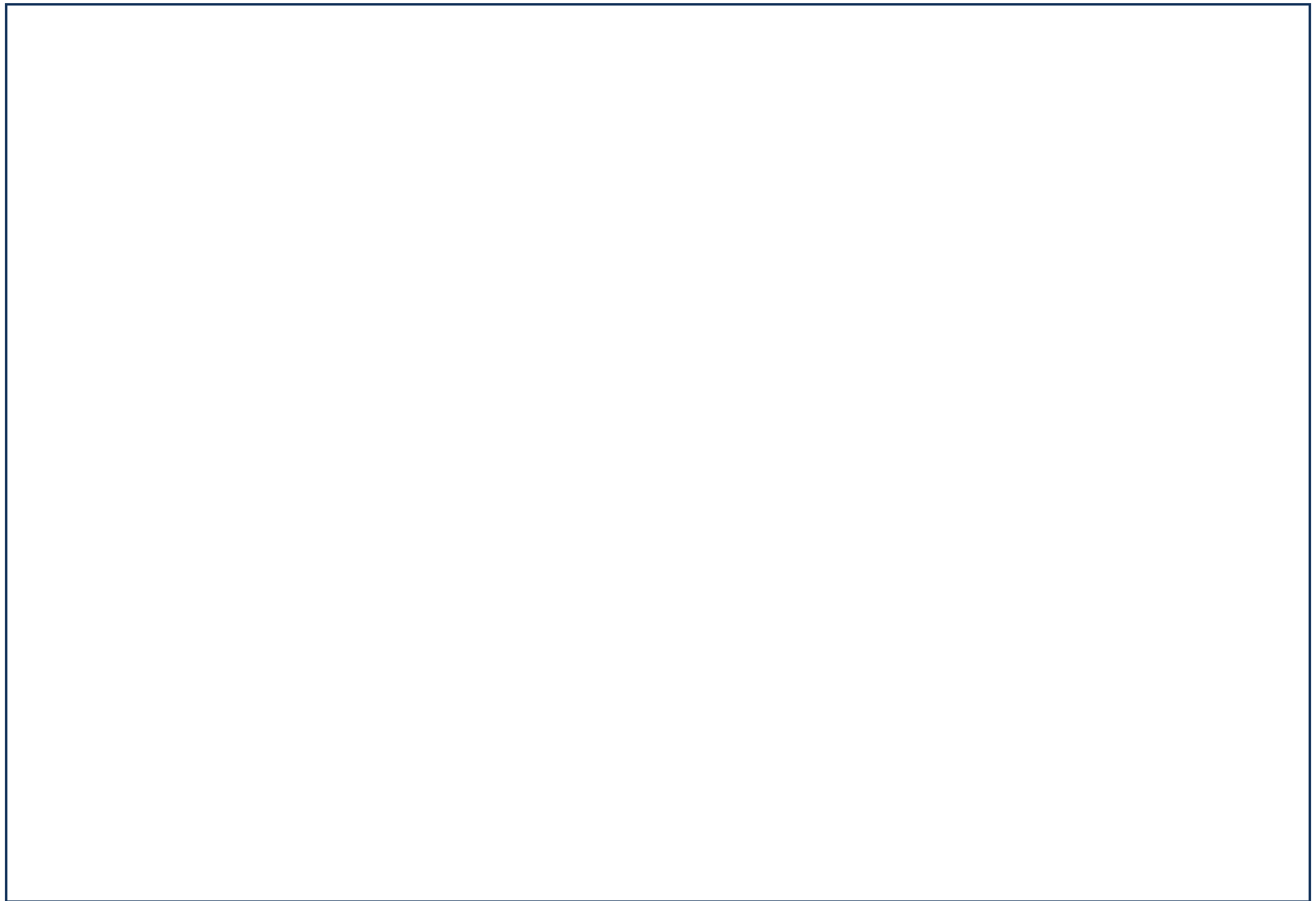




# **Isca Academy**

## **Year 8 Options Booklet**

### **2024**



# Introduction

At Isca Academy our curriculum is carefully designed to inspire our scholars in the classroom. We ensure we provide a broad and balanced curriculum that is academically rigorous and is ambitious for every single child.

The curriculum at Isca sets out to prepare our scholars for a life beyond the Academy. The ambition within it ensures that scholars are put on the path to achieve in their future. At its heart the curriculum is a representation of our central school mission: "Excellence through habit"

We **INSPIRE** our scholars  
Celebrate their **SUCCESS**  
Care about our **COMMUNITY**  
And have **AMBITION** for every single child

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

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- A Modern Foreign Language (scholars will continue to study their current language)
- Core PE
- Core RE
- Geography and History

Scholars will choose **three** option subjects and will be allocated **two** of these subjects, the other is a reserve choice. The subjects on offer are either GCSE or Level 2 Technical qualifications (these are the equivalent to a GCSE).

