>3. Current and future study and employment</li> </ol>
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE French
Examinations	Four exams at the end of Year 11 <b>Listening:</b> Foundation 35 mins Higher 45 mins <b>Reading:</b> Foundation 45 mins Higher 1 hour <b>Speaking:</b> Foundation 7-9 mins Higher 10-12 mins <b>Writing:</b> Foundation 1 hour Higher 1 hour 15 mins
Assessment	Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade.
Post 16 Education	A vast number of higher education courses are available with languages. French can be taken in almost any combination with other subjects;
Careers	Languages are hugely important to future economic prosperity. Languages often open up a wide range of career opportunities and employment routes.
Skills and Attributes	Good for pupils with strong communication skills, attention to detail and a desire to show a broad educational background.
For further information please see Mrs H Munro (Head of MFL)	

## GERMAN

GCSE German uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	The course covers three themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identity and culture</li> <li>2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest</li> <li>3. Current and future study and employment</li> </ol>
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE German
Examinations	Four exams at the end of Year 11 <b>Listening:</b> Foundation 35 mins Higher 45 mins <b>Reading:</b> Foundation 45 mins Higher 1 hour <b>Speaking:</b> Foundation 7-9 mins Higher 10-12 mins <b>Writing:</b> Foundation 1 hour Higher 1 hour 15 mins
Assessment	Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade.
Post 16 Education	A vast number of higher education courses are available with languages. German can be taken in almost any combination with other subjects;
Careers	Languages are hugely important to future economic prosperity. Languages often open up a wide range of career opportunities and employment routes.
Skills and Attributes	Good for pupils with strong communication skills, attention to detail and a desire to show a broad educational background.
For further information please see Mrs H Munro (Head of MFL)	

## WJEC HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers and further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment.

Course Description	There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, learners will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.
Course Level	Level 1/2
Course Qualifications	WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering
Examinations	Unit 1 – (48 GLH), externally assessed. One on-screen test – The Hospitality and Catering Industry
Coursework	Unit 2 – (72 GLH), internally assessed. Hospitality and Catering in action. Four proposed restaurant meals. Two developed and cooked.
Assessment	On-screen test – 40% Coursework – 60%
Post 16 Education	Where the WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering is achieved together with other relevant Level 1/2 qualifications, such as GCSE's in English, Mathematics and Science, learners may be able to access Level 3 qualifications relevant to the hospitality and catering sector, such as: WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition (Certificate and Diploma), Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery or Level 3 Advanced Diploma in Food Preparation and Cookery Supervision.
Careers	Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing.
Skills and Attributes	In this qualification, learners will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

For further information please see Mr M Dunford (Head of Technology)

## GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (SYSTEMS & CONTROL/PRODUCT DESIGN)

GCSE D&T (Systems and Control/Product Design) is concerned with the designing, making and controlling of products using electronics, mechanisms and programmable controllers. The course will also look into the manufacture of commercial products and the related aspects of business and marketing. Students need to be confident in Mathematics and willing to take design risks.

Course Description	This is a very practical course. Students will develop designing and modelling skills, through an innovative approach, that will build on their Key Stage 3 experiences and allow them to make high quality outcomes. Both digital switches and analogue sensors will be explored, in order to provide inputs for electro-mechanical systems. Students will develop programming skills in order to control a range of mechanical outputs in a fun way.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualification	GCSE
Examination	One examination 2 Hours in May/June of Year 11
Non Exam Assessment	One NEA consisting of an electronic power point file (20 A3 slides) and practical (prototype) outcome.
Course Weighting	Year 11 examination                      50% Year 11 NEA                                      50%
Post 16 Education	A Level Product Design (3D) Electrical/Engineering apprenticeship
Careers	Engineering, Industrial Designer Maintenance or service engineer. Manufacturing. Product Design.
Skills and Attributes	Are you curious about finding out how things work? Are you a keen practical worker? There will be lots of opportunity to develop real independence in this exciting course.

