



Irvine & Massereene

**Key Stage 4
Curriculum Guide
2022**

It is advised that pupils/parents
retain this book for future reference
in years 11 and 12

Irvine & Massereene

Curriculum for Key Stage 4 2022-2024

The Core Subjects

All pupils will study

GCSE English ✓

GCSE Maths ✓

GCSE Science ✓

Non-exam PE & RE / LLW / Careers ✓

Option Choices

Choose route A or route B

Route A

(Choose one of the options below)

Double Award Science & Further Maths

or

Double Award Science & Media Studies

or

Double Award Science & Drama

Route B

(Choose any two of the subjects below)

Carpentry & Joinery

Food Prep

Office & Retail

Web Design

Route B pupils will also study

CCEA Preparation for Adult Life (PAL)

or

OCN Employability

or

OCN Spanish

Choose a subject from the row below (Please indicate a 1st and 2nd choice)

HE

Art

History

MVRUS

BACS

Travel &
Tourism

Choose a subject from the row below (Please indicate a 1st and 2nd choice)

BTEC
ICT

Child
Development

BTEC
Sport

Public
Services

Geography

French

GCSE
Drama

OCN
Spanish

Choose one of the subjects below

GCSE
English
Literature

GCSE
RE

Moving
Image Art

Construction

Child
Development

Music

OCN Media
Studies

I wish to be considered for the twilight OCN Animal Care (please tick)

☐

I wish to be considered for the twilight GCSE Agriculture (please tick)

☐

Choices can be made online using the Options link through SIMS Parent app by Thursday 24th March.
The booklet can be found on the Year 10 Options Choices Google Classroom.

Agriculture and Land Use

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

With approximately 75% of Northern Ireland's land being used for agriculture and the future of farming focusing on delivering both food and environmental outcomes in a sustainable way, the GCSE Agriculture and Land Use course sets up the option for those who are interested in gaining further education or employment in the agricultural sector.



Course Content

GCSE Agriculture and Land Use is divided into three parts:

Unit 1 - Soils, crops and habitats

In this unit, students gain an understanding of plants and recognise the key role of plants in the food chain. Fieldwork and practical elements are required as part of this unit.

Unit 2 - Animals on the Land

This unit aims to educate students about the main animal species that are kept commercially in Northern Ireland and particularly focusing on cow, sheep, pig and poultry husbandry, including health, welfare and breeding.

Unit 3 - Controlled Assessment: Contemporary Issues in Agriculture and Land Use

In this unit students use the skills and knowledge from units 1&2 to carry out a practical investigation and research project.

Assessment

Unit	% of grade	Type of assessment	Assessment taken
Unit 1	25%	External exam 1hr 15mins	summer year 11
Unit 2	25%	External exam 1hr 15 mins	summer year 12
Unit 3	50%	Controlled assessment	Year 12

Desirable Personal Qualities

Whilst all knowledge will be taught to the students, the following will enhance their progress:
Good attendance, good literacy and numeracy skills and attention to detail

Career and Further Study Opportunities

There is a significant number of opportunities in the agri-food industry including farming, growers, nutritionists, food processing, contractors, agri sales, feed merchants.

Animal Care

BTEC First Award Level 2

Pearson

Course Overview

This course is aimed at students who have an interest in animals and may wish to forge a career path working in an animal care setting.



Course Content

Pupils will undertake units in animal health, animal handling, animal welfare and animal housing and accommodation.

Pupils will have the opportunity to complete practical work at Laurelview Equestrian Centre and visit establishments such as farms and veterinary clinics.

Assessment

Internal assessment will be carried out by the completion of a number of written tasks. Practical skills will be assessed during practical sessions.

Desirable Personal Qualities

A keen interest in animals both companion and farm.

Access to a companion animal.

Pupils must be diligent and conscientious, with excellent time management skills.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Post-16 options include:

Level 2 and 3 Animal Care at Northern Regional College

Level 2 Certificate in Veterinary Care Support

Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing

Foundation and BSC degree in Equine Management

Art and Design

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

This specification develops students' understanding of how meanings, ideas and intentions can be communicated through visual and tactile language. Students learn how to use different media and technologies to realise their intentions. They develop their understanding of the creative and cultural industries and refine work through experimentation. Students become critical thinkers with enquiring minds and increase their confidence in taking artistic risks. As well as exploring many artistic skills and processes, students develop their knowledge and understanding of historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures.



Course Content

Component 1: Controlled Assessment

Students produce two projects as outlined below. Together, these units are worth 60% of their GCSE.

PART A – Exploratory Portfolio

Project includes responses to a variety of themes and workshops, worth 25% of component 1.

PART B – Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries

Teacher-set task based upon examples from a controlled assessment booklet provided by CCEA, worth 35% of component 1.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment (Examination)

A stimulus paper set by CCEA (in January of year 12) provides a choice of themed starting points, worth 40% of GCSE grade.

Assessment

There are four assessment objectives for this specification.

Candidates must:

- develop ideas through investigations; demonstrating critical understanding of sources (AO1);
- refine work by exploring ideas, selecting and experimenting with appropriate media, materials techniques and processes (AO2);
- record ideas, observations and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses (AO3);
- present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates understanding of visual language (AO4).

Pupils complete work in portfolios throughout years 11 and 12. In year 12, they complete a 10-hour examination in the classroom and create a final outcome. All work is internally assessed by teaching staff and externally moderated by CCEA.

Art and Design

GCSE

CCEA

Desirable Personal Qualities

Creativity, time management skills, organisational skills, research skills, communication, the ability to work independently and an interest in Art and Design are desirable qualities we look for in our students. Additional entry criteria include a B grade in year 10 assessment (64% average)

Career and Further Study Opportunities

GCSE Art and Design is the perfect stepping stone to post-16 courses offered here in Parkhall Integrated College and also into career pathways in the creative industries such as:

Animation
Ceramics
Graphic Design

Architecture
Fashion Design
Industrial Design

Art Therapy
Fine Art
Photography

Book Illustration
Floral Design
Teaching

This list is not exhaustive and Art can be preparation for any career that requires fine motor skills, an eye for aesthetics and creative thinking. Come create with us.

Business and Communication Systems

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

Business and Communication Systems gives students the opportunity to learn about businesses **and**, at the same time, develop ICT skills. It helps students understand the changing role of ICT in business. It also examines how businesses are changing because of ICT, for example, the rise of e-business.



Course Content

GCSE Business and Communication Systems is divided into three main units:

Unit 1 – Software Applications for Business

This computer-based unit allows students to develop their skills in file management, word-processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation software, web design, using the Internet and e-mail.

Unit 2 – The Business Environment

Business topics include business ownership, stakeholders, communication, digital trading, human resources, implications of digital technology and marketing.

Unit 3 – Developing Digital Solutions

Students use the skills and knowledge developed in units 1 and 2 to plan and develop a digital solution within a business context.