# Core Curriculum

CORE

English Language	Science	Core PE
English Literature	History or Geography*	LVS
Mathematics	A language	

# Options

OPTION

Separate Science	RE	Design Technology
Computer Science	Drama	Art and Design
Statistics	Music Practice	Photography
Further Mathematics	Health and Social Care	
GCSE PE or Sports Studies (only one of these can be chosen)		

\*Scholars will opt for History or Geography at the end of Year 9



# 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 scholars 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 scholars 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 scholars 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."*

# Mathematics GCSE

CORE

GCSE Mathematics Edexcel <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/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 scholars 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 scholars 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. Scholars 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 scholars 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

CORE

GCSE French AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/french-8652>

GCSE Spanish AQA <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/languages/gcse/spanish-8692>

## 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:

Theme 1: People and Lifestyle

Theme 2: Popular culture

Theme 3: Communication and the world around us

## 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, reading aloud and short unprepared conversation.
- Paper 3 Reading: 45 minutes / 1 hour with questions in English, and a translation into English.
- Paper 4 Writing: 1 hour 10 / 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 scholars 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 scholars 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 scholars to fundamental concepts in Biology, Chemistry and Physics that underpin and explain their experience of the world around them. For scholars 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 scholars 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?

Scholars 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. Scholars 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?

Scholars 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?

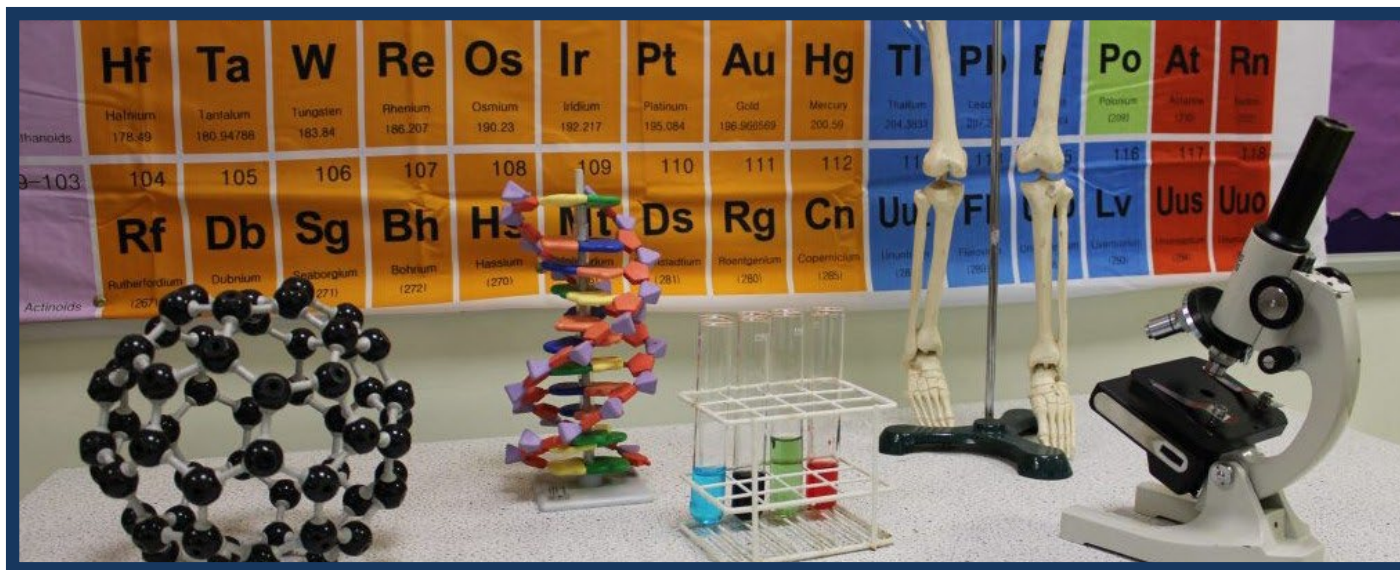
In recent years scholars have visited the Big Bang Young Scientists & Engineers fair, successfully taken part in numerous science challenges led by local science organisations, attended careers fairs, and have worked with scholars studying Medicine from Exeter University. We aim to continue and extend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

## What do other scholars 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.





# Geography GCSE

CORE - Year 9

OPTION - Year 10

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

## What is the course about?

GCSE geography is designed to allow a large number of topics to be studied and to provide an insight into a variety of the most important and relevant geographical issues. For example, climate change, migration, globalisation, coastal erosion and extreme weather.

## What other skills will I develop?

By posing questions and investigating concepts and issues, scholars will develop the ability to think both creatively and scientifically 'like a geographer'. You will complete fieldwork in two locations allowing you to develop interpersonal and communication skills outside of the classroom.

