

CAEDMON COLLEGE WHITBY

Options
Booklet



BE THE BEST YOU CAN BE

My Progress

Stretch your limits and achieve more than you thought possible.



Working in a goal-driven manner is an essential skill we want students to develop.

Taking responsibility for one’s own learning and achievement of goals requires perseverance, willpower and the right attitude towards challenges.

Welcome to your future!

Dear Year 9 student,

In this booklet you'll find details of all the subjects you could take in Years 10-11.

We want you to think carefully about the GCSEs you would like to do and we'll help you along the way. You will already have spoken to your Coaches about this.

On Thursday 6 February you will get a chance to talk to some students and subject teachers. Please try to join us.



Options and Career Choices

Choosing what to take in years 10 and 11 is a very important decision which will affect your options for the future. The qualifications you gain in Year 11 will influence your future choices whichever route you take - apprenticeships, work-related learning, or an A-level-equivalent course at school or college, perhaps leading to higher education. Where you have choices to make, try to make a well-balanced selection. The National Curriculum and your school will make sure that you continue to study a broad range of subjects, so keeping open a wide range of future options.

Where to Start

Career choice involves thinking about your own interests, abilities, needs and values, and matching them against the requirements of particular types of work. Some of the activities you do in College, as part of your careers/PSHCE programme, will help you think things through.

Computerised guidance can help by looking at your interests together with other factors and produce a list of jobs for you to consider – such as Plotr (www.plotr.co.uk) or the National Careers Service website (nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk).

Making Choices

Choosing a career can be difficult because there are so many courses and careers to choose from, but advice and information is available to help you to make the best possible choices.

To help you get started here are a few questions to ask yourself.

Things to consider

- do you have a career in mind? – if so, never make a guess about the suitability of particular subjects for future careers. Always check with your Careers Adviser or teacher, and with up-to-date information available in your careers library or through websites (see suggested list below)
- remember even if you have a fixed career idea now you might change your mind by the time you are 16 or 18 – so you still need to leave some flexibility in your subject choice. Maths, English and Science at GCSE grade 4 or above are very important for most careers
- if you are considering a Science based career such as Medicine, Veterinary, Dentistry etc. then you do need to be very strong in Science subjects and some universities are insisting on 6/7 grades in English and Maths
- a modern foreign language such as French or German at GCSE grade 4 or above is often required by Universities when applying for degrees in English or for primary teaching
- don't choose subjects or particular courses because you feel pressurised by other people, or because your friends are doing them, or because you like the teacher. Friendships change, teachers change - make your decision on how you feel about the subject itself!
- languages, maths and sciences clearly need a good foundation before you can take them further, but subjects like business studies and drama can often be started from scratch at Sixth Form level.

Interests, skills and abilities – Questions to ask yourself

- what sort of interests do you have?
- are they interests that could be used in a job?
- what are you good at? As well as thinking about school subjects, think about things you do in

your life generally. For example, are you particularly good at organising things, listening to people, managing your money, practical tasks, managing your time, etc?

- talk to people - Careers Co-ordinators in schools, alongside tutors will be able to help with information and advice and they can put you in touch with your Careers Adviser, Mrs Mackle for more specialised guidance with your choices or Mr Graham.

Information

There is a careers library for your use in the Learning Centre. Information is available through leaflets and books as well as electronically – through websites and links on the College website, such as Plotr, iCould, the National Careers Service website and Higher Ideas.

Make sure that any materials you refer to are as up to date as possible – especially information about courses and qualifications.

Useful websites:

- *Careers advice, information and inspiration:*
www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk
www.plotr.co.uk
www.icould.com
- *Apprenticeships:*
www.apprenticeships.gov.uk
- *Higher Education:*
www.whatuni.com
www.ucas.com
www.university.which.co.uk
www.unistats.direct.gov.uk
www.unifrog.org
- *Employment:*
www.gov.uk/jobsearch



Why study Art?

If you enjoy drawing, painting, designing and creating, this might be the subject for you. With a broad range of artists and methods, there are hundreds of routes you can choose to follow based on your own ideas and interests.

Art offers a contrast to some of the more academic subjects, providing a unique and enjoyable way to express yourself whilst demonstrating an ability to think and communicate in new and creative ways.

The UK is one of the world leaders in terms of creative industries. If you wish to follow a career in the visual arts then studying art GCSE will help you to achieve that goal.

What you will study:

- art and artists from past and present
- we use the term artist broadly, so this might include people who work in any of the following areas: painting, printmaking, sculpture, photography, textile/fashion, drawing, illustration, graphics and crafts based work such as jewellery and ceramics
- how to explore and develop ideas through responding to different starting points. Sometimes this might be a theme, an artist or even a question
- drawing and painting are key areas that underpin most work - but you will also be introduced to a wide range of new and exciting materials and techniques. This can include specialist equipment like the photography/dark room, Photoshop, stitch and sewing machines, ceramics and printing presses, as well as access to enamelling and heat pressing equipment in DT
- how artists live and think about the world around them, allowing it to inspire and guide their work in new and unexpected ways
- at the beginning of KS4 projects are set - just like at KS3 - however, as your skills and understanding grow, you earn more freedom to choose your own artists and projects.

