

Key Stage 4 - 2014 -2016

In September 2014, students currently in Year 9 will enter Key Stage 4. This is a crucial stage of their education with many changes to subjects and examinations taking place nationally. How well students achieve in KS4 will help to determine their futures in education and employment. This is also a time when students have more choice in which subjects and courses they study. Students, supported by the Academy and parents, will make some important decisions about which subjects and courses to study in Years 10 & 11.

Compulsory Subjects

Some subjects will remain compulsory in KS4. The compulsory subjects are;

- ✓ English Language
- ✓ English Literature
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Science
- ✓ P.E.
- ✓ R.E.

Optional Subjects

At South Shore Academy we also provide a wide range of optional courses which will prepare learners for further study, employment or training. In Years 10 and 11 students will study **three** additional subjects. In the first instance students can choose any combination of subjects which best meet their strengths, interests and aspirations for the future. However, we cannot guarantee that all students' first choices can be met so they will need to choose **two** extra subjects as reserves. We will of course do our utmost to ensure that the majority of students are able to study exactly what they want. **To help us with this it is imperative that students attend the consultation evening on March 25th with their parents/carers, complete and sign the Options Choices Form, and hand the form in on the evening.** Failure to do this may result in students not being able to study all the subjects they want or not getting their first choice where there is a limit on class size.

This booklet contains information about each course that is on offer to students.

GCSE - English Language & Literature.

What is English Language and Literature?

English Language is the study of a range of reading comprehension strategies and of a variety of writing formats. It also encompasses a number of speaking and listening activities to broaden and develop crucial communication skills for use in the wider world.

English Literature is the study of a range of classic and contemporary plays, poetry and novels that allow students the opportunity to analyse characters and make discoveries about human nature and the world around us.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: A good grasp of reading, writing, speaking and listening skills.

Interests: An interest in using your imagination and demonstrating ideas through various written and spoken formats.

Personal attributes: You'll be an enthusiastic learner and a full participant in all the disciplines of English.

What will I study?

You'll study descriptive and narrative writing as well as learning how to speak confidently in a variety of circumstances. You'll read literature such as Romeo and Juliet or Macbeth, Of Mice and Men, An Inspector Calls, Heroes, About a Boy as well as a range of WJEC anthology poetry. You'll be expected to read and write for extended periods of time to prepare you for the rigours of GCSE examination.

How will I be assessed?

English Language GCSE:

Spoken language study = 10% - controlled assessment (or CA)

Descriptive writing = 7.5% (CA)

Narrative writing = 7.5% (CA)

Other cultures prose study = 15% (CA)

3 x speaking and listening activities = not weighted as part of the qualification but still required as it forms a part of the award.

Unit 1 reading exam = 30% (1 hour exam)

Unit 2 writing exam = 30% (1 hour exam)

English Literature GCSE:

Shakespeare/poetry assessment = 25% - controlled assessment.

Literature exams x 2 = 75% (2 lots of 2 hour exams)

What career options does this subject give me?

Marketing, script-writing, public relations, teaching, acting, copywriting, researching, broadcasting, library work, speech and language therapy, publishing, journalism, advertising, translating, editorial work, the legal profession, TV or theatre directing and many more...

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete? You'll complete most of your work under controlled assessment in school time but you'll be asked to conduct your own research into the topics we study in class. As we draw closer to the exams, you'll be given an array of home revision materials to suit your specific needs.

What equipment will I need to bring? A pen.

GCSE - Mathematics

What is GCSE Mathematics?

Mathematics is separated into four core strands; Number & Algebra, Shape & Space, Handling Data and Using & Applying. At South Shore Academy we teach mathematical concepts so that the understanding is integral and pupils can apply the skills they learn to real contexts. This will also enable students to develop the skills they will need for their future lives.

What do I need to be successful if in this course?

Skills:

Good number skills and the ability to investigate and develop ideas for yourself.

Interests:

If you like puzzles, challenges and logical reasoning then Mathematics should appeal to you.

Personal attributes:

Hardworking. able to apply themselves, able to work well individually and in groups.

What will I study?

The course is studied at both a foundation and higher level and what you study depends on which tier of entry is best suited to you. The course is spread over 35 modules with the most weighting on Number & Algebra.

How will I be assessed?

The Mathematics Edexcel GCSE specification is 100% exam based which is taken at the end of Year 11. 50% of the exam is non-calculator and 50% is calculator.

What career options does this subject give me?

Mathematics GCSE is key for many careers with the minimum of a Grade C essential to follow many College courses. Popular careers that develop from a passion for Mathematics include Accountancy, Medicine, Engineering & Science based careers though a good qualification in Mathematics is a basis for most career paths.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

An hour's homework is essential each week, though the more independent revision that is completed the more successful you will be in your understanding and application. The 'Method Maths' programme has been a popular revision and understanding tool.

What equipment will I need to bring?

A geometry set (pencil, ruler, compass & protractor) provides the basic equipment needed. A calculator is also necessary and this needs to be a scientific type if studying the higher tier.

GCSE Science

GCSE Science is designed to focus on the topics of Science which are relevant to the modern world, and to explore, research, and discover just why Science is so important in the 21st Century.