Assessment

Unit	Type of Assessment	% of Grade	Assessment Timing
1 – Software Applications for Business	ICT exam (2 hours)	40%	End of year 11
2 – The Business Environment	Written exam (1 hour)	35%	End of year 12
3 – Developing Digital Solutions	Controlled assessment (20 hours)	25%	During year 12

Business and Communication Systems

GCSE

CCEA

Desirable Personal Qualities

Whilst all knowledge and skills will be taught to students, the following requirements will enhance their progress:

- Good attendance is required due to the practical nature of the course.
- Good literacy skills.
- Attention to detail will assist in the creation of business documents to ensure accuracy.
- Creativity for designing websites, posters, etc.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

GCSE Business and Communication Systems offers progression into Business Studies or ICT-related courses of study. It is a clear pathway into BTEC Level 3 Business, part of Parkhall Integrated College's sixth-form provision.

Ultimately, Business and Communication Systems lays the foundation for careers in business management, accountancy, banking, marketing, ICT, retail or even running your own business.

Carpentry & Bench Joinery

Occupational Studies Level 2

CCEA

Course Overview

During this course, pupils will develop their ability to use various woodworking tools, developing skills to complete a variety of projects, including a coffee table and a birdhouse.



Course Content

Students will learn:

- Health and safety when using basic hand tools.
- The use of basic hand tools and their maintenance.
- Manufacture of joinery components using basic joints to create a range of basic joinery models, including a stool and coffee table.
- The use of basic power tools.
- Craft techniques and associated knowledge.

Assessment

Practical work counts for 60% of the course.

Knowledge, recall, understanding and evaluating count for 40%.

There is no examination. The result is based 100% on coursework.

Qualification Level 2	Distinction*	A*
	Distinction	A
	Merit	B
	Pass	C

Desirable Personal Qualities

This course has proved very popular, as it is entirely practical-based. It would suit pupils who enjoy a more vocational approach to learning.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Occupational Studies can lead to an NVQ at a technical college or an apprenticeship, which can lead to students becoming trade professionals. Typical careers could include those in the construction industry, for example, carpenter, roofer, joiner, fitter, etc.

Child Development

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

This specification focuses on the study of the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of young children from conception to the age of five years.



Course Content

- Pregnancy, childbirth and caring for a new-born baby;
- The responsibilities involved in parenting and other family roles;
- The social, physical, intellectual, communication and emotional development of small children, including their dietary, health and educational needs.

Assessment

1. Parenthood, pregnancy and the new-born baby – written paper (1hr 15mins) worth 30% of result in year 11
2. Controlled assessment – investigative task worth 40% of final grade in years 11-12
3. The development of the child (0-5 years) – written paper (1hr 15mins) worth 30% of result in year 12

Desirable Personal Qualities

An interest in the study of children from birth to early childhood and a high level of independence in writing essays related to the course.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Child Development lays the foundation for successful careers in the childcare industry, nursing and social care. It is a beneficial course to continue alongside our key stage 5 BTEC Health and Social Care studies.

Construction

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview:

While studying Construction, you will work with your hands and develop practical skills. You will have the satisfaction of producing a functional piece of work from a drawing. You will also learn to use computer-aided design tools and produce solutions to real-life construction problems.



Course Content:

- Unit 1 – Introduction to the Built Environment (theory)
- Unit 2 – Sustainable Construction (theory)
- Unit 3 – Construction Craft Project (practical)
- Unit 4 – Computer-Aided Design in Construction (AutoCAD)

Assessment:

Unit 1	Written Exam paper 1 hr	20%	Sit exam May/June Year 11
Unit 2	Written Exam paper 1 hr 30mins	30%	Sit exam May/June Year 12
Unit 3	Controlled Assessment One Craft Project	25%	Completed by April Year 12
Unit 4	Controlled Assessment AutoCAD Portfolio	25%	Completed by April Year 12

Desirable Personal Qualities:

This course has proved very popular every year with excellent results. This course would suit pupils who want to develop their craft skills, computer-aided design skills and technical skills, as well as knowledge and understanding of the construction industry.

Career and Further Study Opportunities:

In this course you will gain a comprehensive introduction to the construction industry. You will learn about the main types of construction, related employment and the resources used in the built environment. This can lead to a BTEC – Construction and the Built Environment at Further Education College.

Creative Arts and Digital Technologies Media Production

Level 2 Certificate

OCN NI

Course Overview

During this course, pupils will develop practical and theoretical skills in the processes used in media creation. This includes a range of practical units focused on film-making, editing, post-production and health and safety in a media setting. The course will cover skills such as filming, lighting, editing and the use of multimedia technology.



Course Content

Students will learn:

- The processes used to create media products;
- To use multimedia technology;
- Group-based film production;
- To use media equipment effectively;

Assessment

This qualification is assessed continually by means of portfolios, practical tasks and interactive assessment tasks. There are no examinations, and all work should be completed during class time. This gives pupils more time to study for their other GCSE subjects, alleviating some of the pressure, especially at exam time.

Desirable Personal Qualities

An interest in media creation, a willingness to appear on camera, creativity and a practical and logical thought process.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

The OCN NI Level 2 qualifications in Creative Arts and Digital Technologies enable progression to further OCN NI qualifications, OCR Level 3 Digital Media and/or into employment.

Drama

Occupational Studies Level 2

CCEA

Course Overview

GCSE Drama is a broad and coherent course that can motivate and inspire students. It encourages them to develop a personal interest in drama and allows them to build and showcase their competence in a range of creative, practical and performance skills.



Course Content

Unit 1. Devised Performance
Unit 2. Scripted Performance
Unit 3. Knowledge and Understanding of Drama

Assessment

Controlled assessment makes up 60% of the result, while written examination accounts for 40% of the final grade.

Desirable Personal Qualities

Learners should have a keen interest in all aspects of drama and performing arts. Pupils should be able to demonstrate their confidence in performance and enjoy working as part of a team.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

This qualification prepares learners for further study in the performing arts, a career in acting or design, or work in a related area such as arts management. Its emphasis on innovation, presentation, collaboration, communication and evaluation makes it relevant to many careers.

Employability Skills

Level 2 Certificate

OCN NI

Course Overview

OCN Level 2 Certificate in Employability Skills is equivalent to a grade B at GCSE. It prepares pupils as they progress onto the next direction of their career pathway. It involves developing skills most sought after by employers, assists with making decisions and personal budgeting, develops interview skills and techniques and provides pupils with the opportunity to excel in their future.



Course Content

This course involves the completion of seven units:

- Applying for Work
- Producing a CV
- Interview Skills
- Using Social Media in the Workplace
- Customer Care
- Mental Health, Well-being and Building Resilience
- Personal Money Management

Assessment

This qualification is entirely portfolio-based. Upon the completion of all seven units of work pupils will earn a grade B equivalent at GCSE level. There are no exams involved with this course.