How you will be assessed:

The vast majority of work in art is coursework; this means that everything you produce can count towards your final grade.

There are four assessment areas, each worth 25%. There are two components (units).

Component 1: Portfolio. This is made up of Year 9, 10 and project one of Year 11. It is worth 60% of your final GCSE grade.

Component 2: Externally set assignment. This is worth 40% of your final GCSE grade.

Where can the subject lead?

Careers in the visual creative industries, including: illustration, computer graphics/design, fashion and textile design, furniture design and creation, set and costume design, fine art, art curation, animation, film, photography, photojournalism, make-up art and tattooing, to name but a few. Other areas include teaching and art therapy.

“Art and Design for me is a way to express and improve all areas of my creativity. It allows me to work more freely than other subjects, which is cool.”



Computer Science

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: OCR

GCSE Computer Science is worth one GCSE and investigates how computers and their languages work. The course includes practical computer programming as well as theoretical concepts.

Why study Computer Science?

Computer science is an optional subject and is part of the Government's Baccalaureate (EBacc) program. Many careers require good attainment in ICT and computer science skills.

What you will study

The course follows on from your KS3 lessons and includes a deeper investigation into:

- computer systems
- computational thinking
- programming languages.

There will also be lots of problem solving and practice exam questions.

How you will be assessed

The course is assessed by two final examinations, one exam in computer systems and one exam in computational thinking. The programming element is not formally assessed as part of your final grade but it is a vital component in preparing students for the computational thinking exam.

Where can the subject lead?

Any career involving ICT, computing, web design and network management

"Everybody should learn how to programme a computer... because it teaches you how to think." - Steve Jobs





“Technology gives the quietist student a voice.”

Drama

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: Eduqas (WJEC)

Here at Caedmon College, students have the option to study GCSE Drama. We use the Eduqas specification which allows students to demonstrate their practical ability in devised work, scripted work and culminates in a written exam. (All Drama GCSEs now have a written exam element).

Why study Drama?

Being a confident person usually makes you a successful person. No matter what career or job you choose if you can make a positive impression when you speak, work well with others, solve problems and be resilient then you will be successful. By studying drama at GCSE you will develop all these qualities.

What you will study:

The course follows on from your KS3 lessons but we have a larger emphasis on 'theatre' and how plays are made and performed for the stage.

- you will get to know more about acting, directing and the technical side of playmaking
- you will also develop your own plays through devised work
- you will have the opportunity to see live theatre and learn how to write a review.

There will need to be a commitment to working outside of lesson times in rehearsal, there will be written projects and research to complete. You will develop your analytical skills and explore this through practice exam questions.

How you will be assessed:

- you will devise a piece of theatre, which will be performed and assessed in College, and externally moderated. Reflective written work is submitted after your performance has been completed and part of this is completed in controlled conditions
- you will rehearse and perform a piece from a published play script to a visiting examiner, who will assess your live performance on that day
- the course finishes with a written exam, which explores a play you have studied and a play you have seen.

Where can the subject lead?

Drama is a really valuable subject whatever you choose to do. However it can lead to work in the entertainment industry or theatre world; both on stage and behind the scenes. Students often choose to go on to study subjects such as film and TV production. Past students now work in the theatre and entertainment industry as lighting designers, actors, directors, researchers, dancers and teachers to name but a few.

“Sometimes it’s just great to walk into a room and be in an empty space where anything can happen... not behind a desk where there aren’t any surprises.”



"I've performed on stage at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, helped other students pass their GCSE Drama. Video of my work is used to help future students do better. I'm really proud of my achievements and now I'm in London taking my Drama further."

Engineering

Qualification: Level 1/2
Award in Engineering
Grades Available: L1 Pass,
L2 Pass, Merit, Distinction
Exam board: WJEC

Are you intrigued by how things work or are made? Can you solve problems and come up with better solutions? Are you excited by new technologies and using them? Do you have a creative yet practical mind? Then engineering could be for you.

Why study Engineering?

Engineers can have a major impact on industry and society. The achievements they make improve the quality of everyday life, from the buildings we live and work in to the transport we use to get around and how we enjoy our leisure time.

A challenging but rewarding career, engineers have the opportunity to make a huge difference. With roles available in almost every industry, engineers have a huge range of career opportunities open to them. Learning to work independently and as a team, furthering maths and science understanding, developing creativity and problem solving skills, studying engineering can make you desirable to any future employer.

This is a great course to lead onto further study and apprenticeships in engineering.

