

ALUN SCHOOL



YSGOL ALUN

**Key Stage 4
Options Information**

Option Process

GCSE / BTEC Option Process

This term, Year 9 pupils will begin the process of choosing their KS4 subject options. At The Alun School, we are proud to offer a broad and balanced KS4 curriculum, and pupils are encouraged to select a range of subjects that suit their interests and abilities, support their educational development, and prepare them effectively for their future pathways.

Subject information sheets outlining course content and assessment details are available on The Alun School website:

<http://www.alunschool.co.uk/pages/parentsandstudents/year10options/index.html>

To support pupils in making these important decisions, tutor time will focus on key topics such as skills, qualities, decision-making, careers and aspirations. Pupils will also sign up to the Careers Wales website, which will enable them to create a personal profile and match their skills and interests to a wide range of professions. This website contains a wealth of information regarding subject options and careers, and we encourage you to view it together with your child:

<https://careerswales.gov.wales/courses-and-training/year-8-and-9-subject-options>

Initially, pupils will complete a subject interest survey at the beginning of February. This survey is intended to help pupils reflect on their interests and strengths and to support the school in making informed decisions when planning option blocks. Please note that this survey does not represent final option choices. Subject teachers will showcase their subjects and lead Q&A sessions during the week beginning 26th January.

The Options and Parents' Evening will take place on **Wednesday 25th March**. On **15th and 16th April**, pupils will submit their final option choices electronically during tutor time. Pupils will be required to select two choices, including a reserve option. While every effort is made to accommodate pupils' preferences, it may not be possible for all pupils to be allocated all of their first-choice subjects. For this reason, pupils are encouraged to consider their reserve choice carefully.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact us via email.

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Option Blocks

Core Curriculum (Compulsory)

All pupils follow the core curriculum. The core curriculum includes:

- GCSE English Language and Literature (Double Award)
- GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)
- GCSE Double Award Science or Separate Sciences
- GCSE Core Cymraeg
- GCSE Skills
- Physical Education – non-qualification. To achieve a GCSE, choose Physical Education in option 2
- Personal, Social Education and Religion, Values and Ethics will be taught through a planned programme of activities

Optional Subjects

Pupils choose a first and second choice from each option block. They will be allocated only ONE subject from each option block. Every endeavour will be made to ensure pupils are allocated their first choice.

* **Technology** - Pupils may only choose **one** subject from construction and product design.

<u>Option Block 1</u>	<u>Option Block 2</u>	<u>Option Block 3</u>
Art & Design - Fine Art or Graphics	Art & Design – Photography	Art & Design - Fine Art or Graphics
Business	Computer Science	Graphics
Digital Technology	Digital Media and Film GCSE	Business
Food and Nutrition	Geography	Food and Nutrition
French or German	Performing Arts (BTEC)	French or German
History	Physical Education	Health & Social Care
Media (BTEC)		History
Religious Studies		Music
Technology - Product Design		

GCSE English Language and Literature (Double Award)

The **GCSE English Language and Literature Double Award** enables you to appreciate how language connects you to the world around you, to engage with a rich range of texts from different periods and by diverse writers, and to develop and apply your own use of language, through written and verbal communication.

What will I study?

Unit 1 Context and Meaning – in Unit 1, you will study a range of poetry from the WJEC anthology, engaging with the concept of Context and Meaning.

Unit 2 Belonging – in Unit 2, you will study a prose text, engaging with the concept of Belonging and themes of community and citizenship.

Unit 3 Influence and Power – in Unit 3, you will study a range of non-fiction texts, engaging with the Influence and Power of writers, and how writers and speakers exert power and attempt to influence others.

Unit 4 Motivations – in Unit 4, you will have a choice to study a play or a prose text, engaging with the concept of Motivations of writers and characters, exploring reasons for attitudes, behaviours and beliefs.

Unit 5 Continuity and Change – in Unit 5, you will study a Shakespeare play and pre-20th LC poetry. You will consider the concept of Continuity and Change, and how attitudes, ideas and language have changed over time.

Unit 6 Connections – in Unit 6, you will study non-fiction texts, focusing on the concept of Connections. You will explore links between different texts, relating texts to time, place, language, and relationships.

How will I be assessed?

Units 1, 4b and 6 are examined units, together worth 60% of your qualification. Each exam lasts 90 minutes and will consist of low-tariff extract-based questions, an extended essay response and a piece of creative fiction or non-fiction writing.

Units 2, 3 and 5 are non-examined assessments, together worth 40% of your qualification. Each unit will consist of two tasks, one that will assess your written response to the relevant text(s) and one that will assess your oracy skills.

What Skills will I develop?

GCSE English Language and Literature is a core subject and as such helps to develop a wide range of skills for your future:

- Communication Skills – expressing yourself through clear and creative use of language
- Reading Skills – reading, listening to and researching a range of texts, analysing meaning and scrutinising reliability
- Contextual Analysis Skills – engaging with the significance of purpose, audience, and contexts of speaking, reading and writing
- Literacy Skills – developing and applying an understanding of grammar and uses of vocabulary.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award)

In **GCSE Mathematics & Numeracy**, you will build on the knowledge and understanding you have of topics within number, algebra, geometry, and data. You will be taught the key financial aspects of everyday adult life, such as dealing with payslips, bills, and savings. A good understanding of the content of this qualification is the perfect platform to those hoping to follow a STEM career

What will I study?

Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy

In this unit you will learn life lessons that will help you become a financially well-informed adult. Think about terms or acronyms you may have heard about like 'National Insurance', 'VAT' or 'AER' – these will become familiar to you. Financial opportunities and pitfalls will be addressed, and you will learn how to read important documents like payslips, bills and bank statements.

All sorts of other real-world contexts will also be taught and assessed, making this unit relevant and interesting.

Unit 2: Non-calculator

You will explore concepts where you won't need your calculator in this unit. You will deepen your understanding of probability and explore new ideas within algebra and geometry, like quadratic graphs and circle theorems.

Unit 3: Calculator-allowed

This unit has the biggest weighting of all three units, and you can have your calculator by your side. There is lots of data handling and statistics in this unit as well as new geometry concepts such as Pythagoras' Theorem and Trigonometry.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: Financial Mathematics and Other Applications of Numeracy	
Higher tier	Foundation tier
1 hour 45 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes
80 marks	65 marks
Weighting: 30% of the qualification	

Unit 2: Non-calculator	
Higher tier	Foundation tier
1 hour 45 minutes	1 hour 30 minutes
80 marks	65 marks
Weighting: 30% of the qualification	

Unit 3: Calculator-allowed	
Higher tier	Foundation tier
2 hours	1 hour 45 minutes
90 marks	75 marks
Weighting: 40% of the qualification	

What Skills will I develop?

- You will develop an understanding of the different areas of mathematics and how they relate to each other.
- You will extend your range of mathematical skills and techniques and be able to use and apply them to a range of real-life contexts.
- You will gain a strong foundation in financial mathematics to prepare you for life and work.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Separate Sciences

GCSE Separate Science will develop your understanding of scientific ideas.

You will use your detailed knowledge to consider how science is applied and used in the home, industry and in the environment. You will plan and carry out investigations and learn to evaluate your data. You will also use your scientific knowledge to discuss the benefits and drawbacks of scientific and technological developments.

