



Y9

An introduction to Your Key
Stage Four Curriculum
September, 2023

Dear Y9, parents and carers,

The purpose of this booklet is to provide information and guidance regarding the next phase of education (Key Stage 4) and the choices you can make. It is a good idea to read this booklet together.

St Margaret Ward is wholeheartedly committed to giving every student the chance of success so that each individual can be the very best version of themselves and can enter the world beyond school equipped with the knowledge, skills and confidence that will allow them to compete with their local, national and international peers. In so doing, we aim to provide all students with what they need to progress on to A Levels/Level 3 qualifications, universities, college courses, apprenticeships and employment in the future.

The **Department for Education** recommends that students study a core curriculum so that a young person's educational and career doors are left open for as long as possible. This core curriculum is:

GCSE English Language

GCSE English Literature

GCSE Mathematics

GCSE Science

(combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer Science)

GCSE History or Geography

A language at GCSE

Together, these courses are known as the **English Baccalaureate (EBacc)** which is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's **options open for further study and future careers**. The subjects are those that the Russell Group (the UK's leading universities) says, at A Level, open more doors to more degrees. A study by the University College of London's Institute of Education shows that **studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in fulltime education**. To quote the Department for Education, **the EBacc "future proofs your child's prospects"**. A leaflet with more information about the EBacc is included a little later in this booklet.

At St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, our core curriculum* at Key Stage 4 also includes:

GCSE Religious Education

Physical Education (none examined)

*Further information about St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy's core curriculum can be found later in this booklet.

We are very proud that all of our Year 9 students are well on their way with the EBacc as the teaching and learning at Key Stage 3 has been preparing the way for Key Stage 4 study.

Students have already selected the study of a language (French or German) and the majority will continue with their chosen language in to Years 10 and 11.

The **first stage** of your course selection is therefore to **select either GCSE History or Geography**.

The **second stage** is then to choose an **additional subject to study**, details of which are outlined in this booklet in alphabetical order. It is extremely important for you to consider your choices carefully as the subjects you choose to study will impact upon your future. As a school, we will make every effort to guide you to make

sensible choices, taking in to account your ability, your future intentions and the ever-changing world around us.

Please note that your preferred choices are to be made on the “KS4 Course Selection Form” which you can access on Microsoft Teams and which needs to be returned via Teams by Friday 10th March. The Teams channel and form will be accessible from Friday 3rd March, the day after parents’ evening.

It is very important to indicate **a reserve course choice** on your selection form in case your first choice cannot be accommodated. It is also very important to understand **we cannot guarantee all courses will run as some are dependent upon having adequate numbers of students wanting to study them**. Also, the type of qualification for some subjects may also change once we know the ability range of students wanting to study the courses so that the needs of all can be met. Please be aware that the government may also continue to amend the list of available courses which may result in us reviewing the Key Stage 4 courses we offer as we go through the school year. Of course, we will continue to talk with you and your parents/carers if any changes to courses happen.

Life beyond Key Stage 4:

It is really important that you choose and succeed in subjects that will help you to progress in education, employment or training at the age of sixteen. If you have an idea about what route you want to take once you’ve sat your GCSE examinations, it is advisable that you check what the entry requirements are for this so that you can make sure you are making the right choices now. However, also bear in mind that you may change your mind between now and then and so it is a good idea to keep as many doors as possible open.

For those of you considering progression into the Trinity Sixth Form, we would recommend that you take a moment to look at the sixth form section of the school website so that you are aware of the entry requirements for the courses you are interested in and so you can familiarise yourself with the full range of courses available.

Many students in our sixth form go on to study at highly-rated universities. The top 24 universities in the country are called the Russell Group and if you think you might want to follow such a route when you are older, you will need to pay careful attention to universities’ entry requirements. The decisions you make now could have implications on your future and so it is essential that you choose to study subjects that are right for you now but that are also right for your future education and career plans. If you are in any doubt about what you should choose to study, please seek advice from the school.

Who can help you to make the right decision?

Within school, there is a wide range of people who can help you to make the right choices. It is sensible to speak with the teacher(s) named at the bottom of each page in this booklet if you have any questions about the subject or your suitability for the course. The Year 9 team consisting of Miss Eardley, Mrs Boulton and Miss Langdon together with all the Fidei tutors, are also an invaluable source of information. All members of the Senior Leadership Team are on hand to help and advise, in particular Mrs Poole and Mrs Bennion. Mrs Page is also available as part of our Careers team. Together, we will help to guide you to make appropriate choices to suit your aptitudes and talents. We can also put you in touch with the school’s career advisor, if needed.

St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy Compulsory Core Curriculum

GCSE RE:

The RE department at SMWCA are committed to recognising, valuing and educating every individual in their care as special and unique, created in God's own image and likeness. Saint Pope John Paul II described RE in a Catholic school as the "core of the core curriculum." The special role of Religious Education in the curriculum of a Catholic school enables the school to fulfil its mission to educate the whole person. The Catholic Education Service states that the purpose of the Catholic school is to "help parents, parishes and teachers to hand on the deposit of faith in its fullness to a new generation of young people so that they may come to understand the richness of the Catholic faith and thereby be drawn into a deeper communion with Christ and his Church." The RE department at SMWCA strive for each student in their care to leave the school with an extensive knowledge of the Bible and the teachings of the Church, with a firm understanding that they are a loved child of God, called to live out the Christian faith in the wider world as a disciple of Christ.

All KS4 pupils follow the Eduqas Religious Studies, Catholic Christianity, Route B Syllabus.

In Y10, pupils study components 1 and 3. Component 1 is a Foundational Catholic Christianity paper, including the topics Origins and Meanings and Good and Evil. Component 3 is the study of another religion (Judaism), including the topics: Beliefs and Teachings and Judaism Practices.

In Y11 pupils follow Component 2. This is an applied Catholic Christianity paper, including the topics Life and Death and Sin and Forgiveness.

GCSE English Language and Literature

Students sit two full GCSEs for English, following the AQA syllabus.

