St Benedict's
Catholic High School

Key Stage 4 Curriculum 2019 - 2021

A Sense of Faith

THE KEY STAGE 4 (AND BEYOND) CURRICULUM 2019-2021

We at St Benedict's understand the importance of supporting your child through the choices that will determine their journey through the next stage of their school experience. The option process has been designed to provide the structure, advice and guidance needed to make informed decisions about the qualifications that will be studied. We advise students to maintain a broad and balanced choice of subjects to ensure that future pathways are kept open. Although career direction and particular interests are important, we believe that studying subjects that students enjoy also plays an important role when making option choices. Students are more likely to succeed if they choose subjects that they enjoy and have a strong interest in. The time line below sets out the important events and dates that make up this process.

Information, Advice and Guidance leading to Option Choices for KS4	
30th November	World of Work day. A chance for students to work with employers and careers advisers.
1st February	Option process introduced to Year 9 students at assembly.
4h February	Option Booklet issued
7th February	Options Evening for parents and students 6.00 – 7.30pm.
18th February	HALF TERM
4th March	Year 9 Reports issued
7th March	Progress Review Evening
11th March	Deadline for the completion of Options forms.

PATHWAYS TO SUCCESS AT KEY STAGE 4 (AND BEYOND)

It is important to realise that subject choices made now constitute a serious commitment for two years. We strongly advise that you and your child discuss the options process very carefully.

In Years 10 and 11 there are three main curriculum pathways. These are designed to ensure a realistic and appropriate curriculum for every student. Each pathway contains a list of compulsory subjects (Core) and option choices.

The school will recommend the pathway that we feel is most suitable for your child. We take a number of measures into account to make this recommendation, including your child's prior attainment at Key Stage 2 and their current assessment grades, showing the progress they have made, as well as their CAT scores that give an indication of student's academic abilities.

Whichever pathway students follow they will study the Core subjects:

English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Religious Education and at least Combined Science (2 GCSEs). Students will also have PE/games lessons throughout Years 10 and 11.

Some students will wish to study a group of subjects known as 'The English Baccalaureate'. To achieve this they would need to choose at least one of History or Geography **and** at least one of French, or Spanish and gain a good pass in these subjects as well as English, Mathematics and Science. The school's pathways allow students to achieve this group of subjects.

Depending upon their recommended pathway students will have a choice of subjects to study in addition to the core. The subjects that all students can choose from are Geography, History, French, Spanish, Art and Design, Business and Enterprise Studies, Hospitality and Catering, Design Technology, Engineering, Health and Social Care, Childcare and Development, Performing Arts, PE/Sports Studies.

These subjects could be at GCSE or an equivalent qualification. Your child's subject teacher will ensure that they follow the appropriate course for them to succeed in line with their potential.

Decisions about secondary education will probably be the most important decision you and your child have yet to make in their school career. I hope that you will take advantage of the information provided so that together we can make the right decisions.

Where appropriate, Computer Science and Separate Sciences (Triple) are available for some students. If these are suitable for you they will be indicated on your pathway letter.

It is worth noting that it is not a requirement to study the Separate Sciences (Triple) at GCSE for you to study Science subjects at A-Level. The Combined Science that all students study also prepares students for A-Level.

Mr S Bridgman

Acting Headteacher

GCSE English (Literature and Language)

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study English?

English is a valuable subject for all students. Studying how language is used in literary and non-fiction text helps students to become better communicators. By developing your skills in English through reading, writing, speaking and listening you will become a competent user of English. This means you will be better prepared for the future where a qualification in English is a basic requirement for the world of work, or will allow you to progress to Higher Education.

You will study:

A variety of books, plays and poems;
A variety of non-fiction texts including on-line and traditional newspaper/magazine articles.

You will learn:

How to understand and use spoken English more effectively to present ideas;
How to write and speak effectively for different purposes and audiences;
How to read, understand and use different types of printed texts.

All students will be studying English Language and Literature as 2 separate GCSEs.

Assessment:

Students are assessed at the end of Year 11 with two English Language exams and two Literature exams.

Students will graded from 1- 9.

LANGUAGE

Paper One: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing.

Paper Two: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives.

LITERATURE

Paper One: Shakespeare and the Nineteenth Century Novel.

Paper Two: Modern Texts and Poetry.

Departmental Contact: Mrs P Proctor, Subject Leader or Mrs T Bishop, Second in Department.

GCSE Mathematics

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Mathematics?

GCSE Mathematics is a qualification that is required by most employers and is often compulsory for entry to further or higher education, and so it is an important subject for you to study. Mathematics requires logical thinking and analytical skills that can be used in everyday life.

You will study:

Number;
Algebra;
Ratio, proportion and rates of change;
Geometry and measures;
Probability;
Statistics.

