



Isca Academy

Year 8 Options Booklet

2022

Introduction

The curriculum at Isca Academy is much more than just our lessons. It includes ethos, attitudes relationships and wider opportunities, all of which create our curriculum offer to enrich the life and development of each and every child.

The Five Guiding Principles of our curriculum:

1. Our curriculum develops the **'whole child'** by providing high quality experiences beyond the classroom.
2. Our curriculum is **knowledge rich**.
3. Our curriculum is **expertly planned** and is sequenced to enable students to build their knowledge and skills towards **ambitious end-points**
4. Our curriculum promotes a **love of reading** and closes the vocabulary gap.
5. Our curriculum enables choice and success for all students in the school.

Our aim is to provide a broad, balanced and rigorous curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of every child and leaves them well prepared for their future. Students will study the following subjects as part of their compulsory **'core'** entitlement:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- A Modern Foreign Language (students will continue to study their current language)
- Core PE
- Core RE
- Geography and History (choice of GCSE to be made at the end of Year 9)
- iLife

Students will choose **four** option subjects (2 from each block) and will be allocated **two** of these subjects, the others are **reserve** choices. The subjects on offer are either GCSE or Level 2 Technical qualifications (these are the equivalent to a GCSE).

Core Curriculum CORE

English Language	English Literature	Mathematics	Science
A Modern Foreign Language *	Geography **	History **	Core PE
Core RE	iLife		

* Students will continue to study their current choice.

** Students choose which subject to continue to GCSE at the end of Year 9
 - they can select both by using one of their options

Options OPTION

Students should pick four option subjects (two in **Block A**, one of which will be a reserve choice and two in **Block B**, again, one of which will be a reserve choice). There is a wide choice of subjects for them to pick. Below are the options blocks for your reference:
 The subjects on offer are either GCSE or Level 2 Technical qualifications (these are the equivalent to a GCSE).

BLOCK A	Computer Science	Geography	BLOCK B	Art and Design	Health & Social Care
	Construction	Hospitality & Catering		Computer Science	Hospitality & Catering
	Dance	Music		Construction	Physical Education (GCSE)
	Design & Technology	Photography		Creative iMedia	Religious Education (GCSE)
	Drama	Physical Education (GCSE)		Design & Technology	Spanish
	Health & Social Care	Sports Studies		Drama	Statistics
	History			French	Travel and Tourism

English Language GCSE

CORE

GCSE English Language AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-language-8700>

What is the course about?

The English Language GCSE is split equally between reading skills and writing skills. The writing skills you will develop focus on using a range of sentence structures, punctuation and vocabulary choices. You will practise writing in different forms and for different purposes based on various stimuli. The reading skills focus on selecting quotations and textual details and analysing language and structure.

What other skills will I develop?

Alongside the essential reading and writing skills, you will develop your ability to communicate both orally and in the written form. Additionally, you will use your ability to empathise with others to explore texts and characters fully.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

There are two written exams.

Paper one – Explorations in creative reading and writing - lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of your final grade.

Paper two - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives - again, lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of your final grade.

There is a separate certificate for Spoken Language which will be assessed in class during Year 10, Cycle 3 as a prepared oral presentation.

What could I study Post 16?

English Language is an essential qualification for all post 16 studies.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

When applying for jobs, the formal and persuasive writing skills you have learnt will be critical in creating a successful letter of application and CV. Your Spoken Language component will also develop your confidence and presentation skills which will be crucial in any interview situation.

What possible careers could I have?

All employers and further education establishments will want to see English Language on your CV. It tells them you are fully literate and that you will be able to access all written materials. There are a huge range of jobs where English Language is essential: teacher, police officer, journalist, human resources manager, web designer etc

What do other students think about the course?

"I enjoy English language because it allows me to be creative. I also enjoy it because it allows for everyone to have a different interpretation."

"English Language gets you to think critically about really important topics."

English Literature *GCSE taken in Year 10*

GCSE English Literature AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature-8702>

CORE

What is the course about?

You will read and explore a range of texts including a nineteenth century novel ('A Christmas Carol'), a Shakespeare play ('Macbeth'), a modern drama ('An Inspector Calls') and a poetry collection ('Power & Conflict'). Lessons will focus on discussing and writing about characters, themes, attitudes and contexts. Your aim will be to create arguments about the writers' craft using language and structure analysis to support your points.

What other skills will I develop?

As with the English Language qualification, alongside the essential reading and writing skills, you will develop your ability to communicate both orally and in the written form. Additionally, you will use your ability to empathise with others to explore texts and characters fully. You will develop an understanding of the history and politics surrounding the texts and how these impact on our reading of works from another era.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

There are two 'closed book' written exams.

Paper One - Shakespeare and the 19th century novel - lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 40% of your final grade.

Paper Two - 'Modern texts and poetry'. This lasts for 2 hours 15 minutes and is worth 60% of your English Literature GCSE.

This is an exam only qualification and, as such, there is no coursework element.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level English Literature, English Language, Drama, Media Studies, History, Law etc. This is a respected course at university and will support any application for further academic study.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

We are planning author visits, theatre trips and writers' workshops.

What possible careers could I have?

English Literature is a rigorous, well respected GCSE that will stand you in good stead for many future careers. The ability to read and write about a variety of texts will be useful for teaching, research-based careers, acting etc.

What do other students think about the course?

"I find English Literature really engaging and challenging, and I enjoy the way lessons are structured. My favourite texts to study are the Power & Conflict poems, I think they are all very interesting and being able to analyse and compare them is a very versatile skill to have."

"The texts that we read are really interesting, and a lot of the big ideas still apply today so it gets you thinking about the world you live in today."

GCSE Mathematics Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/mathematics-2015.html>

What is the course about?

Mathematics is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping you with the right skills to reach your future destination, whatever that may be. The course is designed to allow you to recognise the importance of Mathematics in your own life and to society and has been organised into broad topic areas as follows: number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.

What other skills will I develop?

The course should enable you to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. You will acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems, reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions. You will learn to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms in a range of different situations.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed entirely by examination. There are three separate exams each of 1 hour 30 minutes duration: Paper 1 (non-calculator) and Papers 2 and 3 (calculator). Each paper counts as one third of the whole qualification.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Mathematics, Sciences, Electronics, Psychology, Environmental Studies or the International Baccalaureate. Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a new qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will have the opportunity to attend interactive workshops & sessions on careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) led by STEM Ambassadors from the MET Office. Students can also participate in Enrichment & Careers Workshops through Exeter Maths School.

What possible careers could I have?

Every career you can think of will involve maths at some level. Careers where Mathematics is used regularly include: Financial Management Services, Construction and Engineering, Scientific Research and Design.

What do other students think about the course?

"I get stuck sometimes but I enjoy working through problems."

"I found out that I am better at maths than I first thought."

French or Spanish *GCSE*

OPTION

CORE

GCSE French AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8658>

GCSE Spanish AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8698>

What is the course about?

Our curriculum at Isca is planned to ensure you become the next generation of communicators who are tolerant, understanding, open-minded and able to reflect on your own language and culture as well as that of the target language.

The GCSE course consists of 3 themes:

1. Identity and Culture: Me, My Family and Friends; Technology; Free Time, Customs and Festivals.
2. Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest: Home, Town and Region; Social Issues, Global Issues; Travel and Tourism.
3. Current and Future Study and Employment: My Studies; Education Post-16; Jobs, Career Choices and Ambitions.

What other skills will I develop?

The course offers you the opportunity to develop the four language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will develop the necessary aptitude in concentration, memorising, communicating clearly and working with others. With a strong emphasis on grammar and structures, you will also expand your grammatical understanding of the English language which will help you in all subjects.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

You will take final examinations in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, each worth 25% of the final grade. You will complete the exams at Foundation (5-1) or Higher tier (9-4).

- **Paper 1 Listening:** 35 / 45 minutes (Foundation / Higher) with questions in English and French/Spanish.
- **Paper 2 Speaking:** 7-9 minutes (Foundation) or 10-12 minutes (Higher) with a role play, photo card and general conversation.
- **Paper 3 Reading:** 45 minutes / 1 hour with questions in English, French/Spanish and a translation into English.
- **Paper 4 Writing:** 1 hour / 1 hour 15 minutes with tasks from 20–150 words and a translation into the target language.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Employers love linguists and having a language will give you an advantage over other candidates, as well as increasing your earning potential. As a linguist, you will develop the skills to think and communicate on a global level. You will study topics such as charity work and employment whilst learning how to write for different audiences. You will develop your communication and problem-solving skills, whilst working both independently and as a team member.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level French / Spanish or the International Baccalaureate. You can also begin a new language. University courses include Modern Foreign Languages and International Studies or a wide range of joint honours degrees, studying a language alongside History or Business, for example. Most non-language courses may also offer you a year studying abroad if you can show good achievement at GCSE or A-Level.

What possible careers could I have?

Language-specific careers include:

- Interpreter or translator
- International business manager
- Fashion buyer
- International charity worker
- Teacher

Languages are also invaluable for careers in a wide range of sectors including:

- Law
- Accountancy
- Journalism
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Technology
- Armed Forces
- Politics

What do other students think about the course?

“Languages, despite sometimes being a little challenging, are very interactive and there are fun ways of learning what you need to know. As long as you are dedicated and focus on the learning then it is actually quite easy.”