*In **English Language**, students learn how to critically read, and write, a range of fiction and non-fiction genres. Students also produce a spoken presentation.*

The course assessment comprises of:

- Paper 1: Creative Reading and Writing;*
- Paper 2: Viewpoints and Perspectives;*
- Spoken language: give a presentation and answer questions.*

*In **English Literature**, students read and critically analyse a range of texts including a Shakespeare play, a 19th century novel, a modern text and a range of poetry. Text choices can vary from year to year, but are confirmed at the start of Year 10.*

The course assessment comprises of:

- Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th century novel;*
- Paper 2: Modern prose or drama, Anthology poetry and unseen poetry.*

Both GCSE courses are assessed through final examinations at the end of Year 11.

GCSE Mathematics

“Mathematics is the language with which God has written the universe.” – **Galileo Galilei**

Maths is needed at every step of life, and we cannot live without it. It is a subject that is applied to every field and profession. It explains how things work, allows us to make predictions, and has enabled humanity to make astounding technological progress.

At GCSE, there are two tiers of entry – Higher (grades 9 -4) and Foundation (grades 5 – 1). Your teacher will ensure that you are placed on the correct pathway to reach your potential.

All students complete 25 units of work for their GCSE and these are supported by knowledge organisers and unit assessments. You will be able to keep track of your progress throughout the course and address any misconceptions. Every lesson begins with a starter that recaps previous knowledge and creates a bespoke revision strategy right from the beginning. Homework is built up in two strands – written factual fluency practise and revision work using the MathsPad website.

The Mathematics GCSE has three main strands:

AO1 – factual fluency - being able to answer the question

AO2 – Reasoning - being able to explain your thinking throughout a question

AO3 – Problem Solving – being able to interpret what the question is asking you for

GCSE Science

Science plays an important role in everyone’s life. It explains what happens inside us and around us. At St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy, we believe that when our students leave, they should be equipped with the essential knowledge and skills that allow them to make informed decisions and form opinions with economic, sociocultural, religious, ecological and political connections. As such we have developed a rigorous curriculum, covering all aspects of science. Embedded within the knowledge are skills that are transferable to everyday life.

All students are taught the same content and have the same opportunities. These include excellent teaching, practical sessions, entry to internal and external quizzes and projects and visits outside of school to broaden knowledge and understanding. The teaching for all students embraces the content required to sit the Combined Science GCSEs and the Triple GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Decisions regarding the best route of entry are informed by end-of-unit tests and all mock exams taken over the two years, so that all students can achieve their best.

GCSE Geography, History and MFL

Details of each of these courses can be found later in the booklet.

PE (none examined)

All students continue to follow a planned program of physical education which complements their academic study.

CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

Please remember that you are expected to remain in education or training until the age of 18.

The aims of Careers Education and Guidance are to help you:

- *Develop skills, attitudes and abilities which will enable you to be effective in a variety of adult occupations and roles.*
- *Develop an understanding of yourself and others as individuals.*
- *Develop knowledge and understanding of career opportunities and employment that is available to you.*
- *Learn to make the right decisions related to your expected Post 16 destination.*
- *Manage and plan effectively the transition from school to your place of work or study.*

HOW ARE THE AIMS DELIVERED? The aims are delivered through Touching Hearts lessons, work experience week, mock interviews and our Career Encounter Days. Overviews of these resources are available on the careers section of the website.

Throughout Year 9, students are introduced to the process of KS4 subject selections. The Careers Service work closely with staff and students, showing them the large selection of careers information we have in school and how they can access it and use it for their individual needs, now and in the future. Throughout Key Stage 4 students have a 1:1 guidance interview with a fully qualified independent careers advisor. The careers advisor is based in school 2 days each week. Mrs Poole and Mrs Page are available at other times to help and support students with careers information, choices, and application forms. As well as individual interviews, group sessions with the Careers Advisors are arranged during the Summer term in Year 10 giving targeted students information on Career routes and opportunities available to them Post 16.

In years 10 and 11 pupils and parents will receive ongoing information and support in preparing for education post-16.

All pupils have a Unifrog account (Careers Software) which is of tremendous value to our students. St Margaret Ward is accredited by Stoke-on-Trent Careers with their Quality Standards Award for Careers Education and Guidance; this recognises the strength of the school in this particular area.



Department
for Education

HELP YOUR CHILD MAKE THE BEST GCSE CHOICES

You and your child may currently be considering, with advice from their school, what GCSE subjects they should take next year.

The Department for Education recommends these core subjects, which make up the English Baccalaureate (EBacc), and help keep options for young people open:

—English language and English literature

—Maths

—Science

Combined science or 3 single sciences from Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Computer science

—History or Geography

—A language

Ancient or modern



WHAT IS THE EBACC?

The EBacc is not a qualification in its own right – it's a combination of GCSE subjects, including a language, that offer an important range of knowledge and skills to young people.

EBACC FUTURE PROOFS YOUR CHILD'S PROSPECTS

While your child may not have decided on their future career path yet, choosing the EBacc at GCSE gives them access to a full range of employment options when they leave secondary school and the broad knowledge that employers are looking for. If they are thinking of going to university, the EBacc is also recommended by Britain's most prestigious universities.

The research found that students studying EBacc subjects for GCSE, were more likely to stay in education after 16.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies, August 2017

LANGUAGES GIVE YOUNG PEOPLE A COMPETITIVE EDGE

Languages are an important part of EBacc. Studying a foreign language can be extremely rewarding and exciting. They provide an insight into other cultures and can open the door to travel and employment opportunities. They can also broaden pupils' horizons, helping them flourish in new environments.

If your child finds languages difficult, don't forget that they will have been studying them for much less time than their other subjects and, while it can be a challenge, learning a language will greatly enhance their future opportunities.

What's more, we know that employers value languages, as they are increasingly important to make sure we can compete in the global market. Because of this, languages are increasingly becoming a requirement for many graduate schemes, such as those offered by Lidl.

"Having language skills under your belt will help make you stand out from the crowd, whether you're applying for an entry level position, a management role or an internal transfer."

