

St Louis Grammar School



Information for Pupils and Parents Key Stage 4 Options 2026-2028

Please note that subject specifications are subject to change by the Examining Boards.

KS4 Options 2026-2028

Introduction

Welcome to the GCSE Options Booklet. Please take the time to read all the information contained in the booklet carefully.

If you have any questions about specific subjects, please talk to the relevant Head of Department / Teacher.

If you have any questions about a specific career path or the GCSE subject entry requirements for a future further education or higher education course or training course, please speak to Mrs Devlin.

If you have questions about the options process, please speak to Mr Brown.

GCSE Subject Choices and Career Paths

Your GCSE profile is a significant factor in determining which post-16 pathway you will be able to access. A high GCSE grade profile will facilitate entry to a competitive post-16 further education course such as A-levels or BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificates.

Good grades in GCSE subjects will assist with entry to Apprenticeships NI courses in the higher trades such as Electrotechnical (electrical installation) and Plumbing and Heating. The number of applicants admitted into plumbing and electrical apprenticeships is restricted to 30 in SRC and 20 in SERC with the number of applicants greatly exceeding available places.

GCSE Entry requirements at SRC / SERC

Applicant GCSE grades are scored for entry to Further Education courses in Regional Colleges such as the Southern Regional College (SRC) and South Eastern Regional College (SERC). It is important to note that **15 points with a minimum C grade pass in English and Mathematics** should be achieved for entry to all Level 3 Further Education courses.

Students hoping to gain a place on the funded Apprenticeships NI level 2 or level 3 apprenticeship courses must meet the GCSE entry requirements for that sector. The requirements for the higher trades of electrical or plumbing are detailed below.

Level 2 Plumbing and Heating – GCSE English and GCSE Mathematics at a minimum Grade D (it is advisable to offer two additional GCSE/equivalent subjects)

Level 3 Electrotechnical (Electrical Installation) – 15 points at GCSE or higher. GCSE English and Mathematics at Grade C is a requirement.

High competition for places on trade apprenticeships can result in applicants with the minimum points and grades not achieving a place on the course.

GCSE Scoring Table for Regional Colleges (2023 onwards)

Southern Regional College (SRC) Entry to Further Education Courses Post GCSE

A minimum of 15 points is required for entry to Level 3 courses (to include grade C in both English and Mathematics).

GCSE Grades	Point Score
A*	6
A	5
B	4
C*	4
C	3
D	2
E-G	1

Occupational Studies	Point score
Double Award L2	6
Single Award L2	3
Double Award L1	2
Single Award L1	1

GCSE Grade Mathematics and English Language only	Point Score
A*	7
A	6
B	5
C*	5
C	4

The admissions policy and details about entry requirements for all courses at the SRC/ SERC can be found on: www.src.ac.uk or www.serc.ac.uk

NOTE: Universities will not accept CCEA L1/2 Occupational Studies as equivalent to a GCSE for scoring purposes when selecting applicants for competitive courses.

If you have any questions about a specific career path or the GCSE subject entry requirements for a future further education or higher education course or training course, please speak to Mrs Devlin. You can also ask career related questions online at www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers where a WEBCHAT facility is available from 9.30 am to 4.30 pm from Monday to Friday.

GCSE Entry requirements for University/College Degree /HLA courses

Achieving a high standard across your GCSE subjects will support progression to A levels and help you work towards securing a competitive university place or a higher apprenticeship. Some universities, for example Queen's University, Belfast (QUB), score GCSE grades as part of the entry process for competitive degree courses. Medicine and Dentistry typically require the highest GCSE grades, as shown in the tables below. QUB also sets baseline GCSE requirements for other degree programmes; for example, Pharmacy may require 5–7 A grades, while Business Management may ask for a minimum of 4 A and 2 B grades within an applicant's GCSE profile. Courses such as Accounting, Engineering, Midwifery and Law also expect a specific range of A or B grades at GCSE. It is therefore essential that students research entry requirements carefully, paying close attention to GCSE and AS/A2 grades, and confirm the exact A level subject requirements for any courses they are considering.

Applicant GCSE scoring for Medicine and Dentistry at Queen's University Belfast

QUB Applicants scoring for GCSE Subjects (based on best 9 GCSE grades only)

Medicine may require 38 points (between 1 and 4 additional points may be awarded from the compulsory UCAT selection test). Dentistry may require 31–34 points (between 1 and 4 additional points may be awarded from the UCAT selection test).

GCSE Grades	Point score
A*	4
A	3
B	2
C / C*	1

Choosing your GCSE Subjects

There are important considerations when selecting your range of subjects at GCSE level. Leaving aside the compulsory GCSE Subjects, make your choices based on:

Your strengths and interests - choose the subjects that you believe you will enjoy and find most interesting. These will include some subjects you have studied in junior school and achieved success in. The selection may also include new subjects you have researched and become interested in studying.

Subjects required for entry to certain career paths - choose subjects that are required for a career path. Research careers online and seek guidance from subject teachers and careers advisors so that you make an informed subject choice.

Career Paths and Subject Considerations

GCSE English and Mathematics are core subjects and should be passed at a minimum of grade C to be considered for many Higher Education courses. At Queen's University, Belfast, degrees in Business Management, Accounting, Economics, Finance, Midwifery and Psychology require a grade B in Mathematics, while Accounting and Finance courses at Ulster University require a minimum of a C* in Mathematics.

Engineering / Engineering related degree courses accept a A/B grade in GCSE Mathematics and will require applicants to have GCSE Double Award Science where no GCSE Physics is offered. Midwifery courses in UK require applicants to have a minimum B grade in both GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Science (SA/DA).

Choosing to study a BTEC Level 2 qualification alongside GCSEs

BTEC Level 2 qualifications are acceptable to many UK universities and will be considered within an applicant's academic profile. However, universities and colleges in the Republic of Ireland do not accept BTEC qualifications and will expect students to apply with at least 6 GCSE subjects in their academic profile. The table below shows how a BTEC Level 2 qualification may be compared with a GCSE level 2 qualification.

If you are considering a BTEC Level 2 subject, talk to your teacher about the content, the assessments and the learning experiences you will have on this course. These courses often involve a lot of project work and this strong emphasis on coursework may suit some pupils who find their performance in exams does not reflect their standard of homework or classwork.

BTEC Level 2 Qualification. At least one unit externally assessed by exam	Level Achieved	GCSE Grade (Approximately equivalent)
BTEC Level 2 First Award	Distinction *	A*
	Distinction	A
	Merit	B
	Pass	C

Choosing to study an OCN NI / OCR Level 2 Qualification alongside GCSEs

Studying an OCN NI qualification alongside your GCSEs can be equivalent to achieving a GCSE grade B if completed successfully.

The OCR Level 2 Certificate is awarded similarly to the BTEC above, Distinction * / Distinction / Merit and Pass, with the same equivalencies to GCSE.

NOTE: Queen's University, Stranmillis University College and St Mary's University College will accept one BTEC Level 2 / OCN NI Level 2 Certificate/ OCR Level 2 Certificate course in your GCSE profile. CCEA L1/2 Occupational Subjects is not judged as equivalent to a GCSE.

Modern Foreign Languages (French, Irish and Spanish)

The majority of Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) will require students to have a GCSE in a modern foreign language in addition to any specific A level subject requirement associated with the degree course. It is therefore strongly recommended that students take a minimum of one modern language subject at GCSE. (Exemptions may apply for those with special circumstances such as dyslexia or another specific learning difficulty)

If considering applying to teacher training in ROI - students are advised that GCSE Irish or an equivalent qualification in Irish may be required. Students should also consider that studying a language at GCSE and A level gives the option of taking modular degree courses such as Law with Irish, Spanish or French, Accounting with French, Spanish or Irish and Journalism with a modern language. Language skills are desirable in a global business context and many universities acknowledge this by making language development courses available to Engineering, Medical and Science students.

Science related Career Areas

We offer GCSE Single Award and Double Award Science, as well as a Level 2 Applied Science course. Most students study Double Award Science, as it provides the strongest foundation for progressing to separate sciences at AS/A2 level. Students should note that achieving a GCSE grade in Single Award or Double Award Science is essential for entry to courses such as teaching, nursing, midwifery, allied health professions, food and nutrition, and engineering, among others.

A Career in Allied Health Professions

Students interested in Allied Health Careers must study Double Award Science at GCSE level to allow for greater choice from the range of Allied Health Careers shown below.

Career Area	GCSE Option Required	A Level
Diagnostic Radiography / Radiotherapy & Oncology	Double Award Science required	BBB to include one subject from Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics.
Optometry	Double Award Science required	AAB to include 2 Science subjects from Physics, Maths, Biology, Chemistry.
*Podiatry	SA Science acceptable. Double Award Science recommended	BBB to include a grade B from one of the following: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.
*Physiotherapy (requirements differ across universities)	Double Award Science required	BBB to include one Science Subject from Maths, Physics, Chemistry or Biology.
*Occupational Therapy	SA Science will meet requirements of many universities.	BBB (No specific subjects required)
*Speech and Language Therapy	SA Science will meet requirements of many universities.	BBB (No specific subjects required)
Dietetics	Double Award Science required	BBB to include 2 subjects from the list; Chemistry (preferred), Biology, Physics, Nutrition and Food Science or Maths.

Veterinary Science

A future career in Veterinary Science needs to be researched very carefully. This is one of the most highly competitive degree courses in UK universities. The GCSE and A level grade requirements are high and the work experience expectations demand that students have 5-6 placements in advance of application. Any student hoping to study Veterinary should commence their work experience in Year 12.

A student hoping to do a degree course in Veterinary Science must achieve high grades in GCSE Double Award Science.

Applicants will be asked for a grade A in three A level subjects to include Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics.

Medicine and Dentistry

Students hoping for a career in Medicine/ Dentistry must achieve high grades in GCSE Double Award Science. Students should aim to achieve mainly A* and A grades in 9 GCSE subjects to increase their chances of gaining a place on a Medicine or Dentistry degree course. All students intending to study Medicine or Dentistry must study a minimum of 3 A level subjects from the list; *Chemistry (essential) and Biology (recommended) with either Mathematics/Physics.

Bioscience and Biomedical Science Degrees

In addition to A Level Biology, applicants to a Biology, Human Biology, Zoology, Biomedical Science or Anatomy degrees must have attained GCSE Double Award Science.

Engineering Degrees

GCSE Double Award Science is required for entry to Engineering degrees such as; Mechanical Engineering/Aerospace Engineering/Civil Engineering or Product Design.

Mathematics is an essential subject for many Engineering degree courses with a grade A/B required at GCSE and again at A level. Design Technology is a very desirable supporting subject for Mechanical, Structural and Design Engineering degrees.

GCSE Engineering provides a useful foundation for a future career in a range of engineering disciplines when studied alongside Maths and Physics (the physics component of DA Science)

GCSE Digital Technology (Multimedia) and GCSE Digital Technologies (Programming) are excellent practical courses and will equip you with the skills needed in modern day life and the world of work. GCSE Digital Technology (Programming) is strongly recommended if you are considering a degree in Software Engineering, Games Development, Computer Science and Financial Engineering. GCSE Digital Technology (Multimedia) is aimed more at the general use of software in the modern office and business, such as web design and multimedia production.

Architecture

Art is required at GCSE level for some Architecture degree courses. A great emphasis is placed on creativity and artistic talent. If a student cannot offer GCSE Art at grade A, then a portfolio of Artwork must be presented to the University for consideration. GCSE Design Technology is a particularly useful contributory subject but is not required for an Architecture degree. A Design Technology portfolio will not be accepted in place of an Art portfolio for Architecture.

Nursing and Midwifery

In general, Nursing applicants must achieve a minimum grade C in a Science subject at GCSE. Queen's University and the University of Ulster do not require students to have a Science subject at A Level, but for those who can offer an A Level Science the overall A level entry requirement is reduced from BBC to BCC.

Queen's University Belfast states that Midwifery applicants, must have a grade B in GCSE Mathematics and a grade B in Science (Single Award Science is acceptable).

Several Universities in the UK indicate that preference may be given to students who study AS/A2 Level Biology. This is especially true when considering the highly competitive degree course in Children's Nursing.

Applicants to Nursing and Midwifery courses in the Republic of Ireland should note that admission criteria and entry requirements vary across universities and Institutes of Technology/Technological Universities. Students are advised to consult the CAO website, online prospectuses, and university admissions offices before applying. Those studying Nursing or Midwifery in the Republic of Ireland will not receive tuition fee exemptions and are not eligible for an NHS bursary.

A Career in Teaching – Science entry requirements.

Any student considering a career in primary or secondary teaching must achieve a pass in GCSE Science; both Single Award and Double Award Science are acceptable. Students who do not meet this requirement will be unable to apply for teacher training, either through an undergraduate degree or a postgraduate route.

