



*Key Stage 4*

# PROSPECTUS



**2025-2026**

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAGHERA



*Key Stage 4*  
**PROSPECTUS**

**2025-2026**

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAGHERA

# CONTENTS



|   |    |   |    |
|---|----|---|----|
| Principals Welcome.....                                       | 4  | Mathematics: GCSE.....  | 50 |
| Head of CEIAG.....  | 5  | Further Maths: GCSE.....  | 52 |
| Head of Year.....   | 6  | Music: GCSE.....  | 54 |
| Summary of Curriculum Offer<br>and Entrance Requirements..... | 7  | Motor Vehicle and<br>Road User Studies: GCSE.....                 | 56 |
| Agriculture: GCSE.....  | 10 | Occupational Studies:<br>Patisserie and Baking Level 2.....       | 58 |
| Art and Design: GCSE.....                                     | 12 | Performance Skills: Level 2 Certificate.....                      | 60 |
| Art & Design: OCN Level 2.....                                | 14 | Physical Education: GCSE.....                                     | 62 |
| Business Communication Systems: GCSE...                       | 16 | Personal Development and<br>Employability Skills: Level 2.....    | 64 |
| Business Studies: GCSE.....                                   | 18 | Preparation for Adult Life:<br>Level 2 Certificate.....           | 66 |
| Business & Services: Level 2<br>Occupational Studies.....     | 20 | Religious Studies: GCSE.....                                      | 68 |
| Child Development: GCSE.....                                  | 22 | Religious Studies: Level 2 OCN.....                               | 70 |
| Construction: GCSE.....                                       | 24 | Science- Triple Award: GCSE.....                                  | 72 |
| Digital Technology: GCSE.....                                 | 26 | a) Biology.....   | 72 |
| Drama.....  | 28 | b) Chemistry.....   | 74 |
| English Language: GCSE.....                                   | 30 | c) Physics.....   | 76 |
| English Literature: GCSE.....                                 | 32 | Science- Double Award: GCSE.....                                  | 78 |
| English: Communication:<br>OCN Level 1 and 2.....             | 34 | Single Award Science: GCSE.....                                   | 80 |
| Food and Nutrition: GCSE.....                                 | 36 | Science (Applied): OCN Level 2.....                               | 82 |
| French: GCSE.....   | 38 | Spanish: GCSE.....  | 84 |
| Geography: GCSE.....  | 40 | Sport: OCN Level 2.....   | 86 |
| History: GCSE.....  | 42 | Technology & Design: GCSE.....                                    | 88 |
| Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT<br>(Technical Award).....      | 44 | Technology and Innovation:<br>Level 1/2 Occupational Studies..... | 90 |
| Information Technology Applications:<br>OCN Level 2.....      | 46 | Choosing your subjects for GCSE.....                              | 92 |
| Irish: GCSE.....  | 48 | Qualification ladder.....   | 97 |

# PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME



At St. Patrick's, we are committed to providing every student with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities needed to unlock potential and achieve.

Through a broad and balanced curriculum, alongside dedicated careers advice and support, we want to empower you to make informed choices about your career paths. Whether heading to university, apprenticeships, or directly into the workforce, we want you to leave St. Patrick's equipped not only with high academic achievements but also with resilience, adaptability, and a determination to succeed.

This booklet has been designed by our careers team to ensure you are fully informed of all the options available to you at GCSE. It is important that you consider your options carefully, seeking guidance from your teachers and the careers team, to ensure you are on a pathway suited to your strengths, interests, and aspirations.

I wish you every success as you begin your GCSE journey.

**Mrs Crilly**  
**(Principal)**



# HEAD OF CEIAG

(Careers Education, Information,  
Advice and Guidance)



## Hello Year 10,

This is an exciting time for you, as it's your first chance to choose subjects beyond the compulsory ones. These decisions are important and require careful thought, as you'll be studying these subjects for the next two years and taking final exams at the end of Year 12, which will play a crucial role in shaping your future steps.

Our goal and responsibility as a College is to equip you with a broad range of knowledge, skills, and understanding to prepare you for sixth form studies, apprenticeships, or employment by the end of Year 12. To achieve this, you will study compulsory subjects including English, Mathematics, Science, Religious Education, Physical Education, and Careers. Additionally, you will have the opportunity to select other optional subjects, the details of which are provided in this prospectus. We have also included a QR code for each subject which will take you directly to the subject's specification so you can learn more about the subject.

My advice is to choose those subjects that really interest you and if you have a specific career in mind, then you should research what qualifications you will need.

During Careers Week you will have been introduced to Unifrog which is a one-stop-shop where you can easily explore your interests and find and successfully apply for your next best step after school. Unifrog can be used both at home and in school and will help you to explore your key interests and what career paths you can take to reach your goals!

You should avoid choosing subjects based on your friends' choices because there is no guarantee you will be placed in the same class and likewise, try not to base your decisions on the teacher who currently delivers that subject because staffing changes, and more than one teacher delivers a subject. When the timetable is written, we must schedule it so that it works for the entire school.

Knowledge is power. During Careers Week you will have learnt about current trends in the labour market, including areas of high demand and emerging career opportunities and the more knowledge you can build over the next few weeks the better your decisions about your subject choices will be. Also working on building your personal profile over the next few years will help make you a much more interesting person and will help to build your confidence in holding conversations with a wider variety of people and employers.

Year 10, please take time and read the prospectus carefully, think about possible careers and seek advice from teachers, tutors, Head of Year and parents/carers. When you come to making your choices, they must be correct as no changes can be made once choices have been selected. You are asked for reserve subjects in the event of not being able to run all courses and possible timetabling constraints. Therefore, make use of all the sources of information available to you. Especially seek help from the Careers Department who will support you every step to ensure you make well informed decisions.

Best wishes in taking first steps to determining your future education.

**Mrs C O'Kane**  
**(Head of CEIAG)**

# HEAD OF YEAR



## Parents/Guardians,

At St. Patrick's College, we understand the importance of selecting subjects for Years 11 and 12. As students aim for a broad and balanced curriculum, they also consider their future pathways beyond Key Stage 4. We appreciate that this can be a daunting stage, but you can be assured that our dedicated careers team and pastoral staff are committed to guiding and supporting every pupil. Together, we aim to ensure a confident, well-informed transition into Key Stage 4, rooted in our school vision: Think, Lead, Succeed.

We are delighted to share the exciting opportunities that await your child as they enter this important phase of their education. This prospectus provides a clear overview of the Key Stage 4 curriculum, thoughtfully designed to meet the diverse needs, ambitions, and talents of all learners. In keeping with our values of inclusion, respect, kindness, and community, our curriculum promotes both academic excellence and personal growth, ensuring every student is supported to reach their full potential.

At St. Patrick's, we are committed to nurturing each pupil through an engaging and dynamic curriculum, underpinned by a strong pastoral foundation and the values of faith, integrity, and honesty. Our outstanding programmes offer a blend of academic and vocational pathways, enabling students of all abilities to thrive.

The Key Stage 4 curriculum also includes Personal & Social Education, Physical Education, and a wide range of extra-curricular and work-related opportunities, all designed to broaden experience and enrich learning.

Our curriculum prepares pupils not only for examination success but also for lifelong learning, further and higher education, and future career progression. Within our caring, inclusive school culture, your child will find the support, encouragement, and challenge they need to succeed. We strive to ensure that every pupil is empowered to think confidently, lead responsibly, and succeed proudly.

We invite you to explore this prospectus carefully to make informed decisions about your child's future. Should you require further support or have any questions from a pastoral perspective, please do not hesitate to contact us.

We look forward to supporting you and your child as you navigate this important stage of their educational journey.

**Miss C Mulholland**  
**(Head of Year 10)**

# SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM OFFER AND ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

| Subject   | Entrance Requirement   |
|---|--|
| <b>Agriculture: GCSE</b>  | <b>Essential:</b> Studying Single Award Science.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Studying Double Award Science.<br>An interest in working in the wider land-based and environmental industries.   |
| <b>Art and Design: GCSE</b>   | <b>Essential:</b> Students must have a foundational understanding of the key Elements and Principals of Art and Design, but also have a genuine interest and passion for the Art world.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Very good drawing and observational skills.   |
| <b>Art and Design: OCN Level 2</b>                                  | <b>Essential:</b> Enthusiasm and a genuine interest in art and being creative.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Good drawing and observational skills.   |
| <b>Business Communication Systems: GCSE</b>                         | <b>Essential:</b> 5 A*-C in Year 10 Summer Exams.<br><b>Desirable:</b> To have an interest in the business world.  |
| <b>Business Communication Systems: GCSE</b>                         | <b>Essential:</b> 5 A*-C in Year 10 Summer Exams.<br><b>Desirable:</b> To have an interest in the business world.  |
| <b>Business Studies: GCSE</b>                                       | <b>Essential:</b> 5 A*-C including C in English Language and C in Maths in Year 10 Summer Exams.<br><b>Desirable:</b> To have an interest in the business world.   |
| <b>Business &amp; Services: Level 2 Occupational Studies</b>        | <b>Desirable:</b> An interest in the world of business.  |
| <b>Child Development: GCSE</b>                                      | <b>Essential:</b> Hard working students with the ability to meet deadlines.  |
| <b>Construction: GCSE</b>   | <b>Essential:</b> Students should be patient, conscientious and meticulous. They should also have an interest in Construction and the Built Environment.   |
| <b>Digital Technology: GCSE</b>                                     | <b>Essential:</b> At KS3, B and above in ICT class assessments and 5 other A* - C including B in English and Maths.  |
| <b>Drama: GCSE</b>  | <b>Essential:</b> An interest in Drama: Demonstrated through participation in KS3 Drama. Students must be averaging a B In English in Year 10 assessments.<br><b>Desirable:</b> We would expect pupils to have a very good record of attendance.   |
| <b>Information and Creative Technology: Technical Award Level 2</b> | <b>Essential:</b> At KS3, C and above on average in ICT class assessments.   |
| <b>Information Technology Applications: OCN Level 2</b>             | <b>Essential:</b> An interest in working on the computers.   |
| <b>English Language: GCSE</b>                                       | <b>Essential:</b> An interest in reading from a variety of sources as this helps to enhance viewpoints and vocabulary.   |
| <b>English Literature: GCSE</b>                                     | <b>Essential:</b> An average of B+ across all Track exams in English in Year 10.<br><b>Desirable:</b> A genuine interest in exploring written works across a range of mediums; from prose, to poetry and plays.  |
| <b>Food and Nutrition: GCSE</b>                                     | <b>Essential:</b> Hard working students with the ability to meet deadlines.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Strong performance in Home Economics in Key Stage 3.  |
| <b>French: GCSE</b>   | <b>Essential:</b> To have studied French in Key Stage 3 and performed highly in KS3 tests throughout the year.   |
| <b>Geography: GCSE</b>  | <b>Essential:</b> Students should have a genuine interest in exploring the dynamics of the Earth's landscapes, environments, and the relationships between people and their surroundings.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Students should have demonstrated a strong academic performance in Year 10 Geography.                               |
| <b>History: GCSE</b>  | <b>Essential:</b> Students should be enthusiastic about studying History; and have a genuine interest in the relevance of the past and want to gain a deeper understanding of the present.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Ideally History GCSE students will have excelled in Year 10 and achieved a Grade B or above on average in Year 10. |
| <b>Irish: GCSE</b>  | <b>Essential:</b> Pupils must have studied Irish at KS3 and performed highly in KS3 tests throughout the year.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Pupils should have demonstrated a strong academic performance in Year 10 Irish and show a genuine interest in exploring the language and the cultural aspects that go along with this.         |