Year 10		
Biology Unit 1	Chemistry Unit 1	Physics Unit 1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cells and movement across membranes Respiration and the respiratory system in humans Digestion and the digestive system in humans Circulatory system in humans Plants and photosynthesis Ecosystems, nutrient cycles And human impact on the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The nature of substances and chemical reactions Atomic structure and the Periodic table Water The ever-changing earth Rate of chemical change Limestone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electric Circuits Generating electricity Making use of energy Domestic electricity Features of waves, total internal reflection of waves and seismic waves Kinetic theory Electromagnetism
Year 11		
Biology Unit 2	Chemistry Unit 2	Physics Unit 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification and biodiversity Cell division and stem cells DNA and inheritance Variation and evolution Response and regulation Kidneys and homeostasis Micro-organisms and their applications Disease, defence and treatment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bonding, structure and properties Acids, bases and salts Metals and their extraction Chemical reactions and energy Crude oil, fuels and carbon compounds Reversible reactions, industrial processes and important chemicals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distance, speed and acceleration Newton's laws and further motion concepts Work and energy Stars, planets and the Universe Types of radiation Half-life, nuclear decay and nuclear energy

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC

Accreditation: GCSE Biology GCSE Chemistry GCSE Physics

Grades A* - G (in each subject) Higher Tier: Grades A* - D Foundation Tier: C - G

Year 10: Unit 1 - Biology Unit 1 - Chemistry Unit 1 - Physics

(1 hour 45 minutes written examinations for each subject that make up 45% of qualification)

Year 11: Unit 2 - Biology Unit 2 - Chemistry Unit 2 - Physics

(1 hour 45 minutes written examinations for each subject that make up 45% of qualification)

Unit 3: Practical Examination: Obtaining Results and Analysing and Evaluating Results.

The practical assessment is un tiered and will take place January/February of Year 11. You will be able to demonstrate your experimental and analytical skills through working scientifically. (10% of qualification)

Who is suitable for this course?

To be successful you will be required to be working at a very high level in Science in Year 9. You will also need to be highly motivated, hard-working and enjoy your science lessons.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Science Double Award

GCSE Science (Double Award) provides a broad and coherent course of study. It will encourage you to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, science and to recognise its importance in your own life and to society. This course is suitable for all Key Stage 4 learners. You will achieve two GCSEs in Science.

Year 10		
Unit 1 Biology – basis of life 14.3%	Unit 2 Chemistry – chemical substances and how they behave 14.3%	Unit 3 Physics – forces, motion and the universe 14.3%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cell structure & function • Metabolism • Systems • Interdependence of organisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matter • Electronic structure & periodicity • Rates of reaction • The Earth's essential resources 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion • Energy resources and efficiency • Forces • Waves • Our universe
Year 11		
Unit 4 Biology – continuity of life 15.7%	Unit 5 Chemistry – chemical bonding, reactions and resources 15.7%	Unit 6 Physics – waves, electricity and energy 15.7%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Biodiversity • Inheritance • Evolution • Control systems • Human health 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chemical bonding and structure • Acid reactions • Materials & their extraction • Crude oil 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Radioactivity • Waves • Electricity • Energy • Electromagnetism • The universe

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE (Double Award) Grades A*A* - G G

Higher Tier: Grades A* A* - D D

Foundation Tier: C C - G G

Year 10: Unit 1 - Biology Unit 2 - Chemistry Unit 3 - Physics

(1 hour 15 minutes written examinations for each subject that make up 42.9% of qualification)

Year 11: Unit 4- Biology Unit 5 - Chemistry Unit 6 – Physics

(1 hour 15 minutes written examinations for each subject that make up 47.1% of qualification)

Unit 7: Practical Examination: Obtaining Results and Analysing and Evaluating Results.

The practical assessment is un tiered and will take place Jan/Feb of Year 11. You will be able to demonstrate your experimental and analytical skills through working scientifically. (10% of qualification). This is un-tiered A* - G. This 10% could bring your grade up to a BC.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Core Cymraeg

GCSE Core Cymraeg

Do you want to be able to understand and use Welsh, the language of Wales, confidently and spontaneously? This is a qualification that can foster your curiosity, develop your language learning skills and strategies, and open doors to further study and future jobs.

What will I study?

You will study 3 broad themes of 'Cynefin', identity and culture and within these themes you will learn:

- The value of the Welsh language socially and in the world of work.
- Its use in Wales and around the world.
- How to understand and use Cymraeg with others in a spontaneous and confident way.
- How to respond creatively to literature.

How will I be assessed?

The course is broken down into units, where you will develop your speaking and listening skills using Welsh in a spontaneous and confident way. You will also develop your reading and writing skills, practising and responding to various texts.

Unit 1 - 25% of qualification – oral assessment in pairs (6-8 minutes) group of 3 (8-10 minutes) watching and responding to a visual stimulus.

Unit 2 – 25% of qualification – oral assessment in pairs (6-8 minutes) group of 3 (8-10 minutes) looking at various sources for example, graph / chart, facts, statistics and images.

Unit 3 – 25% of qualification – writing examination 1 hour 30 minutes 'preparing for the future' including descriptive and narrative tasks, opinion writing and translation tasks.

Unit 4 - 25% of qualification – writing examination 1 hour 30 minutes 'literature and creative writing' including reading task and written responses to descriptive, narrative, creative literature, based on one set text.

Careers in Core Cymraeg

The ability to speak Welsh is important and advantageous in all areas including education, health and care, law, media and entertainment, marketing, sport and much more.

Get a head start in your career and study GCSE Core Cymraeg!

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Skills

Double Award Science students will be taking **GCSE Skills** (formerly known as Welsh Baccalaureate) in year 10 and year 11. The course adds a new dimension to your other subjects and courses. It encourages you to be more independent and adds 'real life' experiences to school and your studies.

The central focus of GCSE Skills is to provide an opportunity for developing essential and employability skills. The qualification will help you to prepare for your future by developing qualities and skills valued by post-16 educators and potential employers such as:

- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Digital Literacy
- Critical Thinking and Problem Solving
- Creativity and Innovation
- Planning and Organisation
- Personal Effectiveness

To gain your full qualification you will need to work through a series of challenges which are delivered through either controlled assessments and/or coursework.

The GCSE Skills is a fully graded A* to Pass GCSE and consists of three components:

- Individual Project
- Enterprise and Employability Challenge
- Global Citizenship Challenge

The challenges will provide you with the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of society, the community in which you live as well as an awareness of global issues, events and perspectives. Whilst you complete your challenges, you will be developing your skills for future study and employment.

Year	Unit	Weighting	Assessed Skills	Internal Assessment	External Assessment
10	Enterprise & Employability Challenge	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creativity and Innovation• Personal Effectiveness• Digital Literacy	✓	✓
	Global Citizenship Challenge	25%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Critical Thinking and Problem Solving• Creativity and Innovation	✓	✓
11	Individual Project	50%	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning and Organisation• Critical Thinking and Problem Solving• Digital Literacy	✓	✓

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

Physical Education Core

Physical Education (Core) is a compulsory non-examination course that links to the Health and Well-being area of learning experience in our new curriculum. If you wish to gain a qualification you will need to opt for **GCSE Physical Education**. During years 10 and 11 you will access a major activity in summer and in winter from an extensive option list. These will include traditional sports that you have already experienced at KS3.

New activities are also introduced and will give you the opportunity to try them out for future interest - American football, tchoukball, lacrosse, ultimate frisbee and taster sessions for local clubs and sports centre classes.

You will learn about the importance of physical activity on your physical, mental and social health & wellbeing. You will also learn principles of safe practice and methods of preparation for getting involved in physical activity. There may be opportunities to work on skills for the Duke of Edinburgh award.



Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

Why choose GCSE Art and Design - Fine Art or Graphics?