All the above information should be considered carefully, and students and parents are encouraged to visit Regional College and University websites to check GCSE course entry requirements for any area the student expresses an interest in.

University admission departments welcome phone calls and emails seeking clarification on entry requirements and in an ever-changing competitive climate it is important to check all requirements before reaching final GCSE option choices.

St Louis works closely with the DEL Careers Service and the school's Careers Officer is Mrs Claire Rodgers. Mrs Devlin will be available at the options event/parent-teacher evening and via phone call or email to advise on option choices.

Careers Service NI – Online Support

The Careers Service has valuable Career Guidance tools and a WEBCHAT facility online to support and assist students. Visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers

Your local Careers Office is:

Newry Street
Kilkeel

Useful websites

Careers research is a vital part of choosing your GCSE options. Below are some useful websites to help you make your choices.

www.ccea.org.uk - Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment. (Northern Ireland's Exam Board)

<https://www.ocnni.org.uk> - Exam board for Level 2 IT, RE and Creative Arts

www.ocr.org.uk - OCR - Exam board for Level 2 Enterprise and marketing

www.edexcel.org.uk - Exam board for Level 2 BTEC qualifications Travel and Tourism and Countryside and Environment.

General Websites for Career Information and projected job trends.

www.investigatecareers.com - password for St Louis Grammar Students - lobster (changes every 6 months – check with your careers teacher) The site allows you find information about different careers and to research the Labour Market Information and predicted Job trends up to 2034.

www.careerpilot.org.uk - a general site to explore jobs and job sectors

www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers - Register on the website and use the Careers A-Z facility to research job information and links between GCSE subject choices and careers. Examine information about the skills in demand in NI.

www.icould.com - Research different careers and listen to case studies.

Recruitment websites specific to NI jobs:

www.indeed.com

www.nijobfinder.co.uk

www.jobapplyni.com

Websites to support development of CV'S and complete job application forms:

<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/services/cv-builder>

<https://www.studentjob.co.uk/application-tips/cv>

<https://www.savethestudent.org/student-jobs/write-great-cv-template.html>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/cvs-and-cover-letters/how-to-write-a-cv>

<http://standout-cv.com/pages/how-to-write-a-cv>

University and College Application Websites

www.ucas.com (UK Universities website)

www.cao.ie (ROI Universities website)

University and College Websites (NI)

www.qub.ac.uk

www.ulster.ac.uk

www.cafre.ac.uk (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise)

www.smucb.ac.uk

www.stranmillis.ac.uk

A range of ROI University and College Websites (ROI Republic of Ireland)

www.tcd.ie (Trinity)

www.ucd.ie (University College Dublin)

www.dcu.ie (Dublin City University)

www.nuigalway.ie (Galway University)

www.ucc.ie (Cork University)

www.ul.ie (Limerick University)

www.maynoothuniversity.ie (Maynooth University)

www.rsci.ie (Royal College of Surgeons Ireland)

www.dkit.ie (Dundalk Institute of technology)

www.atu.ie (Atlantic Technological University)

Regional Colleges:

www.src.ac.uk

www.serc.ac.uk

www.belfastmet.ac.uk



Top Desirable Attributes



Teamwork



Communication



IT skills



Problem
Solving



Time
Management



Creativity



Willingness
to
Learn



Resilience



Self
Management

Future job opportunities in Northern Ireland

The following areas are extremely important to the Northern Ireland economy:

- ICT / Computing
- creative and digital media
- business and financial services
- advanced manufacturing and engineering
- renewable energies and recycling
- health and life sciences
- agri-food sector



ICT / Computing

Information and Communications Technology (ICT), particularly software development, database development, systems architecture and internet specialist skills, is at the heart of every organisation and is central to our daily lives: mobile communication, computer games, touch screen technology, satellite navigation devices – the list is endless. Many large international IT based companies have chosen Northern Ireland as their base in the UK and these include: Liberty IT, Allstate, First Derivatives, Seagate, Fujitsu, and Concentrix. Northern Ireland is one of the world's top destinations for financial technology and R&D investment.

Creative and digital media

Digital is everywhere and is at the heart of the UK economy, underpinning growth through both the development of new technologies and the provision of services to businesses and consumers.

Key market growth areas identified by national and international level research include:

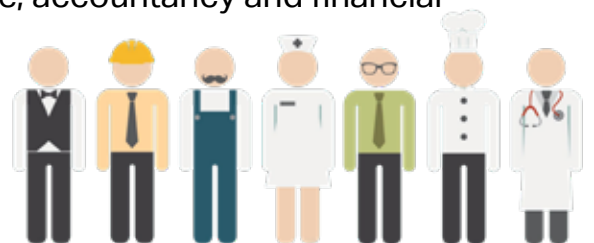
- cloud computing
- mobile technologies
- cross-platform mobile applications
- computer games and digital entertainment
- cyber-security products and services
- green/low carbon IT products



Business and financial services

There are seven different industries within the finance, accountancy and financial services sector. Jobs vary from:

- accountants
- financial engineers / financial technologists
- bank officials
- underwriters
- insurance and investment brokers
- actuaries and pensions advisers



Advanced manufacturing and engineering

This includes careers requiring CAD skills, CNC machine operatives, mechanical and electrical engineering skills including at technician level and strategic marketing to name but a few.

Renewable energies and recycling

European and global agreements on more energy efficient technology are creating demand for new engineering solutions. Mechanical engineers are at the forefront of designing everything from better forms of green energy and zero emission engines to the latest breed of nuclear power stations. It's a highly skilled profession but has multiple entry routes.

Careers in this sector include:

- mechanical engineers
- research and development managers
- physical scientists
- design and development engineers
- biological scientists and biochemists



Health and life sciences

The Health and Life Sciences sector is one of Northern Ireland's most important sectors. The sector combines all elements of science and technology that contribute to the discovery and development of products for the healthcare and well-being of humans and animals. Northern Ireland companies and universities have experience in delivering innovative research, products and services to global customers in areas such as Precision Medicine, Diagnostics, Connected Health, Clinical Trials and Data Analytics.

Agri food

Food and drink manufacturing includes the processing of meat and poultry, dairy, fish and shellfish, fruit and vegetables and the production of bakery and drinks products amongst others.

Areas of work include bakery, distillery, creamery and ready meals production. Jobs can include:

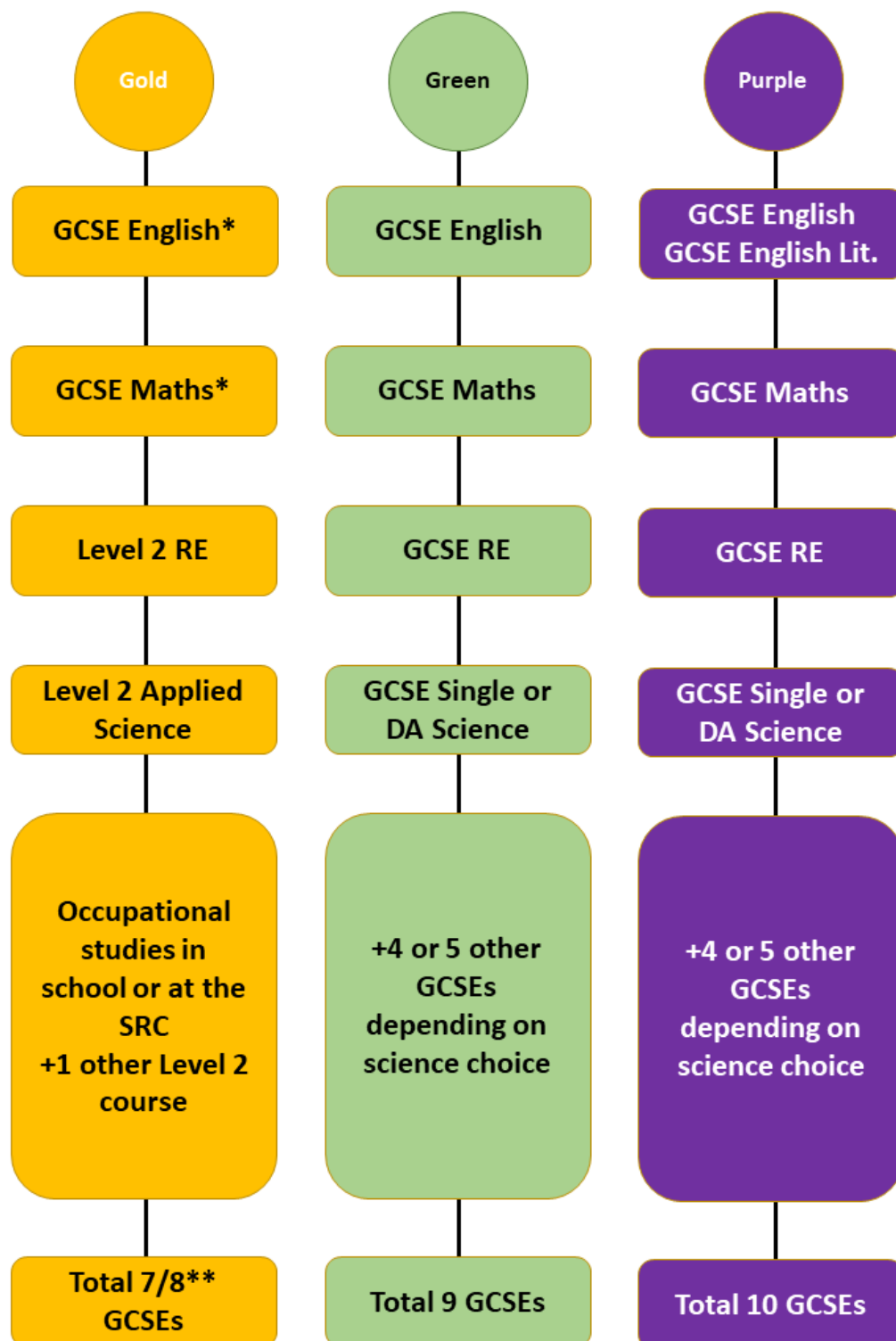
- laboratory technicians
- food scientists
- biotech
- machine operatives
- butcher
- supply chain manager



Pathways



In order to aid you in choosing your GCSE options, we have organised the option choices into three pathways that closely mirror the Learning Paced Classes your child has already been placed in for Year 10.



* Pupils will also study level 1 / 2 Essential Skills in English and Maths alongside the GCSE in English and Maths in Year 11.

** Pupils who take Prince's Trust may gain a total of two GCSEs at C Grade if they produce work to a high standard. Princes Trust will be limited to a maximum of 15 pupils. Pupils on the Gold Pathway will be given priority with all places thereafter awarded on a first-come-first-served

Options Overview

All pupils **must** study the following **core subjects** at Key Stage 4: English, Mathematics, Science and Religious Studies. Depending on the pathway chosen, pupils may choose to also study English Literature and / or Double Award Science. All pupils will also study non-GCSE subjects such as Non-exam PE, Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development.

This year the option process happens in 4 stages:

Stage 1 - GCSE Options Talks

- All year 10 pupils will be involved in options talks delivered by Heads of subjects of the new subjects on offer during the week beginning **19th January 2026**.
- During the options event on **3rd February** pupils will be given options sheet from which they must choose their pathway, and then their subjects.

Stage 2 - Hand in Option sheet

- The option sheet is to be completed by pupils and handed in on **27th February 2026**.
- **Gold Pathway** (1) pupils must also complete an SRC options sheet if they are choosing to study their Occupational Studies in the SRC.
- Those pupils who wish to choose the **Gold Pathway** and study occupational studies in school will make their choices on the options sheet.

Stage 3 - Review of individual pupil options

- Tutors and the Year 10 Year head will meet with parents to discuss and finalise your chosen options.
- Following these meetings, Mrs Devlin, Head of Careers, and members of the SLT may have an additional meeting with pupils to review the options chosen to ensure that all pupils are on the correct pathway where there is a concern that a pupil's choices are ill advised. A final decision about individual subject choices is made in discussion with the pupil and, if necessary, their parent.
- The final decision as to the viability of a pupils' chosen pathway and option choices will be made based on: progress in the internal assessments; average scores and rank in the chosen option subjects where applicable; standardised scores (CAT 4 / PTE / PTM) ; and in particular, scores in English, Maths and Science.

Stage 4 - Timetabling of classes commences

- **April 2026** - Timetabling for 2026-27 will commence. At this stage pupils must have finalised their choices.
- **NOTE: Once timetabling commences pupils may not be able to change their subject choices.**

Core Subjects

Relevant
Pathways
as marked



GCSE English – CCEA



This is a compulsory subject and an untiered examination (grades available A* – G)
Assessment is by examination and coursework

Unit 1: 30% - Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts.