Chloe, Year 10

“I think the thing that makes GCSE Spanish stand out is the feeling that comes with it. Learning a second language is a great thing to show off in your CV when applying for a job. And even just in general, going on holiday and understanding what the people there are saying to you... it's truly unique. It may be hard to learn some of the rules to follow when writing or speaking at first, but ‘practice makes perfect’ really is the key to success in languages! An amazing life skill to always be proud of.”

Helena, Year 11

Additional GCSE Languages (Dual Linguists: French & Spanish)

It may be that you love languages as much as we do and are considering studying two languages to GCSE. If you would like to study languages at university, or even to be a language teacher, you normally need to be able to offer two languages. Learning two languages to GCSE is possible because:

- you have a better understanding of how languages work in general
- you use more effective and practised learning strategies
- you have increased confidence in your own ability
- you have a larger working memory capacity than monolinguals (people who only speak one language)

You have had an opportunity to study both French and Spanish in the Autumn term and can pick the second language back up in Year 9. They both come from the Latin root and you will have already seen there are similarities between the structures of the two languages. We help you to make links as well as explore differences between not only French and Spanish but English too. This will help you in your language learning journey and enable you to pick up other languages in the future.

Only 4.5% of all university graduates are dual linguists so they are highly sought after and having a language can increase your salary from 8 - 20%. What have you got to lose?



Combined Science GCSE

CORE

GCSE Combined Science Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/sciences-2016.html>

What is the course about?

The Combined Science course introduces students to fundamental concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics that underpin and explain their experience of the world around them. For students who wish to continue their academic studies it enables progression to all of the Science courses at College, whether that is A-level or BTEC. For students who follow a different career path, the knowledge gained will help keep them healthy and safe, and with a better understanding of how scientific principles affect and enrich their lives.

This course results in 2 GCSEs in Combined Science. Topics covered in **Biology** include: Cells, Genetics, Health and Disease, Plant Structures, Animal Processes, and Ecosystems. **Chemistry** includes: Atoms and Compounds, the Periodic Table, Bonding, States of Matter, Acids and Alkalis, Quantitative Chemistry, Electrolysis and Extraction, Rates of Reactions, and Fuels and the Atmosphere. **Physics** includes: Force and Motion, Energy, Waves and the Electromagnetic Spectrum, Radioactivity, Static and Current Electricity, Magnets and Electromagnets, and the Particle Model and Matter.

What is the course worth?

The course is worth two GCSEs at 9 - 1 grades.

What other skills will I develop?

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific theories, but also their ability to recall and apply that knowledge, analysing and evaluating information in theoretical and practical situations. Students are expected to work individually and in groups to make and explain observations, carry out calculations, and communicate their ideas clearly.

How will I be assessed?

There will be a total of six 1 hour 10 minute exams (two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics), making up 100% of the total marks. There will also be a series of required practical investigations completed during the course, which are examined within these final assessments.

What could I study Post 16?

Students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Environmental Science, and Geology. Science is also essential for some BTEC and T-level courses like Applied Science, Sport and Exercise Science, and Healthcare Science. There are a very wide range of STEM courses available at university level which require a strong foundation in Science.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

In recent years students have visited the Big Bang Young Scientists & Engineers fair, successfully taken part in numerous science challenges led by local science organisations, attended careers fairs, and have worked with students studying Medicine from Exeter University. We aim to continue and extend these opportunities in the coming years.

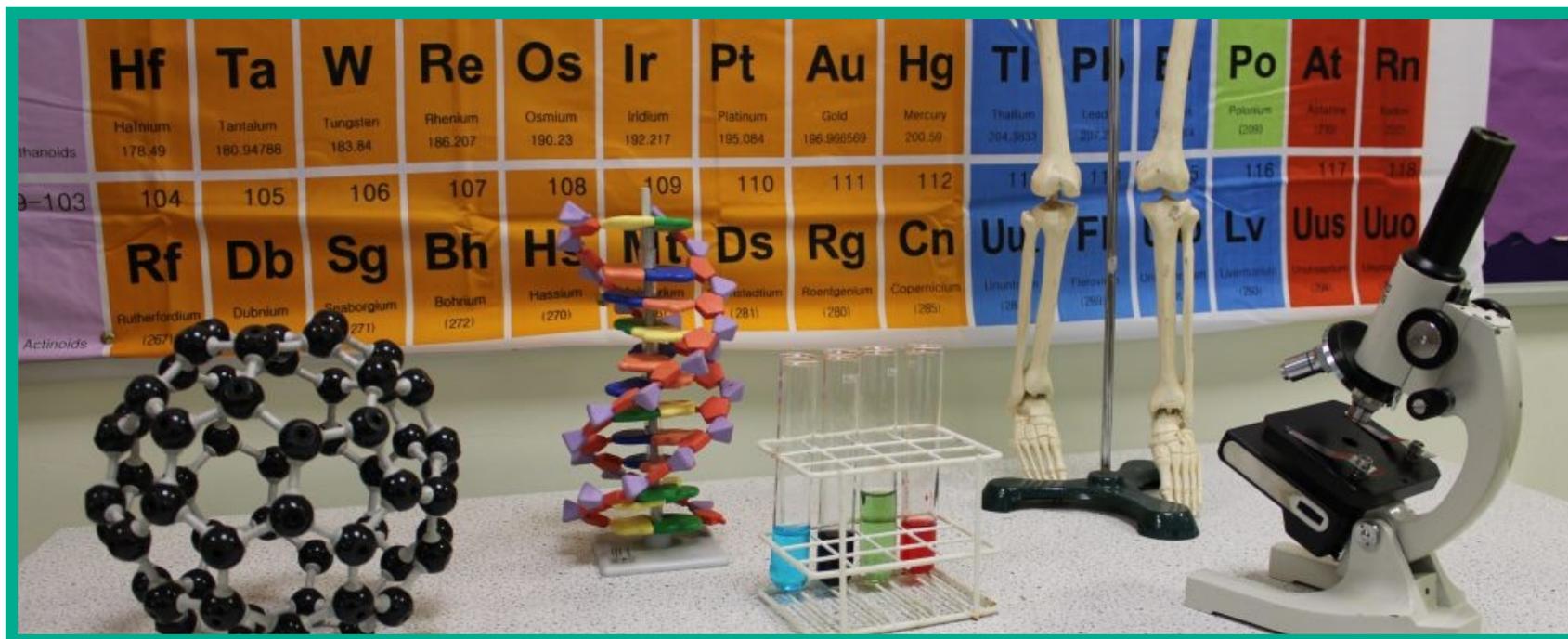
What do other students think about the course?

"It makes things that look difficult feel easy."

"I like that we get a lot of knowledge in."

What possible careers could I have?

This course is a gateway into many different careers, be that within the STEM sector like scientific research, engineering, or medicine; or other careers that are linked to a good understanding of science, like animal care, sports science, cosmetic science or child care to name just a few choices. It gives you good life skills and the ability to make decisions based on evidence and understanding, which can be directly applied to many careers.



Separate Sciences GCSE

CORE

GCSE Biology, Chemistry, Physics Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/>

What is the course about?

Students will study three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This course is designed for those students who wish to study science post-16 and to pursue a career that will be predominantly scientific. **Students will be invited to study this course based on prior academic performance alongside a passion and enjoyment of this subject.** There is a large amount of core subject knowledge which must be mastered, but also a strong emphasis on applying concepts and skills in novel situations. There is a wider breadth and greater depth than in Combined Science, and there are more opportunities to develop the practical skills used during post-16 Science study.

Topics covered in **Biology** include: Cells, Genetics, Health and Disease, Plant Structures, Animal Processes, and Ecosystems. **Chemistry** includes: Atoms and Compounds, the Periodic Table, Bonding, States of Matter, Acids and Alkalis, Quantitative Chemistry, Electrolysis and Extraction, Rates of Reactions, Fuels and the Atmosphere, Organic Chemistry, and Qualitative Analysis. **Physics** includes: Force and Motion, Energy, Waves and the Electromagnetic Spectrum, Radioactivity, Astronomy, Static and Current Electricity, Magnets and Electromagnets, and the Particle Model and Matter.

What other skills will I develop?

Students will develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific theories, but also their ability to recall and apply that knowledge, analysing and evaluating information in theoretical and practical situations. Students are expected to work individually and in groups to make and explain observations, carry out calculations, and communicate their ideas clearly.

What is the course worth?

The course results in three separate GCSEs at 9 -1 grades, in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

How will I be assessed?

There will be a total of six, 1 hour 45 minute exams (two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics), making up 100% of the total marks. There will also be a series of required practical investigations completed during the course, which are examined within these final assessments.

What could I study Post 16?

Students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Environmental Science, and Geology. Science is also essential for some BTEC and T-level courses like Applied Science, Sport and Exercise Science, and Healthcare Science. There are a very wide range of STEM courses available at university level which require a strong foundation in Science.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

In recent years students have visited the Big Bang Young Scientists & Engineers fair, successfully taken part in numerous science challenges led by local science organisations, attended careers fairs, and have worked with students studying Medicine from Exeter University. We aim to continue and extend these opportunities in the coming years.

What possible careers could I have?

This course is designed for those whose careers will be in the STEM areas such as Medicine, Engineering, Forensic Science, Sport Science, Marine Science, Further Maths, Ecology, Meteorology, and many other areas.

What do other students think about the course?

“Dedicated and enthusiastic teachers make science so intriguing.”

“I like understanding the reasons why things happen.”

Geography GCSE

OPTION

CORE

GCSE Geography EDUQAS Syllabus B <https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/5ofdo23l/gcse-geog-b-spec.pdf>

What is the course about?

