

# Strangford Integrated College



## **Strangford College**

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**GCSE Options Booklet 2021**

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# Introduction

Dear Parents and Students,

The next few weeks will be very important for everyone as a number of significant decisions have to be reached. This is the time in a student's life when GCSE subject choices have to be made and it is essential that certain points are taken into consideration.

1. The school requires that certain core subjects must be studied namely: PE, Religious Studies, English Language and Mathematics.
2. Each person has specific subject preferences but, while these should be taken into consideration, it is important to have a balanced approach to subject choice. It is essential to ensure that a decision made now does not inhibit career choice later on.
3. If a student is fairly clear about a future career, subjects should be chosen accordingly. It is important, however, to take account of the fact that people do change their minds, so balance and breadth are required in the decision-making process.
4. Each student should be realistic about himself/herself. Advice should be sought from the Careers Teachers, Form Teacher and Subject Teacher concerning a student's ability and aptitude to pursue a subject at a higher level.

We hope that this booklet will provide you with information which will help in the decision-making process. Each subject area is described in terms of coursework component, examination requirement and career implications.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Clare Foster

Principal

# Careers Guidance

The most valuable things you can do to help with your career planning are:

- Be open to ideas and explore all your options
- Base your choices and decisions on your aspirations and abilities

**Parents, encourage your child to:**

- Talk about their careers ideas and future plans
- Research a wide range of career pathways and progression routes.
- Be aware of all the options available, including those in education, employment and training.
- Ensure your son/daughter prepares for and makes the most of their careers classes in school.
- Find out about training, college, and university entrance requirements as well as what is needed for jobs they are interested in.
- Develop their skills by taking part in clubs and activities, both within and outside of school - this will help them when they are applying for courses or jobs.
- Find out about the world of work through work experience or talking to relatives or family friends about the kinds of work they do.
- Talk to their teachers and attend any careers events the college organises.

**Look at future career options with your child**

To make a successful career choice, it is crucial that you and your child are aware of current and future employment opportunities.

There are job opportunities across all occupations in Northern Ireland but the following areas have been highlighted as being extremely important to the Northern Ireland economy:

- Business and financial services (including accountancy, corporate recovery, financial analysts)
- ICT (particularly software development skills, database development, systems architecture and internet specialist skills)
- Agri-food sector (including lab technicians, food scientists, biotechnologists, quality managers, food marketing and production managers)
- Advanced manufacturing and engineering (CAD skills, CNC machine operatives, mechanical and electrical engineering skills including at technician level, strategic marketing skills)
- Renewable energies and recycling
- Land use and environmental engineering
- Health and life sciences (biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, biomedical technologies, life applications technologies, nutraceuticals and biomedical devices)
- Creative and digital media
- Hotels and catering (to boost tourism)

Our students are making important decisions at this time which may affect future employment prospects. In terms of job opportunities, STEM subjects offer many openings however, it would be

foolish to choose these subjects if strengths lie in Arts and Humanities subjects. There are many college courses for which there are no specific subject requirements. If you have not yet decided on a particular course of study, then consider carefully the careers which your course of GCSE study may exclude and seek advice from a careers teacher.

It is important for our students to recognise that they are not on their own – there are a wide range of people within the school that they can discuss their career pathways and subject choices with. These include:

- Careers Teachers
- Form Teacher
- Head of Year
- Careers Adviser
- Subject Teachers

In Careers lessons, your son/daughter has had the opportunity to develop a career plan which has included identifying:

- Their skills
- Their qualities
- Their learning style
- What subjects they are good at
- What subjects they enjoy
- Job research – requirements for certain jobs.

The purpose of these learning opportunities is to help each students to make informed subject choices for GCSE and identify where their employability strengths lie.

To best support your son/daughter in this important transition period we recommend **that you discuss with him/her their career plan and assist them in making appropriate choices.**

### **Key School Contacts**

Head of Careers- Mrs R Beattie

Assistant Head of Careers- Mr A Coffey

Careers Service N.I Advisers – Mrs Dutton ([kathy.dutton@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:kathy.dutton@economy-ni.gov.uk))

Mrs Young ([gillian.young@economy-ni.gov.uk](mailto:gillian.young@economy-ni.gov.uk))

# Career Pathways

## **A-Levels**

After completing GCSE qualifications, pupils may have the opportunity to study Advanced Level courses in school. Advanced level qualifications (known as A levels) are subject-based qualifications that can lead to university, further study, training, or work. You can normally study three or more A levels over two years. They're usually assessed by a series of examinations.

You normally need:

- at least five GCSEs at grades A\* to C
- at least grade B in the specific subject(s) you want to study
- However, the specific requirements needed to study A levels will vary across schools and colleges. It's important to check what you will need with the school or college you are looking to study at.

## **Apprenticeships**

These programmes are delivered by a range of employers and colleges in Northern Ireland. As an apprentice you will have the opportunity to work with experienced staff who will help you to learn and develop a range of skills that will be useful for industry as well as receiving 'off-the-job' training in order to complete vocational qualifications.

There are a range of benefits for you to take advantage of as an apprentice:

- You earn while you learn
- You work alongside experienced staff
- You receive specific training that will be useful in industry
- You gain qualifications

To learn more about apprenticeships, visit- <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/apprenticeships-explained#toc-2>

## **Universities**

If you go on to complete Level 3 courses at school or college, you may then apply to university. This is done through the online UCAS system. University can be an essential route for some career pathways and it is important to begin considering this option before choosing your GCSE subjects as these may count in the course you apply to. Find out more at- <https://www.ucas.com/>

## **Employment**

Going straight into work gets onto the first step of your career, builds your confidence, gives you experience, and gives you the opportunity to meet new people. You can start developing the essential skills and experience you need for your career progression, while increasing your employability – having work experience and building your CV will make you more attractive to employers, and will open up more job opportunities in the future.

# What is a GCSE?

GCSE stands for the General Certificate of Secondary Education. At Key Stage 4 GCSE is the main means of assessing attainment. GCSE certificates are awarded for achievement at grades A\* - G. Grades A\*, A, B,C\*,C are regarded as the grades that students must aim for in order to consider studying them at A-level.

To study a subject at A-level in Strangford College, a pass at grade A\*, A or B is usually required.

# What is an Occupational Studies qualification?

This is a Level 2 qualification aligned to GCSEs and NVQs. It allows learners to explore a range of vocational skills and research careers in the occupational areas they choose. The courses allow learners to develop different skills and discover if particular areas suit them. The learners can achieve the whole range of levels of competence.

The course is 100% portfolio and activity based and the grade boundaries are Pass/Merit/Distinction/Distinction\* which are the notional equivalent to A\*-C at GCSE.

# What is an OCN NI qualification?

This is a Level 2 qualification. The grade boundaries are Pass/Fail with a Pass being the notional equivalent of a 'B' grade at GCSE.

# What is the Prince's Trust qualification?

The Level 2 Achieve programme promotes a flexible approach, using relevant, experiential learning to support young people to achieve a range of personal and employability skills and gain qualifications. Young people work together as a group on practical learning projects, which are designed to boost their confidence, improve self esteem, attainment, behaviour and attendance. These skills and personal qualities can support the young people to achieve more, both at school, and in the future.

The qualification is 100% centre assessed using portfolios of evidence and graded as Pass or Fail. A Level 2 Certificate 'Pass' grade is the notional equivalent of two grade 'B's at GCSE.

# When do I take my GCSE exams?

If you study GCSEs the usual age to sit the end-of-course exams is 16, but there are no hard and fast rules. You can take it before or after that age; for example, some students will sit GCSE exams at the end of Year 11 but in general the exams are normally taken in May and June at the end of Year 12. Some subjects have modular exams and coursework or controlled assessments.

# What are Vocational courses?

Vocational courses, are qualifications that:

- Relate to work in a particular vocational area, such as business, ICT or technology
  - Are a mix of theory and practical activities
- Can be mixed and matched with other GCSEs and a variety of different courses
  - Are mainly assessed by coursework or controlled assessments.

# Why do I need to take GCSE/Level 2 subjects?

Sixteen is an important 'decision making' point in every young person's life. These qualifications provide the stepping stones as you make your decision regarding what you will do at this crucial stage of your life. You may choose to stay on here at the College and continue your studies at AS/A2 level in the hope of gaining a place at University/Higher education. Alternatively, you may decide to leave school, take a job, start on a training placement or go to another institute of learning to pursue different courses.