External written examination

Untiered: 1 hour 45 mins: Students respond to five tasks. 30% Summer and January from 2019

Unit 2: 20% - Speaking and Listening Controlled Assessment

Untiered: Teachers assess the tasks, and CCEA moderate the outcomes. 20% Summer and January from 2019

Unit 3: 20% - Studying Spoken and Written Language Controlled Assessment

Untiered: Teachers assess the tasks, and CCEA moderate the outcomes. 20% Summer and January from 2019

Unit 4: 30% - Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts

External written examination Untiered 1 hour 45 mins
Students respond to five tasks. 30% Summer and January from 2019.

Students must take at least 40 percent of the assessment (based on unit weighting) at the end of the course as terminal assessment.



GCSE English Literature – CCEA



This course is an optional subject that has an untiered examination (grades available A*-G). Assessment is by examination and coursework

Unit 1: 30% The Study of Prose

External written examination 1 hour 45 mins
Students answer two questions, one from Section A and the set question in Section B.
Section A is closed book.

Unit 2: 50% The Study of Drama and Poetry

External written examination 2 hours
Students answer two questions, one from Section A and one from Section B.
Section A is open book. Section B is open book.

Unit 3: 20% The Study of Shakespeare

Controlled assessment 2 hours
Students complete one task: an extended writing question based on a theme.
Teachers mark the tasks, and CCEA moderate the results. Students must take at least 40 percent of the assessment (based on unit weightings).

GCSE Maths – CCEA



GCSE Mathematics is a compulsory subject and is a course consisting of two modules. Pupils will complete one module from the range M1-M4 and one from the range M5-M8. These modules have varied levels of difficulty offering maximum grades of D through to A* grades depending on the modules completed.

Students will be assessed by exam only, there is no coursework or controlled assessments. The first exam is usually sat at the end of Year 11/ start of Year 12 and the second exam at the end of Year 12.

The end of Key Stage 3 Mathematics results determine the Mathematics group of the student for GCSE.

Areas studied include number, algebra, data handling, shape, space and measure. Assessment is divided as follows:

Modules M1 - M2 OR M3-M4	1hr 45 min Exam (with calculator) 2hr Exam (with calculator)	Worth 45% Worth 45%
And		
Module M5-M8 2 exams to complete	M5-M6 - 1hr Calculator and 1hr (non-calculator exam) OR M7-M8 - 1hr 15 (non-calculator exam) and 1hr 15 min (calculator exam)	Worth 55% Worth 55%

GCSE Further Maths - CCEA



This course is an optional subject intended to cater for those pupils who are capable of working beyond the limits of the GCSE Mathematics specification. This course will count as one of your options. It is designed to broaden the mathematical experience of pupils who:

- Have a strong mathematical ability
- Are considering mathematical courses at AS/A Levels
- Are considering courses at AS/A Level that require Mathematics beyond GCSE (any STEM subject)
- Wish to extend their knowledge of Mathematics.

Examination Components

Students will be assessed by exam only, there is no coursework or controlled assessments. Assessment consists of three written papers, one for each unit.

Unit 1 Pure Mathematics: 50% - 2hr Exam

Unit 2 Mechanics: 25% - 1 Hr Exam

Unit 3 Statistics: 25% - 1 Hr exam

Unit 1 (Pure Mathematics)

In this unit pupils investigate:

- Algebra
- Trigonometry
- Differentiation
- Integration
- Logarithms
- Matrices
- Vectors

Unit 2 (Mechanics)

In this unit pupils explore:

- Kinematics
- Vectors
- Forces
- Newton's laws of motion
- Moments

Unit 3 (Statistics)

In this unit pupils explore:

- Understanding and using statistical terminology
- Measures of central tendency
- Measures of dispersion
- Probability
- Binomial and normal distribution
- Bivariate analysis

Further Mathematics is not required in order to go on to study Mathematics at AS / A level.



Communication

Pupils on the **purple pathway** will be given the opportunity to take OCN Level 1/2 Certificate in Essential Skills / Communication. This will be taken alongside GCSE English. This is to ensure that all pupils leave school with a suitable qualification that may be used to gain entry to courses in the SRC.

Essential Skills Communication Level 1 and 2 have two components:

- Speaking and Listening
- Reading and Writing



Skill Standard	Coverage and Range	Assessment
Speaking & Listening 1. Take full part in formal and informal discussions and exchanges that include unfamiliar subjects	a) Make relevant and extended contributions to discussions, allowing for and responding to others' input; b) Prepare for and contribute to the formal discussion of ideas and opinions; c) Use an image to support discussion d) Make different kinds of contributions to discussions; e) Present information/points of view clearly and in appropriate language	Controlled assessment Internally set, internally marked and internally verified by the centre. Externally moderated by OCN NI.
Reading & Writing 2. Read and understand a range of straightforward texts	a) Identify the main points and ideas and how they are presented in a variety of texts; b) Read and understand texts in detail; c) Utilise information contained in texts; d) Identify suitable responses to texts; e) In more than one type of text.	Externally set and externally marked end test. One combined reading and writing paper
Writing 3. Write a range of texts to communicate information, ideas and opinions, using formats and styles suitable for their purpose and audience.	a) Write clearly and coherently, including an appropriate level of detail; b) Present information in a logical sequence; c) Use language, format and structure suitable for purpose and audience; d) Use correct grammar, including correct and consistent use of tense; e) Ensure written work includes generally accurate punctuation and spelling and that meaning is clear; f) In more than one type of text.	

Application of number

Pupils on the **purple pathway** will be given the opportunity to take OCN Level 1/2 Certificate in Essential Skills / Application of number. This is to ensure that all pupils leave school with a suitable qualification that may be used to gain entry to courses in the SRC.

OCN Application of Number Level One and Level Two are offered alongside GCSE Mathematics in Years 11 and 12 for students who follow the **purple pathway**.

The aim of this qualification is to improve students' ability to understand, use, calculate and manipulate mathematical information and interpret results. These capabilities are applied to number; measures, shape and space; and handling data.

This qualification can assist learners gain entry to employment and further education opportunities such as apprenticeships and traineeships.

Both Essential Skills – Application of Number Level 1 and Essential Skills – Application of Number Level 2 have three components:

- Representing information
- Carrying out calculations
- Interpreting results and presenting findings

Students achieve the qualifications by successfully completing an externally set and marked written paper. There is no coursework involved. Calculators are permitted for the assessment. The assessment for each Level is 1 hour 30 minutes.

Students will normally complete the assessments in March of Year 11 and Year 12.



The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies is designed for learners who wish to develop knowledge and understanding in religious studies in order to make sense of religious choices people make in today's society.

Pupils following the Gold Pathway will complete this course. On the successful completion of this qualification, students will be able to attain the equivalent of a Grade B at GCSE.

It is intended that learners will develop empathy, respect and awareness of other religious beliefs and cultural diversity. By continuous assessment through building a portfolio, learners will be more motivated and engaged to successfully complete the qualification.

The OCN NI Level 2 Award in Religious Studies qualification enables progression to the Level 2 Certificate and from the Level 2 Certificate learners can progress to further Religious Study qualifications and/or further learning in this area or into employment.

The OCN NI Level 2 Award in Religious Studies covers a range of interesting and engaging topics that include:

- Addiction
- Charity and religious charities
- Exploring personal identity and faith
- Exploring religious traditions within our own community
- Life and death issues
- Life of a famous person of faith
- Marriage and divorce
- Prejudice and reconciliation
- World Faith



Topics within this qualification can be assessed through a range of methods that include:

- Portfolio of evidence
- Practical demonstration
- Assignments
- Coursework



Religious Studies is a compulsory subject at Key Stage 4 in St Louis. The GCSE Religious Studies course (CCEA Specification) encourages students to develop an enquiring, critical and reflective approach.

This worthwhile course challenges young people and equips them to lead constructive lives in the modern world.

They explore religion and beliefs, reflecting on and responding personally to fundamental questions.

In the RE classroom, students will contribute to discussions and debates, interpret and analyse mathematical data and use ICT to access, manage, select and present information. They also identify and analyse relationships and patterns, evaluate from multiple perspectives, form opinions and justify their views.

Students must complete two written examinations, one for each of the units they study. Each exam lasts 1 hour 30 minutes and is worth 50 per cent of the final award. Students take one assessment unit at the end of one year of study and the other at the end of a second year.

Year 11

Unit 2a: The Christian Church with a Focus on the Catholic Church

1. The birth of the Christian Church and Christianity in Ireland
2. Church Government
3. Worship in the Catholic Church
4. Sacraments in the Catholic Church
5. The role of the Church in contemporary society

Year 12

Unit 6: An Introduction to Christian Ethics

1. Personal and Family Issues
2. Matters of Life and Death
3. Developments in Bioethics
4. Contemporary issues in Christianity
5. Modern warfare



A great course suited to further study, GCSE Religious Studies can start students on the path to a host of courses such as AS and A2 Religious Studies.

Students studying Religious Studies have tended to follow careers in the following fields; Teaching, Law, Medicine, Accounting, Business Management, Journalism/Media, Nursing, Social Work, Youth Work, Counselling, Humanities and Social Sciences.

THIS OPTION IS ONLY AVAILABLE FOR PUPILS FOLLOWING THE GOLD PATHWAY

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science qualifications will provide learners with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in a range of key concepts within Biology, Chemistry and Physics and builds upon the Key Stage 3 science curriculum. Pupils on the Gold Pathway will study this option.

These qualifications were developed in conjunction with post-primary schools and offer an **applied** approach to science. They contain mandatory units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and a range of optional units.

These qualifications are for learners interested in applied science but who have not studied or achieved a GCSE in this area. They are intended to give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that will enable them to progress to further learning or training in a science related area. They build upon the Northern Ireland Curriculum and meet the requirements of the Key Stage 4 Entitlement Framework.

These qualifications will allow learners to further develop the following skills:
Cross-Curricular Skills:

- communication
- using mathematics
- using ICT

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

- self-management
- working with others
- problem solving

N.B. This course will provide a single GCSE grade equivalent for the candidate and is aimed at students that have strengths in areas of the curriculum other than Science.



It is **compulsory** for students in the **Green Pathway** to choose at least one GCSE Science - Single Award or Double Award.

Students who intend to study the minimum science requirement will take the Single Award Science option which is equivalent to 1 GCSE. Students choosing this option will **NOT** have a route to A level Science study.

Why is Science important?

The course lays an appropriate foundation equipping the student with essential knowledge and skills that will enable them to make informed decisions regarding scientific matters at later stages. It may also provide a route to vocational study of Science in the future.

Why study Single Award Science?

GCSE Single Award Science stimulates and excites pupils' curiosity and interest in and knowledge of, phenomena and events in the world around them. The Single Award Science course offers a range of activities linking practical experience with ideas, developing key skills and encouraging critical and creative thought.

Studying Science gives you important transferable skills, such as:

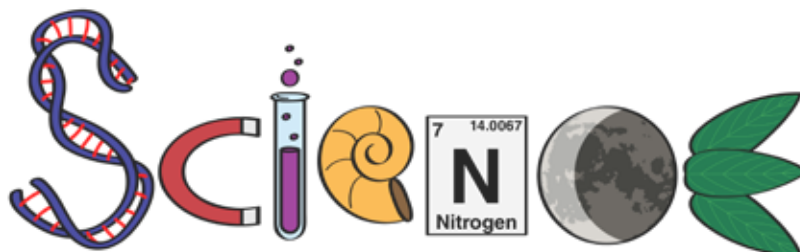
- you learn to think logically and solve problems;
- you become experienced in computing;
- you learn to communicate and work as part of a team.

The Single Award Science GCSE is divided into four sections and these are:

- Unit 1 Biology 25%
- Unit 1 Chemistry 25%
- Unit 1 Physics 25%
- Unit 4 Practical Skills 25%

The course links direct practical experience with ideas, encouraging creative and critical thought.

N.B. This course will provide a single GCSE grade for the candidate and is aimed at students that have strengths in areas of the curriculum other than Science.



The **GCSE Double Award Science** specification is a broad and coherent course that develops students' knowledge and understanding of the material (Chemistry), physical (Physics) and living worlds (Biology). It encourages them to have a positive view of science and recognise its importance in our lives.

Students develop their observational and problem-solving skills in the laboratory and during fieldwork. They also enhance their ability to evaluate scientific claims through qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Why study Double Award Science?

Students gain **two** GCSEs for completing Double Award Science and studying Double Award **will** provide a route to A Level Science study.

Practical science is a key part of this course; students carry out 18 prescribed practicals during the course. This is an important element of the subject, as part of a unit titled "Practical Skills". This is an important and useful feature of this course when preparing students for further A level study and/or entering industry.

