



St Patrick's

College Maghera

KEY STAGE FOUR
OPTIONS
BOOKLET
2024-2025

How do you choose?

Help will be available from your family, your subject teachers and your Careers/Employability Teacher. Some of you may know what you want to do - others may have no idea. Whichever your situation you should take the following factors into account:

1. Subjects you like.

You may work harder at these subjects, so it is sensible to start off by considering which subjects you enjoy.

2. Subjects you are good at.

For many college or university courses or careers, no set subjects are specified. You will only require a certain number of subjects at G.C.S.E pass level and these should include subjects with which you are likely to have the most success.

3. Subjects you will need for your career.

It is important to study the list of subjects and careers in this booklet, including 'A' level entry requirements, see page 64, to avoid missing out on a possible career path, because you failed to identify the required subjects.

Visit the Careers Department Page on School Website for lots more information.



Subject Title: [Agriculture and Land Use](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Northern Ireland has a strong rural tradition, with almost 75 percent of land used for agricultural purposes. The agri-food industry contributes hugely to the local economy, representing employment for around 50,000 people in farms, factories and the agri-food sector. This science-based GCSE is new to CCEA and has been developed for the Northern Ireland market in response to demand from schools. It is designed to appeal not only to young people from the changing agricultural sector but also to those who are interested in working within the wider land-based and environmental industries.

Course Content and Assessment:

Content	Content Summary	Assessment	Weightings
Unit 1: Soils, Crops and Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Composition of Soils• Horticulture• Plant Biology• Crop Production• Care and Management of the Countryside• Renewable Energy and Climate Change• Careers	External Assessment Written Examination 1 hour 15 minutes	25%
Unit 2: Animals on the Land	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Livestock Farming• Health and Welfare• Nutrition• Food Production and Food Processing• Farm Economics• Farm Health and Safety	External Assessment Written Examination 1 hour 15 minutes	25%
Unit 3 Controlled Assessment: Contemporary Issues in Agriculture and Land Use	Two controlled assessment tasks into topics relevant to contemporary issues in Agriculture and Land Use. Tasks will be selected from a choice from CCEA	Two controlled assessment tasks: One Practical Investigation Task; One Research Task.	50% Terminal

Skills developed in Agriculture:

The specification provides a sound basis for progression to further study and a range of interesting careers in the land-based and environmental sector. It has been designed to help students:

- develop subject knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to a work context;
- appreciate how knowledge of science can enhance productivity in the land-based and environmental sector;
- build on their awareness of complex relationships between humans and the environment in which they engage in agricultural activity;
- core knowledge about the land-based and environmental sector and respective employability skills
- demonstrate a critical and analytical approach to problem solving within the context of work-related scenarios; and
- make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices in agriculture

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Not available at A Level but useful for a range of related vocational qualifications at local Regional Colleges.

Related Subject Areas:

Geography, Science, Home Economics

Possible Career Options:

Farmer, Agricultural Engineer, Veterinary Nurse,

Subject Title: [Art and Design](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In GCSE Art & Design you will learn skills that build the confidence to express your own ideas and feelings visually. You may have the opportunity to work with an exciting range of materials and create artwork in some of the following disciplines;

- **Drawing and Painting,**
- **Sculpture & 3D Design**
- **Print-making,**
- **Textiles,**
- **Ceramics,**
- **Graphic Design,**
- **Photography,**
- **Digital Media e.g. Photoshop**
- **Moving Image, Animation.**

The GCSE Art and Design Course is made up of 2 Components which are both internally assessed and externally moderated. Component 1 is made up of two parts, Part A, an Exploratory Portfolio of Work and Part B, An Investigation of the Creative and Cultural Industries.

Content	Assessment	Weightings
Component 1: Part A: Exploratory Portfolio	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled assessment• Internally set and assessed	60% Part A = 25%
Part B: Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Externally moderated	Part B = 35%
Component 2: Externally Set Assignment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Controlled assessment• Externally set and internally assessed• Exam board sets a stimulus paper that provides a choice of themed starting points.• Externally moderated	40%

Skills developed in Art & Design:

- Art skills in a range of 2D and 3D disciplines (see listed above)
- Communication, Using ICT and Using Mathematics.
- Analytical and Critical Thinking skills.
- Self Management, Managing Information. Being Creative, Thinking, Problem Solving and Making Decisions, Working with others and Time management skills.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Pupils should achieve a grade of B or above to consider sitting A' level Art & Design.

Related Subject Areas:

ICT, Mathematics, Technology, Music, English, History, Irish Culture and Religion.

Possible Career Options:

Teacher, Architecture, Graphic Designer, Stage Designer, Artist, Photographer, Fashion Designer, Animator, Illustrator, Graphic Designer, Product designer, Art Therapist, Interior Designer, Landscape Architect, Ceramicist, Florist, Make-up Artist, Metal Fabricator, Tattoo Artist, Pastry Chef, Cake Decorator, 3D Animator, 3D Model Maker, Computer Animator, Website Designer, Video Game Designer, Visual Effects Artist, Actor.

Subject Title - [GCSE Business and Communication Systems](#)

Examination Board - CCEA

Course Content:

Business and Communications Systems presents a broad and coherent range of key topics that could lead to further related study and development in a lifelong interest in, and enjoyment of business related subjects.

There are 3 Units within the subject consisting of the following:

Unit 1: Software Applications for Business

You learn about relevant functions in software applications and develop their skills in using them in business contexts. When using software applications, students should be aware of standard ways of working and best practice approaches. Assessment tests the student's ability to use a range of software applications.

Unit 2: The Business Environment

You gain a broad introduction to the business world. They learn about recruitment, selection, training and marketing as well as the implications of digital technology for business.

You consider different roles, including stakeholders and customers, as well as how best to communicate a message. Look at all these factors in the context of the changing nature of business today.

Unit 3: Developing Digital Solutions

Use skills you have developed in U1 and U2 to manage and develop a digital solution for a given problem within a business context, by understanding and making connections between the different elements of the subject.

Assessment:

Unit 1: Software Applications for Business - External Computer based examination - 2 hr. Weighting - 40% - Completed at the end of yr 11.

Unit 2: The Business Environment - External written exam- 1 hr. Weighting- 35%- Completed at the end of yr 12.

Unit 3: Developing Digital Solutions - Controlled Assessment - Weighting - 25%- Completed at the end of yr 12.

In studying this subject you will develop a range of skills in the following areas:

- Engage actively in the study of business and digital technology, which will develop as effective and independent learners and critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds.
- Recognise that knowledge acquired whilst taking on the subject - with key focus on the use of software applications, will provide a sound basis as a future employee or employer in a variety of sectors.
- Understand the ever changing nature of digital technologies in business and economic activities and their role in our society.
- Development skills and understanding of the use of software and its corresponding applications.
- Use software applications to develop digital solutions to enhance business activities.

Possible Career Options:

This GCSE leaves open a vast number of possible career pathways from Programmer or Software Developer, Networking or System Administrator, Electronics Technician or Engineer, Accountancy, Actuary, Banking, Business Owner, Management, Investment, Marketing, Human Resources and Administration, is just the beginning of key major Career pathways this subject can offer you.

Subject Title: [GCSE Business Studies](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

The Business Studies course aims to:

- develop a lifelong interest in and enjoyment of business subjects;
- develop and apply their knowledge, understanding and skills to understand today's business issues in local, national and global contexts;
- appreciate the perspectives of different stakeholders in business-related activities;
- consider the extent to which business activity can be ethical and sustainable; and
- Understand the changing use of technology in business.

Business Studies will provide you with a unique insight into the world of work. Through its study, you discover how businesses operate and learn about their key elements and essential business functions. The new course is divided into THREE units. The Units allow the exploration of the following topics:

Unit 1: Starting a Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating a Business• Marketing• Business Operations	Unit 2: Developing a Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Resources• Business Growth• Finance	Unit 3: Planning a Business (Synoptic) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Business Plan
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Assessment:

2 externally assessed papers:

Unit 1 completed in Year 11: 40%, The paper lasts 1 hour 30 mins.

Unit 2 completed in Year 12: 40% The paper lasts 1 hour 30 mins.

1 controlled assessment task completed in Year 12: 20%

Controlled assessment. You will be required to complete ONE task starting in September of the second year of the course and therefore you will have time to research and prepare for the task.

Preparation may involve a **field trip**, i.e. a visit to research a real business e.g. Tayto or Coca Cola You will be allocated a specific amount of time during school to complete this task.

Tiers of Entry:

There is a Single Tier of Entry so you can achieve up to an A*.

Skills developed in Business Studies:

Within Business Studies you will have the opportunity to develop the following skills:

- **Managing information** - You will use a range of methods for collating, recording and representing information, and communicating to an audience.
- **Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making** - You will learn how to justify reasons, examine options in relation to business scenarios.
- **Working with others** - You will be involved in group work activities to develop learning and understanding.
- **ICT** - You will be provided with an opportunity to develop skills in Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Databases and PowerPoint.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level:

It is not required to have studied GCSE Business Studies for A level, but it does provide you with an excellent foundation for studying this subject at GCE level and beyond.

Possible Career Options:

Accountancy, Actuary, Banking, Business Owner, Management, Law, Investment, Marketing, Human Resources, Building, Construction, Property Management, Administration.

Subject Title: [GCSE Construction](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course.

The Construction Industry for the 21st Century.

A comprehensive introduction to the construction industry. Students have an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of the main types of construction, related employment, and the resources used in the building environment. Students also have an opportunity to explore, understand and apply their learning in the context of domestic and commercial buildings.

The Construction Craft Project

Students must complete a craft project based on **one** of the following craft themes:

• timber • brick • plaster OR • pipes.

Computer Aided Design in Construction

Students are taught the skills necessary to complete AutoCAD drawings to industry standards.

Assessment:

Assessment Unit	Teaching and learning unit	Assessment weighting (%)	Nature of Assessment
Unit 1:	Introduction to the Built Environment	20%	External written Examination 1 hour
Unit 2:	Sustainable Construction	30%	External written 1 hour 30 mins Paper includes questions based on pre-release materials
Unit 3:	The Construction Craft Project	25%	Controlled assessment
Unit 4:	Computer Aided Design in Construction	25%	Controlled assessment

Skills developed in Construction:

Students will have opportunities to:

- develop a broad background and core knowledge of the construction industry;
- learn in relevant, enjoyable and work-related context e.g. craft operations and for Computer Aided Design (CAD) projects;
- develop and practise the key transferable skills that are important in working life; and
- research the materials used in the construction of domestic and commercial buildings.
- research the materials used in construction of domestic and commercial buildings;
- produce designs for some of the components used in the construction of buildings.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Desired but not essential.