Steve Cassidy, Senior Vice President & Managing Director, UK & Ireland, Hilton

The Russell Group has named languages as subjects that open doors to more degrees at universities. (The Russell Group is a group of 24 universities with a shared focus on research and a reputation for academic achievement)

"Young people skilled in the languages of Europe, China and other key markets around the world, can look forward to exciting and rewarding careers."

Dr Adam Marshall, Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce



Schools where more pupils select the EBacc at GCSE maintain the number of pupils that select arts.

Trends in arts subjects in schools with increased EBacc entry July 2017

WHAT ABOUT ARTS AND MUSIC?

While arts and music are not included in the EBacc, every child should still experience a high-quality arts and cultural education throughout their time at school as part of a balanced curriculum. If your child can take 9 GCSEs, they will have either 1 or 2 further options and can choose subjects based on their wider interests like art or music as well as others such as physical education or technology.

Further Information: Search EBacc on GOV.UK for more information.

You should also get in touch with your child's school directly — they will be able to tell you about their specific GCSE and EBacc offer and explain all of your child's options.

GCSE ART (Fine Art Endorsement)

Summary of course content:

The GCSE in Art is 60% coursework, and 40% exam (externally set task). This means that every single piece of work you do throughout the two years gains you marks for your final grade, and you are guided by your teacher throughout the production of your work. This means that Art is an ideal subject for students who work hard consistently and keep up to date with the work set.



GCSE Art students produce two major coursework projects: Natural Forms and Portraiture. For each, you will investigate the theme in your sketch book through drawing, research, using many different art media and looking at the work of famous artists. At the end of the project you use everything you have learned to create a final outcome.

The 'exam' in art is actually an Externally Set Task. This means that the exam board send a 'Question Paper' of themes, ideas, and starting points. Students work on this in lessons during the Spring Term of Year 11, and then produce an outcome in a two day art exam. Your teachers are able to support and advise you throughout the process, and are there with you in the room for the full two days.

Benefits of study:

- Art can make an enjoyable break from other subjects which are less practical. However, it is worth noting that GCSE Art does require writing to annotate the sketchbooks.
- It has been shown that making art and being creative can be good for your health and wellbeing.
- It is good to have a subject you really look forward to and are passionate about.
- Art encourages problem solving, critical thinking, independence, and creativity, which are excellent skills for further study and also employment in the future.
- We study the Fine Art endorsement as it gives us the most scope to provide interesting and diverse experiences and outcomes, which enables students to play to their strengths as an artist.

Post 16 Study: A Level Art is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Art and Design courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: A qualification in Art and Design develops many personal qualities and skills which can help you in life including independence, resilience, imagination, thinking 'outside the box', practical and technical skills, problem solving, creativity, critical thinking and many more.

Who to speak to for further information:

Your art teacher or Miss Terry as Head of Department (herry@smwca.org.uk)

Watch out for a PowerPoint about the subject which will be made available on Teams soon.

There are many examples of framed GCSE art work around the school building so you can see the sort of outcomes that are produced. Consider following our SMWCA Art & Design Facebook page and our brand new Instagram account which is SMWCA_art



BTEC Tech L1/2 Enterprise (Business)

Summary of course content:

Unit 1 – Exploring Business

This unit allows learners to explore real businesses that operate in their local area; they examine different enterprises to develop knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs (exam board set assignment).

Unit 2- Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity

This unit allows students to explore ideas, plan and pitch a micro-enterprise activity allowing them to use feedback to review their business plan (exam board set assignment).

Unit 3 – Promotion and Finance for Enterprise

Students explore the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how they identify and target their market. Students also learn about the financial documents and accounts that have to be completed by a business (exam assessed).

Benefits of study:

Learners will explore, develop and apply their knowledge helping to develop key transferable skills such as research and data analysis to support their progression to further learning and the workplace.

- *The flexible approach to the content of each component means you can deliver the course in a way that best suits you and your learners.*
- *This highly motivating, creative approach to teaching business and enterprise will encourage students to explore the world of business and what makes or breaks an enterprise.*
- *Due to the nature of the assessment students undertake research into real businesses and how they are responding to real life issues.*

“In business you will cover a broad range of areas from ownership types and finance to marketing and Human Resources. As well as the theory, you will develop many vital skills such as time management, effective team work, communication and problem solving. These skills will definitely help you stand out from the rest in your future, whether you go to university or for employment.” Ben M (6th form student).

Post 16 Study: A Level and Level 3 Vocational Business Studies are offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Business and Enterprise courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: This course is ideal for most career areas. It will be particularly useful for students thinking about business, financial, legal and marketing careers.

Who to speak to for further information: Mr Quigley, Head of Department (lquigley@smwca.org.uk)



GCSE Computer Science

N.B. GCSE Computer Science is considered to be a Science based qualification that can contribute to the English Baccalaureate. Students wishing to study Computing must be capable mathematicians

Summary of course content:

J277/01: Computer systems – 1hr 30min non-calculator paper

This unit looks at how computers were designed and how the key components work. It helps you understand how networks are set up and kept secured. It also will teach you about the difference between ethics and legalities surrounding the use of technology plus the environmental impacts of digital technology.

1.1 Systems architecture • 1.2 Memory and storage • 1.3 Computer networks, connections and protocols • 1.4 Network security • 1.5 Systems software • 1.6 Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 1hr 30min non-calculator paper which is split into 2 sections with section B assessing your ability to write algorithms/program. You will develop a working understanding of how to produce robust programs and industry standard protocols.

• 2.1 Algorithms • 2.2 Programming fundamentals • 2.3 Producing robust programs • 2.4 Boolean logic • 2.5 Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Benefits of study:

You may have heard that the UK has some of the best Computer games design and programming companies in the world, but they are all struggling to employ programmers from the UK. Massive companies like Microsoft, Google and Apple have said that the UK was at the front line of new computing. Many of today's pupils, however, are not learning programming. With this GCSE and further education in this field, you will be extremely employable in future.

"Computer Science is a great option to choose, as it gives you an insight into the software and hardware around you and could be your building blocks to becoming a game designer or someone who works in cyber security."