## What is the course worth?

This qualification is worth one GCSE at 9 – 1.

## What could I study Post 16?

Geography is a broad-based academic subject which will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with, both at GCSE and A Level.

## How will I be assessed?

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

Component 1: main themes studied worth 40% (1 hour 45 minutes).

Component 2: decision-making paper worth 30% (1 hour 30 minutes)

Component 3: fieldwork and its application – worth 30% (1 hour 30 minutes)

## What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Scholars 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. Careers linked to geography include landscape architect, building surveyor, journalist, charity worker, town planner, climatologist, GIS technician, business analyst and government roles.

## What do other scholars 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 scholars to develop knowledge about what is happening in the world and helps many scholars to understand the world a little better. It also provides practical skills that can be useful to scholars in the future such as accurately learning to read maps. Geography is a good option for scholars 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*



# History GCSE

CORE - Year 9

OPTION - Year 10

**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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 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 15 minutes long).

## What could I study Post 16?

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

- History
- Ancient History
- Classics
- Government and Politics
- Law
- Archaeology
- Academic Historian
- History Teacher
- Barrister/Solicitor
- Politician

## 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. Scholars will also have the opportunity to visit the National Archives.

## What possible careers could I have?

- Author
- Journalist
- Archaeologist
- Museum Curator
- ...anything that involves arguing!



## What do other scholars think about the course?

*"Scholars 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 scholars will continue to have two hours per week of core PE alongside their other core and option subjects.

In Years 9, 10 and 11 scholars build upon the skills and knowledge embedded in Years 7 and 8. Scholars 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 scholars' knowledge and understanding of the benefits of leading healthy active lifestyles whilst also developing life skills such as self-confidence, communication and co-operation.



# LVS =Life, Values and Society

CORE

## What is the course about?

Within LVS our core aim is to both 'develop opinions grounded in knowledge & to make positive choices, reduce risk and stay safe'.

We study topics within PSHE such as careers, sex education, finances and healthy living. It is a spiral curriculum, underpinned by British Values, which provides a basic understanding of a range of topics in year 7 and revisits them in greater depth in the following years as students' ages, bodies, and experiences change.

Relationships, Sex and Health Education and Mental Health are topics that feature each year.

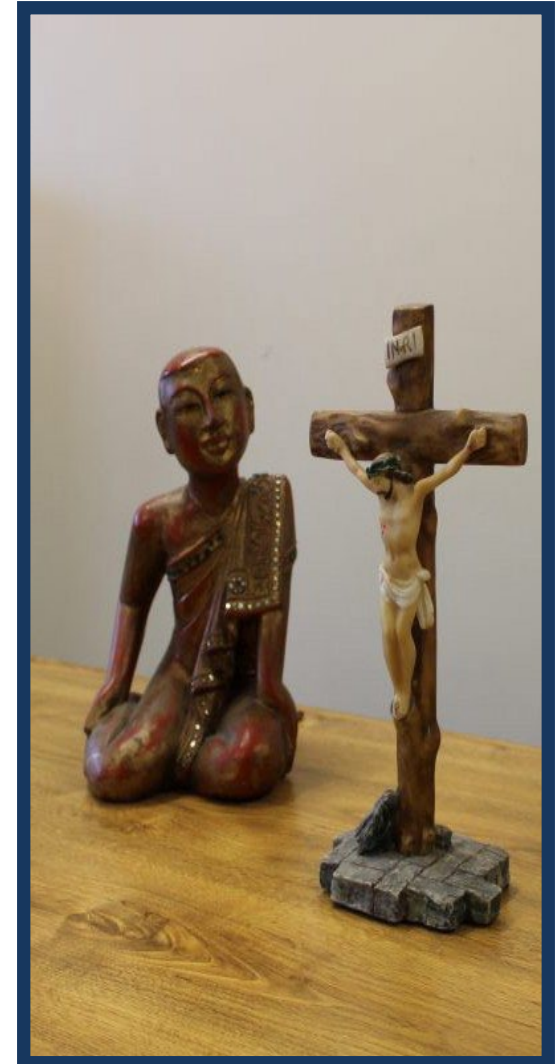
A large majority of our Careers Education and is delivered through PSHE lessons.

By the end of Year 11, Isca Academy students can access and assess a range of opinions and facts that are fully relevant to their daily lives, making the best decisions for themselves, moving into adulthood.

For the CORE Religious Education section of LVS we study key religious beliefs and practices such as Hinduism, Sikhism, Philosophy and Religion in the Media. The curriculum is much more than just lessons. It includes the ethos, attitudes and relationships which create the family life of our school.

Our aim is to provide a broad, balanced and rigorous curriculum that meets the needs and aspirations of every young person and leaves them well prepared for their future.

The Religious Education curriculum is planned to ensure that students' gain a broad overview of all major world religions as well as the skills and knowledge to engage in debates about current affairs and poignant philosophical and ethical debates.