Related Subject Areas:

Mathematics, English, General Science, Physics, ICT, Careers, LLW.

Possible Career Options:

Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Teacher, Construction Trades, Quantity Surveyor

Subject Title: [GCSE Digital Technology](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

Core Unit 1

- Digital Data
- Computer Hardware and Software
- Database Applications and Spreadsheet Applications
- Network Technologies, Cyberspace and Cloud Technology
- Ethical, legal and environmental issues
- Employment Opportunities
- Health & Safety
- Digital Applications

Multimedia Pathway - Unit 2 & 3

- Designing solutions
- Digital Development Considerations
- Multimedia Applications
- Multimedia Authoring
- Database Development
- Testing Applications
- Evaluating Applications

Programming Pathway - Unit 4 & 5

- Contemporary trends in software development
- Digital Data
- Digital Design Principles
- Programming Constructs
- Simple error handling techniques
- Building a solution
- Testing a solution
- Evaluating a solution

Assessment:

Route A: Multimedia (30% completed in year 11, 70% completed in year 12)

Content	Assessment	Weightings	Completed	
Compulsory Core	Unit 1: Digital Technology	External written examination 1 hr	30%	Summer of Year 12
Multimedia units	Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts	External written examination 1 hr 30 mins	40%	Summer of Year 12
	Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice	Controlled assessment (internal)	30%	Summer of year 11

Route B: Programming (30% completed in year 11, 70% completed in year 12)

Content		Assessment	Weightings	Availability
Compulsory Core	Unit 1: Digital Technology	External written examination 1 hr	30%	Summer of Year 12
Programming units	Unit 4: Digital Development Concepts	External written examination 1 hr 30 mins	40%	Summer of Year 12
	Unit 5: Digital Development Practice	Controlled assessment (internal)	30%	Summer of year 11

Tiers of Entry: Full Course

Main Features of the course:

- There are 2 pathways on offer:
 1. GCSE Digital Technology (Multimedia), a digital authoring qualification focusing on multimedia; OR
 2. GCSE Digital Technology (Programming), a digital development qualification focusing on programming.
- All students study Unit 1: Digital Technology (Core Unit). They then choose **either** the multimedia route **or** the programming route and study the relevant two units for their chosen route.
- Students cannot combine units from each route; they can only be entered for Units 1, 2 and 3 **or** Units 1, 4 and 5.
- Students should decide in year 10 when making their choices if they want to study multimedia or programming.
- The content relates directly to current software development trends and the study of modern technology-based systems. It is well balanced between knowledge and application.
- The specification develops practical skills using a range of generic software or in an object-oriented environment.
- It provides a sound basis for further study in **both GCE Digital Technology and GCE Software Systems Development.**

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level? YES

Related Subject Areas:

Technology, Science, Business Studies, Mathematics, Geography.

Possible Career Options:

Computer Hardware Engineer, Computer Business Analyst, Computer Games Analyst, Technician, Database Administrator, Web Author/Editor.

Subject Title: [BTEC Level 2 First Award in Information and Creative Technology](#)

Examination Board: Pearson

Course Content:

This qualification provides you with an engaging and stimulating introduction to a wide range of digital technologies. You will have the opportunity to gain practical and creative skills, knowledge and understanding - both by building from your own experiences of technology and by carrying out projects.

Assessment: The course consists of two core units: **Unit 1** The Digital World, **Unit 2** Integrated Digital Technology and an optional unit.

The Digital World

Through this core unit, you will investigate:

- online services and online communication
- components of the internet
- how digital devices exchange and store information
- investigate issues with operating online.

This is an onscreen external exam which lasts one hour and is worth 25% of the qualification.

Integrated Digital Technology

Through this core unit it will help you understand the features of digital technologies and how these can be combined into a larger solution to meet the needs of different users. You will:

- design a digital portfolio,
- create and test a digital portfolio,
- review the digital portfolio.

This is a portfolio, which you will submit internally and is worth 25% of the qualification.

The optional units consist of 7 available units, choosing either one or two units. This is a portfolio which is internally assessed and is worth 50% of the qualification. Optional units are:

- Creating Digital Animation
- Creating Digital Audio
- Creating Digital Graphics
- Creating Digital Video
- Spreadsheet Development
- Database Development
- Website Development

Skills Developed:

You will develop transferable technical, creative and practical skills in communication, including analytical writing skills and writing for audience and purpose, research and project management. The course will give you the opportunity to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem, and this will be valuable in supporting your progression to a level 3 qualification in any subject.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level? Yes

Related Subject Areas:

Technology, Science, Business Studies, Mathematics, Geography.

Possible Career Options:

Computer Hardware Engineer, Computer Business Analyst, Computer Games Analyst, Technician, Database Administrator, Web Author/Editor.

Subject Title: OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications

Examination Board: OCN NI (Open College Network Northern Ireland)

Course Content:

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.

Assessment:

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications. In order to achieve the qualification learners must complete a total of 15 credits from any of the optional units.

- IT User Fundamentals
- Presentation Software
- Spreadsheet Software
- Using the Internet
- Word Processing Software

There are a range of skills developed which are transferable across subjects and career pathways.

Related Subject Areas:

Maths, English, Science, ICT

Possible Career Options:

This subject is very suitable for all careers and will prepare you for a wide range of occupations and higher level courses.

Subject Title: Occupational Studies:

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content: The courses consists of 2 units:

- to achieve a qualification, learners must complete two units from the same occupational area;
- learners should present evidence of achieving the assessment objectives in an annotated portfolio;
- units in bold type are common to more than one occupational area to allow for greater choice and flexibility -learners cannot submit any unit towards a qualification more than once;

Business and Services	Design and Creativity	Environment and Society	Technology and Innovation
15 Units	12 Units	9 Units	9 Units
Childcare: the Play Environment Communication in an Office or Business Environment Contemporary Cuisine Creative Styling using Blow-Drying Techniques Customer Service Facial Skincare Logistics and Transport Manicure and Nail Art Modern Office Procedures Modern Retailing Patisserie and Baking Shampooing and Conditioning Treatments The Physical Care of Babies Using Office Technology Vehicle Servicing and Valeting Operations	Contemporary Cuisine Creative Hairstyling on Long Hair Creative Hair Styling Setting Techniques Creative Styling Using Blow-Drying Techniques Enterprise Crafts Graphic Design Interior Design Patisserie and Baking Specialised Crafts Textile and Fashion Design Total Beauty Website Development	Animal Care Horticulture: Caring for Plants and Flowers Horticulture: Growing Plants in a Sustainable Way Reminiscence with Individuals in a Care Environment Running a Leisure Event Sports Leadership Tour Guiding Working in a Care Environment Working in Tourism	Bench Joinery Carpentry and Joinery Computer Aided Design Digital Imaging Digital Music Manufacturing Techniques – Hand fitting Manufacturing Techniques – Sheet Metal Sound Production TV and Film Production

Assessment:

- 100% internal assessment of the two units Graphic Design and Website Development in the occupational area Design and Creativity.
- Pupils carry out tasks to gather the required assessment evidence in a portfolio for each unit.

Tiers of Entry:

- Level 2 Distinction* equivalent to GCSE A*
- Level 2 Distinction equivalent to GCSE A
- Level 2 Merit equivalent to GCSE B
- Level 2 Pass equivalent to GCSE C

Skills developed in ICT: Self-management, research skills, Software specific IT skills in Photoshop, Web Expression, Working with others, Recognising employment opportunities, recognising health and safety issues in the workplace.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level: Pupils achieving the Level 2 qualification can progress to post 16 courses in the relevant subject areas.

Related Subject Areas: Art, Moving Image Art, ICT.

Possible Career Options: Computer Hardware Engineer, Computer Business Analyst, Computer Games Analyst, Technician, Database Administrator, Web Author/Editor, Graphic Designer.

Subject Title: [GCSE English Language](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

The GCSE English Language course will involve a combination of 2 written controlled assessments (worth 20% of final grade), speaking and listening assessments (worth 20% of final grade) and 2 written examinations (each contributing 30% to final grade) assessing a range of fiction and non-fiction reading comprehension and writing tasks.

The quality of written communication (accuracy and range of spelling, punctuation, grammar, paragraphing and sentence construction) is assessed in both writing sections.

Assessment Unit	Teaching and learning unit	Assessment weighting (%)	Nature of Assessment
1	Unit 1: Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts	30%	Untiered Exam. 1hr 40mins
2	Unit 2: Speaking and Listening	20%	Internal Assessment.
3	Unit 3: Studying Spoken and Written Language	20%	Controlled Assessment.
4	Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts	30%	Untiered Exam. 1hr40mins

Tiers of Entry:

Both exam papers will be untiered. All pupils will sit the same paper and there will be no Foundation or Higher Tier option.

Skills developed in English:

- Communicating effectively in spoken language.
- Interpreting what others say.
- Responding appropriately to others.
- Reading assorted texts for both learning and understanding
- Exploring, explaining and evaluating a writer's methods, techniques, intentions and use of language.
- Communicating effectively in written language for a range of purposes and readers.
- Being creative
- Research, organise and read different types of information.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level? Yes.

Related Subject Areas: English Literature, History, RE, Performing Arts, Geography.

Possible Career Options: Teacher, Advertising, Law, Copywriter, Journalist, Editor, TV/Radio Presenter, Proof Reader, Screenwriter, Writer.

Subject Title: [GCSE English Literature](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

The GCSE English Literature course will involve a combination of controlled assessment and 2 external examinations.

Assessment:

Assessment Unit	Teaching and learning unit	Assessment weighting (%)	Nature of Assessment
1	Unit 1: The Study of Prose. Section A: 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck Section B: Unseen Prose	Section A: 20% Section B: 10%	Exam (closed book). 1hr 45mins
2	Unit 2: The Study of Drama & Poetry Section A: 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley Section B: Poetry Anthology	Section A: 20% Section B: 30%	Exam (open book). 2 hours
3	Unit 3: 'The Study of Shakespeare'	20%	Controlled Assessment. 2 hours.