## What is controlled assessment?

Controlled assessments are work that is integral to the course. It is done in class and at home and is closely supervised by teachers. It can take various forms such as assignments in Science, practical and project work in Art and Technology, and compositions in Music. Throughout your two years of study for KS4 qualifications your teachers will set specific coursework or controlled assessments for you to do. Your teachers will mark these topics and the marks will go towards your final results.

## Why are controlled assessments necessary?

There are many skills that can't be tested by the traditional written exam – practical and oral skills. Controlled assessments give you the chance to demonstrate the many abilities you have and so makes the final mark you receive much fairer.

## Which skills and abilities are tested through coursework and controlled assessments?

Your controlled assessments assess your ability to research, collect, compare and organise information; work in a group and make accurate records; use your powers of observation through laboratory and field work; plan and organise a long piece of work; use apparatus and machinery; communicate – and that means to listen as well as to talk; discuss, investigate, plan and design.

These are exactly the vocationally related skills that employers value. Controlled assessments also encourage students to work independently and assist in their preparation for higher level studies, such as A/AS levels.

# **It sounds as though I am going to have to take a lot of exams?**

It depends on how you look at it. Your ability will be tested throughout the two years – but your controlled assessment performance will in some cases enable you to go into the examination well on your way to a good grade.

# **What if eight different teachers give controlled assessments at the same time?**

It is unlikely that this 'scenario' will arise as the teachers submit proposed deadline dates and a timetable is drawn up. If you can manage your time efficiently, you will have few problems.

Controlled assessment is to your advantage! Controlled assessments allow a wider range of skills to be assessed than is possible in a written examination. Evidence suggests that they have the effect of increasing candidates' motivation. If you are a good communicator you will have the chance to prove it; If you are a painstaking perfectionist, you will have the time to perfect your work and so earn marks for it; If you are a thinker you will have time to think; If you are a problem solver you will get time to find the solution.

# Art and Design

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

GCSE Art is a varied, practical GCSE which develops your creativity within fine art and design. Year 11 and 12 students have the opportunity to explore, analyse and investigate a variety of media in both 2 and 3 dimensions. You will research the work of artists, designers and craftspersons to inspire and inform your work.

What will I study?

Component 1: (60%)

Part A - Exploratory Portfolio, contributes 25% of your final grade. It consists of a 'Experimental Portfolio', exploring 2D and 3D work in both fine art and design. This will develop experimentation with a variety of techniques and media.

Part B - Investigating the creative and Cultural Industries, contributes to 35%. Students will investigate, respond or participate on a selected task. This links to artists, crafts people and designers local and worldwide, visiting local galleries, museums and workshops.

Component 2: (40%)

The Externally Set Exam. It is one project completed over 12 weeks from January to April in year 12 based on a set theme. Preparation work (minimum of 20 hours) will lead to a final outcome in a media and style of your choice which will be completed within 10 hours under the supervision of your Art teacher.

Where will it take me?

Art and design provides you with skills for creative careers at a number of levels. In school we offer A Level Art and Design, Film Studies and Drama, all of which rely on skills taught within GCSE Art. At local colleges you may choose to focus on a purely art based course leading directly on to careers in fine art, design, photography, fashion, graphics, ceramics, product design and many others. Many occupations and trades use your art and design skills of communication and problem solving within your daily practice.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will show creative flair, enthusiasm for independent study and a good level of literacy. It is also important that candidates for this subject demonstrate an interest in the artistic industry as a range of topics will be addressed.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mrs Milligan for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at <http://ccea.org.uk/artanddesign/>

# Biology

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Biology is the study of living organisms. It is concerned with studying microbes, classifying organisms and investigating different species and their interactions with each other and the natural environment. Today's Biologists are involved in researching and understanding some of the most controversial advances in human knowledge including the cloning of embryos, designer babies and genetically modified food. Biologists are also involved in finding solutions to worldwide problems such as: global warming, the extinction of species, AIDS and other epidemic diseases, and MRSA and superbugs. Biology is a fascinating subject that will allow you to make a difference to tomorrow's world by helping you understand the world we live in today.

What will I study?

In this course you will learn about life processes and biodiversity, body systems, genetics, microorganisms and health. The GCSE Biology specification also encourages you to develop practical skills. You will carry out nine prescribed practicals during the course. You will also learn to evaluate claims based on Science, both qualitatively and quantitatively, by critically analysing the methodology, evidence and conclusions. All parts of the assessment are externally marked. You will sit three written papers at either Higher (grades up to A available) or Foundation (grades up to C\* available) tier. The papers comprise of closed questions, structured questions and extended answer questions.

Where will it take me?

If you wish to study A Level Biology or Life and Health Sciences, you are strongly advised to study GCSE Biology and/or GCSE Chemistry. Biology is essential for many careers including doctors, dentists, vets and paramedics, nurses, dental nurses and veterinary nurses. Even if you don't use Biology every day in your working life, a knowledge and understanding of Biology will help you to understand many of the issues being debated every day in the news.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will be able to demonstrate a good level of literacy and numeracy, will have good observational and practical skills and be able to work independently.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Dr Fulcher for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at <http://ccea.org.uk/biology/>

# Business Communication Systems

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Business Communication Systems combines the practical elements of ICT and Business Studies into one course. It will give you the opportunity to learn ICT skills and then apply them in a practical way to aspects of Business and Economics. You will also learn about how ICT is used in the world of business.

What will I study?

There are three main themes in the course: The Use of ICT; The Business Environment; and E-Commerce. The assessment of this course has a strong practical focus. Candidates sit one computer-based examination worth 40% of their overall mark; a written paper worth 35% and a controlled assessment involving Website Design worth 25%.

Where will it take me?

Business Communication Systems can open up a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education, or take you on to a rewarding career. Through studying this course, you will develop your knowledge and understanding of the role of ICT in the business world. This subject can open up a wide range of career choices, for example in ICT related industries as well as the commercial field such as; retail, marketing, buying, human resources, public sector, accounting, law, banking, systems/ business analyst, insurance and the media.

Is it right for me?

Pupils interested in this course should have a keen interest in the contemporary business world, as well as how ICT can be used to maximise business potential. Pupils who undertake this course will be suited to a mix of practical assessment and external examination. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop ICT literacy, independent study and an understanding of how businesses operate.

This course is similar to GCSE Business Studies, but in this course there is a greater emphasis on controlled assessment tasks.

There is also only one written examination over the two year course. This means that pupils who enjoy a more practical element to lessons will favour this over the Business Studies course.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mrs Flaherty for more information on this course. Alternatively, you can read more-  
[https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/business\\_communication\\_systems/revise\\_gcse/index.asp](https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/business_communication_systems/revise_gcse/index.asp)

# Business Studies

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Students learn about how businesses start up, resources they need, marketing, finance, challenges they face and how they grow. Students also explore the role of stakeholders – groups that have an interest in a business – as well as human resources, the recruitment and selection process, and the value of training and motivation for employees.

Important new topics include the role of social enterprise, e-business and m-business, discovering how businesses can use electronic and mobile technology in different ways. Students also learn to apply useful skills such as proposing business strategies or solutions, understanding other viewpoints and justifying decisions

What will I study?

The specification has three units:

Unit 1: Starting a Business (External Exam: 40%)

Unit 2: Developing a Business(External Exam: 40%)

Unit 3: Planning a Business(Controlled Assessment: 20%)

Where will it take me?

A qualification in Business Studies can lead to a career in accounting, advertising, banking, retail, management consulting, marketing, research, human resources, a small business, or self-employment as an entrepreneur.

Is it right for me?

Students who undertake this course should be interested in the contemporary business world, current affairs and how businesses operate.

It is important that pupils selecting this course are suited to studying for exams, as external examinations make up 80% of the course. Pupils will have the opportunity to develop skills in critical thinking, business acumen and teamwork.

This course is similar to the BCS course outlined above, however there is more emphasis on external examination on this course, and less focus on controlled assessment tasks.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mrs Flaherty for more information on this course. Alternatively, you can read more at [http://ccea.org.uk/business\\_studies/](http://ccea.org.uk/business_studies/)

# Chemistry

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Learning about Chemistry is both stimulating and fun. Not only does it help us make sense of the world around us, but Chemistry also touches upon the main social, ethical and cultural issues affecting our lives today. We all experience chemical reactions daily: whether it is breathing, baking a cake or driving a car. Studying Chemistry will help you explain these reactions and many other interactions, enabling you to analyse all the associated elements and the compounds they form.