What you will study

The Level 1/2 Award in engineering provides a more practical alternative to GCSE. The qualification is based around the world of engineering and aims to introduce you to the various careers available. You will learn about, materials, design processes, engineering processes and safe use of tools and equipment, while applying your learning to purposeful tasks set in real world contexts. Making fully working products and using new exciting technologies.

How you will be assessed

The qualification is made up of three Units, all of which must be completed:

Unit 1: Engineering design - analyse and solve a design problem. (30 hrs guided learning, internally assessed)

Unit 2: Producing engineered products - manufacture an engineered product. (60 hrs guided learning, internally assessed)

Unit 3: Solving engineering problems - apply your knowledge, understanding and skills (30 hrs guided learning - 90 min exam paper)

“Engineering is a good subject. It allows you to open up your creativity and can lead to lots of very high paid jobs in the future.”



English Language and Literature

English is a dynamic subject and central to the College curriculum.

At Key Stage 4 we aim to:

- develop students' understanding of a range of challenging fiction and non-fiction texts, including writing from the 19th, 20th and 21st century
- encourage students to become the best they can be by offering expert subject specialists and five English lessons per week.
- offer opportunities to become critical, independent thinkers
- encourage students to think beyond their text, classroom and community, and to respect the world contexts they are living in
- fully prepare students for their terminal GCSE examinations.

All students will study both English Language and English Literature, for which they will gain two GCSEs. Students will begin preparation for their GCSEs in Year 9 and will work on themed units that focus on developing their reading and writing skills. Students will be given opportunities to read a range of engaging and challenging texts and will be encouraged to write creatively. All GCSE students are encouraged to develop independence, resilience and a commitment to excellence.

In Years 10 and 11, students will focus their studies on the set examination texts and will continue to develop as readers and writers. The set GCSE texts are: 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens, 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare, 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley and a collection of war and



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.”

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: Eduqas (WJEC)

conflict poetry. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 will explore a range of literary and non-fiction texts and will complete formal, GCSE-style assessments throughout the three-year course. All students will sit four terminal exams at the end of Year 11 and will be awarded a level between 1 and 9. A 'good' GCSE pass will be classified as gaining a level 5 or above. At KS4 students will study the following:

Year 9

Literature: 'Of Mice and Men', 'White Poppies' (a play about WW1), Romeo and Juliet

Language: A range of English language units which develop reading and writing skills. These units are often themed and focus on promoting debate and engagement.

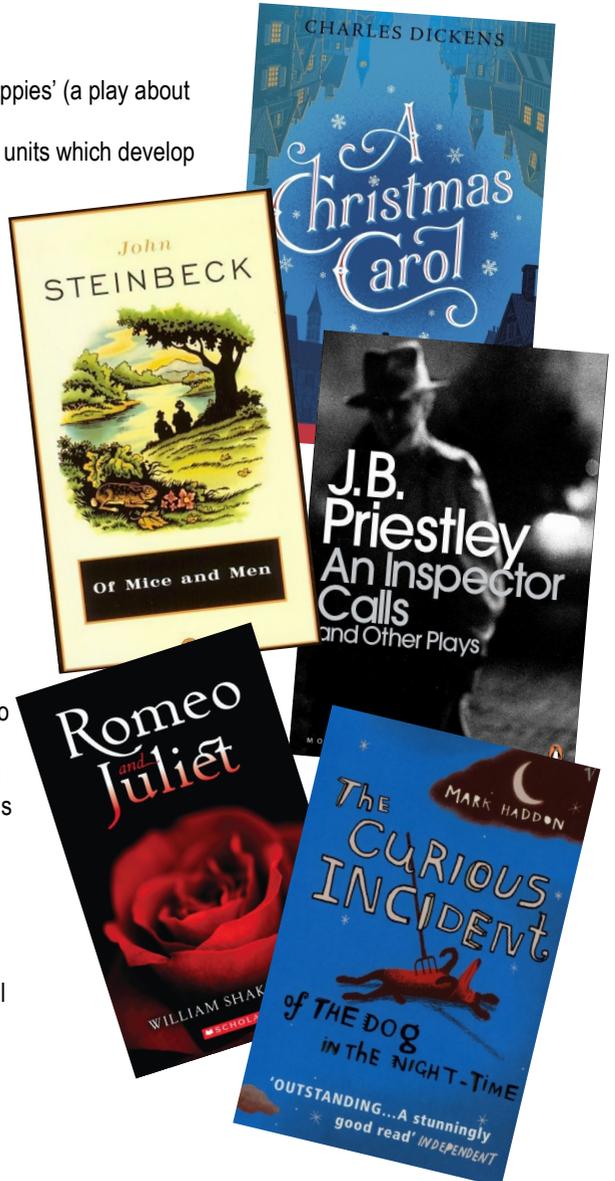
Years 10 and 11

A Christmas Carol, Unseen Poetry, Power and Conflict Poetry, Language Paper 1 and 2 (19th, 20th and 21st century fiction and non-fiction, Spoken Language, 'An Inspector Calls'/'Lord of the Flies'/'The Curious Incident of the Dog'.