# Options

OPTION

Scholars should pick **three** option subjects, one of which will be a reserve choice.

The subjects on offer are either GCSE or Level 2 Technical qualifications (T), which are the equivalent of a GCSE.

Separate Science	RE	Design Technology
Computer Science	Drama (T)	Art and Design
Statistics	Music Practice (T)	Photography
Geography*	History*	Further Mathematics
GCSE PE or Sports Studies (T) (only one of these can be chosen)	Health and Social Care (T)	

\* These subjects are detailed under the Core subject pages 7-9, and 12-15.

# Art and Design GCSE

OPTION

GCSE Art and Design Pearson Edexcel <https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/art-and-design/AQA-GCSE-ART-STUDENT-GUIDE.PDF>

## 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 scholars 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 Daisy.

## 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 scholars 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 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 scholars 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?

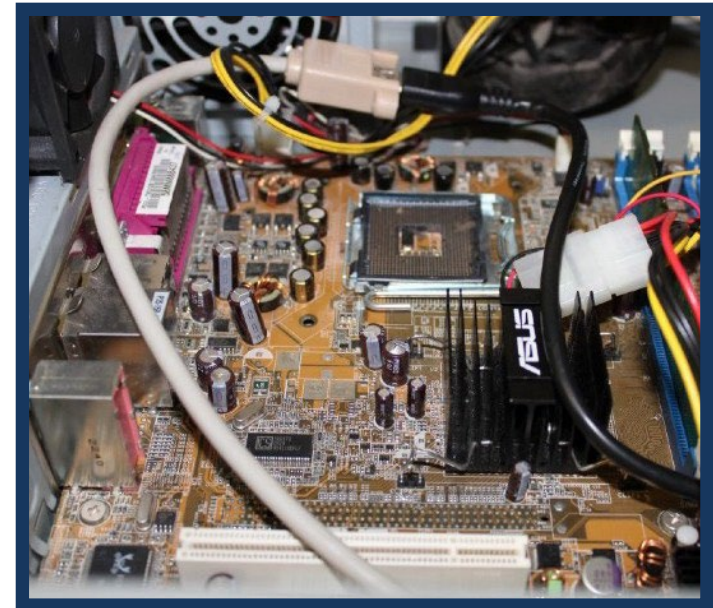
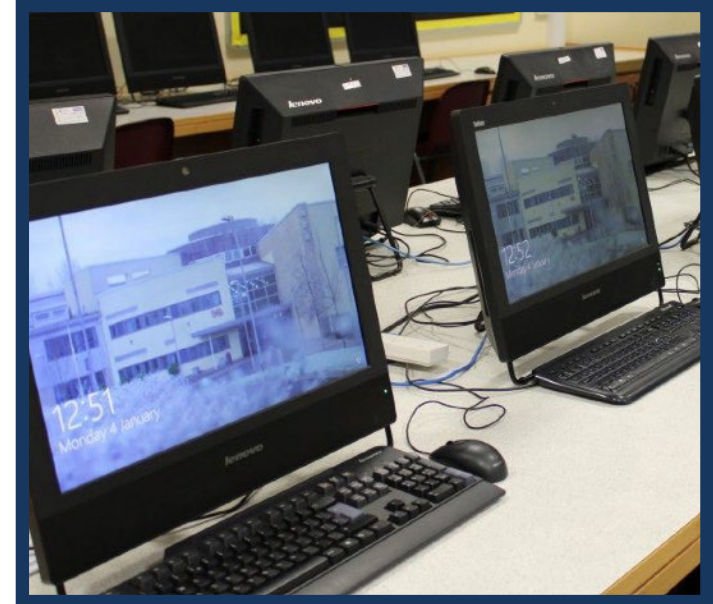
- Software Developer
- Database Administrator
- Computer Hardware Engineer
- Computer Systems Analyst
- Computer Network Architect
- Web Developer
- Information Security Analyst
- Computer and Information Research Scientists
- Computer and Information Systems Managers
- Project Management

## What do other scholars 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 Scholar

*"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 Scholar

Computer Science has a high mathematical element to it so we strongly advise that only scholars 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.





# 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 scholars to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Scholars will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Scholars 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 scholars 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 scholars 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 scholars.

## 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 scholars think about the course?

Scholars 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 scholars 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.



# Drama *Technical*

OPTION

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, scholars 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 scholars 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 scholars 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 Scholar

*"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 Scholar





# 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 scholars 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 requires learners to apply performances 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 scholar 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 scholars interested in a career in the Health and Social Care industry, such as care assistant, doctor, nurse, therapist, and social worker.



# Music Practice

## *Performance and Production*

OPTION

BTEC Technical Award in Music Practice Level 2, Pearson, BTEC

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/content/dam/pdf/btec-tec-awards/music-practice/2022/specification-and-sample-assessments/btec-tech-award-music-practice-2022-spec.pdf>

### 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, scholars 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 scholars 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!

