

OPTIONS

February 2021

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 it is much harder in the current circumstances for Year 9 to make choices. I really want to stress that the options process is an open process and if you have any queries or questions please make the most of the individual parents' evening on Monday 1st February and / or speak to Mrs Ward or Mr Coon as Heads of Year 9 for further information. We are committed to getting the options process right for each and every single pupil and recognise that this may take more time this year than is usual.

David Simmons
Deputy Head Teacher
January 2021

Who will help me choose?

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

Subject Teachers		ongoing support
Head of Year	Mrs A Ward	ongoing support
Head of Year	Mr J Coon	ongoing support
Careers Adviser	Mrs L Mole	ongoing support
Parents' Evening	All subject teachers	1 st February 2021
Information Evening for all Year 9 Parents	Leadership Team	28 th January 2021

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.

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.

Open Programme

The options process is an open process and the school does not operate separate pathways. The options that are taken do not impact on sets for core subjects or for decisions about the science programme for GCSE.

Science

All pupils will study science. Some pupils will be invited to a class of 'Separate Science' and some pupils invited to a class of 'Combined Science'. The placing of pupils in these classes is based on a number of factors, but is primarily driven by placing pupils in the class where they can achieve their highest science result. Please be aware that both science routes study all 3 disciplines of Physics, Chemistry and Biology and can lead to grade 9 at GCSE. Both routes can lead to further study at 'A' level sciences and beyond. The Head of Science, Mr Robertson, will speak to parents about science routes. Science does not have any impact on the current options process.

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. GCSEs are now graded 9-1 with grade 9 being the highest grade.

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.

Balance

There are a number of different qualifications that can help pupils balance their workload as they have internal assessment throughout Year 10 and Year 11. The full details are listed by subject later in this booklet. For example, some GCSEs such as Systems, Textiles and Food have 50% of the final GCSE grade based on internal assessment. All BTECs and the NCFE qualification in Engineering have just one exam, which pupils can take (and re-take if necessary) during Year 10 and Year 11. Alongside this exam they have internal assessment which can account for up to 75% of the final grade.

Many pupils find these options help them balance their workload and achieve success before the main exams at the end of Year 11 begin.

CORE SUBJECTS

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

- **Religious Education**
- **English Language and English Literature**
- **Mathematics**
- **Science**
- **Physical Education (non-exam)**
- **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.

OPTIONS – MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

These choices are important decisions for our pupils. They are important firstly in terms of achieving a breadth and balance in our studies as part of a high quality holistic, Catholic education. They are also important in terms of the eventual grades our pupils achieve and increasingly are used by Universities and Employers as a deciding factor in offering places and/or jobs. As with any school, and as identified in our recent Ofsted report different subjects have different areas to work upon. We would like to encourage all parents and pupils to listen carefully to the advice we give. As ever we will work with all families to make the right decisions for each pupil.

OPTIONS

Students make 3 choices

First Choice: GCSE English Baccalaureate Subjects

These GCSEs are traditional academic subjects which are being given preference by the Government and Universities as components of the English Baccalaureate.

French
History
Computer Science*

German
Geography

The Learning for Life BTEC is also available as a first choice. Please do not opt for this unless you have had a conversation with the Head of Year.

Second and Third Choice

The second and third choice comes from these subjects. The choice is open although pupils cannot take more than one Art choice and cannot take more than one DT choice. For example pupils can choose Art: Photography and DT: Food, but they cannot choose Art: Photography and Art: Graphic Design.

French
German
History
Geography
Computer Science*

Art: Art and Design
Art: Photography
Art: Textile Design
Art: Graphic Design

DT: Product Design
DT: Textiles
DT: Food
Engineering

Music

BTEC: Sport
PE (GCSE)

BTEC: Creative Media
BTEC: Health & Social
Care
Business Studies

*This course requires a good mathematical grounding.