Both exam papers can only be entered in the Summer exam series.

Tiers of Entry:

Pupils may be entered at Foundation or Higher level.

Skills developed in English Literature:

- Communicating effectively in spoken language.
- Interpreting what others say.
- Responding appropriately to others.
- Reading assorted texts for both learning and enjoyment.
- Communicating effectively in written language.
- Research, organise and read different types of information.
- Appreciate how different writers use language to achieve different effects.
- Explore, explain and evaluate a writer's techniques, methods and intentions.
- Responding creatively, imaginatively and critically to studied and unseen texts.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Preferably yes.

Related Subject Areas:

English Language, History, RE, Performing Arts.

Possible Career Options:

Teaching, Journalist, Theatre, Business, Advertising Copywriter, Editor, TV/Radio Presenter, Proof Reader, Screenwriter, Writer.



Subject Title: Level 1 and 2 Certificate in Essential Skills Communication

Examination Board: OCN NI

Course Content:

The Essential Skills course is divided into two equally weighted assessment components comprising both a speaking and listening portfolio (assessed internally) and an external examination assessing the skills of reading and writing.

Assessment:

To secure the Level 1 or 2 qualification pupils must complete both units - which are graded on a pass/fail basis. There are **several** opportunities to enter (and/or repeat) the unit 2 exam.

Unit 1: Speaking and Listening

Learners must make a range of contributions to discussions in a range of contexts, including those that are unfamiliar, and make effective presentations.

Unit 2: Reading and Writing

Learners will sit an unseen external examination lasting **1hr 30mins for Level 1, and 1hr 45mins for Level 2**. This exam will assess both reading and writing and learners must reach the required level in both sections. In Part One, they must select, read, understand and compare texts and use them to gather information, ideas, arguments and opinions. In Part Two, they must write a range of texts, including extended written documents, communicating information, ideas and opinions effectively and persuasively.

Tiers of Entry:

Level 1 or Level 2.

Skills developed in Level 1 and 2 Essential Skills Communication:

- Communicating effectively in spoken language.
- Interpreting what others say.
- Responding appropriately to others.
- Reading assorted texts for both learning and understanding
- Communicating effectively in written language for a range of purposes and readers.
- Research, organise and read different types of information.
- Using I.C.T. to research and present work

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level? No.

Related Subject Areas:

English Language, Essential Skills in Using I.C.T., Essential Skills in Numeracy.

Possible Career Options:

Teacher, Advertising Copywriter, Journalist, Editor, TV/Radio Presenter, Proof Reader, Screenwriter, Writer.

Subject Title: English - Entry Level Literacy Levels 1- 3

Examination Board: OCN NI

Course Content:

In Entry Level English, learners will complete a range of speaking and listening tasks and complete an unseen desktop examination assessing their core reading and writing skills.

Assessment:

Summary of the Scheme of Assessment

100% internal assessment, with external moderation.

Unit 1: Speaking and Listening - Learners will complete a series of speaking and listening tasks to assess core skills. These tasks will include a mixture of formal and informal discussions, one of which will require some independent research.

Unit 2: Desktop Task Examination - Learners will complete an unseen examination assessing their core reading and writing skills.

Tiers of Entry:

Entry Level 1, 2 3

Skills developed in Entry level English:

- Communicating effectively in spoken language.
- Interpreting what others say.
- Responding appropriately to others.
- Reading assorted texts for both learning and understanding.
- Communicating effectively in written language for a range of purposes and readers.
- Research, organise and read different types of information.
- Using I.C.T. to research and present work.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

No. This is an alternative to the traditional GCSE route and pupils following the Essential Skills route will not have sufficient GCSE standards of English to progress into A-Level.

Related Subject Areas:

All subjects at Entry Level.

Possible Career Options:

The English entry level qualification aims to reward and motivate learners and improve their opportunities, allowing them to engage in relevant, interesting activities designed to improve their reading, writing, speaking and listening competences. They will provide the pupils with basic knowledge, skills and understanding they need to get them started in the world of work.

Subject Title: [Geography](#)
Examination Board: CCEA



Course Content:

Three units of study:

Unit 1 Understanding Our Natural World (40%):



Four themes to be studied each with equal weighting.

- Theme A: River Environments
- Theme B: Coastal Environments
- Theme C: Our Changing Weather and Climate
- Theme D: The Restless Earth

Unit 2 Living In Our World (40%)



Four themes to be studied each with equal weighting.

- Theme A: Population and Migration
- Theme B: Changing Urban Areas
- Theme C: Contrasts in World Development
- Theme D: Managing Our Environment



complete a

Unit 3 Fieldwork (20%)

There is no longer coursework in this course. Instead pupils will skills based exam paper on their river fieldwork investigation.

Assessment:

Three papers:

Units 1 and 2 are worth 40% each. **Unit 1 will be taught in Year 11.** Units 2 and 3 will be taught in Year 12. Unit 3 is worth 20%.

Pupils may have **one** opportunity to repeat **Unit 1** in the summer term of Year 12.

Tier of Entry:

One tier of entry: grades A-F

Skills developed in Geography:

Geography has a distinctive contribution to make to the development of an understanding of the world and its people. It encourages an appreciation of the relationships between the physical and human processes that shape the distinctive character of places and environments. The study of the relationships allows the consideration of how sustainable development affects the planning and management of environments and resources. The study of geography provides opportunities for pupils to develop an understanding of and respect for cultures and ways of life of other peoples. Pupils will develop effective oral and written communication skills, expressing evidence based opinion and using maps, charts, graphs and other means of data to analyse and account for patterns, trends and anomalies to make informed decisions.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Yes, grade **C** or above.

Related Subject Areas:

- Science - Geography is regarded as a STEM subject
- I.T.
- Business Studies
- History
- L.L.W.



Possible Career Options:

Career options are plentiful as Geography is a versatile subject contributing to both science and humanities.

Geography Teacher	Meteorologist	Mapping and Charting Officer
Surveyor	Estate Agent	Geologist
Town Planner	Travel Agent	GIS and Remote Sensing
Landscape Architect	Transport Manager	Solicitor

Subject Title: [History](#)
Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

- Unit 1 Studies in Depth : Germany 1918-1939 (Option 1) and Britain, N. Ireland & Republic of Ireland 1965-1985
- Unit 2 Outline Study: The Cold War 1945-1991

Assessment:

Number of papers and their %:

Unit 1 : 1 hr 45 minutes exam, 60%.

Unit 2 : 1hr 15 minutes exam, 40%.

Tiers of Entry:

One tier of entry: Grades A*-G

Skills developed in History:

Awareness of change, continuity and causation. Analysis and evaluation of historical sources with particular emphasis on usefulness and reliability.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level

Yes, Grade B or above.

Related Subject Areas:

Politics, English, Geography and Economics.

Possible Career Options:

Teacher, Actuary, Solicitor, Social Worker, Archaeology, Museum work, Political work, Conservation, Broadcasting, Architecture, Publisher, etc.



Subject Title: [GCSE Home Economics : Child Development](#) **Examination Board:** CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

- Family and Parental Responsibilities
- Reproduction
- Pregnancy and Birth
- The New-born Baby
- Dietary needs of the child (0-5 years)
- Child health and education

Physical, Intellectual, Social and Emotional Development 0-5 years

Assessment:

Coursework - 40%

- 1 Controlled Assessment Investigation Task - 40%

Written Exam - 60%

- Unit 1 - Parenthood, Pregnancy and New-born Baby- 30%
- Unit 2 - The Development of the Child (0-5 years) - 30%

GCSE candidates **MUST** be entered for ALL units

The subject is modular so there is an opportunity to complete at least 30% of the GCSE in Year 11.

Tiers of Entry:

There is only **ONE** tier of entry - Candidates are graded **A* - G**

Skills developed in GCSE Child Development:

- Parenting skills
- Communication
- Self-management
- Working with others
- Managing information
- Thinking, problem Solving and Decision Making
- Being creative
- IT
- Numeracy

This subject is not available at 'A' level.

Related Subject Areas:

GCSE Home Economics - Food & Nutrition

GCSE Health & Social Care

Possible Career Options:

Careers in the caring profession e.g. Nursing, Social Work, Education e.g. Early Years Provision, Teaching, Classroom Assistant.

In this subject the student will learn 'Parenting Skills' which are an important life skill for those who have children.

Subject Title: [GCSE Home Economics: Food and Nutrition](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

- Food provenance, processing and production
- Food and Nutrition for Good Health
- Nutritional and Dietary Needs
- Food Safety
- Factors Affecting Food Choice
- Food Preparation, Cooking and Preparation Skills.
- Being an Effective Consumer and Resource Management

Emphasis is placed on **the development of food practical skills** and effective management of resources.

Assessment:

Coursework - 50%

- 1 Controlled Assessment Task - 50%

Written Exam - 50%

- Unit 1 - Food and Nutrition - 50%

GCSE candidates **MUST** be entered for **ALL** units

There is only **ONE** tier of entry

Skills developed in Home Economics:

- Food practical skills
- Healthy eating
- Independent living
- Self-management
- Problem solving/Decision making
- Communication
- Personal development
- Working with others
- Numeracy
- IT
- Money management and consumerism

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Not essential but preferred.

Related Subject Areas:

Learning for life and Work at GCSE Level

GCSE Home Economics Child Development

Possible Career Options:

Teaching, Nursing, Catering and Hospitality Management, Food Technology, Health Promotion, Environmental Health and Consumer Organisations.

Subject Title: [GCSE in Irish](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content: *Main areas included in the study of this course:*

Context 1: Identity, Lifestyle and Culture

Students' lives, families, homes and interests and those of others in Irish-speaking countries/communities

- Myself, my family, relationships, and choices (for example family and friends)
- Social media and new technology (for example online communications, computers, tablets, and smartphones)
- Free time, leisure, and daily routine (for example sports, hobbies, cinema, TV, music, dance, fashion, eating out, shopping, at home, at school and at the weekend)
- Culture, customs, festivals, and celebrations (for example Easter, Christmas, birthdays, cultural activities and events, national holidays, celebrations, and cuisine)

Context 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest

Students' lifestyles and attitudes to environmental, social and global issues, and those of others in Irish-speaking countries/communities

- My local area and the wider environment (for example home, neighbourhood, town or city, places to visit, region and country)
- Community involvement (for example charity and voluntary work)
- Social and global issues (for example health, lifestyle, anti-social behaviour, caring for others and caring for the environment)
- Travel and tourism (for example holidays, destinations, transport, tourist information, weather, directions, accommodation, activities, shopping and eating out)

Context 3: School Life, Studies and the World of Work

Education and employment issues in students' own country or community and in Irish-speaking countries/communities

- My studies and school life (for example school subjects, uniform, timetable, rules, and regulations)
- Extra-curricular activities (for example clubs, societies, events, trips, and visits)
- Part-time jobs and money management (for example evening work, weekend work and work experience)
- Future and career (for example post-16 education, further studies, employment, aspirations, and choices)

Assessment:

The course is assessed through four components:

Listening 25%, Speaking 25%, Reading 25%, Writing 25%.