| Subject  | Entrance Requirement  |
|--|---|
| <b>Mathematics: GCSE</b>   | Top 60 students, based on average attainment in all track assessments in Year 10, will be invited to study GCSE Mathematics (M4 and M8) in one year followed by Further Maths in Year 12.<br>All other students will be placed in GCSE Maths-tier of entry determined by Year 10 continuous assessment data.  |
| <b>Further Maths: GCSE</b>   | Top 60 students, based on average attainment in all track assessments in Year 10, will be invited to study GCSE Mathematics (M4 and M8) in one year followed by Further Maths in Year 12.   |
| <b>Music: GCSE</b>   | <b>Essential:</b> Possess good skills in vocal or instrumental performance and be able to play to at least grade 3 standard by the end of Year 12.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Students should be receiving instrumental tuition.  |
| <b>Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies: GCSE</b>                               | <b>Essential:</b> Students should have an interest in the area of motor vehicles. They should have a desire to understand modern technology and traffic management systems. Students would require the ability and spatial awareness to control a vehicle which would be necessary (bicycle).<br><b>Desirable:</b> Some minor level of vehicle maintenance knowledge is desirable but not essential.  |
| <b>Physical Education: GCSE</b>  | <b>Essential:</b> Pupils must be participating in one sport competitively and enjoy Physical Education.   |
| <b>Personal Development and Employability Skills: Level 2</b>                  | <b>Essential:</b> An interest in skill development for the workplace.   |
| <b>Performance Skills: Level 2 Certificate</b>                                 | <b>Essential:</b> An interest in acting, music, theatre, or performance. Averaging a Grade C/Level 4 in Year 10 English.<br><b>Desirable:</b> A good record of attendance and be able to demonstrate a willingness to work as a group.  |
| <b>Preparation for Adult Life: Level 2 Certificate</b>                         | <b>Essential:</b> This course is ideal for a pupil who can focus on producing high quality pieces of coursework in class and have an interest in KS3 Learning for Life and Work.  |
| <b>Religious Studies: GCSE</b>   | <b>Essential:</b> All students will study Religious Studies at GCSE or level 2.   |
| <b>Religious Studies: Level 2 OCN</b>  | <b>Essential:</b> All students will study Religious Studies at GCSE or level 2.<br><b>Desirable:</b> This course is most suitable for pupils who find examinations challenging and prefer coursework-based learning.  |
| <b>Science- Double Award: GCSE</b>   | <b>Essential:</b> Before studying this specification, we expect students to have a level of skills in science, numeracy, literacy and communication that is commensurate with having studied science to Key Stage 3. Students will need to have performed highly in KS3 Science tests in order to gain entry to this subject.   |
| <b>Science- Triple Award: GCSE</b><br>a) Biology<br>b) Chemistry<br>c) Physics | <b>a) Biology</b><br><b>Essential:</b> An established solid foundation in the understanding of biological processes e.g. Photosynthesis, Respiration & Enzyme action from KS3. To study GCSE Triple Award Biology it's essential for students on average to have ranked in the top 40 across the year group in Year 10.<br><b>Desirable:</b> An enthusiasm and willingness to progress their understanding of biological concepts is also an important prerequisite for studying GCSE Biology.<br><b>b) Chemistry</b><br><b>Essential:</b> An established solid foundation in the understanding of Chemistry in Year 10.<br><b>Desirable:</b> An enthusiasm and willingness to progress their understanding of Chemistry. To study GCSE Triple Award Chemistry it's essential for students on average to have ranked in the top 40 across the year group in Year 10.<br><b>c) Physics</b><br><b>Essential:</b> An established solid foundation in the understanding of Physics. To study GCSE Triple Award Physics it's essential for students on average to have ranked in the top 40 across the year group in Year 10.<br><b>Desirable:</b> An enthusiasm and willingness to progress their understanding of Physics. |
| <b>Science- Single Award: GCSE</b>   | <b>Essential:</b> Before studying this specification, we expect students to have a level of skills in science, numeracy, literacy and communication that is commensurate with having studied science to Key Stage 3.  |
| <b>Science (Applied): OCN Level 2</b>  | <b>Essential:</b> Students should enjoy portfolio work.<br><b>Desirable:</b> Students should have a good level of practical skills developed through completion of a range of experiments.  |

| Subject   | Entrance Requirement  |
|---|---|
| Sport: OCN Level 2  | <b>Essential:</b> A keen interest in Sport and ability to meet deadlines.   |
| Technology and Design: GCSE                               | <p><b>Essential:</b> To study GCSE Technology and Design, it is essential for students to have not only a foundational understanding of electronic concepts but also a genuine interest in design and manufacture of products.</p> <p><b>Desirable:</b> Ideally, students should have demonstrated a strong academic performance in Year 10 Technology and Design, showcasing their capability to analyse and develop existing products and develop practical solutions to needs, whilst using their imagination to communicate design ideas and decisions.</p> |
| Technology and Innovation: Level 1/2 Occupational Studies | <b>Essential:</b> Students should have an interest in manufacturing products using wood to a high standard. Students possess a degree of fine motor skills so they can adequately manipulate the tools effectively and in a safe manner. Pupils should be able to demonstrate through previous experience in a workshop that they are able to observe the health and and safety rules of the workshop.  |



# Key Stage 4 PROSPECTUS

**2025-2026**

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAGHERA

# AGRICULTURE: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                 | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration                       | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1:<br/>Soil, Crops and Habitats</b> | Year 11         | External exam<br>(1hr 15 mins)<br>(Summer)              | 25% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 2:<br/>Animals on the Land</b>      | Year 12         | External exam<br>(1hr 15 mins)<br>(Summer)              | 25% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 3:<br/>Controlled Assessment</b>    | Year 12         | Practical investigation (20%)<br>Research Project (30%) | 50% of GCSE                   |

### Entry Requirements:

Double Award Science is recommended to support the content in the written examinations at the end of Year 11, but Single Award Science is acceptable.

The written examinations in Year 11 are mix of short and longer questions, so be prepared that four of the questions will require you to write an essay of around 250 words. Good literacy and numeracy skills are desirable.

Competent keyboard skills and the ability to use the internet is essential for the Controlled Assessment which is all completed during school hours in Year 12. You do not need your own computer, but you need to be able to use one.

An interest in working in the wider land-based and environmental industries is desirable.

### Career Progression:

This specification supports the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 4 and gives students further opportunities to achieve their potential and develop skills for life.

Students develop core knowledge about the land-based and environmental sector and the skills required to work in it. They also develop skills to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices in this sector.

There are a significant number of careers in the agriculture and food processing sector and is a vital element of our local economy, collectively accounting for around 70,000 local jobs (based on 47,979 total farmers and workers and 23,557 food and drink processing full time and employment agency workers), and 3.25% of Northern Ireland's Gross Value Added (GVA) which equates to £1.1bn at basic prices.

The agri-food sector has also been identified as a key future driver for the economic development of Northern Ireland. Typical careers include farming, growers, food processing, conservation, contractors, feed merchants, agricultural engineers and Agri-sales.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Agriculture is currently not offered at Level 3 yet. GCSE Agriculture can be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Agriculture

| Level 3  | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>SPC:</b><br/>BTEC Applied Science</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b><br/>Level 3 Agriculture</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b><br/>Work based Apprenticeship in Agriculture</p> | <p><b>CAFRE:</b><br/>Level 4 Work based Agricultural business Management</p> | <p><b>CAFRE:</b><br/>Foundation Degree Food Innovation and Technology</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b><br/>Foundation Degree in Equine Management</p> | <p><b>CAFRE/QUB:</b><br/>BSc Agricultural Technology</p> <p><b>CAFRE/QUB:</b><br/>BSc Sustainable Agriculture</p> <p><b>CAFRE/QUB:</b><br/>BSc (Hons) Food Innovation Management</p> |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I really loved this GCSE course. Studying Agriculture let me explore farming in more detail than I thought. I was able to put my own experience into practice and apply it to different topics we studied. The coursework module was useful as it meant I was able to complete 50% of the course before the exam and this took some pressure off me."*

**CORMAC QUIGG**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-agriculture-and-land-use-2019>

Or scan here:



## **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

There are a significant number of careers in the agriculture and food processing sector and is a vital element of our local economy, collectively accounting for around 70,000 local jobs (based on 47,979 total farmers and workers and 23,557 food and drink processing full time and employment agency workers).

# ART AND DESIGN: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description  | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration  | Weighting of<br>Qualification                                     |
|--|-----------------|--|---|
| <b>Component 1:</b><br><b>Part A:</b><br><b>Exploratory Portfolio</b><br><b>Part B: Investigating<br/>the Creative and<br/>Cultural Industries</b> | Year 11 & 12    | - Controlled assessment<br>- Internally set and assessed<br>- Externally moderated   | 60%<br><br>Part A: 25%<br>50 marks<br><br>Part B: 35%<br>70 marks |
| <b>Component 2: Externally<br/>Set Assignment</b>  | Year 12         | - Controlled assessment<br>- Externally set and internally<br>assessed<br><br>- Exam board sets a stimulus<br>paper that provides a choice of<br>themed starting points.<br>- Externally moderated | 40%<br><br>80 marks   |

### Entry Requirements:

To study Art and Design, it is essential for students to not only have a foundational understanding of the key Elements and Principals of Art and Design, but also have a genuine interest and passion for the Art world. You should choose Art GCSE if you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art and design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work. Drawing is fundamental to the creative process in all art, craft and design disciplines. It is a core practice of artists, designers and craft practitioners. It helps students to see and understand the visual and tactile world. It is therefore necessary that pupils wanting to study GCSE Art & Design have very good drawing and observational skills to provide a good skills base which will be developed throughout the GCSE course.

### Career Progression:

Studying Art and Design helps to create a broad and balanced curriculum, which is an excellent foundation for whatever you want to do later in life. The transferable skills you'll gain, such as creativity, analysis and problem solving, complement a range of other subjects and careers. Here are some of the job opportunities that studying Art can lead you to:

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, Costume Designer, Theatre Director, Dressmaker, Jewellery Designer, Cinematographer, Film Director, Photojournalist, Wedding Photographer.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

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

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Art and Design

| Level 3  | Level 4  | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|--|--|--|---|
| <b>SPC:</b><br>CCEA A-Level<br>Art and Design<br><br><b>Belfast Met:</b><br>BTEC Level 3<br>Art & Design | <b>Belfast Met:</b><br>BTEC Level 4<br>Foundation Diploma<br>in Art and Design | <b>UU:</b><br>Foundation Degree<br>in Art and Design | <b>UU:</b> BDes (Hons) Animation<br><b>UU:</b> BDes (Hons) Digital Design<br><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Fine Art<br><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Games Design<br><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Graphic Design<br><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Illustration<br><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Product Design<br><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Textile Art and Design Fashion |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"GCSE Art and Design is amazing. I find you have much more of an opportunity to put your own mark on your artwork, making it your own vibe. You get to experience more Artist's styles and play with new mediums, exploring all the different areas that Art and Design has to offer. I never look at my timetable and dread having Art next, it is a time to relax and decompress and do my art and I am so happy that I have picked the subject this year".*

**CHLOE KEENAN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/downloads/docs/Specifications/GCSE/GCSE%20Art%20and%20Design%20%282017%29/GCSE%20Art%20and%20Design%20%282017%29-specification-Standard.pdf>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

The creative industries in Northern Ireland, including art and design, are a rapidly growing sector, with employment rising by 32.5% since 2019.