We will study Rivers and Coasts, Weather and Climate, the Challenge of Cities, Uneven Development and Sustainable Environments.

What other skills will I develop?

Geography develops strong links with many other subject areas, for example Science (acid rain, climate change, use of resources), English (summarising, persuasive writing, annotation, debating), Maths (statistical analysis, projections, predictions, percentages etc), Politics (trade blocs, policy on climate/migration/transport/housing etc etc), History (growth of cities), ICT (spreadsheets, statistics), Art (sketching, designing plans, mapping), Economics (wealth/poverty, indicators of development).

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study: Geography, Politics, Philosophy, Sciences, Geology, English, Maths, Environmental Science, Travel & Tourism, Agriculture, Countryside Management, Economics.

How will I be assessed?

3 exams assess knowledge, understanding and skills, and have specific focus areas of decision making and fieldwork.

Component 1 is on the main themes studied and is worth 40% (1 hour 45 minutes)

Component 2 is a decision making paper worth 30% (1 hour 30 minutes)

Component 3 is related to fieldwork and its application – this is also worth 30%. (1 hour 30 minutes)

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Students have completed numerous Geography-related work experiences including with the National Park Authority, various tourist venues and the City Council among others.

What possible careers could I have?

Geographers are among the most employable people. The most popular career destinations for Geography graduates are:

- Management and Administration 41%
- Further Training (including PGCE) 25%
- Finance 11%
- Retail 10%
- Other professions (including Media) 10%

What do other students think about the course?

"I find geography really fascinating and engaging. I enjoy the way lessons are structured and find the topics we study very rewarding, I specifically enjoy the human geography as it links well with both humanities subjects and science". Mary, Year 11

"Geography is an excellent opportunity for students to develop knowledge about what is happening in the world and helps many students to understand the world a little better. It also provides practical skills that can be useful to students in the future such as accurately learning to read maps. Geography is a good option for students who enjoy learning knowledge which they can then apply to real life situations. I have personally found Geography an interesting and enjoyable subject." Amy, Year 11



GCSE History Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/GCSE/History/2016/specification-and-sample-assessments/>

What is the course about?

The course covers 4 main periods of History. First, we will study Medicine in Britain 1250-present and the British Sector of the Western Front 1914-18: injuries, treatment and the trenches. This will form your Thematic Study and your Historic Environment Study. Next, we will move forwards in time to the 20th century and a Modern Depth Study; for us, this is Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39. Lastly, we will look at a British Depth Study and a Period Study. At Isca this means studying Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 and the Cold War.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop skills in critical thinking, evidence-based debate and source interrogation. You will gain a deeper understanding of the world around you while also improving your literacy and essay writing skills.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study:

- History
- Ancient History
- Classics
- Government and Politics
- Law
- Archaeology

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

Your final GCSE will consist of three papers; Paper 1 (30% of overall grade, 1 hour 15 minutes long), Paper 2 (40% of overall grade, 1 hour 45 minutes long) and Paper 3 (30% of overall grade, 1 hour 20 minutes long).

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will have the opportunity to attend lectures and exciting talks at both Exeter College and Exeter University throughout the course that will be delivered by real-life academic Historians. Students will also have the opportunity to visit the National Archives.

What possible careers could I have?

- Academic Historian
- Journalist
- History Teacher
- Archaeologist
- Barrister/Solicitor
- Museum Curator
- Politician
- ...anything that involves arguing!
- Author

What do other students think about the course?

"Students should choose History as a GCSE because it's the best 3 years of your life. You learn so much information that really does help you in the future, and you'll really enjoy it. There are some subjects inside of History that are bound to be your favourite, and I hope you choose History!"

"Outside of school, I have been able to take my nephews to the museum and answer all their questions on "why did Hitler kill innocent people?" and "why did people hate Elizabeth I?" I also have been able to answer a lot of questions on board games and my family get quite surprised when I know the answers and they learn something new."



Physical Education

CORE

What is the course about?

All students will continue to have two hours per week of core PE alongside their other core and option subjects.

In Years 9, 10 and 11 students build upon the skills and knowledge embedded in Years 7 and 8. Students will participate in a wide range of sports including new ones such as: Trampolining, Fitness classes, Ultimate Frisbee, and the use of our school gym.

Our aim is to develop students' knowledge and understanding of the benefits of leading healthy active lifestyles whilst also developing life skills such as self-confidence, communication and co-operation.



Religious Education

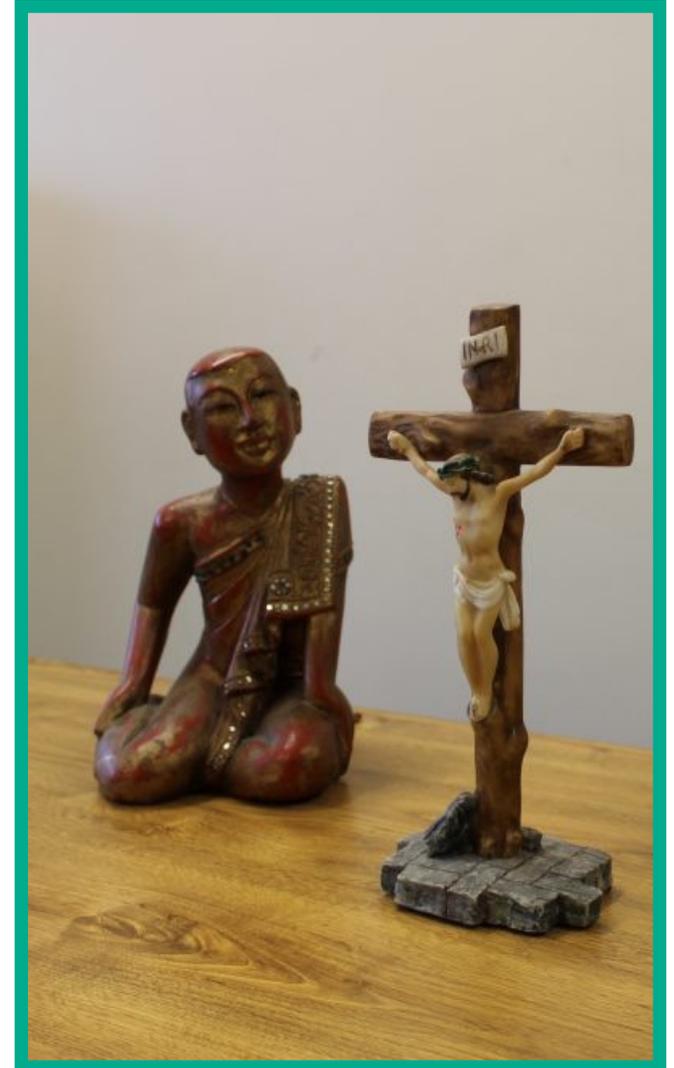
CORE

What is the course about?

Religious Education (RE) is a vitally important subject in our society and one we place great value upon as school. It promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of students, and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. It also promotes tolerance and understanding of those different from ourselves and allows students to ask questions about people from different religious backgrounds as well as those of none. Students will acquire the core knowledge and understanding of a variety of religions; their beliefs, teachings and practices, as well as looking at 'big questions' such as 'why does evil exist?'. Students will also have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills such as communication skills, debating skills, acceptance, reflection and empathy. Students will have the opportunity to explore their own views, and therefore be able to develop and express their own opinions respectfully. This will help guide their own personal development as students will have a safe space to articulate their own viewpoints clearly.

In Years 9,10 and 11 students will build upon the skills and knowledge embedded in Years 7 and 8. Students will look at topics such as religion and non religion in the UK, for example: Atheism and Humanism, evil and suffering, including spiritual, moral and ethical thinking and they will finish their core RE with a look at families and relationships from both an atheist and religious perspective.

As RE is a statutory requirement (Education Act of 1996 and in the School Standards and Framework Act of 1998), all students will continue to study RE for two hours a fortnight. This will not result in a GCSE at the end of Year 11. If students want to gain a Religious Education GCSE, they will need to choose it as one of their option subjects.



iLife - *your Personal Development Programme*

<https://iscaexeter.co.uk/school-life/ilife/>

Core curriculum

In year 9, every student will do Duke of Edinburgh's Award lessons once a fortnight for the first two terms as part of your PSHE programme. Thereafter, you will have PSHE once a fortnight until the end of year 11. The DofE lessons teach practical skills such as First Aid, camp craft, map-reading, route planning and collaboration. Within PSHE, you will investigate a wealth of topics from Economic Education and substance addiction, to Relationships and Sex Education that will help keep you safe and happy. Careers Education lessons make up part of the PSHE curriculum, and there is a full Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance programme for each year group.

Well-being provision

Everyone will receive well-being education and support through the Assembly programme and the Tutor system as well as PSHE lessons. In PSHE, you are taught about staying physically and mentally healthy, and signposted to sources of help. You can choose to participate in further well-being activities or help others, and there is a wealth of extra provision that can be offered, should you require it.

Co-curricular enrichment

100% of our students in years 9 and 10 access the co-curricular provision. In year 9, you will have fortnightly 'iLife lessons'. This is a programme of activities, skills and experiences that complement the academic curriculum. These lessons are built into your timetable. Although provision will change from year to year, students in years 9 and 10 have benefitted from some of the following: code-breaking; Microsoft Office skills; German; outdoor design and make; woolly craft; DIY. We hope to expand our offer further next year. Additionally, there are many other co-curricular opportunities available to you, such as Outdoor Education and Performing Arts. You can also opt for clubs and activities in addition to your timetable, and some opportunities will be targeted at specific students.