Assessment is as follows:

- there are no controlled assessments
- GCSE English Language has two examination papers
- GCSE English Literature also has two examination papers
- spoken language skills are assessed through a single task and the award is reported alongside the GCSE Language grade. The spoken language assessment is separate from the GCSE Language qualification
- examination papers are not tiered. All students take the same examination papers, regardless of ability.

English: a qualification for life



Geography

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: AQA

GCSE Geography follows the new specification AQA course. The department links the learning through Key Stage 3, 4 and 5 to allow students to develop skills to support the next level or achievement. The course is supported with teacher prepared PowerPoints and an online textbook to allow students to tailor the speed of their learning and access resources 24 hours a day. The resources are also available for access during lessons using student's electronic devices to allow all learners to research and expand their knowledge during the lesson to reach the highest grades.

Why study Geography?

Geography is an optional subject but is part of the Government's flagship Baccalaureate level achievement for GCSE. Our subject links both physical features and human impacts covering a topic range from plate tectonics and coasts to development of poor countries and population. We study the reasons why the world is like it is, so we can understand what we see and how it was formed.

What you will study

The course follows on from your Key Stage 3 topics building on depth and knowledge while developing skills to critically question how something has formed or why a country has developed. The course requires mathematics skills to complete graphs and interpret resources, while building on student's literacy with command words and explanation.

How you will be assessed

This is a linear course with the only examinations at the end of Year 11. Students will sit three papers. Paper one will focus on physical geography topics, paper two will focus on human geography topics and paper three will focus on explaining the fieldwork covered during the course and geographical skills. There is no coursework in this GCSE specification, students are still required to undertake fieldwork but will be questioned on this during paper three.

Where can the subject lead?

Any career involving geography allows access to a wide range of jobs areas as well as creating a key understanding of the world around us.

- cartographer
- commercial/residential surveyor
- environmental consultant
- geographical information systems officer
- planning and development surveyor
- secondary school teacher
- town planner.

"It's a challenge, but it's worth it."

"I enjoy geography because I can work at my own pace."



Health & Social Care

Qualification: Level 2 National Award (equivalent to GCSE)
Grades Available: Level 2 qualification - Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction *
Exam board: OCR

Health and Social Care at Caedmon College Whitby is a successful option subject that covers a variety of topics and enables students to learn from each others experiences. This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment, equipping students with a sound, specialist knowledge along with skills for everyday use.

Why study Health and Social Care?

Health and social care is about the development of people across the life stages along with factors that may affect them. It involves real life scenarios that students can relate to and engage with, whilst learning lots about themselves and others. Health and social care is a vocational subject with hands on experience. All students will undertake a week of work experience in a health, social care or early years setting. This is a unique course requirement within health and social care and provides valuable insight for students into the world of work.

What you will study

The course comprises four units of study, each worth 25% of the total grade.

Unit 21: Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings: this examined unit looks at how practitioners work effectively with others.

Unit 22: Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings: the coursework unit looks at communication in individual and group settings.

Unit 23: Understanding body systems and disorders: this unit provides learners with knowledge and understanding of four major body systems... respiration, digestive and cardiovascular.

Unit 29: Understanding the nutrients needed for good health: a unit that looks at the importance of diet on an individual's health and well-being.

How you will be assessed

The course is assessed throughout the two years of study, with three units of coursework being submitted throughout the course. Students can be given two opportunities to sit the exam, as they initially take this at the end of Year 10. This gives flexibility within the course.

Where can the subject lead?

Any career involving the health, social care, education and criminal justice sectors, such as; nursing, physiotherapy, paramedics, midwifery, social worker, prevention workers, elderly social care, teaching assistants, nursery teachers, primary school teachers, police officers, probation workers and firefighters.



“Health and Social Care is very interesting, you learn loads of new things and it is fun and entertaining. However, you have to be prepared to do lots of work.”

History

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: AQA

Most students follow an EBacc qualification pathway which means they will study either history or geography. Both of these courses offer students a range of knowledge and skills which enables them to make sense of the world around them. From history students are able to understand a little better about the events which have formed the world we live in today.

Why study History?

History is the story of people - the clue is in the name. We learn about where society has advanced from, the challenges that have been faced and hopefully some lessons for the future. If you have ever looked at anything, a country, a group or people or a system of government, and wondered 'why?' - then you are thinking about history. History offers students skills in analysis and communication, the ability to use information, present a view or an argument and explain this fluently.

What you will study

The course follows on from your KS3 lessons with four main units;

- Germany 1890-1945
- Conflict and Tension 1894-1918
- Power and the People c1170-to the present day
- The Normans 1066-c1100

These cover a range of British and world history across the last thousand years.