The Double Award Science GCSE is divided into seven sections and these are:

- Unit B1 - Biology 11%
- Unit C1- Chemistry 11%
- Unit P1 - Physics 11%
- Unit B2 - Biology 14%
- Unit C2 - Chemistry 14%
- Unit P2 - Physics 14%
- Unit 7 - Practical skills 25%

Career options - Double Award Science is also essential for entry onto many degree courses irrespective of A-Level grades. Areas such as;

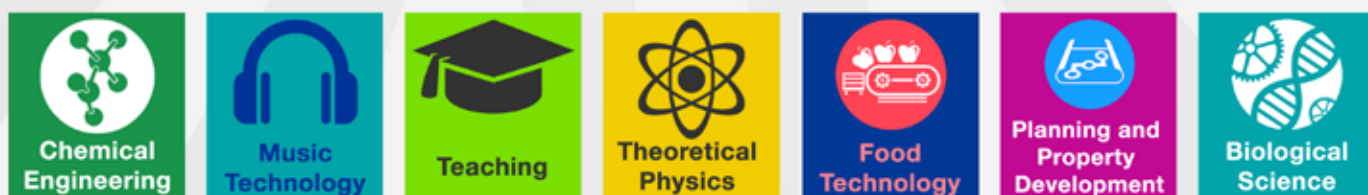
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Engineering
- Biomedical Sciences
- Consumer Studies
- Dietetics
- Environmental Health
- Marine Science
- Clinical Physiology
- Radiography
- Agricultural Technology



N.B. This course will provide two GCSE grades for the candidate. You will be only allowed to choose four more GCSE options if you choose Double Award Science.



St Louis STEM Degree and Careers Destinations



These are just some of the STEM degrees and careers that our students have undertaken. Ask your STEM teacher for more information.

STEM is strong in St Louis

STEM

sciencetechnologyengineeringmaths

At St. Louis we offer a broad range of STEM subjects at A Level and GCSE. What STEM subjects will you study?

Will you become...

- An Astrophysicist like Matt Rooney
- A TV and Film Producer like Eamonn Hardy
- A Research Zoologist like Eimear Rooney
- A Ophthalmic Surgery Consultant like Michael O'Gallagher
- A TV and Radio Journalist like Paul Colgan (RTE)
- An entrepreneur like Connair McGreevy
- A Dentist like Yvonne Rooney

These are just some of the rewarding STEM careers our past pupils have undertaken.

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In this ART & DESIGN course you will:

- actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design to develop as effective and independent learners;
- become critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds;
- develop creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities when exploring and making images, artefacts and products;
- become confident in taking risks and learn from experience when working with ideas, media, materials, processes and technologies;
- develop critical understanding through investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills;
- develop and refine ideas and proposals, personal outcomes or solutions with increasing independence;
- acquire and develop technical skills through working with a broad range of media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies with purpose and intent;
- develop knowledge and understanding of art, craft and design in historical and contemporary contexts, societies and cultures;
- develop an awareness of the different roles and individual work practices found in the creative and cultural industries;
- develop an awareness of the purposes, intentions and functions of art, craft and design in a variety of contexts and as appropriate to students' own work; and
- demonstrate safe working practices in art, craft and design.



You can produce work in 2D and 3D and areas of study will include:

- Drawing and painting
- Printmaking
- ICT digital manipulation
- 3D construction
- Mixed media techniques
- Textiles
- Sculpture



What qualification will the course lead to?

I wonder if this will get an A*?

How would it help me in the future?

The study of Art can help you develop transferable skills that you can take to any career or job. It will help: your research skills; help you to problem solve; develop your ability to work independently; train you to share ideas visually and orally, to be innovative, creative and reflective in your work, consider audience, consumer and/or function in the presentation of your work.

How will my work be assessed?

All work will be produced under controlled assessment and you will complete two components of work.

Component 1: **Part A - Exploratory Portfolio (25%)**
 Part B - Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries (35%)

Component 2: **Externally set Assignment (40%)**

What will be especially important for me to succeed on this course?

You need to have shown a good level of artistic skill at KS3 and enjoy art. You must have a desire to learn new skills and develop your visual language. You should be a hard worker who is prepared to carry out your ideas resulting in ambitious, creative and exciting work.

You could go on to take a higher qualification in Art & Design such as A-level. Skills and creativity promoted by taking Art for GCSE are important in the following career paths:



- Advertising, Media work, Publishing, Illustration and Printmaking (including communication design such as Graphic Design for magazines, newspapers and television)
- Product Design/Engineering/Biological Engineering and Prosthetics/Cosmetic Surgery
- Architecture, Interior Design, Landscaping and Garden Design
- Arts and antique markets
- Crafts (Ceramics, Pottery, Weaving, Framing)
- Fashion, Textile Production and Design, Jewellery Design and Make-up Artist
- Film, video, photography, television and radio
- Software, computer games, electronic publishing and Animation
- Music and the visual and performing arts (including dance), Stage Design, Costume Design
- Education, Community Arts, Art Therapist, Fine Artist

Alongside the opportunities for examination success and access to 3rd level and professional training, students who undertake GCSE and A Level Art courses can enhance their own personal lives, e.g. they become more visually aware as trend setters in fashion, derive pleasure in interior design for their own homes and establish a lifelong love of Art and culture. 93% of 16-18 year olds say studying a creative subject impacts positively on their mental health and wellbeing. (Enhancing creative education, 2022)

Creative Jobs And Exports Outpace Rest Of UK Economy

The Creative Industries contributed £116bn in GVA in 2019, growing twice as fast between 2011 and 2019 than the rate of the UK economy as a whole.

The Business Studies Department are offering a BTEC Level 2 First Award in Business, which is equivalent to 1 GCSE. This is a very practical course that would be suitable for pupils who prefer coursework as a method of assessment. There are 3 units of coursework and 1 exam (75% coursework, 25% exam).

Unit 1: Introduction to Business (Coursework)

This unit introduces pupils to the language and terminology used in business. They will explore different types of business ownership and how they relate to the size and scale of a business. They will also explore how the type of ownership impacts on the responsibilities of the owners of a business. By combining all this with looking at different types of business model, pupils will begin to understand how diverse the world of business is.

Unit 2: Finance for Business (Exam)

In this unit, pupils will explore the types of costs that businesses incur, from the initial start-up costs involved in setting up a business to the ongoing daily costs of running the business. They will then explore the ways in which the sale of products and services generates revenue, so that you can develop their understanding of profit. Next, pupils will examine how businesses plan for success and learn about the techniques used to assist the planning process.

Unit 3: Enterprise in the Business World (Coursework)

In this unit, pupils will explore business enterprise ideas including the trends that affect them and the factors that influence their success. They will draw on knowledge gained throughout the other units to carry out research and assess the suitability of a business idea. They will use this to plan an enterprise idea for a realistic business start-up in their local area, based on their research. Pupils will select a format for their enterprise idea and then present the business model.

The teacher will also choose one additional coursework unit from Branding, Customer Service or Recruitment.

Assessment overview

Unit 1	Introduction to Business	Coursework
Unit 2	Finance for Business	Computer Based Exam (1hr 15min)
Unit 3	Enterprise in the Business World	Coursework
Optional Unit (chosen by your teacher)	Promoting a Brand or Principles of Customer Service or Recruitment, Selection and Employment	Coursework

This qualification is marks as Level 2 Pass/Level 2 Merit/Level 2 Distinction/Level 2 Distinction* . **This practical business course is suitable for a pupil who prefers coursework as a method of assessment.**

Why study GCSE Business?

Studying Business Studies will help students gain knowledge and understanding of businesses, how they operate and the roles of various stakeholders. Students will learn how businesses start up, what is required to keep them going and the challenges they face.

Content	Assessment	Weightings
Unit 1: Starting a Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creating a Business Marketing Business Operations 	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Short structured questions and extended writing	40%
Unit 2: Developing a Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Human Resources Business Growth Finance 	External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes Short structured questions and extended writing	40%
Unit 3 Planning a Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Plan 	Controlled assessment	20%

Unit 1 exam will be taken at the end of Year 11.

Key Skills: The subject contributes to the following key skills: communication, application of number, information technology, working with others, improving your own learning and performance and problem solving.

Careers

Studying Business Studies at GCSE and A Level will complement ANY career that requires management and leadership. Specifically, it could lead to careers in:

- Starting your own business
- Marketing/advertising
- Sales/retail
- Finance/banking/accountancy
- Management/consulting
- Personnel Management/Human Resources
- Business and management degrees
- Business and IT degrees

This academic business course is suitable for a pupil who prefers exams as a method of assessment.

Two year course: Two Exams & One piece of Controlled Assessment

Component Areas for Assessment:

Component 1: 30%

Parenthood, Pregnancy and the Newborn Baby
External written examination - 1 hour 15 mins

Component 2: 30%

The Development of the Child (0–5 Years)
External written examination - 1 hour 15 mins

Component 3: 40%

Investigation Task - Controlled assessment



Component 1: Parenthood, Pregnancy and the Newborn Baby

- The family and parental responsibilities
- Reproduction
- Pregnancy
- Diet and lifestyle during pregnancy
- Birth
- The new born baby
- Feeding the baby

Component 2: The Development of the Child (0–5 Years)

- Dietary needs of the child (0–5 years)
- Child health and education
- Child Development
- Social Development
- Physical Development
- Intellectual Development
- Communication Development
- Emotional Development



The course, along with suitable A Levels and subsequent degree, could lead to careers in:

- Early years teacher;
- Family support Worker;
- Learning mentor;
- Teaching; Social Worker;
- Children's nurse; Counsellor;
- Educational Physiologist;
- Speech and Language therapist.

GCSE – Construction and the Built Environment.

Key Features:

- Provides students with a broad background to, and core knowledge and understanding of the construction industry.
- Encourages students to develop craft, CAD and technical skills.
- Helps students to make informed choices about their careers and how they will progress.
- Encourages students to develop and practice the key transferable skills and have a positive attitude towards sustainable construction techniques.

Benefit to Learners:

- We have designed this specification to help learners develop:
- A core knowledge of the construction industry
- An ability to apply their knowledge in relevant, enjoyable and work related contexts for craft operations and CAD projects.
- Key transferable skills that are important in working life
- The ability to research the materials used in the construction of domestic and commercial buildings.

Summary of Units:

- **Unit 1:** Introduction to the built environment– this unit covers occupations within the construction industry, candidates must also research the different types of buildings and construction methods used in Northern Ireland. 1 Hour test. 20% weighting.
- **Unit 2:** Sustainable construction – external exam 1 hr. 30 minutes paper includes questions based on pre-release. 30% weighting.
- **Unit 3:** The Construction Craft Project – 25% weighting
- **Unit 4:** Computer Aided Design in Construction – controlled assessment, internally assessed and externally moderated, 25% weighting.

Key Features:

The following are important features of this specification.

- It offers opportunities to build on the skills and capabilities developed through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3.
- It allows students to develop transferable skills, which will benefit them in vocational training and employment.
- It makes students aware of creative, engineering and manufacturing industries.
- It incorporates product design, and systems and control.
- It encourages students to be creative, innovative and be prepared to take design risks.
- It makes students aware that high quality design and technology is important.
- It makes students aware that many modern day innovations are developed from existing and historic solutions.
- It is accompanied by planning frameworks and student guides to support teachers and students.
- It has broad cross-curricular links.

Summary:

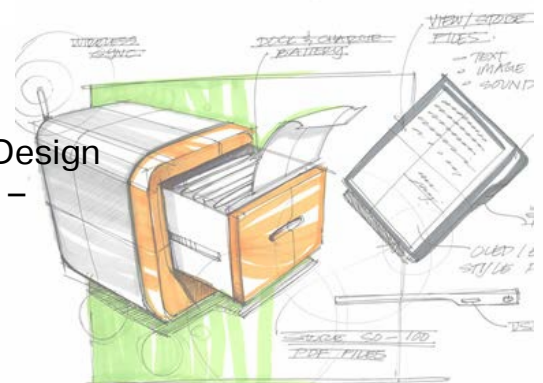
Unit 1: Technology & Design Core Content: This is an externally assessed exam unit 1hr 30 minutes long with a 25% weighting. This exam based unit will assess materials & manufacturing, Pneumatics, Mechanisms, Computer control and Electronics.

Unit 2: optional area of study – can choose between three areas for this exam:
Electronic/micro electronic control systems, or
Mechanical and Pneumatic control systems, or
Product design 25% weighting

Unit 3: Design and manufacturing project – Systems Design and Manufacturing or Product Design and Manufacture – this is the main design and make task which carries a weighting of 50%

Benefits:

- Greater flexibility
- Skills of creativity and critical analysis
- Decision making skills, through individual or collaborative
- The ability to explore a wide range of concepts





Today's work environment depends increasingly on a range of technologies. The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications is designed to provide learners with the IT skills required to function successfully in work and the wider environment.