Fine Art – This pathway involves creating art purely for aesthetic purposes. Learners are offered a choice of traditional media and processes such as drawing, mixed media, painting, printing and sculpture. Learners will explore the work of historical and contemporary fine artists.

Graphics - This pathway involves creating visual materials to convey information, ideas or emotions using graphic elements to a target audience. Learners could pursue areas of study such as advertising and branding, information design, illustration, packaging design and typography. Learners will work with both traditional media and digital media, using the Wacom graphics tablets with Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. Learners will also explore the work of historical and contemporary graphic designers.



The course will begin with a “Skills” sketchbook where art teachers will direct activities, and this will allow learners to acquire skills using a wide range of media, techniques and processes. Learners will then progress onto producing an “Individual Project” sketchbook, working independently on a theme (Fine Art) or a commission brief (Graphics) with the guidance of art teachers. There will be an emphasis on drawing, both with traditional and digital media, as this is a vital discipline of both the Fine Art and Graphics courses. Learners will have the opportunity to visit galleries and museums across North Wales and Northwest England.

Our experienced teaching team will provide expert guidance and tuition. In addition, Art and Design rooms will be available for independent work before and after school and during lunch time.

GCSE Art and Design – Fine Art or Graphics

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC

Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

During years 10 and 11 you will produce “Unit 1 – Portfolio” which consists of two units of coursework, both worth 60% of your final GCSE grade.

In January of year 11, you will be issued with “Unit 2 - Externally Set Assignment”. This will require you to produce preparatory work with a 10-hour period of sustained focused work. This is worth 40% of your final GCSE grade.

You will be expected to support all your work in class by producing self-directed research outside of the classroom environment. This is an essential requirement of the course.

Who is suitable for this course?

To be successful on this course, it is important that you have an interest in Fine Art or Graphics and that **you can draw**. You will be expected to be self-motivated, dedicated, enthusiastic and willing to express your ideas both visually and through written annotations in sketchbooks.

Why should I take this course?

This GCSE course is an important stepping stone to an exciting future and can help you to develop transferable skills that will be of use in any career. Design-related work is the second largest money earner for Britain after the retail industry.

GCSE Fine Art or Graphics will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Advertising

Marketing

Architecture

Teaching

Graphic Design

Fashion Design

Publishing

Photography

Illustration

Future Options

After studying GCSE Fine Art or Graphics you could:

- Study A Level Fine Art or Graphics in our Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in any Art and Design related course or other subject
- Get a job. Employers are looking for people who are enthusiastic, imaginative and ready to adapt to change, in other words people who are creative.

For Further Information

Please contact the Art and Design Department.

Why choose GCSE Art and Design - Photography?

GCSE Photography - This pathway involves both technical aspects of camera operation and the development of visual language to communicate ideas and emotions through imagery. Learners could pursue areas of study such as experimental imagery, fashion photography, photojournalism and studio photography. Learners will work with both traditional media and digital media, using DSL cameras, mobile phones, iPads and Adobe Photoshop. Learners will also explore the work of historical and contemporary photographers.



The course will begin with a “Skills” digital portfolio where art teachers will direct activities, and this will allow learners to acquire skills using a wide range of media, techniques and processes. Learners will then progress onto producing an “Individual Project” digital portfolio, working independently on a theme with the guidance of art teachers. Learners will have the opportunity to visit galleries and museums across North Wales and Northwest England.

Our experienced teaching team will provide expert guidance and tuition. In addition, Art and Design rooms will be available for independent work before and after school and during lunch time.

GCSE Art and Design - Photography

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC

Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

During years 10 and 11 you will produce “Unit 1 – Portfolio” which consists of two units of coursework, both worth 60% of your final GCSE grade.

In January of year 11, you will be issued with “Unit 2 - Externally Set Assignment”. This will require you to produce preparatory work with a 10-hour period of sustained focused work. This is worth 40% of your final GCSE grade.

You will be expected to support all your work in class by producing self-directed research outside of the classroom environment. This is an essential requirement of the course.

Who is suitable for this course?

To be successful on this course, it is important that you have an interest in Photography and that **you are prepared to take photographs**. You will be expected to be self-motivated, dedicated, enthusiastic and willing to express your ideas both visually and through written annotations in your digital portfolio. You will also be expected to **produce drawings related to your photoshoots**.

Why should I take this course?

This GCSE course is an important stepping stone to an exciting future and can help you to develop transferable skills that will be of use in any career. Design-related work is the second largest money earner for Britain after the retail industry.

GCSE Photography will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Advertising

Marketing

Journalism

Fashion Photography

Sports Photography

Design

Events Photography

Publishing

Freelance Photography

Future Options

After studying GCSE Fine Art or Graphics you could:

- Study A Level Photography in our Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in any Art and Design related course or other subject
- Get a job. Employers are looking for people who are enthusiastic, imaginative and ready to adapt to change, in other words people who are creative.

For Further Information

Please contact the Art and Design Department.

Why choose GCSE Business?

GCSE Business

Have you ever dreamed of becoming the next entrepreneurial sensation, like KSI, Molly-Mae Hague, or Ben Francis (founder of Gymshark)? Whether you're inspired by innovators in tech, sustainable fashion, or fitness, GCSE Business provides the perfect foundation to turn your ambitions into reality. This course equips you with essential skills and knowledge to thrive in today's dynamic business landscape, no matter what career you pursue.



Reasons to Choose GCSE Business

- 1. Learn How Businesses Operate:** Discover how successful businesses are set up and managed, and gain insights into finance, marketing, human resources, and production.
- 2. Prepare for the Future:** Whether you're considering A-levels, university, an apprenticeship, or even starting your own business, this course provides a strong foundation for your next steps.
- 3. Develop Real-World Skills:** From problem-solving to critical thinking, this course helps you build the skills that employers and universities value most.
- 4. Be Inspired:** Understand how modern entrepreneurs innovate and make a difference, and learn how you can too!

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Business

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Course content and breakdown:

Unit 1 – Introduction to the Business World

(Topics covered: Business Activity & Enterprise, Different Markets/Sectors, Sustainability and more)

- Written Examination: 1 hour 15 minutes – 60 marks 30% of qualification

Unit 2 – Key Business Considerations

(Topics covered: Business ethics, in society, technology, the environment and more.)

- Non-examination assessment: 5 hours – 48 marks 15% of qualification

Unit 3 – Business Strategies for Success

(Topics included: Business growth economics, finance, marketing and more)

- Written Examination: 1 hour 15 minutes – 60 marks 30% of qualification

Unit 4 – Business Creation

(Topics included: Entrepreneurial activity and opportunities)

- Non-examination assessment: 8 hours – 60 marks 25% of qualification

Who is suitable for this course?

- Are you curious about how businesses work and what makes them successful.
- Enjoy problem-solving and thinking creatively to overcome challenges.
- Are excited to explore real-world examples of business in action.

If you're the type of person who asks questions like, "Why do some companies thrive while others fail?" or "How can I turn an idea into a profitable venture?" then GCSE Business is the perfect fit for you.

Why should I take this course?

Taking GCSE Business isn't just about learning theory—it's about preparing for life. You'll gain:

- **Practical Understanding:** Learn how businesses respond to challenges like economic changes, competition, and consumer trends.
- **Transferable Skills:** Build abilities in communication, teamwork, and strategic thinking that apply to all walks of life.
- **Confidence for the Future:** Whether you're pitching an idea, managing a team, or analysing financial data, this course gives you the confidence to succeed.