How you will be assessed

The course finishes with two exams covering two units per exam. There are either four or six questions to answer per unit and these are a combination of shorter explanations, source responses and detailed written answers. During the course we will practice these and develop our skills in tackling them.

Where can the subject lead?

History has a natural pathway into studying A-levels and degrees, and then into any career involving the use and manipulation of information; from teaching to work in the heritage sector to advertising. And many famous comedians started as historians!

“GCSE History has helped me develop clinical skills that I can apply outside of school.”



Hospitality and Catering

Qualification: Level 1 and 2
Award
Grades Available: Level 2
qualification - Pass, Merit,
Distinction, Distinction *
Exam board: WJEC

At Key Stage 4, students study Hospitality and Catering which has a strong emphasis on gaining the required skills and knowledge of the course through practical work so it is particularly great for those who want to learn 'by doing' and who have enjoyed cooking at Key Stage 3.

Why study Hospitality and Catering?

In this qualification, you will develop food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication through team work, making this a fantastic course for any student who enjoys cooking. You will have the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition, health, meal planning and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. You will gain the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful.

What you will study

- food preparation and cooking
- meal planning
- nutrition and Health
- food safety practices
- how hospitality and catering establishments operate.

How you will be assessed

There are two units:

- *Unit 1:* The hospitality and Catering industry: 90 minute written exam in Y11 - 40% of award
- *Unit 2:* Hospitality and Catering in action: 9 hour assignment under controlled examination conditions to include a 3 hour practical exam - 60% of award

You will apply your learning to safely prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes, presenting evidence in a portfolio.



Where can the subject lead?

With further education and training, you could go into a variety of careers related to the hospitality and food industry such as a dietician or nutritionist, a chef, baker or caterer, a food service manager, food journalist, food stylist, food photographer or environmental health practitioner. You may consider teaching or food sales and promotion or you could also go straight into employment and do further training or an apprenticeship with the support of your employer.

"I am glad I chose Hospitality and Catering because I am learning life skills for my future. If you enjoy cooking and practical learning, you will enjoy this course. I enjoy working in a team and learning about how businesses operate too. You need to know that it isn't all cooking though, there is plenty of theory to keep you busy too!"



Mathematics

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: Edexcel

At Key Stage 4 we are lucky enough to see you for an extra period a week to make sure we can prepare you for the new GCSE exam.

Why study Maths?

Maths is a compulsory subject in schools but it is also a very useful one. You will do maths in lots of your other lessons without even realising it! We regularly see maths in science, geography, art, even English.

What you will study

The course is in four parts

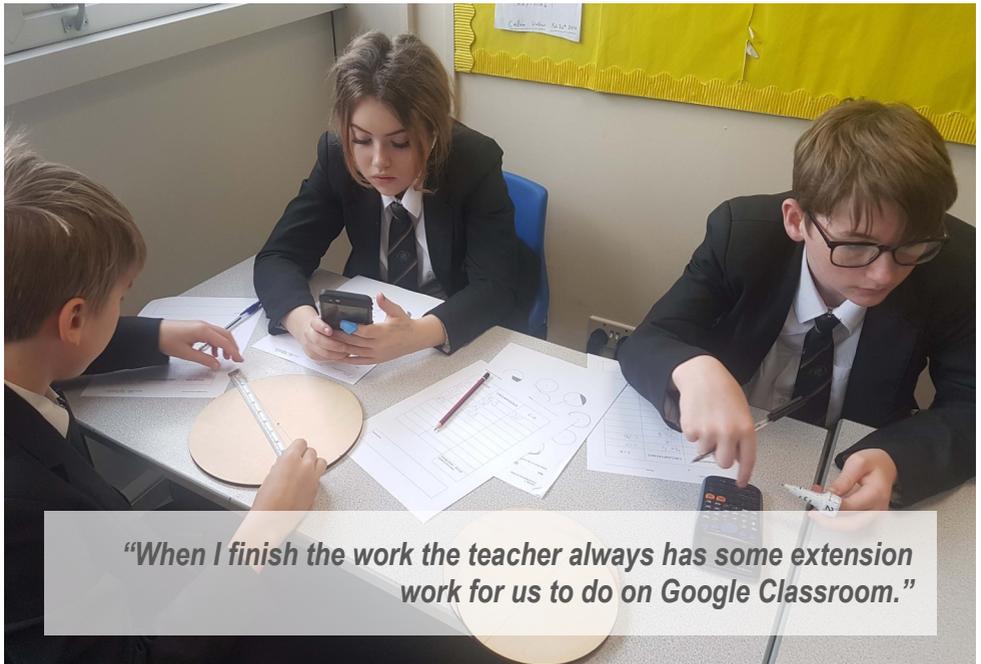
- number
- algebra
- shape
- data handling.