For further information please see Mr M Dunford (Head of Technology)

## BTEC LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD IN CREATIVE MEDIA PRODUCTION

The BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production provides learners with the opportunity to gain a broad understanding and knowledge across the digital media sectors. The course is made up of 3 units, 2 practical units and 1 externally examined unit.

Course Description	The course examines how creative digital media is used within our everyday lives and allows students to investigate digital media sectors, products and platforms.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	BTEC Level 2 Tech Award
Examinations	A practical examination which is set and marked by Edexcel. Unit 3 – Create a media product in response to a brief.
Coursework	Unit 1 – Exploring media products. Unit 2 – Developing digital media production skills.
Post 16 Education	BTEC ICT
Careers	Employment within the Gaming and Digital Creative Media Industry, such as a junior role working in moving image production, audio production, website production or digital games production and many other ICT related careers.

For further information please see Mrs A Ward (Head of ICT)

## BTEC LEVEL 2 TECH AWARD IN DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Digital Information Technology equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to understand and apply a variety of digital working practices. The course is made up of 3 units, 1 practical computer based examination and 2 other project based units.

Course Description	The course enables learners to explore User Interface Design Principles and collect, present and interpret data.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications.
Examinations	A practical examination which is set and marked by Pearson. Unit 1 – Developing Web Products which is a 2 hour 30 minute practical computer based examination.
Coursework	A summative project from one of the following units: Unit 3 - Creative Multimedia Unit 4 – Artwork and Imaging Unit 5 – Game Making
Post 16 Education	BTEC Level 2 Tech Award
Careers	The course equips learners with professional, real world skills in planning, project management and communication. It also gives young people the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to support future learning and exploit the creative digital industries.
Skills and Attributes	The ability to work to strict deadlines and independent working skills. Practical skills with a range of hardware and software.
For further information please see Mrs A Ward (Head of ICT)	

## BTEC TRAVEL AND TOURISM

BTEC First Award in Travel and Tourism	
Course Description	The qualification provides an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of travel and tourism. You will explore some of the key areas within the sector including accommodation, tourism development and promotion, transport and visitor attractions.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	BTEC – equivalent of 1 GCSE
Core coursework units (all students must complete)	Unit 1: 'The UK Travel and Tourism Sector'. (externally assessed) Unit 2: 'UK Travel and Tourism (internally assessed) Unit 3: The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience (internally assessed)
Optional Coursework Units	You will study one further optional unit from; International Travel and Tourism Destinations; Factors Affecting Worldwide Travel and Tourism;
Assessment	Three internally assessed coursework units and one externally assessed unit.
Post 16 Education	There are strong links within the subjects studied to business and geography. Travel and Tourism can be studied Post 16 at BTEC Level 3. You also will develop transferable technical and practical skills in communication, research skills and project management which will be valuable in support of progression to any level 3 course.
Careers	Careers in the travel and tourism industry could be followed with this qualification but due to the type of skills developed on the course many careers in business could be pursued.
Skills and Attributes	You may have an interest in geography, business or travel. You should enjoy completing coursework and may dislike completing examinations. You should be able to research independently using a range of resources. You should be able to work to deadlines.
For further information please see Mrs G Tomlinson (Head of Business Studies)	



## Option I

**All students must choose I subject from this section.**

## ART

GCSE Art uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	Students explore and investigate inter-relationships of line, shape, colour, texture, tone, pattern and form from observation and imagination. Students experiment with creative media to explore a variety of processes and techniques and could be working with traditional materials such as paints and pastels on making 3D constructions. Drawing with a variety of media and Digital Photography is included in each project.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE Art & Design
Examinations	10 hour examination with 10 weeks preparation time at the end of Year 11
Coursework	Portfolio of work Sept 2019 – Jan 2021 (2 full units of work)
Assessment	Portfolio of Work: 60% Examination: 40% ( Jan 2021- May 2021)
Post 16 Education	A Level Art and Design, Fine Art, Photography, Textiles, Graphics, 3D Design BTEC Art & Design
Careers	Leading to a range of career opportunities. It is particularly useful for employment in the Creative industries; Fashion & Textile Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Illustration, Architecture, Advertising, Film and Television, Photography & Games Design.
Skills and Attributes	The ability to work independently to strict deadlines. You will need to be able to research, analyse and problem solve.
For further information please see Mr P J Sutcliffe (Head of Art)	