Topics	Assessment overview
<u>Biology</u> B1 You and your genes B2 Keeping Healthy B3 Life on Earth	1 Hour written exam 25%
<u>Chemistry</u> C1 Air Quality C2 Material Choices C3 Chemicals in Our Lives: Risks and Benefits	1 Hour written exam 25%
<u>Physics</u> P1 The Earth and Universe P2 Radiation and Life P3 Sustainable Energy	1 Hour written exam 25%
Controlled Assessment 1. Case Study 2. Date Analysis	Controlled Assessments completed during lesson time 25%

GCSE Additional Science

The Additional Science course centres on developing scientific concepts. The course focuses on scientific explanations and models, and gives students an insight into how scientists develop scientific understanding of ourselves and the world we inhabit.

Topics	Assessment overview
<u>Biology</u> B4 The Processes of Life B5 Growth and Development B6 Brain and Mind	1 Hour written exam 25%
<u>Chemistry</u> C4 Chemical Patterns C5 Chemicals in the Natural Environment C6 Chemical Synthesis	1 Hour written exam 25%
<u>Physics</u> P4 Explaining Motion P5 Electric Circuits P6 Radioactive Materials	1 Hour written exam 25%
Controlled Assessment Full Investigation	Controlled Assessment completed during lesson time 25%

Progression

CSE Science and Additional Science when taken together will provide students with the opportunity to study A Levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics.

GCSE Triple Science

Triple Science allows pupils to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics in much further detail. All three subjects allow pupils to

- develop an interest in, and enthusiasm for, Biology, Chemistry and Physics
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

Triple Science also provides distinctive and relevant experience for students who wish to progress to Level 3 qualifications.

The following tables show what is involved in each of the subjects.

Topics: <u>Biology</u>	Assessment overview
B1 You and your genes B2 Keeping Healthy B3 Life on Earth	1 Hour written exam 25%
B4 The Processes of Life B5 Growth and Development B6 Brain and Mind	1 Hour written exam 25%
B7 Further Biology	1 Hour written exam 25%
Controlled Assessment Full Investigation	Controlled Assessment completed during lesson time 25%

Topics: <u>Chemistry</u>	Assessment overview
C1 Air Quality C2 Material Choices C3 Chemicals in Our Lives: Risks and Benefits	1 Hour written exam 25%
C4 Chemical Patterns C5 Chemicals in the Natural Environment C6 Chemical Synthesis	1 Hour written exam 25%
C7 Further Chemistry	1 Hour written exam 25%
Controlled Assessment Full Investigation	Controlled Assessment completed during lesson time 25%

Topics: <u>Physics</u>	Assessment overview
P1 The Earth and Universe P2 Radiation and Life P3 Sustainable Energy	1 Hour written exam 25%
P4 Explaining Motion P5 Electric Circuits P6 Radioactive Materials	1 Hour written exam 25%
P7 Further Physics	1 Hour written exam 25%
Controlled Assessment Full Investigation	Controlled Assessment completed during lesson time 25%

If students are already certain of taking an A Level in Science or have a keen interest in the subject, Triple Science would be the recommended option. It is, however, a requirement that those pupils who wish to study Triple Science attain a minimum of a Level 6 in Science by the end of Year 9 to be eligible for the course. If a Level 6 is not attained then a decision will be made at the discretion of the Head of Science and Science teachers.

Progression

Triple Science will provide a sound foundation for students intending on taking A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and/or Physics. Qualifications at A Level and Degree level in Science are the cornerstone of many fields of employment. A lot of career pathways are open to people who have qualifications in science. A lot of the jobs available are in high demand, very interesting and generally offer a very good income package. Some of these career pathways include:

- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Forensic science
- Botany
- Astronomy
- Laboratory research
- Genetics
- Meteorology
- Cosmetic Science
- Marine Biology
- Chemical Engineering
- Biochemistry
- Zoology
- Environmental Health
- Pharmacology
- Nanotechnology
- Food Technology
- Toxicology
- Radiography
- Veterinary Work
- Teaching

- Communications
- Agriculture

BTEC / GCSE PE

What is GCSE/BTEC PE?

ALL students in the year group will do either **BTEC Level 1/2 FIRST AWARD in SPORT** or **GCSE PE** as part of their core curriculum entitlement.

The PE staff will advise the students as to which course is the most suited to them based on their **practical and academic ability**.

Course Comparisons:-

	BTEC	GCSE
Assessment	1 hour on-line exam only + 3 units of written tasks.	60% Practical 40% Theory Exam
Practical Ability	No practical ability is assessed.	Level 6+
Academic Ability	Level 4-8	Level 6+
Course Equivalents	X1 GCSE	X1 GCSE
Pupil Suitability	Practical ability (Not important as not marked) + Average or above academic capability.	Good practical ability + Good academic capability.
Participation Rate (PE kit in lessons)	Good record required.	Excellent record essential
Extra-curricular Involvement	Not required	Must have shown a commitment to a club/activity in KS3.

Progression Routes post 16:

Progression to Blackpool and Fylde College or Blackpool Sixth Form to do either "A" level PE or BTEC National Diploma. This could lead to university entry.

Careers

- Leisure Centre Management
- PE teaching/Tourism
- Coaching/Fitness Instructor

GCSE Religious Studies

What is GCSE Religious Studies?

GCSE Religious Studies is a course that investigates real life issues and experiences and focuses upon what it means to be a human being. In this course we will form an enquiry into the Christian and Jewish faiths and gain a deep understanding of their attitudes and beliefs towards issues such as relationships, war, medical issues and crime and punishment.