GCSE Business will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Logistics

Finance

Business Law

Teaching

Retail Buying

Human Resources

Banking

Management
Consultancy

Trading

Future Options

After studying GCSE Business, you could:

Study Advanced Level Business and/or Advanced Level Economics in the Sixth Form;

Study for a degree in a business-related course or other subject at university;

Apply for an apprenticeship;

Get a job in the business sector.

For Further Information

Please contact the Business Department

Why choose GCSE Computer Science?

Ever Wondered How Computers Work?

Do you love solving puzzles or figuring out how things work? Have you ever wondered how video games, apps, or AI are created? If so, **GCSE Computer Science** is the subject for you! In this course, you'll learn how computers operate, gain hands-on experience in coding, and create your own software. You'll explore cutting-edge tech like AI and cybersecurity while developing your problem-solving and logical thinking skills.

By studying Computer Science, you'll gain highly sought-after skills that open doors to exciting opportunities in further education, the workplace, or even entrepreneurship. Whether you dream of developing games, designing software, or working with emerging technologies, this course is your first step towards shaping the future.



This isn't just about learning – it's about building a strong foundation for success. From university to tech start-ups and beyond, Computer Science gives you the tools to stand out and achieve your goals.

If you're curious, creative, and up for a challenge, join us and start building the technologies of tomorrow today!

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Computer Science

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science

Topics: Hardware, Cybersecurity, Software Development and more!

Assessment: 1 hour 30-minute digital exam, 80 marks. (50% of qualification).

Unit 2: Computer Programming

Task: On-screen examination based on a pre-released brief from WJEC, featuring a new scenario each year. Students will need to learn Python for this exam.

Assessment: 2-hour digital exam, 80 marks. (50% of qualification).

Who is suitable for this course?

You will find this course both enjoyable and challenging if you have an interest in programming, computers, and their applications. Ideally you will need a computer at home to develop your programming and theoretical understanding. However, arrangements can be made for those who may not have access to a computer, as there will be opportunities for students to use digital technology resources in and outside of lessons.

Why should I take this course?

Computing skills are now a common requirement in all areas of life worldwide and having studied it to GCSE level will place you at an added advantage wherever you wish to work in the future.

GCSE Computer Science will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

A.I. Developer

Robotics

System Analyst

Network Manager

Cloud Computing Engineer

Games Developer

Software Developer

Computer
Programmer

Business Analyst

Future Options

Study Advanced Level Computer Science at Sixth Form;

Study for a degree in a computer science-related course or other subject at university;

Get a job in the computer industry.

For Further Information

Please contact the Digital Technology Department

Why choose GCSE Digital Technology?

Digital Technology is an integral part of everyday life which we can no longer live without. It is no longer just about using a computer to write a word-processed report, but more about using technology to advertise the latest fashion trend or building robots to build the newest car models. GCSE Digital Technology explores various topics from Social Media to Data Management. The course will develop your interest in finding out about how technology affects you and everyone around you. You will learn how to use a range of specialist application software which will support you in producing social media campaigns, tracking data to building your own functional game!



Digital skills are now a common requirement in all areas of life worldwide. Studying **Digital Technology GCSE** will place you at an added advantage and will be **extremely** beneficial to you in further education, the world of work or entrepreneurship.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Digital Technology

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1 - The Digital World: An assessment comprising of a range of question types to assess specification content related to digital technology systems, the value of digital technology and perspectives on digital technology.

(1 hour 30 minutes on-screen examination that makes up 40% of the qualification - 80 marks)

Unit 2 - Digital Practices: Section A - you will interrogate a supplied data set imported into a spreadsheet in order to inform Section B - where you will create a website incorporating either an animation or a game related to a set context.

(20 hours non-exam assessment that makes up 40% of the qualification - 80 marks)

Unit 3 - Communicating in the Digital World: You will focus on marketing digital assets using social media by creating digital assets related to a set context and then formulating an online digital communications campaign around them.

(10 hours non-exam assessment that makes up 20% of the qualification - 60 marks)

Who is suitable for this course?

You will find this course both enjoyable and challenging if you have an interest in digital technology such as social media and learning how technology can bring the world together, utilising organisational skills and analysing data to identify trends and audiences. You will be successful on this course if you enjoy creative work whether it is creating games through to social media and everyday computer use.

Why should I take this course?

Digital skills are now a common requirement in all areas of life worldwide and having studied it to GCSE level will place you at an added advantage wherever you wish to work in the future.

GCSE Digital Technology will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Graphic Designer

AI Scientist

Sport Analyst

Network Manager

IT Consultant

Games Developer

Social Media Manager

Cybersecurity Assistant

Business Analyst

Future Options

After studying GCSE Digital Technology you could:
Study Advanced Level Digital Technology in our Sixth Form;
Get an apprenticeship working in the digital technology industry;
Get a job in the technology industry.

For Further Information

Please contact the Digital Technology Department

Why choose GCSE Food and Nutrition?

Food and Nutrition GCSE will give you the opportunity to demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and utensils. You will develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks. You will examine the relationship between diet, nutrition and health and study the economic, environmental and cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices. You will also explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions, such as Welsh, British and international, to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.



In preparation for the assessment tasks, you will study:

- food commodities
- principles of nutrition using macro and micro-nutrients
- diet and good health
- the science of food and the effect of cooking on food
- where food comes from and manufacturing processes
- cooking and food preparation

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Food and Nutrition

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1: Principles of Food and Nutrition

- Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes
- 40% of qualification - 80 marks.

(Topics covered: Food commodity groups, nutrients, diet and health, cooking food and more)

Unit 2: Food Investigation

- Non-examination assessment: 8 hours
- 20% of qualification - 40 marks

(Topics covered: The science of food, planning food science experiments, food science in action)

Unit 3: Food and Nutrition in Action

- Non-examination assessment: 12 hours
- 40% of qualification - 80 marks

(Topics covered: Factors affecting food choices, food planning, preparation and cooking techniques, cooking for an audience and purpose)

Who is suitable for this course?

If you enjoy experimenting with ingredients and creating meals and like learning about different cooking techniques and food presentation. If you are interested in how diet affects health and well-being and want to understand food labels, nutrients, and balanced diets then this is the course for you.

Why should I take this course?

This course enables candidates to develop essential life skills, gain knowledge about health and nutrition, explore food science and improve their practical and creative skills.

GCSE Food and Nutrition will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Dietician

Food Design

Sensory Analyst

Bakery or Pastry Artist

Food Development

Food Factory
Operations

Chef

Hospitality

Food Photography

Future Options

After studying GCSE Food and Nutrition, you could:

- Progress onto a Food and Catering course at a Further Education College.
- Study for a degree in a food-related subject at university.
- Get a job in the food and nutrition sector

For Further Information

Please contact the Design and Technology Department

Why choose GCSE French?

French GCSE adds an international dimension to your studies. The course will build on the transferable language skills and knowledge you have already developed during years 7-9.

French GCSE has been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture. During the summer term there will be an opportunity to spend five days in Paris to develop your linguistic, cultural and historical understanding.

Thanks to new technology and improved travel and communications, the world has become a much smaller place. It is crucial, therefore, that we learn to understand and speak to each other. This can only be done effectively by learning other languages and appreciating associated cultures.



Learning a new language can boost your career and travel opportunities, whether you're interested in business, science, engineering, fashion, or even professional football. Employers increasingly value language skills, and a GCSE in a foreign language can open the door to numerous job prospects. It can also enhance your communication skills, cultural awareness, and problem-solving abilities - key qualities for employers. Additionally, speaking another language can give you a competitive edge in the global job market, making you more adaptable in an increasingly interconnected world. Whether you aim to work abroad or stand out in your chosen field, language skills will always be an asset.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE French

Assessment Information

Examining Board – WJEC Accreditation – GCSE Grades A*-G

Content: consists of three broad themes:

Languages for leisure and wellbeing: identity and culture, family, friends and relationships and free time.