What will I study?

In this course you will learn about organic chemistry, quantitative chemistry and electrochemistry. Practical Chemistry is a key part of this specification; students carry out nine prescribed practicals during the course. These include investigating the reactions of acids, the reactivity of metals and the preparation of soluble salts. All parts of the assessment are externally marked. You will sit three written papers at either Higher (grades up to A available) or Foundation (grades up to C\* available) tier. The papers comprise of closed questions, structured questions and extended answer questions.

Where will it take me?

If you wish to study A Level Chemistry or Life and Health Sciences, you are strongly advised to study GCSE Chemistry and/or Biology. Chemistry is essential for many careers including Forensic Scientist, Healthcare Scientist, Chemical Engineer and Pharmacologist. A study of Chemistry will develop a better understanding of the material world and the effects on society.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will be able to demonstrate a good level of literacy and numeracy, will have good observational and practical skills and be able to work independently.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Dr Fulcher for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at <http://ccea.org.uk/chemistry/>

# Child Development

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Whether planning to work with children or have a family of your own in the future, GCSE Child Development provides you with a wealth of invaluable knowledge throughout this two-year course.

We cover the physical, intellectual, social and emotional development of young children from conception to the age of five years. You will also learn about pregnancy, the needs of young children, the roles and responsibilities of parents and the social and environmental influences that affect family life.

What will I study?

The course is divided into specific units and is assessed by two single tier examinations worth 60% of the overall mark and one controlled assessment task worth 40% of the total mark. Pupils will sit one external exam at the end of year 11 worth 30% of the total marks. The second examination will be taken at the end of year 12. The controlled assessment task will be completed throughout the course with the marks submitted to CCEA in May of year 12.

Where will it take me?

Child Development is a very useful subject for those of you who are interested in following a career which involves working with young children such as primary school teaching, nursing, social work or child care. It is also a suitable basis for the further study of Health and Social Care at A level offered at Strangford College or various Child Care courses offered locally at South Eastern Regional College.

Is it right for me?

This course is suited for pupils who enjoy discussion work relating to young children and their developmental milestones. It suits pupils who are able to meet the demands of a combination of controlled assessment and external exam modules. Those students who are interested in children up to the age of 4 will find this course very interesting and useful for future careers in this industry.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mrs Morrison or Miss Purvis for more information on this course. Alternatively, you can read more at- [http://ccea.org.uk/home\\_economics/](http://ccea.org.uk/home_economics/)

# Drama

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board :CCEA

What is it?

The study of GCSE Drama can help encourage your enthusiasm and confidence in conversation and working with others. You will have a choice of two pathways – performing (acting) or design (costume, lighting, multimedia, set or sound).

What will I study?

**Component 1:** Devised Performance

Controlled assessment – a performance or a design presentation, and a student log

**Component 2:** Scripted Performance

Controlled assessment – a performance or a design presentation

**Component 3:** Knowledge and Understanding of Drama

External written examination – 1 hour

Where will it take me?

Drama helps you to develop tolerance for others. Adopting a role means you need to know what other people feel like. Through role-play you will explore issues that may be part your own life, as well as things which perhaps are not a part of your everyday experience. You will be able to explore possible actions and consequences safely. Drama provides you with new ways of communicating with and understanding others. Your ability to talk and listen to others will improve and that will help you to become a more confident person. Drama will also enrich your study of many other subjects in the curriculum. This course gives you the opportunity to explore a range of practical, creative, analytical and performance skills. The majority of careers and further study pathways increasingly require the range of skills developed through the qualification: presentation, collaboration, confidence, evaluation and innovation. Studying GCSE Drama can lead to further study in the performing arts, a career in acting or design, or a wide variety of other careers that use the skills described above. The creative arts is a healthy and growing sector in Northern Ireland and GCSE Drama is a very relevant qualification.

Is it right for me?

Students do not need to have reached a particular level of attainment before

beginning to study GCSE Drama. A good level of literacy is required, as is a desire to visit the theatre which is a compulsory part of this course. Students should be able to:

learn with and from others through co-operation: participate in effective teams and accept responsibility for achieving collective goals; and listen actively to others and influence group thinking and decision-making, taking account of others' opinions. Students should be creative and be prepared to perform in front of others on a regular basis.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Ms Turnbull for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at-  
<http://ccea.org.uk/drama/>

# English Language

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

English Language is very important because it helps you to communicate effectively with other people. The course consists of four units which develop various communication skills. Units 1 and 4 are assessed through two external examinations, worth 60% in total. Units 2 and 3 involve internal assessments by your teacher. In Unit 2, which is worth 20% of the GCSE, you will complete a range of Speaking and Listening tasks (a presentation, a group task and a performance task). In Unit 3, you will complete two essay based controlled assessments, this unit is also worth 20% of the GCSE.

What will I study?

Reading and writing skills will be developed through work set and assessed throughout the two years. Tasks will draw upon your learning in Key Stage 3, as your success will depend upon you having developed proficient literacy and good communication skills. Reading will include fiction and non-fiction texts as well as novels, poetry, plays, media texts, leaflets, travel writing, advertisements and web pages. Whilst continuing to improve your spelling, grammar and punctuation skills, you will learn to think more carefully about the type of language you should use. You will be required to work independently, think perceptively and write fluently, using a varied vocabulary and a style appropriate for the particular purpose and audience.

Where will it take me?

Study options at Level 3 are more varied with a good GCSE grade in English Language. For A level, you will need to achieve at least a Grade C. Even if you do not want to continue your studies after GCSE, employers will always be impressed by someone who can write an accurate and lucid letter of application and will appreciate a confident and articulate manner, both in an interview situation and in workplace interactions with customers or colleagues. In general, articulate personal presentation and strong communication skills will always be of benefit.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Mrs Peppiatt for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at [http://ccea.org.uk/english\\_language/](http://ccea.org.uk/english_language/)

# English Literature

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

English Literature, is studied by all students at KS3 as part of English. English Literature is the study of novels, poetry, plays and Shakespeare where students will explore the language and structure of the set texts and their context. The course consists of **three units** which develop various analytical skills in responding to literature and discussing its meaning.

What will I study?

**Unit 1** is the study of a modern literature, such as the novella 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck and analysis of unseen prose texts. It is assessed through an external examination worth 30% of the GCSE.

**Unit 2** involves the study of a modern drama for example 'An Inspector Calls' by JB Priestley or 'Blood Brothers' by Willie Russell. In addition, you will study an anthology of poetry. This unit is assessed in an external examination worth 50% of the GCSE.

**Unit 3** involves the study of a play by William Shakespeare. This is assessed through Controlled Assessment, and is worth 20% of the GCSE.

English Literature is a varied and interesting subject offering valuable links with history, psychology, drama, religion and social sciences. The skills taught in responding to texts often benefit one's ability to write well in all analytical subjects. Whilst continuing to develop spelling, grammar and punctuation skills, students will broaden vocabulary and enhance their personal expression. Fluent use of language and expression is an asset that employers value.

Where will it take me?

All courses that require analytical writing skills will value a grade in English Literature as a sign of intellect, intelligence and the ability to explore language, ideas and concepts. Success in this subject will be impressive and useful as a recommendation for post 16 qualifications such as A Level and degree level in the Arts and Humanities subjects.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Mrs Peppiatt for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at [http://ccea.org.uk/english\\_literature/](http://ccea.org.uk/english_literature/)

# Film and Identity Studies

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: WJEC

What is it?

Film is an important part of everyone's lives and nowadays film is a thriving industry in the local community with blockbuster films (Star Wars) and TV (Game of Thrones) being filmed throughout Northern Ireland. Throughout your life, the films you have consumed have enriched your growth as a person and your personality traits. As well as developing a passion and enthusiasm for modern and historical films; you will also develop skills which will develop you as a student and enrich your other subject studies. With skills such as literacy, communication, problem-solving, ICT and analytical skills all developed.

What will I study?