## BUSINESS STUDIES

GCSE Business Studies uses the OCR syllabus.	
Course Description	Business is an up-to-date and engaging qualification that is relevant to the world today. This qualification equips you with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect business decisions. It is a well-rounded introduction to the subject.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE
Examinations	Two examinations each 90 minutes in length All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11
Assessment	Business 1 - Business activity, marketing and people 50% - 1 hour 30 minutes Business 2 – operations, finance and influences on business 50% - 1 hour 30 minutes
Post 16 Education	A Level Business Studies, BTEC National in Business
Careers	Business Studies is an extremely practical course as inevitably most of us end up working in a business. Therefore a business qualification can assist in any career from sport through to medicine and management.
Skills and Attributes	You may have an interest in the business world, advertising, marketing and how businesses can make people work harder. You may have enjoyed the Enterprise activities you have completed in Year 9. You may want to start your own business. You should like discussing your ideas and finding things out for yourself.
For further information please see Mrs G Tomlinson (Head of Business Studies)	

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE Computing follows the OCR Specification	
Course Description	GCSE Computer Science has been redeveloped and this course will allow you to develop computational thinking skills and get you to think about real world application. The course is made up of 3 units, 2 examinations and 1 unit of coursework. Topics covered include hardware, software, network topologies, data representation and computer programming.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE Computing
Examinations	2 written examinations which are set and marked by OCR, both worth 50% each and 1 programming project which is a compulsory element of the course.
Coursework	The coursework will and will be a programming project set by the exam board. The coursework element of the course will take 20 hours to complete.
Post 16 Education	A Level Computing, BTEC ICT
Careers	Highly regarded as a complex academic subject GCSE Computing leads well into Programming, Graphics, Animation, Technical Support, Software Engineering and many other ICT related careers.
Skills and Attributes	Ability to work to strict deadlines with a large degree of independence. Practical skills with a range of hardware and software. The ability to work independently on coding projects.
For further information please see Mrs A Ward (Head of ICT )	

# GEOGRAPHY

GCSE Geography follows the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	There is an equal balance of physical and human Geography units which allows students to explore the current environmental and economic issues that we face in a global climate.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE Geography
Examinations	3 x examinations at the end of Year 11
Coursework	None
Assessment	Examinations: 100%
Post 16 Education	A Level Geography
Careers	Town & Country Planning, Architecture, accountancy, management, surveying
Skills and Attributes	Ability to learn case study knowledge facts and figures, determination, accuracy with data, willingness to undertake fieldwork.
For further information please see Mrs V Stone (Head of Geography)	

## GERMAN

GCSE German uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	The course covers three themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identity and culture</li> <li>2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest</li> <li>3. Current and future study and employment</li> </ol>
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE German
Examinations	Four exams at the end of Year 11 <b>Listening:</b> Foundation 35 mins Higher 45 mins <b>Reading:</b> Foundation 45 mins Higher 1 hour <b>Speaking:</b> Foundation 7-9 mins Higher 10-12 mins <b>Writing:</b> Foundation 1 hour Higher 1 hour 15 mins
Assessment	Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade
Post 16 Education	A vast number of higher education courses are available with languages. German can be taken in almost any combination with other subjects;
Careers	Languages are hugely important to future economic prosperity. Languages often open up a wide range of career opportunities and employment routes.
Skills and Attributes	Good for pupils with strong communication skills, attention to detail and a desire to show a broad educational background.
For further information please see Mrs H Munro (Head of MFL)	