On the successful completion of this qualification, students will be able to attain the equivalent of a Grade B at GCSE.

Qualification Target Group

IT skills are now required by almost everyone at work, and to survive in society. This qualification is suitable for school and college students who wish to acquire a good standard of IT skills and gain an accredited qualification.

Entry Requirements

There are no formal entry requirements, however, typically learners should have a basic knowledge of IT skills.

Methods of Assessment

All units are internally assessed by qualified centre assessors and internally verified by the approved centres. This qualification is 100% coursework based.

Students will complete 5 units and each unit contributes to the world of work in a very practical way:

- Email software skills
- Presentation software skills
- IT User Fundamentals
- Spreadsheet software skills and
- Database software skills



GCSE Digital Technologies - Programming

Green

Purple

GCSE Digital Technologies is split up into two strands - Programming and Multimedia. The Programming strand will give you an in-depth understanding of software development using the programming language Python.

This course will suit pupils wishing to pursue a career in software and computer games development. It would also suit pupils who are logical and who have an analytical approach to problem solving.

Why is learning to program so important?

- Software is the language of our world today - in the future, not knowing the language of computers will be as challenging as being illiterate or innumerate are today.
- Will every job in the future involve programming? No. But it is still crucial that every child learns to code as these are the skills that are required in a range of industries today and in the future.
- Computational thinking is a skill that everyone should learn! Computational thinking teaches you how to tackle large problems by breaking them down into a sequence of smaller, more manageable problems.



Throughout the course pupils are examined on a range of practical programming tasks which are assessed through controlled assessment coursework. The programming assignments are set by the examination board and pupils will be asked to plan and develop a programming solution to a problem as well as undertake independent research.

At the end of year 11 pupils will sit a 1 hour examination (Unit 1) on the theory of **digital technology**, and at the end of year 12 pupils will sit a further 1½ hour examination on a range of **programming theory** learnt throughout the course.

The course weightings are as follows:

- **Coursework - 30%**
- **Exam - 70%**

Theory topics covered in both strands include:

- The Fundamentals of computer systems
- Computing hardware / software, Networks / Internet
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns
- Representations of data e.g. Binary, how sound and images are encoded
- Databases
- Algorithms, programming techniques, computational logic (computing strand only)
- The theory and practice of computer programming (computing strand only)

GCSE Digital Technologies - Multimedia



In the **multimedia** strand of GCSE Digital technologies you will study the theory of computers as well as complete practical coursework tasks. This course directly relates to current software development trends and the study of modern technology based systems.

This course will suit pupils who want to go in to a career in **IT** or who wish to develop essential skills in a range of software packages including multimedia and database development. These skills will be invaluable for any pupil throughout their working life.

Throughout the two years pupils are examined on a range of practical coursework components which are assessed through controlled assessment.

At the end of Year 11 pupils will sit a 1 hour examination based on the theory of **digital technology** (Unit 1), and at the end of year 12 will sit a further 1½ hour exam based on **digital authoring techniques**.

The course weightings are as follows:

- **Coursework - 30%**
- **Exam - 70%**

Throughout the two years you will continue to develop your IT skills using standard office software, and learn how to develop applications and communicate information effectively using multimedia software such as Fireworks, Photoshop and Dreamweaver.

You will also learn how to develop a solution to a given problem using database technology and will develop a website for your coursework using Dreamweaver.

The coursework consists of two tasks which include:

- Software Development Life cycle including solution Design and Development
- Website design and development

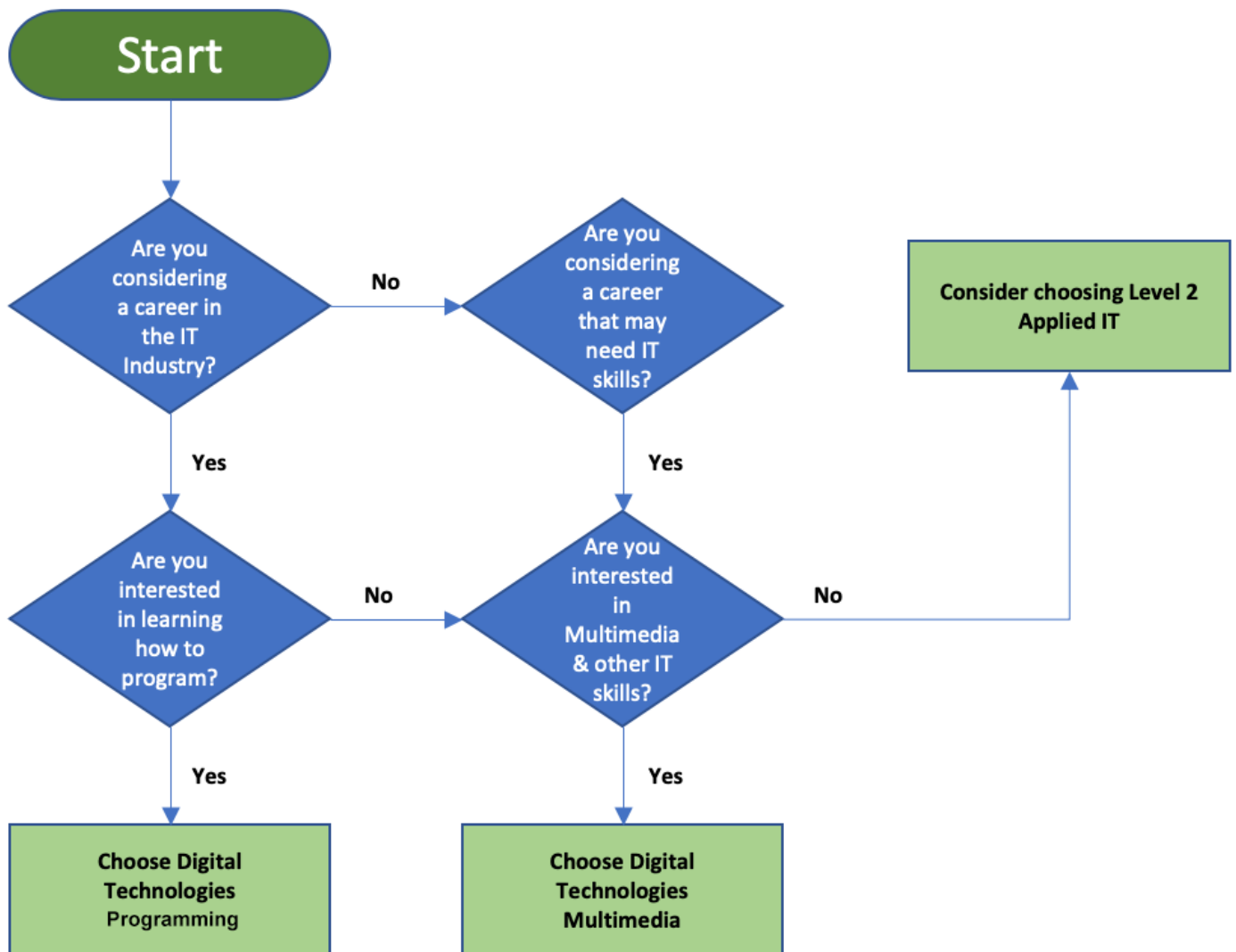
By studying either the Computing strand or multimedia strand, this could allow you to pursue a career in the following:

- IT / Computing
- Business and Business Management
- Media
- Web / Multimedia design
- Software Development
- Games Design
- Programming
- Business Management
- Computer Science



Pupils may only take either the multimedia or Programming strand. Not both!

Which IT Strand Should I Choose?



Information and Communications Technology (ICT), particularly software development and computer programming, database development, systems architecture and internet specialist skills, are at the heart of every organisation and are central to our daily lives: mobile communication, computer games, touch screen technology, satellite navigation devices – the list is endless.

Many large international IT based companies have chosen **Northern Ireland** as their base in the UK and these include: Liberty IT, Allstate, First Derivatives, Seagate, Fujitsu, and Concentrix. Many other well known companies are also based in the Republic of Ireland including: Google, Microsoft and Apple!

Northern Ireland is one of the world's top destinations for financial technology and R&D investment (Invest NI 2017). Therefore learning IT / programming skills is key to gaining employment on the island of Ireland.

GCSE Drama – CCEA

Green

Purple

GCSE Drama gives you the opportunity to develop practical skills in Drama and to enhance your appreciation, knowledge and understanding of drama and play texts.

Why Study Drama?

In studying this course you will:

- have the opportunity to work imaginatively and creatively;
- have the opportunity to work with others;
- develop a range of practical, creative and performance skills; and
- develop a solid foundation for further study of Drama at a more advanced level.

The course is divided into two units:

- Unit 1: Understanding Drama (40% of marks)
- Unit 2: Drama Performance (60% of marks)

In Unit 1, students study ONE of the eight set texts listed below:

- Romeo and Juliet (Shakespeare);
- Pygmalion (Shaw);
- Juno and the Paycock (O'Casey);
- The Crucible (Miller);
- Philadelphia Here I Come (Friel);
- Tea in a China Cup (Reid);
- Blood Brothers (Russell); and/or
- Across the Barricades (Lingard/adapted by David Ian Neville).



Unit 1 is assessed through a compulsory written exam that takes place in the summer of Year 12. This test lasts 1 hour, 30 minutes (40%)

Unit 2 is a practical unit. Students must complete TWO controlled assessment tasks.

Devised Performance

Students choose ONE element from the following: (25%)

- Performance
- Design Support.

(Most students choose the Performance element)

Students are required to devise a 20 minute piece of theatre based on a stimulus provided by CCEA. This will be performed and video recorded (worth 15%). This is accompanied by a Student Log which is submitted to CCEA in Year 12 (worth 10%).

Scripted Performance

Completed in Year 12 in preparation for external moderation and can be any suitable, published play chosen by teacher and class (35%).

GCSE Irish is a 2-year intensive course of study consisting of the four skills common to all languages. The aim of the Irish GCSE course is to develop the ability to use Irish effectively and with confidence for practical communication while at the same time gaining an insight into the culture and civilisation of Irish speaking communities in which the language plays a significant role. It also provides enjoyment and intellectual stimulation. The emphasis throughout the course is to create an environment for authentic use of the language. Music, song and dance are considered part of the learning programme and the opportunity to participate in feiseanna, quizzes, debates and drama is welcomed. Students will be offered the opportunity to experience life in a native Irish speaking area during a residential trip.



Only those students who have studied Irish in Year 10 may select Irish for study at GCSE. It is recommended that all GCSE Irish students attend a Gaeltacht course during their GCSE studies. This can be either a summer course in year 11 or attendance at the Irish department's annual weekend trip to Ranafast.

Listening and reading will be externally examined and combined are worth **50%** of the final result. In the final examination Foundation and Higher tiers are available in both skills. Tiers of entry will be selected depending on pupils' ability and progress at key stage 4.

Writing will carry **25%** of the final result and is also externally examined. In the final examination Foundation and Higher tiers are available in both skills. Tiers of entry will be selected depending on pupils' ability and progress at key stage 4.

Speaking will also carry **25%** of the final result and involves one teacher-facilitated and externally marked examination.

Topics studied include:

Identity, Lifestyle and Culture:

- Myself, my family, relationships and choices
- Social media
- New technology
- Free time and leisure
- Daily routine
- Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations

Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest:

- My local environment
- The wider environment
- Community involvement
- Social issues
- Global awareness
- Travel and tourism

School Life, Studies and the World of Work:

- My studies
- School life
- Extra-curricular activities
- Part time jobs
- Money management
- Future plans and career

It is essential that pupils studying Irish spend at least 20 minutes per night learning vocabulary and there will be at least one written homework per week. Assessment is continuous throughout the course. Pupils will be formally assessed regularly on a range of skills and a record of this will be kept to provide evidence to illustrate the progress being made and to inform parents. Internal school examinations will provide an overview of progress.

This new syllabus offers numerous benefits to pupils and will help them to develop:

- An enjoyment of language learning;
- Their linguistic skills to help them take their place in a multilingual global society;
- An ability to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices and also a suitable basis for further study of Irish;
- A knowledge and understanding of the wide range of employment opportunities with Irish;
- The ability to communicate effectively in Irish; and
- An awareness and understanding of Irish-speaking communities.

Bigger. Better. Faster. Higher. Smaller. Stronger. Longer. More durable. Less expensive. More efficient. Environmentally friendly. These are the challenges that have motivated engineering for centuries. Engineering is the application of knowledge, mathematical and natural sciences, and practical experience to the design of useful objects and processes.

It is, in short, the pursuit of economy, conservation and innovation. Engineers strive to make science serve society by putting theory into practice. It can be said that engineering began with the very first tool fashioned by Palaeolithic man 2 million years ago. Today its impact is immeasurable and its application for the future, limitless.