# ART & DESIGN: OCN LEVEL 2

Awarding Body: OCN

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description  | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification  |
|--|-----------------|---|---|
| <p>Learners must successfully complete 5 units from a selection of optional units.</p> <p>Here are some of the units which this course may cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Making Ceramics</li> <li>- Craft Work</li> <li>- Mixed media painting methods</li> <li>- Painting Methods and appropriation</li> <li>- Materials Exploration</li> <li>- Surface Pattern Methods - Pattern Repeat</li> </ul> | Year 11 & 12    | <p>Grading for this qualification is Pass/Fail.</p> <p>The qualifications are assessed within the centre and are subject to OCN NI's quality assurance processes.</p> <p>Units are achieved through internally set, internally assessed and internally verified evidence.</p> | Each unit is worth 3 credits and learners must achieve a total of 15 credits. |

### Entry Requirements:

Drawing is fundamental to the creative process in all art, craft and design disciplines. It is a core practice of artists, designers and craft practitioners. It helps students to see and understand the visual and tactile world. It is therefore necessary that pupils wanting to study OCN Art & Design have good drawing and observational skills which will provide a good skills base which will be developed throughout the OCN course. If you enjoy Art and are good at it, then this is something that your teachers will be able to nurture and help you to develop your skills and gain a pass in this qualification. Most of all a lot of enthusiasm and a genuine interest in Art and being creative are therefore essential if you are considering studying this course at Level 2.

### Career Progression:

Studying Art and Design helps to create a broad and balanced curriculum, which is an excellent foundation for whatever you want to do later in life. The transferable skills you'll gain, such as creativity, analysis and problem solving, complement a range of other subjects and careers. Here are some of the job opportunities that studying Art can lead you to:

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, Costume Designer, Theatre Director, Dressmaker, Jewellery Designer, Cinematographer, Film Director, Photojournalist, Wedding Photographer.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

OCN Art can be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

Pupils studying this course could also progress onto a Level 3 equivalent at NRC.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Art and Design

| Level 3  | Level 4   | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p><b>NWRC:</b><br/>OCN NI Level 3 Certificate in Creative Art and Digital Technologies.</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b><br/>UAL Level 3 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design.</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b><br/>Level 3 Art &amp; Design BTEC.</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b><br/>BTEC Level 4 Foundation Diploma in Art and Design.</p> | <p><b>UU:</b><br/>Foundation Degree in Art and Design</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BDes (Hons) Animation</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BDes (Hons) Digital Design</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Fine Art</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Games Design</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Graphic Design</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Illustration</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Product Design</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Textile Art and Design Fashion</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I really enjoy OCN Art and am glad I chose it because it allows me to focus on experimenting and exploring different types of Art like Monoprinting, Watercolour Painting, Working with Clay that I hadn't done much of in KS3 Art. I feel with the increased number of lessons focusing on Art my own skills have improved. When I come to OCN Art I feel stress free and comfortable to create my own Art taking my time to explore like an Artist. OCN Art allows me to continue my creative journey."*

**ALEXIS BELL**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-art-and-design>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

Self-employment is highly prevalent with the sector, particularly in design, designer fashion, and visual arts, with some sub-sectors reporting up to 61-66% self-employment rates.

# BUSINESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                          | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration   | Weighting of Qualification |
|--|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1:<br/>Software Application for Business</b> | Year 11         | External computer-based examination<br>2 hours<br>software application tasks   | 40% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 2:<br/>The Business Environment</b>          | Year 12         | External written examination<br>1 hour<br>Structured questions   | 35% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 3:<br/>Developing Digital Solutions</b>      | Year 12         | Controlled assessment Students project manage and develop a digital solution for a given problem within a business context. Teachers mark the tasks, and CCEA will moderate the results. | 25% of GCSE                |

### Entry Requirements:

5 A\*-C including C in English Language and C in Maths in Year 10 Summer Exams. It is desirable to have an interest in the business world.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

There is no direct follow on qualification in this subject at Level 3, but it is useful for A Level Business or Applied Business as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

### Career Progression:

Business Communication Systems will provide opportunities for further study or employment in all sectors of the economy. Studying Business Communication Systems could lead to a career in Banking and Finance, Marketing, Human Resources, Business Management, Administration, Production as well as Digital technology, Engineering, Software Application and Design and Multimedia Design.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Business Communications Systems

| Level 3  | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A Level Business Studies</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business</p> <p><b>NRWC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Business with IT</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 in computing</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> Level 3 National Foundation Diploma Level 3 Business.</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Business Administration with ICT</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Business</p> <p><b>NRC &amp; NWRC:</b> Level 4 Accounting Technicians (apprenticeship)</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Business Management</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Business Management</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND in Business</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> Foundation Degree in Business Management</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Accountancy</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> Foundation Degree Business &amp; Enterprise</p> | <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc in Business Management</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc IT including professional experience</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc in Business, BSc Hons in Accountancy with pathways, BSc Global Business, BSc Communication, Advertising and Marketing.</p> <p><b>UU:</b> Degree apprenticeship with PwC/Deloitte – BSc Business Analyst.</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"This course has helped me improve my IT skills while learning more about how businesses work. I think this will really help me in the future if I decide to start my own business, because both technology and business knowledge are super important."*

**LUCIE MCMULLAN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-business-and-communication-systems-2017>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

Business and Management is forecast to be the second-highest-demand subject area for graduates in Northern Ireland forecasted through to 2033. (Skills Barometer, 2025)

# BUSINESS STUDIES: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration  | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|---|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Starting a Business</b><br>- Creating a Business<br>- Marketing Business<br>Operations | Year 11         | External written examination<br>1 hour 30 mins<br>Short structured questions<br>and extended writing | 40% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 2: Developing a<br/>Business</b><br>- Human Resources<br>- Business Growth<br>- Finance   | Year 12         | External written examination<br>1 hour 30 mins<br>Short structured questions and<br>extended writing | 40% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 3: Planning a<br/>Business (Synoptic)</b><br>- Business Plan                              | Year 12         | Controlled assessment<br>Teachers mark the task, and<br>CCEA will moderate the results.              | 20% of GCSE                   |

### Entry Requirements:

An average of 5 A\*-C including a grade 'B' in English Language and a grade 'C' in Maths in year 10 track assessments. It is desirable to have an interest in the business world.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

No, but must have GCSE English and Maths grade C or above.

### Career Progression:

Business Studies is great for opening doors to any sector. After all, every sector has businesses! With a Business Studies GCSE you could go on to do Accountancy, Actuary, Banking, Business Owner, Management, Law, Investment, Marketing, Human Resources, Building, Construction, Property Management, Administration.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Business Studies

| Level 3  | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A Level Business Studies</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business</p> <p><b>NRWC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Business with IT</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 in computing</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> Level 3 National Foundation Diploma Level 3 Business.</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Business Administration with ICT</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Business</p> <p><b>NRC &amp; NWRC:</b> Level 4 Accounting Technicians (apprenticeship)</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Business Management</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Business Management</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND in Business</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> Foundation Degree in Business Management</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Accountancy</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> Foundation Degree Business &amp; Enterprise</p> | <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc in Business Management</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc IT including professional experience</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc in Business, BSc Hons in Accountancy with pathways, BSc Global Business, BSc Communication, Advertising and Marketing.</p> <p><b>UU:</b> Degree apprenticeship with PwC/Deloitte – BSc Business Analyst.</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



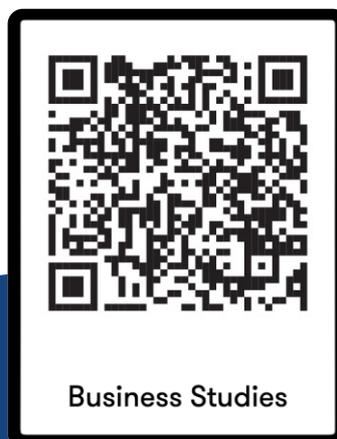
*“Business Studies is all about the real world – how companies work, how to manage money, and how ideas turn into big brands. You’ll learn cool stuff like marketing, finance, and even how to start your own business. This has been very useful for me as I plan to start my own business one day. It’s practical, and super useful for any career you want in the future.”*

**RIONACH MCNALLY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-business-studies-2017>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

Future growth sectors, such as professional services, financial services, fintech, ICT, and advanced manufacturing, are all heavy recruiters of Business & Management graduates. These sectors are among the fastest-growing in Northern Ireland to 2033.

# BUSINESS & SERVICES: LEVEL 2 OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification |
|---|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 14 – Using Office Technology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>• Word processing skills</li> <li>• Spreadsheets</li> <li>• Sending emails</li> </ul>  | Year 11         | Controlled assessment.<br>Teachers mark the task, and CCEA will moderate the results. | 50% of Level 2             |
| <b>Unit 2 – Communication in an office or business environment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding different customer needs</li> <li>• Communicating with customers</li> <li>• Business letters and memos</li> </ul> | Year 12         | Controlled assessment.<br>Teachers mark the task, and CCEA will moderate the results. | 50% of Level 2             |

### Entry Requirements:

Open entry. An interest in the world of business is desirable.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Will be accepted alongside 5 other GCSE's grade A\*-C including English and Maths for entry to Sixth Form.