Language for travel: – travel, places in town, environment and sustainability.

Language for study and work: – future plans, higher education and the world of work.

Unit 1: Oracy speaking - non-examination assessment - 7-10mins (30%)

Read aloud and role play, presentation and discussion, conversation.

Unit 2: Reading and writing - non-examination assessment - 1 hour (15%)

Written response in French to a short story, novel or poem.

Unit 3: Listening - examination - 45 mins (20%)

Listening comprehension tasks with fixed and written responses.

Unit 4: Reading and writing - examination - 1 hour 30 (35%)

Reading comprehension tasks, translation from French into English, topic-based writing task.

Who is suitable for this course?

A GCSE in French will appeal to all types of students, especially if you are interested in travel, culture and people from different countries.

Why should I take this course?

A GCSE in French can boost your career prospects by making you more attractive to employers and opening up global opportunities. It also enhances your communication, problem-solving, and cultural awareness skills, which are valuable in any profession.

GCSE French will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Business and Marketing

Translator

Law

Education

Flight Attendant

Engineering

Sports Agent

International Relations

Journalism

Future Options

After studying GCSE French, you could:

- Study Advanced Level French in our Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in a language-related course or other subject at university
- Get a job that requires the ability to communicate effectively in French.

For Further Information

Please contact the French Department

Why choose GCSE Geography?

Geography GCSE will give you the opportunity to find out about a range of places in the UK, Europe and elsewhere in the world by investigating ideas, developing your own opinions and reaching decisions using map skills, fieldwork research and ICT. You will explore the ways in which natural processes have produced different landscapes and how people interact with them, observing how people can act together to prevent the total destruction of these environments. You will discover how people are affected by the action and decision-making of others locally, nationally and globally and the importance of sustainability when making decisions about how places and environments should be managed.



The nature of the work varies according to the topic studied. The necessity of using the internet to access up to date information is key to all topics. Decision making activities form an important part of the course, achieved through interpreting graphs, maps and photographs. You will also have the opportunity to participate in debates and group work activities. A compulsory part of the course is the participation in fieldtrips. Throughout GCSE Geography, you will develop a wide range of skills that will enhance your ability to interpret information as well as making decisions.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Geography

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1 – Our Physical and Human World. You will study drainage basins and rivers; changing coastlines; migration; settlement change

(1 hour 30 minutes written examination that makes up 30% of the qualification)

Unit 3 – Our Dynamic and Diverse World: You will study inequality; wild weather, climate change and managing global climates.

(1 hour 30 minutes written examination that makes up 30% of the qualification)

NEA tasks:

Unit 2- Fieldwork Enquiry: You will carry out a field work visit based on a topic such as how city centres have changed over time. You will write a field work enquiry that will be submitted to the WJEC. (25% of the qualification)

Unit 4 Sustainable Solutions: You will receive a resource booklet on a geographical issue and carry out further research on this. You will then write a report based on this real-world issue in a decision-making task, reporting how sustainable the various options are likely to be. (15% of the qualification)

Who is suitable for this course?

You will be successful and enjoy this course if you are interested in people and places. Ideally, you will be interested in what is happening in the world today and how management decisions will affect life in the future.

Why should I take this course?

Geography is an academic subject with a firm grounding in the real world and the skills that you will develop are highly regarded by universities and employers.

GCSE Geography will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Water Engineering

Civil Service

Tourism

Conservation

Forestry Service

Meteorology

Cartography

Surveying

National Park Management

Future Options

After studying GCSE Geography, you could:

- Study Advanced Level Geography in our Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in a Geography-related course or other subject at university
- Get a job within the field of Geography

For Further Information

Please contact the Geography Department

Why choose GCSE German?

German GCSE adds an international dimension to your studies. The course will build on the transferable language skills and knowledge you have already developed during years 7-9.

German GCSE has been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture. During the summer term there will be an opportunity to spend five days in Berlin to develop your linguistic, cultural and historical understanding.

Thanks to new technology and improved travel and communications, the world has become a much smaller place. It is crucial, therefore, that we learn to understand and speak to each other. This can only be done effectively by learning other languages and appreciating associated cultures.



Learning a new language can boost your career and travel opportunities, whether you're interested in business, science, engineering, fashion, or even professional football. Employers increasingly value language skills, and a GCSE in a foreign language can open the door to numerous job prospects. It can also enhance your communication skills, cultural awareness, and problem-solving abilities - key qualities for employers. Additionally, speaking another language can give you a competitive edge in the global job market, making you more adaptable in an increasingly interconnected world. Whether you aim to work abroad or stand out in your chosen field, language skills will always be an asset.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE German

Assessment Information

Examining Board – WJEC Accreditation – GCSE Grades A*-G

Content: consists of three broad themes:

Languages for leisure and wellbeing: identity and culture, family, friends and relationships and free time.

Language for travel: – travel, places in town, environment and sustainability.

Language for study and work: – future plans, higher education and the world of work.

Unit 1: Oracy speaking - non-examination assessment - 7-10mins (30%)

Read aloud and role play, presentation and discussion, conversation.

Unit 2: Reading and writing - non-examination assessment - 1 hour (15%)

Written response in German to a short story, novel or poem.

Unit 3: Listening - examination - 45 mins (20%)

Listening comprehension tasks with fixed and written responses.

Unit 4: Reading and writing - examination - 1 hour 30 (35%)

Reading comprehension tasks, translation from German into English, topic-based writing task.

Who is suitable for this course?

A GCSE in German will appeal to all types of students, especially if you are interested in travel, culture and people from different countries.

Why should I take this course?

A GCSE in German can boost your career prospects by making you more attractive to employers and opening up global opportunities. It also enhances your communication, problem-solving, and cultural awareness skills, which are valuable in any profession.

GCSE German will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Business and Marketing

Translator

Law

Education

Flight Attendant

Engineering

Sports Agent

International
Relations

Journalism

Future Options

After studying GCSE German, you could:

- Study Advanced Level German in our Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in a language-related course or other subject at university
- Get a job that requires the ability to communicate effectively in German.

For Further Information

Please contact the German Department

Why choose GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare?

Health and Social Care and Childcare equips you with knowledge, understanding and skills related to the development and care of Individuals throughout the life cycle from conception to later adulthood. You will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. You will also gain an understanding of the social, physical, emotional and cultural needs of people who use care and support services and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs. You will gain knowledge of how service provision In Wales supports the development and well-being of individuals and be able to make informed decisions now and in later life.



Health and Social Care and Childcare This specification has been designed to include contemporary issues in relation to the provision of an ethical and sustainable health and social care, and childcare system in Wales, and to create independent learners that can make informed decisions about further learning opportunities or continuing into related career choices.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1 - Human Growth, Development and Well-being: 1 hour and 30 minutes written examination that makes up 40% of Single Award qualification.

Unit 2 - Promoting and Maintaining Health and Well-being: two coursework assessments that make up 60% of Single Award qualification.

Task 1: Service Provision - (approximately 10 hours) an investigation which will assess knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to health and social care, and childcare service provision locally and nationally.

Task 2: Health Promotion - (approximately 15 hours) a task which will assess knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to promoting and maintaining health and well-being.

Who is suitable for this course?