The course will develop your ability to have an open mind, understand and explain various viewpoints and reach conclusions about your own beliefs and attitudes.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

The ability to have an open and enquiring mind is vital to GCSE Religious Studies. You must have good literacy skills and the ability to expand and explain your answers in detail.

The willingness to contribute to class discussions and debates is an important skill that you will develop in GCSE Religious Studies.

Interests: You must have an interest in real life, moral issues such as medicine, war, crime and punishment.

You must have an interest in developing your knowledge of other religions and cultures.

Personal attributes: Someone who is willing to work independently and as part of a team. Someone who is not afraid to voice their opinions but is prepared to listen to and understand the views of others.

What will I study?

In this course you will learn about a number of moral issues and the attitudes of two of the world's major religions towards them.

There are two units of study: Unit 1 **Religion and Life**

- Relationships (Issues of Love, sex and marriage)
- Is it fair (Issues of justice and injustice)
- Looking for meaning (Life after death)
- Our World. (Issues related to the environment)

Unit 2: **Religion and Human Experience**

- Religion and Conflict (Issues of war, peace and conflict)
- Religion and Medicine (Medical issues such as abortion, euthanasia and IVF)
- Religious Expression (How do believers express their faith?)
- Religion and state. (Issues of law, crime and punishment)

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed by two examinations. Paper 1: Religion and Life and Paper 2 Religion and Human Experience. Each paper is worth 50% of your final GCSE grade.

There will be regular assessments that take place throughout the course to check your progress.

What career options does this subject give me?

Having a qualification in RE lends itself to lots of career options such as law, travel, advertising, human resources, diplomacy, publishing, journalism, the media teaching and many more.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

There will be homework set weekly throughout this course. It will vary from practice GCSE exam questions to research tasks and creative activities linked to our topics of study.

What equipment will I need to bring?

You will need to bring basic equipment to lessons that will support your learning such as a pen, pencil and ruler.

Expressive Arts - GCSE Art

What is GCSE Art?

Students follow a mixed media course working in a broad range of 2D and 3D techniques.

Initially the course is largely teacher led, but as it progresses and students recognise their own strengths and artistic tastes they are able to develop their own individual approaches in a broad range of media and materials.

Students must work in a variety of media, developing various composition designs and show an understanding of artists and/or cultural art.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

Drawing skills
Good imagination
Creativity

Interests:

Art and Design in all its forms.
Observing life

Personal attributes:

Hard working
Enthusiastic

What will I study?

More detailed description of course content, topics etc.

Coursework = 2 main projects-natural and portrait worth involving:

Drawing Textiles
Painting Ceramics
Collage Sculpture
Print Graphics
ICT Art Paint Shop Pro
10 hour practical exam

How will I be assessed?

Details of assessments/coursework if any/field studies/orals with relative weightings

Coursework Project 1 – Natural – 30%

Coursework Project 1 – Portrait – 30%

10 hour practical examination - 40%

What career options does this subject give me?

- Fashion designer
- Graphic Designer
- Interior Designer
- Architect

- Furniture Designer
- Games Designer
- Art or Graphic design Tutor
- Art Editor
- Advertising Executive
- Painter and Decorator

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

1 hour minimum coursework per week either in coursework club in extra-curricular time or at home

What equipment will I need to bring?

We offer students the opportunity to purchase a high quality pack of art materials and a sketchbook at a subsidised cost of £20. This includes all basic equipment needed.

We give students a basic pack with drawing equipment.

Expressive Arts - GCSE Dance

What is GCSE Dance?

GCSE Dance is a theory and practical based dance course. Practical work will involve you developing your technical and expressive dance skills, learning and performing a set dance and choreographing dances which are then performed and presented to others.

You will be taught the process of choreography through various composition tasks including solo, duet and group work. You will be expected to be committed and spend your own time rehearsing practical work after school.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

Good listening skills.

Like to work with others, plus able to work by yourself.

Like to live a healthy life style, and regularly take part in exercise.

Have self-discipline and willing to dance by themselves.

Interests:

Pupils who have enjoyed dance.

Pupils who enjoy making up dances.

Pupils who enjoy watching and learning about the work of professional contemporary dance and urban dance companies.

Pupils who enjoy evaluating their work and the work of others.

Pupils who like to perform dances to an audience.

Pupils who are willing and able to participate in a mainly practical course with a written element.

Personal attributes:

You will be expected to be committed and spend your own time rehearsing practical work after school.

You will be organised and prepared to dance throughout the lessons.

What will I study?

GCSE Dance requires students to complete four units, consisting of one written exam, one practical exam and two controlled assessment units.

Unit 1; Critical appreciation of dance – written examination, externally assessed (20%)

Unit 2; Set dance – practical examination, externally assessed (20%)

Unit 3; Performance in a duo/group dance, controlled assessment (40%)

Unit 4; Choreography, controlled assessment (40%)

You will explore and develop your dance skills in workshops and lessons.

You will perform exercises and short sequences, before building up to longer dance performance and dancing on your own.

Critical appreciation is an integral part of the course and forms the basis of two assessed practical pieces and the written exam.

You will study a number of prescribed professional dance works. You will view professional dance works looking in depth at costume, lighting, sound, movement content, etc.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Critical Appreciation of Dance (42301)

Written Paper – 1 hour
50 marks – 20%

plus

Unit 2: Set Dance (42302)

Practical Examination
Solo Performance – 1–1½ minutes
30 marks – 20%

plus

Unit 3: Performance in a duo/group dance (42303)

3–3½ minutes
Controlled Assessment
30 marks – 20%

plus

Unit 4: Choreography (42304/A and 42304/B)

Task A: Solo Composition 1–1½ minutes
20 marks – 15%
Task B: Choreography – solo/duo/group
(Solo – 1½–2 minutes; duo/group – 2½–3 minutes)
40 marks – 25%
Unit total: 60 marks – 40%

What career options does this subject give me?