The following films will be studied in depth as set texts and assessment through 2 examinations sat at the end of Y12:

- Rebel Without A Cause (1955) – teenage film
- Ferris Beueller's Day Off (1985) – teenage film
- Juno (2007) - teenage film
- District 9 (2009) – sci-fi film set in South Africa
- Tsotsi (2006) – teen film set in South Africa
- Attack the Block (2011) – teenage film

This subject also involves the consideration of what it means to be a teenager in the modern world as well as looking at how films play a huge role in constructing what it means to be male, female, of a particular ethnic group or sexuality.

Where will it take me?

Film Studies is a good mixture of high-level study for examination; alongside creative production coursework which provides you will an ample set of skills for progressing to A Level Study. Indeed, the analytical approach you will amass in Film Studies will give you a solid platform for A Level Study. Film Studies also provides you with a solid set of skills for progressing into the popular A Level Media Studies. The study skills and problem-solving skills will also be of benefit for not only subject environments; but in the workplace too.

Is it right for me?

This course aims to provide you with a 'fresh take' on film and how producers and directors make products with certain responses and audiences in mind. Students find this subject highly enjoyable with the set films relatable to current issues faced by teenagers in our modern world! This subject is aimed at getting you 'passionate' about issues that film explores and its impact upon you. If you are interested in learning more about how films are produced and directed- then this course is for you!

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Mr McCartney for more information. Alternatively, you find out more information at: [https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-gcse/#tab\\_overview](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/film-studies-gcse/#tab_overview)

# Food and Nutrition

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

GCSE Food and Nutrition is ideal for students with a passion for nutrition and the science behind food. Food and Nutrition is a popular, relevant and ever changing area. Food and Nutrition will help you gain an understanding of where the foods we consume come from and how they are produced, the foods we should eat to maintain good health, prominent health issues in today's society and affordability when it comes to food choice. Food and Nutrition can help prepare young people for adult life and independent living. Topics studied include:

- Food Provenance
- Food Processing and production
- Food and nutrition for good health
- Nutritional and dietary needs
- Priority Health issues
- Being an effective consumer when shopping for food
- Factors affecting food choice
- Food Safety

What will I study?

The course is divided into specific units and is assessed by one single tier examinations worth 50% of the overall mark and one controlled assessment task worth 50% of the total mark. The controlled assessment task will be completed at the start of year 12 with the marks submitted to CCEA in May of year 12. Students will also have to complete a 2hour food practical exam as part of the controlled assessment. Level 4 communication is required due to the literacy demands of this course.

Where will it take me?

Food and Nutrition is a very useful subject for those of you who are interested in following a career which involves working within the food industry such as a dietician, environmental health officer, HE teacher, food production manager.

Is it right for me?

This course will be suitable for students who enjoy active participation in food related class discussion where you are able to express and share your attitudes and opinions. You will develop organisational and research skills whilst completing your coursework tasks within a specified time frame. You will also have the opportunity to develop your food cookery and presentation skills through food practical lessons. Students who study this course will also be expected to help out with school events if food is involved.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mrs Morrison or Miss Purvis for more information on this course. Alternatively, you can read more at- [http://ccea.org.uk/food\\_nutrition/](http://ccea.org.uk/food_nutrition/)

# French

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

French at GCSE equips students with the core phrases and vocabulary to be able to communicate at a competent level in another language. This course is exam based and all papers will be completed at the end of the two year course. There will be a massive focus on speaking and writing skills throughout the GCSE course.

What will I study?

The course is divided into 4 target areas, reading, writing, listening and speaking and each assessment is worth 25%. It is 100% exam based and these assessments will take place at the end of year 12. The course will carry on from the material covered at Key Stage 3 but will be go into much more detail and depth. Students will also study more advanced issues such as social responsibility and justice alongside environmental awareness.

Students will prepare for role-play scenarios and this is always a very useful life skill for those who will travel to France or French speaking countries on their holidays and/or for work in later on in life.

Where will it take me?

Languages at GCSE are a highly academic subject and you need to have a significant level of literacy to cope with the demands of the new GCSE specification. It is important to learn vocabulary and grammar as you go along and build on prior learning. If you are achieving great results at KS3 French and have an enthusiasm and passion for language learning, then I think you should consider following on to GCSE level. There are some universities that require a GCSE in a foreign language in order to be accepted for a place. Therefore, it will give you a broad range of choices if you choose to study GCSE French.

A language at GCSE is a useful life skill for both for the future and broadens horizons both in employment and leisure.

Is it right for me?

Pupils who follow this course will be confident with their levels of listening and speaking in the target language and will have excellent memory skills in order to absorb and employ the grammatical structures expected of them at GCSE. A competent linguist is always prepared to take risks in order to succeed. If you have been performing very well at Key Stage 3 in your language studies, then this course is ideal for you. It will be hard work and often challenging but hugely rewarding in the end.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to any of your language teachers or the Head of MFL, Mrs Kerry Boomer for more details. Alternatively, you can read more at- <http://ccea.org.uk/french/>

# Geography

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Geography is a dynamic, relevant and exciting subject which is regularly reported in the media. Turn on your TV, or read the newspapers, and you will find coverage of geographical events such as flooding, earthquakes and migration, as well as geographical issues such as sustainability and global warming. All of these are at the heart of Geography. Studying Geography helps students make sense of the world, become aware of their responsibilities and how they can contribute to a future that is both sustainable and inclusive.

What will I study?

The CCEA Geography course is divided into 3 units:

**Unit 1: Understanding our Natural World-** Students evaluate river and coastal management strategies and the processes shaping our weather. They explore extreme weather and the forces that create earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Assessed by external exam worth 40% of the qualification

**Unit 2: Living in Our World-** Students explore the challenges facing refugees, inner city issues, strategies for sustainable development, and the environmental impact of increasing consumption.

Assessed by external exam worth 40% of the qualification

**Unit 3: Geographical Skills-** Students apply the knowledge, understanding and skills gained Unit 1 or Unit 2 to a fieldwork investigation.

Assessed by external exam worth 20% of the qualification

Where will it take me?

GCSE Geography may lead to the advanced study of Geography at A Level, as well as developing the knowledge and skills useful for a variety of careers. These may range from work in Travel and Tourism, Environmental Science, Social Work, Law, Town Planning and Air Traffic Control. Essentially, Geography not only contributes to a good, general education, but, because of its breadth, allows students to keep their options open and pursue a wide range of career paths.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to the Head of Geography, Mrs Greenaway for more details. Alternatively, you can read more at- <http://ccea.org.uk/geography/>

# History

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

GCSE History is an academic GCSE with no controlled assessment. It provides students with the opportunity to consider the relevance of the past to gain a deeper understanding of the world in which we live.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Modern World Studies in Depth and Local Study 1 hour 45 minute exam (60%)

Section A: Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–45. There are five questions to answer. This section includes short response questions, structured questions and an essay question.

Section B: Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1965–98. There are six questions to answer. This section includes source based questions, short response questions and a structured question.

Unit 2: Outline Study 1 hour 15 minute exam (40%)

This unit covers International Relations, 1945–2003. There are six questions to answer. The paper includes source-based questions, a structured question and an essay question.

Where will it take me?

GCSE is an excellent gateway to A Level History. This in turn is excellent preparation for higher education. History can open career pathways including law, politics, journalism, police, management, civil service, teaching, social work, marketing, advertising and many more.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will possess an inquisitive mind and enjoy working with evidence from the past to construct arguments and make informed judgements. They will appreciate that there is not simply one version of the past but many different and often competing interpretations. Where appropriate, we endeavour to complete one unit and sit the exam at the end of Year 11 leaving only one exam to be completed at the end of Year 12.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mrs Purvis for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at <http://ccea.org.uk/history>

# Information Technologies

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

## Why take Information Technologies?

Data Manipulation and Project Management are vital skills for success in employment and higher education and are among the key transferable skills required by employers. Our Cambridge National in Information Technologies develops students understanding of these skills through the development of creative products to solve real world data problems. Taking this qualification will prepare your child for a career in a data driven future.

## What's included – at a glance

The qualification is made up of two units that everyone takes.

R012 – Understanding tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions

- Knowledge of hardware and software applications.
- Data Manipulation tools and techniques.
- Project Life Cycle – phases, interaction, inputs and outputs.
- Risks, legal moral, ethical and security issues.

R013 – Developing technological solutions

- Focus on the use of skills to develop a creative technological solution to a real world problem.
- Follow a project life cycle and demonstrate skills such as SWOT analysis, GANTT charts, data collection and presenting data.

## What will I study?

This qualification is tested through a mixture of set coursework and examinations.