This course is suitable for those who are looking to work within the Health and Social Care sector. You will need to have strong research and IT skills and be good at time management to complete all tasks. Being able to work independently and set your own targets will assist in you gaining success in this GCSE.

Why should I take this course?

This GCSE course is an important stepping stone to an exciting future and can help you to develop a range of communication skills as you meet professionals and complete presentations.

GCSE Health and Social Care and Childcare will provide you with excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Nurse

Teacher

Social Worker

Midwife

Occupational Therapist

Paramedic

Nursery Assistant

Counsellor

Speech and Language Therapist

Future Options

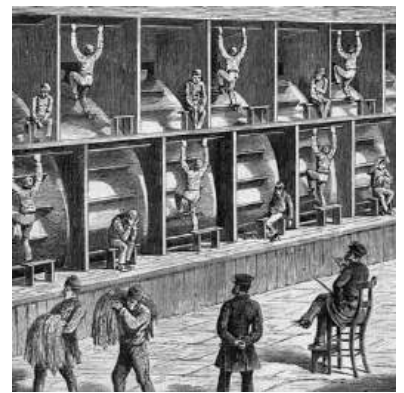
After studying Health and Social Care and Childcare, you could:
Study Advanced Level Health and Social Care in our Sixth Form;
Study for a degree in a health and social care-related course or other subject at university;
Apply for an apprenticeship;
Get a job in the health and social care sector.

For Further Information

Please contact the Health and Social Care Department

Why choose GCSE History?

GCSE History will give you the opportunity to experience history both inside and outside of the classroom by encouraging you to participate in a variety of extra-curricular activities. You will engage in a variety of learning methods which include the use of film, drama, role-play, ICT and debate. Decision making activities and providing judgement will form an important part of the course. You will be able to develop your opinions, by interpreting and evaluating sources of information, before coming to your own conclusions.



GCSE History will provide you with the opportunity to become an open-minded and independent thinker who is good at problem solving. You will be able to be analytical and critical when considering information presented to you, picking out the essential from the trivial, and to make good decisions based on the evidence. You will also be offered the opportunity to participate in debate, arguing a case and expressing clear points of view.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE History

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1.4. Wales in the Era of the Civil war 1603-1660 (1 hour written examination that makes up 30% of the qualification)

Unit 2 – The Black death 1330-1360- A case study in medieval society
(On screen NEA, 3 hours - 20% of the qualification)

Unit 3 – Changes in US society 1880-1980
(1 hour written examination - 30% of the qualification)

Unit 4 –Non-Examined Assessment (Topic TBD)
(Non-examination assessment, based on themes across a historical period; Makes up 20% of the Qualification)

Who is suitable for this course?

You will be successful and enjoy this course if you are interested in or have an enthusiasm for exploring past cultures, societies and events. It is also important that you can express yourself through writing and that you are willing to continually improve this skill.

Why should I take this course?

The skills developed whilst studying history are useful in just about every profession. You will be taught to think and make up your own mind.

GCSE History will provide you with excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Museum Curation

Journalism

Archives

Research

Journalism and Broadcasting

Legal Work

Financial Consulting

Town Planning

Politics

Future Options

After studying GCSE History, you could:

- Study Advanced Level History in our Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in a history-related course or other subject at university
- Get a job within the field of history

For Further Information

Please contact the History Department

Why choose BTEC Media?

Creative Media Production offers you the opportunity to develop skills which are integral to many roles within the creative sector, which is a collection of exciting and vibrant industries including film, television, games, web and app development, and publishing. As digital technology continues to evolve, media techniques have become more sophisticated and media products are becoming more advanced. However, what hasn't changed is that media products still have the power to enthrall, intrigue and affect audiences.

The UK is a global leader in creative industries, with investment opportunities in film, TV, video games, creative technologies, visitor attractions and the experience economy. Creative industries are an engine for economic growth and in the top 5 government priority growth mission. The UK creative industries sector contributed £124.6 billion to the UK economy in 2023 and employed 2.4 million people in the UK signifying the ongoing development in the industry.



Most of the work will be produced and assessed through the completion of coursework tasks provided through assignments. This will involve production work where you will demonstrate your photographic skills with still and moving images and design skills using digital media. You will develop skills essential for the workplace by working to briefs and deadlines and gain business and customer awareness as assignments are set in a vocational context.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

BTEC Media

Assessment Information

Examining Board: Pearson

Accreditation: BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Creative Media Production (equivalent to 1 GCSE).

3 core units.

Unit 1 - Exploring Media Products: (36 hours guided learning) develop understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences, examine existing products, and explore media production techniques. Non-exam internal assessment.

Unit 2 - Developing Digital Media Production Skills: (36 hours guided learning) develop and apply skills and techniques in media production processes by creating a media product from one of the following sectors: audio/moving image, print or interactive design. Non-exam internal assessment.

Unit 3 - Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief: (48 hours guided learning) apply and develop planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a client brief. External assessment under supervised conditions.

Who is suitable for this course?

You will be successful on this course if you enjoy creative work using digital media in film, publishing and photography.

Why should I take this course?

This course will give you experience of a wide range of Creative Media Production areas, from film, television, animation, digital photography and graphic design to learning about the creative media industry.

BTEC Creative Media Production will provide you with opportunities to explore work experience placements in the local media industries and provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple junior job roles across the creative media sectors including:

Digital Editing

Publishing

Digital Photography

Game Design

Graphic Design

Sound Recording

Animation

Web Design

Film Production

Future Options

After studying BTEC Creative Media Production you could:

Study BTEC Level 3 Creative Media Production or Advanced Level Media Studies in our Sixth Form;

Study a media-related course or other subject at a college of Higher or Further Education;

Find a job in the media industry.

For Further Information

Please contact the Media Department

Why choose GCSE Digital Media and Film?

GCSE Digital Media and Film offers you the exciting opportunity to both explore the media and film industries and also to create your own media products. You will be able to develop your analytical and critical thinking skills by studying a broad range of media forms and products that encompasses audio-visual, text-based and online forms. These will include advertising, television, films, online media, video games and music videos. You will also be able to enhance your ICT skills in pre-production, production and post-production in digital photography, digital publishing and digital video production.



The media play a central role in contemporary society and culture. They shape our perceptions of the world through the representations, viewpoints and messages they offer. In addition, they importantly provide us with ways to communicate, with forms of cultural expression and enable us to participate in key aspects of society. The economic importance of the media is also unquestionable. The media industries employ large numbers of people worldwide and operate as commercial industries on a global scale.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Digital Media and Film

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1: Exploring key concepts and issues On-screen examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification 60 marks

Summary of assessment The paper will consist of questions requiring objective responses, short and extended answers, in response to set films, a studied video game and unseen media works.

Unit 2: Distribution and exhibition strategies of digital media and film industries in Wales

Non-examination assessment: 18 hours 30% of qualification 72 marks

Summary of assessment. Learners will investigate how a digital media and/or film production company based in Wales produces, distributes and exhibits their products. Learners will create one distribution strategy and one exhibition strategy for a new digital media product produced by a production company in Wales.

Unit 3: Creating digital media and film content Non-examination assessment: No time restriction 40% of qualification 96 marks.

Summary of assessment The assessment will require learners to respond to a stimulus set by WJEC. Learners will choose one brief from a choice of three. The briefs will always be for a marketing campaign for a new:

- film
- video game
- series for a streaming site.

Who is suitable for this course?

You will be successful and enjoy this course if you are interested in investigating media texts and enjoy creating your own media by using ICT in photography, film and publishing.

Why should I take this course?