You will learn the following skills:

Numeracy;
Logical thinking;
Problem-solving techniques;
How to work independently.

Assessment:

There is a choice between two levels of entry: Foundation and Higher. The grades available range from 1 to 9. The Foundation Tier will give access to grades 1-5, and the Higher Tier grades 4-9. The entry tier will be decided by the Subject Leader after consultation with class teachers. The majority of students will continue to study at the entry tier recommended at the start of their GCSE course. However, individual performance will be monitored and, if appropriate, students will move tiers.

Examination:

The Maths GCSE is a linear course, meaning that all students will sit exams at the end of Year 11.

Departmental Contact: Mrs A Mulrain, Head of Mathematics

GCSE RE

Important Information

Exam Board: Educas

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Religious Studies?

A GCSE in Religious Studies is firstly a respected qualification. It will sit alongside your other GCSE subjects and provide the foundation for your next step in life. Secondly, and perhaps more importantly, it will help you with the issues that we all have to face throughout our life. It will give you the opportunity to explore your own solutions to moral problems and to have these views explored and countered and thirdly, these modules fulfil the content requirements of the Curriculum Directory of the Bishops of England and Wales.

In Year 10 you will study fundamental Catholic Theology & Judaism

The unit is made up of two modules. These modules are entitled: Origins and Meanings & Good and Evil. During this course we will be discussing all of the central questions of life and how the Catholic Church responds to these issues such as "Does God exist?" and "Why do bad things happen to good people?" You will also study the beliefs and practices of another world religion, Judaism.

In Year 11 you will study Unit 10: Applied Catholic Theology

The unit is made up of two modules. These modules are entitled: Life and Death & Sin and Forgiveness. During this course we will be discussing all of the central questions of life and how the Catholic Church responds to these issues such as 'Why do we celebrate Christmas and Easter?" and "How should we live our lives?" You will also deal with issues surrounding respect and active citizenship.

You will learn about:

Understanding of the beliefs, values and traditions of the Catholic Church and the wider Christian tradition.
The influence of the beliefs, values and traditions of the Catholic Church.
Catholic and Christian responses to moral issues, e.g. Abortion, Euthanasia, etc.

You will learn the following skills:

Recall, selection, organisation, deployment of the specified content.
Showing the nature, relevance and application of issues through the skills of description, analysis and logical argument.
Evaluation skills and how faith influences individuals, communities and societies.
Developing your personal faith and understand your journey of faith.
Communication.

Assessment:

Three exams at the end of Year 11 worth 33.3% each. Exams last between 1 hour and 1 hour 30 minutes.

Departmental Contact: Mrs G Rush, Acting Subject Leader for RE

Combined Science

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Combined Science?

The most recent changes to the Key Stage 4 Science Curriculum will encourage you to engage in up-to-date and relevant science. It will enable you to build, explore and apply your understanding of science. This is often referred to as 'Working Scientifically". We will be integrating current scientific issues, as they appear in the media, into your science lessons and will provide you and your teachers with opportunities for discussion and debate of various topical science issues.

You will study and learn:

- How to develop the skill of practical collection of data;
- The importance of enhancing your scientific literacy through developing your abilities to critically engage with science in the media;
- The skill of presenting and analysing scientific information;
- The way understanding of science changes over time and the applications of contemporary scientific developments.

Our aim is:

- To provide you with a science education which is challenging and exciting;
- For you to have a greater understanding of the relevance and importance of Science both now and in your life after school.

Science is a core subject, and as such, everyone must study science at GCSE.

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

All three subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are taught leading to two GCSEs (giving grades like 9-9 or 7-6 or 5-5). Students will not be excluded from choosing any of the A Level sciences but must bear in mind that the science content of all three sciences are not covered in as much detail when compared to the 3 separate sciences option. **This is not an option choice**.

Assessment:

The new course is linear with no coursework so all of the assessment is at the end of Year 11. There will be six one hour fifteen minute papers, two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics. They each contribute 16.7% of the overall grade and each is worth seventy marks. Each of the exam papers is available at Foundation or Higher tier.

The course contains compulsory practical tasks. There will be questions related to these tasks in the examinations.

Departmental Contact: Mrs Thomason, Deputy Subject Leader, Mr Poddington, Head of Chemistry or Mrs Kelso, Assistant Headteacher STEM

GCSE Art & Design

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Art and Design?
GCSE Art and Design provides students with a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in ways that are both personally relevant and developmental in nature. Possibilities for personal expression are endless. The qualification can lead to art and design related employment or to Higher Education Courses such as A Level Art and Design, which in their turn can lead to a Degree course. The Website www.studentartguide.com gives a list of 150 art related career paths leading to employment including; Advertising, Web Designers, Computer Games Designers, Fashion Designers, Illustrators, Architects, Teaching, Product Graphic Designers, Interior Designers etc.