Desirable Personal Qualities

To reach their full potential in OCN Employability Skills, pupils should be determined, willing to apply themselves, good ICT skills, motivated, self-aware and eager to carve out a successful career pathway. The course also involves some group work, so pupils should be comfortable working both independently and in a small team.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

OCN offer a Level 3 course in Employability Skills should pupils wish to continue their studies with us at post-16 level. This course is also entirely portfolio-based. Employability Skills are essential in all areas of work, and so developing these skills with this course will be useful in assisting pupils in obtaining jobs in the future.

English Language

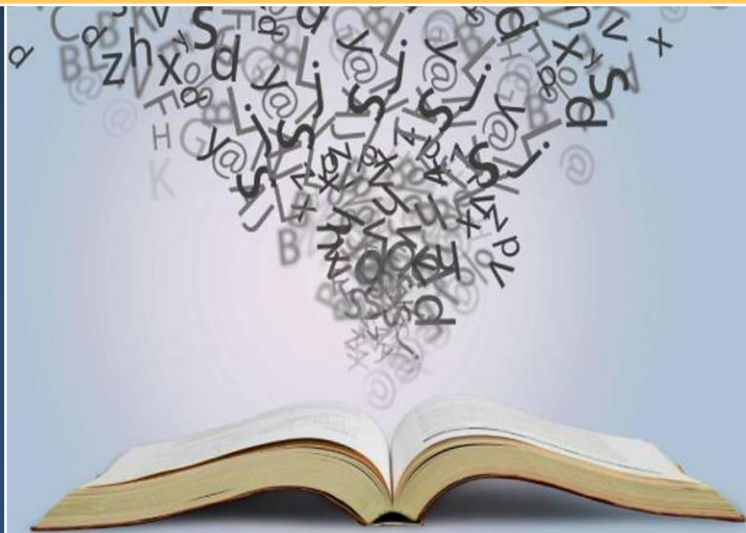
GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

The aims of this subject are to encourage students to:

- demonstrate the skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing necessary to communicate with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately;
- express themselves creatively and imaginatively;
- become critical readers of a range of texts, including multi-modal texts;
- use reading to develop their own skills as writers;
- understand the patterns, structures and conventions of written and spoken English;
- understand the impact of variations in spoken and written language and how they relate to identity and cultural diversity; and
- select and adapt speech and writing to different situations and audiences.



Course Content

Pupils will:

- study writing for a range of different purposes and for various audiences;
- learn to analyse spoken language;
- be able to adapt their language for different audiences when presenting;
- read a range of literature-based texts, developing skills of analysis; and
- compare literary texts.

Assessment

This is a two-year course

Unit 1	External Examination	1 Hour 45 minutes	30%
Unit 2	Internal Assessment	Speaking and Listening	20%
Unit 3	Written Controlled Assessment	Spoken and Written	20%
Unit 4	External Examination	1 Hour 45 minutes	30%

Desirable Personal Qualities

The CCEA GCSE English Language specification encourages students to explore and respond, both imaginatively and critically, to a variety of texts.

Students use reading to improve their writing and spoken language skills. They also enhance their understanding of how language variations relate to identity and cultural diversity.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

A grade C or above is required for most further education courses/university.

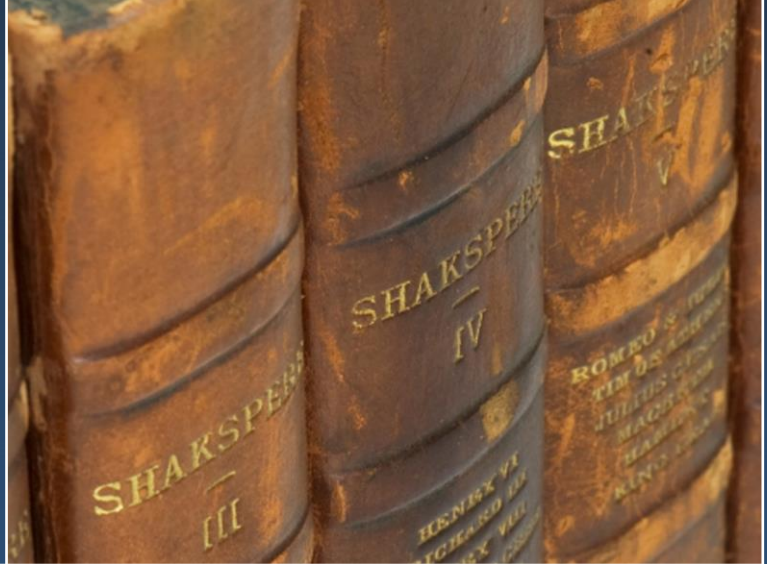
English Literature

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

The CCEA GCSE English Literature specification encourages students to be enthusiastic, independent, imaginative, critical and analytical readers. It aims to increase their enjoyment of reading, helping to nurture a lifelong love of literature.



Course Content

The specification has three units:

- **Unit 1: The Study of Prose** – Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
- **Unit 2: The Study of Drama and Poetry** – Blood Brothers / Various Poets
- **Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare** – Macbeth / Romeo and Juliet / The Merchant of Venice

Assessment

Unit 1: Prose – external written examination (1 hour 45 minutes). Students answer two questions, one from section A and the set question in section B. Section A is closed book. Worth 30% of final result.

Unit 2: The Study of Drama and Poetry External – written examination (2 hours). This is an open-book exam and is worth 50% of the final grade.

Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare – internal controlled assessment (2 hours). Worth 20%.

Desirable Personal Qualities

In studying literature we become better thinkers. We learn to see and value the multi-sidedness of situations. This expands our minds and the range of our vision to consider thoughts, feelings and solutions we might otherwise not have appreciated. By examining literature, we develop empathy and a greater understanding of the human condition.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

As a second GCSE in English this opens opportunities to study at a higher and further level.

Food and Nutrition (HE)

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

Food and Nutrition students learn about the nutritional content of foods and how to meet the specific nutritional and dietary needs of different groups of people. To do this, they modify recipes and plan, prepare and cook meals and dishes that reflect current government nutritional guidelines.



Course Content

The specification allows students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills relating to:

- the nutritional content of foods;
- the nutritional and dietary needs of specific groups and how to cater for them;
- health issues associated with dietary and lifestyle choices;
- factors affecting how we buy food, what we buy and what we waste;
- the importance of food safety;
- the preparation of food, cooking and presentation of dishes.

Assessment

Component 1: Food and Nutrition (year 12)

External examination (2 hours) – this includes multiple-choice, short and structured questions and extended writing questions and is worth 50% of the final result.

Component 2: Practical Food and Nutrition (year 12)

Controlled assessment involving practical activity and a written element, which are worth 50% of the final grade.

Desirable Personal Qualities

An interest in the nutritional and dietary needs of the nation. A good range of practical skills. A high level of independence in writing essays related to the course.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Food Nutrition lays the foundation for successful careers in catering, food production, food retailing or nutrition. It is a beneficial course to continue alongside our key stage 5 BTEC Health and Social Care studies.