If you wish to pursue a career in the media or film industry, you may find yourself following in the footsteps of many former Alun students who now work in a variety of media organisations.

GCSE Digital Media and Film will provide you with opportunities to explore work experience placements in the local media industries and provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple junior job roles across the creative media sectors including:

Commercial Radio

Broadcasting

Commercial TV

Journalism

Media Planning

Production

Public Relations

Press Office

Programme Research

Future Options

After studying GCSE Digital Media and Film you could:

Study Advanced Level Media Studies and/or Film Studies in our Sixth Form;

Study a media-related course or other subject at a college of Higher or Further Education;

Find a job in the media/film industry.

For Further Information

Please contact the Media Department

Why choose GCSE Music?

Music will give you the opportunity to explore your musicianship skills through practical activities over the course of two years. Performing as a soloist and as part of a small ensemble will enable you to develop communication skills through sound. There will be occasions where you will be able to work with different students and perform your musical ideas in lessons. You can explore the use of music technology to create professional compositions using the software of GarageBand and Musescore. Here you will learn how to use MIDI and Audio files to produce exciting music that is your own individual work. Most of the course is practical to support 65% of your total GCSE marks, but you will also learn how to develop aural skills linked to different styles of music ranging from Classical, Popular and Film Music.



GCSE Music will enable you to develop cross-curricular skills (literacy and digital competence) and integral skills such as creativity and innovation and critical thinking and problem solving. You will complete a series of exercises listening to a wide range of musical styles and using multiple choice answers, comparative observations and skeleton score reading. One of your performance pieces must be linked to one of the areas of study. One composition brief is set by the WJEC.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Music

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

GCSE Music is about creating, performing and analysing music from a wide variety of musical styles. The three main areas of music skills are:

Unit 1 - Performing: Two pieces of music giving a total performance time of 4-6 mins. Students can choose to perform solos or independent parts within an ensemble (non-examination assessment that makes up 32.5% of the qualification)

Unit 2 - Composing: Create and develop musical ideas into compositions, submitting two contrasting pieces (one brief set by WJEC and the other a free composition) totalling 3-6 minutes. (coursework that makes up 32.5% of the qualification)

Unit 3 - Appraising: Identify and compare the distinctive characteristics of music from a variety of styles and traditions, related to the areas of study. (1 hour and 30 minutes written examination that makes up 35% of the qualification)

Who is suitable for this course?

Commitment, perseverance and involvement are essential for success in GCSE Music. You should be willing to practise your vocal and instrumental skills with peripatetic and private tuition. The coursework contents means that a great deal depends on you as an individual to organise musical material and produce effort in your own specialism to achieve your potential. A positive approach and desire to succeed are important qualities for the study of music. Some degree of vocal and/or instrumental skill would be an advantage.

Why should I take this course?

GCSE Music is a good preparation for further musical study. It will demonstrate valuable skills such as commitment and teamwork and celebrate your musical ability.

GCSE Music will give you an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Music Teacher

Radio DJ

Music Therapy

Record Producer

Session Musician

Song Writing

Publishing

Vocalist

Music Director

Future Options

After studying GCSE Music, you could:

- Study Advanced Level Music in the Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in a music-related course or other subject at university
- Get a job in the music industry

For Further Information

Please contact the Music Department

Why choose BTEC Performing Arts?

Performing Arts provides a practical, real-world approach to learning and developing the specific knowledge and skills you will need to work successfully in the industry. You will learn about how performance and production roles contribute to a live performance.

As part of the course, you will learn how to work in a professional manner on a performance project which will be performed to an audience. You will also take part in a selection of small plays where you will demonstrate your acting skills and techniques.

There will be opportunities for you to understand the production aspects including; costume, make-up, stage and lighting design and how it all contributes to a performance.



Performing Arts

BTEC Performing Arts will also include practical assessment where you will take part in a variety of performances. In order to maintain Professional Practice and for the purpose of controlled assessment video recording, you will be required to wear Performing Arts Kit in all lessons and rehearsals.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

BTEC Performing Arts

Assessment Information

Examining Board: Pearson

Accreditation: Level 2 BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts - equivalent to 1 GCSE.

3 components - two components are internally assessed and one externally assessed.

Component 1 - Exploring the Performing Arts (30% - internally assessed). You will explore performance styles, creative intentions and purpose. You will investigate how practitioners create and influence what is performed and discover performance roles, skills, techniques and processes.

Component 2 - Developing Skills in the Performing Arts: (30% - internally assessed). You will take part in workshops, classes and rehearsals. You will gain physical, interpretative, vocal and rehearsal skills and be able to apply these skills in performance, reflecting on your progress, your performance and how you could improve.

Component 3 - Performing to a Brief: (40% - externally assessed). You will use the brief and previous learning to come up with ideas and build on your skills in classes, workshops and rehearsals. You will review the process using an ideas and skills log and then perform a piece to your chosen audience, reflecting on your performance in an evaluation report.

Who is suitable for this course?

You will be successful on this course if you enjoy performing in front of an audience and working in groups on large scale production projects.

Why should I take this course?

This course will give you experience of a wide range of performing arts areas, from taking part in performances to learning about the industry. There are many opportunities for performing e.g. in plays, musical theatre and Showcase. You will also learn about the production areas of a performance such as designing your costume, makeup and developing knowledge of the way stage sets, lighting and sound enhances the performance.

BTEC Performing Arts will give you an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Actor

Dancer

Presenter

Musician

Theatre Technician

Choreographer

Scriptwriter

Event Manager

Teacher

Future Options

After studying BTEC Performing Arts you could:

Continue to study Performing Arts at Level 3 (equivalent to A Level) in the Sixth Form;

Study a performing arts-related course at a Higher or Further Education;

Find a job in the performing arts

For Further Information

Please contact the Performing Arts Department

Why choose GCSE Physical Education?

The **WJEC GCSE Physical Education** qualification will enable you to engage in a practical course, designed to encourage learners to be inspired, motivated and challenged by the subject and enable them to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways. Through studying GCSE Physical Education, you will acquire the knowledge, understanding, skills and values to develop and maintain their performance in physical activities and understand the benefits to health, fitness and well-being.

The specification in physical education will enable you to make connections between theory and practice so that you are able to apply your understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance



Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Physical Education

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1: Principles of Physical Education and Health

Digital Examination – 1 hour 30 minutes

40% of Qualification

Questions requiring objective responses, quick-response, short and extended answers

Unit 2: Performance and Personal Training

Non-examination assessment

60% of Qualification

Internally assessed by the teacher, externally moderated by a visiting moderator

Practical non-examination assessment. Learners must:

- Perform in one sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Perform in a second sport or physical activity or provide coaching in a sport or physical activity from the approved list
- Plan, implement and evaluate a personal training activity over 8-10 weeks for a sport or physical activity from the approved list.

Who is suitable for this course?

To be successful at this course it is important that you have an interest in many areas of P.E. as reflected in your participation rates in KS3, playing in inter-house competitions, school teams or local clubs. You must have a good level of fitness and work well with others. All practical work is compulsory, and you will be expected to wear GCSE P.E. kit for all activities. It is recommended that you are participating in at least one sport/activity outside of school.

Why should I take this course?

GCSE P.E. is a practical course that is designed to encourage you to be inspired, motivated and challenged. It will enable you to make informed decisions about your future pathway.

GCSE Physical Education will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

PE Teacher

Lifeguard

Physiotherapist

Sports Coach

Sport Scientist

Personal Trainer

Sports Therapist

Professional Sports person

Nutritionist

Future Options

After studying GCSE PE, you could:

Study Advanced Level P.E. or BTEC Sport at our Sixth Form;

Study for a degree in a P.E. related course or other subject at university;

Get a job within the field of physical education.