Skills developed:

Personal skills, Creative Thinking, Managing Information, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Working with Others, Self-Management, Communication, ICT Skills.

Possible Career Options:

Opportunities go way beyond specialist occupations, such as interpreting, translation and language teaching. Other options are: Languages with law, Missionary Work, etc. The following are examples of those industries which need people with language skills: the Hair and Beauty industry, Business, Administration and Finance industries, the ICT industry, Environmental and Land-based industries, the Construction industry, the Hospitality and Catering industries, the Engineering industry, Creative & Media industries, Manufacturing industry, Tourism industry and the Health and Social Care sector.

Subject Title: GCSE in [FRENCH](#) or [SPANISH](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content: *Main areas included in the study of this course:*

Context 1: Identity, Lifestyle and Culture

Students' lives, families, homes and interests and those of others in Spanish/French-speaking countries/communities

- Myself, my family, relationships and choices (for example family and friends)
- Social media and new technology (for example online communications, computers, tablets and smartphones)
- Free time, leisure and daily routine (for example sports, hobbies, cinema, TV, music, dance, fashion, eating out, shopping, at home, at school and at the weekend)
- Culture, customs, festivals and celebrations (for example Easter, Christmas, birthdays, cultural activities and events, national holidays, celebrations and cuisine)

Context 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest

Students' lifestyles and attitudes to environmental, social and global issues, and those of others in Spanish/French-speaking countries/communities

- My local area and the wider environment (e.g. home, neighbourhood, town or city, places to visit, region and country)
- Community involvement (e.g. charity and voluntary work)
- Social and global issues (e.g. health, lifestyle, anti-social behaviour, caring for others and caring for the environment)
- Travel and tourism (for example holidays, destinations, transport, tourist information, weather, directions, accommodation, activities, shopping and eating out)

Context 3: School Life, Studies and the World of Work

Education and employment issues in students' own country or community and in Spanish/French-speaking countries/communities

- My studies and school life (e.g. school subjects, uniform, timetable, rules and regulations)
- Extra-curricular activities (e.g. clubs, societies, events, trips and visits)
- Part-time jobs and money management (e.g. evening work, weekend work and work experience)
- Future plans and career (e.g. post-16 education, further studies, employment, aspirations and choices)

Assessment:

The course is assessed through a combination of externally set papers. All carry an equal weighting of 25%

Tiers of Entry:

All parts except Speaking are tiered; candidates can enter for either Foundation or Higher Tier.

Skills developed:

Personal Skills, Creative Thinking, Managing Information, Problem Solving and Decision Making, Working with Others, Self-Management, Communication, ICT Skills.

Are these subjects required at GCSE level if studying them at A Level? Yes

Related Subject Areas:

Almost any subject can be combined with a language.

Universities offer full degrees in the languages or they can be combined with each other or a range of other subjects such as: Accounting, American Studies, Ancient History, Archaeology, Celtic Studies, Common & Civil Law, Computing, Design, Drama, Economics, English, Film Studies, History, International Business, International Studies, Linguistics, Management, Music, Philosophy, Politics and Social Anthropology.

Possible Career Options:

Opportunities go beyond specialist occupations, such as interpreting, translation and language teaching. Other options are: Languages with law, Missionary Work, etc.

The following are examples of those industries which need people with language skills:

Hair and Beauty, Business, Administration and Finance, ICT, Environmental and Land-based, Construction, Hospitality and Catering, Engineering, Creative & Media, Film work, Manufacturing and Journalism/Online Social Media work.

Subject Title: GCSE Gaeilge

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:	Topics	
Understanding and Talking	Local Environment	The Gaeltacht
Listening	The Environment	The Irish language
Reading and Writing	Health	Literature
	The Media	

Assessment:

Number of Papers and their %:

Paper 1: Reading 1hr 30min 20%

Section 1: Information Handling

Section 2: Comparison and Cross Referencing

Section 3: Translation from Irish to English

Paper 2: Writing 1hr 30min 20%

Section 1: Functional Writing

Section 2: Translation from English to Irish

Controlled Assessment:

Tasks are completed under teacher's supervision. They are marked by the teacher and Moderated by CCEA.

Listening and Speaking 30%

Task 1: A Presentation (3mins)

Task 2: One to One discussion (2mins)

Task 3: A group discussion(4-6mins)

Reading and Writing 30%

Task 1: A Written response to 2 literary texts (1hr)

Task 2: A written response to non-fictional reading (1hr)

Tiers of Entry:

Single Tier Entry

Skills developed in GAELIGE:

Communication levels 4-7 (talking, listening, reading and writing)

Working with Others

Information and Communication Technology

Problem solving

Related Subject Areas:

English, Languages, Media Studies

Possible Career Options:

Media, translation work, reporter, teaching, writer, office work, community development officer, youth officer, the Arts, educational psychologist, law, business, management and social work.

Subject Title: GCSE [Mathematics](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

Using and Applying Mathematics

Number

Algebra

Shape, Space and Measure

Handling Data

Assessment:

One Module Paper taken in Year 11 and a further module taken in Year 12.

There is no coursework or controlled assessment component.

Tiers of Entry:

Higher Tier and Foundation Tier

Modular Course

Skills developed in Mathematics:

The specification gives students the opportunities to;

- develop their mathematical knowledge and oral, written and practical skills in a manner which encourages confidence;
- develop a feel for number and understand the significance of results obtained;
- apply mathematics in everyday situations and develop an understanding of the part which mathematics plays in the world around them;
- develop the abilities to reason logically, to classify, to generalise and to prove;
- develop their mathematical abilities by considering problems and conducting individual and co-operative enquiry and experiment, including pieces of work of a practical and investigative kind nature.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Mathematics is required at GCSE Level for the study of A Level Mathematics.

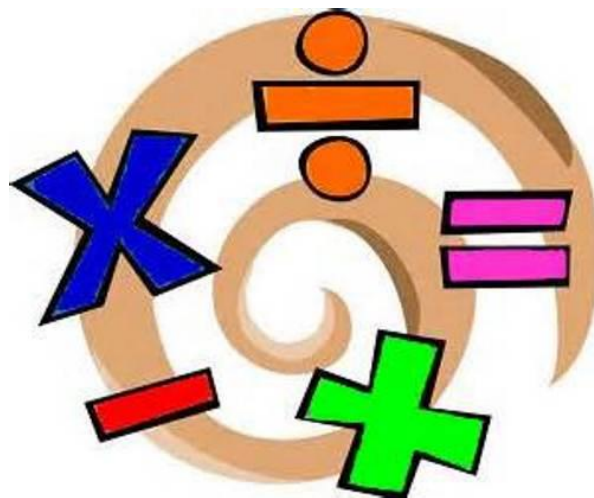
GCSE Further Mathematics is also highly recommended.

Related Subject Areas:

Physics, Chemistry, Technology, Geography, Economics, Business Studies.

Possible Career Options:

Banking and Finance, Accountancy, Insurance and Actuarial, Statistician, Engineering, Scientist, Teaching, Computers and ICT.



Subject Title: [GCSE Further Mathematics](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

Pure Mathematics

Mechanics

Statistics

This specification caters for those students who require a knowledge of Mathematics beyond that of GCSE Higher Tier Mathematics and who are capable of working beyond the limits of the GCSE specification.

Assessment:

2 papers worth 50% each

Unit 1 Mandatory Pure (50%)	Two of the three Optional Units 2,3,4 Unit 2 Mechanics (25%) Unit 3 Statistics (25%) Unit 4 Decision Mathematics (25%)
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Tiers of Entry:

Higher Tier

Both papers taken in the Summer of Year 12.

Skills developed in GCSE Further Mathematics:

The specification gives students the opportunities to:

- develop mathematical concepts, skills and experiences through practical activities;
- develop their mathematical abilities by considering and solving problems individually and through co-operative enquiry and experiment;
- use mathematics as a means of graphical communication;
- develop their ability to reason logically, to classify, to generalise and to draw valid conclusions;
- design and develop mathematical models from which they can investigate situations and solve problems.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

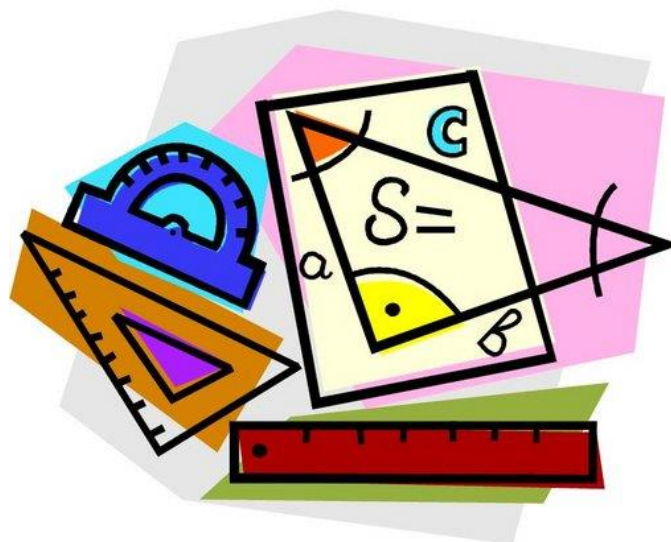
It would be preferable to have GCSE Further Mathematics for A Level study.

Related Subject Areas:

Physics, Chemistry, Technology, Geography, Economics, Business Studies.

Possible Career Options:

Banking and Finance, Accountancy, Insurance and Actuarial, Statistician, Engineering, Scientist, Teaching, Computers and ICT.