# HISTORY

GCSE History follows the EdExcel course.	
Course Description	Interesting to study, History provides pupils with the opportunity to develop essential skills and encourages a general understanding of the world around us.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE History
Examinations	3 examination papers: Medicine in Britain 1250-present Germany 1918-1939 Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-88 & American West 1835-1895  (May/June of Year 11)
Coursework	None
Assessment	Examinations 100% of overall grade
Post 16 Education	A Level History
Careers	Highly regarded as an academic subject, History is well respected by universities and employers. Law, Journalism, Human Resources and the Diplomatic Service to name a few.
Skills and Attributes	Open mind, hard work, research and analysis skills.
For further information please see Mr J Curry (Head of History)	

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE Physical Education uses the AQA Examination.	
Course Description	Building on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3, the course covers anatomy and physiology, factors affecting participation in physical activity, socio-cultural influences and wellbeing and the safety aspects of physical activity. There is a large percentage of the theory aspect of this course which uses data analysis.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE
Examinations	2 examinations each 1hr 15mins – 1. The Human Body and Movement. 2. Socio-cultural influences.
Coursework	Coursework (6 sections) Analysis & Evaluation of Performance
Assessment	Theory Examination 60% Practical Skills 30% - 3 practical sports (2 team plus 1 individual or 1 team and 2 individual) 10% Written Coursework
Post 16 Education	A Level Physical Education BTEC Diploma in Sport
Careers	Sport, Coaching, Teaching
Skills and Attributes	Due to the weighting of the course being in favour of the theoretical component, and the associated time restraints, we do not cover the practical activities in curriculum time. There will be an expectation that you fully involve yourself with extra-curricular sport in order to progress your skills.
For further information please see Mrs P Hockaday (Head of Physical Education)	

## GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (SYSTEMS & CONTROL/PRODUCT DESIGN)

GCSE D&T (Systems and Control/Product Design) is concerned with the designing, making and controlling of products using electronics, mechanisms and programmable controllers. The course will also look into the manufacture of commercial products and the related aspects of business and marketing. Students need to be confident in Mathematics and willing to take design risks.

Course Description	This is a very practical course. Students will develop designing and modelling skills, through an innovative approach, that will build on their Key Stage 3 experiences and allow them to make high quality outcomes. Both digital switches and analogue sensors will be explored, in order to provide inputs for electro-mechanical systems. Students will develop programming skills in order to control a range of mechanical outputs in a fun way.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualification	GCSE
Examination	One examination 2 Hours in May/June of Year 11
Non Exam Assessment	One NEA consisting of an electronic power point file (20 A3 slides) and practical (prototype) outcome.
Course Weighting	Year 11 examination                      50% Year 11 NEA                                      50%
Post 16 Education	A Level Product Design (3D) Electrical/Engineering apprenticeship
Careers	Engineering, Industrial Designer Maintenance or service engineer. Manufacturing. Product Design.
Skills and Attributes	Are you curious about finding out how things work? Are you a keen practical worker? There will be lots of opportunity to develop real independence in this exciting course.

For further information please see Mr M Dunford (Head of Technology)

## GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY (TEXTILES)

GCSE Textiles is concerned with the development of practical skills and knowledge that will enable students to relate their activities to a variety of industrial contexts and at the same time allow them to focus on the key areas of designing and making.	
Course Description	Theory will cover the study of fibres and fabrics, components, fashion and social trends; industrial design and manufacture of products to meet specific client groups. Students will design, develop and manufacture a product to meet an identified need. They will also analyse and disassemble existing products to increase their knowledge and understanding.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualification	GCSE
Examination	One examination 2 hours in May/June of Year 11
Non Exam Assessment (NEA)	One NEA consisting of a design folder and practical outcome.
Course weighting	Year 11 examination                      50% Year 11 NEA                                50%
Post 16 Education	A Level Fashion and Textiles or A Level Art and Design. BTEC or Degree in Textiles related studies.
Careers	Fashion and costume design, historical costume restoration, interior design, manufacturing, retail buying, marketing.                                Textile scientist/technologist.
Skills and Attributes	Ability to critically appraise, analyse and evaluate the characteristics of existing products. Ability to produce quality products using a variety of materials.
For further information please see Mrs A Grainger – (subject leader)	