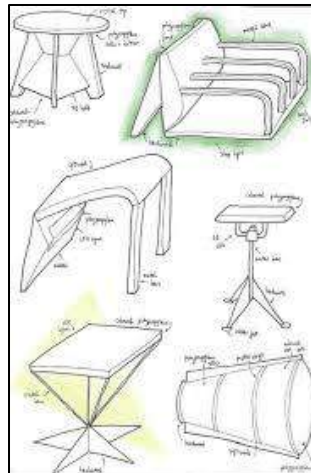
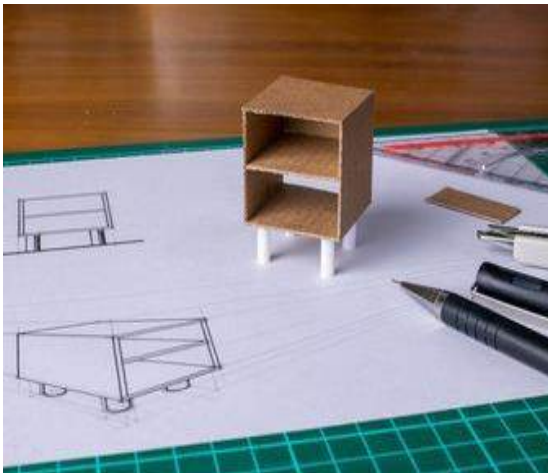
For Further Information

Please contact the Physical Education Department

Why choose GCSE Product Design?

Product Design GCSE will give you a unique opportunity to identify and solve real problems in a wide range of contexts relating to your personal interests. 'Designing' will develop your capacity for imaginative and innovative thinking, allowing you to identify and respond creatively to the needs and wants of the end user. By demonstrating 'fitness for purpose', you will be able to understand the importance of testing and evaluating your ideas. 'Making' will allow you to develop your practical skills and work independently to deadlines to produce a final portfolio of work.

In an increasingly technological world, you will be introduced to the wider influences on design and technology including historical, social and cultural, environmental, and economic factors. You will also experience the variety of roles involved in design and technology, from client through to end user.



If you enjoy designing things and working with a range of materials, then you will enjoy this course. You need to enjoy taking part in practical lessons and be able to research ideas on your own.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Product Design

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G (single tier entry)

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century Digital examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. 30% of qualification. Total 80 marks.

Unit 2: Design Project Non-examination assessment: Approximately 40 hours of coursework time in lesson. 70% of qualification. Total 100 marks.

Unit 2 - Part A: you will need to carry out an analysis of the problem, write a design specification, generate a range of ideas, develop a solution and produce the details of the final solution. (15 guided hours)

Unit 2 - Part B: you will plan the making process, carry out the making and evaluate the project. (25 guided hours).

Who is suitable for this course?

If you enjoy designing and making things then this is the course for you. You will be allowed opportunities to work individually and as a team and the products that you design and make should improve the environment in which you live.

Why should I take this course?

You should also enjoy or wish to develop your communication skills as design is all about communicating your ideas. This can be done not only by sketching and drawing, but also through modelling, discussion and the use of Computer Aided Design.

GCSE Product Design will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Architecture

Interior Design

Product Design

Furniture Design

Food Product Design

Automotive Design

Industrial Design

Manufacturing

Engineering

Future Options

After studying GCSE Product Design, you could:

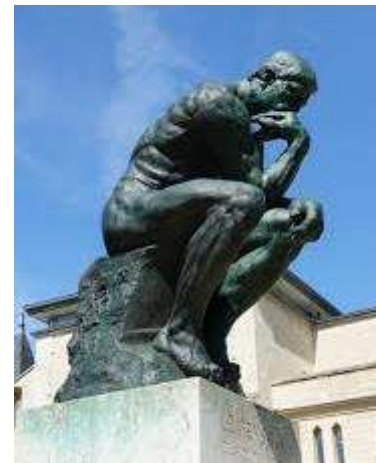
- Study Advanced Level Product Design in our Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in design and technology related course or another subject at university
- Apply for an apprenticeship

For Further Information

Please contact the Design Tehnology Department

Why choose GCSE Religious Studies?

Religious Studies is, and will always be, relevant. The majority of the world's population is religious; GCSE RS helps you to understand some of the beliefs and teachings that these people live their lives by. You will also learn about non-religious attitudes and perspectives as this is increasingly relevant in the modern world. Not a day goes by where there isn't reference to religion or some ethical topic on the news, so take GCSE RS to be better informed about these important matters!



Religious Studies GCSE allows you to broaden your understanding of different people and the way they live their lives, developing tolerance and empathy. The academic nature of the subject helps you to develop a range of skills, including:

- Interpretation
- Analysis
- Evaluation
- Critical thinking
- Debate and communication skills
- Reflection and personal views.

With the non-examined assessment sections, you will also have opportunities to investigate and explore issues that are relevant to today's world, developing research and interpersonal skills.

Our experienced teaching team provide expert guidance and tuition.

GCSE Religious Studies

Assessment Information

Examining Board: WJEC Accreditation: GCSE Grades A* - G

Unit 1 – Religious and non-religious beliefs, teachings and practices.

(A written examination (75 minutes) that makes up 30% of the qualification)

In this unit you will study topics including life and death, identity, belonging, morality and putting belief into action. These topics will be studied from a Christian, Muslim and non-religious perspective.

Unit 2 – Religion and Relationships.

(Non-examined assessment that makes up 20% of the qualification)

Here you will learn about relationships and then conduct an investigation into a topic relating to this. Possible topics include marriage, adultery, divorce, remarriage, contraception, sex outside of marriage, same-sex relationships, interfaith relationships, gender roles, religious upbringing.

Unit 3 – Roles, rights and responsibilities.

(A written examination (75 minutes) that makes up 30% of the qualification)

This unit explores key religious themes including stewardship, animal rights, freedom of religious expression, and the use of personal wealth. It also includes the medical ethics topics of abortion and euthanasia. These topics will be studied from a Christian, Muslim and non-religious perspective.

Unit 4 – Religion and human rights.

(Non-examined assessment that makes up 20% of the qualification)

Here you will learn about human rights and then complete an NEA exploring the work of charities and organisations campaigning for human rights.

Who is suitable for this course?

Anyone who wants to directly engage with the issues we face every day; anyone who wants to better understand and critically examine the ethical, cultural, and moral dimensions of the world around us; anyone who wants to be more empowered to navigate an increasingly interconnected and diverse world. Ultimately, this course is suitable for anyone who wants to foster a sense of purpose, a deeper understanding of humanity, and the skills to succeed in any field they choose.

Why should I take this course?

Religious studies is a gateway to a wide range of careers by equipping students with transferable skills which are highly valued by employers.

GCSE Religious Studies will provide you with an excellent grounding for multiple career opportunities:

Armed Service

Publishing

Marketing

Politics and International Relations

Law and Criminal Justice

Business

Education and Academia

Medicine

Media and Journalism

Future Options

After studying GCSE Religious Studies, you could:

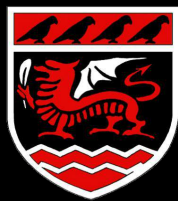
- Study Advanced Level Religious Studies in our Sixth Form
- Study for a degree in a Religious Studies, Philosophy, Theology, Law, Medicine, Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) or other related subjects at university

For Further Information

Please contact the Philosophy, Ethics and Religion Department



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