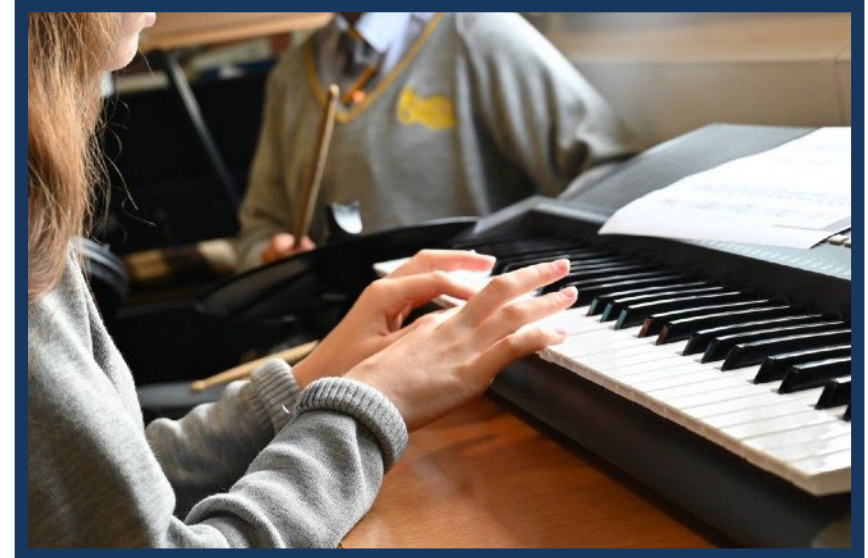
## What possible careers could I have?

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 scholars 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 Scholar

*"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 Scholar





# 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, scholars 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. Scholars 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, scholars 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 scholars 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?

Scholars 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 scholars, 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. Scholars will be assessed across three different sports with a mark out of 25 for each split into skills shown in isolation, followed by scholars performing in competitive club fixtures/leagues, 20% of overall grade.

## What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Throughout the course scholars 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 scholars 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://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/subject-content/photography>

## What is the course about?

It is about how humans see, find, create 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.

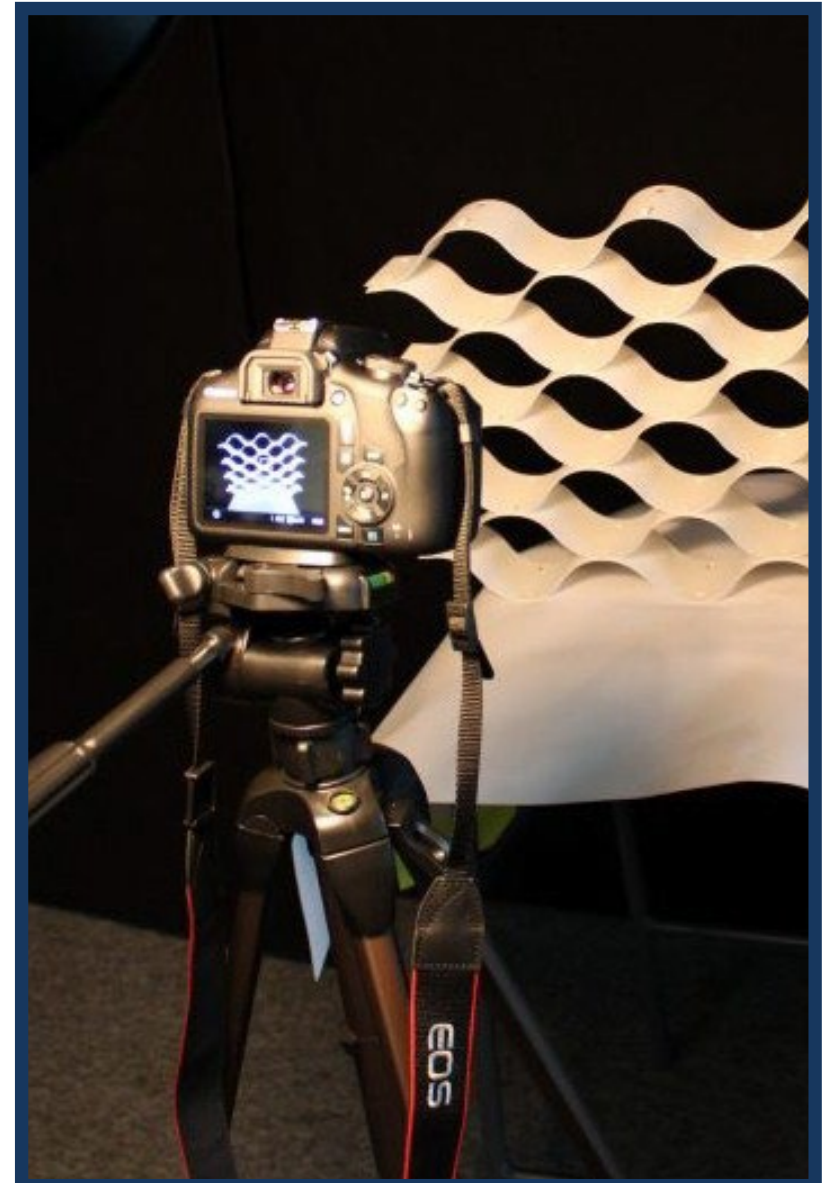
## What possible careers could I have?