(Yr. 11 Computer Science Student)

Post 16 Study: A Level Computing is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Computing courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: If you take a GCSE in Computing and then go on to study the subject at A level or university, you'll have an advantage over fellow students who are picking up the subject at these higher levels. The increasing importance of information technologies means there'll be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field. The course is excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you'll develop, especially where they're applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

Who to speak to for further information:

Mr Quigley / Miss Fallows (lquigley@smwca.org.uk, rfallows@smwca.org.uk)



BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Summary of course content:

The course consists of three components: two that are internally assessed and one that's externally examined. The assessments are split into a three-block structure, explore (internal), develop (internal) and apply (external). Internal assessments are based on the work you produce in class, the two internal components account for 60% of your grade with the final 40% being the external exam.

Throughout this course you will learn about how Digital Information Technology is used in real world situations whether it is designing a new user interface such as an app or being able to collect and interpreting large data sets to make decisions. Throughout the two years the course you will develop effective working practises such as collaborative working which will help you understand technology in the work place.

Benefits of study:

You may have heard that the UK has a growing shortage in the digital skill gap. Whilst we use technology more and more, people's understanding has fallen, with users becoming passive. This has led to business leaders pushing the government for more IT courses and focus. With this BTEC in DIT and further education in this field, you will be extremely employable in future.

"I really enjoyed learning how to build apps and we entered into a national app design challenge and my team even made it to the national final using the skills we learned from this course."
(Yr10 DIT student)

Post 16 Study: ICT courses are offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative ICT courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: The increasing importance of information technologies means there is a constant demand for professionals who are qualified in this field. The course is excellent preparation if you want to study or work in areas that rely on the skills you'll develop. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine but the list of jobs which require ICT skills is endless.

Who to speak to for further information: Mr Quigley / Miss Fallows (lquigley@smwca.org.uk, rfallows@smwca.org.uk)



GCSE Drama

Summary of course content:

GCSE Drama is an ideal course for those with an interest in Drama, Theatre and Performance. The course covers both practical and theoretical aspects of Drama allowing students to participate in a wide range of actor training and design workshops. During the course students will create, rehearse and perform in both a scripted and devised performance, taking full creative responsibility for co-ordinating the lighting, set and costume required for their performances in our purpose-built Drama studio. Throughout both processes students will learn about influential theatre practitioners and a wide range of theatrical styles ranging from Naturalism to Musical Theatre and Bertolt Brecht to Frantic Assembly. GCSE students will not only explore acting, but will also learn about directing, costume, set, lighting, theatrical make up and puppetry and may opt to be assessed in any one of these areas for their scripted and devised performances.

As well as being a highly practical subject Drama requires students to draw upon their academic knowledge, in preparation for their written exam. Students will practically study a set text and live theatre performance during lessons. Students will draw upon links with History and English in order to understand the set play's historical context and critically evaluate a Performance.

Course Breakdown:

1: Understanding Drama – The practical study of a set play and live theatre performance assessed through a written examination. (40%).

2: Devising Drama – Students create their own performance based upon a theatrical style/practitioner in order to meet a clear aim and intention for an audience. (40%).

3: Texts in Practice – Students rehearse two extracts from a play and present them to an audience. (20%).

*For unit 2 & 3 students may be assessed performing, directing or designing.

Benefits of study:

GCSE Drama is beneficial for students not only wanting to pursue further training and a career in the arts, but for those wanting to gain valuable life and employability skills. Students who take GCSE Drama develop confidence, leadership, team work, creativity, innovation and critical thinking skills.

Post 16 Study: A Level Drama is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Other Drama related courses may be offered by other local providers.

Career Progression: Former Drama students have gone on to pursue careers as an actor, teacher (primary and secondary), social worker, nurse, theatre director (Liverpool Everyman Theatre), lighting designer and Lawyer. It is a highly regarded course by universities and employers alike.

Who to speak to for further information: Miss O'Neill, Head of Department (lonell@smwca.org.uk)



GCSE Design & Technology: Systems: Electronics



Summary of course content:

GCSE D&T: Electronics - The course will provide you with the underpinning knowledge of a range of electronic circuits, which allow you to design and make your own electronic systems. You will develop your knowledge of electronics concepts by building and testing circuits for a variety of purposes. You will also develop your knowledge of programming techniques so that you can develop electronic circuits that are able to interact with the outside world.

You will need to be an open minded, independent, practical and creative thinker to get the most out of this course. The course benefits those who like a balance of logical and creative work – the ability to draw and utilise mathematical equations is necessary. An interest in understanding how things work is essential. There are many possible approaches to your coursework – some extremely technical and some extremely creative! If you enjoy a combination of DT, art, computer science, physics and even social studies, this course is for you! It is the perfect blend of creative, technical and social, and you will think a lot about how to design products that enrich people's lives. Lessons will be a mixture of theory, design and practical.

In order to pass this course, you will need to show safe and independent working practices and be a creative thinker!

Course Assessment:

- 50% exam in Year 11
- 50% coursework in the form of one large design and make project.

Benefits of study:

The technical element of the course will provide a good grounding for anyone wishing to pursue a career in design, electronics, product design, construction, and engineering. It also compliments careers in art or computer science well, as you will be able to take skills such as drawing and computer programming into those careers.

Being able to solve technical problems and use your initiative are skills highly valued by employers. The course will also develop your ability to think creatively and independently, skills increasingly essential for the modern world. Traditionally students with a background in electronics or a related specialism are highly-sought by future employers and have a high earning potential.

Post 16 Study: A Design and Technology A Level in Product Design is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Electronics based courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: A qualification in Electronics can lead to further education and employment in engineering, electronics, robotics, mechatronics and systems and control. It is also a very useful qualification that can lead to employment on technical and trade apprenticeships or vocational training.

Who to speak to for further information: Mrs M Sharp (msharp8@smwca.org.uk)

Head of Design and Technology, Miss Fallows, Design & Technology Department (rfallows@smwca.org.uk)



Level 2 Food Studies

Summary of course content:

Examinable content:

Unit 1 - The Hospitality & Catering Industry. Written Exam worth 40% of total marks.