Course topics and subject areas:
The GCSE general course enables students to experience a wide range of processes, materials and techniques. As part of the critical/historical element they study either a historical or contemporary artist or designer whose work is linked with their own. The Controlled Assessment includes the following areas: Drawing / Painting, Printmaking, Sculpture, 3D Design, Graphics and Textiles.

You will learn how to:

Understand the world of art, craft and design and relate it to your work;
Investigate possibilities through observation, analysis and experimentation;
Express and record personal ideas by developing skills in using two and/or three dimensional materials;
Present your work to its best advantage.

Assessment: Controlled Assessment, set and marked by the Centre

Unit 1: Portfolio of work (Controlled Assessment) - 60 per cent, in which we do two projects titled Art and Words and Fragmentation.
Unit 2: Externally set task - 40 per cent.

Students have the choice of over seven starting points; for example Spirals and Rituals are two that were on this year's exam question sheet.

Externally set task
The externally set task will last for ten hours and consists of preparatory studies, development work and a conclusion. You will be given around 10 weeks to produce developmental work and preparatory work inspired by one of several starting points. In the examination you will produce a final piece.

Departmental Contact: Mrs R Longbone, Subject Leader

Business and Enterprise

(BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise)

Important Information

Exam Board: Edexcel

Type of Course: Vocational

Grading System: Level 1 Pass to Level 2 Distinction

Information about the subject

Why study Business and Enterprise?

All businesses need enterprising employees to drive their organisations forward, to have ideas and initiatives to instigate growth, and to ensure that businesses survive in this fast-changing world. Business and Enterprise is a key government focus and is set to form an important part of the UK's global economic status, both now and in the future. Business and Enterprise skills provide a fantastic progression pathway into a number of roles in all types of business organisations.

As the BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise is a practical introduction to life and work as a business person, you will:

Develop an ability to plan and carry out a business enterprise activity.
Develop the knowledge and skills that can affect the performance of a business enterprise.

What can it lead to?

- A Levels in Business Studies or Business and Enterprise.
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Business or Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, which prepares you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the business sector.

Assessment:

You must complete all three units/components to reach the total of 120 guided learning hours (GLH). Each unit takes about 30 hours.

Units/components to be studied:

Component 1: Exploring Enterprises (worth 30% of course). This will be a project based assignment - assessed by your teacher in school. You will examine the characterises of business enterprises, explore how market research helps business enterprises meet customer needs, understand competitor behaviour and investigate the factors that contribute to the success of a business enterprise.

Component 2: Planning for and pitching an enterprise activity (worth 30% of course). The aim of this unit, is to select a business idea to plan and pitch your ideas to others. This will include looking at the product / service, pricing ideas, promotion ideas, staffing, location choices and finance for the business idea. This will be a unit assessed by your teacher in school.

Component 3: Promotion and Finance for Enterprise (worth 40% of the course). This unit will require you to undertake an assessment, which will be completed under exam conditions and be marked by the examination board. You will be provided with a case study of a small to medium business enterprise and complete a series of activities based around promotion; advertising and finance for a business enterprise.

The BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH) - the same as a GCSE. This BTEC qualification is the **equivalent to a GCSE** at Level 1/2 - Level 2 Pass (4); Merit (5/6), Distinction (7) and Distinction * (9)

Departmental Contact: Mr C Redhead, Subject Leader or Mr Charlton, Business and Enterprise teacher.

GCSE Computer Science

Important Information

Exam Board: OCR

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Computer Science?

GCSE Computer Science is a course designed to deepen your understanding of how computers and computer systems work. The subject provides a powerful training tool to enable you to competently solve everyday problems through developing your own programs. It also helps you to further develop your understanding of how computers are used for everyday tasks, including online banking, streaming entertainment or communicating with somebody at the other side of the world. GCSE Computer Science is designed to enable you to broaden your technical understanding and give you the technical skills to prepare for the world of tomorrow.

You will study:

The course is split into 3 parts:

Unit 1 - Theory – Computer Systems

You will investigate in depth how the hardware components that make a computer system, including the CPU work and explore how it processes Information. You will learn about system architecture, Memory, Storage and System software. You will also investigate the moral, social, legal, cultural and environmental issues surrounding use of computer systems, and how computers connect together using networks, including the Internet.

Unit 2 – Theory – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

You will build on the knowledge gained in the first unit. You will investigate and design algorithms and investigate new programming techniques, such as how to produce robust programs. Computational logic, translators and data representation will also be covered in this unit.

Unit 3 – Programming Project

The third unit will focus on programming. You will build on your programming skills developed during Years 8 and 9 and use that knowledge to code solutions to problems. You will be taught how algorithms can be used to design and plan sequences of instructions to problem solve. You will also investigate the fundamentals of programming, such as using variables, selection and iteration, and how to correct errors in your coding. During the unit you will be required to undertake a controlled task, set by the exam board.