### Career Progression:

Business Studies is great for opening doors to any sector. After all, every sector has businesses! With a level 2 in occupational business and services you could go on to do Accountancy related careers, Banking, Business Owner, Management, Marketing, Human Resources, Building, Construction, Property Management, Administration.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Business and Services Level 2 Occupational Studies

| Level 3   | Level 4   | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <b>SPC:</b> A Level Business Studies<br><br><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business<br><br><b>NRWC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Business with IT<br><br><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 in computing<br><br><b>NWRC:</b> Level 3 National Foundation Diploma Level 3 Business.<br><br><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Business Administration with ICT<br><br><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology | <b>NRC:</b> HNC in Business<br><br><b>NRC &amp; NWRC:</b> Level 4 Accounting Technicians (apprenticeship) | <b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Business Management<br><br><b>NRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Business Management<br><br><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND in Business<br><br><b>Open University:</b> Foundation Degree in Business Management<br><br><b>NWRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Accountancy<br><br><b>NWRC:</b> Foundation Degree Business & Enterprise | <b>QUB:</b> BSc in Business Management<br><br><b>QUB:</b> BSc IT including professional experience<br><br><b>UU:</b> BSc in Business, BSc Hons in Accountancy with pathways, BSc Global Business, BSc Communication, Advertising and Marketing.<br><br><b>UU:</b> Degree apprenticeship with PwC/Deloitte – BSc Business Analyst. |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I chose this course because I have a keen interest in how a business works and would like to run a successful delivery business one day."*

**CIARAN MCELLOWNEY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/vocational/subjects/level-1-and-level-2-occupational-studies-2013>

Or scan here:



## **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

There remains a subject imbalance at Level 4 and 5 for Business.  
People with Business qualifications will be in demand for at least the next 10 years. (Skills Barometer, 2025)

# CHILD DEVELOPMENT: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                                | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration   | Weighting of Qualification |
|--|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Parenthood, Pregnancy, and the Newborn Baby</b> | Year 11         | External written examination.<br>1 hour 15 mins- 75 marks.<br>The paper includes multiple-choice, short, and structured questions, and questions requiring extended writing.   | 30% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 2: The Development of the Child (0-5 Years)</b>    | Year 12         | External written examination.<br>1 hour 15 mins- 75 marks.<br>The paper includes multiple-choice, short, and structured questions, and questions requiring extended writing.   | 30% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 3: Investigation Task</b>                          | Year 12         | Controlled assessment. 100 marks.<br>Students complete one task from a choice of two. The task has the following parts:<br>Part A: Analysis and Justification.<br>Part B: Secondary Research and Analysis of Own Viewpoint.<br>Part C: Conclusions and Evaluation of Parts A and B.<br>Part D: Planning and Outcome; and<br>Part E: Evaluation of Planning and Outcome.<br><b>Internally assessed.</b> | 40% of GCSE                |

### Entry Requirements:

No prior subject knowledge required. Hardworking students with the ability to meet deadlines is essential.

### Career Progression:

The GCSE Child Development course lays a solid foundation for various carer pathways, providing vital skills and knowledge for numerous professional roles. It is particularly beneficial for those who aim to work with children and families in different capacities. Here is how it could be useful:

**Early Childhood Educator:** Prepares students with an understanding of child development principles, essential for teaching and caring for young children.

**Child Psychologist:** Provides fundamental knowledge of child

growth and development, beneficial for further studies in psychology, focusing on children's mental and emotional wellbeing.

**Social Worker:** Offers insights into child development that are critical for roles in social work, where professionals support children and families through various challenges.

**Paediatric Nurse:** Equips students with a basic understanding of child development, which is beneficial for roles in children's nursing.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Useful as a pathway to GCE A-Level Health and Social Care along with a Grade 'B' in English. Childcare can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Child Development

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level in Health and Social Care</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Health and Social Care</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Apprenticeship in BTEC Level 3 in Children's Care, Learning and Development</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Childcare and Education.</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Health and Social Care</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> HND in Health and Social Care or Early Years Education</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> HND in Early Childhood Studies</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> HND in Health and Social Care</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> Foundation Degree in Health and Social Care</p> | <p><b>Stranmillis University:</b> BSc (Hons) in Childhood Studies</p> <p><b>Stranmillis University:</b> BSc (Hons) in Early Childhood Education</p> <p><b>QUB and UU:</b> BSc (Hons) in Adult Nursing</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc (Hons) in Children's Nursing</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc (Hons) in</p> <p>- Links: Ulster University (<a href="http://www.ulster.ac.uk">www.ulster.ac.uk</a>), Queen's University Belfast (<a href="http://www.qub.ac.uk">www.qub.ac.uk</a>)</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc (Hons) in Midwifery</p> <p><b>QUB, UU and Belfast Met:</b> BSc (Hons) in Social Work</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc (Hons) in Social Policy</p> |

\*A range of apprenticeships also available at all levels with local employers, for example Sure Start.

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"If you are a caring person and enjoy working with children then Child Development is a good subject for you as it helps you develop skills that will help you in the future.*

*I really enjoy it."*

**ELLA CAMPBELL**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-home-economics-child-development-2017>

Or scan here:



Child Development

### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

The Northern Ireland Executive's Early Learning and Childcare Strategy (Dec 2025) will require substantial workforce growth: more early-years practitioners, managers, SEN-specialists, and support roles.

# CONSTRUCTION: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                          | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration               | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|--|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment</b> | Year 11         | External written examination<br>1 hour          | 20% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 2: Sustainable Construction</b>              | Year 12         | External written examination<br>1 hour 30 mins. | 30% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 3: The Construction Craft Project</b>        | Year 12         | Controlled assessment                           | 25% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 4: Computer Aided Design in Construction</b> | Year 11         | Controlled assessment                           | 25% of GCSE                   |

### Entry Requirements:

Students should be patient, conscientious and meticulous. They should also have an interest in Construction and the Built Environment.

### Career Progression:

Studying GCSE Construction provides a foundational understanding of the world of the Built Environment. Students learn to interpret drawings of domestic buildings and explore the materials and sustainable methods used in domestic and commercial construction. To enhance their practical skills, students complete a craft project based on woodwork and develop their computer-aided design knowledge, understanding and skills by producing a portfolio of work using AutoCAD. Here are some areas where GCSE Construction is particularly useful or even required:

- **Architecture**- architect, architectural technologist and landscape architect;

- **Construction Management**- site manager, contracts manager, facilities manager, programmer, buyer, building information modelling (BIM) co-ordinator and health and safety officer.
- **Surveying**- building control officer, building surveyor, and quantity surveyor.
- **Engineering**- civil engineer, structural engineer and building services engineer.
- **Craft and Trade Operations**- bricklayer, electrician, joiner, plasterer, wall dry lining specialist, plumber, domestic gas engineer and tiler.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

GCSE Construction is desirable for students interested in BTEC Level 3 Construction and the Built Environment. GCSE Construction can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Construction

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6   |
|---|--|---|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level Technology and Design</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> Level 3 Construction and the Built Environment</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> Level 3 Engineering</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Level 3 National Extended Diploma Construction and the Built Environment</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 3 National Extended Diploma Construction and the Built Environment</p> <p>Apprenticeships with a range of employers and providers.</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 4 HNC in Construction Management</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Level 4 Modern Methods of Construction</p> <p>Higher Level Apprenticeships with a range of employers and providers.</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Foundation Degree in Property, Housing and Planning</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Foundation Degree in Construction, Engineering and Management.</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Construction Engineering with Surveying</p> <p>Higher Level Apprenticeships with a range of employers and providers.</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Building Surveying</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Construction Engineering and Management</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BEng Architectural Engineering</p> <p>Degree Level Apprenticeships with a range of employers and providers.</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I enjoy GCSE Construction as it has given me the opportunity to have a better understanding of the construction process and the built environment. There is a good mixture of hands-on work, computer work and interesting written work. I think Construction will be helpful to me if I plan on doing Level 3 Construction or going into Construction work after Year 12."*

**CHARLIE O'KANE**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-construction-and-built-environment-2017>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

The Construction Workforce Outlook (CWO) forecasts that Northern Ireland will need 5,450 additional construction workers between 2025 and 2029, averaging 1,090 new workers per year to meet demand. (CITB, 2026)

# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description               | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration       | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|---|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Digital Technology</b>         | Year 11         | External written exam - 1 hr            | 30% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts</b> | Year 12         | External written exam -<br>1 hr 30 mins | 40% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice</b> | Year 12         | Controlled assessment                   | 30% of GCSE                   |

### Entry Requirements:

At KS3, B and above in ICT class assessments and 5 other A\* - C including B in English and Maths.

### Career Progression:

Studying GCSE Digital Technology provides students with essential skills in technology, data management, and digital communication, which are increasingly valuable in today's tech-driven world. It is particularly useful or even required for some of the following areas:

- **Software Development:** Knowledge of programming, coding, and software development is foundational for creating applications and systems.
- **Network Administration:** Understanding how to manage and troubleshoot computer networks is critical in maintaining seamless communication and data exchange.
- **Digital Marketing:** Skills in using ICT tools to analyse trends, optimise online content, and manage campaigns are vital in today's marketing landscape.

- **Cybersecurity:** A strong understanding of ICT is essential for identifying and protecting systems against online threats and attacks.
- **Data Analysis:** The ability to interpret and manipulate large sets of data is valuable in sectors ranging from finance to healthcare.
- **Technical Support:** Aiding users and resolving technology-related issues requires a solid foundation in ICT.

These careers benefit from the problem-solving, analytical, and technical skills developed through studying GCSE Digital Technology, preparing students for a wide range of roles in the digital world.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

A grade 'B' in GCSE Digital Technology is required to study A-Level Digital Technology. Digital Technology can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Digital Technology

| Level 3   | Level 4   | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level Digital Technology</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in IT</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Computing</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 3 Apprenticeship in Software Development</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 4 HNC in Computing</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree Cloud Computing with Cyber Security</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Computing</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Computing</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 5 HND in Computing</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> Foundation Degree in Computing</p> | <p><b>QUB and UU:</b> BEng in Software Engineering</p> <p><b>QUB and UU:</b> BSc in Computing Science</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc in Computing Technologies</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc in Business and Information Technology</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I chose Digital Technology at GCSE as I knew it would be useful for getting a job in the future. I really enjoyed doing ICT in year 10 and knew I wanted to continue it for GCSE. The controlled assessment is good, and it is interesting developing a website and learning new skills. I really enjoy the theory, and I plan to take it on for A Level."*

**KATE MCLAUGHLIN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-digital-technology-2017>

Or scan here:



Digital Technology

### Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

Northern Ireland is forecast to experience a workforce shortfall of 5,400 skilled workers per year across sectors, with significant gaps emerging in software, cyber security, fintech, and digital technology roles. (RTE, 2025)

# DRAMA

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                         | Year Studied in                         | Assessment Method and Duration   | Weighting of Qualification |
|---|---|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Devised Performance</b>                  | Year 11                                 | Written Controlled Assessment – 10%<br><br>In response to a stimulus, pupils will work in groups to devise and present a group performance – 15%<br><br>Internally assessed, externally moderated. | 25%                        |
| <b>Unit 2: Scripted Performance</b>                 | Year 12                                 | Using a published play, students present a group performance.<br>Internally assessed, externally moderated by a visiting moderator.  | 35%                        |
| <b>Unit 3: Knowledge and Understanding of Drama</b> | Year 11 and 12 (exam in May of Year 12) | External written examination – 1h 30 minutes long.<br>Students answers 3 questions on the set text – Blood Brothers.   | 40%                        |

### Entry Requirements:

**An interest in Drama:** Demonstrated through participation in KS3 Drama.

**Good written communication skills:** GCSE Drama involves both practical and theoretical work, including analysing texts and the completion of written Controlled Assessment. Therefore, pupils must have averaged a Level 5/B In English in Year 10.

**Attendance:** We would expect pupils to have a good record of attendance.

### Career Progression:

#### Further Education:

- Many students progress to A-levels, which further develop acting, directing, and theoretical skills.
- BTEC Performing Arts: A vocational alternative focusing on practical performance skills.
- Degrees in Drama, Theatre Studies, or Performing Arts: University study can lead to specialised areas such as acting, stage management, directing, and playwriting.