Careers:

There are a vast number of careers open to anyone who studies a performing arts course, as this course offers you a number of skills and improves your confidence.

Possible careers include:

Performing, Teaching (both in the state and private sector), Choreography, Dance Therapy, Community Dance work, Fitness Instructor, Arts Administration.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Rehearsing dance work in own time.
Creating dance material independently.
Completing research on dance companies, dance works and styles of dance.
Completing essays/written reviews on dance works that you have seen.
Revising and preparing for written exams.

What equipment will I need to bring?

Writing equipment every lesson.
Dancing shoes or pumps to wear.
Tracksuit bottoms or leggings to dance in (dance kit).

Expressive Arts - GCSE Drama

What is GCSE DRAMA

Students will extend and develop the skills in improvisation and scripted drama they have acquired in Years 7, 8 and 9. In addition they will have the opportunity of learning new skills in Explorative Strategies, Drama Mediums and the Elements of Drama.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: Listening, observing, communicating verbally and non-verbally, Making, Performing and Responding both verbally and written.

Interests: Students who enjoy taking part in creating dramas, learning lines and performing. Students who like going to the theatre and watching plays performed by others. Students who enjoy evaluating their own work and that of others.

Personal attributes: Students need to be mature, sensitive, good team players and be prepared to push themselves in an exciting environment. The GCSE Drama course is designed for any young person approaching Year 10 who has a passion for and commitment to drama and theatre.

What will I study?

You will learn:

- How drama is created, including all the acting and staging skills that are needed to put a piece of drama on to the stage
- How to create a character and play this character in a performance
- How to develop your improvisation and acting skills to a higher level.
- You will also look at plays in more detail and at different ways of bringing a script to life on stage.
- Many skills that are highly valued in any walk of life including teamwork and confidently presenting yourself in public.

How will I be assessed?

Almost all assessment is practical. There are no written examinations although you will be required to keep a written record of your practical work.

You will explore themes, ideas and plays in a wholly practical way and your teacher will assess how well you have done.

Unit 1 – 20% practical, 6 x 1 hour workshops – Drama Exploration – internally examined – externally moderated.

10% - Documentary response (recommended maximum 2000 words)

Unit 2 – 15% practical, 6 x 1 hour workshops – Exploring Play Texts – internally examined – externally moderated.

5% - Documentary response to practical exploration of a play (recommended maximum 1000 words)

10% - Documentary response to live theatre (recommended maximum 2000 words)

Unit 3 – 40% performance to an examiner and an audience in groups of 3 – 5 after 16-24 hours of rehearsals. You will perform the play with a visiting examiner in the audience.

What career options does this subject give me?

Many past students have gone on to Blackpool and Fylde College to study a BTEC in performing Arts or A Level Theatre Studies or Preston College which offers courses in Performing and Expressive Arts. If you are looking to enter the theatre industry you might also like to consider going to Theatre School. These schools are based around the country and offer a limited number of places for 16 – 18 year olds, but competition is high.

Careers

There are a vast number of careers open to students with a qualification in Drama and good communication skills. These include:

- ✓ Public Relations Officer
- ✓ Social Worker
- ✓ Holiday Representative
- ✓ Youth Worker
- ✓ Actor/Stage Manager
- ✓ Teacher
- ✓ Any job where you have to speak to/ work with people

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

In some units you will need to keep a written record of your practical work from which you will write essays of 1000 – 2000 words.

You will need access to the Internet to look at BBC GCSE Bitesize Drama pages weekly.

You will need to find or make specific props and costumes needed for some units and your final performance to an examiner.

What equipment will I need to bring?

Clean pumps for every lesson

Relevant props and costumes for certain lessons

Expressive Arts – GCSE Music

What is Music GCSE?

- **Music at GCSE has a strong emphasis on listening. 12 pieces of music from classical to pop are studied for a listening exam (40%)**
- **Music has a practical approach** with performance (solo and group) being a large part of what pupils need to focus on (30%).
- **There are a variety of options for composing in which pupils compose 2 pieces of their own choice (30%)**

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

- Ability to engage actively in the study of music.
- Ability to understand and appreciate different kinds of music.
- Ability to compose own music.
- Ability to perform as a soloist and in a group.

Interests:

- Motivation to develop musical skills and interests, including the ability to make music individually and in groups.

Personal attributes:

- Critical and creative thinking, emotional awareness, cultural understanding, self-discipline, self-confidence and self-motivation.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Performing 30%

Students will learn to play an instrument (including voice) and be able to perform. They will develop their performance skills by regular practice and demonstrations in class. Free instrumental lessons are given to GCSE students for 2 years.

Unit 2: Composing 30%

Students will study the basics of composition and do exercises in class. These will increase in difficulty and full compositions are notated on the software 'Sibelius' which enables them to use a range of different instruments and groups.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising 40%

There are 4 areas of study which pupils will engage with. All of the set works will be played and analysed in detail. Pupils will answer questions on these and do presentations on the different artists from Mozart to Moby!