"Strive for perfection in everything you do. Take the best that exists and make it better. When it does not exist, design it."

Sir Henry Royce, British engineer


How does this course work?

This course is made up of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that is externally assessed.

The BTEC three block structure, explore, develop and apply, has been developed to allow students to build on and embed their knowledge. This will allow you to grow in confidence and then put into practice what you have learned.

The BTEC assessment structure is also designed so that students can build on what they learn, and develop their skills, as they move through the course.

Explore



Component 1

Exploring Engineering Sectors and Design Applications

Aim: get to know industry sectors and how they work together to solve real-life problems.

Assessment: internally assessed assignments

Weighting: 30% of total course

During Component 1, your students will:

- **explore** the different sectors, products and interconnections within the industry
- **investigate** what various engineering organisations and functions do, in addition to potential career paths
- **discover** the engineering design and manufacture processes.

Develop



Component 2

Investigating an Engineering Product

Aim: explore the types of materials, components and processes used to make products, then reproduce and test a product.

Assessment: internally assessed assignments

Weighting: 30% of total course

During Component 2, your students will:

- learn why engineers choose certain materials and components to make products
- investigate how products are made
- identify best practice when it comes to safety and risk management
- develop research, observation, recording, interpretation and measuring skills
- put what they've learned into practice by safely planning, reproducing and testing an engineered product.

Apply



Component 3

Responding to an Engineering Brief

Aim: provide solutions to real-life problems by creating their own engineered product.

Assessment: externally assessed task, where students create an engineered product based on a brief.

Weighting: 40% of total course

To achieve this aim, your students will:

- build on what they've learned in Components 1 and 2
- identify the problem, develop a hypothesis and investigate possible solutions
- create a prototype that meets the brief
- record, analyse and evaluate data and outcomes, and reflect on how the product meets the brief.

GCSE Food & Nutrition (HE)



GCSE Home Economics has now been replaced with GCSE Food and Nutrition for first teaching in September 2017.

Food and Nutrition: Two year course: One Exam & One piece of Controlled Assessment

Component Areas for Assessment:

Component 1: 50%

Food and Nutrition

2 hour Exam - Completed in Year 12

Component 2: 50%

Practical Food and Nutrition

Controlled assessment



Food and Nutrition Exam Topics:

- food provenance
- food processing and production
- food and nutrition for good health
- energy and nutrients, macro nutrients, micro nutrients, fibre
- water,
- nutritional and dietary needs,
- priority health issues,
- being an effective consumer when shopping for food,
- factors affecting choice,
- food safety, resource management,
- food preparation,
- cooking and presentation skills

The course, along with a subsequent A Level, could lead to careers in:

- Food Innovation and Design
- Dietetics
- Food Design and Nutrition
- Food Product Development
- Food Management and Marketing
- Food Manufacturing
- Physiotherapy
- Human Nutrition / Sports Nutrition
- Biology
- Environmental Health
- Nursing
- Food Science and Technology
- Food Photography
- Consumer and Business Management,

Level 2 Occupational Studies Contemporary Cuisine



Benefits for students of studying Occupational Studies Units:

- is practical and motivates learners in a hands-on occupational environment;
- focuses on work-related tasks, enabling learners to make informed decisions about progression opportunities and career choices; and
- can help to raise levels of achievement by giving learners opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in a context directly related to employability.

Unit 3: Contemporary Cuisine (worth 50% of the GCSE)

This unit provides learners with some of the basic cooking principles required by cooks and chefs in the catering industry when preparing and cooking a range of starters, main courses and desserts. Learners will apply legislative requirements when handling food and learn how to work safely and hygienically in the catering kitchen.

This unit includes:

- food hygiene and personal hygiene standards for food handlers;
- consideration of career opportunities in the catering industry;
- consideration of safe use of equipment and other health and safety issues in the catering industry;
- preparation, cooking and finishing of four starters, four mains and four desserts;
- safe storage of foods and recycling of packaging;
- healthy eating alternatives;
- consideration of environmental issues in the catering industry; and
- a review and evaluation of performance.

Unit 11: Patisserie and bakery (worth 50% of the GCSE)

This unit provides learners with some of the basic baking principles required by pastry chefs in the catering industry. You will apply legislative requirements when handling food and learn how to work safely and hygienically in the catering kitchen. You will learn how to select and use appropriate equipment correctly and will develop the creative skills to decorate and present products for service. The unit also offers an opportunity to understand the breadth of the catering industry, including career opportunities.

This unit includes:

- food hygiene and personal hygiene standards for food handlers;
- using equipment safely and considering the health and safety issues in the catering industry;
- preparing, cooking and finishing bread, scones, cakes, biscuits and pastry products to reflect industry standards;
- recycling, energy conservation and environmental issues in the catering industry;
- employment opportunities in the catering industry; and
- a review and evaluation of performance.



GCSE French is a 2-year intensive course of study consisting of the four skills common to all languages.

Only those students who have studied French in KS3 may select French for study at GCSE.

The scheme of work for years 11 and 12 is based on the revised CCEA syllabus for French. This is a topic and skill based development of the four skills introduced in KS3.

Listening and Reading will be externally examined and are both worth 50% of the final result.

- In the final examination Foundation and Higher tiers are available in both skills. Tiers of entry will be selected depending on pupils' ability and progress at key stage 4.

Writing will carry 25% of the final result.

- Externally examined.
- In the final examination Foundation and Higher tiers are available in both skills. Tiers of entry will be selected depending on pupils' ability and progress at key stage 4.
- Four questions. Responses include: a listing task (foundation only); short sentence responses (both tiers); short responses to 1 or more pieces of text (Higher only); short translation from English into French (both tiers); one extended piece of writing (both tiers).

Speaking will also carry 25% of the final result.

- One teacher-facilitated and externally marked examination.
- The test each lasts 7 – 12 minutes (plus 10 preparation time)
- Each test includes: 2 role-plays and a general conversation.
- Students will prepare the first conversation topic in advance from the Context of Learning prescribed by CCEA.

Topics studied include:

Identity, Lifestyle and Culture:

- Myself, my family, relationships and choices
- Social media
- New technology
- Free time and leisure
- Daily routine
- Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations





GCSE Geography offers students the opportunity to build upon the knowledge, skills and values, developed throughout Geography during Years 8-10 at St. Louis. Students will be required to study aspects of Physical and Human Geography from a variety of sources, gaining a full understanding of the key concepts and processes which help shape our environments. Students will be required to apply their knowledge to case studies from the local, national and global environments.

This GCSE Geography offers excellent preparation for students wishing to study Geography at AS and or A2 level.

GCSE Geography Specification

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1; Understanding Our Natural World Unit Themes; Theme A; River Environments (25%) Theme B; Coastal Environments (25%) Theme C; Our Changing Weather and Climate (25%) Theme D; The Restless Earth (25%)	External Written Exam 1 hour and 30 minutes Four multi-part questions are set with one on each theme. Candidates answer all four questions. Each question includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource material which may take a variety of forms, for example- statistical, pictorial and written text; and • and some parts that require extended writing 	40%
Unit 2; Living in Our World Unit Themes; Theme A; Population and Migration (25%) Theme B; Changin Urban Areas (25%) Theme C; Contrasts in World Development (25%) Theme D; Managing Our Resources (25%)	External Written Exam 1 hour and 30 minutes Four multi-part questions are set with one on each theme. Candidates answer all four questions. Each question includes; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Resource material which may take a variety of forms, for example- statistical, pictorial and written text; and • and some parts that require extended writing 	40%

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 3: Fieldwork Exam	External Written Exam (1 hour) Students base their answers on their knowledge and experience of fieldwork e.g) River Study	20%

GCSE Geography may be offered through a modular system, which means students may have the opportunity to sit Unit 1, or Unit 2 at the end of the first year of teaching.

This GCSE, and a subsequent A Level and degree course, could lead to a career in:

- GIS Applications
- Environmental Management
- Land Surveying
- Climatology and Weather Forecasting
- Urban Planning and regeneration
- Logistics Management
- Travel and Tourism
- Demography
- Teaching / Lecturing



Why study History?

Studying History will provide you with the opportunity to explore key political, economic and social events. You will study and evaluate systems of government and learn how the actions of these governments have impacted on individuals, groups and society as a whole.

In studying this course you will:

- develop an interest and enthusiasm for history;
- understand the significance history has for today's society;
- become aware of how the past has been represented, interpreted and given significance for different reasons and purposes; and
- develop skills that will equip you for future employment

The syllabus is assessed by two written examinations.

Unit 1: Modern World Studies in Depth (60%)

1 hour 45 minute exam

Section A Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-1945

In this option, students focus on the impact of the Nazi dictatorship on people's lives in Germany. Students explore the interplay of political, economic, social and racial forces in Germany at this time. Candidates will answer five questions including short response questions, structured questions and an essay question.

Section B Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1965-98

In this option, students focus on the changing relationships between Northern Ireland, Britain and the Republic of Ireland, and among the different communities in Northern Ireland, against the backdrop of political and civil unrest. Students also explore the introduction of direct rule, the increase in paramilitary violence, the attempts to find a political solution and the impact on Northern Ireland and its neighbours.



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Section B Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1965-98

GCSE History – CCEA

Level 2 Preparation for Adult Life (LLW)



Preparation for Adult Life provide students with the skills they require to think independently, make informed decisions, and take appropriate action when faced with personal, social, economic and employment issues.

Through studying Preparation for Adult Life, students gain knowledge and understanding of:

- diversity and inclusion;
- human rights and social responsibility;
- equality and justice;
- roles and responsibilities of parents;
- work in the local and global economy;
- social, economic and cultural issues; and
- personal development.

Preparation for Adult Life engages students in exploring social, personal, economic and employment issues. Topics include diversity and inclusion, causes of conflict, human rights, social responsibility, job interview preparation and business in the community. Students deepen their understanding of the connections between local, national and global issues.

This qualification is assessed across 13 units. To achieve a Certificate, which is the equivalent to a B at GCSE, students must complete all 13 units. There are no written examinations.

Citizenship

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

Employability

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

Personal and Social Development

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



GCSE Motor Vehicle Studies



The CCEA GCSE Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies specification prepares students to become responsible road users. It develops their interest in and appreciation of the motor vehicle.

Students develop knowledge of the Highway Code. They learn about driving at night and under adverse conditions, as well as the causes and prevention of road traffic collisions.

They carry out a practical riding activity on a moped and investigate a real-life traffic situation. They discover road users' responsibilities and legal requirements. They explore motor vehicle and road user theory.

This qualification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed through the Learning for Life and Work Area of Learning.

This specification is unitised, so it's possible to take part of the assessment at the end of the first year of study.



The specification has three units:

- **Unit 1: Motor Vehicle and Road Use Theory – External written examination Worth 50%.**

Students answer questions on: Vehicle control and road user behaviour; Legal requirements; Road and transport and its effects on society; Motoring mathematics; Collision procedures; Motor vehicle technology

- **Unit 2: Investigative Study - Controlled Assessment - worth 25%**

Students collect data on a moving traffic situation. They may do this in groups. Students write the investigation study. They must do this individually. Teachers mark the task and CCEA moderate the results.

- **Unit 3: Practical Riding Activity - Controlled Assessment - worth 25%**

Students carry out a moped riding activity to demonstrate skills of vehicle control and roadcraft. Teachers mark the task and CCEA moderate the results.



Moving Image Arts focuses on how to create moving image products, and the genres within film-making. Students plan and create moving image products, and analyse and critically evaluate moving image genres.

By studying this course you will:

- develop an understanding of film language in theory and practice;
- develop ideas through investigating and experimenting with film-making techniques and processes;
- develop the ability to manage resources and equipment in relation to film production and produce moving image artworks;
- develop technical competence in the use of film-making techniques; and
- evaluate the effectiveness of their own practice.

This course consists of three units:

Unit 1: Acquisition of Skills in Moving Image Production - 20% Controlled Assessment task

Students complete tasks in four of the following film language areas:

- camera technique;
- sound;
- mise-en-scène;
- lighting;
- editing;
- animation; and/or
- post production.



The tasks are internally marked and externally moderated.

Unit 2: Planning and Making a Moving Image Product - 40% Controlled Assessment task

Students produce their own moving image product (either a live action film or an animation). This unit takes the form of an externally set assignment. This task is internally marked and externally moderated.

Unit 3: Critical Response to Moving Image Products - 40% 1 hour 30 minute Online Examination

Students learn how to critically analyse film and animation. They develop knowledge and understanding of film language, genre conventions and visual style.

With world-class facilities and talent, Northern Ireland is fast becoming the location of choice for international film and TV companies including Universal, BBC, C4, UTV and a host of others. (Invest NI 2017)

Why study Music?