Subject Title: Essential Skills Numeracy (Entry Level)

Examination Board: OCN NI

Course Content:

The course content is divided into 3 broad areas:

- number, i.e. number rotation, number operations and the ability to make use of appropriate methods of calculation.
- measures, shape and space, i.e. recognise and use the properties of two dimensional and three dimensional shapes; recognise locations and to use transformations in the study of shape; estimate and measure quantities
- handling data, i.e., record, process, represent and interpret data and to understand, estimate and calculate probabilities.

Assessment:

Pupils complete one Desk- Top Task under exam conditions in school. Tasks are set by OCN but the school can select from a range of tasks. All tasks cover the three main areas;

Number

Measures, Shape and Space

Handling Data

The pass threshold for each curriculum area, at each level is set at 80% of the available marks.

Tiers of Entry:

Entry Level 1, 2 3

Skills developed in Numeracy:

Pupils will have the opportunity to apply mathematical knowledge and understanding in everyday contexts and develop personal values and attitudes and interpersonal skills through co-operative work. Pupils will also be encouraged to make appropriate use of Information and Communication Technology.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

No. This is an alternative to the traditional GCSE route and pupils following the Essential Skills route will be able to progress to Essential Skills Level 1 and 2 and GSCE

Related Subject Areas:

Construction, Home Economics, Occupational Studies.

Possible Career Options:

Shop Assistant, Joiner, Plasterer, Hairdresser, etc.

Subject Title: Level 1 and 2 Certificate in Essential Skills (Application of Number)

Examination Board: OCN NI

Course Content:

Number - understanding of number and selecting appropriate method of calculation.

Measurement, Shape and Space - recognise and use properties of 2 and 3 dimensional shapes.

Handling data - collect, record, process, represent and interpret data and estimate probability.

Assessment:

100% External Exam which is taken under exam conditions near the end of the course.

Pupils will be encouraged to gain the Level 1 Qualification and then undertake the Level 2 Course.

Examinations can be taken at various times throughout the year.

Tiers of Entry:

Level 1 or Level 2.

Learners must be aged 14 or over to take this qualification. There are no subject specific entry requirements for this qualification however centres must ensure that the level of the qualification is suitable for the learners.

Skills developed in Level 1 and 2 Certificate:

Candidates should be able to develop skills in:

- Understanding and using mathematical information
- Making calculations with this information
- Interpreting results and communicating mathematical information

Related Subject Areas:

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Essential Skills Application of Number provides the basis for progression to the qualification in Application of Number at Level 3.

Possible Career Options

The OCN NI Level 1 and Level 2 Certificate in Essentials Skills - Application of Number enables progression to other recognised qualifications at level 2 and above. This qualification will assist a learner gain entry to employment.

Subject Title: [MUSIC](#)
Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

The course is divided into three units:

Performing:

Pupils will prepare one piece for their solo and ensemble performances on an instrument of their choice. It is essential that all pupils have a good level of instrumental competence before beginning this course as they will have to perform at Grade 3 level or above as part of their examination in Year 12. Pupils may present a Grade 1 or 2 performance; however, a small amount of marks will be deducted for level of demand.

Composing:(Coursework Element)

Pupils will compose two pieces of music. They will write one of these in response to a pre-release stimulus and the second piece is a free composition of the candidate's choice.

Listening and Appraising:

Pupils will be required to study a number of set works and show their knowledge and understanding in one listening paper. They will listen to and appraise familiar and unfamiliar music by a range of composers, both male and female, with four compulsory Areas of Study:

1. Western Classical Music 1600-1910
2. Film Music
3. Musical Traditions in Ireland
4. Popular Music 1980-Present day

Assessment:

Performing: 35%

External examination assessed by a visiting examiner. Students present one solo and one ensemble performance.

Composing: 30%

Students create two compositions.

Listening and Appraising: 35%

External written examination (1 hour 30 minutes).

Skills developed in music:

Aural Perception, Creativity, Performance & Compositional Skills, Working together, Self-management and Independent learning.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

It is expected that all students will have completed the course at GCSE, but where a pupil can show a **very significant** background in music, consideration may be given to a place on the A Level Course

Related Subject Areas:

Performing Arts & Art and Design

Possible Career Options:

Performer, Employment in the Music Industry (Recording, Engineer, DJ), Music Therapist, Teacher, Accompanist, Session Musician.

Subject Title: [GCSE Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

This specification aims to encourage students to develop interest in and appreciation of the motor vehicle and an understanding of the legal liabilities of being a road user. They have an opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of the responsibilities of vehicle ownership. Throughout the course student gain a positive and understanding attitude to the use of the road and to other road users. They learn to act decisively and positively at the scene of a road traffic collision. Through practical application students acquire the knowledge and skills needed for the use of a powered vehicle along with a knowledge and understanding of routine vehicle maintenance.

Assessment:

Assessment Unit	Teaching and learning unit	Assessment weighting (%)	Nature of Assessment
Unit 1:	Motor Vehicle and Road User Theory	50%	External written examination 1 hour 45 mins Students answer questions in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vehicle Control and Road User Behaviour;• Legal requirements• Road Transport and its Effects on society• Motoring Mathematics• Collision Procedures• Motor Vehicle Technology
Unit 2:	Investigative Study	25%	Controlled Assessment Students collect data on a moving traffic situation and complete an investigative study.
Unit 3:	Practical Riding Activity	25%	Controlled Assessment Students carry out a moped riding activity to demonstrate skills of vehicle control and roadcraft

Skills developed in Motor Vehicle Studies:

Students will have opportunities to:

Develop practical skills in the riding/maintenance/handling of a 50cc moped.

Develop an interest and appreciation of the Motor Vehicle

Develop an understanding of the legal liabilities of being a road user

Develop an awareness of the interaction of the road user, the environment and the vehicle

Develop a respect for the safety of road users

Learn to act decisively and positively at the scene of an accident

Develop an understanding of the mathematical, scientific and technological principles of the motor vehicles.

Develop a knowledge and understanding of routine vehicle maintenance: and acquire a range of manipulative and communicative skills appropriate to the subject.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

A level is not available in this subject.

Related Subject Areas:

Mathematics, English, Technology and Design, Physics, LLW.

Possible Career Options:

Engineer, Motor Vehicle Engineer, Journalist, Designer.

Subject Title: [GCSE Physical Education](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

Component 1: Factors Underpinning Health and Performance

- The Body Systems
 - The Skeletal, Muscular, Respiratory, Cardiovascular, Digestive and Nervous systems.
- Health and Lifestyle Decisions
 - Mental, Social and Physical health
 - Effects of sleep, nutrition, alcohol, smoking and drugs have on sport
- The Active Leisure Industry
 - Concept and Structure of Leisure Industry
 - Event Management

Component 2: Developing Performance

- Developing physical performance
 - Components of fitness, training methods, principles of training and fitness testing
- Developing skilled performance
 - Factors underpinning the learning of skills

Component 3: Individual Performances in Physical Activities and Sports

Controlled assessment:

- Participation in 3 physical activities/sports/event manager
- Analysis and Evaluation of performance

Assessment:

Number of papers and their %

Component 1: Factors Underpinning Health and Performance

External written examination 1 hour 15 mins - 100 marks 25% of GCSE

Component 2: Developing Performance

External written examination 1 hour 15 mins - 100 marks 25% of GCSE

Component 3: Individual Performances in Physical Activities and Sports

Controlled assessment: 3 physical activities/sports/event manager 3 × 50 = 150 marks **and** analysis of performances 1 × 50 marks - 50% of GCSE

Skills Developed in Physical Education:

Communication skills, working with others, thinking skills and personal capabilities, ICT, Application of Number

Is this subject required at GCSE if studying to A Level?

Yes preferable but if not DA Science at BB

Related Subject Areas:

Science and Maths

Possible Career Paths:

Teaching, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Sports Development Officer, etc.

Subject Title: OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Further Study Skills
Examination Board: OCN NI (Open College Network Northern Ireland)

Course Content:

The OCN NI Level 2 Further Study Skills qualifications are for learners wishing to acquire knowledge and skills preparing them to progress to study at higher levels. The qualifications provide opportunities for learners to study in the following areas:

- Study skills and personal development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social sciences
- Health and Social Care

Assessment:

Level 2 Certificate in Further Study Skills. In order to achieve this qualification, the learner must successfully complete a total of 13 credits. 4 credits must be taken the Core Skills group (Study Skills and Personal Development group). The remaining 9 credits may be taken from any group.

All assessments are assessed internally. This subject contains 100% assessment but in order to achieve this, students must evidence 100% of the assessment criteria within their portfolios. They will need to complete portfolios in a selection of the below units to achieve their overall grade in OCN Further Study Skills.

Unit Reference Number	OCN NI Unit Code	Unit Title	TQT	Credit Value	Level
Study Skills & Personal Development – Core Group					
K/650/0028	CBF551	Using Technology to Create, Edit and Communicate Information	20	2	Two
T/507/2493	CBC543	Managing Own Study Skills	20	2	Two
R/507/2498	CBC545	Revision & Exam Study Skills	20	2	Two
Y/507/2499	CBC546	Time Management Skills	20	2	Two

Optional units come from a range of areas including: Literacy, Mathematics, Science and Health & Social Care Units

There are a range of skills developed which are transferable across subjects and career pathways.

Related Subject Areas:

Maths, English, Science, Health and Social Care, ICT

Possible Career Options:

This subject is very suitable for all careers and will prepare you for a wide range of occupations and higher level courses.

Subject Title: OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Reducing Carbon Footprints through Environmental Action

Examination Board: OCNNI (Open College Network Northern Ireland)

Course Content:

The OCN NI Level 2 Award and Certificate in Reducing Carbon Footprints through Environmental Action will provide the learner with an understanding of the impact of carbon dioxide emissions on climate change and how individuals, communities and organisations may contribute to reducing these. The objectives of the qualification is to enable learners to understand:

- the role of carbon in climate change
- climate campaigning
- tackling single-use plastic waste
- fast fashion
- biodiversity recovery

Assessment:

In order to achieve this qualification learners must complete the mandatory unit - 3 credits plus 12 credits from the remaining optional units - total 15 credits.

All assessments are assessed internally. This subject contains 100% assessment but in order to achieve this, students must evidence 100% of the assessment criteria within their portfolios. They will need to complete portfolios in a selection of the below units to achieve their overall grade in OCN Further Study Skills.