Unit 2 - Hospitality & Catering in Action. Internal Assessment worth 60% of total marks.

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in Food, Cookery and Nutrition. It will provide students with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods both practically and through written content. Nutrition and its wider considerations and impact is fundamental to many of the tasks set throughout the course. The course provides a firm foundation and depth of study sufficient to lead into a variety of careers post within the Hospitality and Food sectors; currently employing over 10 million people in the UK i.e. Nutritionist, Dietician, Food & Drink services, Food Entrepreneurs to name but a few.

This course has been designed in order to develop knowledge and understanding in relation to a range of Food related applications and situations; enabling students to create a range of different Food products which are supported by effective and relevant theory. There will be opportunities to learn about Food sources, Environmental impacts, Skills, Business acumen, Nutrition and Food safety; discussing how these affect successful Hospitality and Catering operations. Students will of course have the opportunity to develop creative and diverse food preparation and cooking skills whilst also encouraging problem solving, resilience, organisation, effective time management; teamwork, planning and excellent communication.

Benefits of study:

The course has been designed to support learners who want to learn about the exciting and diverse Hospitality and Catering sector and the potential it can offer them for their future careers. It provides a firm foundation for further study which would furnish students with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and generic skillsets; supporting their progression to employment. As mentioned previously careers in Hospitality and Catering are wide and varied; ranging from Waiting on staff, Receptionists/Front of House and Catering assistants to Chefs, Hotel and Bar managers, Food technologists/Product developers/Food scientists within Food manufacturing and other areas such as Nutrition/Dietetics and Entrepreneurial sectors. All of these roles would require further education and training through Apprenticeships and/or further and Higher education. In essence the course provides relevant industry inspired learning and development; enabling unique opportunities for today's creative learner and tomorrow's dynamic employee.

Post 16 Study: Hospitality and Catering courses are available through local Post 16 providers.

Career Progression: Currently employing over 10 million people in the UK, the Hospitality and Catering industry is an expanding employment sector with roles and areas including: Nutritionist, Dietician, Food & Drink services, Food Entrepreneurs to name but a few.

Who to speak to for further information: Mrs M Sharp (msharp8@smwca.org.uk)
Head of Design and Technology.



GCSE Geography

N.B. All students will study either History or Geography, giving every student the best chance of achieving the English Baccalaureate. Students can choose to study both subjects should they wish.

Summary of course content:

Geography at GCSE involves looking at both physical and human aspects of the world.

Geography is a dynamic subject which requires understanding of both of these aspects in order to make informed judgements about the world around us. The GCSE course builds on the knowledge and skills you have gained from Years 7-9 and prepares you well for a range of future career paths.

You will have the opportunity to complete 2 pieces of fieldwork to either the coast or a river, and a city, to enhance your studies and prepare you for the Paper 3 examination.

You will study the following topics to prepare you for 3 exams at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment: Natural and tectonic hazards, weather hazards, climate change, ecosystems, tropical rainforests, cold environments, coasts and rivers.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment: The urban world, including a detailed case study on Rio de Janeiro, urban change in the UK, including a detailed case study on Bristol, urban sustainability, the development gap, a case study on Nigeria as a newly emerging economy, the changing UK economy, food, water and energy use in the UK and global energy management.

Paper 3: Geographical application/skills: This involves looking at decision-making relating to contemporary issues, and the assessment of your fieldwork. You will also be examined on your ability to apply your fieldwork knowledge to unseen fieldwork questions.

Benefits of study:

- Geography involves looking at the world around you to effectively plan for the future
- Geography is classed as an academic subject and is part of the English Baccalaureate
- Geography is a focus within the curriculum for understanding and resolving issues about the environment and sustainable development
- Geography links well with Maths, Sciences, Art, History, RE, Business and many more subjects.
- You can have a big impact on actually changing the world if you opt for a career in Geography!

Post 16 Study: A Level Geography is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Geography courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: Students of Geography are some of the most employable people because of the transferrable skills you gain, such as analysing data, interpreting information, and because of your wider understanding about how the world works. Past students have gone on to work for the government, local councils, environmental organisations, law firms, surveyors, engineering, land management, market research and architectural firms.

Who to speak to for further information:

Mrs A Pimblott, Mrs P Rhodes, and Miss K Underdown (apimblott@smwca.org.uk, prhodes@smwca.org.uk, kunderdown@smwca.org.uk)



Level 2: Graphic Design

Summary of course content:

GCSE Design & Technology: Graphic Design will enable students to use their imagination and creativity to design and create innovative solutions that solve genuine problems. This qualification is appropriate for students who are motivated and challenged by learning through hands-on experiences and content which is concrete and related directly to those experiences. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences of Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. Students will focus on Papers and Boards as a specialist technical principle and also learn how to use a variety of techniques when completing the practical component of their coursework. They will demonstrate competence in real practical tasks, taking their ideas from the concept design stage all the way to a finished product or prototype. Being a STEM subject (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) this course will fit perfectly with other the core subjects students will be studying and will help to develop and strengthen mathematical skills.

How will I be assessed in Graphic Design?

- 50% exam
- 50% coursework

Benefits of study:

Are you interested in animation? Illustration? Game Design? Advertising? 2D & 3D Designing? ... then this is the course for you!

Students will be encouraged to develop skills which will prepare them for the world of work; for example, presentation techniques, knowledge of industrial and manufacturing processes, communication of ideas, Computer Aided Design and manufacture; team working and problem solving.

The course focuses on the production of creative, inspiring and innovative products which fill a gap in the market. Although this is still an academic course it provides those with artistic tendencies scope to fulfil their capabilities whilst considering the needs of the Design industry.

Post 16 Study: A Level Art and Product Design is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Graphics and Design courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: Graphic Product Design is a valuable commodity in today's world. With the multi-million pound advertising and marketing business at its basis, there are many fields which could be explored further at Post 16 and beyond. Careers include Graphic Design, CAD Design & ICT, Web and Game Design, Printing, Publishing, Advertising and Marketing, Merchandising and Animation to name but a few.