Assessment:

There are 3 units in the GCSE Computer Science course: -

Unit 1/Component 1 - Computer Systems Theory - assessed by a 1 hour 30 mins examination worth 40% of the overall mark.

Unit 2/Component 2 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming Theory - assessed by a 1 hour 30 mins examination worth 50% of the overall mark.

Unit 3/Component 3 - Controlled Assessment Task - Programming Project. This project will last approximately 20 hours and is a requirement to complete the course successfully.

Departmental Contact: Mr C Redhead, Subject Leader

GCSE Design & Technology

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Design Technology?
This new qualification is modern and relevant, it allows you to learn about contemporary technologies, materials and processes, as well as established practices. There is particular emphasis on understanding and applying iterative design processes (design, model, evaluate, repeat). You will use your creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes that solve real and relevant problems, considering your own and others' needs, wants and values. GCSE Design and Technology will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will get the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. The course allows you to study core technical, designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth. There is a natural progression from KS3, the course provides a suitable preparation for an A-Level in Product Design and allows for a wide range of career opportunities.

You will study:
- New and emerging technologies – industry, enterprise, sustainability, people, culture, society, environment, production techniques and systems and how the critical evaluation of new and emerging technologies informs design decisions.
- Energy generation and storage – fossil fuels, nuclear power, renewable energy and energy storage systems including batteries.
- Developments in new materials – modern materials, smart materials, composite materials and technical materials.
- Systems approach to designing – inputs, processes and outputs.
- Mechanical devices – different types of movement and changing magnitude and direction of force.
- Materials and their working properties.
- Specialist technical principles.

You will:
Produce a design brief and specification, generate design ideas, develop design ideas, making, analyse & evaluate. You will also improve your ICT skills, learn and develop further CAD and CAM skills, work in a hands on way to develop core skills, develop your awareness of consumer requirements, and learn about career paths in Design and Technology.

Assessment:
Paper 1:
A two hour written exam that has 100 marks and is worth 50% of the GCSE.
The question paper is slpit into three sections.
Section A – Core technical principles (20 marks). A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a range of technical knowledge and understanding.
Section B – Specialist technical principles (30 marks). Several short answer questions and one extended response to assess a more in depth knowledge.
Section C – Designing and making principles (50 marks). A mixture of short answer and extended response questions.

Non-exam assessment (NEA):
A non-exam assessment (NEA) where students will spend 30-35 hours completing a substantial design and make task. The NEA carries another 100 marks and is worth the other 50% of the GCSE. Students will need to identify and investigate design possibilities. You will produce a prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

Departmental Contact: Mrs L Collins , Mr Jackson or Mr Scally.

Level 1/2 Engineering

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: Vocational

Grading System: Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction*

Information about the subject

Why study Engineering?
The UK is regarded as a world leader in engineering, which covers a wide range of exciting and rapidly developing areas such as renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, and automotive. People with engineering skills are always in demand, especially here in West Cumbria. Between 2010 and 2020, engineering companies are projected to have 2.74 million job openings.

Gaining a qualification in engineering will give you access to a vast array of career and further education opportunities. Engineering is about turning great ideas into reality using a range of problem solving and creative techniques. This course will give you the perfect opportunity to utilise and embed learning from your three core subjects, English, maths and science. It is important that you have a lively and enquiring mind, the ability to tackle complex problem-solving activities and the ability to take responsibility for your own independent learning and wider reading. An interest in engineering, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively will be essential qualities of an engineering student.

Areas of study:

- development of key engineering practical and technical skills, such as research,
- observation, measurement, making, disassembly and using industry standard Computer-Aided Design (CAD);
- knowledge of key engineering sectors (mechanical, electrical/electronic, engineering design and communications) and the interrelation of each in industry;
- knowledge of the stages involved in planning and implementing an engineering project;
- knowledge and skills involved in the investigation of solutions to engineering problems in response to a given brief.

You will:

- be learning in both the classroom and in the workshop;
- have an opportunity to learn in a practical / contextualised way by applying your skills in work related situations;
- develop knowledge and understanding of engineering;
- use computers and CNC equipment to design, calculate, make and write illustrated reports;
- develop key skills that are highly valued by local employers and further education;
- carry out a range of activities including investigations into different aspects of engineering industries;
- be involved in the design, making and investigation of engineered products that will support applications to apprentice training programmes such as Gen 2.

Assessment Units:
1 - Exploring Engineering Sectors and Design applications
2 - Investigating an Engineering Project
3 - Responding to an Engineering Brief

Units 1 and 2 are assessed as a portfolio of evidence: investigation, design and practical work.
Unit 3 is assessed externally in the form of a written and practical exam.