Units studied:

- Understanding the role of carbon in climate change
- Climate campaigning
- Tackling single use plastic waste
- Fast fashion
- Biodiversity recovery

There are a range of skills developed which are transferable across subjects and career pathways.

Related Subject Areas:

Science, Maths, English, LLW

Possible Career Options:

This subject is very suitable for all careers and will prepare you for a wide range of occupations and higher level courses.

Subject Title: [GCSE Drama](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

GCSE Drama is an enjoyable, yet challenging qualification. Pupils will have the opportunity to make theatre visits, to view professional performances, as well as attending workshops focused on areas relevant to the Industry, e.g. Dance, Make-Up, Sound and Lighting and Set Design. They will also devise their own scripts from given themes and perform scripted pieces from various genres, including musical theatre. The importance of this course is that pupils grow in their knowledge of all aspects of production and performance.

This is a linear qualification and pupils will sit a written examination on their set text at the end of Year 12. It is important too that pupils are prepared to work "as part of a team", as many of the tasks and workshops and most importantly the final performance task, are group-based activities.

Please note: numbers will be restricted in this subject due to the practical nature.

Assessment:

All of the following components:

- **Devised Performance. (30%)**
- **Scripted Performance. (30%)**
- **EXTERNALLY ASSESSED WRITTEN PAPER (40%)**

For Scripted performance, a moderator will visit the college to watch the live performances.

Skills developed in Performing Arts:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| ➤ Performance in all its aspects | Working with others |
| ➤ Self Management | Creativity |
| ➤ Time Management | Independent Learning |
| ➤ High level evaluation skills | Confidence-building |

Related Subject Areas:

Art, Music, English, English Literature.

Possible Career Options: Dancer, singer, actor, musician, therapist, teacher, DJ, arts administrator, play therapist, set & costume designer, lighting technician.



Subject Title: [Performance Skills](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

To allow the learner to develop skills in the entertainment industry; and • to give the learner the opportunity to perform in front of an audience.

The Performance Skills Certificate Level 2 allows the learner to progress to a higher qualification in the entertainment industry.

The key features of a course of study based on this specification include: • researching jobs within the entertainment industry; • developing skills in a range of areas within the industry; • practising and rehearsing; and • final performance

Assessment:

Unit 1: Working in the Performing Arts Industry Portfolio of evidence, internally assessed and externally moderated

Unit 2: Develop Technique for Performance Portfolio of evidence, internally assessed and externally moderated

Unit 3: Rehearse and Perform Portfolio of evidence, internally assessed and externally moderated

Skills developed in Performing Arts:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|
| ➤ Performance in all its aspects | Working with others |
| ➤ Self Management | Creativity |
| ➤ Time Management | Independent Learning |
| ➤ High level evaluation skills | Confidence-building |

Related Subject Areas:

Art, Music, English, English Literature.

Possible Career Options: Dancer, singer, actor, musician, therapist, teacher, DJ, arts administrator, play therapist, set & costume designer, lighting technician.

Subject Title: [GCSE Religious Studies](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

Section 1

Christianity through a study of the Gospel of Mark

Section 2

An Introduction to Christian Ethics

Assessment:

Two written papers: (1 hour 30 minutes each)

Year 11

Paper 1 - Christianity through a study of the Gospel of Mark - 50%

Examined at the end of Year 11

Year 12

Paper 2 - An Introduction to Christian Ethics - 50%

Examined at the end of Year 12

There is no Coursework in this subject.

There is one tier of assessment in the examination papers. The full range of GCSE grades A*-G is available on the single tier.

Skills developed in Religious Studies:

- analytical and strategic thinking;
- research skills;
- critical judgment;
- the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas;
- an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict;
- problem-solving skills;
- leadership skills;
- understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and
- an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Yes

Related Subject Areas:

Sociology, Geography

Possible Career Options:

Law, education, social work, politics, medicine, administration or the media.

Subject Title: [OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies](#)

Examination Board: OCN NI (Open College Network Northern Ireland)

Course Content:

- The OCN NI Level 2 Award and Certificate in Religious Studies are designed for learners who wish to develop knowledge and understanding in religious studies in order to make sense of religious choices people make in today's society. It is intended that learners will develop empathy, respect and awareness of other religious beliefs and cultural diversity.

Assessment:

All assessments are assessed internally. This subject contains 100% assessment but in order to achieve this, students must evidence 100% of the assessment criteria within their portfolios. They will need to complete portfolios in the below units to achieve their overall grade in OCN Religious Studies. Units studied:

- Addiction
- Charity and religious charities
- Exploring personal identity and faith
- Exploring religious traditions within your own community
- Life and death issues
- Life of a famous person of faith
- Marriage and divorce
- Prejudice and reconciliation
- World faith

Skills developed in OCN Religious Studies

Pupils will develop investigative skills in this subject as they learn how to research and make decision in order to complete Portfolios.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Pupils achieving the Level 2 qualification can progress to post 16 courses but advised to complete more vocational based courses

Related Subject Areas:

Sociology, Geography, LLW

Subject Title: [GCSE Technology and Design - Electronic and Microelectronic Control Systems](#)**Examination Board:** CCEA

The GCSE in Design and Technology enables students to understand and apply iterative design processes through which they explore, create and evaluate a range of outcomes. The qualification enables students to use creativity and imagination to design and make prototypes (together with evidence of modelling to develop and prove product concept and function) that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values. It gives students opportunities to apply knowledge from other disciplines, including mathematics, science, art and design, computing and the humanities. Students will acquire subject knowledge in Technology and Design that builds on Key Stage 3, incorporating knowledge and understanding of different materials and manufacturing processes in order to design and make, with confidence, prototypes in response to issues, needs, problems and opportunities. Students learn how to take design risks, helping them to become resourceful, innovative and enterprising citizens. Students should be aware that the focus selected for the specialist option will be electronics.

Assessment:

Assessment Unit	Teaching and learning unit	Assessment weighting (%)	Nature of Assessment
1	Core content and	25%	1 external written examination 1 hour 30 mins
2	Specialist Option - Electronic and Microelectronic Control Systems	25%	1 external written examination 1 hour 30 mins
3	Design and Manufacturing Project	50%	Controlled assessment Students complete a design project comprising a design portfolio and an associated manufacturing task.

Students will have opportunities to:

- plan work, for example produce production plans, portfolio and practical outcomes;
- set personal learning goals and targets to meet deadlines, for example planning the design and development of the portfolio and manufactured solutions to meet deadlines using Gantt charts and flowcharts; and
- effectively manage their time, for example continuously evaluate, modify and improve designs
- learn with and from others listen actively to others and influence group thinking and decision-making, taking account of others' opinions, for example, continuously evaluating, modifying and improving on design developments weigh up options and justify decisions,
- apply and evaluate a range of approaches

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Grade B essential.

Related Subject Areas:

Mathematics, English, Construction, General Science, Physics, ICT, Careers, LLW.

Possible Career Options:

Engineering, Product Design, Architecture, Teacher, Construction Trades, Quantity Surveyor.

Subject Title: [GCSE Double Award Science](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

This involves the study of all 3 areas of science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) for an award of 2 GCSEs. While a distinction will be made in the teaching of all 3 areas, the reporting of results and overall grades will be based on the candidate's overall achievement and will not take account of possible differing abilities in each area. Pupils would, therefore, need to be prepared to work hard in all 3 areas, as a weakness in one area will lower the overall grade achieved. Whatever grade is awarded will be awarded as a double grade, i.e. A*A*, AA, BB, CC, DD, EE, etc, however CCEA do award mixed grades for e.g. AB or BC*

Double Award Science offers a foundation in all 3 areas so that at Post 16 the students' options are open, should they decide to take any of the sciences to AS/A2 level. It is necessary for pupils to attain at least Grade B in Double Award Science in order to be successful in further science study at A level. It is also useful to note some university courses request a B in units at this level.

Assessment:

Examination Components: 3 externally assessed modules in Year 11 in Biology, chemistry and physics & 3 terminal papers in Year 12 and controlled assessment.

Modules 33 % June Year 11. These modules can be mixed tier of entry

Terminal Papers: 42% June Year 12 these are exams are either Higher or foundation in all 3 subjects

25% externally Assessed practical

Part A Students carry out three pre-release practicals (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in the final year of study.

Part B External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

There is an opportunity to resit modules in November Year 12.

Tiers of Entry:

Higher Tier: A*-D

Foundation Tier: maximum grade BC*

Skills developed in Double Award Science:

Pupils will develop investigative skills in this module as they carry out experiments and complete coursework.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Yes with minimum entry to A Level is a Grade A in the subject to be undertaken at A Level.

Related Subject Areas:

Maths, Technology, Geography, Home Economics.

Possible Career Options:

Medical Profession, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Laboratory Research, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Chemical Engineering, etc.

Subject Title: [Single Award Science \(Modular\)](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

This is the minimum amount of science that a pupil must study at Key Stage 4 in order to fulfil the requirements of the National Curriculum. It is particularly suitable for pupils less likely to achieve high grades under the more rigorous Double Award system and for those who do not wish to pursue a science related career.

Pupils will sit 3 modules exams in single award science; module 1 in February Year 11, module 2 in November Year 12 and module 3 in May Year 12.

In modules pupils can move between higher and foundation tiers this will give access to grade A*-G. Should pupils sit all exams in foundation tier they can only achieve grade C*.

Assessment:

Number of papers and their %:

Examination:

3 module exams, Unit 1 Biology (25%), Unit 2 Chemistry (25%) & Unit 3 Physics (25%). Total % of GCSE = 75%

Practical assessment (25%)

Booklet A - Students carry out two practicals (from either Bio, Chem or Phys) in Year 12. (7.5%)

Booklet B - Answer a series of structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

=25%

Tiers of Entry:

Pupils can sit higher and foundation modules throughout the course. The course is designed for pupils to achieve from A* to C when sitting some or all higher modules. The students can move between higher and foundation in each module.

There will be an opportunity to resit module exams in May Year 11, November Year 12 and February Year 12.

Skills developed in Single Award Science:

Pupils will develop investigative skills in this module as they carry out experiments and complete coursework.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Double or Triple Award Science would be a stronger foundation for A Level Science.

Related Subject Areas:

Geography, Maths, Home Economics.