Who to speak to for further information: Mrs M Sharp (msharp8@smwca.org.uk)

Head of Design and Technology or Miss Critchlow (ccritchlow@smwca.org.uk)

GCSE History

N.B. All students will study either History or Geography thereby giving every student the very best chance of achieving the English Baccalaureate. Students can choose to study both subjects should they wish to.

Summary of course content:

The course covers a broad span of history starting with a depth study of crime and punishment from the medieval period to the present day. We then study a source-based enquiry on the Norman Conquest (1065-1087) before studying the development of America (from the War of Independence to the start of the twentieth century). Finally, we study Nazi Germany before concluding with a local history study based upon the development of the pottery industry in Stoke on Trent.

Y10 Crime and Punishment

Y10 The Norman Conquest

Y11 America 1789-1900

Y11 Living in Nazi Germany

Y11 Local history study



The course offers an excellent blend of knowledge-based content and source investigation.

Benefits of study:

GCSE History Inspires students' enthusiasm for the world around them and the past. Students develop their understanding of the present by studying significant periods and themes from the past at a local, national and global level, engaging with a range of contemporary sources and later interpretations. Many GCSE students go on to become A level students and undergraduate students of History, Classics, Politics and International Relations.

Post 16 Study: A Level History and A Level Government and Politics are offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative History based courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: History is seen as an academically excellent choice and is supportive of the wider development of knowledge and skills. People who do well in history tend to become informed individuals and many go on to study the subject at 'A' level and beyond. It is a well-known fact that more leaders in the world of industry and business have studied History over any other subject at degree level. All employers and universities value GCSE History.

Who to speak to for further information:

Mr Chance, Mr Bland, Mr Proctor (rchance@smwca.org.uk, lbland@smwca.org.uk, cproctor@smwca.org.uk)



BTEC Tech L2 Health and Social Care

Summary of course content:

Unit 1 – Human lifespan development

Understanding how we grow and develop throughout our lives

- exam board set assignment

Unit 2 – Health and Social Care values

Get to know how the Health and Social Care sector works and the c

- exam board set assignment

Unit 3 - Health and Wellbeing

Help improve someone's health and well-being – examined unit

Benefits of study:

The BTEC specification in Health and Social Care encourages learners to be inspired, moved and changed by following a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course to study and help them gain an insight into related Health and Social Care sectors.

It will prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices by providing a practical, real hands-on approach to learning and develop specific knowledge and skills.

The BTEC specification in Health and Social Care enables learners to:

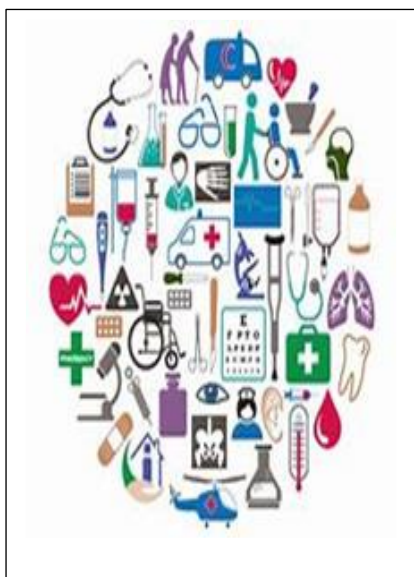
- Actively engage in the processes of Health and Social Care to develop as effective and independent learners as well as members of a team.
- Understand aspects of personal development, and the Health, Social Care and Early Years sectors through investigation and evaluation of a range of services and organisations.
- Develop a critical and analytical approach to problem solving within the Health and Social Care sectors.
- Examine issues that affect the nature and quality of human life including an appreciation of diversity and cultural issues.
- Understand the importance of motivation and support when improving health.

Post 16 Study: Level 3 Health and Social Care is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Health and Social Care courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: Further education into other Health and Social Care qualifications.

Careers in the Health and Social Care sector e.g. nursing, nursery nurse, medical receptionist, care assistant, social worker, midwife, doctor, paramedic to name but a few.

Who to speak to for further information: Mrs Hancock, Mrs Potts (jhancock@smwca.org.uk, qpotts@smwca.org.uk)



GCSE Modern Foreign Languages (German or French)

N.B. All students will continue with their study of the language chosen in Y8. This will provide all students with the very best chance of gaining the English Baccalaureate.

The option of a second Modern Foreign Language is very dependent upon a student's language ability and will be considered on an individual basis. Bespoke advice and guidance will be provided to any student considering opting for a second Modern Foreign Language.

Summary of course content:

Over the next two years, you will build on the foundation work you have done in KS3. You will study the broad themes of: identity and culture; local, national, international and global areas of interest; and current and future study and employment. These include a wide-variety of sub-topics such as technology and media, leisure time, careers and education, volunteer work, social issues, family and relationships, travel and tourism, and environment.

In lessons, you will be using a blend of the course textbook, a range of media and authentic materials and online tools such as Duolingo and Quizlet to help you develop your language skills in preparation for the exams, which all take place at the end of the course.

Assessment:

Exam board: AQA

Listening: 25% of grade (1 exam lasting 35 mins: foundation / 45 mins: higher)

Speaking: 25% of grade (1 exam lasting 7-9 mins: foundation / 9-12 mins: higher)

Reading: 25% of grade (1 exam lasting 45 mins: foundation / 60 mins: higher)

Writing: 25% of grade (1 exam lasting 60 mins: foundation / 75 mins: higher)

Benefits of study:

Employers and universities are increasingly looking for people with language skills. Foreign language skills are rated second only to ICT by companies when it comes to finding the right candidate.

Being able to speak a language can help to meet new friends, broaden your horizons, and have experiences that you will remember for the rest of your life. You can't always just rely on a translator! Furthermore, research at the University of Edinburgh has shown that speaking another language keeps your brain active and helps with the learning of other subjects.

MFL has been identified by the top 20 leading universities as being amongst the ‘facilitating’ subjects. These are the subjects which this group (the Russell group) says are most likely to be beneficial for entry to degree courses and that will keep the most options open. MFL is so flexible; they are everywhere and can combine with virtually every subject or career in some way, shape or form.