What other skills will I develop?

All of the activities in the iLife lessons are centred on one or more of the following purposes

1. To increase and develop work-related hard and soft skills
2. To enhance student well-being
3. To develop a new interest outside the subject curriculum

What is the course worth?

The ILife Award does not count towards your GCSE grades, but instead you will receive a detailed account of all the experiences and skills you have built during your time at Isca Academy. This will be invaluable when writing CVs, job applications, and will help you answer questions at interview. Elements of the personal development programme will equip you with life-long skills.

How will I be assessed?

You will not be graded or assessed during the ILife Award, nor will you receive homework. However, your effort and participation will be reported on and you will be asked to reflect on your own development at certain intervals.

What could I study Post 16?

Although the ILife Award does not feed into a specific pathway, it provides you with a wealth of transferable skills, which you can apply to many different courses and career sectors. Additionally, students may develop a particular interest in debating, politics and mental health through their PSHE lessons.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Through the Careers Education strand of the ILife programme, every student in Year 10 will have the opportunity to complete a week's Work Experience Placement.

What possible careers could I have?

The ILife Award does not feed into a specific career sector, but provides you with a wealth of transferable skills, which you can apply to many different courses and career sectors. Additionally, students may develop a particular interest in debating, politics and mental health through their PSHE lessons.

Options

Students should pick four option subjects (two in **Block A**, one of which will be a reserve choice and two in **Block B**, again, one of which will be a reserve choice). There is a wide choice of subjects for them to pick.

The subjects on offer are either GCSE or Level 2 Technical qualifications (these are the equivalent to a GCSE).

BLOCK A	Computer Science	Geography	BLOCK B	Art and Design	Health & Social Care
	Construction	Hospitality & Catering		Computer Science	Hospitality & Catering
	Dance	Music		Construction	Physical Education (GCSE)
	Design & Technology	Photography		Creative iMedia	Religious Education (GCSE)
	Drama	Physical Education (GCSE)		Design & Technology	Spanish
	Health & Social Care	Sports Studies		Drama	Statistics
	History			French	Travel and Tourism

* These subjects are detailed under the Core subjects pages 7, 14 and 16.

Art and Design *GCSE*

OPTION

GCSE Art and Design Pearson Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html>

What is the course about?

It is so much more than 'just drawing'. It is about humans and beauty. You will learn the language of Art, you will investigate how others have used it in the past and you will use it to express yourself visually and in writing. You will learn about the creative journey, from thinking your first ideas to completing your masterpiece. If you are creative and make things happen, if you are self-driven and open to taking risks, this course is for you. It will challenge you constantly, but enlighten you always.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop technical skills such as painting, construction, photography and printmaking. You will also learn to find and produce new meaning by combining ideas. You will make sense of important Art masterpieces from the past with your contemporary understanding. You will integrate knowledge from other subjects in your Art studies, especially English Literature and History.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Coursework Portfolio (60%)

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

What could I study Post 16?

You could study a range of UAL Diplomas and A Level courses on Art and Design, 3D Design, Fashion and Textiles, Film and Video, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Graphic Design and Photography. Hairdressing, Beauty and Make-up Artistry studies share part of their knowledge with Art and Design. You could also consider doing an Apprenticeship.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

In the past few years, our students have had opportunities to visit art galleries and exhibitions, locally, nationally and internationally. Isca Visual Arts has also taken part in workshops with local artists Double Elephant and Daisi.

What possible careers could I have?

1 in 12 people working in the UK do so in a creative area: Art Practitioner, 2D artist, 3D artist, Print Maker, Graphic Designer, Interior Designer, Set Design and Building for Theatre, Animator, Games Graphics Designer, CGI/Special Effects for Movies, Prop designer, Fashion designer, Architect, Photo Journalist, Art Director or Photography Director in media productions, Camera crew, Art Gallery manager, Collections Curator, Restoration and Conservation, Auction House Valuer, Art Historian and many more!

What do other students think about the course?

"Many people would say it's a lot of work but for me I wouldn't call it work because it has really been a journey and extremely satisfying and enjoyable to do something creative and different to anything else you do in secondary school. It allows you to give your creative voice a life-line. This course is in depth and beneficial for anyone who values art and the culture surrounding it." HC Year 11



Computer Science *GCSE*

OPTION

GCSE Computer Science OCR <https://ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

What is the course about?

The two components of this course are:

Component 1 - Computer Systems (50%). This unit will cover the theory of Computer Science and a wide range of ethical issues including aspects such as: The Central Processing Unit, Computer Memory and Storage, Wired and Wireless Networks, Network Topologies, System Security and System Software.

Component 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (50%). This unit is hugely practical, using one of the top used programming languages currently in the industry: Python. It covers algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop skills in critical thinking, mathematical reasoning and problem solving. This course extends and develops high levels of maths skills and being able to analyse problems in computational terms. You will also gain a deeper understanding of the technology based world we live in and how computer systems control more than you realised.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

Your final GCSE will consist of two papers;

- Paper 1 (50% of overall grade, 1 hour 30 minutes long)
Mainly theory knowledge application
- Paper 2 (50% of overall grade, 1 hour 30 minutes long)
Mainly programming knowledge application

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study:

- Computer Science; Software Development
- Mathematics
- Web design
- IT Systems and Networks
- Network Management
- Data Analyst
- Data Security
- Infrastructure Management

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will have the opportunity to see how the school network is managed. You will be able to attend lectures at Exeter College, and be a part of the Vex robotics team here at Isca Academy. You will also have the opportunity to work on programming tasks in groups - better emulating how programming works in the world of work.

What possible careers could I have?

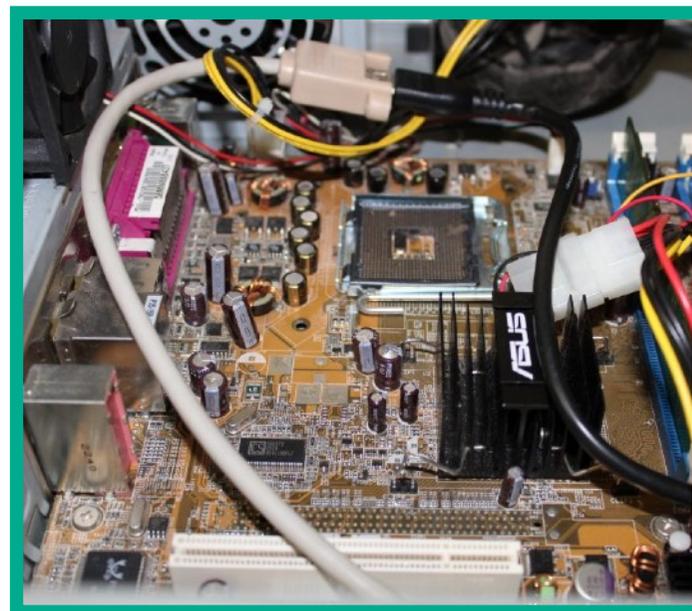
- Software Developer
- Database Administrator
- Computer Hardware Engineer
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Computer Network Architect
- Web Developer
- Information Security Analyst
- Computer and Information Research Scientists
- Computer and Information Systems Managers
- Project Management

What do other students think about the course?

“It is not gaming. If you enjoy programming - and I mean enjoy it then you will really enjoy the course. There is a lot to learn from the theory side but if you enjoy a challenge you will do well.” Year 11 Student

“It is harder at times than others. I enjoy the theory side more but I work hard at the programming. I am just not as good at that. It is like another maths lesson at times.” Year 10 Student

Computer Science has a high mathematical element to it so we strongly advise that only students working at or above grade 6 in Mathematics should be choosing this subject. If your Maths grade is lower than a grade 6 currently, please speak with Mr Hayden before opting for this subject.



Construction

OPTION

WJEC https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/constructing-the-built-environment-level-1-2/#tab_overview

Technical

What is the course about?

This course is an innovative Level 2 qualification, developed in partnership with CITB (Construction Industry Training Board) and is primarily designed for students who want to learn about the construction industry from the build perspective. The subject gives a broad introduction to the different trades involved in the sector and the range of career opportunities available. Students will have the opportunity to learn about construction, through planning and making a series of construction based tasks, including carpentry, decorating, electrics and plumbing.

What other skills will I develop?

Constructing the built environment will allow students to understand the core principles involved in construction, understanding safety and security in construction, planning projects and learning about materials, then developing the skills required to work in the construction industry.

What is the course worth?

This is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 - 1.

How will I be assessed?

- Online assessment for Units 1 & 3 (1 hour & 2 hours) each unit is worth 60 marks.
- Internal assessment for Unit 2 – Developing construction projects – 60 hours – 120 marks.
- Students will be required to achieve at least a Level 1 pass in all 3 Units to achieve the qualification.

What could I study Post 16?

Students successful in this course can continue onto a range of Level 2 qualifications in construction, including specialist areas such as Plumbing, Bricklaying or Carpentry.

Vocational Qualifications

Level 3 WJEC Applied Diploma in Construction Practice, or apprenticeships in Construction.

Level 4 qualifications are equivalent to Foundation Degree for people who want to progress into Technical, Design & Management careers.

Apprenticeships

There are a wide range of apprenticeships available in the construction industry. Visit the CITB website for more information <https://www.citb.co.uk/courses-and-qualifications/citb-apprenticeships/>

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Kier Construction are working closely with us of late and we aim to use this industry connection to give the students real life experience through site visits, together with trips to builders merchants or suppliers.

What possible careers could I have?