Music is a subject that includes a wide variety of transferable skills. It develops self confidence through performance as well as creativity, both skills highly valued in the Business world. It also demonstrates a disciplined perseverance through the long-term study of an instrument.

Through the study of Music you will learn to:

- Develop your creativity
- Develop critical listening skills
- Think logically and solve problems through analysis
- Gain experience in software technology and recording skills
- Develop self-confidence through individual and group performance
- Communicate and work as part of a team

GCSE MUSIC is divided into 3 components

1. Composing (controlled assessment) 30%

To compose 2 contrasting compositions lasting max 3 mins each using modern technology.

2. Performing 35%

To perform in front of an external examiner, 1 solo and 1 ensemble piece at the level equivalent to grade 3 (higher graded pieces will gain extra marks) with a short discussion (worth 5%)

3. Listening and Appraising (external assessment) 35%

1 listening paper based on the study of set pieces from a wide variety of styles and eras including many examples of modern music and songs.

You could go on to take a higher qualification in Music such as A-level or BTEC Music Technology. Skills and creativity promoted by taking Music for GCSE are important in the following career paths:

- Performance or Composing in the Music Industry
- Production and Management in the Music Industry
- Film, video, television and radio
- Software and computer games
- Music and the visual and performing arts (including dance),
- Education, Community Arts, Music Therapist



GCSE PE – CCEA

Green

Purple

The examination will consist of three components:

Component 1: Factors Underpinning Health and Performance

External written examination - Paper 1 (25%). 1 hour 15 mins - Students answer short response questions and questions that require extended writing.

This component is organised into the following three sections:

- 1.1.1 - The Body at Work;
- 1.1.2 - Health and Lifestyle Decisions; and
- 1.1.3 - The Active Leisure Industry.

Component 2: Developing Performance

External written examination – Paper 2 (25%). 1 hour 15 mins - Students answer short response questions and questions that require extended writing.

- 3.2.1- Developing Physical Fitness for Performance; and
- 3.2.2 - Developing Skilled Performance.

Component 3: Individual Performances in Physical Activities and Sports

Controlled assessment - 50%. Students perform three physical activities and/or sports from the list that we supply.

This component is organised into the following two sections. In this component, students are assessed on:

- (a) the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of performances in physical activities and sport
- (b) the quality of analysis and evaluation of performances.

SELECTING THIS COURSE IN ST LOUIS. INTERESTED STUDENTS SHOULD:

- Have shown commitment to PE through consistent application to PE in KS3.
- Compete in at least one sport with a club.
- Compete on at least one school team.
- Demonstrate a high level of fitness over the two year course.
- Be able to run at least 2000M continuously. (Girls)
- Be able to run at least 2500M continuously. (Boys)
- Have demonstrated a diligent application to study in other academic subjects



Level 2 King's Trust

Gold

Green

The Prince's Trust Award, Certificate and Diploma in Personal Development and Employability Skills (PDE) recognises a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors

Units offered include

- Community Project *
- Work Experience *
- Undertaking an Enterprise *
- Career Planning
- Customer Service
- Digital Skills
- Interpersonal and Self-Management
- Managing Money
- Personal Project
- Participating in Exercise
- Planning for PD
- Personal project
- Practicing Leadership
- Healthy Lifestyle
- Presentation Skills
- Teamwork Skills



Students will complete a total of 9 units to achieve Level 2. This is equivalent to 2 GCSE grade Cs. Students will also have the option of completing 6 units which is the equivalent to 1 GCSE grade C.

Students will complete 5 units in year 11, followed by 4 units in year 12.



Students can combine this course with other GCSEs to meet the basic requirements for entry to SRC.

See page i for the requirements for entry into the SRC.



BTEC Level 2 First Award

Travel & Tourism - Single Award



The Pearson BTEC Level 2 First Award in Travel and Tourism is taught over the same time frame as a GCSE. It has core and specialist optional units. Students must complete the two core units (1 and 2) and a choice of two optional specialist units. The BTEC First Award in Travel and Tourism involves units which are internally assessed and externally assessed.

Unit	Core Units	Assessment Method	GLH
1	The UK Travel and Tourism Sector	External	30
2	UK Travel and Tourism Destinations	Internal	30
3	The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience	Internal Synoptic	30
	Optional Specialist Units		
4	International Travel and tourism Destinations	Internal	30

In Year 11 students will study Core Units 1 and 2. In Year 12 students will study Units 3 and 4.

Unit 2 Travel and Tourism Destinations

- Find Out What are the most popular Destinations in the UK and Ireland.
- Plan Routes for Trips in Ireland and the UK.
- Learn how to book flights and plan group trips to various destinations.

Unit 3 The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience

- Investigate travel and tourism customer service
- Explore the needs and expectations of different types of customer in the travel and tourism sector
- Understand the importance of customer service to travel and tourism

Unit 4 International Travel and Tourism Destinations

- Find out What are the most popular Destination in the World.
- Plan Routes for Trip to some of the World most interesting destinations.
- Learn how to book flights and plan group trips to various destinations for different type of visitors, in different parts of the world.

Each Unit is broken down into subsections and assignments to secure a Level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction. You can achieve an overall Distinction * (A*) if you complete all units to Distinction level. **See page iv for GCSE equivalence.**

Assessment Unit 1 - Externally assessed - Students will complete a 60-minute examination worth 50 marks. The paper will consist of a number of structured questions.

Assessment Unit 2, 3, 4 - Internally assessed - These units are internally assessed by St. Louis teachers and externally verified by the awarding body- Pearson.

BTEC Level 2 First Award in Travel and Tourism is the equivalent to A-C at GCSE level. This qualification is marked as Distinction * / Distinction / Merit / Pass. See page iv for equivalent grades.*

GCSE Spanish – CCEA



GCSE Spanish is a 2-year intensive course of study consisting of the four skills common to all languages.

Only those students who have studied Spanish in Year 10 may select Spanish for study at GCSE.

The scheme of work for years 11 and 12 is based on the revised CCEA syllabus for Spanish. This is a topic and skill based development of the four skills introduced in Year 10.

Listening and Reading will be externally examined and are both worth 50% of the final result.

- In the final examination Foundation and Higher tiers are available in both skills. Tiers of entry will be selected depending on pupils' ability and progress at key stage 4.

Writing will carry 25% of the final result.

- Externally examined.
- In the final examination Foundation and Higher tiers are available in both skills. Tiers of entry will be selected depending on pupils' ability and progress at key stage 4.
- Four questions. Responses include: a listing task (foundation only); short sentence responses (both tiers); short responses to 1 or more pieces of text (Higher only); short translation from English into Spanish (both tiers); one extended piece of writing (both tiers).

Speaking will also carry 25% of the final result.

- One teacher-facilitated and externally marked examination.
- The test each lasts 7 – 12 minutes (plus 10 preparation time)
- Each test includes: 2 role-plays and a general conversation.
- Students will prepare the first conversation topic in advance from the Context of Learning prescribed by CCEA.

Topics studied include:

Identity, Lifestyle and Culture:

Myself, my family, relationships and choices
Social media
New technology
Free time and leisure
Daily routine
Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations



Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest:

My local environment
The wider environment
Community involvement
Social issues
Global awareness
Travel and tourism

School Life, Studies and the World of Work:

My studies
School life
Extra-curricular activities
Part time jobs
Money management
Future plans and career



It is essential that pupils studying Spanish spend at least 20 minutes per night learning vocabulary and there will be at least one written homework per week. Assessment is continuous throughout the course. Pupils will be formally assessed regularly on a range of skills and a record of this will be kept to provide evidence to illustrate the progress being made and to inform parents. Internal school examinations will provide an overview of progress.

The aim of the course is to develop the ability to use Spanish effectively for practical communication while at the same time gaining an insight into the culture and civilisation of Spanish speaking countries. It also provides enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.

This new syllabus offers numerous benefits to pupils and will help them to develop:

- An enjoyment of language learning;
- Their linguistic skills to help them take their place in a multilingual global society;
- An ability to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices and also a suitable basis for further study of Spanish;
- A knowledge and understanding of the wide range of employment opportunities with Spanish;
- The ability to communicate effectively in Spanish; and
- An awareness and understanding of Spanish-speaking communities.

OCN Spanish – OCN NI

Green

Purple

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Spanish aims to provide an opportunity for accreditation in language skills. Learners benefit from improved communication skills in both a vocational and social context and may also expand cultural knowledge. Learning a language also enhances career opportunities. Furthermore, it offers learners the opportunity to enhance and progress their skills in preparation for employment, further and/or higher education and in a social context. Being proficient in a second language will help learners compete in a growing, global market.

On the successful completion of this qualification, students will be able to attain the equivalent of a Grade B at GCSE. The course will cover the main skills areas of Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing.

Listening - Students will

- Be able to understand common everyday language spoken in familiar situations.
- Be able to understand conversations on familiar topics in the target language.
- Be able to understand a range of vocabulary and grammar from the above conversations in the target language.

Reading - Students will

- Understand and respond to a variety of routine texts in the target language.
- Understand vocabulary from routine topics in the target language.
- Understand grammatical forms in routine texts in the target language.

Speaking - Students will

- Be able to take part in social and or work interactions in the target language.
- Be able to speak and respond appropriately to questions and comments in the target language.
- Be able to use common vocabulary in conversations in the target language.
- Be able to use common grammatical forms in the target language.

Writing - Students will

- Be able to produce texts for common social and or work purposes in the target language.
- Be able to use common grammatical structures.
- Be able to use routine vocabulary in the composition of texts.

How will I be assessed?

- Portfolio of evidence
- Practical demonstration/assignment
- Coursework



Occupational Studies – CCEA

Taught at the



Gold

What is Occupational Studies?

Occupational Studies allows pupils to study a range of practical subjects, assessed by coursework, in order to gain **2 GCSEs**. **Pupils who opt for Occupational Studies at the SRC:**

- **Will go to the SRC in Newry one full day a week or study these in school one day a week.**
- **Will study a total of 7 GCSEs / GCSE Equivalent courses**

The Occupational Studies specifications:

- focus on occupation and employability
- enable progression to other courses, training and employment
- help to raise levels of achievement and
- emphasise learning by doing, which helps learners to develop the transferable skills needed in a changing and dynamic working environment.

CCEA have devised these specifications in consultation with:

- Sector Skills Councils;
- teachers in schools;
- teachers/lecturers in further and higher education colleges; and
- employers.

Occupational Studies at the SRC has six single award areas. Each of these relates to a general occupational area and includes a range of optional units. **Learners must complete two units from the same occupational area to achieve a qualification.** In year 11, pupils choose two subjects from one of the subject areas. In Year 12 pupils **must** choose two subjects from a **different** subject area.

The following units are available in the six subject areas.

Business and Services

- Creative Styling using Blow Drying Techniques
- Shampoo & Conditioning Treatments
- Manicure and Nail Art
- Facial Skin Care
- Contemporary Cuisine
- Patisserie & Baking
- Child Care - the Play Environment
- The Physical Care of Babies

Construction

- Plumbing
- Brick/Block work
- Carpentry & Joinery
- Wall Tiling
- Plastering
- Painting and Decorating
- Bench Joinery

Design and Creativity

- Graphic Design
- Creative Styling using Blow Drying Techniques
- Creative Styling on Long Hair
- Patisserie & Baking
- Contemporary Cuisine
- Total Beauty
- Special Crafts - Photography
- Website development

Engineering and Engineering Services

- Electrical wiring Installation
- Vehicle Servicing and Valeting Operations
- Plumbing
- Maintenance of Land-Based Machinery

Environment and Society

- Sports Leadership
- Running a Leisure Event

Technology and Innovation

- Digital Imaging
- Carpentry & joinery
- Bench Joinery
- TV & Film Production



Below are the notional GCSE equivalent grades for occupational studies.

Occupational Studies Level	Level Achieved	GCSE Grade (Notionally equivalent)
Level 2	Distinction / Distinction *	A / A*
	Merit	B
	Pass	C
Level 1	Distinction	D
	Merit	E
	Pass	F / G

Please note that if there are insufficient pupil numbers in particular units / classes then the unit may not run. We will be informed of this by the SRC prior to the end of the summer term.

Please also note that there will be a limit of around 20 pupils who will be allowed to go to the SRC within one year group.

Occupational Studies – CCEA

Occupational Studies – CCEA

Taught at St. Louis



Gold

Occupational Studies at St Louis has six GCSE single award areas. Each of these relates to a general occupational area and includes a range of optional units. **Learners must complete two units from the same occupational area to achieve a qualification.** In year 11 and 12, pupils choose two subjects from one of the subject areas.