How you will be assessed

You will have three exams at the end of Year 11. One of them is non calculator.

Where can the subject lead?

Most courses and careers expect a good pass in maths and we will help you get that.



“When I finish the work the teacher always has some extension work for us to do on Google Classroom.”



"I come to maths every Tuesday after school. It's really helpful."

At Caedmon College all students completing the Baccalaureate should choose a language as an essential option choice.

Four skills are examined; speaking, listening, reading and writing.

The course is organised around three themes:

- identity and culture
- local, national and international areas of interest
- current and future study and employment.

Exchange visit

There may be an opportunity to participate in an exchange visit to Chambéry in the French Alps

Assessment

There are four exam papers at the end of the course. Each is 25% of the final grade.

Speaking exam – 15 minutes.

Reading, writing and listening – 45 mins each.



"MFL is good because we have a lot of choice in what we do and many opportunities to expand our learning. Like through language leaders."



Music

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: Eduqas

Whitby is a real musical hub and we have above average numbers of students taking music GCSE each year. Do you enjoy playing or listening to music? Are you interested in writing your own music, becoming a skilled instrumentalist or singer, travelling abroad with your class and being part of a band? Then music is the course for you.

Why study Music?

Music is a subject highly regarded by employers and higher education providers. Music is a science, a mathematical, a foreign language, physical education and above all, art. It offers a creative outlet whilst enabling you to develop skills in teamwork, discipline, creative thinking, problem solving, brain and memory development, taking risks and building confidence, academic study... to name a few.

What you will study

Through performing, creating and studying music as an individual and in groups, you will cover the following areas of study:

- musical forms and devices
- music for ensemble
- film music
- popular music.

All GCSE music students receive a funded group instrumental/singing lesson each week.

How you will be assessed

30% - your best performances, recorded in the final year of the course, on any instrument/ voice.

30% - two of your own compositions, which you will complete throughout the course.

40% - a listening exam in June of year 11.

Where can the subject lead?

The UK's creative industries account for one in eleven jobs, a rate rising more quickly than all other parts of the economy. You could go on to study music at a higher level, which could lead to a career in music production, media, education, the travel industry, the armed forces, mental healthcare, film or gaming. Creative learning is not just a route into the arts, it is also essential across the economy. Ask app inventors or car designers.

"Music is challenging but fun. You have to work hard!"

"In this subject, if you work hard, it really pays off and you do well"

"I got to go to France where I learnt music, made friends, ate new foods and cried!"



“The class becomes like one big family, because we rehearse and create pieces together and perform in concerts together.”

Physical Education

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: OCR

What will you be learning?

Studying physical education will open your eyes to the amazing world of sports performance. Not only will you have the chance to perform in three different sports through the non-exam assessment component, you will also develop wide ranging knowledge into the how and why of physical activity and sport. The combination of the physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. You can perform, and then through the academic study learn how to improve your performance through application of the theory. Physical education is learned about through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on both ours and other's everyday lives. You will learn the reasons why we do things, why some people out perform others, mentally and physically. You will also delve into the ethical considerations behind the use of drugs and also gain an understanding of the consequences of inactivity and poor diet.

Assessment:

40% Practical (one individual activity, one team activity and the third can be either team or individual); 60% Final written examinations at end of Year 11. Two papers will be taken

1. Applied anatomy and physiology and physical training.
2. Socio-cultural influences sports psychology health, fitness and well-being.

The course is more suited to students with good practical ability AND good English and Science knowledge. Students should have represented College regularly in at least one sport before opting for this course. They should be keen to pursue a sport outside of College too.

Where can GCSE Physical Education take me?

GCSE physical education is not just an excellent base for the A-level in physical education or BTEC Level 3 sport, it can take you much further. For those of you fascinated by the human mind, why not carry on to psychology? For people into the why of the human race this carries you through to sociology. This is also an excellent additional qualification for those undertaking the sciences with the intention to move through into medicine or physiotherapy routes.



Beyond A-level, the study of Physical Education can lead on to university degrees in sports science, sports management, health care, or exercise and health. Physical education can also complement further study in biology, human biology, physics, psychology, nutrition, sociology, teacher training and many more. The transferable skills you learn through your study of physical education, such as decision making and independent thinking are also useful in any career path you choose to take.

Where Can I Find More Information:

You can contact the College, talk to your Personal Careers Advisor or College careers staff.

BTEC Level 1/2 Award in Sport

**Qualification: BTEC Level 1/2
Grades: Pass, Merit,
Distinction, Distinction *
Exam board: Pearson**

What will you be learning?

The course is aimed at students who are interested in or who wish to pursue a likely career within the sports industry ie sports coach, physiotherapist, nutritionist, PE teacher, lecturer, fitness instructor etc. The course is designed to build on learning from Key Stage 3 Physical Education and is equivalent to one GCSE.