French

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

This is a two-year course with all examinations completed at the end of year 12. You will be developing what you have already learned in years 8-10, through different topics. If you have enjoyed learning French and you have done well in your exams, then GCSE French is suitable for you.



Course Content

There are three contexts for learning. Context 1 is identity, lifestyle and culture. Context 2 is local, national, international and global areas of interest. Context 3 is school life, studies and the world of work. These contexts extend your work and learning from key stage 3.

Assessment

Each of the four skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking carry 25% of the total marks. There are two tiers of entry: foundation and higher. The grades attainable are A* to G.

Desirable Personal Qualities

Motivated, enthusiastic and independent. Good listening skills and good communication skills.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

With languages, you can consider careers in travel and tourism, such as working in airports or for airline companies, hotels, tourist information offices, as tourist guides, travel couriers/holiday reps, or in teaching, journalism and bi-lingual translating/secretarial work.

Geography

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

Geography is a relevant, hands-on subject that helps you to make sense of the world around you. Geographers are able to demonstrate a range of skills including statistical skills, ICT skills (including GIS), and graphical skills. Geography enables you to become globally and environmentally informed and thoughtful, enquiring citizens. It's also really interesting and fun.



Course Content

Unit 1 – Understanding our Natural World (40% of final grade).

- *River Environments*: features and processes along our rivers, the causes and solutions of flooding including case studies of the Mississippi River and the Somerset Levels.
- *Coastal Environments*: wave energy and how it is continually changing the shape of our beautiful coastline, new landforms created by this energy, coastal protection and defence methods, including a case study of Newcastle, Co. Down.
- *Our Changing Weather and Climate*: measuring the weather, causes of climate change, the weather systems affecting the British Isles and more extreme global weather systems including a case study of Typhoon Haiyan in The Philippines.
- *The Restless Earth*: basic rock types, the location and causes of earthquakes and volcanoes, a case study of earthquake activity in the Indian Ocean and supervolcanoes in the USA.

Unit 2 – Living in our World (40% of final grade).

- *Population and Migration*: population changes, population pyramids, the demographic transition model, ageing populations and the effects of migration including a study of Sudanese migrants into Belfast.
- *Changing Urban Areas*: zones of an urban area, inner city issues such as poor housing, traffic and the cultural mix, gentrification and redevelopment of urban areas, including a case study of the Titanic Quarter in Belfast.
- *Contrasts in World Development*: the development gap and the factors contributing to unequal development, the HDI, sustainable solutions to reduce the development gap around the world, such as The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), appropriate technology and Fair Trade, globalisation and BRICS countries, as well as a case study of globalisation in India.
- *Managing our Resources*: impacts of our increasing use of resources on the environment, the waste hierarchy, managing waste and resources to protect our environment, including a case study of wind power in NI, the issues caused by mass tourism and a study of its alternative, ecotourism, with a case study focus in Nam Ha, Laos and Vietnam.

Geography

GCSE

CCEA

Unit 3: Fieldwork (20% of final grade).

Fieldwork focuses on river environments, a key theme delivered as part of the unit 1 content. This involves a day trip to Magilligan Field Centre to collect data along the Curly Burn river to be consulted back in school. Students will collect, collate, manipulate, describe, explain, evaluate and analyse their data to produce tables and charts demonstrating key river theory. They will be allowed to take some of their data into the written exam to support them. There is no set controlled assessment in the Geography GCSE.

Assessment

Each unit is externally examined by CCEA as a written exam.

In Parkhall Integrated College, we study units 1 and 3 in year 11 to be examined in the summer term. Unit 3, fieldwork, focuses on river environments, a theme of unit 1. This involves a day trip to Magilligan Field Centre to collect data along the Curly Burn river to be analysed for use in the summer exam. We complete our full GCSE by studying unit 2 in year 12 to be examined in the summer term.

Desirable Personal Qualities

A successful geographer is one who enjoys the subject. A successful geographer is also an organised one who enjoys critical thinking, shows empathy for others and enjoys exploring new cultures and destinations across this amazing planet we live on.

"Geography is not only up-to-date and relevant; it is one of the most exciting, adventurous and valuable subjects to study today. So many of the world's current problems boil down to geography and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them." Michael Palin.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

The core skills developed throughout the study of Geography (such as decision-making, research techniques, critical thinking and analytical skills) prepare students for work within a wide range of careers, including the travel and tourism industry (offered at post 16 in the college), environmental engineering, architecture, zoology, town-planning, global journalism, teaching, the armed forces, global aid development, business management, economics and politics, construction... the list is extensive, as Geography encompasses the theory and knowledge of many disciplines and careers.

History

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

The CCEA course aims to help students understand the world they live in today.

We want to teach students how various events have actually influenced the lives they currently have.



Course Content

Study in Depth One: Life in Nazi Germany

The Rise of Adolf Hitler

Life in Germany under Hitler, life in Germany during WW2 and the Holocaust

Study in Depth Two: Peace, War And Neutrality, Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland in the Second World War c1932-c1949

Creation of Northern Ireland and the border

Life in Northern Ireland during WW2 and life in Britain and Ireland after the war

Outline Study: The Cold War c1945-c1991

Studying tensions in the world since 1945. This will include the Cold War/Vietnam/ Saddam Hussein/The Twin Towers

Assessment

Examination paper 1 (1 hour 45 minutes) in June of year 11 examines the two studies in depth and is worth 60% of the total marks.

Examination Paper 2 (1 hour 15 minutes) in June of year 12 examines the outline study and is worth 40% of the total marks.

There is no controlled assessment

Desirable Personal Qualities

We simply ask that you enjoy the subject and are keen to do well. We believe our course is very interesting, and pupils tend to enjoy the way we present it.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

We are very proud of the fact that we can now offer A-level History in our department. It has also become clear that GCSE History is a great way to obtain one of the five GCSEs that many colleges require. It will also teach you many skills needed in employment.

ICT (BTEC)

BTEC

Edexcel

Course Overview

Over a two-year course, you will develop a range of practical skills and theoretical knowledge in the areas of web design, digital portfolio creation and aspects of theory in computing. Many students who enjoy and successfully complete this course progress onto a level 3 BTEC ICT course.



Course Content

This course is taught over three areas:

- The online world.
- Web design.
- Digital portfolio creation.