#### Career Options:

- Actor: In theatre, TV, film, or radio.

- Director: Theatre or film direction.
- Playwright or Screenwriter: Writing for stage or screen.
- Drama Teacher or Lecturer: Teaching drama in schools, colleges, or as a private tutor.
- Stage Manager: Overseeing production elements during performances.
- Theatre Designer: Specialising in set, costume, or lighting design.
- Casting Director: Finding talent for roles in plays, films, or commercials.
- Drama Therapist: Using drama techniques in therapeutic settings.
- Television Presenter: A performance-based role that draws on public speaking and presentation skills.

**Transferable Skills:** GCSE Drama also develops valuable transferable skills such as teamwork, communication, creativity, and problem-solving, which are highly regarded in a variety of careers outside of drama, such as marketing, education, and management.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

While it is not a necessary requirement, pupils who study GCSE Drama will have a strong foundation for A Level Performing Arts. Audition may be required if not involved in Drama related activities outside of school. GCSE Drama can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Drama and Performing Arts

| Level 3  | Level 4  | Level 5  | Level 6  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A Level Performing Arts</p> <p><b>SERC, SRC and NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts</p> <p><b>SERC:</b> Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts Practice (Dance)</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Performing Arts Practice</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Creative and Performing Arts</p> <p><b>SRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Performing and Production Arts</p> | <p><b>SERC:</b> HNC in Performing Arts</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> HNC in Performing Arts (Acting Pathway)</p> | <p><b>SERC:</b> HND in Performing Arts</p> <p><b>NRC and NWRC:</b> HND in Performing Arts Acting Pathway)</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Foundation Degree in Screen Acting and Producing.</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Drama</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Drama with Music</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA (Hons) Drama BA</p> |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"GCSE Drama has provided a space for me to do what I love and has become an outlet for me to express myself in ways I was unable to before. It's provided a place for me to grow my talents, and it has helped me excel in other subjects. Choosing Drama GCSE, I have discovered a talent in myself that I never knew existed. I feel most assured when I am on stage or in the Drama classroom, and without Drama GCSE, I never would have found this confidence."*

**RÓISE MURRAY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-drama-2017>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

Northern Ireland's creative industries (which include film, TV, drama and performing arts) have seen:

- 27.4% GVA growth between 2019 and 2022- nearly double the overall NI economy's growth (13.9%).
- There is projected long term growth. (The Creative Industries, 2024)

# ENGLISH LANGUAGE: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration  | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|---|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-fiction and Media Texts</b> | Year 11         | External written examination<br>1 hour 45 mins                               | 30% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 2: Speaking and Listening</b>   | Year 11 and 12  | Controlled assessment<br>Six tasks-Individual,<br>discussion, and role play. | 20% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 3: Studying Spoken and Written Language</b>   | Year 11 and 12  | Controlled assessment<br>1 hour per task                                     | 20% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-fiction Texts</b>            | Year 12         | External written examination<br>1 hour 45 mins                               | 30% of GCSE                   |

### Career Progression:

Studying GCSE Language provides students with the key skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening that will help them in all aspects of their life. This is incredibly beneficial for almost all career paths, especially those looking towards teaching or any other profession that requires strong writing and speaking skills.

A minimum of a C at English Language at GCSE is required for a vast majority of jobs. Here are some areas where GCSE English is particularly useful or even required:

- **Teaching:** Strong reading and writing skills, as well as the ability to speak clearly and deliver lessons to a range of pupils.
- **Teaching English as a Foreign Language:** Many courses across the world require a minimum of a C in English Language to apply to TEFL courses.
- **Classroom Assistant:** Communication skills when liaising with teachers and aiding students.
- **Civil Service Jobs:** Strong reading and writing skills, organisational skills, and operating as part of a team while utilising effective speaking and listening skills.

- **Medicine:** Crucial speaking and listening skills when communicating with fellow medical professionals and patients. Writing skills also necessary for reports and administration tasks.
- **Law:** Reading skills crucial for interpreting law documents and case files. Writing skills for communicating with clients and fellow law professionals. Speaking and listening skills.
- **Managerial Roles:** Planning skills, which are acquired and honed throughout the English Language course. Coupled with good reading and writing skills.
- **IT:** Reading and writing skills, and especially speaking and listening skills while working as part of a team in a high-pressure environment.
- **Childcare and Nursing:** Crucial speaking and listening skills when communicating with fellow medical professionals and patients. Writing skills also necessary.

These careers benefit from the creative and functional skills developed through studying GCSE English.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Yes, minimum Grade A to study A-Level English Literature. English (and Maths) are compulsory subjects along with any 5 A\*-C to gain entry to Sixth Form.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for English Language

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level English Literature</p> <p><b>City and Guild/Skills for Life:</b> English for Literacy and Mathematics for Numeracy Teaching.</p> | <p><b>NWRC:</b> Level 4 in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages</p> | <p><b>TEFL courses:</b> Online TEFL Course, Level 5 Diploma.</p> | <p><b>UU and QUB:</b> BA (Honours) English</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Honours) English with History, BA (Honours) English with Education, BA (Honours) Journalism with English, BA (Honours) Journalism with Education, BA Drama, BA Film and TV Production.</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA Broadcasting</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> BA (Honours) English Language and Literature, BA (Honours) Arts and Humanities (English Language), BA (Honours) Arts and Humanities (Creative Writing), BA (Honours) English Literature, BA (Honours) English Literature and Creative Writing</p> <p><b>St Mary's University College:</b> BEd Primary English</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"The study of English Language involves creative and personal writing and studying a range of fictional and non-fiction texts which are always engaging and relate to modern life. Studying English has allowed me to develop key skills such as critical thinking and analysing a lot of different texts. This year I have gained confidence in presenting speeches in front of my peers, and I enjoy discussions to build on my learning in the classroom."*

**TADHG BRADLEY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-english-language-2017>

Or scan here:



### Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

Most employers expect at least a GCSE English Language qualification because it demonstrates the essential ability to read, write and communicate clearly in workplace tasks such as emails, reports and customer interactions.

# ENGLISH LITERATURE: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                  | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration              | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|--|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: The Study of Prose</b>            | Year 11         | External written examination<br>1 hour 45 mins | 30%                           |
| <b>Unit 2: The Study of Drama and Poetry</b> | Year 12         | External written examination<br>2 hours        | 50%                           |
| <b>Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare</b>      | Year 12         | Controlled assessment<br>2 hours               | 20%                           |

### Entry Requirements:

An average of B+ across all Track exams in English in Year 10.

To study GCSE English Literature, it's essential for students to have a genuine interest in exploring written works across a range of mediums; from poetry to plays. Students should have demonstrated a strong academic performance in Year 10 English, showcasing their capability to analyse a range of fiction and non-texts as well as structure coherent and precise essays which examine and explore themes, character, and plot. A curiosity about the works of Shakespeare and 19th/20th Century authors, as well as a keen interest in poetry will greatly enhance their learning experience.

### Career Progression:

Studying GCSE Literature provides students with the key skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening that will help them in all aspects of their life. Literature bestows analytical and deep-thinking skills that will help students wishing to follow a career in law, managerial roles, medicine, and many other professions. This is incredibly beneficial for almost all career paths, especially those looking towards teaching or any other profession that requires strong writing, speaking and analytical skills.

Here are some areas where GCSE English Literature is particularly useful or even required:

- **Teaching:** Strong reading and writing skills, as well as the ability to speak clearly and deliver lessons to a range of pupils.
- **Civil Service Jobs:** The analytical skills in literature can aid in data analysis and written skills will help with reports etc.
- **Medicine:** Analytical skills will help in the job and skills in essay writing will help with university course.
- **Law:** Analytical skills will help in the job and skills in essay writing will help with university course.
- **Managerial Roles:** The analytical skills in literature can aid in data analysis and written skills will help with reports etc.

These careers benefit from the creative and analytical skills developed through studying GCSE English Literature.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Grade 'A' required at GCSE for entry to A Level English Literature. English Literature can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths

## Sample Progressive Pathways for English Literature

| Level 3                                | Level 4  | Level 5  | Level 6  |
|--|--|--|--|
| <b>SPC:</b> A Level English Literature | <b>NWRC:</b> Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages | <b>TEFL courses:</b> Online TEFL Course, Level 5 Diploma | <p><b>UU and QUB:</b> BA (Honours) English</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Honours) English with History, BA (Honours) English with Education, BA (Honours) Journalism with English, BA (Honours) Journalism with Education, BA Drama, BA Film and TV Production</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA Broadcasting</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> BA (Honours) English Language and Literature, BA (Honours) Arts and Humanities (English Language), BA (Honours) Arts and Humanities (Creative Writing), BA (Honours) English Literature, BA (Honours) English Literature and Creative Writing</p> <p><b>St Mary's University College:</b> BEd Primary English</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*“English Literature at GCSE has provided me with opportunities to study a range of engaging texts in detail and respond critically to narrative methods the author, playwright and poet employs. It is a challenging but rewarding subject because it makes you think about life on a deeper level having studied characters, plot, and key historical events. I hope to continue this subject at A level and possibly in the future.”*

**TEAGAN SCOTT**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-english-literature-2017>

Or scan here:



# ENGLISH: COMMUNICATION: OCN LEVEL 1 AND 2

Awarding Body: OCN

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year<br>Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration  | Weighting of<br>Qualification  |
|---|--------------------|--|--|
| <p>Essential Skills: Communication Level 2 has two components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Speaking and Listening</li> <li>- Reading and Writing</li> </ul> <p>Learners must pass both components to be awarded the qualification.</p> <p>For the speaking and listening component, learners must show that they are able to take full part in formal and informal discussions. This will include an unfamiliar topic.</p> <p>For the reading and writing component, learners must show that they can read and understand several straightforward texts.</p> <p>For the writing component, learners must write a range of texts to communicate information, ideas and opinions effectively and persuasively.</p> | Year 12            | <p>The Speaking and Listening component of the qualification is internally set, internally marked, and internally verified by the centre.</p> <p>The Reading and Writing component of the qualification is externally set and marked. It comprises a single paper with two sections: section A assesses the Reading standards and section B assesses the Writing standards. Learners must obtain a 'pass' for the Reading and Writing component to be awarded the qualification.</p> | <p>Level 2 pass in OCN NI Essential Skills Communication is the equivalent of a Grade C at GCSE Level</p> <p>Assessment Outcome: Pass or Fail CCEA Regulation requirements stipulate that OCN NI sets the pass mark between 60% and 70%.</p> |

### Entry Requirements:

There are no subject specific entry requirements for this qualification.

### Career Progression:

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Essentials Skills Communication enables progression to other recognised qualifications at level 2 and above. This qualification will help learners gain entry to employment and some university courses will accept this qualification as an alternative to GCSE English Language.



## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I really enjoy studying Essential Skills Communication. I particularly enjoyed learning to write emails and formal letters as this will help me in the future when I leave school. I feel that Essential Skills has helped to prepare me for work after I finish school. The speaking and listening activities have helped build my confidence and the dictionary skills tasks are a lot of fun."*

**SHEA McGLINCHEY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-essential-skills-communication>

Or scan here:



# FOOD AND NUTRITION: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                      | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification |
|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Component 1: Food and Nutrition</b>           | Year 11 and 12  | External written examination:<br>2 hours. 120 marks.<br><br>The written paper includes multiple-choice, short, and structured questions, and questions requiring extended writing.  | 50%                        |
| <b>Component 2: Practical Food and Nutrition</b> | Year 12         | Controlled assessment.<br>120 marks. Students complete one task that involves the following:<br><br>Part A: Research and Viewpoints.<br>Part B: Justification of Choice. Part C: Planning.<br>Part D: Practical Activity; and Part E: Evaluation.<br><br>Students present the written report on the task in the required format. Teachers mark the task, and we moderate the results. | 50%                        |

### Entry Requirements:

**Essential:** Hard working students with the ability to meet deadlines.

**Desirable:** Strong performance in Home Economics in Key Stage 3.

### Career Progression:

The GCSE Food and Nutrition course opens numerous career pathways and provides essential skills for various professional roles. It is particularly beneficial for those aspiring to enter the world of food Science and Nutrition. Here is how it is useful:

**Dietitian/Nutritionist:** Equips students with the knowledge to advise on diet and nutrition, helping individuals and communities to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

**Food Technologist:** Offers foundational insights into food production, safety and quality control, essential for roles in food manufacturing and processing in industries.

**Catering and Hospitality Management:** Prepares individuals for roles in managing food services, including restaurants, hotels and catering companies, by understanding food preparation and customer service.

**Public Health Nutrition:** Provides a stepping stone for careers in public health focusing on community nutrition programmes, policy development and health promotion.

Additionally, GCSE Food and Nutrition is a requirement for certain university courses, particularly those focused on dietetics, food science, and public health, setting the stage for further academic and professional advancement in these fields.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Whilst not a requirement, it is useful for A-Level Health and Social Care. GCSE Food and Nutrition can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Food and Nutrition

| Level 3  | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level in Food and Nutrition, Biology, or Home Economics</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Level 3 Apprenticeship in Food Production, Bakery, or Professional Cookery</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Food Technology</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> BTEC Level 3 Diploma in Professional Cookery</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Food Science and Manufacturing</p> <p>Level 4 Apprenticeship in Food and Drink Manufacturing or Hospitality Supervision available with a number of local employers, for example: Moy Park, Dunbia and Linden Foods</p> | <p><b>CAFRE:</b> Foundation Degree in Food Manufacture and Innovation.</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> Foundation Degree in Food Business Management</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> HND in Food Manufacturing or Hospitality Management</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> HND in Food Technology</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> HND in Food Business Management</p> <p>Level 5 Apprenticeship in Food and Drink Manufacturing or Hospitality Supervision available with a number of local employers, for example: Moy Park, Dunbia and Linden Foods</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BSc (Hons) in Food and Nutrition</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc (Hons) in Dietetics</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> BSc (Hons) in Food Technology and Innovation</p> <p>Degree Apprenticeship in Food Technology or Product Development are available with a range of local employers. For example, Moy Park and Genesis Bakery in partnership with universities.</p> |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I chose Food and Nutrition because I love to cook and I like learning about different foods and how they are made. I also want to do a job that is linked to diet and nutrition. It is a great subject where you get so many opportunities to showcase your skills and also develop your knowledge on all things related to diet and health."*

**EMMA ROSE CONVERY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-home-economics-food-and-nutrition-2017>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

The NI Skills Barometer 2023–2033 forecasts **strong job growth** in:

- **Health & social care** (dietetic, wellbeing and public-health roles)
- **Agri-tech** (food technology, sustainable food systems, innovation)
- **Manufacturing** (food production and safety)

# FRENCH: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration  | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Listening</b>    | Year 11/12      | External Examination at end of year 12.<br>Foundation: 35 mins. Higher: 45 mins    | 25% of overall qualification  |
| <b>Unit 2: Speaking</b>     | Year 11/12      | External examination at the end of year 12.  | 25% of overall qualification  |
| <b>Unit 3: Listening</b>    | Year 11/12      | External examination at the end of year 12.<br>Foundation: 50 mins. Higher: 1hr    | 25% of overall qualification  |
| <b>Unit 4: Writing</b>      | Year 11/12      | External examination at the end of year 12.<br>Foundation: 1hr. Higher: 1hr 15mins | 25% of overall qualification  |

### Entry Requirements:

To study GCSE French, pupils are required to have completed Key Stage 3 French.

### Career Progression:

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. Joint degrees with languages include Business Studies, Law, History, English, Education, ICT, Film Studies and Engineering.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Grade 'B' or above in GCSE French is required for A-Level French. GCSE French can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.



# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I love being able to travel and learning French will allow me to spend time in France, make new friends and learn about the culture. I have cousins who live in Luxembourg and I am proud that I am getting better at talking to them in their native language. Learning French will give me better career prospects. I need a language if I want to go to a university in the South of Ireland."*

**AOIFE LAVERY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-french-2017>

Or scan here:



## **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

Across industries, languages remain in demand, with French ranked among the top three most sought-after languages in UK job ads- especially in management, marketing, education, recruitment, and customer-facing roles.

# GEOGRAPHY: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                     | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1 – Understanding our Natural World</b> | Year 11         | External Exam – 1hr 30 mins       | 40% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 2 – Living in our World</b>             | Year 12         | External Exam – 1hr 30 mins )     | 40% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 3 - Fieldwork</b>                       | Year 12         | External Exam – 1hr               | 20% of GCSE                   |

### Entry Requirements:

To study GCSE Geography, it's essential for students to have not only a foundational understanding of geographical concepts but also a genuine interest in exploring the dynamics of the Earth's landscapes, environments, and the relationships between people and their surroundings. Ideally, students should have demonstrated a strong academic performance in Year 10 Geography, showcasing their capability to analyse maps, interpret data, and engage with topics such as climate change, urban development, and resource management. A curiosity about how geographic factors influence global issues and a willingness to participate in fieldwork and research projects will greatly enhance their learning experience.

### Career Progression:

Studying GCSE Geography provides a foundational understanding of the world's physical landscapes, human environments, and the complex interactions between them, which can be incredibly beneficial in various career paths. Here are some areas where GCSE Geography is particularly useful or even required:

- **Environmental Consultancy:** Knowledge of geographical processes and environmental management is crucial.
- **Urban and Regional Planning:** Understanding spatial patterns assists in effective planning and development.

- **Cartography and Geographic Information Systems (GIS):** Skills in map reading and data interpretation are essential.
- **Teaching:** A prerequisite for those aspiring to teach geography at advanced levels.
- **Travel and Tourism:** Insight into cultural and physical geography enhances the ability to create engaging travel experiences.
- **Conservation and Wildlife Management:** Essential for roles focused on preserving natural habitats and biodiversity.
- **New Energy technologies:** These careers benefit from the analytical, research, and data interpretation skills developed through studying GCSE Geography.

### Possible Career paths:

Geography Teacher, Surveyor, Town Planner, Landscape Architect

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Yes - Grade B or better in GCSE Geography is required to study A-Level Geography. GCSE Geography can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths. .

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Geography

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level Geography</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> BTEC Level 3 in Travel and Tourism</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> A-Level Geography</p> | <p><b>Open University:</b> Geography certificate - Certificate of Higher Education in Environment.</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> Hospitality and Tourism management – Higher Level Apprenticeship.</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Hospitality and Tourism management</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> Geography Diplomas-<br/>- Higher education in Geography,<br/>- Higher education in environmental sciences<br/>- Higher education in environmental studies<br/>- Higher education in Geology</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Environmental science with Education<br/>BSc Geography<br/>BSc Geography with Education</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc in Geography<br/>BSc in Archaeology, Palaeoecology and Geography<br/>BSc Geography with a language</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> BA (honours) Geography<br/>BA (honours) Geology<br/>BA (honours) in Environmental Sciences</p> |

## Meet two of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"We believe Geography is one of the best subjects for anyone to choose, with varied, interesting content and the opportunity to put your work into practice through fieldwork. It helps to develop an understanding of the world and people around us in an enjoyable way with different focuses throughout the course, while developing extended writing and evaluation skills."*

**MYA ROSE O'HAGAN AND ROSE BRADY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-geography-2017>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

Geography graduates are strongly associated with key growth sectors in NI such as environment, planning, GIS, climate policy, sustainability, and infrastructure—areas that are forecast to expand.

# HISTORY: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration   | Weighting of Qualification |
|---|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1 Section A:</b> Modern World Studies in Depth<br><b>Option 1:</b> Life in Nazi Germany, 1933–45<br><b>Unit 1 Section B:</b> Local Study<br><b>Option 2:</b> Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1965–98 | Year 11         | External written examination 1 hour 45 mins<br>Section A: Students answer five questions. The paper includes short response questions, structured questions and an essay question.<br>Section B: Students answer six questions. The paper includes source-based questions, short response questions and an essay question. | 60% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 2:</b> Outline Study International Relations, 1945–2003   | Year 12         | External written examination 1 hour 15 mins<br>Students answer six questions. The paper includes source-based questions, a structured question and an essay question.  | 40% of GCSE                |

### Entry Requirements:

It is essential for students to be enthusiastic about studying History; and have a genuine interest in the relevance of the past and want to gain a deeper understanding of the present. They learn to balance factual content with developing conceptual understanding and historical skills. Students should be able to analyse and evaluate historical sources, appreciating there are competing interpretations of the past. Ideally History GCSE students will have excelled in Yr. 10 and achieved a Grade B or above.

### Career Progression:

The study of history at GCSE should inspire students to deepen their understanding of the people, periods and events studied and enable them to think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, make informed decisions, and develop perspective and judgement. All of this can be extremely beneficial in various career paths. Here are some areas where GCSE History is particularly useful or even required:

- **Teacher** - A prerequisite for those aspiring to teach History at advanced levels.
- **Actuary** - A desirable qualification to help make critical decisions in Business or Government Agencies to minimise risk.
- **Solicitor** - A very desirable qualification to have for Law where critical thinking, asking why, analysing information, and presenting arguments are necessary.

- **Social Worker** - An ability to understand historical context on any issues that arise through this kind of work.
- **Archaeology** - Intrinsically linked areas of study, History is a prerequisite for the study of Archaeology.
- **Political work** - This is intertwined with the discipline of History as you need the ability to make connections between the past and present, which informs decision-making.
- **Broadcasting** - The skills developed in the study of History in particular research and communication can offer a range of roles, for example reporters, editors and producers.
- **Publisher** - Skills developed in History will allow you to be informed in critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate which are essential in this field.