At the centre of the course is 'sport performance' and all the theoretical work is focussed towards understanding and improving sport performance.

To gain this qualification you will be required to study sport theory in great depth covering four units from:

- Three Mandatory Units: Unit 1 - Fitness for Sport and Exercise; Unit 2 - Practical Sports Performance; Unit 3 - Applying the Principles of Personal Training
- One of the Optional Specialist Units: Unit 4 - The Mind and Sports Performance; Unit 5 - The Sports Performer in Action; Unit 6 - Leading Sports Activities

The BTEC Award is at least 75% coursework internally assessed with a maximum of 25% external assessment in the form of an 'on screen test' involving multiple choice questions, short answer questions and extended writing questions and video animation.

The course does have some practical elements to it and some of the theory areas will be taught in a practical way. At this stage it is envisaged that one out of the three allocated lessons per week will be practically based.

Although there is a predominance of coursework, BTEC Sport is better for those students more suited to coursework rather than working towards final exams where much is dependent (ie, GCSE PE/Sports Studies have to revise two years worth of work for two exams at the end of Year 11).

Product Design

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: AQA (New Specification)

Why study GCSE Product Design?

Design and Technology is purposeful, as well as being fun and exciting!

Studying GCSE Design and Technology will build on what you learnt about designing and making in Key Stage 3. You will use your knowledge and skills to design and make new and better solutions to real problems - on your own and with others - working with a range of materials and manufacturing systems.

What you will study

As a product design student you will build on the knowledge and skills acquired at KS3, focusing on identifying and solving real life design problems. You will develop your practical skills to make high quality functional products that meet the needs of your target market.

The main topics to develop your knowledge of product design are:

- developing, planning and communicating ideas
- product analysis
- sustainability
- the work of other designers
- school and commercial manufacturing processes
- materials and components
- tools and equipment
- manufacturing of a product
- mechanical devices
- energy generation and storage
- drawing techniques
- evaluation and analysis of your work.

How you will be assessed

The course finishes with one, two hour paper which is worth 100 marks and counts as 50% of your final grade in Year 11. The exam paper will be based on the theory which you have learnt throughout your lessons along with some scientific and mathematical skills. You will also be assessed throughout your coursework based on a contextual challenge set by AQA. Your coursework is also worth 100 marks and counts for 50% of your overall grade.

Where can the subject lead?

GCSE Design and Technology opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. It is also excellent preparation for careers in many other fields eg, medicine, law and computer science. Whatever career you choose, the knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable. You will also develop skills, such as teamwork and time management which are highly prized by employers.

“Design is a funny word. Some people think design means how it looks. But of course, if you dig deeper, it’s really how it works.”



Religious Studies

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9

GCSE Religious Studies covers a range of religious views and contemporary ethical themes, ensuring students have a diverse choice of intriguing subjects to explore. Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious, moral, cultural and global issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

What you will be learning?

The GCSE Religious Studies option course will give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of a range of topics. You will study:

- Christian beliefs
- living the Christian life
- marriage and the family
- matters of life and death
- Islamic beliefs
- living the Muslim life
- peace and conflict
- crime and punishment

You will examine a variety of moral and social issues and consider how different people approach and react to them. Many of these relate to our own everyday lives but you will also research stories currently in the news and explore issues such as the environment, the movement of people, the production and use of weapons, the proliferation of drugs, euthanasia, and abortion (to name but a few).

You will use discussion, debate, video clips, artefacts and a whole variety of interesting and unusual resources to enhance your studies. There is a lot of thinking involved and most students appreciate that the issues raised don't have easy answers.

What is the method of assessment?

Students are assessed through two external exams at the end of Year 11. Each paper is made up of four sections, and each section is made up of four questions. There is one tier of entry and all grades are available to all students. Throughout the course students have regular opportunities to practice answering exam questions in order to prepare them effectively and develop the skills and knowledge they will need.

What can the subject lead?

Knowledge of other cultures and world religious beliefs can be useful in many jobs where you are working with the public or communities. These include counselling and social services, police and security services, marketing, sales and advertising, catering and hospitality, leisure, sport and tourism, retail sales and customer services, education and training, medicine and nursing, and service sector roles.

"I enjoy discussing in debates about, not just religion, but other topics such as global issues, abortion, contraception and many others. These debates challenge your mind and really make you think outside the box. I like the discussions most because they are interesting and fun, but make you think too."



Science

Qualification: GCSE
Grades Available: 1 - 9
Exam board: AQA

Here at the College, most students follow a 'combined science' course worth two GCSEs, with some invited to study separate sciences, also known as 'triple science' worth three GCSEs. The courses are the same, with the separate sciences having additional content spread throughout the course.

Why study Science?

Science is compulsory in schools for a reason, it explains how things work! If you have ever looked at anything, either living or machine, and wondered 'how?' - then you are thinking about science.