Check out Go Construct to see the possible career opportunities. <https://www.goconstruct.org/construction-careers/browse-all-job-roles/>

What do other students think about the course?

Students naturally like the practical element of Design & Technology in Years 7 and 8. This course will be a new addition to the curriculum choices in September offering students in Years 9 – 11 a largely practical subject for those who prefer making projects and learning hands on skills.

Evidence from other schools in Devon has shown the course to be very popular, encouraging a new generation into the construction industry.



Isca Academy students attend the 'topping out' ceremony at the St Loyes extra care home scheme next to the Isca site, with Kier Construction and Exeter City councillors.

Creative iMedia *Technical*

OPTION

Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia OCR <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/115888-specification.pdf>

What is the course about?

The course is about mirroring the life cycle of IT development within a product and creating the paperwork to accompany the work created. It has 4 units:

- 1 Exam
- 3 Pieces of controlled assessment
 - R081 - Pre-Production Skills Exam
 - R082 - Mandatory Creating Digital Graphics Controlled Assessment
 - R087 - Creating Interactive Multimedia Products Controlled Assessment
 - R084 - Storytelling with a Comic Strip Controlled Assessment

The controlled assessment units are subject to change as the course updates every 2 years, however as they currently stand these are the options which are being chosen by current Year 10 and 11 students.

What other skills will I develop?

Within Creative iMedia students will study the planning, research and design processes behind media products for print, online and broadcast use, and also explore some practical skills in creating them. This would involve looking at print design / video / film / adverts / audio / websites / apps / comic strips / video gaming etc, depending on the module chosen. They will study how technology is used within this media context, using a mixture of creativity / IT skills / written research & analysis.

Whilst students will get practical experience of Photoshop, photography and basic web software, it's important to note that it's not a completely practical subject – there is plenty of analytical written work involved, especially for GCSE coursework.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study:

- Computer Science; Software Development
- Mathematics
- Web design
- IT Systems and Networks
- Network Management
- Data Analyst
- Data Security
- Infrastructure Management

What is the course worth?

This is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 - 1.

How will I be assessed?

Your final GCSE will consist of 1 exam and 3 substantial pieces of coursework.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Throughout the course students will be made aware of the opportunities that they may wish to consider as a future career such as Product Designer, Digital Graphic Designer or animator.

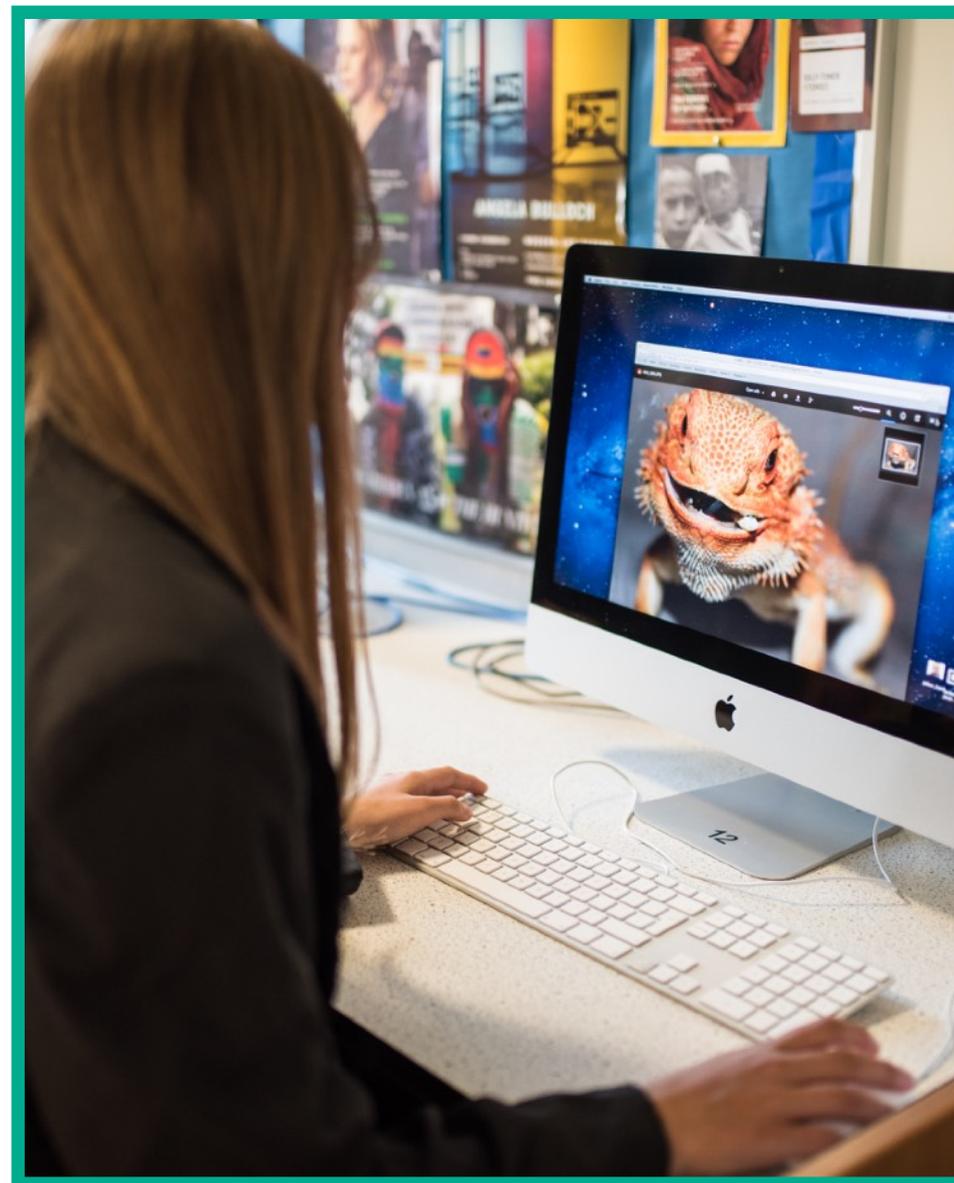
What possible careers could I have?

- Graphics Designer
- Project Management
- Animator
- Photograph Editor

What do other students think about the course?

“It is not all photoshop you have to be willing to write as well but it is interesting.” Year 9 Student

*“I enjoyed learning about storyboards and how adverts are planned. But I find the coursework has a lot of writing in it.”
Year 9 Student*



Design and Technology *GCSE*

OPTION

GCSE Design and Technology AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

What is the course about?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise.

What other skills will I develop?

Design and Technology allows students to study core technical and designing and making principles. These will include a broad range of design processes, material techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

You will have one written exam lasting 2 hours. This is worth 50% of the GCSE.

The coursework assessment will take around 30–35 hours. This is worth 50% of the GCSE.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-level Product Design or Engineering.

Apprenticeships There are a range of apprenticeships that link to an interest in Design and Technology, including: Junior Product Designer, Theatre Set Carpenter, Farrier, Service Technician, Civil Engineering Technician, Plumber, Design and Draughting Technician, Engineering Model Maker.

Vocational Qualifications There are a range of vocational qualifications (such as BTECs, NVQ/SVQs, and diplomas) linked to an interest in Design and Technology, such as: Graphic Design, Fashion Styling, Art and Design, Media, Engineering, Photography, Construction and Building Services, Motor Vehicle – Technology and Repair.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Kier Construction are working closely with us of late and they offer some work experience placements for our Year 10 Design & Technology students.

What possible careers could I have?

Visit the UCAS website for more information here - <https://www.ucas.com/job-subjects/design-technology>

What do other students think about the course?

Students naturally like the practical element of Design & Technology. They enjoy the traditional methods of designing and making as well as experiencing new and emerging technologies such as using the Laser Cutter, 3D Printing and CAD drawing.

The NEA / Coursework project is worth 50% of this GCSE and students enjoy the freedom of being able to choose a contextual challenge (from an option of 3 tasks) and bringing it to life in the Design & Technology Workshop.



BTEC Level 2 Technical Award in Performing Arts (Acting) <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts.html>

What is the course about?

On this course learners will study a variety of genres and styles by exploring them using performance, devising and evaluating. They will also work towards putting on a performance of a professional play. Alongside this, students will gain an understanding of the Performing Arts Industry, job roles and organisations and how to respond to commissions and briefs. This is a very practical subject; you will do lots of creating, rehearsing and performing but you will also be expected to reflect on your practice and research in a logbook.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop your confidence and ability to present in front of an audience, your ability to work cooperatively and to a deadline, problem solving skills, critical thinking skills, emotional intelligence, imaginative and creative skills and leadership skills

What is the course worth?

This is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 – 1

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 Components. The first is 'Exploring the Performing Arts (30%) in which learners produce an assessed portfolio of their work during workshops exploring a wide variety of genres. The second is 'Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts) (30%) in which learners chart their progress towards a final performance. Both component 1 and 2 are internally assessed and then externally verified by BTEC. Finally the third is 'Performing to a Brief' (40%) which is externally assessed. Learners will respond to a brief set by the exam board in their final year and have a time limit to complete the work. The work is then sent off to the exam board to be marked.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study: BTEC level 3 courses in Drama, Performing Arts and Choreography. Alternatively, the course will give you a firm grounding in the practical skills and theoretical knowledge needed to take an A level in Drama and Theatre Studies.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

This course is vocational and therefore you will discuss the Performing Arts Industry, how it has evolved, what jobs there are and how it all fits together. We will hopefully make visits to venues to watch plays and have visiting performers/directors in to run workshops. There are also many opportunities to perform in shows and in the Isca Underground.