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 th 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 pupils.	
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)	

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>	

SCIENCE (COMBINED SCIENCE)

<p>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.</p>	
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.
<p>For further information please see Mr N Robertson (Head of Science)</p>	

ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE SUBJECTS



FRENCH

GCSE French uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	The course covers three themes: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identity and culture 2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest 3. Current and future study and employment
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE French
Examinations	Four exams at the end of Year 11 Listening: Foundation 35 mins Higher 45 mins Reading: Foundation 45 mins Higher 1 hour Speaking: Foundation 7-9 mins Higher 10-12 mins Writing: 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"> 1. Identity and culture 2. Local, national, international and global areas of interest 3. Current and future study and employment
Course Level	Level 2
Course Qualifications	GCSE German
Examinations	Four exams at the end of Year 11 Listening: Foundation 35 mins Higher 45 mins Reading: Foundation 45 mins Higher 1 hour Speaking: Foundation 7-9 mins Higher 10-12 mins Writing: 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)	

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)	

COMPUTER SCIENCE

GCSE Computer Science 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 parts, 2 examinations and 1 programming task. 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 practical programming task during the course of study.
Programming Task	The programming task will allow you to develop skills within the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design • Write • Test • Refine
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 Miss L Maughan (Head of ICT)	

GCSE Subjects with Internal Assessment



ART: ART AND DESIGN

GCSE Fine Art uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	Fine art is the practice of creating original pieces of Art through exploring ideas, conveying experiences or responding to a theme or issue of personal significance in a visual way. The contexts in which you could work are: drawing, painting, sculpture, installation, photography, film, printmaking, mixed media and Land art. Drawing with media, digital photography and artist research 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 2021 – Jan 2023
Assessment	Portfolio of Work: 60% Examination: 40% (Jan 2023- May 2023)
Post 16 Education	A Level Fine Art, Photography, Textiles, Graphics, 3D Design, Art Foundation and University degrees in all of the Creative subjects.
Careers	Leading to a range of career opportunities in the Creative industries including; Fine Art, Fashion & Textile Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Illustration, Architecture, Advertising, Film and TV, Photography, Games Design, Digital Design & Animation.
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)	

ART: PHOTOGRAPHY

GCSE Photography uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	Photography is the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images. The contexts in which you could work are: portraiture, locations, studio photography, experimental imagery, installation, documentary photography, photo-journalism, fashion photography or moving images: film, video and animation. Contexts maybe combined and overlap.
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 2021 – Jan 2023
Assessment	Portfolio of Work: 60% Examination: 40% (Jan 2023- May 2023)
Post 16 Education	A Level Photography or Fine Art, Art Foundation and University degrees in Photography, TV, Film, Media & Animation
Careers	Leading to a range of career opportunities in the Creative industries including: Photography, Fashion, Advertising, Animation, Film, TV, Digital Design and Website 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)	

ART: GRAPHIC DESIGN

GCSE Graphic Communication uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	Graphic design is a specialist type of Art that uses typography, photography and illustration to design visual material that conveys information, ideas, meaning and emotions. The contexts in which you could work are; advertising, books, magazines, posters, computer games, product packaging, exhibitions, websites and displays, and corporate communications and identity in creating a visual 'brand'.
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 2021 – Jan 2023
Assessment	Portfolio of Work: 60% Examination: 40% (Jan 2023- May 2023)
Post 16 Education	A Level Graphic Design or Fine Art, Art Foundation and University degrees in Graphic Design, Illustration & Games design
Careers	Leading to a range of career opportunities in the Creative industries including: Graphic Design, Illustration, Fashion Illustration Advertising, Games Design, Digital Design and Website 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)	

ART: TEXTILE DESIGN

GCSE Textile Design uses the AQA syllabus.	
Course Description	Fashion and Textile design is the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles that might have a functional or non-functional purpose. The contexts in which you could work are; fine art textiles, fashion design and illustration, costume design, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles, surface pattern, stitched and embellished textiles, soft furnishings and textiles for interiors, digital textiles and installed textiles.
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 2021 – Jan 2023
Assessment	Portfolio of Work: 60% Examination: 40% (Jan 2023- May 2023)
Post 16 Education	A Level Textiles or Fine Art, Art Foundation and University degrees in Fashion including: Illustration, Body Contour, Textiles & Surface Design, Costume Design & Creative Direction and Fashion Communication.
Careers	Leading to a wide range of career opportunities in the Creative industries including: Fashion, Costume Design for TV, Film & Stage, and Interior 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)	

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	Performing One solo performance One ensemble performance Composing 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)	