Many careers require good attainment in science and even non related professions seek scientists as they have problem solving and analytical skills.



What you will study

The course follows on from your KS3 lessons with the three main science areas.

- chemistry - the material world
- biology - the living world
- physics - the fundamental principles of life.

There will also be lots of problem solving, practice exam questions and opportunities for completing practical investigations.

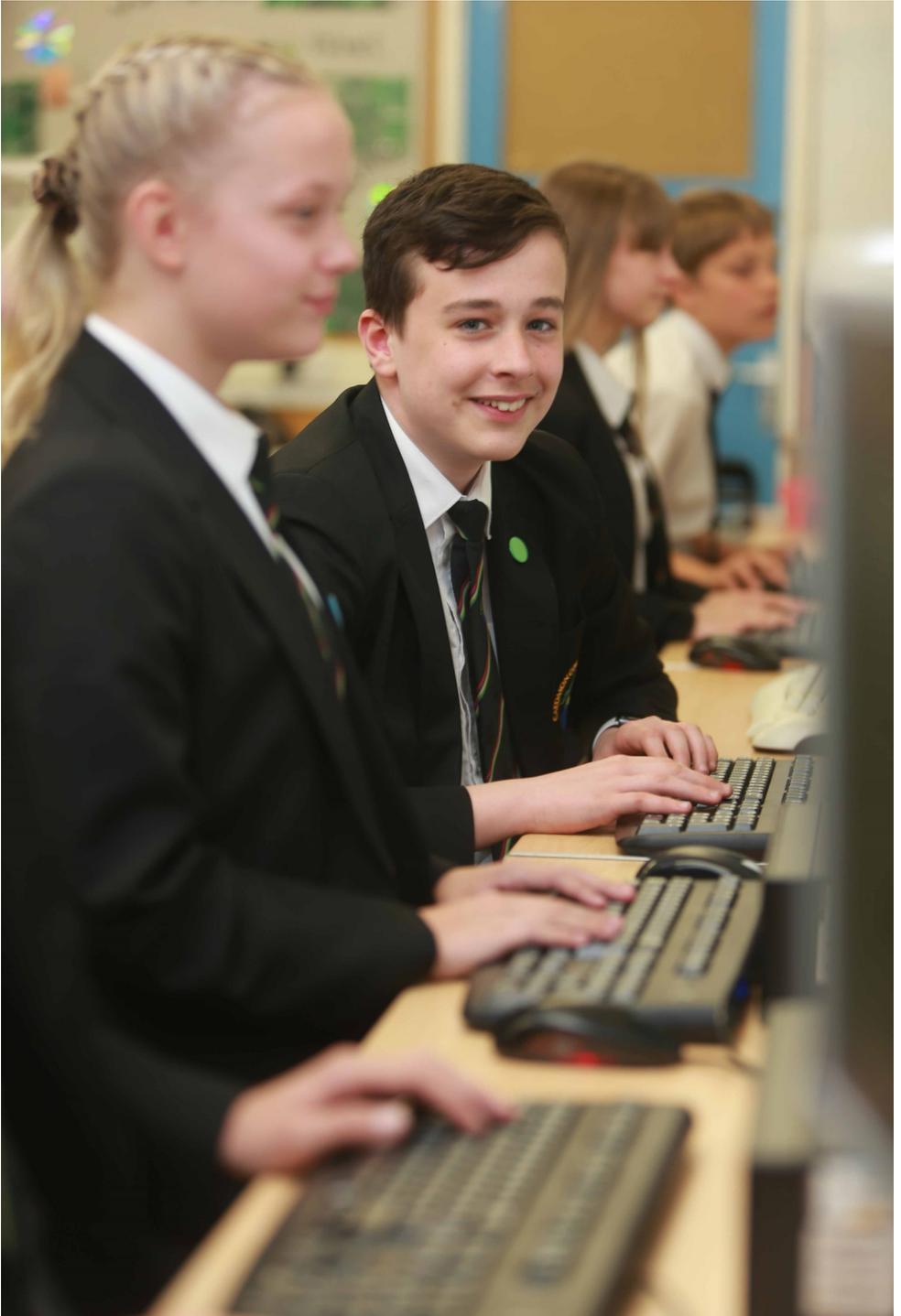
How you will be assessed

The course finishes with six exams, two in each of the science disciplines listed above. This is the same for both 'combined science' and 'separate sciences' but the latter has longer exams. You will be assessed on the practical tasks you complete in those exams, there is no coursework.

Where can the subject lead?

Any career involving health, animal care, engineering, manufacturing, research, teaching, as well as many non-related professions - many accountants are science graduates!







“BTEC Level 2 Sport is really interesting and has given me a really good intro to sports science - an area of study I want to continue with and have a career in .”

**EXCELLENCE
FRIENDSHIP
RESPECT**



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