There is one written exam (R012) which lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes. The exam assesses a student's understanding of tools, techniques, methods and processes for technological solutions. Your child will have two opportunities to take the test. The coursework unit (R013) will be a set assignment that assesses a student's ability to develop a technological solution to a real world problem.

## Where will it take me?

With this qualification, students may choose to progress to our Cambridge Technicals in IT. This GCSE also helps to equip students for a career in a multitude of industries, such as a data analyst, network manager, It's a good time to be working in the IT and computing. Research by e-skills UK shows that the sector is one of the fastest-moving and most dynamic in the UK – currently employing 1 in 20 of us. It's estimated that over half a million new entrants will be needed to fill jobs in this sector over the next five years. If you wish to study Computer Science at University then you should choose Maths, Physics, and IT. If you are looking for a general use of IT then this is the course for you.

## Is it right for me?

Students acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of digital technology in a variety of contexts. They also develop creative and practical technology skills, using a range of generic software and thinking about solutions to problems. They explore the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental impact of digital technology. This qualification also helps them to develop transferable skills such as creative problem solving and teamwork.

This course has elements in common with OCN ICT. However, this course has much more focus on external, written examination which will suit some pupils more than others.

## Where can I get more information?

For more information, talk to a member of the ICT Department.

# Information Technologies (OCN)

Type of Qualification: Level 2

Exam Board: OCN

## What is it?

Today's work environment depends increasingly on a range of technologies. The OCN NI Level 2 Award and Certificate in Information Technology Applications are designed to provide learners with the IT skills required to function successfully in the work and wider environment.

## What will I study?

Pupils studying the OCN qualification in ICT will have the opportunity to study a range of useful and current technologies. When completing this qualification, you will study 3 modules in Year 11 and 2 modules in Year 12. These include; Using Email, Word Processing Software, Social Media, Using Presentation Software and Website Software.

Each of these modules give students a great opportunity to develop their skills in the ICT sector and allow them to gain experience in a range of software that will either lead them to further study at level 3, or give them valuable skills that employers are looking for.

## Where will it take me?

It's a good time to be working in the IT and computing. Research by e-skills UK shows that the sector is one of the fastest-moving and most dynamic in the UK – currently employing 1 in 20 of us. It's estimated that over half a million new entrants will be needed to fill jobs in this sector over the next five years. There are a great range of jobs available that include office procedural work, web design and computing.

This course is similar to the OCR ICT listed above. However, this course is 100% coursework based, with no written examination at all. This means that pupils can get a more hands on experience of using ICT in the working world.

## Where can I get more information?

To find out more, you can visit <https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-information-technology-applications/> or speak to a member of the ICT department.

# Maths

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Mathematics is about more than just calculating with numbers, although this is obviously a fundamental part of it. As mathematicians at GCSE, we are concerned to find patterns, break down problems, apply routine methods, and write down ideas in as short a way as possible, with accuracy and clarity. Mathematics is likely to appear difficult if your underlying number skills, e.g. times tables, are weak and if you are unfamiliar with specific language and how things are written down in algebra. All of these things can be improved with practice, however, so that your hopes of progress need only be limited by your willingness to work.

What will I study?

The GCSE Mathematics course covers topics in Number, Algebra, Geometry, Measures, Data Handling and Probability. Two modules are taken, typically one at the end of Year 11 and one in Year 12. There are four levels of entry for each module, meaning a theoretical sixteen different pathways through the course. The highest ability students will sit modules M4/M8 accessing up to grade A\*. The weakest students will sit modules M2/M6 or a similar combination involving easier material and accessing up to grade C\*.

Year 11: M1 or M2 or M3 or M4 (worth 45%) 1 paper with calculator

Year 12: M5 or M6 or M7 or M8 (worth 55%) 2 papers (non-calculator and calculator)

Where will it take me?

You may be considering studying Mathematics at A Level and possibly a university course with an element of Mathematics such as Engineering, all of which require a strong grade at GCSE. Even if you do not intend continuing with Mathematics past GCSE, many jobs require a grade C in Mathematics before you can even apply for them: obviously a higher grade opens even more options for your future.

GCSE papers include a problem-solving element requiring selection of the appropriate method, as well as more straightforward questions. Throughout the course you will be encouraged to think systematically, breaking down methods into smaller steps, as well as thinking independently to react to changes in how a question is presented. Some topics will at first sight seem very abstract and unusual: a willingness to persevere and grow in confidence following procedures is an important transferable skill. Of course, your underlying Numeracy skills will be kept active with the non-calculator paper in mind, and these will impact your number work in other subjects.

As well as the skills mentioned above, several specific topics are likely to be of direct benefit whatever your future pathway e.g. calculating percentages (Have you been charged too much tax? Is your pay going up in line with inflation?) and estimating calculations (Did you get the correct change at the shop? Will you have enough petrol to make it to the next station?).

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to any Mathematics teacher for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at <http://ccea.org.uk/mathematics/>

# Maths (Further)

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Further Mathematics is an additional GCSE subject, studied alongside GCSE Mathematics. It is a challenging course suitable only for strong mathematicians who can work accurately through extended questions, particularly involving algebra. It provides a useful foundation for those intending to continue to A Level Mathematics.

What will I study?

The course is taken in parallel with the GCSE Mathematics course. The Year 11 module is all to do with algebra and includes topics such as Logarithms where we will explore strange objects called 'fractals' whose number of dimensions is not a whole number! In Year 12, we will study two smaller modules including topics which are more applied to real world problems e.g. What speed will a freewheeling cyclist have reached at the bottom of a certain slope? What is the chance of having at least 4 dry days in a given week?

Year 11: Pure Mathematics (worth 50%)

Year 12: Mechanics (worth 25%)

Statistics (worth 25%)

Where will it take me?

There is a degree of overlap in some topics and many skills between Mathematics and Further Mathematics, meaning that you should be helped in your Mathematics course by studying Further Mathematics. You may be considering studying Mathematics at A Level and possibly a university course with an element of Mathematics such as Engineering, all of which require a strong grade at GCSE Mathematics. Having a GCSE in Further Mathematics will strengthen your position when applying for such courses.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to any Mathematics teacher for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at <http://ccea.org.uk/mathematics/>

# Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Learning to drive is often a major milestone on a young person's road to adulthood and new-found independence. But driving is a skill that needs to be applied responsibly. The ability to cope well with road and traffic conditions, whether as a driver, passenger or pedestrian, is vital.

Motor vehicle and road user studies develops a wealth of relevant knowledge and practical skills, including a greater awareness of the motor vehicle itself and its systems. It focuses on learning to drive in different conditions and coping with the unexpected. It deals with the various costs involved in running a car and raises broader issues of traffic management and pollution. It also looks at how best to avoid accidents and, if one does occur, how to limit the damage.

Throughout, it drives home the importance of making safety top priority. The result is more informed and enthusiastic road users better able to combine their enjoyment of driving with a healthy respect for the road.

What will I study?

Unit 1 – 1 hr 45 min theory exam (worth 50%) sat in May of year 12

- Vehicle Control and Road User Behaviour;
- Legal Requirements;
- Road Transport and Its Effects on Society;
- Motoring Mathematics;
- Collision Procedures;
- Motor Vehicle Technology

Unit 2 – Controlled assessment- Investigative study (normally based on speeding)(worth 25%) submitted in Yr 12. You will research and write a report on a moving traffic situation. This could include, for example, conducting interviews, surveys, preparing maps and photographs.

Unit 3 – Controlled assessment - Practical Moped riding activity (worth 25%) undertake in May of year 12

Where will it take me?

Studying this subject can lead to a career in, for example, engineering, motor vehicle maintenance and repair, car sales, car insurance, driving instruction, road safety education, traffic police, car bodywork, and design and technology.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mr Allen. Alternatively, you can read more at - <http://ccea.org.uk/mvrus/>

# Moving Image Arts

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

This is an applied qualification. Students develop knowledge, understanding and skills through practical demonstration in a context related to employability.

What will I study?

Students work on a range of creative, critical and technical tasks. These include planning and creating moving image products. This qualification builds on students' introduction to the moving image at Key Stage 3. It helps them to progress to further study and practice at A Level.