# TECHNICAL AWARD IN ENGINEERING STUDIES

<p>The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering complements GCSE qualifications. It is aimed at 14-16 year olds studying Key Stage 4 curriculum who are interested in the engineering industry. This qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE study. The qualification is graded Level 1 Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction* and Level 2 Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 9-1)</p>	
Course Description	<p>This qualification has been designed to sit alongside the requirements of core GCSE subjects and is appropriate for learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences and through content which is directly related to those experiences. The study of Engineering is the application of Mathematics and Science to solve real world problems. This involves an understanding of the different disciplines of engineering and how they have shaped the products and projects of the modern world. Learners will be able to read technical drawings, select appropriate materials along with tools and machinery, and know how to carry out a practical task, working in a safe manner in line with current health &amp; safety legislation.</p>
Course Level	Level 1/2
Course Qualifications	NCFE Technical Award in Engineering Studies L1/2
Examinations	Unit 01 – 48 Guided Learning Hours, externally assessed written examination. 40% weighting.
Coursework	Unit 02 – 72 Guided Learning Hours, internally assessed Synoptic Project. 60% weighting.
Assessment	<p>Two Units. Exam 1.5hrs externally assessed (40%) Synoptic project 21hrs internally assessed (60%)</p>
Post 16 Education	<p>Level 3 Applied General in Engineering, Level 3 Technical Level National Foundation Diploma in Engineering. Technical Level qualifications provide post-16 learners with the knowledge and skills they need for skilled employment or further technical study. A Levels in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Design Technology. These will support progression to higher education.</p>
Careers	<p>Engineering and manufacturing employment and apprenticeships, recruitment into the armed forces</p>
Skills and Attributes	<p>Good practical skills, including drawing and presenting ideas. Interest in Mathematics and Science. Ability to work to strict deadlines. Awareness of Health and Safety issues.</p>
<p><b>For further information please see Mr M Dunford (Head of Technology)</b></p>	

# BTEC TECH AWARD HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Course Description	This Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus is on four areas of equal importance: development of key skills needed in health and social care sectors; being able to underpin effective ways of working in health and social care; considering care attitudes which are vitally important with the opportunity to practise applying them; and finally developing a knowledge of human development as well as the factors affecting people's health and well being.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care
Examinations	Externally set, and marked task. BTEC requires students to be assessed in a way that suits vocational learning. The Tech Award in Health and Social Care uses task-based external assessments. One externally assessed component (Component 3), designed to be synoptic (drawing together knowledge from the previous components) and taken near the end of the course. There will be two assessment sittings per year, in February and May/June, from 2019 onwards.
Coursework	Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment.
Assessment	Ongoing throughout the course with clearly set deadlines. Several units are internally assessed and externally moderated.
Post 16 Education	Help learners make more informed choices about work in this sector. BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care.
Careers	Care assistant to help clients live independently, medical care assistant within a hospital ward or in A & E department, nursery nurse, play therapist or play co-ordinator, social worker, various nursing roles, service manager etc.
Skills and Attributes	Ability to work independently to strict deadlines. Good communication skills and a genuine interest in helping and caring for people.
For further information please see – Mrs N Henderson (subject leader)	

## BTEC PHYSICAL EDUCATION

BTEC Physical Education uses the Pearson Examination.	
Course Description	Building on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3, the course covers fitness, practical sport, personal training and leading sporting activities.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	BTEC
Examinations	Unit 1 Fitness for Sport and Exercise will be examined by a 1 hour online exam.
Coursework	Coursework (3 units internally assessed)
Assessment	Unit 2 Practical Sports Performance Unit 5 Training for Personal Fitness Unit 6 Leading Sporting Activities
Post 16 Education	A Level Physical Education BTEC Diploma in Sport
Careers	Sport, Coaching, Teaching
Skills and Attributes	This course will encourage personal development through practical participation in a range of sports and exercise activities and give pupils a wider understanding and appreciation of health related fitness sports and exercise.
For further information please see Mrs P Hockaday (Head of Physical Education)	