Departmental Contact: Mr S Scally / Mr G Jackson / Mrs L Collins

GCSE French

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study French?
Studying French will help you communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand the language in speech and writing. It will benefit you when you come into contact with French speaking people, both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where French is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people of your own age in these countries. A qualification in a foreign language is very useful and is increasingly desirable for many jobs.

You will study French in relation to the following themes:
Relationships with family & friends, technology in everyday life, free time activities, social issues, global issues, travel & tourism, work & education.
You will learn the following skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing

Assessment:
You will take a paper in each of the 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing.

There are two entry levels, Foundation or Higher Tier.

Paper 1 Listening - 25% Foundation Tier - 35 minutes
Higher Tier - 45 minutes

You will listen to announcements, short conversations, instructions, short news items and telephone messages etc. in French on a CD that has pauses to give you time to write your answers.

Paper 2 Speaking Test - 25% Foundation Tier 7-9 minutes
Higher Tier 10-12 minutes

You will complete a role play, a photo card discussion and a general conversation based on stimulus materials. Marks will be awarded for communication, knowledge & use of language, range & accuracy of language, pronunciation and fluency

Paper 3 Reading - 25% Foundation Tier - 45 minutes
Higher Tier – 1 hour

The examination paper will consist of short items such as instructions, public notices and advertisements together with extracts from brochures, guides, letters, faxes, e-mail and web sites. You will give answers mainly in English or as multiple-choice and there will also be a short translation from French into English.

Paper 4 Writing - 25% Foundation Tier – 1 hour
Higher Tier – 1 hour 15 minutes

The writing component consists of differentiated tasks such as a message, a short passage, a short translation from English into French and a structured writing task of approximately 90 words at foundation tier. Students taking the higher tier paper are expected to complete an open ended writing task of approximately 150 words in addition to a short translation.

Departmental Contact: Mr A Arins, Subject Leader

GCSE Geography

Important Information

Exam Board: Edexcel

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Geography?
This GCSE (9–1) qualification encourages learners to think like geographers through the study of geographical themes applied within the context of the UK and the wider world. "Without Geography - You are Nowhere!" Or to quote Michael Palin, **"Geography holds the key to our future".**

What qualities do I need to study GCSE Geography?
You should have a keen interest in the world around you. Geography is topical, so encouraging your child to watch the news or documentaries like "Planet Earth" and read newspapers, will help inform them of the issues facing the World. Geography is full of opinions, so debating controversial topics is a way of training the Geographer within. You should be prepared to work hard & research topics.

Where will Geography take me?
Geographers recognise that everything is connected. Where do your relatives live? Which countries provide your food? Where were your Christmas presents manufactured? How can we manage flood risk? Why are some countries poor?

Geography could lead you to exciting career prospects. It is one of the most versatile subjects as it bridges the gap between arts and science subjects. It could take you into the Travel Industry, Environment Agency, River Authorities, Forestry, Planning and Highways Department, Management, Military or Teaching. You may also wish to continue your studies with us in the sixth form at A-level.

The Geography course at St Benedict's aims to foster your enthusiasm for the world around us, to stimulate your interest in global issues and arouse your curiosity. The qualification gives a prominent position to **fieldwork** and other geographical skills whilst ensuring they are embedded within teaching & learning.

You will study:
The course follows the EDEXCEL A syllabus, studying **a wide range of** geographical themes: The changing landscapes of the UK; weather hazards and climate change; Ecosystems, biodiversity & management; Changing cities; Global development; Resources management and Geographical investigations.

You will learn:
- To develop a knowledge and understanding of current events from the local to those worldwide;
- to investigate the earth and its peoples – economic development and life in the city;
- to study the features of the earth - such as rivers, seas, ecosystems and environmental threats;
- to develop a range of useful skills such as map reading, data collection, GIS, ICT & problem solving;
- to gain an understanding and appreciation of the cultures and backgrounds of people from all over the world and the ways they live and work.

Assessment and Examination:
Success will depend on how hard you work but your teacher will work with you to help you achieve. The course is assessed through 3 examinations:

Component 1: The Physical Environment = 37.5%, Component 2: The Human Environment = 37.5%, Component 3: Geographical investigations: Fieldwork & UK Challenges = 25%.

Departmental Contact: Mrs J Lee, Subject Leader

Hospitality and Catering Level 1/2

Important Information

Exam Board: WJEC (Eduqas)

Type of Course: Vocational

Grading System: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Information about the subject

Why study Hospitality and Catering?

The WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study.

It is made up of 40% exam and 60% controlled assessment.

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. This course is designed for students who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study.

Through the two units, learners will gain an overview of the hospitality and catering industry and the type of job roles that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression.