1. **Western Classical Music 1600 -1899**
2. **Music in the 20th century**
3. **Popular Music**
4. **World Music**

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Performing 30%

Students will perform one solo performance of their own choice in

any style or genre, with or without accompaniment as appropriate to the style of music. The performance may be:

- a solo performance on any instrument.
- a solo improvisation on any instrument.
- a sequenced performance.
- a realisation such as a performance with DJ decks/turntables or a live sound diffusion of electro-acoustic music.

Unit 2: Composing 30%

Students may choose to submit either:

- 2 compositions, or
- 2 arrangements, or
- 1 composition and 1 arrangement.

Each piece must be based on a different Area of Study.

The overall length of the submission, i.e. both pieces, should total between 2 and 4 minutes.

Unit 3: Listening and Appraising 40%

- A 1 hour and 30 minute written paper.
- All questions relate to the set works.
- The paper will be in two sections.
- Section A: 8 compulsory questions in response to extracts from the set works that will be played on a CD during the examination.
- Section B: 1 question from 2 optional questions on the set works, requiring extended writing.

What career options does this subject give me?

Professional or part time musician.

Entertainer.

Music teacher.

Music manager.

Record industry producer.

Promoter.

Songwriter.

Agent.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Listening Activities. Answering questions on the set works and putting together presentations on different composers.

Performance practice. Performing on instrument or voice to improve skills.

What equipment will I need to bring?

Only the homework books need to be brought in and an instrument if we do not have one already at the school.

Humanities – GCSE Child Development

What is Child development?

This course studies the development of the child from birth up until five years old. It studies what influences how a child grows and develops.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

Independent research skills, good listening skills and good organisation skills.

Interests:

How babies and young children develop and which factors affect how they develop.

Personal attributes:

Good team work skills, motivation and dedication to completing independent research tasks.

What will I study?

You study the following topics:

Parenthood

Pregnancy

Diet, health and care of the child.

Development of the child.

Support for the parent of the child.

How will I be assessed?

The course includes: A research task worth 20 % of the final grade. A child study worth 40% and a written examination at the end of year 11 worth 40%.

What career options does this subject give me?

On this course you will acquire skills for life. The subject will teach you how to care for and educate babies and children as well as parents.

Previous students have gone on to study Child Development at college and gone on to work in nurseries.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

The Child Study is an independent piece of coursework. You will make five visits to the child you are studying in your own time, outside of school. You will be expected to complete a piece of homework at least every two weeks. There is also research where you will need to find information as homework for your Year 10 coursework.

What equipment will I need to bring? A pen and pencil are the only equipment needed.

Humanities - GCSE Geography

What is Geography?

Geography is the study of the Human and Physical features of our Earth. At South Shore Academy, we follow the WJEC specification A GCSE course which is designed to give you a balanced and comprehensive understanding of the world that we live in.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: You should have a good understanding of basic geographical skills such as grid references, although this is not essential. You should also be able to work well in groups and be able to use ICT effectively.

Interests: You should have an interest in other countries as well as topical issues that are affecting our world. This could be through things that you see in the news, on the internet or TV.

Personal attributes: You should be hard working and keen to ask questions about the world around us.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Core Geography

Rivers
Climate Change
Volcanoes and Earthquakes
Population
Globalisation
Development

Unit 2: Options Geography

Coasts
Tourism
Retail and Urban change

How will I be assessed?

There are two exam papers in Geography that cover both unit 1 and unit 2. Together they make up 75% of the total GCSE grade.

Unit 1: Core Geography (40% of total GCSE grade)

Unit 2: Options Geography (35% of total GCSE grade)

The further 25% of the total GCSE grade is made up of controlled assessment.

Unit 3: Controlled assessment

Decision Making Exercise (15% of total GCSE grade)

Fieldwork assessment (10% of total GCSE grade)

Both exams are taken at the end of Year 11 and there will be no controlled assessment to complete at home as all controlled assessment is completed in class time.

What career options does this subject give me?

Geography is one of the most employable subjects and is highly regarded by

employers and colleges due to the skills that it provides you with. Future career options may include: Environmental scientist, International governmental organisations, Overseas aid agencies, Surveyor, Politician, Banking and finance, Architecture, Town Planning, Retail, Tourism management, Retail management, Social work or Lawyer/Solicitor to name but a few.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Outside of the classroom there are opportunities to complete independent and group projects in order to extend your understanding of the subject.

What equipment will I need to bring?

No additional equipment is required. Waterproof clothing and sensible shoes will be needed for fieldtrips.

Humanities - GCSE History

What is History?

History at GCSE builds on the skills that the students have developed at KS3. It promotes enquiry, problem solving through source work and debate. Through discussion, group work and independent enquiry students are encouraged to reach conclusions about why and how events took place in the past.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: Good at group work, being prepared to listen to the ideas of others and use this to formulate discussions. You will also need to be a good independent enquirer, using the sources provided to pick out important information about the past.

Interests: You will need to have an interest in Modern World History; in particular World War Two in Britain, Germany and America.

Personal attributes: Conscientious, hardworking and wanting to succeed!

What will I study?

In Year 10 you will study America 1919-1929, looking at why America was 'booming' because of things such as gangsters, flappers and America being rich. We will then go on to look at Germany and the rise of the Nazi Party, before and during the Second World War. This will also include the build-up of and events during World War Two. In Year 11, we will look at World War Two from Britain, which consists of how people in Britain were affected, for example The Blitz.

How will I be assessed?