## Option 2

**All students must choose 1 subject from this section.**

## ART

GCSE Art uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	Students explore and investigate inter-relationships of line, shape, colour, texture, tone, pattern and form from observation and imagination. Students experiment with creative media to explore a variety of processes and techniques and could be working with traditional materials such as paints and pastels on making 3D constructions. Drawing with a variety of media and Digital Photography is included in each project.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE Art & Design
Examinations	10 hour examination with 10 weeks preparation time at the end of Year 11
Coursework	Portfolio of work Sept 2019 – Jan 2021 (2 full units of work)
Assessment	Portfolio of Work: 60% Examination: 40% ( Jan 2021- May 2021)
Post 16 Education	A Level Art and Design, Fine Art, Photography, Textiles, Graphics, 3D Design BTEC Art & Design.
Careers	Leading to a range of career opportunities. It is particularly useful for employment in the Creative industries; Fashion & Textile Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Illustration, Architecture, Advertising, Film and Television, Photography & Games Design.
Skills and Attributes	The ability to work independently to strict deadlines. You will need to be able to research, analyse and problem solve.
For further information please see Mr P J Sutcliffe (Head of Art)	

## BUSINESS STUDIES

GCSE Business Studies uses the OCR syllabus.

Course Description	Business is an up-to-date and engaging qualification that is relevant to the world today. This qualification equips you with the skills and confidence to explore how different business situations affect business decisions. It is a well-rounded introduction to the subject.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE
Examinations	Two examinations each 90 minutes in length All examinations are taken at the end of Year 11
Assessment	Business 1 - Business activity, marketing and people 50% 1 hour 30 minutes Business 2 – operations, finance and influences on business 50% 1 hour 30 minutes
Post 16 Education	A Level Business Studies, BTEC National in Business.
Careers	Business Studies is an extremely practical course as inevitably most of us end up working in a business. Therefore a business qualification can assist in any career from sport through to medicine and management.
Skills and Attributes	You may have an interest in the business world, advertising, marketing and how businesses can make people work harder. You may have enjoyed the Enterprise activities you have completed in Year 9. You may want to start your own business. You should like discussing your ideas and finding things out for yourself.
For further information please see Mrs G Tomlinson (Head of Business Studies)	

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE Computing follows the OCR Specification	
Course Description	GCSE Computer Science has been redeveloped and this course will allow you to develop computational thinking skills and get you to think about real world application. The course is made up of 3 units, 2 examinations and 1 unit of coursework. Topics covered include hardware, software, network topologies, data representation and computer programming.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE Computing
Examinations	2 written examinations which are set and marked by OCR, both worth 50% each and 1 programming project which is a compulsory element of the course.
Coursework	The coursework will and will be a programming project set by the exam board. The coursework element of the course will take 20 hours to complete.
Post 16 Education	A Level Computing, BTEC ICT
Careers	Highly regarded as a complex academic subject GCSE Computing leads well into Programming, Graphics, Animation, Technical Support, Software Engineering and many other ICT related careers.
Skills and Attributes	Ability to work to strict deadlines with a large degree of independence. Practical skills with a range of hardware and software. The ability to work independently on coding projects.
For further information please see Mrs A Ward (Head of ICT )	