Business and Services

- Contemporary Cuisine / Patisserie and Bakery
- Childcare: The Play Environment and the Physical Care of Babies

Design and Creativity

- Enterprise Crafts / Specialised Crafts
- Contemporary Cuisine / Patisserie and Bakery

Environment and Society

- Sports Leadership / Running a Leisure Event

Engineering and Engineering Services

- CAD / Sheet metal

Construction

- Bench Joinery / Carpentry and Joinery

The notional GCSE equivalent grades for occupational studies can be seen above.

Enterprise / Specialist Crafts

Specialised Crafts enables you to develop skills through the use of materials, techniques and processes. Creativity and innovation are the key factors within this unit. You will show your understanding through working to a brief to research, plan, and develop ideas creatively working within time restraints.

You will undertake a range of tasks and written work will include planning your time and the resources you will need to complete the tasks. This is a hands on course which will allow you to explore your creativity to develop a craft item through, for example, card making and fabric printing. Your teacher will help you decide what you craft item will be.

In Enterprise crafts you will further the skills and knowledge you have developed to produce a craft item for which you calculate the production costs to make the completed design and identify marketing opportunities for the sale of the item.



Sports Studies



Completing a Sports Studies occupational qualification typically entails developing both theoretical knowledge and practical, vocational skills related to the sports, fitness, and health sector. This subject will allow students to take a hands-on approach to coaching and running sports sessions, with the overall goal being to prepare them for employment or further study in the industry.

Two Units include:

- Y11 Sports Leadership: Pupils will complete a portfolio on various elements of sports leadership and then will be expected to plan, deliver and evaluate a sports session of their choice to pupils within the school.
- Y12 Running a Leisure Event: Again, pupils will complete a portfolio, but the practical element of this unit requires them to plan and deliver a leisure event for pupils within the school.

Completion of these units helps develop crucial skills like planning & delivering practical sessions, risk management, problem solving and personal evaluation, while honing valuable personal qualities such as professionalism, creativity, teamwork and effective leadership.

Care of Babies / Play Environment

Benefits for Key Stage 4 students of studying Occupational Studies Units:

- is accredited at NQF Levels 1 and 2;
- is practical and motivates learners in a hands-on occupational environment;
- focuses on work-related tasks, enabling learners to make informed decisions about progression opportunities and career choices; and
- can help to raise levels of achievement by giving learners opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in a context directly related to employability.

Unit 13: The Physical Care of Babies – Completed in Year 11 (50% of final GCSE)

This unit is suitable for learners who wish to develop an understanding of the physical care needs of babies. Learners will identify the basic care needs of babies and develop their knowledge and practical skills to meet these needs.



Unit 1: Childcare: The Play Environment – Completed in Year 12 (50% of final GCSE)

This unit will introduce learners to working with children in a childcare environment. It focuses on the importance of play and children's development. It is suitable for those who are interested in child development and who would like to work with children in the future.

Engineering & Services

Sheet metal and CAD (Computer-Aided Design) occupational studies for GCSE provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the skills and knowledge required in these fields. These courses focus on practical, hands-on learning, allowing students to work with sheet metal to create and design various products. They also cover the use of CAD software to design and model components and structures digitally. This combination of physical and digital skills prepares students for careers in manufacturing, engineering, and design, emphasizing the importance of precision, creativity, and technical proficiency. Through these studies, students gain valuable experience that can be directly applied to real-world scenarios, making you well-equipped for future vocational opportunities.



How will I be assessed?

- (AO1) recall knowledge and understanding of the specified content. (20 marks)
- (AO2) apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in occupational contexts through undertaking relevant tasks. (60 marks)
- (AO3) analyse and evaluate their work and make judgements about their performance, indicating where they could make improvements. (20 marks)



Where will this qualification take me?

- Occupational Studies is both coherent and flexible and provides a good foundation from which to advance to competence-based post-16 courses.
- Employment opportunities
- Career pathways include: engineering, trades (metal fabrication etc.) and construction / Architecture

Bench Joinery / Carpentry

The world of work is constantly changing. Today it is uncommon for a person to have only one occupation throughout their working life, so it's vital that we are able to transfer and adapt our knowledge and skills throughout our careers.

To foster these abilities, Occupational Studies allows learners to learn for work, through work and about work, and it provides the potential for this learning to take place in out-of-school contexts. This hands-on approach is ideal for those who prefer to develop their skills in a more practical, occupational environment.



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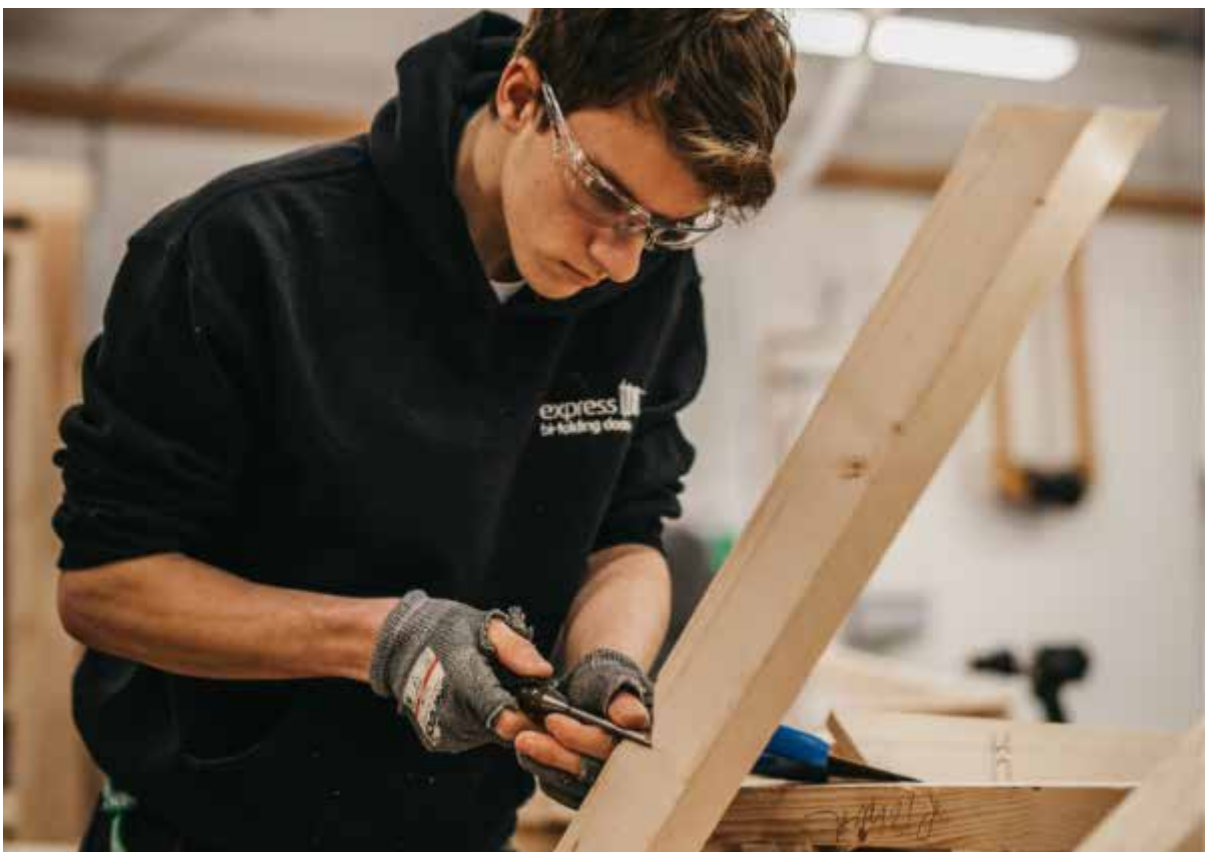
Bench Joinery / Carpentry

How will I be assessed?

- (AO1) recall knowledge and understanding of the specified content. (20 marks)
- (AO2) apply their knowledge, understanding and skills in occupational contexts through undertaking relevant tasks. (60 marks)
- (AO3) analyse and evaluate their work and make judgements about their performance, indicating where they could make improvements. (20 marks)

Where will this qualification take me?

- Occupational Studies is both coherent and flexible and provides a good foundation from which to advance to competence-based post-16 courses.
- Employment opportunities
- Career pathways include: engineering, trades (joinery, etc.) and construction



Occupational Studies – CCEA

What do I do now?

Choose a Pathway

By choosing a pathway to follow you will then know how many optional subjects you will study. There is a summary on [page 70](#).



Choose the subjects you will enjoy studying the most

Once you have decided on your pathway, you will then need to choose either 1, 5 or 6 additional subjects to study depending on your chosen pathway.



Ask questions

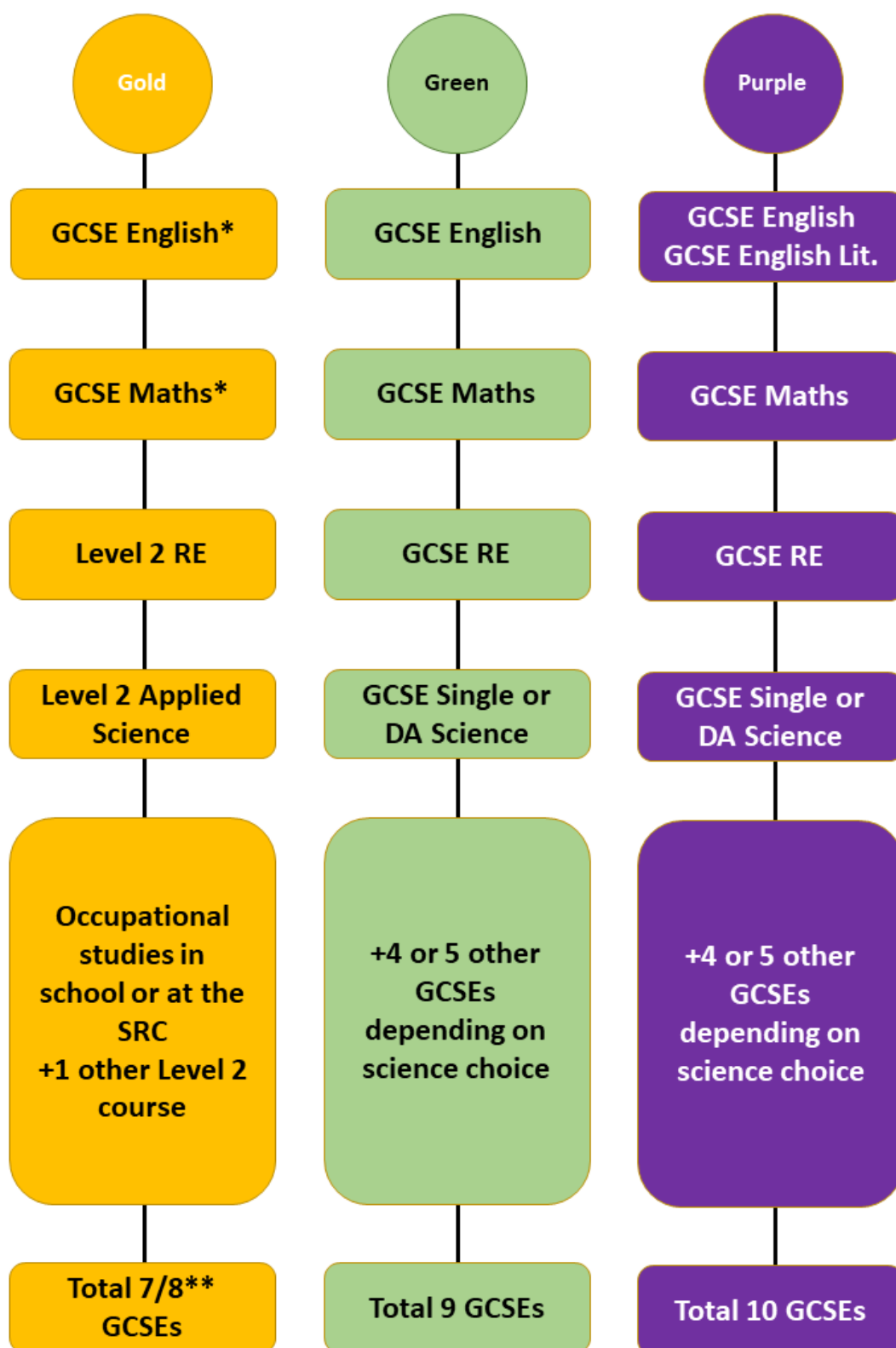
Do these subjects match my strengths and interests? Do these subjects suit my learning style? Have I researched subject requirements for my career interests? Talk to your teachers, Heads of Departments, siblings, parent / guardian to find out what subjects will suit you.



Meet the deadlines!

On [page 71](#) the key dates are shown. If you miss a deadline, you might not be able to choose the subjects you want.

Pathways Summary



Options Process Summary