You will take 3 exams worth 25% each and 2 pieces of controlled assessment which will be a further 25% of your final grade.

What career options does this subject give me?

The study of History can lead to career in law, journalism and the media, archaeology, tourism, teaching and the police.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

You will be expected to complete a piece of homework each week which usually takes form of an extended piece of writing or practise exam question.

What equipment will I need to bring?

Pen, Pencil, ruler

Humanities – GCSE Leisure and Tourism

What is Leisure and Tourism GCSE?

In this GCSE you will look at why people visit tourist locations and how people use their leisure time.

This will involve looking at tourist and leisure locations both in the UK and abroad.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: Independent research skills, good listening skills and good organisation skills.

Interests: The leisure and tourism industry both in the UK and abroad.

Personal attributes: Good team work skills, motivation and dedication to completing independent research tasks.

What will I study?

You study two units

Unit One: Understanding Leisure and Tourism Destinations

In this unit, you will look at why people visit tourist locations and how people use their leisure time. This will involve looking at tourist and leisure locations both in the UK and abroad.

Unit Two: The Nature of Leisure and Tourism in an area. This is where you study in depth the range and use of leisure and tourism facilities in a specific area

This is assessed through a piece of coursework, which you will complete in class.

This is worth 60% of your overall mark.

How will I be assessed?

The course includes a written exam which is worth 40% and a piece of coursework which is worth 60%

What career options does this subject give me?

On this course you will acquire skills for life. A GCSE in Leisure and Tourism can provide you with a variety of skills and knowledge which will be very useful. You will gain an insight and understanding in a variety of areas such as Customer Relations, Marketing, ICT and business skills. All of which will be of great benefit to you at college or in a job. The leisure and tourism industry is a growing industry and offers exciting employment opportunities which could take you all over the world.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

You will be expected to complete a piece of homework at least every two weeks.

There is also research where you will need to find information as homework for your coursework.

What equipment will I need to bring?

No specialist equipment apart from a pen, pencil and ruler is required to study this subject.

Communication Technologies - GCSE Computer Science

What is GCSE Computer Science

Our GCSE Computer Science course gets you working with real-world, practical programming techniques that will give you a good understanding of what makes technology work. GCSE Computer Science counts towards the English Baccalaureate science measure, offering you a new option that achieves maximum recognition.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: A good understanding of mathematics and an ability to think logically and problem solve.

Interests: Computer programming and its practical uses along with a desire to understand how a computer operates.

Personal attributes: Hard working, determination coupled with an ability to work independently on your course work.

What will I study?

You will study practical programming using Python and Games Maker along with computing fundamentals.

How will I be assessed?

The qualification is split into two components:

Component 1 - Practical programming - is examined by controlled assessment.

Component 2 - Computing fundamentals - is exam based.

What career options does this subject give me?

The growth in the use of mobile devices and web-related technologies has exploded, resulting in new challenges for employers and employees. For example, businesses today require an ever-increasing number of technologically-aware individuals. This is even more so in the gaming, mobile and web related industries and this course has been designed with this in mind.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

You will be required to complete course work independently and complete revision as required.

What equipment will I need to bring?

Nothing more than a Pen, pencils, ruler and rubber.

Communication Technologies - ICT

What is OCR ICT?

This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, now impacts all of our lives. This new Cambridge Nationals in ICT reflects this and will provide you with a solid understanding of the subject that you can use in your working lives.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: ICT skills that you have been taught in years 7-9

Interests: Computer use and its use in a business setting.

Personal attributes: Hard working, determination coupled with an ability to work independently on your course work.

What will I study?

There will be a wide range of subjects covered in considerably more depth than you have in KS3. These will include the use of ICT in business, how a PC is constructed, along with graphic design and web creation.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment will be via four assessed units – An hour long exam, one controlled assessment completed during class time and then two other course work units completed in Year 11.

What career options does this subject give me?

The course will be useful in any job role as the course prepares you for using ICT in business and demonstrates a level of computer literacy to future employers.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

You will be required to complete course work independently and complete revision as required.

What equipment will I need to bring?

Nothing more than a pen, pencils, ruler and rubber.

Design Technology - GCSE Catering

What is Catering GCSE?

Do you want to be the next Jamie Oliver, have a career in catering and the food industry or have a range of skills that you can use for the rest of your life? Then catering GCSE is the one for you. This GCSE concentrates on the practical skills required in food preparation.

It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress to further education. It offers valuable preparation for those entering the world of work. The purpose of the course is to provide students with an in depth knowledge of how the catering industry works, covering types of food outlets, careers in catering, food service and preparation in a vocational context.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

Skills that will support good progress and success in this GCSE are: Organisation and time management skills, willingness to try new skills, good listening skills and ability to follow instructions.

Team working, confidence in practical manufacturing skills. High standards of safety and hygiene. And above all an essential willingness to work hard.

Interests:

To succeed in this course you must enjoy planning and creating products with food.

Personal attributes:

You must be organised and fully committed to bringing ingredients to all practical lessons. You will need to be able to work independently but also, when appropriate, to work cooperatively as part of a team. Safety is essential in a practical room and hygiene is particularly relevant in the Food Technology area.

What will I study?

You will learn a variety of food preparation techniques; work with a broad range of food products.

You will make a wide range of dishes and meals: soups, starters, desserts, pasta, rice, cakes, bread, pastry, salads – and plenty more.

How will I be assessed?