# GCSE FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition, is concerned with the development of practical skills, theoretical knowledge and an understanding of the importance of food products in the industrial and commercial context.	
Course Description	Students will study: food components and their function, food processing and manufacturing, the consumer market, product design and manufacture.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualification	GCSE awarded by AQA
Examinations	One examination 2 hours in May/June of Year 11
Coursework	Controlled assessment consisting of a design folder and several practical outcomes. A written report based on a range of practical experiments. Theory covered will be underpinned by practical activities throughout the course.
Assessment	Year 11 examination                      50% Year 11 NEA                                      50%
Post 16 Education	Food Technology is no longer available as a Post 16 option.
Careers	Dietician, teaching, catering, food retail, food product testing and development.
Skills and Attributes	Ability to critically appraise, analyse and evaluate the characteristics of existing products. Ability to produce quality products using a variety of ingredients and processes. Good ICT skills to communicate ideas. Good time management and planning skills.
For further information please see Miss K James (Subject Leader)	

# GEOGRAPHY

GCSE Geography follows the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	There is an equal balance of physical and human Geography units which allows students to explore the current environmental and economic issues that we face in a global climate.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE Geography
Examinations	3 x examinations at the end of Year 11
Coursework	None
Assessment	Examinations: 100%
Post 16 Education	A Level Geography
Careers	Town & Country Planning, Architecture, accountancy, management, surveying
Skills and Attributes	Ability to learn case study knowledge facts and figures, determination, accuracy with data, willingness to undertake fieldwork.
For further information please see Mrs V Stone (Head of Geography)	

# HISTORY

GCSE History follows the EdExcel course.	
Course Description	Interesting to study, History provides pupils with the opportunity to develop essential skills and encourages a general understanding of the world around us.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE History
Examinations	3 examination papers: Medicine in Britain 1250-present Germany 1918-1939 Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, 1060-88 & American West 1835-1895  (May/June of Year 11)
Coursework	None
Assessment	Examinations 100% of overall grade
Post 16 Education	A Level History
Careers	Highly regarded as an academic subject, History is well respected by universities and employers. Law, Journalism, Human Resources and the Diplomatic Service to name a few.
Skills and Attributes	Open mind, hard work, research and analysis skills.
For further information please see Mr J Curry (Head of History)	

## MUSIC

GCSE Music uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	Music at GCSE allows you to be creative and expressive whilst learning a huge amount about how music works. The course is split into four areas: Western Classical Music (1600-1899), Popular Music, Traditional Music & Music of the twentieth century.
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE
Examinations	1 hour listening examination
Coursework	<b>Performing</b> One solo performance One ensemble performance <b>Composing</b> Two compositions.
Assessment	Performing Music – 30% Composing Music – 30% Listening & Appraising – 40%
Post 16 Education	A Level Music BTEC National Award in Music
Careers	Music industry, teaching, sound technician.
Skills and Attributes	You will need to be determined and work hard on tasks which may take a long time. You will need to work independently on your own musicianship and join in with extra-curricular enrichment activities.
For further information please see Mr M Grehan-Bradley (Head of Music)	

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Course Description	<p>This qualification has been designed to sit alongside the requirements of core GCSE subjects and is appropriate for learners who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences and through content which is directly related to those experiences. The study of Engineering is the application of Mathematics and Science to solve real world problems. This involves an understanding of the different disciplines of engineering and how they have shaped the products and projects of the modern world. Learners will be able to read technical drawings, select appropriate materials along with tools and machinery, and know how to carry out a practical task, working in a safe manner in line with current health &amp; safety legislation.</p>
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Careers	<p>Engineering and manufacturing employment and apprenticeships, recruitment into the armed forces</p>
Skills and Attributes	<p>Good practical skills, including drawing and presenting ideas. Interest in Mathematics and Science. Ability to work to strict deadlines. Awareness of Health and Safety issues.</p>
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## BTEC TECH AWARD HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