Assessment

Screen-based exam questions based on the specification for unit 1: the online world (percentage weighting 25%)
Internal assessment of two units of work: web design and digital portfolio creation (percentage weighting 75%)

Desirable Personal Qualities

You will be expected to work hard in school and at home to complete this exciting course.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Can lead to further study of

- A levels
- Level 3 BTEC ICT course

Mathematics

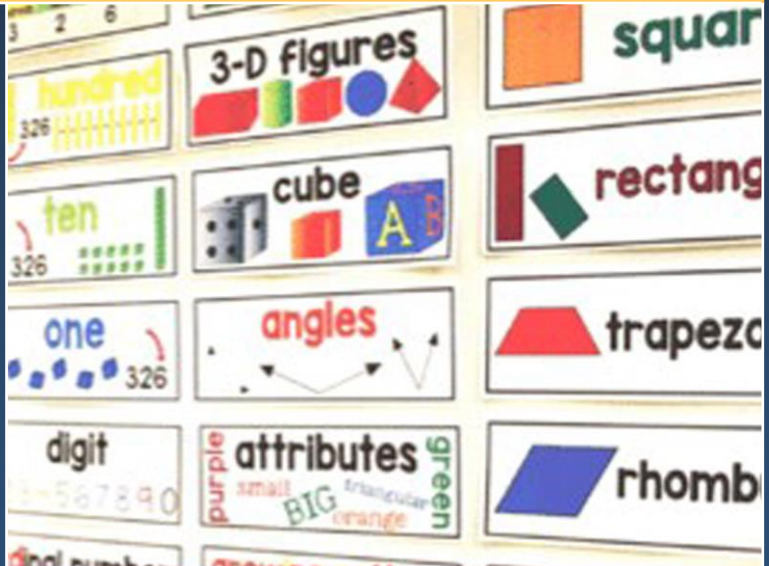
GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

Mathematics is one of the core subjects in the Northern Ireland Curriculum, and each pupil must study the subject at GCSE.

GCSE Mathematics can be studied at either foundation or higher level.



Course Content

Subject content covers all aspects of mathematics, such as using and applying mathematics, number, algebra, shape and space, measures and data handling.

Assessment

One examination paper (M1, M2, M3 or M4) is sat in June of year 11, accounting for 45% of the overall examination credit. The terminal examination (M5, M6, M7 or M8) is sat in June of year 12. The terminal exam accounts for 55% of the final grade.

Desirable Personal Qualities

Pupils will be able to develop an understanding of the part mathematics plays in the world around them. They will learn to reason logically, to classify, generalise and appreciate patterns and mathematical relationships, interpret, process and represent data and draw logical conclusions, justifying arguments and conclusions.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

A grade C or above is an essential qualification for most careers and post-16 courses. Mathematical skills are viewed most highly by employers. Mathematics is a strong academic subject acceptable for all courses at third-level education.

Career opportunities include actuarial science, accountancy, architecture, banking, dentistry, engineering, pharmacy, medicine, veterinary science and teaching.

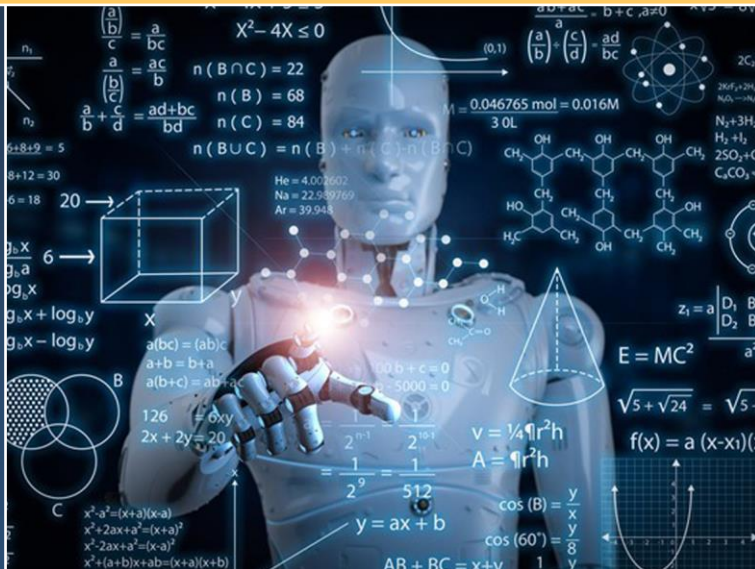
Further Mathematics

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

GCSE Further Mathematics caters for students who require knowledge of mathematics beyond GCSE Higher Tier Mathematics. It is designed to broaden the experience of students whose mathematical ability is above average and support progress to A-level Mathematics.



Course Content

This course aims to encourage students to develop further their mathematical knowledge, skills and understanding and select and apply mathematical techniques and methods in mathematical and real-world situations.

Assessment

GCSE Further Mathematics is 100% external examination and is split into three papers:

Pure Mathematics (50%)

Mechanics (25%)

Statistics (25%)

Desirable Personal Qualities

Persistence, communication, resilience, critical thinking, logic, curiosity and creativity.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

A qualification in GCSE Further Mathematics provides an ideal stepping stone for A level. Mathematical skills are viewed most highly by employers.

Some possible career opportunities include accounting, medicine, engineering, forensic pathology, finance, business, consultancy, teaching, IT, games development, scientific research, programming, Civil Service, design, construction and actuarial science.

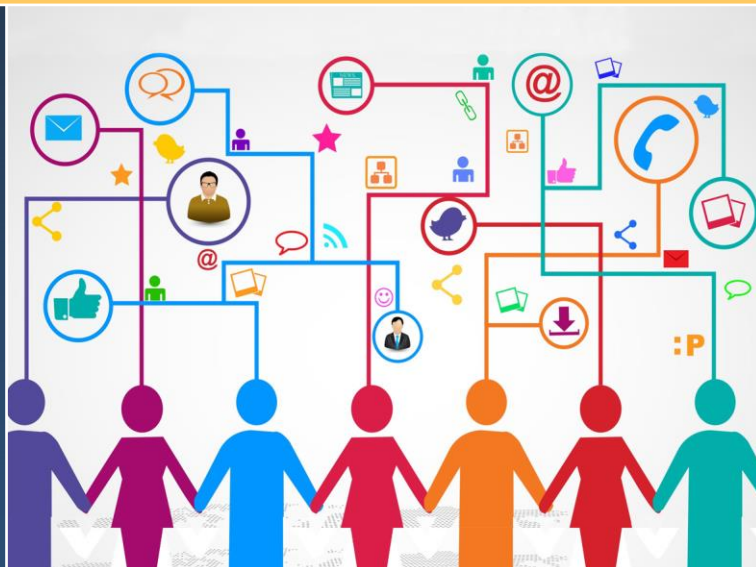
Media Studies

GCSE

Course Overview

GCSE Media Studies offers students an interactive and engaging course that aims to broaden students' relationship with media and current world events. Students will cover all aspects of media, including language, representations, industries and audiences, giving students both an overall and in-depth understanding of how media represents the world. New topics offer a broad overview of the subject as well as a more detailed study of relevant and contemporary content.

AQA



Course Content

The theory element of the course covers the four main areas of media: language, representation, audience and industry. This is studied with both a real-world focus and a detailed study of case-study products. The practical element allows pupils to create their own media product based on six briefs set by AQA. This could be a music video, a magazine spread, video game or podcast.