The specification uses a range of assessment techniques to enable the candidate to respond through practical and investigative work.

Year 10 - Controlled Assessment 1 (15 hours) 20% of total grade

Year 11 - Controlled Assessment 2 (30 hours) 40% of total grade

Year 11 - Written Exam Paper (1¼ hours) 40% of total grade

What career options does this subject give me?

Careers in the Catering Industry, Hospitality Industry. Cooking and food preparation, Food Technology, Food Science, Home Economics. There are a number of catering courses on offer at Blackpool and Fylde College with a range of qualifications. Some students choose to find employment in the catering industry where further training is often provided by the employer.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will be set weekly; this will range from practice exam questions, designing, to researching activities. You will need to plan, organise and bring ingredients to practical lessons.

What equipment will I need to bring?

Ingredients to support practical lessons. Additionally always the basic equipment for writing and drawing. Students will need to purchase a folder for theory work.

Design Technology – GCSE in Graphic Products

What is a GCSE in Graphic Products?

The Graphic Products GCSE has been designed to encourage students to be able to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of graphic and modelling materials.

On this GCSE you will be challenged by the range of practical activities. Through these you will be encouraged to learn through use of image, understand and apply colour and design, to develop spatial concepts, and to understand graphic materials and their manipulation. You will design and make product(s) using a graphic media and new technologies to help prepare you for the world of work.

Whilst designing and making graphic products you will also need to consider sustainability and the environmental impact of your designing.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

Skills that will support good progress and success in this GCSE are; willingness to try new manufacturing processes, good listening skills, team working, confidence in practical manufacturing skills, ability to follow instructions. High standards of presentation and analytical analysis, as well as confident ICT skills. And above all an essential willingness to work hard.

Interests:

Design, packaging and the media world that surrounds us. Creating, designing and practical work along with why/how things are designed.

Personal attributes:

Someone who enjoys working hard, while being creative and innovative. A willing to take risks in their designing and manufacturing outcomes. A team worker.

What will I study?

The course is delivered through 2 practical lessons and 1 theory lesson per week to support both the Controlled Assessment (60%) and the exam (40%). Students are challenged by a range of practical activities as the GCSE seeks to develop a range of knowledge and understanding of materials used in manufacturing processes in preparation for the Controlled Assessment.

Through design and make activities students become aware of the design and manufacturing processes and techniques involved in commercial and industrial graphic products. Students consider sustainability and the environmental impact of their designing. High standards of presentation and analytical analysis are important, strong use of CAD CAM within manufacturing is essential. 40% of the course is focussed on theory work in preparation for the written exam at the end of year 11.

How will I be assessed?

A single tier Assessment covering grades A* - G to cater for students of all abilities.

There are 2 areas of assessment:

Unit 1: Written paper of 2 hours – giving 40% of the total GCSE

Unit 2: Design and Make Controlled Assessment Task: 45 hours teaching time – giving 60% of the total GCSE. The Controlled Assessment consists of a single design and make activity from an AQA board set task.

What career options does this subject give me?

AS, A2 courses, GNVQ courses. Graphic Design, Packaging Design, Printing, Advertising, Illustration, Photography, Photo Imaging, Publishing, Teaching Art & Design or Design Technology. Museum and Art Gallery work.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will be set weekly; this will range from practice exam questions, designing, to researching activities

What equipment will I need to bring?

Always the basic equipment for writing and drawing. In addition students will need to purchase a folder for theory and design work. Some manufacturing activities will incur a small cost to support the use of additional materials and components. Letters will be sent home detailing these requirements

Design Technology – GCSE in Resistant Materials

What is a GCSE in Resistant Materials?

If you enjoy designing and making, the AQA GCSE in Resistant Materials could suit you. This is a GCSE with a practical and creative approach. The GCSE has been designed to encourage students to design and make products with creativity and originality using a range of materials and techniques. Students will develop a working knowledge of woods, metals, plastic and composite materials along with the use of new technologies in materials and manufacturing. Students who select this GCSE will build upon solid skills and techniques gained through their KS3 Design and Technology.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: Skills that will support good progress and success in this GCSE are: willingness to try new skills, willingness to work hard, good listening skills, team working, confidence in practical manufacturing skills, ability to follow instructions, high standards of presentation and analytical analysis, as well as confident ICT skills.

Interests: Enjoy practical work and why/how things are made. Creating, designing and making.

Personal attributes: A practical problem solver. Someone who enjoys working hard, while being creative and willing to take risks in their designing and manufacturing outcomes. Time management, planning and organisational skills. A team worker. A keen sense of Health and safety is essential for both yourself and the others.

What will I study?

The course is delivered through 2 practical lessons and 1 theory lesson per week to support both the Controlled Assessment (60%) and the exam (40%). In year 10 students are challenged by a range of practical activities as the GCSE seeks to develop a range of knowledge and understanding of materials used in manufacturing processes in preparation for the Controlled Assessment.

Through design and make activities students become aware of the processes and techniques which aid manufacture and of the commercial application of a range of materials used in manufacturing products in quantity. Students are encouraged to foster awareness of the need to consider sustainability and the environmental impact of their designing.

High standards of presentation and analytical analysis are important and excellent use of CAD CAM within manufacturing is essential. 40% of the course is focussed on theory work in preparation for the written exam at the end of year 11.

How will I be assessed?