More than 500,000 students are in the same year group as you nationally and will be competing for jobs and university places just like you! Over half of these students will have taken a language at GCSE and you need to be ready to compete with them and give yourself the very best chance of success.

Post 16 Study: A Level French and German are offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative MFL courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: The GCSE is a nationally recognised qualification which you can use to apply for jobs or further education. It is especially useful in business and office-based careers involving communication with French/German speakers and when working for a French/ German employer; yet you never know when it might come in handy.

Who to speak to for further information: Your languages teacher or Mr Bailey-Rigby (MRigby1@smwca.org.uk)



GCSE Music

Summary of course content:

The GCSE music course has three components: **Performing, Composing and Appraising.**

During the course you will study a variety of musical genres ranging from works by Purcell, Bach and Beethoven to the music of Queen and John Williams. In addition to this you will learn about Instrumental Music from 1700 - 1820, Vocal Music, Music for Stage and Screen and Fusions.

You will also compose your own music and record two performances, which are assessed in school and then moderated externally.

Benefits of study:

Music is an academic subject in its own right, but it actually benefits other subjects too. A recent study in the UK found that playing a musical instrument appears to enhance general performance in other subjects at GCSE, including those within the EBacc. Other studies have shown that music benefits learning by activating all areas of the brain: auditory (sound processing); motor (rhythm processing); and limbic (emotions). Studying Music also provides transferable skills as GCSE Music involves written, analytical, practical and social/personal skills such as: independent learning; team working; performance and presentation skills; listening; analytical and essay-writing skills; confidence and self-esteem and creativity and self-expression. Making music also helps us maintain good mental health during a time of high pressure. Increasingly, employers and universities are looking for young people who have skills that are learned through creative subjects: creative thinking, emotional intelligence, adaptability, communication and tenacity to name just a few. They are also keen to attract students who have a well-rounded education.

If you play an instrument or sing and love performing and listening to music, then this is the course for you! As a department we regularly call on our GCSE students to provide music for special occasions both inside and outside school which increases your accountability, confidence, team skills, knowledge and understanding, and, most importantly, allows you to enjoy what is essentially a hard but most enjoyable GCSE option.

Just remember, the GCSE music course enables players to attain a standard of performance skill which can remain an enjoyable hobby for life. To take this course you will need an instrument (or your voice!), a love of performing and a thirst for musical knowledge.

Post 16 Study:

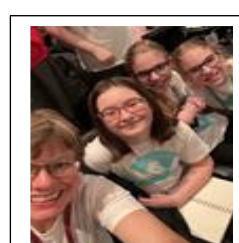
A Level Music is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Music courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career progression: A qualification in Music can lead to opportunities in performing, teaching, community arts work, arts management and other music related jobs. In addition to this, many career paths benefit from having a qualification in music, as it is a subject which extends both artistic and scientific thinking skills.

Who to speak to for further information:

Miss Hayes (rhayes@smwca.org.uk) or Mrs Smith (jsmith2@smwca.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter: @MusicSMW and on Instagram: music_smw and smwvoicebox



GCSE Design & Technology: Product Design

Summary of course content:

GCSE D&T: Product Design will enable students to use their imagination and creativity to design and make innovative products that solve genuine problems. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences of Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

Students will learn how to design and manufacture products using a range of traditional and modern tools including 2D and 3D design software, laser cutters/engravers, 3D printers. They will demonstrate competence in real practical tasks, taking their ideas from the concept design stage all the way to a finished product or prototype. Being a STEM subject (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) this course will fit perfectly with other the core subjects students will be studying and will help to develop and strengthen mathematical skills. This GCSE course allows students to study designing and making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials, techniques and equipment. They will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.

How will I be assessed in Design & Technology?

- 50% exam
- 50% coursework – This is where you design and make your own product.

Benefits of study:

Current D&T facts;

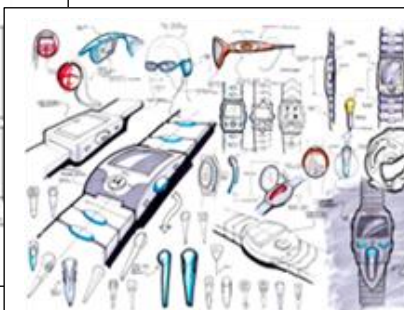
- For young people and parents thinking about future careers be aware that in recent years the creative industries grew 3x more than the wider UK economy.
- Last year the UK's engineering, manufacturing and creative industries' sectors were together worth 500 billion pounds.
- The latest estimate from Engineering UK is that we will need over 1.8 million **new** engineers in the UK by the end of 2022.

Post 16 Study: A Level Product design is offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative Design and Technology courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: Product Design leads to a vast range of careers and Further Education courses. It will prepare students for a world of business and enterprise. For those thinking further ahead, an A Level in Product Design is welcomed by universities when applying for courses such as Architecture, Design, Engineering, Fashion, Video Game Design and many more. A qualification in Product Design and Design & Technology, in general, can lead to employment in: Product Design, Video Game Design, Engineering - (Civil, Structural, Electronic), Theatrical Set Design, Interior Design, Automotive Design, Architectural links, Teaching, Construction, Aerospace, Graphic Design, Media, Advertising. Also, 3D design/print/manufacture is now being used more frequently in medicine and veterinary procedures.

Who to speak to for further information:

Mrs M Sharp (msharp8@smwca.org.uk), Head of Design and Technology or Mr Fryer (rfryer@smwca.org.uk).



Examined PE

In our attempt to ensure all students wishing to opt for a PE qualification have a pathway suitable to their needs, we are offering a range of pathways. These include, GCSE PE, Cambridge National Sports Science and Cambridge National Sports Studies. Each course differs in terms of how students are assessed and the weighting of theory and practical. Students will simply opt for 'Examined PE' and the PE staff will use their professional judgement and experience to choose the course which will best meet each child's needs.