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 scholars 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 Scholar*



# 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 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 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 scholars successful in this course have gone on to study:

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



## 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:

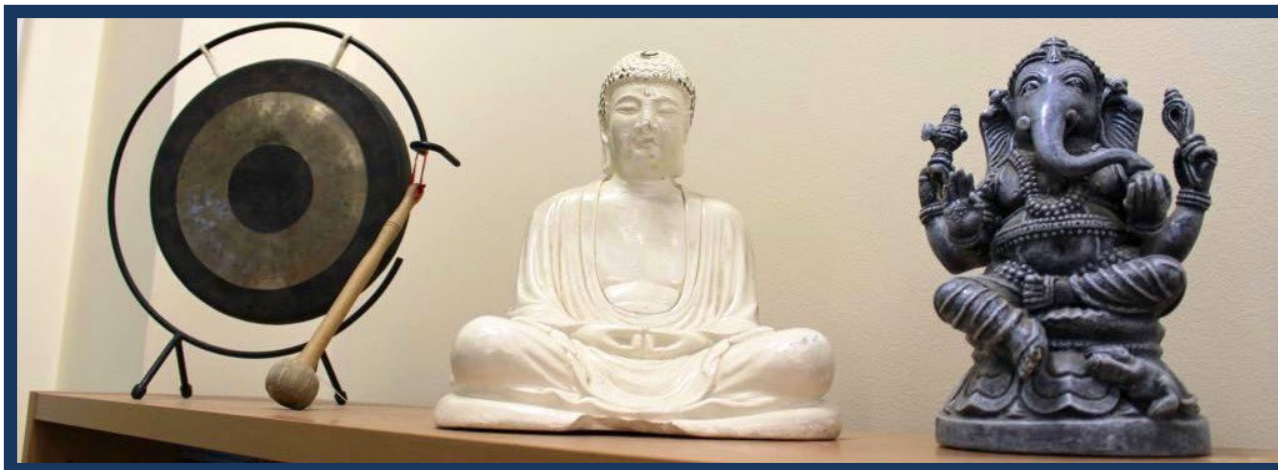
- The Public Sector, for example the police force
- Travel and tourism
- Health and social care

- Childcare
- Legal studies
- Community support worker
- Teacher
- Teaching assistant
- Aid worker
- General practitioner
- Religious leader

## What do other scholars 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."*



# Separate Science GCSE

OPTION

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

## What is the course about?

This course is designed for those scholars who wish to study science post-16 and to pursue a career that will be predominantly scientific, and is *in addition to* the Combined Science lessons that all scholars take. It is recommended that scholars choose this course if they are already achieving well in Science, have a passion for and enjoyment of this subject, and an interest in further study and a future career in a STEM-related field. 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 investigation and communication skills which will help ensure success in 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?

Scholars 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. Scholars 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?

Scholars 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 scholars have visited the Big Bang Young Scientists & Engineers fair, participated in a bulb planting project with Devon Wildlife Trust, successfully taken part in numerous science challenges led by local science organisations, attended careers fairs, and have worked with scholars 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 scholars think about the course?

*“Dedicated and enthusiastic teachers make science so intriguing.”*

*“I like understanding the reasons why things happen.”*



# 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 scholars 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. Scholars will also develop their leadership through 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 are 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 a Level 2 Vocational Award worth one GCSE equivalent at 9 – 1.

## How will I be assessed?

*The course assessment is split into three areas:*

1. *Contemporary Issues in Sport (Examination x 1 Paper, 40% of overall grade). Throughout the content of this paper scholars will explore reasons for participation rates in sport, performance enhancing drugs in sport, how technology has positively and negatively impacted sport, and major sporting events across the globe.*
2. *Performance and Leadership in Sport (Coursework and Practical leadership assessment - 40% of overall grade). During this topic scholars will plan, risk assess, lead and evaluate a sports activity session delivered to a group of their peers. Scholars will also be assessed in two sports. You will also complete a piece of coursework analysing your strengths and weaknesses in a sport of your choosing.*
3. *Increasing Awareness of Outdoor Adventurous Activities (Coursework and Practical Assessment - 20% of overall grade).*