Subject Title: [OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Applied Science](#)

Examination Board: OCN NI (Open College Network Northern Ireland)

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate and Level 2 Extended Certificate in Applied Science qualifications will provide learners with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in a range of key concepts within Biology, Chemistry and Physics and builds upon the Key Stage 3 science curriculum.

Learners must successfully complete all three mandatory units to achieve the qualification.

- Physical Processes (Understand energy transfer, Understand electricity, Understand forces and motion and Understand waves and radiation)
- Life Processes and Living Things (Understand cellular structure and functions, Know about transport of nutrients and gases in plants, Understand genetics and inheritance, Understand how organisms interact with the environment and each other and Understand what enzymes are and their role in living organisms and industrial processes.)
- Materials and their Chemical Properties (Understand atomic structure and bonding, Know about the periodic table, Understand the nature of chemistry and the main types of chemical reaction and Understand rates of reaction.)

Assessment:

Comprises of internal assessment where pupils complete the three units in course. Pupils carry out tasks to gather the required assessment evidence in a practical portfolio for each unit, a Practical demonstration/assignment and a piece of coursework for each unit.

The teacher will assess the portfolio of evidence. Grading for these qualifications is Pass/Fail

Skills developed in OCN Applied Science

Pupils will develop investigative skills in this module as they carry out experiments and complete Portfolios.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Pupils achieving the Level 2 qualification can progress to post 16 courses in the relevant subject areas but will not be able to study A Level Science with this qualification.

Related Subject Areas:

Geography, Maths, Home Economics.

Please be aware that this subject is not accepted as a Science equivalency for Nursing or other science related degree courses requiring a GCSE Science qualification

Subject Title: Triple Award Science
Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

This involves the study of 3 sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) as separate subjects and 3 GCSE grades. Each subject will be assessed by 2 units of work and controlled assessment. This course is suited to pupils who have a high ability in science and wish to pursue science subjects at A level. This course is an excellent foundation for A Level Sciences.

Assessment:

Unit 1 exam is sat in May year 11 and consists of structured questions accounting for 35% of overall grade in Biology and chemistry 37.5% in Physics.

Unit 2 exam is sat in May Year 12 consisting of structured questions and accounting for 40% of overall grade in Biology and chemistry 37.5% in Physics.

Externally assessed Practical assessment accounts for 25% of overall grade.

Booklet A - Students carry out 2 pre-release Practicals in Year 12. (7.5%)

Booklet B - Answer a series of structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context. (17.5%)

Tiers of Entry:

Higher A*-G and foundation tier max C* exist in these subjects. Pupils may choose to sit different tiers of entry in each subject and in each unit.

Skills developed in Triple Award Science:

Pupils will develop investigative skills in this module as they carry out experiments and complete coursework.

Is this subject required at GCSE level if studying it at A Level?

Yes with minimum entry to A Level a Grade B at GCSE

Related Subject Areas:

Maths and Technology, Health and Social Care. P.E., Geography, Home Economics.

Possible Career Options:

Medical Profession, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Laboratory research, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Chemical Engineering, etc.



Subject Title: Prince's Trust qualifications in Personal Development and Employability Skills

Examination Board: Prince's Trust

Course Content:

Main areas included in the study of this course:

The Prince's Trust qualifications in Personal Development and Employability Skills recognise a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors. They have been developed with the aim of progressing learners into further education and/or employment and are available for use with pre and post 16 learners:

They give learners the opportunity to:

- Develop their own personal growth and engagement in, and through, learning.
- Engage in learning that is relevant to them and support their development of personal skills and attributes that are essential for working life and employment.
- Prepare themselves for progression into further education programmes, apprenticeships or other work based learning.
- Develop their English and mathematics skills

Assessment:

There are rules for the minimum number and combination of units that can be put forward for a certificate. The qualification will be awarded at the level at which the majority of credits have been achieved. Units studied:

- Career planning
- Community project
- Customer service
- Digital skills
- Interpersonal and self-management skills
- Managing money
- Participating in exercise
- Personal project
- Planning for personal development
- Practising leadership skills
- Preparation for a healthy lifestyle
- Presentation skills
- Teamwork skills
- Undertaking and enterprise project
- Work experience

Skills developed in Prince's Trust:

Pupils will develop investigative skills in this module as they carry out experiments and complete coursework.

Related Subject Areas:

Maths, English, LLW, Employability, Citizenship, Personal Development

Possible Career Options:

The Prince's Trust Qualification is recognised by employers across the UK and Ireland as a course that develops key work skills in young people, helping them move into employment, education and training.

Subject Title: [Preparation for Adult Life](#)

Examination Board: CCEA

Course Content:

To achieve an Award in Preparation for Adult Life, learners must complete six units: two from each of the three groups below. To achieve a Certificate, they must complete all 13 units.

Citizenship

Unit 1: Diversity and Social Inclusion

Unit 2: Democracy and Democratic Participation

Unit 3: Human Rights and Social Responsibility

Unit 4: Equality and Social Justice

Employability

Unit 5: Preparation for Work

Unit 6: Business in the Community

Unit 7: Effective Work Practice

Unit 8: Globalisation and the Labour Market

Personal and Social Development

Unit 9: Self-Development

Unit 10: Roles and Responsibilities of Parents

Unit 11: Healthy Relationships

Unit 12: Maintaining Personal Health and Well-Being

Unit 13: Effective Financial Management.

Assessment:

Assessment is portfolio based; learners produce evidence that shows how they have met the assessment criteria for each unit. Teachers or course tutors assess the portfolios, and we carry out external moderation. There is no examination or test in these qualifications.

Skills developed:

Skills that will enhance employability by providing opportunities to develop ideas for a new product or service; and you will develop skills in effective use of technology.

Related Subject Areas:

Maths, English, LLW, Employability, Citizenship, Personal Development

Possible Career Options:

Preparation for Adult Life is recognised by employers across the UK and Ireland as a course that develops key work skills in young people, helping them move into employment, education, and training.

CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS FOR GCSE

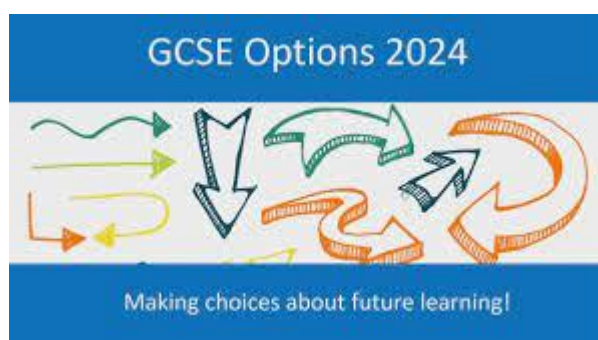
Your GCSE profile is important and will decide what you can study at the next stage of your education. Achieving a high standard across all your GCSE subjects will help you to progress to A Level and further your goal of gaining a competitive place at university or a Higher Level Apprenticeship. Likewise, you may be thinking of an apprenticeship or other course at a local regional college, either way, a strong GCSE profile will open many more doors for you.

Career Paths and Subject Combinations

It is important to also consider what you would like to do after A Levels, as some subjects are required for entry to certain career paths. So if you already have an idea what you would do please make sure that you choose subjects which are required for that career path. Research this online and seek advice from subject teachers and careers department so that you make informed subject choices.

Also when selecting your GCSE subject choices, be aware that whilst many degrees do not require specific subjects, others do. GCSE English and Mathematics are two Core Subjects and should be passed at a minimum of a grade C Level if you are to be considered for a range of Higher Education degree courses in future years. Be careful as some courses like Business Management and Accountancy require you to have a B in Mathematics. Some Engineering/Engineering related degree courses accept a B grade in GCSE Mathematics but increasingly the applicant should have a grade A and continue to study Maths and a science to A Level. Lots to look out for so do your research and ask questions if you need to!

The table over the next few pages are a good starting point.



Choosing to study a BTEC qualification alongside GCSEs

BTEC Level 2 qualifications are acceptable to most UK universities courses and will be considered within an applicant's academic profile but as with everything there are exceptions so read the small print carefully. However, universities and colleges in the Republic of Ireland do not accept BTEC qualifications and will expect students to apply with at least 6 GCSE subjects in their academic profile.

If you are considering a BTEC level 2 subject, talk to your teacher about the content, the assessments and the learning experiences you will have on this course. These courses often involve a lot of assignment work and this strong emphasis on assignments may suit some pupils who find their performance in exams does not reflect their standard of homework or classwork.

BTEC Level 2 Qualification, At least one unit externally assessed by exam	Level Achieved	GCSE Grade (Approximately equivalent)
BTEC Level 2 First Award	Distinction*	A*
	Distinction	A
	Merit	B
	Pass	C

Modern Foreign Languages

Universities and College in the Republic of Ireland (ROI) will require students to have a GCSE in a modern foreign language in addition to any specific A Level subject requirement associated with the degree course. So you need to consider if this is going to pose a problem when you come to pick universities and are considering the ROI.

Any queries please speak to Mrs C O'Kane or Mrs ER Digney.

A Guide to Higher Education Course Entry Requirements

The table below gives an overview of some course requirements. These are subject to change and university websites will always have the most up to date information on course requirements. The information below is based mainly on NI Colleges/Universities.