What possible careers could I have?

Actor, Director, Theatre Manager, Promoter, Teacher, Lawyer, Public speaking, Arts Therapist, Broadcaster, Presenter, working in film, Production Runner, Special Effects, Stunts, Media Researcher, Workshop Leader, Talent Agent, Costume Designer, Influencer, Props Manager, Usher, Front of House, Box Office, Events Manager, Tour Manager, Set Designer, Carer, working in Marketing and Advertising.

What do other students think about the course?

"Drama is one of my favourite subjects at Isca, it allows you to express yourself in lots of different ways and lets you build your creativity. It is a very useful subject especially if you want to do it later on in life! It has really helped me build on my knowledge and I have had lots of fun in this subject!" Year 11 Student

"I chose Drama because I love to act. it takes away any troubles for a couple of hours and you get to be who you want" Year 10 Student



BTEC Level 2 Technical Award in Performing Arts <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/performing-arts.html>

What is the course about?

On this course learners will study a variety of genres and styles by exploring them using performance, choreography and analysis. They will gain an understanding of the Performing Arts Industry, job roles and organisations and learn how to respond to commissions and briefs. In addition to producing theoretical and practical coursework, students will also work towards producing elements for the annual dance show.

What other skills will I develop?

Lots of personal management skills such as independent working, building confidence, creativity, working within a team, responding to a vocational brief, active listening and many, many more.

What is the course worth?

This is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 – 1

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study: BTEC level 3 courses in Dance or Performing Arts. Alternatively you could study an A-Level in these subjects.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 Components. The first is 'Exploring the Performing Arts (30%) in which learners produce an assessed portfolio of their work during workshops exploring a wide variety of genres. The second is 'Developing skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (30%) in which learners chart their progress towards a final performance. Both component 1 and 2 are internally assessed and then externally verified by BTEC. Finally the third is 'Performing to a Brief' (40%) which is externally assessed. Learners will respond to a brief set by the exam board in their final year and have a time limit to complete the work. The work is then sent off to the exam board to be marked.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

This course is vocational and therefore you spend a lot of time discussing the Performing Arts Industry, and the skills and roles involved. You will look at how the industry has evolved, the jobs that are on offer, and how all these aspects fit together. We will hopefully make visits to theatre venues and have visiting performers/ choreographers in to run workshops. There are also many opportunities to perform in shows and in the Isca Underground.

What possible careers could I have?

Dancer, Choreographer, Critic, Personal Trainer, Dance Teacher, Arts Administrator, Dance / Movement Therapist, Events Management, Talent Agent, Fitness Instructor, Broadcaster.

What do other students think about the course?

"I chose BTEC dance as an option last year because I love dance and I find peace in moving with music. We do different styles of dancing which is good for learning about dances from different cultures. I really enjoy being in my dance lessons, especially when we do student led tasks such as creating our own dances with our own choice of songs and music." Year 9 student

"I find dancing is a very good way to express my emotions and I like to use it to show real situations people go through daily. You learn so much about dance on this course, not just through physically learning movements but we also learn about the effects that dance can have on the person watching. We all work at our own levels and I personally love that." Year 9 student



Health and Social Care *Technical*

OPTION

BTEC Technical Award in Health and Social Care Level 2 <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/health-and-social-care-2022.html>

What is the course about?

You will develop the knowledge and understanding required in the health and social care sectors. If you are interested in working in this area when you leave education, and are interested in a career working with people, then this course will interest you. There will be practical aspects as well as written tasks, outside speakers will come in and contribute to your learning, and you may have the opportunity to work alongside professional health carers during the course.

What other skills will I develop?

You will learn to work in a team, and to get on well with different kinds of people as well as developing a variety of communication skills

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study: Level 3 BTEC in Health and Social Care, Extended Level 3 Diploma in Children's Care & Learning Development and Public Services, A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects such as Paediatric Care, Nursing and Medicine.

What is the course worth?

This is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of 3 components: Two internal assessments (60%) and one external synoptic assessment (40%) which will require learners to apply performance skills and techniques in response to a brief and stimulus developing group performance workshop for a selected audience.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

It is planned that you will listen to a presentation from different local health care workers, meet with advisors from Exeter College to learn about work experience opportunities and how to write a CV, practice soft skills including researching, analysing and presenting to the class, and role-play relevant aspects of real life care (such as feeding another student their lunchtime meal).

What possible careers could I have?

This qualification opens up opportunities in many sectors relating to caring for others, communication, and working with people. It would be particularly useful for students interested in a career in the Health and Social Care industry, such as care assistant, doctor, nurse, therapist, and social worker.

Hospitality and Catering *Technical*

OPTION

Hospitality and Catering Level 2 WJEC https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/hospitality-and-catering-level-1-2/#tab_overview

What is the course about?

This course gives learners the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Employment in Hospitality and Catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing.

Each of the units have been designed so that knowledge, skills and understanding are developed through tasks that have many of the characteristics of real work in the sector. They have been devised around the concept of a 'plan, do, review' approach. This approach mirrors many work related activities in the hospitality and catering sector and also provides for learning in a range of contexts.

What other skills will I develop?

Knowledge and understanding of the Hospitality and Catering industry in order to propose new hospitality and catering provision to meet specific needs. The applied purpose of the unit is for learners to safely plan, prepare, cook and present a wide range of nutritional dishes.

What is the course worth?

This is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

60% coursework: 2 practical dishes and supportive written coursework and 40% written exam about the Hospitality and Catering industry.

What could I study Post 16?

- Level 2/3 City & Guilds in Hospitality & Catering
- Level 2/ NVQ Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery
- Level 2/3 Advanced Diploma in Food Preparation and Cookery Supervision
- Apprenticeships in the catering industry sector

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Apprenticeships in the catering industry sector such as cafes, restaurant, hotels, sporting venues, festivals, corporate businesses, transport catering, outside catering, weddings etc

What possible careers could I have?

Employment in Hospitality and Catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing.

BTEC Technical Award in Music Practice Level 2, Pearson, BTEC <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech->

What is the course about?

On this course learners will study a variety of genres and styles by exploring them using performance, composition, production and active listening. They will also work towards producing a significant piece of work in their chosen pathway. This could be a performance recital, producing an album or composing a suite of pieces. Alongside this, students will gain an understanding of the Music Industry, job roles and organisations and how to respond to commissions and briefs. There is lots of exploring Music and making of exciting noises as well as documenting our progress and creations.

What other skills will I develop?

Lots of personal management skills such as independent working, building confidence, creativity, working within a team, responding to a vocational brief, active listening and many many more.

What is the course worth?

This is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 – 1

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study: BTEC level 3 courses in Music (performance, production and composition) either as an option within their A level choices or as a full time course. University of Arts London courses or Music apprenticeships. There many options! Exeter College, Academy of Music and Sound, South Devon College etc. And then on to university if you so wish – any Music course or any Music college.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 Components.

The first is ‘Exploring Music Products and Styles’ (30%) in which learners produce an assessed portfolio of their work during workshops exploring a wide variety of genres.

The second is ‘Music Skills Development’ (30%) in which learners chart their progress towards a final product such as performance or EP release. Both components 1 and 2 are internally assessed and then externally verified by BTEC.

Finally the third is ‘Responding to a Commercial Music Brief’ (40%) which is externally assessed. Learners will respond to a brief set by the exam board in their final year and have a time limit to complete the work. The work is then sent off to the exam board to be marked. All coursework is marked based upon success criteria in the specification and graded Pass, Merit or Distinction. Distinction* can be achieved overall.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

This course is vocational and therefore you will discuss the Music Industry, how it has evolved, what jobs there are and how it all fits together. We will hopefully make visits to Music venues, have visiting performers in to run workshops and run our own concerts and events, such as the Winter Whirligig, Isca Underground, performance platforms and more, which is the best real life experience you can have!

What possible careers could I have?

Musician, Composer, Venue Manager, Artist Agent, Studio Engineer, Music Technician, Instrumental Teacher, Music Producer, Community Workshop Leader, Music Therapist, Arts Administrator, Promoter, Events Manager, Broadcaster, Radio Presenter, Playlist Curator, Conductor, Music Critic, Journalist...

What do other students think about the course?

"I like it because I enjoy playing music and it is a really good way to improve my musical ability." Year 9 Student

"I have and still really enjoy the BTEC music course. I have learnt so much about the music industry. I have also really enjoyed working in a group dynamic as well as developing my individual musical skills." Year 11 Student



GCSE Music Edexcel / Pearson <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/music-2016.html>

What is the course about?

This course is an after school extra option for those who wish to study A Level Music in the future. Students can opt to take this from Year 10 if they choose Music. The course follows the more traditional history of Music. We study eight pieces including Instrumental Music, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.

What other skills will I develop?

Lots of personal management skills such as independent working, building confidence, creativity, working within a team, active listening and many many more.

What could I study Post 16?

Doing the GCSE gives you the music theory and history knowledge required for the more traditional A level and degree routes. It also gives you a better grounding for all Level 3 BTEC courses in Music as mentioned in the BTEC page.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 Components.

Component 1 is performing (30%). Students submit one solo and one ensemble performance.

Component 2 is composing (30%) in which students compose a free piece of their choice totalling 2 minutes and a piece in response to an exam board brief totalling 2 minutes.

Finally there is a 1 hour 45 minutes listening exam based upon the eight pieces studied (40%).

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

We will be regulars to the online Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra talks about the works and working within an Orchestra as well as learning how to respond to commercial briefs.