You will study:

- The environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate.
- How hospitality and catering provision operates.
- How hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements.
- Knowing how food can cause ill health.
- Being able to propose a hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements.
- The importance of nutrition when planning menus.
- Menu planning.
- Being able to cook dishes through knowledge of ingredients.

You will:

- Develop your practical and technical skills in food preparation, cooking and methods of presentation.
- Learn how to work on your own and as part of a team.
- Investigate food and its functions.
- Demonstrate an understanding of health and safety in relation to the catering industry.
- Show knowledge of nutrition, healthy eating and special diets when planning menus.
- Prepare and cook using professional skills.
- Learn how to use a range of specialist equipment safely.
- Plan and produce dishes for a purpose.

You will complete 2 mandatory units:

Unit 1 - Exam : The Hospitality and Catering Industry. This is 1 hour 30 minutes long. Worth 40% of the grade.

Unit 2 - Controlled Assessment: Hospitality and Catering in Action. Worth 60% of the grade.
This unit is internally assessed through a portfolio of evidence and a three hour practical exam.

Departmental Contact: Mr A Boal

Cambridge National in Health and Social Care Level 1/2

Important Information

Exam Board: OCR

Type of Course: Vocational

Grading System: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Information about the subject

Why Study Health and Social Care?

This will probably be a new subject to you but it will help you to understand Health, Social and Early Years Care. The course will allow you to progress into further education or employment. Some employment possibilities include Nursery Nurse, Care Assistant, Child minder and Nursery Assistant it is also useful for students thinking about a career in the Police Force. This qualification can also contribute towards meeting entry requirements for training in for example nursing, occupational health and counselling.

Who Is This Course For?

The course is open to all students and is suited to both boys and girls. Students will need to be hard working, motivated and have the ability to meet deadlines. It is also important that you can work alone and as part of a group.

Assessment:

Four units of work will be completed over two years. In Year 10 the two units are mandatory which means you must study them. In Year 11 you study two units from the optional units:

Year 10:

Essential values of care for use with individuals in care settings. (Written Paper)
This unit covers the following topics:

Values of care
Aspects of Legislation including Equality 2010 Act and Mental Health Act 2007
Personal health/hygiene and health and safety

Communicating and working with individuals in health, social care and early years settings. (CCA)
This unit covers the following topics

- Communicating effectively within a health, social or early years setting
- Understand the personal qualities required to work effectively in health, social and early years settings

Year 11 (All CCA):

Understanding body systems
Pathways for providing care in health, social care and early years settings
Understanding life stages
Creative activities to support individuals in health, social and early years settings
Understanding the development and protection of young children in an early years setting
Understanding the nutrients needed for good health
Using basic first aid procedures

Departmental contact: Mrs D Ashbridge

Cambridge National in Childcare Level 1/2

Important Information

Exam Board: OCR

Type of Course: Vocational

Grading System: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Information about the subject

Why Study Child Development?

This will probably be a new subject to you but it will help you to understand the essential knowledge of child development. This will include topics such as parental responsibility, reproduction, antenatal care, birth, child safety, nutrition and stages of play. The course will allow you to progress into further education or employment. Some employment possibilities include Nursery Nurse, Care Assistant, Child Minder, Teaching Assistant, Play Therapist and Nursery Assistant it is also useful for students thinking about a career in Teaching. This qualification can also contribute towards meeting entry requirements for training in for example Nursing, Occupational Health and Counselling.

Who Is This Course For?

The course is open to all students and is suited to both boys and girls. Students will need to be hard working, motivated and have the ability to meet deadlines. It is also important that you can work alone and as part of a group.

Assessment:

Four units of work will be completed over two years. In Years 10 and 11 you will complete two centre assessed tasks (CCA) and 1 written exam.

R018: Health and well-being for child development. (Written Paper)
This unit covers the following topics:

- Factors affecting the decision to have children
- Pre-conceptual health
- Role of parenthood
- Reproduction
- Professionals supporting the pregnant mother
- Routine and diagnostic tests
- Birth
- The newborn baby

R019: Understand the equipment and nutritional needs of children birth to five years. (CCA)
This unit covers the following topics:

You will investigate the different equipment and nutritional requirements of children birth to five years. You will also complete a practical task for this unit.

R020: Understand the development of a child from birth to five years. (CCA):
This unit covers the following topics:

- Physical development
- Intellectual development
- Emotional development
- Social development
- The benefits of play

Departmental contact: Mrs D Ashbridge

GCSE History

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study History?
Answer: It's fun, it's interesting and it deals with the important themes and ideas that have created the world and culture that you live in today! Studying History shows you how people have always struggled with the really important questions in life: survival, family, art, war, politics, religion, health, racism and science, to name just a few. You will learn about the successes and the failures, the advances and the set-backs. You will see how studying History can give you an understanding of the past and might also give you ideas about how to lead your life now and in the future. This course will also help you to develop skills which will be useful in a wide range of jobs or in the further study of History.