Studying this specification, gives students opportunities to:

- develop a critical understanding of film language, narrative, representation and audience in both theory and practice;
- investigate and research others work and demonstrate the ability to analyse and evaluate creative purpose;
- develop ideas by investigating and experimenting with film-making techniques and processes;
- develop the ability to manage resources, processes and equipment at different stages of moving image production;
- develop technical competence in using film-making techniques; and
- evaluate the effectiveness of their practice as film-makers.

Candidates will study three areas:

- Component One: Critical Understanding of Creative and Technical Moving Image Production. This is an online exam (one and a half hours), students will respond to questions and scenarios about film language, genre and representation, creative production techniques, production management and industry contexts.
- Component Two: Acquisition of Skills in Moving Image Production. This will develop five core film-making skills, storyboarding, camera, editing, post production sound and animation.
- Component Three: Planning and Making a Moving Image Product. This will combine students' skills in creating a live action or animated film and a research portfolio, based on a stimulus.

Where will it take me?

Progression pathways include further study, for example our GCE (A-Level) in Moving Image Arts, and a variety of careers in the film and television industry. Related career areas include arts management and journalism.

Where can I get more information?

You can also look on the CCEA website.  
[https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/moving\\_image\\_arts/gcse\\_revised/index.asp](https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/moving_image_arts/gcse_revised/index.asp)

# Music

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Music GCSE students must be able to play an instrument or sing to a suitable level for the performance component.

Music GCSE encourages students to develop their musical potential by focusing on the three fundamental activities of performing, composing and listening and appraising.

What will I study?

Students explore contrasting music from a range of contexts in set Areas of Study, which are classical, pop, film and traditional Irish music. This deepens their appreciation of the diverse heritage of music. It also promotes their personal, social, intellectual and cultural development.

Students will complete two compositions, based on the above areas of study as coursework. For the practical exam in Year 12 students will perform a solo and a group piece and the course completes with a listening written exam based on the set works also from the above areas of study.

Where will it take me?

Progression pathways include further study, for example our GCE (A-Level) in Music, or one of the BTEC Music courses and a career in performance, composing, teaching, music production, sound engineering, or instrument making and repair. Related career areas include arts management and music journalism.

Research shows that studying music can help students develop critical thinking, spatial reasoning and cognitive skills. It also helps develop communication skills and encourages creativity and expressiveness. Students who play music as part of a group develop team-working skills, self-discipline, self-esteem and the ability to listen to others.

Where can I get more information?

Please have a chat with Mrs Bryce or Mr Beare about the course. You can also look on the CCEA website. [https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/music/revise\\_gcse/index.asp](https://www.rewardinglearning.org.uk/microsites/music/revise_gcse/index.asp)

# Occupational Studies

## Technology and Innovation

Type of Qualification: Level 1 and 2

Exam Board: CCEA

### What is it?

If you enjoy working with your hands and want to get a taste of the world of work, then Occupational Studies might be for you. It involves work that is practical and focused on specific occupations. Occupational Studies encourages learners to be motivated and inspired by following a broad, coherent and satisfying course of study. It gives them opportunities to sample work-related learning within coherent occupational contexts and to develop their skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT. It should also prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and careers.

### What will I study?

Learners will develop skills in creating digital images using a variety of applications. They will learn the functions of a digital camera and understand the different styles and genres associated with photography. They will edit photographs and produce digital designs for print, screen and the internet. These are industry standard skills in photography and digital design. Learners should demonstrate a clear understanding of the career opportunities available in digital imagery. Health and safety, and environmental issues will also be considered.

### This unit includes:

- using a selection of equipment for digital photography and creative imaging;
- capturing images in different styles and genres;
- manipulating images in a software package, for example Photoshop;
- presenting a photography project to an audience;
- consideration of career opportunities in the digital imaging industry;
- consideration of health and safety issues in the digital imaging industry;
- consideration of environmental issues in the digital imaging industry; and
- a review and evaluation of performance.

Throughout the duration of this course pupils will develop a portfolio and this is how they will be assessed, meaning that there are no written external exams in this course.

### Where will it take me?

Occupational Studies is a recognised qualification which allows you to gain access at 16 years old to NVQ courses and Modern Apprenticeships.

### Is it right for me?

If you enjoy 'hands on' learning and prefer ongoing assessment to terminal exams, then Occupational Studies might suit you.

### Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Mr Coffey for more information.

# Occupational Studies

## Business and Services (Beauty)

Type of Qualification: Level 1 and 2

Exam Board: CCEA

### What is it?

If you enjoy working with your hands and want to get a taste of the world of work, then Occupational Studies might be for you. It involves work that is practical and focused on specific occupations. Occupational Studies encourages learners to be motivated and inspired by following a broad, coherent and satisfying course of study. It gives them opportunities to sample work-related learning within coherent occupational contexts and to develop their skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT. It should also prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and careers.

### What will I study?

This unit is designed to give the learner an understanding of manicure treatments and nail art techniques. It is suitable for learners who wish to pursue a career in the beauty industry. Learners will carry out consultations with clients and provide appropriate manicure and nail art treatments.

### This unit includes:

- consideration of the role of the beauty therapist and career opportunities;
- consideration of health and safety procedures necessary in the beauty salon;
- communicating with clients during consultations to plan treatment;
- providing manicure treatments;
- providing nail polishing treatments and nail decoration;
- consideration of environmental issues relating to the use and disposal of products; and • a review and evaluation of performance.

Throughout the duration of this course pupils will develop a portfolio and this is how they will be assessed, meaning that there are no written external exams in this course.

### Where will it take me?

Occupational Studies is a recognised qualification which allows you to gain access at 16 years old to NVQ courses and Modern Apprenticeships.

### Is it right for me?

If you enjoy 'hands on' learning and prefer ongoing assessment to terminal exams, then Occupational Studies might suit you.

### Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Mr Coffey for more information.

# Occupational Studies

## Business and Services (Cuisine)

Type of Qualification: Level 1 and 2

Exam Board: CCEA

### What is it?

If you enjoy working with your hands and want to get a taste of the world of work, then Occupational Studies might be for you. It involves work that is practical and focused on specific occupations. Occupational Studies encourages learners to be motivated and inspired by following a broad, coherent and satisfying course of study. It gives them opportunities to sample work-related learning within coherent occupational contexts and to develop their skills in literacy, numeracy and ICT. It should also prepare learners to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and careers.

### What will I study?

This unit provides learners with some of the basic cooking principles required by cooks and chefs in the catering industry when preparing and cooking a range of starters, main courses and desserts. Learners will apply legislative requirements when handling food and learn how to work safely and hygienically in the catering kitchen. They will learn how to select and use appropriate equipment correctly and will develop creative skills in the finishing and presentation of products for service. The unit also offers an opportunity to understand the scope of the catering industry, including career opportunities

### This unit includes:

- food hygiene and personal hygiene standards for food handlers;
- consideration of career opportunities in the catering industry;
- consideration of safe use of equipment and other health and safety issues in the catering industry;
- preparation, cooking and finishing of four starters, four mains and four desserts;
- safe storage of foods and recycling of packaging;
- healthy eating alternatives;
- consideration of environmental issues in the catering industry; and
- a review and evaluation of performance

Throughout the duration of this course pupils will develop a portfolio and this is how they will be assessed, meaning that there are no written external exams in this course.

### Where will it take me?

Occupational Studies is a recognised qualification which allows you to gain access at 16 years old to NVQ courses and Modern Apprenticeships.

### Is it right for me?

If you enjoy 'hands on' learning and prefer ongoing assessment to terminal exams, then Occupational Studies might suit you.

### Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Mr Coffey for more information.

# Personal Success and Wellbeing

Type of Qualification: Level 2

Exam Board: OCN

What is it?

The OCN NI Personal Success and Well-Being qualifications have been designed to support a balanced curriculum by assisting the learner with effective development in personal, social, health and well-being. They build on the broad objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, aiming on empowering young people to achieve their potential and help them deal more effectively with personal and social issues that may affect their physical and mental health.

What will I study?

Pupils studying this course will have the opportunity to engage in study of a range of topics. These topics will help pupils understand equality and diversity, explore cultural diversity and consider prejudice and discrimination. In addition to this, pupils will also be able to develop personal skills in managing personal finance, improving self esteem and stress management techniques as well as understanding the risks involved with substance abuse, eating disorders and stress.

Units that we study are:

- Exploring Relationships
- Drugs and Substance Misuse
- Exploring Cultural Diversity
- Healthy lifestyles
- Improving Confidence and Self Esteem
- Managing Risk
- Prejudice and Discrimination
- Rights and Responsibilities
- Understanding Personal Identity

Where will it take me?