A single tier Assessment covering grades A* - G to cater for students of all abilities. There are 2 areas of assessment:

Unit 1: Written paper of 2 hours – giving 40% of the total GCSE

Unit 2: Design and Make Controlled Assessment Task: 45 hours teaching time – giving 60% of the total GCSE. The Controlled Assessment consists of a single design and make activity from an AQA board set task.

What career options does this subject give me?

AS, A2 courses, GNVQ courses, modern apprenticeships. Skill based careers using industrial manufacturing, Construction Industry, plumbing, Carpentry & joinery. Cabinet making. Construction Management, Site and building Engineering, Engineering – mechanical, structural, Automotive and Production. Design & Product Designing, Architecture. Armed Forces like a qualification in Design Technology as it demonstrates analytical, planning, problem solving and time management abilities.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will be set weekly; this will range from practice exam questions,

designing, to researching activities.

What equipment will I need to bring?

Always the basic equipment for writing and drawing. In addition students will need to purchase a folder for theory and design work. Some manufacturing activities will incur a small cost to support the use of additional materials and components. Letters will be sent home detailing these requirements

Design Technology – GCSE in Textiles Technology

What is a GCSE in Textiles Technology?

The Textiles Technology GCSE has been developed to enable students to demonstrate their creativity with making of textile products. Throughout the course you will learn how designers work from concept, through design, development, manufacture and evaluation. Part of the course looks at the work of current designers and their influence on fashion today. There will be opportunities to explore new decorative and construction techniques from batik and silk painting to fashion design drawing and CAD CAM within textile products. Through focused practical tasks you will learn about trend forecasting, product analysis, choosing fibres and fabrics and where possible you will relate this to the textile and fashion industry. The emphasis is on creativity, quality and suitability. Design and making is an essential part of the course to prepare students for taking higher level courses or entering the world of work.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills:

Skills that will support good progress and success in this GCSE are; willingness to try new manufacturing processes, good listening skills, team working, confidence in practical manufacturing skills, ability to follow instructions. High standards of presentation and analytical analysis, as well as confident ICT skills. And above all an essential willingness to work hard.

Interests:

An enjoyment of Art and fashion will help though is not essential. Creating, designing and practical work along with why/how things are designed.

Personal attributes:

Someone who enjoys working hard, while being creative and innovative. A willingness to take risks in their designing and manufacturing outcomes. A team worker.

What will I study?

The course is delivered through 2 practical lessons and 1 theory lesson per week to support both the Controlled Assessment (60%) and the exam (40%). Students are challenged by a range of practical activities as the GCSE seeks to develop a range of knowledge and understanding of materials used in manufacturing processes in preparation for the Controlled Assessment.

Through design and make activities students become aware of the design and manufacturing processes and techniques involved in commercial and industrial textiles production. Students consider sustainability and the environmental impact of their designing. High standards of presentation and analytical analysis are important, strong use of CAD CAM within manufacturing is essential. 40% of the course is focussed on theory work in preparation for the written exam at the end of year 11.

How will I be assessed?

A single tier Assessment covering grades A* - G to cater for students of all abilities.

There are 2 areas of assessment:

Unit 1: Written paper of 2 hours – giving 40% of the total GCSE

Unit 2: Design and Make Controlled Assessment Task: 45 hours teaching time – giving 60% of the total GCSE. The Controlled Assessment consists of a single design and make activity from an AQA board set task.

What career options does this subject give me?

AS, A2 courses, GNVQ courses. Fashion design, Pattern Cutting, Surface pattern design, Fashion buying, Trend Forecasting, Merchandising, Print Technology, It should appeal if you are interested in fashion design, manufacturing, retail, photography, textile development or costume design.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

Homework will be set weekly; this will range from practice exam questions, designing, to researching activities

What equipment will I need to bring?

Always bring the basic equipment for writing and drawing. In addition students will need to purchase a folder for theory and design work. Some manufacturing activities will incur a small cost to support the use of additional materials and components. Letters will be sent home detailing these requirements.

Modern Languages - GCSE French/Spanish

Why choose a languages GCSE?

Choosing to study a language at GCSE is similar to studying a language at KS3 although the topics will be studied in more depth.

Why choose to study a language?

Because:

- ❖ You enjoyed or are good at languages at KS2 and 3.
- ❖ You enjoy learning about other people and their culture.
- ❖ You like working with others in conversation and discussion.
- ❖ You like a challenge.

What do I need to be successful if I choose this course?

Skills: Good memory.
Think logically.
Creative.

Interests: An interest in other cultures.

Personal attributes: Good communication skills.
Enjoy a challenge.
Solve problems and think outside the box.

What will I study?

Topics include:

Personal Information, Family and Relationships, School and Future Plans, World of work, Leisure and Free Time, Holidays, The World Around Us, The Young Person In Society.

How will I be assessed?

Assessment is:

60% Controlled Assessment, (Speaking and Writing)
40% final exam, (Listening and Reading).

What career options does this subject give me?

Post 16?

Successful GCSE students continue to study their chosen Language(s) at AS/A2 at Sixth Form College and this can lead to degree courses at university. It is becoming increasingly popular to combine a language with subjects such as Law, Management, Business, Finance and Banking and Media, to name but a few.

Careers

Almost any job may involve languages. In the current climate you could certainly be in demand if you could offer a language and potentially earn up to 20% more.

What kind of homework/independent learning will I need to complete?

You will need to work independently to complete Controlled Assessments both at home and at school.

What equipment will I need to bring?

It is preferable but not essential to have a dictionary in your chosen language.