These careers benefit from the analytical, research, and critical thinking skills developed through studying the discipline of GCSE History.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Yes - Grade B or better in GCSE History is required to study A-Level History. GCSE History can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for History

| Level 3                     | Level 4    | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|-----------------------------|------------|--|---|
| <b>SPC: A-Level History</b> | <b>N/a</b> | <b>Open University:</b> Diploma of Higher Education in History and Politics<br>Diploma of Higher Education in History and Languages (French) | <b>QUB and UU:</b> Law (LLB)<br><b>QUB and UU:</b> Law with Politics (LLB)<br><b>SMUCB:</b> BEd Primary Education History<br><b>QUB:</b> BA Broadcast Production<br><b>QUB and UU:</b> BA History<br><b>QUB:</b> History with Journalism (BA Hons), History with Sociology (BSC Hons), History with Education (BA Hons), History with Politics (BA Hons), History with Education (BA Hons), History and International Relations (BA Hons), History and Anthropology (BA Hons), History with Spanish (BA Hons) |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"History isn't just about the past; it's the key to understanding the present.  
By studying GCSE History, I get to explore fascinating stories, learn from past mistakes,  
and discover how events shaped our world today."*

**CAYDEN MCCORRISTON**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-history-2017>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

The NI Skills Barometer forecasts continued annual employer demand for several occupations that History graduates typically enter, including:

- Business, media and public service professionals
- Teaching and other educational professionals
- Administrative and public-sector roles

# LEVEL 1/2 VOCATIONAL AWARD ICT (TECHNICAL AWARD)

Awarding Body: WJEC

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: ICT in Society</b> | Year 11         | Online Exam<br>1 hour 20 minutes  | 40%                           |
| <b>Unit 2: ICT in Context</b> | Year 11 & 12    | Coursework                        | 60%                           |

### Entry Requirements:

At KS3, C and above in ICT class assessments and 5 A\* - C.

### Career Progression:

Studying Level 2 ICT provides a foundational understanding of information technology, digital systems, and the practical skills needed to use and manage technology in various contexts. This knowledge can be incredibly beneficial in a range of career paths. Here are some areas where Level 2 ICT is particularly useful or even required:

- **IT Support and Helpdesk Roles:** Understanding computer systems and troubleshooting is crucial for providing technical support.
- **Web Development:** Knowledge of web design and development skills can lead to roles in creating and managing websites.
- **Digital Marketing:** Skills in data management, social media, and digital tools are essential for managing online campaigns and content.

- **Office Administration:** Proficiency in office software and systems is vital for roles in administrative support.
- **Networking:** Basic understanding of networks and how to maintain them is essential for roles in IT infrastructure.
- **Data Management:** Managing and interpreting data through databases is crucial for roles in industries like finance, health, and marketing.

These careers benefit from the technical, problem-solving, and data management skills developed through studying Level 2 ICT, providing a solid foundation for further study or entry into the workforce in the ever-expanding field of technology.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Yes, required to study BTEC Level 3 in IT. Level 2 ICT can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a student's any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Level 1/2 Vocational Award ICT (Technical Award)

| Level 3   | Level 4   | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> Level 3 Extended Certificate in ICT</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Level 3 Extended Diploma in IT</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Level 3 Extended Diploma in Computing</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 3 Apprenticeship in Software Development</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 4 HNC in Computing</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree Cloud Computing with Cyber Security</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Computing</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Computing</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 5 HND in Computing</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> Foundation Degree in Computing</p> | <p><b>QUB and UU:</b> BEng in Software Engineering</p> <p><b>QUB and UU:</b> BSc in Computing Science</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc in Computing Technologies</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc in Business and Information Technology</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"Most of the work is coursework is practical tasks rather than one big final exam in year 11. I like this approach because I can build my grade gradually over time instead of relying on a single test. It also takes away a lot of the pressure that comes with heavy revision. I can keep on top of my assignments without feeling overwhelmed, and it gives me a good balance between school and my hobbies."*

**AODHAN MCCLOSKEY**

You can read more about the subject here:

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-ict/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-12-vocational-award-in-ict/#tab_keydocuments)

Or scan here:



### Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

NIJobs and Apprenticeships NI data indicate continually increasing demand for IT apprenticeships, with programmes available in:

- IT support · Software development
- Engineering and mechatronics (including automation & robotics) · Digital business support

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS: OCN LEVEL 2

Awarding Body: OCN

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| IT User Fundamentals        | Year 11         | Coursework                        | 17%                           |
| Word Processing Software    | Year 11         | Coursework                        | 24%                           |
| Using the Internet          | Year 11         | Coursework                        | 24%                           |
| Presentation Software       | Year 12         | Coursework                        | 11%                           |
| Spreadsheet Software        | Year 12         | Coursework                        | 24%                           |

### Entry Requirements:

Open entry.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

OCN IT can be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

### Career Progression:

The skills developed in this course are suitable for all careers and will prepare you for a wide range of occupations and higher-level courses.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for OCN ICT

| Level 3   | Level 4   | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Level 3 Extended Diploma in IT</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 4 HNC in Computing</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree Cloud Computing with Cyber Security</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Computing</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Higher Level Apprenticeship in Computing</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 5 HND in Computing</p> <p><b>Open University:</b> Foundation Degree in Computing</p> | <p><b>QUB and UU:</b> BEng in Software Engineering</p> <p><b>QUB and UU:</b> BSc in Computing Science</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc in Computing Technologies</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc in Business and Information Technology</p> |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"The reason I have chosen to study OCN ICT is because I wanted to understand the basics of computing. I feel this qualification will help me in the future when applying for jobs. I also picked this qualification as there is no exam, allowing me to focus on coursework with less pressure."*

**ODHRAN MCLAUGHLIN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-information-technology-applications>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

NIJobs and Apprenticeships NI data indicate continually increasing demand for IT apprenticeships, with programmes available in:

- IT support · Software development
- Engineering and mechatronics (including automation & robotics) · Digital business support

# IRISH: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration  | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Listening</b>    | Year 11 and 12  | External examination at end of Year 12.<br>Foundation 35 mins, Higher 45mins.  | 25% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 2: Speaking</b>     | Year 11 and 12  | 1 oral examination in April of year 12. 7-12 minutes.                          | 25% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 3: Reading</b>      | Year 11 and 12  | External examination at end of Year 12.<br>Foundation 50 mins, Higher 60 mins. | 25% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 4: Writing</b>      | Year 11 and 12  | External examination at end of Year 12.<br>Foundation 60 mins, Higher 75 mins. | 25% of GCSE                   |

### Entry Requirements:

To study GCSE Irish, students must have studied Irish at KS3.

Ideally pupils should have demonstrated a strong academic performance in Year 10 Irish and show a genuine interest in exploring the language and the cultural aspects that go along with this.

### Career Progression:

Opportunities go way beyond specialist occupations, such as interpreting, translation and language teaching. Other options include 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.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

At least a 'grade' B' in GCSE Irish is required to study A-Level Irish. GCSE Irish can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Irish

| Level 3                   | Level 4    | Level 5    | Level 6   |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|---|
| <b>SPC: A-Level Irish</b> | <b>N/a</b> | <b>N/a</b> | <p><b>QUB:</b> BA (Hons) Irish</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA (Hons) English and Irish.</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA (Hons) French and Irish</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA (Hons) History and Irish</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA (Hons) Irish and Politics</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA(Hons) Irish and Spanish.</p> <p><b>University of Liverpool:</b> BA(Hons) Irish studies.</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Irish with education.</p> <p><b>St. Mary's University:</b> BEd Primary Irish</p> <p><b>St. Mary's University:</b> BA Hons Liberal Arts Irish</p> <p><b>UCC:</b> Law and Irish BCL (Hons)</p> <p><b>Trinity College, Dublin:</b> Irish BA (Hons)</p> <p>There are many more courses available in the South of Ireland.</p> |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"GCSE Irish is the family that paves your future. The lessons are always full of enthusiasm and craic, as well as the fact no formal exams are sat until fifth year, meaning a whole school year is provided for learning and developing your skills in the language! In the great words of Pádraig Pearse, "Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam", which means a country without a language, is a country without a soul. It's a qualification which can provide many working and educational opportunities, setting you apart from other university applicants and allowing for greater job opportunities throughout Ireland, and the cultural and social benefits are endless; learning Irish leads to improved communication skills and a connection with a vibrant culture and its history."*

**CLODAGH MOLLOY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-irish-2017>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

The Language Trends Northern Ireland 2025 report shows renewed growth and interest in the Irish language, with:

- 41.9% of post-primary schools teaching Irish at Key Stage 3 in 2025, up from 35% the previous year.
- GCSE Irish entries rising by 14.9% in 2024 compared to 2023.

# MATHEMATICS: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration   | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>M1-M4</b>                | Year 12         | External written examination<br>1 hour 45 minutes (M1/M2)<br>2 hours (M3/M4)  | 45% of GCSE                   |
| <b>M5-M8</b>                | Year 11         | Two external written examinations:<br>Paper 1 (without calculator)<br>1 hour (M5/M6)<br>1 hour 15 mins (M7/M8)<br>Paper 2 (With calculator)<br>1 hour (M5/M6)<br>1 hour 15 mins (M7/M8) | 55% of GCSE                   |

### Entry Requirements:

Top 60 students, based on average attainment in all track assessments in Year 10, will be invited to study GCSE Mathematics (M4 and M8) in one year followed by Further Maths in Year 12.

All other students will be placed in GCSE maths-tier of entry determined by Year 10 continuous assessment data.

### Career Progression:

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

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

#### No Further Maths pathway:

Grade A in GCSE Maths (Both M4 and M8 and UMS 150 or above in M4)

#### With Further Maths pathway:

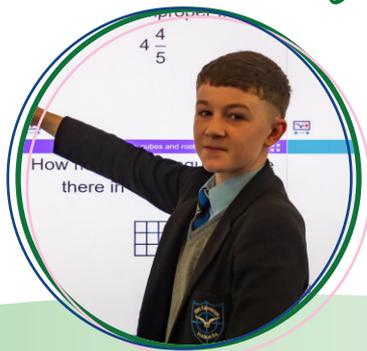
Grade A in GCSE Maths with minimum Grade B Further Maths  
Grade B in GCSE Maths with minimum Grade A in Further Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Mathematics

| Level 3                   | Level 4   | Level 5   | Level 6   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>SPC:</b> A-Level Maths | <b>NRC:</b> Level 4 certificate: Accountancy<br><br><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Business<br><br><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Computing | <b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Computing<br><br><b>NRC through UU:</b> Foundation Degree in Engineering-Electrical and electronic engineering foundation degree | <b>QUB:</b><br>BSc Mathematics<br>BSc Engineering<br>Msc Actuarial Science<br><br><b>UU:</b><br>BEng Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering<br>BSc Accounting and Law |



# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I really enjoy studying GCSE Maths because it opens so many doors for my future and gives me opportunities I wouldn't have otherwise. I find many topics fun and interesting, and even when something feels challenging at first, with guidance and regular practice I can quickly understand it. Maths pushes me to think differently, helps me build confidence, and gives me a real sense of achievement when everything clicks. Overall, it's a subject that's not only useful, but genuinely enjoyable to learn."*

**CAOILFHIONN BRADY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://cea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-mathematics-2017>

Or scan here:



## **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

The NI Skills Barometer 2023–2033 forecasts strong expansion in several maths-intensive sectors, including:

- Advanced manufacturing & engineering
- Life and health sciences
- Fintech & financial services
- Software and cyber security
- Low-carbon and net-zero technology industries

# FURTHER MATHS: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration  | Weighting of<br>Qualification                     |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|---|
| <b>Unit 1</b>               | Year 12         | External written examination in the form of a single question-and answer booklet that includes a formula sheet (2 hours)     | Unit 1 Pure (50%)                                 |
| <b>Unit 2/3/4</b>           | Year 12         | External written examination in the form of a single question-and answer booklet that includes a formula sheet (1 hour each) | Unit 2 Mechanics (25%)<br>Unit 3 Statistics (25%) |

### Entry Requirements:

Top 60 students, based on average attainment in all track assessments in Year 10, will be invited to study GCSE Mathematics (M4 and M8) in one year followed by Further Maths in Year 12.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Desirable for A-Level Maths. Additionally, an A in GCSE Maths with compulsory grade A in M4 & M8 Modules is required. Pupils must also have a UMS of 150 or above in M4.