Assessment

Two written exams (1 hour 30 minutes each) worth 70% of GCSE final grade
Non-exam assessment by teachers accounting for 30% of GCSE result

Desirable Personal Qualities

An interest in media such as television, film or social media, a creative and inquisitive attitude to learning with a keen interest in discussing and sharing ideas.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

A-level Media Studies, OCR Level 3 Digital Media, Advertising, Media with Education, Game Development, Marketing, Journalism, English and Communication.

Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

- Knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of vehicle ownership;
- A positive and understanding attitude to the use of the road and to other road users;
- An awareness of the interaction of the road user, the environment and the vehicle;
- Respect for the safety of road users;
- The ability to act decisively and positively at the scene of an accident;
- Knowledge and understanding of routine vehicle maintenance



Course Content

- Vehicle control and road user behaviour
- Legal requirements
- Road transport and its effect on society
- Motoring mathematics
- Accident procedures
- Motor vehicle technology

Assessment

There are three units

Unit 1 Motor Vehicle and Road User Theory – external exam, 50% weighting

Unit 2 Investigative Study – controlled assessment, 25% weighting

Unit 3 Practical Moped Riding – controlled assessment, 25% weighting

Desirable Personal Qualities

Ability to control a vehicle necessary (bicycle). Desire to understand modern technology and traffic management. Some minor vehicle maintenance desirable but not essential.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Mechanic, transport development, urban planning, driving theory test preparation.

Moving Image Arts

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

Moving Image Arts is an art-based film-making course. It features projects which will help you to develop and refine your skills as a filmmaker or animator. Moving Image Arts offers you the unique opportunity to attend film school in school. You will study six set film genres during the course and will be expected to develop knowledge and understanding of film language, visual style and representation in this component.



Course Content

Year 11 - Complete four controlled skill tasks. These are:

- storyboarding
- camera work
- editing
- postproduction sound and
- stop-motion animation

Year 12 - Students will apply the four skill tasks and create their own final film portfolio.

Assessment

Year 11 – Complete four controlled skill tasks. No exam in year 11.

Year 11 is worth 20% of the total GCSE.

Year 12 – Students will sit a mock online exam in January and an official online exam in June.

Year 12 is worth 80% of the total GCSE.

The course is 60% coursework and 40% online exam.

Desirable Personal Qualities

Moving Image Arts will encourage independence, originality and experimentation. Students who choose Moving Image Arts must be willing to learn how to effectively use and manage a camera, editing software and on occasions work at the weekend independently to record their own film or animation. This is a highly rewarding course for the aspiring filmmaker.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Students who choose Moving Image Arts can progress to careers in: animation, cinematography, game design, AR design, character development for game design, as a storyboard artist

Music

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

Music GCSE is made up of three components, composition (30%), performing and appraising (35%) and listening and appraising (35%). All three components are based on the same areas of study.



Course Content

There are four compulsory areas of study: western classical music, film music, musical traditions in Ireland and popular music.

- In composing and appraising, the pupils must compose two pieces of music lasting from three to six minutes. One is the pupil's own choice and one is in response to a stimulus.
- In performance, one solo and one ensemble performance lasting up to six minutes is required from each candidate.
- In listening and appraising, the pupil must complete one written paper based on the areas of study.

Assessment

- Two compositions worth 30% of the final grade
- Solo and ensemble performance accounting for 35% of the result
- Listening and appraising – one written paper completed in the summer term of year 12 (35%)
- Composition and performances – controlled assessment throughout years 11 and 12

Desirable Personal Qualities

Pupils wishing to choose this option need to play an instrument at grade 2 standard before starting year 11. They must also have the discipline required to practice regularly and attend weekly lessons.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

The music industry is the second biggest in the UK. The career options are endless but they include music therapist, disc-jockey, performer, tuner, technician, instrument repair, church musician, music librarian, recording editor, music arranging, film scoring and teaching.

Office and Retail

Occupational Studies Level 2

CCEA

Course Overview

This practical Occupational Studies Office and Retail Course will develop a student's knowledge and skills useful for working in an office environment or a retail environment requiring good customer skills. The knowledge and skills gained are also transferrable to other work areas.



Course Content

Using Office Technology:

- How to use a range of office equipment: telephone, fax, shredder, printer, photocopier, scanner, answering machine.
- Word-processing a range of business documents e.g. letters and displays.
- Spreadsheets
- Health and safety in an office environment.

Customer Service:

- What is customer service?
- How to deal with customers
- Creating a positive first impression
- Dealing with different customers' needs
- Improving customer service in an organisation.

You will visit a range of retail outlets and meet the staff, who will give you an insight into their role within the business.

Office and Retail

Occupational Studies Level 2

CCEA

Assessment

This course is assessed by building a portfolio of evidence which will contain the outcomes of the practical assessments designed to show a student's skills and understanding of using office technology and of customer service. The portfolio is assessed throughout the year in school and moderated by CCEA. Pupils can obtain an Occupational Studies Level 2 qualification equivalent to A*-C at GCSE as follows:

Distinction*	A*
Distinction	A
Merit	B
Pass	C

Desirable Personal Qualities

Whilst all knowledge and skills will be taught to students, the following requirements will enhance their progress:

- Good attendance is required, as this course is continuously assessed in class.
- A willingness to use new equipment.
- Attention to detail will assist in the creation of business documents to ensure accuracy.
- Good communication skills.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

This office course is suitable for those students who wish to gain knowledge and understanding of administration practice, together with the skills necessary to pursue careers as secretaries, administrators, receptionists and call-centre staff.

The Customer Service (Retail) course is suitable for those students who wish to gain knowledge and understanding of dealing with customers together with the skills necessary to pursue careers in a retail environment or indeed any work environment in which there is interaction with customers.

Occupational Studies courses can lead to NVQ courses.

Patisserie and Contemporary Cuisine (Food Prep)

Occupational Studies Level 2

CCEA

Course Overview

This course is divided into two units: Patisserie and Baking, and Contemporary Cuisine. The units provide learners with some of the basic baking principles required by pastry chefs and the basic principles of preparing and cooking a range of starters, main courses and desserts in the catering industry.



Course Content

Unit 1: Patisserie and Baking (September-January)

Preparing, cooking and finishing bread, scones, cakes, biscuits and pastry products to reflect industry standards

Unit 2: Contemporary Cuisine (January-May)

Preparing, cooking and finishing four starters, four mains and four desserts.

Assessment

This course has 100% practical assessments, with pupils completing a portfolio of a range of cooking skills used to make various dishes.

Desirable Personal Qualities

A high level of skill in cooking and presenting food for catering standards.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Food Preparation lays the foundation for successful careers in catering, food production and food retailing.

Preparation for Adult Life

Certificate Level 2

CCEA

Course Overview

Preparation for Adult Life creates a specific space to think through major decisions and their implications and provides practical tools for thinking independently, making informed choices and acting responsibly in today's world. It helps us answer questions, such as: What is fair? What are my rights and responsibilities? What is my attitude to others who are different? How can I look after my own well-being? How should I deal with relationships? How can I cope with the stress of my life? How is the workplace changing? What job will make the best of my strengths? What are the growth sectors in our economy?