You will study:
Paper One: Understanding the Modern World.
In Section A of Paper One, you will have a chance to study one of the following two options:
America between 1840 and 1895: You will investigate a period of dramatic change in American history as the Plains Indians are drawn into conflict with the settlers who begin to move onto their lands.
OR
Germany 1890-1945: This option focuses on the development of Germany during a turbulent half century of change which saw the development and collapse of democracy and the rise and fall of Nazism.
In Section B of Paper One, you will examine the causes, nature and conclusion of the First World War, the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, the Battle of the Somme and the technological developments of the war are all investigated.

Paper Two: Shaping the Nation.
In Section A of Paper Two, you will study the medicine used to keep people healthy from the Middle Ages to the present day. This is a fascinating topic that will constantly have you saying,"They used to do what?!"
In Section B of Paper Two, you will investigate Elizabethan England and how Elizabeth I navigated the threats to her rule. You will then apply your knowledge of Elizabethan England to a specific site identified by AQA

You will learn the following skills:
How to interpret and evaluate pieces of information (sources).
How to communicate and apply your knowledge.
How to describe and analyse the key features of the period studied.
Critical thinking and problem solving.

During all your studies, you will have the opportunity to use photographs, films, paintings, videos, ICT, newspapers and many other original and intriguing sources.

Assessment:
The GCSE History course is based on two exams worth 50% each. The exams are 1 hour 45 minutes in length.

e exam papers will assess your knowledge and understanding and this will be done through a mixture of short and long essay style answers and source based questions. They are the same types of questions that you have been asked to do in your history lessons this year so there won't be any nasty surprises

Departmental Contact: Miss S Coan, Subject Leader

Performing Arts (BTEC)

Important Information

Exam Board: Edexcel

Type of Course: Vocational

Grading System: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Information about the subject

Why study Performing Arts?
This is an excellent opportunity for you to belong to a rapidly expanding department at St Benedict's. In studying BTEC Performing Arts, you will have the chance to develop your skills, knowledge and understanding of dance, acting, musical theatre, production or musical performance.

The Edexcel BTEC Level 2 Tech in Performing Arts has been designed primarily for young people aged 14 to 19 who may wish to explore a vocational route throughout Key Stage 4.

The knowledge and skills you gain from part of this course will give you confidence to apply for a wide range of jobs or college courses and you will develop essential skills that will help you in everyday life.

You will study:
Core Unit 1: Exploring the Performing Arts - 30% (Internally assessed)
In this unit you will develop your understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance. You will develop your understanding of the requirements of being an actor, dancer or musical theatre performer across a range of performances and performance styles.

Core Unit 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts - 30% (Internally assessed)
In this unit you will develop your performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of acting, dance and/or musical theatre repertoire. You will specialise in one of the disciplines to develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process.

Core Unit 3: Performing to a Brief – 40% (Externally assessed)
You will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus.

You will learn:
- To understand the skills required for the selected progression opportunity
- To present a self-promotional response to the selected progression opportunity
- To take part in the preparations for a live performance
- To demonstrate performance or production skills and techniques in a performance

You may also have the opportunity to:
- Take part in workshops with visiting performers.
- Go on trips to see performances at local or regional venues.
- Perform in local venues.

Assessment:
Unit 1 and Unit 2 are assessed internally, this is carried out through assignments. Unit 3 is externally assessed through a synoptic assessment. This takes the form of a set task taken under supervised conditions. At the end of the course students will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction grade.

Departmental Contact: Miss L Powe, Subject Leader or any Performing Arts teacher

Separate Sciences (Triple)

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Separate Sciences?

The most recent changes to the Key Stage 4 Science Curriculum will encourage you to engage in up-to-date and relevant science. It will enable you to build, explore and apply your understanding of Physics, Chemistry and Biology. This is often referred to as 'Working Scientifically'. We will be integrating current scientific issues, as they appear in the media, into your science lessons and will provide you and your teachers opportunities for discussion and debate of various topical science issues

You will study and learn:

- How to develop the skill of practical collection of data.
- The importance of enhancing your scientific literacy through developing your abilities to critically engage with science in the media.
- The skill of presenting and analysing scientific information.
- The way understanding of science changes over time and the applications of contemporary scientific developments.

Our aim:

- To provide you with a science education which is challenging and exciting.
- For you to have a greater understanding of the relevance and importance of Science both now and in your life after school.