*In this unit, scholars will learn about the different types of OAA such as skiing, orienteering and mountain biking. You will learn about the equipment used, terrains and safety for each of the activities which you will write a piece of coursework about. The second part of this unit is to plan and lead an OAA session.*

## What work-related opportunities will I experience?

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

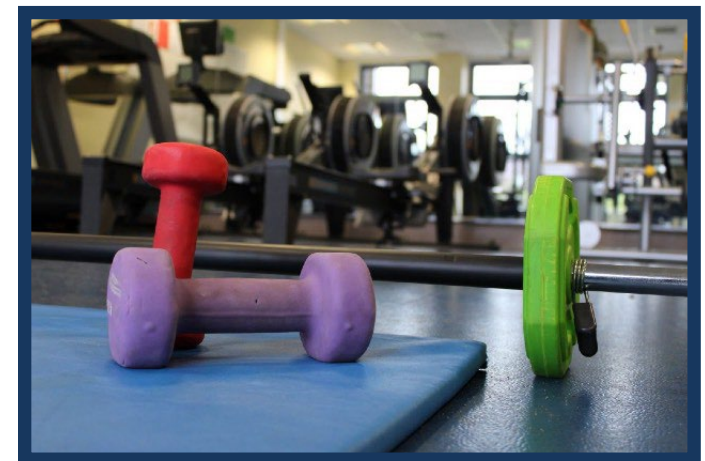
### What possible careers could I have?

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

### What do other scholars 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."*



Note: There may be some additional costs for participation in offsite Outdoor Adventurous Activities such as Kayaking, Climbing, and Skiing

# Statistics and Further Maths GCSE

OPTION

GCSE Statistics Edexcel  
GCSE Further Maths AQA

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

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

## What is the course about?

Scholars who pick Statistics GCSE and Further Maths GCSE as an option will do Statistics in years 9 and 10, with the exam at the end of year 10. They will then do Further Maths in year 11, with the exam at the end of year 11, meaning they will achieve two separate GCSE's as well as their GCSE Mathematics. This option is ideal for anyone who has aspirations in STEM careers (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) or is looking to pursue Maths or Science based subjects for A-Level and at University. Due to the level of Mathematics studied in Year 11, to take this option, you must currently be in a top set for Maths and be aspiring to get a grade 7,8 or 9 in your Maths GCSE.

## 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.

## 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

## 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. Scholars will be examined in the Statistics element of the course in Year 10.

## 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.

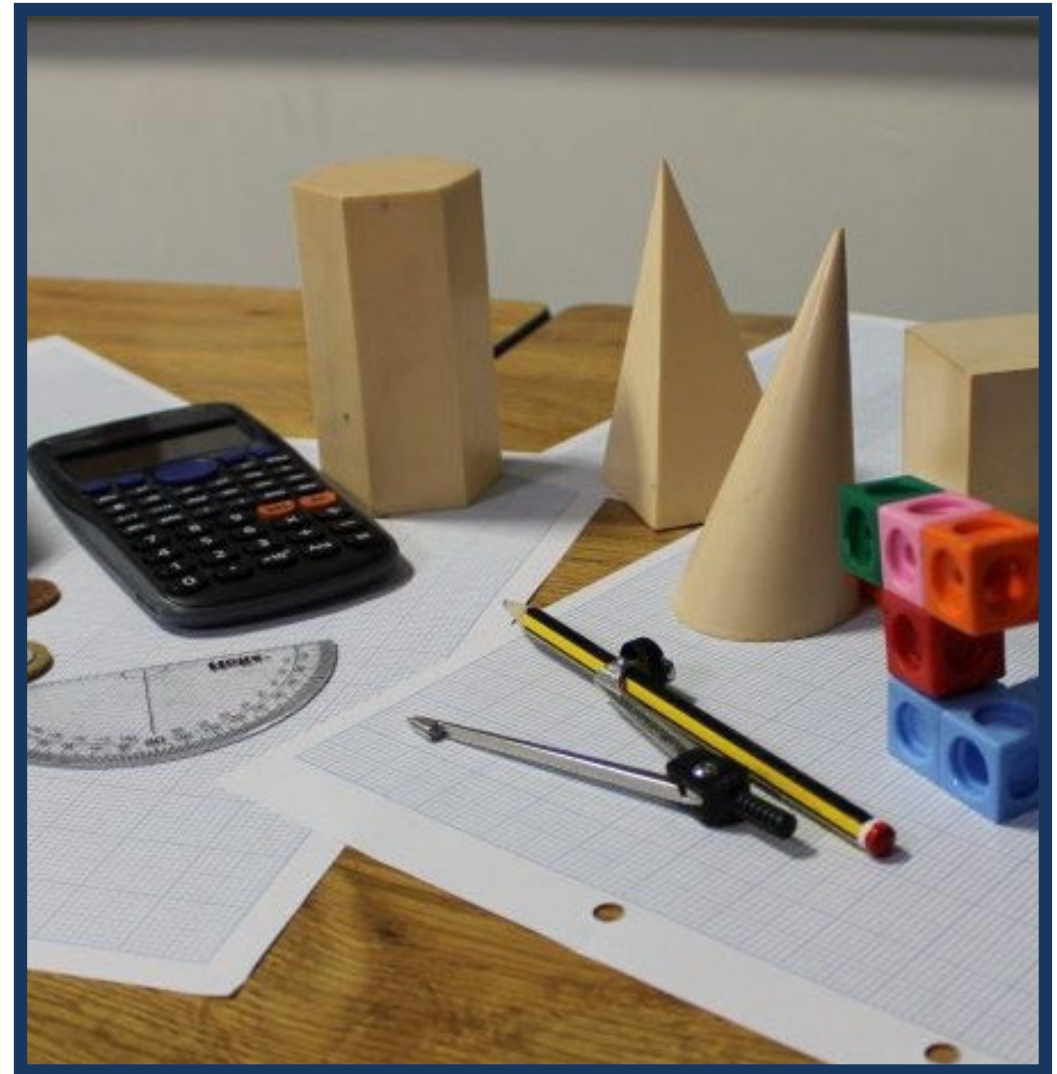
## What could I study Post 16?