Course Content

Preparing for Adult Life is a straight-talking, forward-thinking subject which pupils find informative, thought-provoking and achievable. The course uses a variety of teaching methods, including individual research, group work, extensive use of ICT and visiting speakers to study thirteen units:

Citizenship

- Unit 1: Diversity and Social Inclusion
- Unit 2: Democracy and Democratic Participation
- Unit 3: Human Rights and Social Responsibility
- Unit 4: Equality and Social Justice

Employability

- Unit 5: Preparation for Work
- Unit 6: Business in the Community
- Unit 7: Effective Work Practice
- Unit 8: Globalisation and the Labour Market

Personal and Social Development

- Unit 9: Self-Development
- Unit 10: Roles and Responsibilities of Parents
- Unit 11: Healthy Relationships
- Unit 12: Maintaining Personal Health and Well-Being
- Unit 13: Effective Financial Management

Assessment

This course is based on continuous assessment, with all units carrying equal weight. Each unit has a portfolio of work, and all thirteen must be completed to achieve a level 2, which is equivalent to a GCSE grade B.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Preparation for Adult Life complements the work carried out in other subjects e.g. unit 10, Roles and Responsibilities of Parents, ties in with Child Development and Care.

Public Services

BTEC First Award Level 2

Pearson

Course Overview

The aim of BTEC Public Services is to inspire learners to consider a career in the public service sector, to develop skills in the public service sector, to provide opportunities for the development of transferable skills which provide a platform for success both within the public services and elsewhere and to give learners the potential opportunity to enter employment within a wide range of job roles. You will study the work of the emergency services, armed services, local councils and government, among others.



Course Content

We will study four equally weighted (25% each) units of work over this two-year course:

- Unit 1 – The Role and Work of the Public Services
- Unit 2 – Working Skills in the Public Service Sector
- Unit 3 – Employment in the Public Services
- Unit 4 – Public Services and Community Protection

Assessment

Unit 1 is externally assessed in a one-hour examination, which is completed at the end of year 11. Units 2-4 are internally assessed assignment-based tasks.

Grades

- Level 2 – Distinction*
- Level 2 – Distinction
- Level 2 – Merit
- Level 2 – Pass

GCSE Equivalents

- A*
- A
- B
- C

Desirable Personal Qualities

The ideal candidates to study BTEC Public Services are motivated to achieve their potential, are hardworking and apply themselves to all tasks. It is all important to have good time management skills to ensure assignments are completed on time. This is an ideal course to boost your employment opportunities to broaden your knowledge of public service job roles if you are committed to trying your best at all times.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

This course supports progression into a more specialised level-3 vocational (in sixth form/at NRC/Belfast Met) or an academic course (A level) or into an apprenticeship.

BTEC Public Services prepares you for a job role in many popular sectors in NI and beyond, such as the armed forces, emergency services, local authority, Civil Service or government roles. It also provides insight into the application process for jobs.

Religious Education

GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

GCSE Religious Education challenges students to examine their own values and attitudes, whilst respecting the beliefs of others. It helps young people to develop their views and opinions in a wide range of topical issues. The GCSE course builds on much of the work covered in junior school.



Course Content

The syllabus is relevant and interesting, comprising two main units of study:

A Study of the Gospel of Matthew

This unit begins with a study of the background to Matthew's Gospel. The identity of Jesus is examined through his birth, baptism, temptations and other key events. Pupils then discover more about Jesus through his role as miracle worker by examining some of his miracles and then his teachings through a number of parables. His death and resurrection are looked at before the final section, which examines the role of Christian discipleship.

An Introduction to Christian Ethics

This unit involves a great deal of discussion of moral issues that surround us in the 21st century. Pupils have a great opportunity to voice their own opinion and viewpoints before examining the biblical and church teaching. Topics that are examined include personal and family issues, matters of life and death, developments in bioethics, contemporary Christianity and modern warfare.

Assessment

There are two externally assessed exam papers, one on each unit, each lasting 1 hour 30 minutes. The first is at the end of year 11, and the second is at the end of year 12.

Desirable Personal Qualities

If you have worked well at KS3 RE and achieved good results, then GCSE RE could be for you. If you are committed to studying and hard work and have a desire to succeed, then you are capable of achieving an A* to C grade at GCSE.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

Religious Education is not a subject that is only to be followed if you are considering a career within a church setting or education. GCSE RE can be useful for a wide range of career paths. Pupils have completed GCSE RE and followed careers into administration, the army, counselling, journalism, religious ministry, nursing, social work, teaching (nursery to secondary level), youth and community work, amongst others. Furthermore, pupils who wish to study RE at A level, would be at an advantage if they have studied GCSE RE.

Science

Double Award GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

During this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of the key scientific principles in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They will also carry out practicals in preparation for a practical assessment. Students choosing Double Award Science will have double the amount of Science on their timetable and, on completion of the course, will be awarded two GCSEs.



Course Content

In year 11 and in year 12, students will complete units in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and in Practical Skills.

Assessment

Year 11 pupils will complete three written examinations: Biology in November, Chemistry/Physics in February/May. Each exam is one hour long and worth 11% of the Double Award GCSE.

Year 12 pupils will complete three written examinations. Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be completed in May/June. Each examination is 1 hour 15 minutes and is worth 14% of the Double Award GCSE.

Year 12 pupils will also sit a practical examination. The practical aspect takes place in March. The written papers for each of the subjects take place in May/June. These papers are 30 minutes each.

Desirable Personal Qualities

Students wishing to study Double Award Science must have a keen interest in Science. They must be hardworking, motivated, unafraid to ask questions and determined to succeed.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

This course prepares students for the study of science-related subjects at a more advanced level, for example Double Award A-level Life and Health Science, Advanced Physics, Chemistry and Biology. For those progressing directly into employment, a GCSE in Double Award Science is relevant not only to the fields of science and engineering, but also to areas of commerce and public service that value problem-solving and practical skills.

Science

Single Award GCSE

CCEA

Course Overview

The GCSE Single Award course is made up of Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Practical Skills. Higher tier pupils can achieve an A grade. Foundation pupils can achieve a C* grade.



Course Content

In year 11 and in year 12, students will complete units in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and in Practical Skills.

Assessment

Year 11 pupils will complete one written examination: Biology in February.

In year 12, pupils will complete two written examinations. Physics will be completed in November and Chemistry in May/June. Each examination is one hour long and is worth 25% of the Single Award GCSE.

Year 12 pupils will also sit a practical examination. The practical aspect takes place in March. The written paper takes place in May/June. This paper is two hours in duration.

Desirable Personal Qualities

Student wishing to study Single Award Science will have an interest in Science. They must be hardworking, motivated, unafraid to ask questions and determined to succeed.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

This specification offers students the opportunity to be inspired, motivated and challenged by a broad, practical and worthwhile course of study. It encourages them to develop their curiosity about the living, material and physical worlds and provides insight into and experience of how science works. Pupils achieving a B grade or higher in Single Award Science would be eligible to complete Single Award A-level Life and Health Science.