Triple Science results in three separate GCSE's in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will count as one of your options. The grades are awarded separately and so it is possible to achieve a grade 9 for one GCSE whilst achieving a grade 5 for another. The three separate sciences provide excellent preparation for any of the 'A' Level sciences. It is an option for students who seek to explore science at a deeper level and may be considering a career in science, medicine, engineering or other science related areas. This option is aimed at those students who gain a grade 6 or above in their Science Teacher Assessment this year.

Assessment:

The new courses are linear with no coursework so all of the assessment is at the end of Year 11. There will be six one hour and forty five minute papers (two Biology, two Chemistry and two Physics). Each counts for 50% of the overall grade for their subject and have one hundred marks. Each of the exam papers is available at Foundation or Higher tier.

The course contains compulsory practical tasks. There will be questions related to these tasks in the examinations.

Departmental Contact: Mrs E Thomason, Deputy Subject Leader, Mr P Poddington, Head of Chemistry or Mrs K Kelso, Assistant Headteacher STEM

GCSE Spanish

Important Information

Exam Board: AQA

Type of Course: GCSE

Grading System: 9-1

Information about the subject

Why study Spanish?
Studying Spanish will help you communicate in the language, as well as helping you to understand the language in speech and writing. It will benefit you when you come into contact with Spanish speaking people, both at home and abroad. You will learn about the culture of countries where Spanish is spoken and will be able to communicate with young people of your own age in these countries. A qualification in a foreign language is very useful and is increasingly desirable for many jobs.

You will study Spanish in relation to the following themes:
Relationships with family & friends, technology in everyday life, free time activities, social issues, global issues, travel & tourism, work & education.

You will learn the following skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading, Writing

Assessment:
You will take a paper in each of the 4 skills: Listening, Speaking, Reading & Writing.

There are two entry levels, Foundation or Higher Tier.

Paper 1 Listening - 25% Foundation Tier - 35 minutes
Higher Tier - 45 minutes
You will listen to announcements, short conversations, instructions, short news items and telephone messages, etc. in Spanish on a CD that has pauses to give you time to write your answers.

Paper 2 Speaking Test - 25% Foundation Tier 7-9 minutes
Higher Tier 10-12 minutes
You will complete a role play, a photo card discussion and a general conversation based on stimulus materials. Marks will be awarded for communication, knowledge & use of language, range & accuracy of language, pronunciation and fluency.

Paper 3 Reading - 25% Foundation Tier - 45 minutes
Higher Tier – 1 hour
The examination paper will consist of short items such as instructions, public notices and advertisements together with extracts from brochures, guides, letters, faxes, e-mail and web sites. You will give answers mainly in English or as multiple-choice and there will also be a short translation from Spanish into English.

Paper 4 Writing - 25% Foundation Tier – 1 hour
Higher Tier – 1 hour 15 minutes
The writing component consists of differentiated tasks such as a message, a short passage, a short translation from English into Spanish and a structured writing task of approximately 90 words at foundation tier. Students taking the higher tier paper are expected to complete an open ended writing task of approximately 150 words in addition to a short translation.

Departmental Contact: Mr A Arins, Subject Leader

BTEC Sport (Level 1/2)

Important Information

Exam Board: Edexcel

Type of Course: Vocational

Grading System: Pass, Merit, Distinction

Information about the subject

Why study Sport?
The content of this BTEC Sport specification is designed to enable students to enjoy and understand the benefits of living a healthy and active lifestyle; to provide a route to further study in Further Education awards, such as BTEC L3 Sport and to Higher Education in PE as well as to related career opportunities.
The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Sport has been designed primarily for young people aged 14 to 19 who may wish to explore a vocational route throughout Key Stage 4, but it is also suitable for other learners who want a vocationally focused introduction to this area of study.

You will study:
Two core units and one optional unit

Core Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise (External)
In this unit you will:
- Know about the components of fitness and the principles of training.
- Explore different fitness training methods.
- Investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels.

Core Unit 2: Practical Sports Performance (Internal)
In this unit you will:
- Understand the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports.
- Practically demonstrate skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports.
- Be able to review sports performance.

Optional Specialist Unit: One of the units below is selected:
- Unit 3 The Mind and Sports Performance.
- Unit 4 The Sports Performer in Action.
- Unit 5 Training for Personal Fitness.
- Unit 6 Leading Sports Activities.

You may also have the opportunity to:
- Take part in out of school sports activities
- Go on trips to watch elite sports performance
- Visit local fitness establishments

Assessment:
Unit 1 is assessed externally through and exam while unit 2 and optional units are assessed internally. The assessment approach for the internally assessed units in the qualification structure enables learners to receive feedback on their progress throughout the course as they provide evidence towards meeting the unit assessment criteria. Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of activities, including workplace assessment, role play, practical performance and verbal presentations.

Departmental Contact: Miss L Powe, Subject Leader, or any Physical Education teacher