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Personal Success and Well-Being enables progression for Further Education College courses.

Is it right for me?

If you enjoy discussion and debate, as well as learning more about how society operates then this course will be of great interest to you.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Mrs McBride for more information.

# Physics

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Studying Physics is about finding out what the universe is made of and how things work and interact with each other. It is concerned with the most basic building blocks of all things - from ants to antennas, from quarks to quasars. Physics gives you a new understanding of the world around us. Through studying Physics, you develop new ways of looking at the world and new thinking skills which are useful in the world of work.

What will I study?

In this course you will study force, energy, waves, light, electricity and space. Practical Physics is a key part of this specification; students carry out nine prescribed practicals during the course. All parts of the assessment are externally marked. You will sit three written papers at either Higher (grades up to A available) or Foundation (grades up to C\* available) tier. The papers comprise of closed questions, structured questions and extended answer questions.

Where will it take me?

If you wish to study A Level Physics, you are strongly advised to study GCSE Physics. Students who study Physics have great job prospects and end up in all sorts of interesting jobs because of their broad training and adaptability. Many students with Physics qualifications go on to have successful careers in the space and/or aerospace industries, medicine, technology, engineering, research and development, teaching and IT and software industries.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will be able to demonstrate a good level of literacy and numeracy, will have good observational and practical skills and be able to work independently.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Dr Fulcher for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at <http://ccea.org.uk/physics/>

# Prince's Trust

Accredited: equivalent to 2 GCSEs at grade B

What is it?

Prince's Trust is a skills-based qualification. It enables young people to gain confidence in the skills needed for employability and adult life. Selecting, planning, carrying out and reviewing a work experience placement gives a young person the chance to show how they can thrive in the workplace. Career planning skills such as identifying job vacancies, applying for jobs, interview skills and CV writing are vital if one is to find a niche in a rapidly-changing workplace. The complexity of modern life requires money management skills. Through teamwork young people develop co-operation, communication and negotiation skills. The ability to present information is a key element of many careers, and helps significantly with other school subjects too! The ability to analyse body language, understand and respond to criticism, respond appropriately in a range of social contexts and manage one's time effectively are developed through study interpersonal skills and self-management.

Throughout the course, skills in communication both spoken and written and in working effectively with others are developed.

What will I study?

Prince's Trust Achieve is a course based on employability skills and personal development. Students complete modules in Work Experience, Career Planning, Managing My Money, Presentation Skills, Teamwork and Interpersonal Skills / Self-Management.

Through these modules a young person can get the chance to discuss, study and use vital employability and life skills. The course prepares a young person for post-16 life, and as a recognised qualification gives them credit for the skills they gain.

Everything you study in Prince's Trust Achieve is useful, and immediately applicable to life beyond school.

Where will it take me?

Most students who take the Prince's Trust Achieve course will go on to post-16 courses at College. As we have already seen a whole range of skills for post-16 life are developed through this course. The emphasis is always on student's personal development. The qualification sets students up for progression into College or Sixth Form, and is especially suited to those taking a vocational path.

Is it right for me?

Prince's Trust allows you to gain an accredited qualification for your work experience, your ability to present information, your ability to write a CV - many of the skills you will be showing across the curriculum. Students who are committed and organised, and are able to complete their work to the deadlines set by the Prince's Trust, are able to gain this qualification, equivalent to 2Bs at GCSE.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Mr Kirkham for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at <https://www.princes-trust.org.uk/help-for-young-people/unlock-your-potential/explore-your-potential>

# Religious Studies

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Students partaking in the CCEA GCSE will study two modules, one in year 11 and one in year 12. The modules will be an Introduction to Christian Ethics and an Introduction to Philosophy. Students will have the potential to achieve up to and including an A\* at GCSE in this subject.

What will I study?

The CCEA GCSE course will consist of two modules, completed over two years with an exam at the end of each year. The students will look at an Introduction to Christian Ethics and An Introduction to Philosophy of Religion. Students will look at ethical issues faced in the world today, from a context of Religious belief. Students will explore how the modern world can accommodate Christian teaching and faith in the context of same-sex relationships, bioethics, prejudice and discrimination and war and conflict, amongst other topics also. In Philosophy, students will explore, amongst other issues; Does God exist? Why does evil exist in the world? Is there a Heaven or a Hell?

Where will it take me?

A GCSE in Religious Studies is a very coveted and highly appreciated qualification to have. A qualification in Religious Studies suggests empathy for others, understanding of different cultures and beliefs, an awareness of yours and others beliefs and understanding and accepting of people who are different to you. With these qualities in mind, there are a vast number of careers that RE can lead you to, including teaching, nursing, chaplaincy, youth work, politics, armed forces, journalism, social work, law, police force etc. to name just a few.

Where can I get more information?

Please speak to Mr Kelly (Head of RE Department)

# Religious Studies (OCN)

Type of Qualification: Level 2

Exam Board: OCN

What is it?

Students who will enter the OCN Certificate in Religious Studies will complete 9 pieces of coursework over the duration of the course. At the completion of this coursework, if they have satisfactorily met the criteria for the course, they will achieve an equivalent of a B grade at GCSE.

What will I study?

The topics covered in the OCN Certificate in Religious Studies will include issues such as prejudice and discrimination, marriage and divorce, other world faiths and famous people of faith, amongst other relevant issues. The students will look at the importance and influence of Religious belief in the world, especially in the context of modern and secular issues. Students will look at examples in class and will be expected to independently research at home.

Where will it take me?

A GCSE in Religious Studies is a very coveted and highly appreciated qualification to have. A qualification in Religious Studies suggests empathy for others, understanding of different cultures and beliefs, an awareness of yours and others beliefs and understanding and accepting of people who are different to you. With these qualities in mind, there are a vast number of careers that RE can lead you to, including teaching, nursing, chaplaincy, youth work, politics, armed forces, journalism, social work, law, police force etc. to name just a few.

Where can I get more information?

Check out our careers wall or speak to a member of the department.

# Science (OCN)

Type of Qualification: Level 2 Exam Board: OCN

What is it?

This is a more vocational pathway, designed for students who prefer to be assessed through assignments. This course covers a variety of subject areas in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will cover the key scientific principles vital for both scientists and citizens of the future. Students will be able to progress into employment or to other post 16 Vocational courses. This course is 100% assignment based. Students can achieve the equivalent of a grade B at GCSE.

What will I study?

This course comprises of three units: Life Processes and Living things, Materials and their Chemical properties and Physical processes.

Where will it take me?

OCN Applied Science is essential for many jobs and also teaches life skills. Anyone who is interested in becoming a beautician, joiner or an electrician would also find OCN Applied Science useful. Even if you don't use Science every day in your working life, knowledge of Science will help you to understand many of the issues being debated every day in the news.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will be able to demonstrate a sound level of literacy and numeracy, will have good observational and practical skills and be able to work in groups and present work in a variety of ways such as, taking photos of experiments, making models, posters and role play.

This course has similarities with the CCEA Single and Double Award courses on offer. However, this course is 100% coursework based and has no external written examination. This allows pupils to get a more hands on approach to their learning.

Where can I get more information?

To find out more, please speak to Dr Fulcher or any of the Science teachers in school.

# Science (Double Award)

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

GCSE Double Award Science is a broad and coherent course that develops students' knowledge and understanding of the material, physical and living worlds. It encourages them to have a positive view of Science and recognise its importance in our lives.

What will I study?

GCSE Double Award Science comprises of units in Biology, Chemistry, Physics and a Practical unit. These are assessed as a one-hour written examination. All parts of the assessment are externally marked. The written papers make up 75% of the total GCSE grade and are taken over the two-year course. The questions range in style from closed questions, structured questions to those requiring longer answers. Controlled assessment contributes 25% of the total GCSE grade and consists of a practical test followed by a written paper. Two GCSE grades will be awarded on completion of this course. You may be entered for Higher Tier (grades up to A available) or Foundation Tier (grades up to C\* available), depending upon your ability.

Where will it take me?

If you wish to study Science at A Level, you are advised to study GCSE Double Award Science. Science is essential for many careers including doctors, dentists, vets and paramedics, nurses, dental nurses and veterinary nurses. Even if you don't use Science every day in your working life, knowledge of science will help you to understand many of the issues being debated every day in the news.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will be able to demonstrate a high level of literacy and numeracy, will have good observational and practical skills and be able to work in groups and demonstrate a real flair and enthusiasm for the subject.