For information about each course and qualification please speak to your PE teacher or Mr Pearson, Head of Department (mpearson@smwca.org.uk)



Please see below for details of each PE qualification:

GCSE Physical Education

Summary of course content:

The GCSE in Physical Education course is comprised of four sections; Physical Factors affecting participation, socio-cultural factors affecting participation, practical performance in three sports and a coursework element. The breakdown of each component is outlined below;

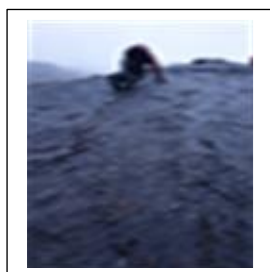
Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting
<i>Physical Factors affecting performance</i>	60	1 hour (Exam)	30%
<i>Socio-cultural & psychological Factors affecting performance</i>	60	1 hour (Exam)	30%
<i>Performance in Physical Education</i>	60	Practical	30%
<i>AEP Coursework</i>	20	10 Hours	10%
Y10 Physical factors affecting performance (summary)	Y11 Socio-cultural factors affecting performance (Summary)	Practical / Coursework Y10 &11	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Major bones• Major Muscles• Lever systems• Cardio-vascular system• Respiratory system• Components of fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commercialisation of sport• Diet and nutrition• Media• Sponsorship• Guidance• Feedback• Goal setting	<p><i>You must produce a piece of coursework on analysing Performance.</i></p> <p><i>You will be assessed in your practical ability in three sports (from the specification). These Must comprise of two individual sports and a team</i></p>	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principles of training Injury prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ethical issues in sport 	sport or two team sports and an individual sport.
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Benefits of study:
 GCSE Physical Education allows you to extend your core skills and values learnt during Physical Education lessons at Key Stage 3. For those of you who have excelled in PE lessons and enjoy improving your knowledge of health and fitness, GCSE PE will be the next step to a career in sport, leisure or the fitness industry. GCSE PE is a great knowledge base for A Level study, or a step into the sporting industry. The course will develop key skills, improve knowledge of health and fitness and the human body.

Post 16 Study: Level 3 Sports and PE qualifications are offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative sports/PE courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: Armed forces, public services, teaching/lecturing, coaching, professional sport and the sports media.



Cambridge National Sports Studies (L2 Equivalent to GCSE)			
<p>Summary of course content: In the OCR sport studies course, students will study four separate units over the two year course. Three of these are mainly practical based with the fourth unit, 'contemporary issues in sport' an examined unit. In the 'Developing Sports Skills' unit, you will be assessed in different sports such as football and netball, in 'Sports Leadership', you will plan, deliver and evaluate coaching sessions and in 'Outdoor Activities', you will learn more about various outdoor pursuits such as climbing, kayaking and orienteering.</p> <p>Unit breakdown:</p>			
Unit	Marks	Duration	
Contemporary issues in sport	60 (Exam) 25%	1 hour	
Developing Sports Skills	60 (Practical) 25%	30 hours	
Sports Leadership	60 (Practical) 25%	30 hours	
Developing knowledge and skills in Outdoor Activities	60 (Practical/trip) 25%	30 hours	

Contemporary issues	Practical sport	Sports Leadership	Outdoor Education
Students explore a range of topical and contemporary issues in sport, such as participation levels and barriers, promoting	Students try out a range of sports-related skills and techniques, including different practice methods for improving both their	Students learn about some of the knowledge, understanding and practical skills required to be an effective sports leader. They put their	Students find out about a wide range of outdoor and adventure activities and the organisations that provide access to them. Through planning

values and ethical behaviour, and how sport contributes to society as a whole beyond simply providing entertainment.	own performance and that of others.	knowledge into practice by planning and delivering safe and effective sporting activity sessions. Afterwards they review their performance.	and participating in these type of activities, they will learn about the risks involved and gain an understanding of health and safety, risk assessments and the importance of detailed planning for various scenarios and challenging environments.
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Benefits of study:

The OCR Sport course will appeal to you if you are interested in a career in coaching sport or the leisure industry or perhaps outdoor pursuits; if you have a real passion for sport and being involved in your PE lessons; if you want to get involved in sport but may not necessarily be outstanding practically. This is a route for students who enjoy learning about sport in a practical context.

Post 16 Study: Level 3 Sports and PE qualifications are offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative sports/PE courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: Armed forces, public services, teaching/lecturing, coaching, professional sport and the sports media.



Cambridge National Sports Science (L2 Qualification, equivalent to GCSE)

Summary of course content:

The Cambridge National in Sport Science helps students appreciate how sport science underpins sport at all levels. Students learn about anatomy, physiology, injury prevention, improving personal fitness through appropriate training and diet, and the role of technology in improving performance.

Unit Breakdown:

Unit	Marks	Duration
Reducing the risk of injuries in sport.	60 (Exam 25%)	1 hour
Applying the principles of training in sport	60 (Coursework/practical 25%)	30 hours
Technology in Sport	60 (Coursework 25%)	30 hours
Sports Nutrition	60 (Coursework 25%)	30 hours

Injuries in sport	Principles of training	Technology in sport	Sports Nutrition
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Types of injury • Safety hazards • Acute injuries • Chronic injuries • Injuries relating to children • Warm up and cool down • Posture • Responding to injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aerobic exercise • Anaerobic exercise • Training methods • Fitness testing • Designing training programmes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How technology is used in sport? • The positive effects of technology • The negative effects of technology • How technology is used in performance? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nutrients needed for a balanced diet • Understand the importance of nutrition in sport. • Effects of diet on participation • Developing diet plans
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Benefits of study:

You are most likely to enjoy this course if...you love PE but may not have the necessary sport performance level to complete the GCSE PE course, or you love PE but prefer to be assessed in project based work rather than via an exam! Your enjoyment of this course will be enhanced if you are prepared for the fact that some lessons will be classroom based!

Post 16 Study: Level 3 Sports and PE qualifications are offered at the Trinity Sixth Form. Alternative sports/PE courses may be offered at other local providers.

Career Progression: Armed forces, public services, teaching/lecturing, coaching, professional sport and the sports media.