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Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care
Examinations	Externally set, and marked task. BTEC requires students to be assessed in a way that suits vocational learning. The Tech Award in Health and Social Care uses task-based external assessments. One externally assessed component (Component 3), designed to be synoptic (drawing together knowledge from the previous components) and taken near the end of the course. There will be two assessment sittings per year, in February and May/June, from 2019 onwards.
Coursework	Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment.
Assessment	Ongoing throughout the course with clearly set deadlines. Several units are internally assessed and externally moderated.
Post 16 Education	Help learners make more informed choices about work in this sector. BTEC Level 3 Health & Social Care.
Careers	Care assistant to help clients live independently, medical care assistant within a hospital ward or in A & E department, nursery nurse, play therapist or play co-ordinator, social worker, various nursing roles, service manager etc.
Skills and Attributes	Ability to work independently to strict deadlines. Good communication skills and a genuine interest in helping and caring for people.
<b>For further information please see – Mrs N Henderson (subject leader)</b>	

## BTEC LEARNING FOR LIFE

Key Skills award at Level 1 or Level 2	
Course Description	<p>BTEC Learning for Life is an activity-based course which promotes the development of independent learning skills. Having completed the course, students will be more able to understand themselves and others better, preparing for adult life.</p> <p>You will take part in a variety of team and independent activities, keeping records of everything that you have learned.</p> <p>Your records will be presented as a portfolio of evidence.</p>
Course Level	<p>Key Skills Level 1 – work is teacher led.</p> <p>Key Skills Level 2 – students demonstrate independent learning skills.</p>
Course Qualifications	BTEC Learning for Life
Examinations	<b>None at present.</b> The course is assessed by a portfolio of evidence.
Coursework	Continual assessment.
Post 16 Education	Development of transferable skills relevant to a range of courses.
Careers	<p>In completing the challenges of the course you will develop your expertise in six Key Skills: Communication, Number Handling, Information Technology, Working with Others, Improving Own Learning and Performance and Problem Solving, Discussion, Research techniques.</p> <p>These are the skills which all school leavers should have and are valued by all employers.</p>
Skills and Attributes	You may prefer project-based work and practical activities with a variety of challenges. You may not enjoy studying for and completing examinations.
For further information please see Mrs G Grant or Mrs P McIntyre	

## WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

In Year 9 you are asked to make choices about which subjects to study in Years 10 and 11. You may not have decided on a career path yet and you are finding your choices difficult. Do not worry about this. You are not alone. There are pupils in schools across the country who are in the same situation. Even if you have a good idea now about a future career you may find that you change your mind in the months to come. In our school we help you through this time in two ways. We have designed the option system in such a way that it will give you a balanced choice of subjects that will let you take different career paths in the future even if you do change your mind. Secondly, we provide you with Careers Education throughout Years 9, 10 and 11. Careers advice in school is intended to help you think realistically about yourself and what would suit you. Tutors, subject teachers, careers advisers and others are there to help you with the decisions. You may also research in the Careers Library. The librarians will be happy to help you with your research. If you would like further information or help you can make an appointment to meet with Mrs Mole our school Careers Adviser.

The deadline for the return of Options Forms is: **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2019.**

## INTO THE SIXTH FORM

### **Progression Beyond Key Stage 4**

The school has enjoyed considerable success in attracting the majority of pupils to stay on after Key Stage 4 and enter the Sixth Form by providing an excellent learning and caring environment along with a range of courses which meet the needs of students entering post-16 education. It is very important for you to be aware of these opportunities now. Some of your choices at GCSE may affect your Sixth Form Choices, your Higher Education Choices and ultimately your career choices. All students will follow one of two routes in the Sixth Form:

### **Route A: The GCE A Level Route**

- A-levels will be linear with assessment at the end of the two year course.

Parents and pupils will be updated as more information becomes available.

### **Route B: The Vocational Route**

Vocational courses differ from GCE Advanced levels in that:

- They place a greater emphasis on coursework and assignments produced over a period of time.
- Learning is related to the world of work.
- Work experience is an integral part of the course.

Full details of the Sixth Form Courses are available in the Sixth Form Prospectus. You can download the Sixth Form Prospectus from the school website. [www.st-leonards.durham.sch.uk](http://www.st-leonards.durham.sch.uk)