This course is equivalent to 2 GCSE grades which means that pupils selecting this course will be very interested in studying science. There is also a high percentage of external examination in this course which separates it from our OCN Science offer. Pupils will need to be motivated and interested in this subject in order to get the most out of it.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Dr Fulcher for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at [http://ccea.org.uk/general\\_science/](http://ccea.org.uk/general_science/)

# Science (Single Award)

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

GCSE Single Award Science introduces key aspects of Science and its methodology. It gives students a broad overview of topics as relevant and varied as cells, food and diet in Biology, atomic structure and the Periodic Table in Chemistry, and electrical circuits and waves in Physics. This broad, practical course can help students appreciate the value of Science while preparing them for related vocational studies or the world of work.

What will I study?

GCSE Single Award Science comprises of four units: Biology, Chemistry, Physics and a Practical unit. These are assessed as a one-hour written examination. All parts of the assessment are externally marked. The three written theory papers make up 75% of the total GCSE grade and are taken over the two-year course. The questions range in style from closed questions, structured questions to those requiring longer answers. Controlled assessment contributes 25% of the total GCSE grade and consists of a practical test followed by a written paper. One GCSE grade will be awarded on completion of this course. You may be entered for Higher Tier (grades up to A available) or Foundation Tier (grades up to C\*available), depending upon your ability.

Where will it take me?

Single Award Science is essential for many jobs including, dental nurse assistant and veterinary assistant. Anyone who is interested in becoming a beautician, joiner or an electrician would also find this course useful. Even if you don't use Science every day in your working life, knowledge of Science will help you to understand many of the issues being debated every day in the news.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will be able to demonstrate a good level of literacy and numeracy, will have good observational and practical skills, be able to work in groups and present work in a variety of ways.

The Single Award in Science provides pupils with one GCSE qualification. It is similar to Double Award in that there is a high percentage of external examination.

Where can I get more information?

You can speak to Dr Fulcher for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at [http://ccea.org.uk/general\\_science/](http://ccea.org.uk/general_science/)

# Spanish

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CEA

What is it?

Spanish at GCSE equips students with the core phrases and vocabulary to be able to communicate at a competent level in another language. This course is exam based and all papers will be completed at the end of the two year course. There will be a massive focus on speaking and writing skills throughout the GCSE course.

What will I study?

The course is divided into 4 target areas, reading, writing, listening and speaking and each assessment is worth 25%. It is 100% exam based and these assessments will take place at the end of year 12. The course will carry on from the material covered at Key Stage 3 but will go into much more detail and depth. Students will also study more advanced issues such as social responsibility and justice alongside environmental awareness.

Students will prepare for role-play scenarios and this is always a very useful life skill for those who will travel to Spain or Spanish speaking countries on their holidays and/or for work later on in life.

Where will it take me?

Languages at GCSE are a highly academic subject and you need to have a significant level of literacy to cope with the demands of the new GCSE specification. It is important to learn vocabulary and grammar as you go along and build on prior learning. If you are achieving great results at KS3 Spanish and have an enthusiasm and passion for language learning, then I think you should consider following on to GCSE level. There are some universities that require a GCSE in a foreign language in order to be accepted for a place. Therefore, it will give you a broad range of choices if you choose to study GCSE Spanish.

A language at GCSE is a useful life skill for both for the future and broadens horizons both in employment and leisure.

Is it right for me?

Pupils who follow this course will be confident with their levels of listening and speaking in the target language and will have excellent memory skills in order to absorb and employ the grammatical structures expected of them at GCSE. A competent linguist is always prepared to take risks in order to succeed. If you have been performing very well at Key Stage 3 in your language studies, then this course is ideal for you. It will be hard work and often challenging but hugely rewarding in the end.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to either Mrs Boomer or Mrs Cacharro for further information. Alternatively, you can read more at- <http://ccea.org.uk/spanish/>

# Sport

Type of Qualification: Level 2

Exam Board: BTEC

What is it?

BTEC Sport is a vocationally related qualification, where learners develop their knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work related context. Year 11 and Year 12 students have the opportunity to research, practice, analyse and investigate a variety of topics related to sport and exercise.

What will I study?

BTEC Sport Level 2 is made up of four units which are 75% coursework and an on-line exam which is worth 25%. Units 1,2 & 3 are compulsory and Unit 4 is optional. Students will study the following units:

**Unit 1 – Fitness for Sport and Exercise.** Assessment takes the form of an on-line exam.

In this unit students will gain a knowledge of the components of fitness and the principles of training. They will explore a wide variety of training methods and investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels.

**Unit 2 – Personal Performance in Sport (Coursework based unit)**

In this unit students will learn about the rules, regulations and scoring systems for selected sports. They will practically demonstrate the skills, techniques and tactics in selected sports and be able to review sports performance.

**Unit 3 - The Sports Performer in Action (Coursework based unit)**

Students will learn about the short-term responses and long-term adaptations of the body systems to exercise. They will also learn about the different energy systems used during sports performance.

**Unit 5 – Applying the Principles of Personal Training (Coursework based unit)**

In this unit students will design and implement a personal fitness training programme to achieve their own goals and objectives. They will learn about exercise adherence factors and strategies for continued training success. Students will also review their own personal training programme.

Where will it take me?

The Edexcel BTEC award provides a good foundation for learners in post-16 education, or entry level jobs within the sector. Achievement at Level 2 provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector through progression on to other vocational qualifications such as Edexcel BTEC Level 3 qualifications in Sport or Sport and Exercise Sciences, which will be offered in Strangford College from next year.

Students who have chosen this course have gone on to pursue a foundation degree at SERC, gaining entry into Sports Science or Sports Studies degrees in the University of Ulster, Loughborough College as well as many other universities. Many occupations use the skills gained from this sporting qualification, such as PE teaching, physiotherapy, fitness instruction, sports coaching, sports development, the Armed forces, nursing, firefighting, the PSNI and sports nutrition.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will demonstrate an interest and ability in a range of sporting activities. They should have an enthusiasm for independent study and research, along with an interest in the physiology of sport, exercise and related topics.

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mrs Gibson or a member of the PE department for more information. Alternatively, you can read more at- <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-firsts/sport-2012-nqf.html>

# Technology and Design

Type of Qualification: GCSE

Exam Board: CCEA

What is it?

Technology and Design is concerned primarily with the design and manufacture of high quality technological products. Every design is influenced by outside factors such as consumer demand, the state of the market, customer expectations and consumer laws.

Studying Technology and Design provides opportunities to tackle and resolve design and technological problems to meet human needs within a range of contexts, such as home, school, leisure, community, business and industry. Essentially, we are searching for better ways to do things, inventing solutions and taking risks.

What will I study?

Unit 1 is assessed by a one hour 30 min examination paper completed at the end of Year 11, worth 25% of your final grade. Topics covered are Manufacturing, Electronics, Mechanical Control, Computer Control and Pneumatics.

Unit 2 is also assessed by a one hour 30 min examination paper and is completed at the end of Year 12. Worth 25% of your final grade, we cover Mechanical and Pneumatic control systems. Please note that this unit contains **some maths** and will require a reasonable level of competency in maths to enable students to excel.

Unit 3 is a controlled assessment task which you complete in Year 12. CCEA set the task made up of a design folder of ten pages, worth 25%, and a practical piece worth 25% of the final mark for the task. You will design and make your own small resistant materials project. You are allowed a total of 40 hours under exam conditions to produce the design portfolio and the practical project.

Where will it take me?

Technology and Design is useful for a career in engineering, product design, marketing, industrial design consultancy, production engineering, project planning, technical sales, furniture design, CAD/CAM, buying, interior/exhibition design, advertising, display design, consumer advisory services, teaching and many more career opportunities. It is also excellent **for** people wanting to work in the skills sector, where a number of our past pupils are serving their time in a trade such as joinery, construction and brickwork.

Is it right for me?

The ideal candidate for this course will be an independent student who enjoys learning about materials and processes, making practical projects, has a good grasp of mathematics and has an interest in design, both hand sketching and CAD (solidworks).

Where can I get more information?

Speak to Mr Allen. Alternatively, you can read more at - <http://ccea.org.uk/technology/>