Career/Course	Requirements	Other Comments
Accountancy	AAB GCSE Maths B	Possibly lower entry requirements if Maths at A'Level. QUB/UU
Actuarial Science	A*AA or AAA and A at AS Level.	High grades required at GCSE also. QUB
Agriculture	3A' Levels in relevant subjects. (Preferably Biology/Chemistry)	GCSE Maths and DA Science QUB/CAFRE
Architecture	AAA/ BBC GCSE: Eng Language and Maths	Portfolio required if GCSE Art has not been studied. Check website for more information.
Art and Design	3'Levels including Art (UU)	Foundation year in Art and Design.
Biochemistry	ABB Chemistry and another Science; Biology preferred. QUB	GCSE Maths and DA Science.
Biology	3A'Levels including Biology.	Another science preferred. GCSE Maths, English and DAS.
Biomedical Science	3A'Levels and 2 science subjects. AAB/AAB QUB/ BBB UU	Biology and Chemistry preferred.
Building Surveying	BBC to include Grade B in specified subjects: UU	Maths and Science subjects preferred
Business Studies	3A'Levels	Business Studies GCSE Grade B Mathematics
Chemical Engineering	AAB/BBB to include Maths, Chemistry, and a Science. (QUB)	GCSE Maths and DA Science
Chemistry	3A'Levels to include Chemistry and a second science.	GCSE Maths and DA Science
Civil Engineering	AAB/BBB (Maths and one other from	Useful Subjects: Science A'Levels, ICT, Digital Technology, Geography, Software Systems Development.

	preferred list QUB and UU)	GCSE Maths, English and DA Science. Check website for further clarification.
Computer Science	3A'Levels at UU BBB at QUB from preferred list.	GCSE Maths and DA Science. Useful Subject examples: Mathematics/ Computing/Software Systems Development/ Chemistry/ Digital Technology/ Physics/ Technology.
Dentistry	AAA and A grade at AS Level to include Chemistry, biology and one of Physics, Maths.	UCAT Aptitude Test and Interview Excellent GCSE Profile required of As and A*s. Check the QUB admissions policy for full details.
Dietetics	BBB to include two subjects from specified list at UU.	Chemistry preferred Subjects: Science A'Levels and Maths. GCSE: English, Maths and DA Science
Drama	CCC at UU BBB at QUB	No subject requirements but must show an interest in practical performance. A'Level Drama or similar useful. Interview/ auditions required.
Economics	3A'Levels	A'Level Maths/Business Studies useful. GCSE Maths at high grades required.
Electronic Engineering	AAB to include Maths and one from Science/ Technology at QUB BBC at UU to include Grade B in Maths and subjects listed above.	GCSE Maths, English & DA Science
Environmental Health	BBB to include Maths or Science subjects at UU.	Preferred Subjects: Maths, Sciences, Geography, Home Economics, Health and Social Care, Applied Science etc. GCSE: English, Maths and DA Science

Environmental Planning	BBB and GCSE Maths at QUB	
Environmental Science	3 A'Levels preferably including STEM subject/ Science A'Level at UU	Possible Subjects: Geography, Sciences, Mathematics, PE, ICT, Software Systems Development, DA Applied Science etc.
Film Studies	3 A'Levels	A-Level English preferred for some courses
Finance	Grades range from AAA to BBB in QUB/UU	Maths and Business Studies useful subjects GCSE Maths Grade B
Food and Nutrition	3A'Levels (Grades differ between courses and UU/QUB/CAFRE)	Two science subjects preferred.
French	3 A' Levels including French	Many course combinations available.
Geography	3 A' Levels (AAB/BBB) to include Geography and GCSE Maths at QUB.	Course combinations available.
History	3 A' Levels ABB at QUB	Course combinations available. History useful but not required.
Hospitality Management	3 A' Levels	GCSE English and Maths
Irish	ABB including Irish	
Journalism	3 A' Levels (BBC at UU)	
Law	3 A' Levels AAA/BBB depending on university and course.	High GCSE profile required. Some universities require an aptitude test so research this in advance. Course combinations available
Mathematics	3 A' Levels with A in Mathematics (QUB)	Further Maths useful.
Mechanical Engineering	ABB including a Maths and Science (Physics preferred) at QUB BBC to include B from preferred subject list in UU.	Preferred Subjects from UU: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Technology and Design, DA Applied Science
Medicine	AAA at A' Level and A in a fourth AS.	UCAT exam and MMI extremely important.

	Chemistry plus one other from Maths, Biology and Physics. Biology to be studied to at least A-Level.	Excellent GCSE profile of A's and A*s required. Work experience important. Check university websites for further information and guidance.
Music	3A' Levels including Music	Graded musical qualifications also important. Audition/Interview may be required.
Nursing	3A'Levels: BBC including a Science and BBC where Science is not offered (QUB).	Science subjects preferable. Interview and work experience very important. GCSE Maths and English Grade C or above and Science useful.
Occupational Therapy	BBB	No specific requirement of subjects. GCSE Maths, English and DA Science useful. Interview very important.
Optometry	ABB with at least two science subjects from Maths, Biology, Chemistry, Physics or AB in DA Applied Science.	Module requirements with DA Applied Science so check carefully.
Pharmacy	AAB to include an A in Chemistry and one other from Biology, Maths or Physics at QUB.	New for 2023/24 Entry: Interview component at QUB Biology to at least AS preferred.
Physics	ABB including Maths and Physics.	
Physiotherapy	BBB to include a B from Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.	Interview very important. DA Applied Science may also be accepted but check module requirements.
Podiatry	BBB to include a B from Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.	DA Applied Science may also be accepted but check module requirements.
Psychology	ABB/AAB/ BBB depending on subjects studied.	A' Level psychology useful but not required.
Quantity Surveying	3A'Levels to include one from Maths,	ABB if including one of these preferred subjects and AAA if

	Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering or Construction.	offering none of these subjects at UU.
Radiography	BBB to include B in one of the following: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, DA Applied Science.	Interview Important.
Social Work	ABB/BBB	Interview Important. Work experience/Voluntary work very important.
Speech and Language Therapy	BBB	Interview very important. Useful Subjects: Sciences, English, Maths, Language
Sports and Exercise Science	AAB including an A from Biology, Chemistry, PE, Physics, Maths, Sports Studies, DA Applied Science	
Sport Studies	AAB	Grade A from History, Geography, Psychology, PE, Sport Studies etc.
Teaching	Stranmillis/ St Mary's University, College. Check university websites for updated information.	Very high grades required at A' Level, particularly in specialised subject. Interview very important. Practical may be required for Music and PE. GCSE profile important and to include English, Maths and Science. Alternative routes: Study subject and then PGCE. St Mary's also offers a BA Honours Liberal Arts Degree.
Veterinary Science	UK and UCD. Most Colleges ask for Chemistry and Biology A' Level as essential requirements. Physics and Maths are also preferred as additional subjects.	Very high academic profile required at GCSE and A' Level. Check each university for individual requirements. Veterinary experience essential for application. Aptitude test required for some universities.

Youth Work: Community Youth Work at UU	A' Level and GCSE profile - university website provides further information.	Work experience important.
Zoology	BBB to include Biology and one from Chemistry, Maths, Physics or Geography.	Chemistry preferred as second science GCSE: Chemistry, DA Science and Maths

Sixth Form Subject Entry Requirements 2024-2025

Subject	Entry Requirement – GCSE Grades
Art and Design (A)	5 GCSEs at GCSE to include Grade B Art and Design
Biology (G)	(1) For DA entrants - a grade A in both written papers in the subjects you wish to study at AS/A2. (2) For TA entrants – a grade B overall in the subject you wish to study. (3) For all – a minimum of grade B in Maths and a B in English at GCSE.
Chemistry (G)	(1) For DA entrants - a grade A in respective subject papers in the subjects you wish to study at AS/A2. (2) For TA entrants – a grade B overall in the subject you wish to study. (3) For all – a minimum of grade A in Maths and a B in English at GCSE.
Physics(G)	(2) For TA entrants – a grade B overall in the subject you wish to study. (3) For all – a minimum of grade A in Maths and a B in English at GCSE.
BTEC Science Double Award Level 3 (A)	C*C* in DAS OR grade A*/A Single Award Science
Business Studies (G)	B in Business Studies or 5 A*-C including B in English Language and C in Maths.
Applied Business Studies Single Award	Open Entry or GCSE Business Studies.
Digital Technology (formerly ICT) (A)	B in ICT.
Applied ICT (Single Award) (A)	C or equivalent in ICT level 2 subject.
Systems Software Development (A)	B in Further Mathematics and opting to study A Level Mathematics at Post 16.
Product Design (A)	B in Product Design or another related course. C in Maths and C in English Language.
Performing Arts (A)	C in English Language and B in Performing Arts If no GCSE Performing Arts, students must have experience including a background in acting/singing/dancing. An audition is required for external candidates and for any student who has not studied GCSE Performing Arts.
English Literature (G)	B in English Language and B in English Literature OR A in English Language for students who did not study Literature.
Geography (G)	B in Geography and C in <i>Maths and C in English Language</i>
History (G)	B in History and B in English Language
Irish (A)	B in Irish and C in English
Mathematics (G)	A in GCSE Maths with compulsory grade A in M4 & M8 Modules. In addition, pupils must have a UMS of 150 or above in M4.
Music (A)	B in Music and C in <i>Maths and C in English Language</i> . Proficiency in at least one instrument to Grade 5.
Physical Education (PE) (G)	B in English Language and C* in Maths.
Religious Studies (RS) (G)	B in Religious Studies and B in English.
Applied Health and Social Care (Single and Double Award) (A)	B in English Language.
BTEC Sport (Double Award) (A)	English to C grade. A GCSE Science qualification is required at Double Award.
BTEC Construction and the Built Environment Level 3 (A)	GCSE Maths and English at a minimum of Grade B.
BTEC Engineering Level 3 (A)	Grade B Maths in a higher tier paper and GCSE English at a minimum of Grade B.
BTEC Travel and Tourism Level 3 (A)	GCSE Mathematics and GCSE English Language C Grade
Potential Magherafelt Rural Learning Partnership Courses (MRLP) Subject to availability at partnership schools	
French (St Mary's, Magherafelt) (A)	B in French and English Language
Spanish (Rainey Endowed, Magherafelt) (A)	B in Spanish and C in English.

Always check that the A levels you are choosing will get you into the University and the course you wish to study. Talk to the careers department if you have any questions.

(A) = Applied; (G) = General

Higher Education Course Entry Requirements

N.B. The above requirements are what are generally needed for admission to degree courses. Some institutions may differ slightly on admission policy. It is best to check the current prospectus.

Examples are given at the following websites:

- <http://www.qub.ac.uk> Queens University
- <http://prospectus.ulster.ac.uk> University of Ulster
- <https://myucd.ucd.ie/admission/prospectus> University College Dublin
- <http://www.tcd.ie/prospectivestudents> Trinity College Dublin
- <http://www.stmarys-belfast.ac.uk> St Mary's University College
- <http://www.nrc.ac.uk/courses.asp> Northern Regional College
- <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers> Careers Service Northern Ireland

www.investigatecareers.com

All the above information should be considered carefully and students and parents are encouraged to visit university and colleges of further and higher education websites to fully investigate pathways open after A Levels.

Please also follow the Careers Department on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for notifications or Careers related events and articles.



Twitter - ceiaq@spc



Instagram - spccareers

Good luck and remember choose wisely!