What possible careers could I have?

Musician, Composer, Venue Manager, Artist Agent, Studio Engineer, Music Technician, Instrumental Teacher, Music Producer, Community Workshop Leader, Music Therapist, Arts Administrator, Promoter, Events Manager, Broadcaster, Radio Presenter, Playlist Curator, Conductor, Music Critic, Journalist...



What do other students think about the course?

"Music is my favourite subject at Isca! It's so interesting and very creative. There's lots of really cool, fun things to do and it is very useful if you want music to be a part of your life in the future. It has helped me build up my confidence and connect with myself since Year 7. It's a very important subject that is taught very well in our school so I would definitely recommend it!"

Year 11 Student

Physical Education *GCSE*

OPTION

GCSE Physical Education AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/physical-education/gcse/physical-education-8582>

What is the course about?

Throughout this subject, students will explore the anatomy and physiology of the human body during sport and physical activity, including the adaptations that can occur due to diet and training. Further to this, we will acquire an understanding of the principles of training, different training methods as well as how to optimise training, so that we can reach optimum sporting performance. Students will also develop an understanding of the psychological factors that affect performance such as levels of aggression, arousal, motivation and personality.

Later in the course, students further develop their knowledge of the social-cultural influences, such as varying levels of participation in sport and how sport impacts on society more broadly.

What other skills will I develop?

The GCSE in Physical Education equips students with the knowledge, understanding and skills to develop their own performance in sport. They develop their understanding of socio-cultural influences on participation in sport, and the benefits of physical activity to health, fitness and well-being.

What could I study Post 16?

A Level Physical Education, BTEC Sport, Level 3 Physical Activity, Fitness and Exercise Science

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

Students are assessed across the following areas:

- Exam Paper 1 (1 hour 15 minutes), 35% of overall grade
- Exam Paper 2 (1 hour 15 minutes), 35% of overall grade
- Analysis of Performance Coursework. This is a 4000-5000 word piece of work, completed by the students, analysing the strengths and weaknesses of their own performance in their main sport, followed by an action plan to improve performance and a conclusion, 10% of overall grade
- Practical Performance. Students will be assessed across three different sports with a mark out of 25 for each split into skills shown in isolation, followed by students performing in competitive club fixtures/leagues, 20% of overall grade.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Throughout the course students will be made aware of the opportunities that they may wish to consider as a future career such as Sport Psychologists, Nutritionists, Performance Analysts, Teaching and Exercise Scientists to name a few.

What possible careers could I have?

- Exercise Physiologist
- Sports Analyst
- Fitness Centre Manager
- Personal Trainer
- Secondary School Teacher
- Sports Administrator
- Sports Coach
- Sports Development Officer
- Sports Therapist
- Sports Reporter
- Nutritionist
- Conditioning and Massage

What do other students think about the course?

"I love GCSE PE because you learn about really interesting things such as anatomy and physiology of the body like the respiratory system and different types of joints. It is interesting to see how the body works during exercise and the effects it has on performance in different sports."

"GCSE PE is really good. It's interesting because you learn all about the human body and how it all works during sports movements. I like that it is very scientific and some of the things we have learnt I have also studied in Science classes. We have also learnt about psychology in sport which is also really interesting because you realise how much your mind controls your sporting performance as well. We have also learnt about nutrition and which types of foods different athletes will eat depending on their sports."



Photography GCSE

OPTION

GCSE Photography Pearson Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/art-and-design-2016.html>

What is the course about?

It is about how humans see, find and consume beauty. You will learn the language of images, you will investigate how others have used it in the past and you will use it to express yourself visually and in writing. You will learn about the creative journey, from thinking your first ideas to completing your masterpiece. If you are creative and make things happen, if you are self-driven and open to taking risks, this course is for you. It will challenge you constantly, but enlighten you always.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop technical skills using cameras, lighting and digital editing; you will also learn to find and produce new meaning by combining your own ideas and the ideas of others. You will make sense of iconic Photography masterpieces from the past with your contemporary understanding. You will integrate knowledge from other subjects in your Photo studies, especially English Literature and History.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Coursework Portfolio (60%)

Unit 2: Externally Set Assignment (40%)

What could I study Post 16?

You could study a range of UAL Diplomas and A Level courses on Art and Design, 3D Design, Fashion and Textiles, Film and Video, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, Graphic Design and Photography. Hairdressing, Beauty and Make-up Artistry studies share part of their knowledge with Photography. You could also consider doing an Apprenticeship.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Recently we visited Thomson Reuters, Exeter-based global firm, to work with Henrik Winther Andersen, London-based, award winning photographer specialising in wedding/corporate/portrait and architectural photography. We have worked with Devon-based photography artists as well.

What possible careers could I have?

1 in 12 people working in the UK do so in a creative area: Art Practitioner, 2D artist, 3D artist, Print Maker, Graphic Designer, Interior Designer, Set Design and Building for Theatre, Animator, Games Graphics Designer, CGI/Special Effects for Movies, Fashion designer, Architect, Photo Journalist, Art Director or Photography Director in media productions, Camera crew, Art Gallery manager, Collections Curator, Restoration and Conservation, Auction House Valuer, Art Historian...

What do other students think about the course?

“The GCSE Photography course is my favourite of all the courses because it allows you to be creative and have control over what you do. You get to spend time taking pictures and editing on the computers, however the course requires a lot of work outside of the classroom, so it can become quite time consuming.”

Year 11 Student



Sports Studies *Technical*

OPTION

Cambridge Nationals in Sports Studies Level 2 OCR <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-studies-level-1-2->

What is the course about?

Throughout the Sports Studies course students develop an understanding of the following elements: How sport has changed though the evolution of the technology and the media, the commercialisation of sport including financial support, sports organisations and ethical issues in sport. Students will also develop their leadership though the planning, risk assessing and delivery of a sport activity session and also develop their own sporting skills.

What other skills will I develop?

If you enjoying playing a variety of sports at a high level, and you are interested in all aspects of sports preparation and performance, then this will appeal to you. You will develop your knowledge, skills and understanding that underpin many other subjects. It develops your own health and fitness understanding as well as key skills, especially working as a team.

What could I study Post 16?

Level 2 and 3 courses at college in the area of Sport and Exercise Science, Fitness and Personal Training.

What is the course worth?

This qualification is is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

The course is split into four equally weight assessments (25% each):

- Contemporary Issues in Sport – 1 x 1 hour exam paper exploring students knowledge of a variety of areas including Commercialisation of Sport, Sporting Events, Factors that affect Participation and also Performance Enhancing Drugs
- Sport and the Media Coursework – This is a 3000-5000 word piece of coursework. Students will analyse and evaluate the positive and negative impacts of the media on sports performers and participation
- Sports Leadership – Students learn about teaching methods and leadership styles before planning, risk assessing, delivering a sports activity session and evaluating their session
- Practical Assessment – Students will be assessed across three different sports which should be played at club level or higher.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Throughout the course students will be made aware of the many roles and careers in sport. Students particularly develop their understanding of coaching and teaching as part of this course.

What possible careers could I have?

- Teaching
- Coaching
- Fitness Trainers
- Sports Development Officer
- Sports Massage and Physiotherapy
- Sports Writer
- Commentators

What do other students think about the course?

"I love Sport Studies because I am learning about the reason people take part in sport and how the media affects people participation. I am learning about the different job opportunities in sport such as coaching and sports journalism. We usually work on computers to do our coursework which I like as well."

"Sport Studies is really interesting. We have been learning about how the media affects sports in different ways. We learnt about the Hillsborough Disaster and how different newspapers reported on the story. I really like the last module we completed which was to plan and teach a lesson to the class. This was good because it is something I may want to do when I am older and I had the chance to experience it."



Statistics and Further Maths *GCSE* **OPTION**

GCSE Statistics Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/statistics-2017.html>

GCSE Further Maths AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/aqa-certificate/further-mathematics-8365/assessment-resources>

What is the course about?

You have the opportunity to gain 2 GCSEs – Further Mathematics GCSE and Statistics GCSE. The Further Mathematics qualification is an exciting opportunity to study Mathematics beyond the normal curriculum. One third of the content reflects GCSE Grade 8 topics with the remainder of the course introducing new material such as calculus, differentiation and matrices. The qualification itself demands real determination and commitment to Mathematics. The Statistics GCSE will be run alongside the Further Mathematics course. This course emphasises the theoretical, practical and applied nature of the subject; it provides an excellent platform for cross-curricular studies and activities. It gives a great background for the study of Statistics beyond GCSE level.

This option is an excellent choice for anyone looking at taking A-Level Mathematics.

What other skills will I develop?

Further Mathematics will help you to develop a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts and mathematical modelling. You will become mathematically fluent to an A level standard and develop an exceptional level of problem-solving skills that can be transferred across other subject areas.

Statistics will provide you with a critical appreciation of statistics and its place in everyday life. It encourages you to develop an enquiring mind and become an effective and independent learner.

How will I be assessed?

Within the Further Mathematics qualification, there are 2 formal exams at the end of the 3-year period. One calculator and one non-calculator paper. They carry equal weighting. The Statistics GCSE has 2 formal exams. They carry equal weighting. Students will be examined in the Statistics element of the course in Year 10.

What is the course worth?

GCSE Statistics is worth 1 GCSE at 9 – 1.

GSCS Further Maths is worth 1 GCSE graded at 4 - 9

What possible careers could I have?