Many scholars 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 scholars who have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE.

## What do other scholars think about the course?

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

"I enjoy being stretched beyond GCSE Maths."





# Year 8 Careers Advice – who can help you?

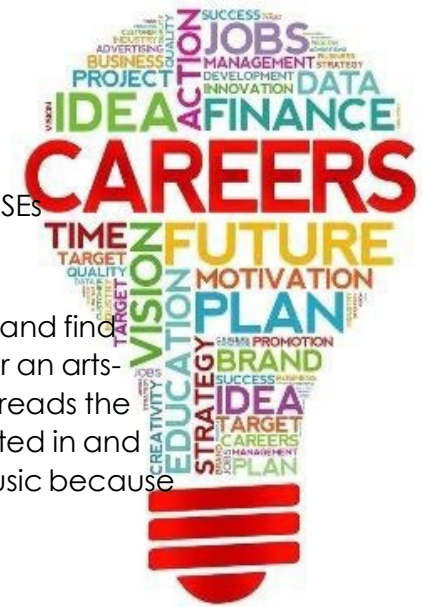
Selecting your Options subjects is a very exciting milestone; getting to choose some of the subjects means you have more control over your education. There will be an Options Information Evening and you will also have a one-to-one Options interview with a member of the Options Team to help make the right choices for you. Additionally, you will have an assembly, the content of this booklet, and your tutors for guidance.

## How do I know what to choose for my desired career?

If you already have a clear idea of what you think you would like to do, the best way to decide which GCSEs courses to choose is to work backwards:

1. Research what kind of degree, apprenticeship or training you will need in order to access your chosen career, and then look at the entry requirements for that.
2. When you know what A levels, apprenticeships or training you need to do from 16-18, look at which GCSEs they require. You can do this using any desired college, 6<sup>th</sup> form or training provider's website.

**Example:** Jo knows they want to go into Product Design. They search university courses and apprenticeships and find that although the entry requirements vary depending on the course, for all of them, they need to study either an arts-based subject or a design technology subject at GCSE. Jo then looks at the options on offer in the booklet, reads the course outline and looks at how they're assessed. They then choose the one they think they are most interested in and would get the best grade in, and confirm this with the teacher. For their other options subject, Jo chooses music because they play an instrument and know they will enjoy it and do well in it.



## What if I have no idea about a career path yet?

This is perfectly natural! You're still very young, and it's probable that you'll change careers a number of times when you're older. The key is to keep your options open and choose subjects you enjoy and in which know you will do well. This will enable you to access a range of next steps. It's advisable to choose subjects that aren't too similar; we've done some of the work for you here because you already have a language and a humanities option. You may want to choose one additional classroom-based option and one practical subject, to ensure you have a wide and varied curriculum.



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

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

- L1 Vocational (one year course) = 4 GCSEs at grade 2 or above, normally including English Language and Maths
- L2 Vocational (one year course) = 5 GCSEs at grade 3 or above, including English Language and Maths
- L3 Vocational (two year course) = 5 GCSEs (includes L2 BTEC equivalent) at grade 4 or above, including English Language and Maths (L3 Vocational is equivalent to A levels and will allow access to many universities)
- T Levels = 6 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English Language and Maths
- **A Levels = 8 GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English Language and Maths (grade 6 in specific subjects may be required depending on A level subjects chosen)**

**NOTE:** Due to Exeter College entry requirements, it is not recommended for students to take more than one Technical qualification if they intend to take A-Levels at post-16.

\*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 results will be 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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