Spanish

OCN Level 2

OCN

Course Overview

This is a two-year course with no terminal exams, as your work is assessed on completion of set tasks carried out over the course of the two years. Your portfolio is based on the continuous assessment of classwork and tasks.



Course Content

There are five tasks per skill, and the skills are reading, writing, speaking and listening. There are three themes of learning: identity and culture, current and future study and employment and local, national, international and global areas of interest.

Assessment

This is entirely portfolio-based and consists of continuous assessment across the two years of the course. A pass at level 2 is equivalent to a grade B at GCSE.

Desirable Personal Qualities

Pupils should be motivated, enthusiastic and independent with good listening skills and good communication skills.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

With languages, you can consider careers in travel and tourism, such as working in airports or for airline companies, hotels, tourist information offices, as tourist guides, travel couriers/holiday reps, or in teaching, journalism and bi-lingual translating/secretarial work.

BTEC Sport

BTEC

Pearson

Course Overview

BTEC First Award In Sport has been developed to give learners a stimulating and engaging introduction into the world of sport. Learners can gain knowledge, skills and understanding through practical participation and performance in a range of sports, exercise and health-related activities.



Course Content

There are four units in this two-year course. Two are compulsory, and two are optional

Compulsory

Unit 1. Fitness for Sport and Exercise (theory and practical application of the science of sport, components of fitness, principles of training and fitness-testing methods). Assessed via an external online one-hour exam.

Unit 2. Practical Sports Performance (understanding, demonstrating and analysing rules, tactics and techniques as well as reviewing performance levels). Assignment-based.

Unit 3. Training of Personal Fitness (undertaking a personal fitness programme, investigating exercise adherence factors and strategies and reviewing the exercise programme). Exercise programme and assignment-based.

Optional

Unit 5. The Sports Performer in Action (sports physiology, short and long-term responses by the body to exercise, the body's energy systems). Assignment-based.

Assessment

Four units in total. One is an online exam. The other three are assessed by means of coursework (25% each) comprising practical sessions, videos, photo evidence, witness statements, diary entries, exercise and fitness programmes.

Desirable Personal Qualities

Genuine interest in sport and the sporting world

Ability to undertake practical sessions

Ability to interpret data

Hardworking and willing to undertake work at home

Career and Further Study Opportunities

The concerns about the health and fitness of society are likely to result in more jobs being created in the health and leisure industry. Careers include: sport science, coaching, health and fitness instruction, teaching, leisure management, sports therapy and the armed forces.

Travel & Tourism

BTEC Level 1/2 First Award

Pearson

Course Overview

The BTEC Travel and Tourism qualification is an introduction into the dynamic nature of the tourism industry. The qualification allows students to look at the theory behind the industry that is the third largest employment sector in the UK. This course grows in popularity every year because of its exciting content, development of life/employability skills and the combination of exam and portfolio work. Studying Travel and Tourism in Northern Ireland allows us to explore the amazing opportunities that we offer travellers with our scenic beauty, TV and film locations and welcoming hospitality.



Course Content

The BTEC Level 1/2 First Award in Travel and Tourism is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH). It has three core/mandatory units and one optional unit. The core units are:

- Unit 1. The UK Travel and Tourism Sector
This unit covers the main types of tourism in the UK, the contribution that travel and tourism makes to the UK economy and the different component industries that make up the UK travel and tourism sector.
- Unit 2. UK Travel and Tourism Destinations
This unit covers what the different types of UK destinations have to offer, as well as locating tourist UK destinations and routes.
- Unit 3. The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience
This unit investigates the definition of customer service and what the main aims of customer service are. This may differ, depending on the size and type of the travel and tourism organisation. Students will look at different types of customers, both internal and external to travel and tourism organisations.

The optional unit is:

- Unit 4. International Travel and Tourism Destinations
This unit encourages students to locate numerous international holiday destinations and their gateways. They will also be asked to investigate natural features, local attractions, accommodation and transport options to suit a variety of customers in various holiday destinations. This unit is particularly relevant for anyone who wishes to work in retail travel or tour operations and will broaden your knowledge should you wish to work overseas, perhaps as a holiday representative or flying the world as cabin crew.

Travel & Tourism

BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award

Pearson

Assessment

The mandatory unit 1 is externally assessed by the exam board, using an exam taken in January of year 11. You will also complete the optional unit 4 in year 11. These two units are led Mrs Feeney.

The remaining two mandatory portfolio units 2 and 3 are completed in year 12 with Mrs McKee. Students who are successful achieve the equivalent of a full GCSE, graded as level 2 distinction*, level 2 distinction, level 2 merit, level 2 pass, level 1 and unclassified.

Desirable Personal Qualities

BTECs are vocationally related qualifications, where learners develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work-related context. The course engages learners to take responsibility for their own learning and helps them develop skills that are essential for the modern-day workplace. This course requires the student to be organised and self-motivated and is taught using a wide range of teaching strategies, including project work, group tasks, individual and group presentations and, of course, visits to travel and tourism attractions, events and organisations.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Travel and Tourism provides the skills, knowledge and understanding for Level 2 learners to progress to:

- Level 3 qualifications, such as Level 3 Travel and Tourism in the sixth form of Parkhall Integrated College or other A levels;
- Apprenticeships offered within the industry or linked industries such as hospitality, sport and business or the possibility of going straight into employment in the sector itself or linked sectors.

"I don't know exactly when travel will return. Nor do I know how quickly that will happen. But what I do know is that the day is coming. There are the 'would be' backpackers and gap year travellers. There are the people who have excess money in the bank because they couldn't spend their disposable income on their holidays. There are the people who are desperate to visit Disneyworld or the Eiffel Tower or the Great Barrier Reef. I am sure that when travel returns, it will be BIG."

Dr Hayley Stainton on why 2021 is the best time to start studying Travel and Tourism.

Web Development and Graphic Design

Occupational Studies

CCEA

Course Overview

During this course, pupils will develop their ICT skills in a creative and exciting way to create their own website and to use digital cameras and software to create dynamic images for a variety of purposes.



Course Content

Website Development

Section 1 Planning for developing a website.

Section 2 Creating a website.

Section 3 Publishing and content-managing a website.

Graphic Design

Section 1 Planning for a graphic design project.

Section 2 Producing a graphic design project, based on a client brief.

Section 3 Presenting the final graphic design project.

Assessment

This course is 100% practical. Pupils will create a website and a range of enhanced digital images. The pupil's portfolio of evidence illustrating the process of creating a website and the graphic design process will be assessed.

Desirable Personal Qualities

You will be expected to work hard in school and have good attendance to complete this exciting course.

Career and Further Study Opportunities

This course could lead to further study in web development and graphic design at the NRC and could lead to the following career paths:

- Website designer
- Graphic designer
- Photographer