All of us use Mathematics in our lives to some extent. However, a particular skill in Mathematics can open the doors to some wonderful careers. For example: Accountant, Architect, Video Game Designer, Rollercoaster Design, Math's Teacher (!), Scientist, Lawyer, Statistician, Meteorologist.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will learn how to plan a strategy and investigation, how to conduct experiments and surveys with an appreciation of their constraints. You will also learn how to effectively collect data and present that data in a meaningful way.

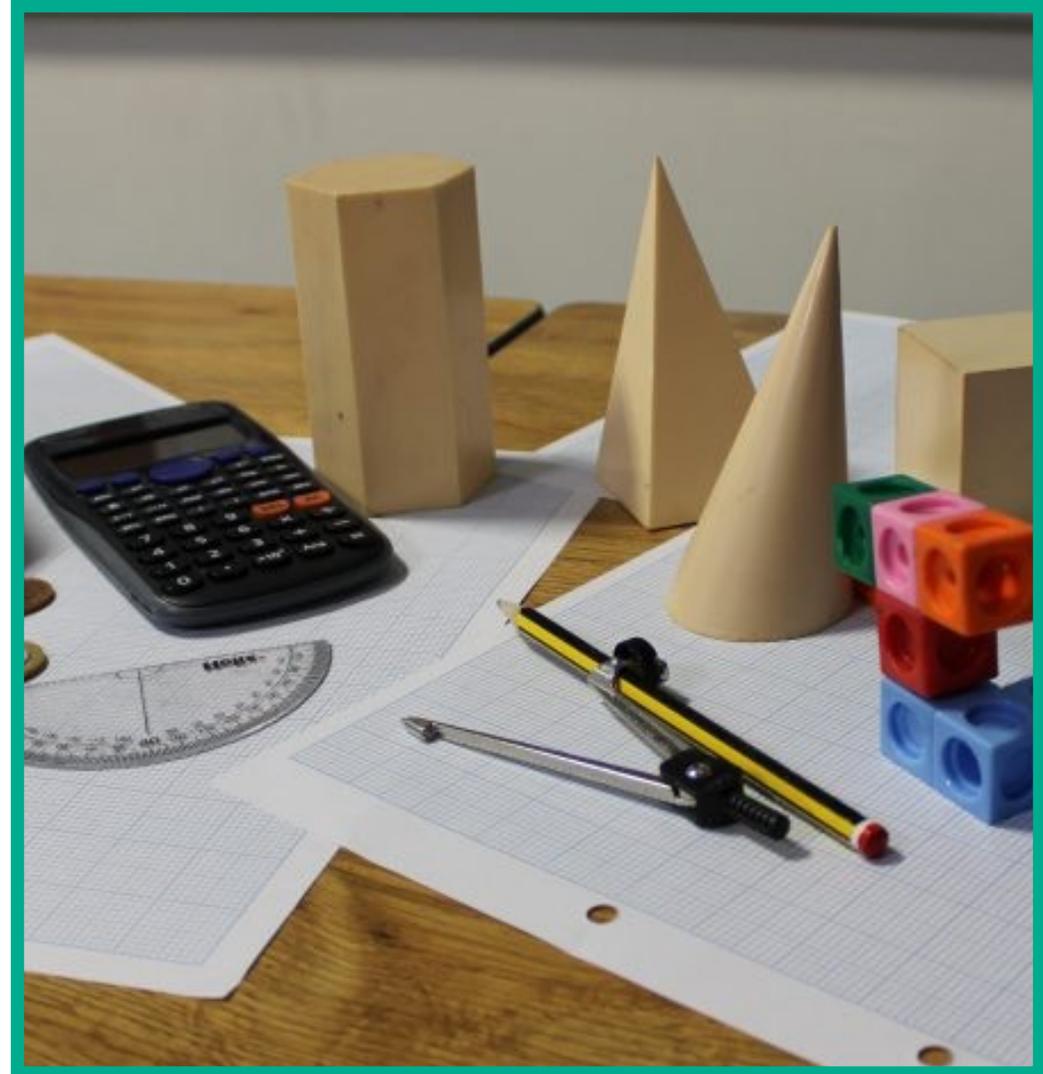
What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Mathematics, Sciences, Electronics, Psychology, Environmental Studies or the International Baccalaureate. Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a new qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE.

What do other students think about the course?

“I get stuck sometimes but I enjoy working through problems.”

“I enjoy being stretched beyond GCSE Maths.”



Travel and Tourism *Technical*

OPTION

BTEC First Travel and Tourism Level 2 Pearson

https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/BTEC-Firsts/Travel-and-Tourism/2013/Specification-and-sample-assessments/BTECFIRST_AWD_TT_SPEC_ISS3.pdf

What is the course about?

The course will help you take your first steps towards a career in retail or business travel. You will learn essential skills such as business awareness, customer service and understanding destinations in the UK and worldwide.

What other skills will I develop?

You will learn to work to a deadline, present information, accurately complete administrative tasks and processes, work in a team, and to get on well with different kinds of people as well as developing a variety of communication skills.

What is the course worth?

This is a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of 3 components: Two internal assessments (60%) and one examination (40%).

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study: Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals, specifically the Pearson BTEC Level 3 in Travel and Tourism, A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects such as Geography.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

This is a new course for us this year but we envisage that you will work with a variety of industry partners to develop relevant ‘on the job’ experience.

What possible careers could I have?

This could provide a suitable qualification as well as others that would open up the world of travel and tourism – in other words, if you choose a career in the travel industry then this is a course that will be eminently useful as well as practical.

Religious Education *GCSE*

OPTION

GCSE Religious Education AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062>

What is the course about?

The Religious Education GCSE comprises of two components. In the first component you will study, in depth, the beliefs, teachings and practices of Christianity and Buddhism. This includes looking at festivals, prayer, religious rites and places of worship. In the second component you will study four 'themes'; Theme B: Religion and Life, Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict, Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment and Theme F: Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice.

What other skills will I develop?

Religious Education offers an opportunity to explore major religions, beliefs and social / moral problems of our time. This will help develop critical and logical thinking, evaluation, reasoning, negotiation, organisation, planning, problem solving, literacy skills and most importantly a sense of understanding and appreciation.

What could I study Post 16?

Most courses will require you to have an understanding of morality and ethics, whilst also having an understanding of what people believe and why. Many students successful in this course have gone on to study:

- Law
- Journalism
- Diplomacy
- Publishing
- Travel
- Advertising
- Human Resources
- Teaching

What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 100% exam based.

Component 1: The study of Religions: Beliefs, teachings and practices (Christianity and Buddhism) - 1 hour 45 minutes - 50%

Component 2: Thematic studies (Theme B, D, E and F) - 1 hour 45 minutes - 50%

Most of the questions asked in your exams will require short answers and will be worth between 1 and 5 marks. Each exam paper will also contain a number of 12 mark questions which will require you to show a high level of knowledge and understanding.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

In Religious Education you will be given lots of opportunity to explore a variety of topics and skills, all of which will develop your work related experience. This includes engaging with empathy, evaluative writing, presenting arguments, communication skills through debate, problem solving, patience and interpersonal skills. Religious Education will also ensure that you have good listening and speaking skills which will allow you to build good, professional relationships.

What possible careers could I have?

Religious Education can guide you into a variety of different job roles as it allows you to engage and acknowledge beliefs and opinions of others. Possible careers may include:

- The Public Sector, for example the police force
- Travel and tourism
- Health and social care
- Childcare
- Legal studies
- Community support worker
- Teacher
- Teaching assistant
- Aid worker
- General practitioner
- Religious leader

What do other students think about the course?

"I believe that it is really important to study Religious Education as it is not just about understanding religion, it is also about looking at ethics. This ensures that we have acceptance of others, whilst also not demonstrating discrimination and or oppression."

"I think that Religious Education is really important as you are able to learn about different people and different cultures, particularly their religion. It allows us a sense of acceptance and understanding."



What grades will I need to get on to my chosen course when I leave?

Generally*, to access Further Education courses locally, you need:

- 8 GCSEs at grades 4-9 (including English and Maths at grade 5) to do A levels. Other level 3 equivalent courses have similar but slightly different entrance requirements.
- 5 GCSEs at grade 3 to do a level 2 qualification.
- 4 GCSEs at grades 2 to do a level 1 qualification.

You will get lots of advice and guidance on this throughout Key Stage 4

*This is rough guidance only, and courses and institutions will vary.

Dos and don'ts of choosing Options:

Do:

- Read the description of each course;
- Look at how each course is assessed and decide if that suits you. For example, if you choose Drama, you will have to perform. There is little point opting for Drama if you're not prepared to do this;
- Think about what you enjoy; people achieve more highly in subjects they enjoy;
- Speak to your subject teachers to see how they think you'd do at GCSE;
- Research where the subject could take you, and research entry requirements if you have a path in mind;
- Attend the Options Open Evening with a grown up;
- Take advice from trusted adults (i.e. a parent, carer or teacher).

Don't:

- Choose an option just because your friend is doing it. These is YOUR education and YOUR career pathway. Only your name will appear on the results!
- Choose or discard an Option based on your experience with the teacher; you don't know who will be teaching you in future.
- Choose a subject based on hearsay (someone you know liked/didn't like it).
- Choose a subject you don't want to do because someone else wants you to do it. It is unlikely you'll be motivated and achieve well.

Thinking of Oxford or Cambridge University?

Although these universities do not specify which GCSE subjects are required to gain entry, we do know that 8-11 grade 8s and 9s are desirable, and scrutinised at the application stage.

Where can I find further information?

<https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/information/gcses/choosing-your-gcses#link-2>



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