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (GCSE)

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 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)	

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: 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)

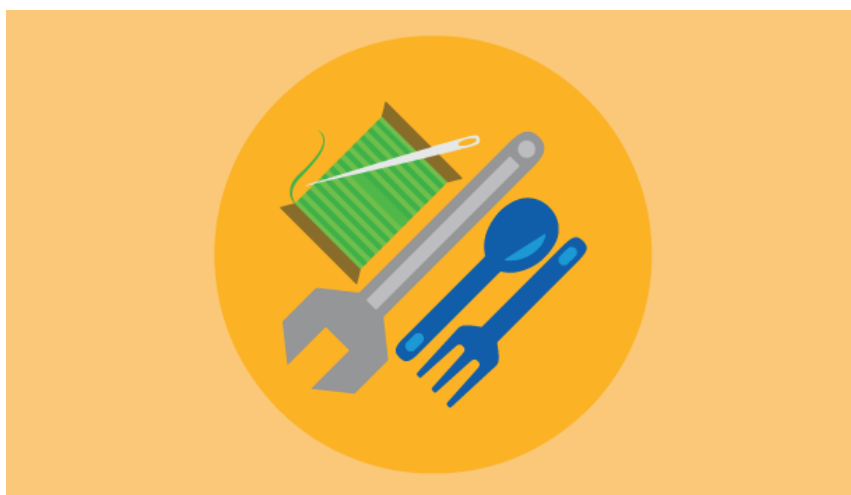
DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: FOOD

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 Mrs K Watson (Subject Leader)	

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY: TEXTILES

<p>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.</p>					
Course Description	<p>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.</p>				
Course Level	Level 2				
Course Qualification	GCSE				
Examination	<p>One examination 2 hours in May/June of Year 11</p>				
Non Exam Assessment (NEA)	<p>One NEA consisting of a design folder and practical outcome.</p>				
Course weighting	<table> <tr> <td>Year 11 examination</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 11 NEA</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> </table>	Year 11 examination	50%	Year 11 NEA	50%
Year 11 examination	50%				
Year 11 NEA	50%				
Post 16 Education	<p>A Level Fashion and Textiles or A Level Art and Design. BTEC or Degree in Textiles related studies.</p>				
Careers	<p>Fashion and costume design, historical costume restoration, interior design, manufacturing, retail buying, marketing, Textile Scientist & Textile Technologist.</p>				
Skills and Attributes	<p>Ability to critically appraise, analyse and evaluate the characteristics of existing products. Ability to produce quality products using a variety of materials.</p>				
<p>For further information please see Mrs A Grainger – (Subject Leader)</p>					

Vocational Subjects



ENGINEERING STUDIES

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)

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.</p> <p>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 & 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.</p> <p>Exam 1.5hrs externally assessed (40%)</p> <p>Synoptic project 21hrs internally assessed (60%)</p>
Post 16 Education	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 Level's in Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Design Technology. These will support progression to higher education.
Careers	Engineering and manufacturing employment and apprenticeships, recruitment into the armed forces
Skills and Attributes	Good practical skills, including drawing and presenting technical ideas. Interest in Mathematics and Science. Ability to work to strict deadlines. Awareness of Health and Safety issues.

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

BTEC SPORT

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 15 minute online exam.
Coursework	Coursework (3 units internally assessed)
Assessment	Unit 2 Practical in Sport Performance Unit 3 Applying the principles of Personal Training Unit 6 Leading Sporting Activities
Post 16 Education	Level 3 BTEC Extended 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)	

BTEC 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 wellbeing.
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.
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 CREATIVE MEDIA

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 components, 2 practical components and 1 externally examined component.

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. Component 3 – Create a media product in response to a brief.
Coursework	Component 1 – Exploring media products. Component 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 Miss L Maughan (Head of ICT)	

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 Miss L Maughan (Head of Business Studies)	

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>Equivalent to Level 1 – work is teacher led.</p> <p>Equivalent to Level 2 – students demonstrate independent learning skills.</p>
Course Qualifications	Learning for Life certificate upon completion of a portfolio
Examinations	None at present. 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 Teamwork, Reflective Learning, Independent Learning and Communication.</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 librarian 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 8th Feb 2021**

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