### Career Progression:

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

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Further Mathematics

| Level 3                   | Level 4   | Level 5   | Level 6   |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|
| <b>SPC:</b> A-Level Maths | <b>NRC:</b> Level 4 certificate: Accountancy<br><br><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Business<br><br><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Computing | <b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Computing<br><br><b>NRC through UU:</b> Foundation Degree in Engineering-Electrical and electronic engineering foundation degree | <b>QUB:</b><br>BSc Mathematics<br><br><b>UU:</b><br>BEng Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering<br>BSc Accounting and Law |



# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*“Studying GCSE Further Mathematics has been one of the most rewarding parts of my time in school. I’ve always enjoyed Maths, but Further Maths takes that enjoyment to another level by really stretching my thinking and helping me appreciate how powerful the subject can be. The topics are challenging, but that’s exactly what makes them satisfying—there’s a real sense of achievement when you work through a difficult problem and it finally makes sense. Following both Maths and Further Maths has opened up even more opportunities for my future, especially in areas like engineering, technology, and finance. The support from my teachers and the chance to explore advanced ideas have made the experience not just useful, but genuinely exciting. It’s a subject that pushes you, builds confidence, and shows you what you’re truly capable of.”*

**MARIA CONWAY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-further-mathematics-2017>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

The NI Skills Barometer 2023–2033 forecasts strong expansion in several maths-intensive sectors, including:

- Advanced manufacturing & engineering
- Life and health sciences
- Fintech & financial services
- Software and cyber security
- Low-carbon and net-zero technology industries

# MUSIC: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                           | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration   | Weighting of<br>Qualification                        |
|---|-----------------|---|--|
| <b>Component 1:<br/>Performing and<br/>Appraising</b> | Year 12         | External examination assessed by a visiting examiner. Students present one solo and one ensemble performance. The combined duration of the performances should be no longer than 6 minutes.<br><br>Students discuss and evaluate performances with the visiting examiner. Discussion lasts approximately 3 minutes. | Performance 30% of GCSE<br><br>Discussion 5% of GCSE |
| <b>Component 2:<br/>Composing</b>                     | Year 12         | Controlled assessment. Students create two compositions. The combined duration of compositions should last between 3-6 minutes.   | 30% of GCSE  |
| <b>Component 3:<br/>Listening and<br/>Appraising</b>  | Year 12         | External written examination 1 hour 30 minutes.   | 35% of GCSE  |

### Entry Requirements:

GCSE Music builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed through the Key Stage 3 Music curriculum. To study GCSE Music it is recommended that students possess good skills in vocal or instrumental performance. Students should be receiving instrumental tuition and be able to play to at least grade 3 standard by the end of Year 12.

### Career Progression:

GCSE Music is not just for students who are considering specialising in music, and neither is it solely aimed at those with a classical training; GCSE Music is for everyone. For someone who has talent as a performer, who enjoys composing their own music, who is interested in music technology or who simply enjoys music of any description, GCSE Music offers a way to develop their potential and ultimately to achieve a worthwhile qualification. Here are some areas where GCSE Music is particularly useful:

**Musician:** The most obvious careers are those that are directly involved in creating and performing music, such as instrumentalists, singers, accompanists, conductors, composers and arrangers.

**Teacher:** There are various types of music teaching jobs in the primary and secondary sectors, with more specialised work in third level institutions such as universities and colleges. Instrumental and vocal tuition (whether classical, traditional,

jazz or popular) may be carried out privately or on a peripatetic basis.

**Sound Engineer:** For those with a background in music technology, there is the possibility of employment in the recording industry as a composer, producer or sound engineer.

**Luthier:** Instrument making and repair are sometimes overlooked and yet provide a lucrative income because of the specialised nature of the work.

**Music journalism:** There are numerous jobs associated with music, such as arts management, music publishing, musicology and music journalism.

Music is also a rewarding leisure activity for those who take part in choirs, bands and amateur ensembles or simply enjoy attending concerts or listening to music.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

It is expected that students will have completed GCSE music for entry to A-Level Music, however where a pupil can show a very significant background in music, consideration may be given to a place on the A Level Course.

Students should have the ability to perform at Grade 5 standard and above. GCSE Music can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths. .

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Music

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level Music</p> <p><b>SRC:</b> Music performance &amp; production Level 3</p> <p><b>SRC:</b> Creative Arts and Digital technologies</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> Creative Music Industry (Production) Level 3</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Music-Level 3 National Extended Diploma.</p> | <p><b>SERC:</b> Pearson BTEC HND in Music</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> Pearson BTEC Level 4 Higher National Certificate / Diploma HNC in Music (general pathway)/ HND in Music (session musician pathway)</p> | <p><b>SRC:</b> Creative Music and audio production Level 5 foundation degree</p> | <p><b>SRC:</b> Creative Music and Audio Production BA (Hons) Degree</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> Music Bmus</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> Music Performance BA</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> Audio Engineering BSc</p> <p><b>UU:</b> Music BMus (Hons)</p> <p><b>UU:</b> Creative Audio BSc (Hons).</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



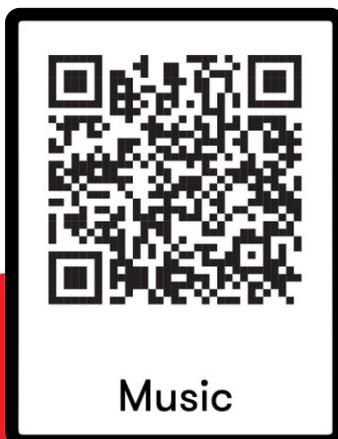
*"I chose Music for GCSE because I have a passion for the subject. GCSE Music has a variety of practical components such as performing and composing in which students can thrive and be creative. The classes are generally smaller in size, so we have a friendly atmosphere in which we can communicate easily with both our peers and the teacher. Doing this subject has boosted my confidence in performing and developed my knowledge of music theory."*

**MOLLY MCFALL**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-music-2017>

Or scan here:



### Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

Data shows that the Music, Performing and Visual Arts subsector recorded the largest increase in business sites across all creative subsectors in Northern Ireland- up 11% between 2023 and 2024. This is strong evidence of expansion.

# MOTOR VEHICLE AND ROAD USER STUDIES: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                               | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1:<br/>Motor Vehicle and Road<br/>User Theory</b> | Year 11/12      | Terminal exam 1hr45 mins          | 50% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 2:<br/>Investigative Study</b>                    | Year 11/12      | Controlled Assessment             | 25% of GCSE                   |
| <b>Unit 3:<br/>Practical Riding Activity</b>              | Year 11/12      | Controlled Assessment             | 25% of GCSE                   |

### Entry Requirements:

Students should have an interest in the area of motor vehicles. They should have a desire to understand modern technology and traffic management systems. Some minor level of vehicle maintenance knowledge is desirable but not essential. Students would require the ability and spatial awareness to control a vehicle which would be necessary (bicycle).

### Career Progression:

The CCEA GCSE Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies specification prepares students to become responsible road users. It develops their interest in and appreciation of the motor vehicle. Students develop knowledge of the Highway Code. They learn about driving at night and under adverse conditions, as well as the causes and prevention of road traffic collisions. They carry out a practical riding activity on a moped and investigate a real-life traffic situation. They discover road users' responsibilities and legal requirements. They explore motor vehicle and road user theory.

Students develop a range of skills applicable to many career areas. For example, in communication, students interpret,

analyse and present information in oral, written and ICT formats in their Investigative Study. They use mathematical language and notation when calculating the cost of insurance. They use ICT to research online, collating and presenting data graphically.

Students manage their time effectively in their controlled assessment tasks. They learn from others through co-operation in group discussions and traffic surveys. Students identify and analyse relationships and patterns, for example when interpreting traffic collision statistics related to weather events.

Students will be able to use the skills learned to apply for apprenticeships in the automotive industry or further education colleges in their areas of interest.

Possible career progression could entail: Mechanic, Urban Planning, Transport development, driving instructor.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Whilst there is no directly related level 3 qualification, MVRUS can be used as one of the GCSE's to gain entry into Sixth Form.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for MVRUS

| Level 2/3  | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>NRC:</b> Level 2 Motor vehicle apprenticeship.</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> There is some foundational knowledge links within this course to some of mechanical terminology and function relatable to BTEC Engineering.</p> <p><b>TTS:</b> Apprenticeships available in: Light Vehicle Technician, Heavy Vehicle Technician, Auto Electrics, Vehicle Body Repair, Vehicle Refinish, Parts Advisory, Vehicle Sales, Team Leading</p> <p><b>CAFRE:</b> Level 3 in Land-based Engineering</p> | <p><b>SRC:</b> HNC in Advanced Automotive Studies.</p> <p><b>SWC:</b> HNC in Advanced Automotive Diagnostic Techniques</p> | <p><b>SWC and SERC:</b> HND in Automotive Management</p> <p><b>SRC:</b> HND in Advanced Automotive Studies.</p> | <p>There are a number of Engineering pathways available in NI. The following university courses specifically relate to the Automotive sector:</p> <p><b>University of Bedfordshire:</b> Automotive Engineering</p> <p><b>University of Huddersfield:</b> Automotive and Motorsport Engineering</p> <p>There are a number of exciting degree apprenticeships in the UK with companies such as Mercedes Benz.</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"Studying GCSE Motor Vehicle has been a fantastic experience. I've gained real hands-on skills, from learning how to ride the moped safely to learning how engines work through to carrying out financial calculations. The practical lessons make it exciting, and I feel confident using tools and equipment safely. This course has given me a great foundation for a future career in the automotive industry."*

**AJ REA**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-motor-vehicle-and-road-user-studies-2017>

Or scan here:



# LEVEL 2 OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES PATISSERIE AND BAKING

Awarding Body: CEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration   | Weighting of Qualification |
|---|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| <p><b>Food hygiene and personal hygiene standards for food handlers.</b></p> <p>Using equipment safely and considering the health and safety issues in the catering industry. Preparation, cooking and finishing bread, scones, cakes, biscuits and pastry products to reflect industry standards. Recycling, energy conservation and environmental issues in the catering industry. Employment opportunities in the catering industry. Review and evaluation of performance Course is delivered in 4 Sections:</p> <p><b>1: Health &amp; Safety in Catering</b><br/> <b>2: Bread and Scones</b><br/> <b>3: Cakes and Biscuits</b><br/> <b>4: Pastry Products</b></p> | Year 11         | <p>Internal Controlled Assessment<br/>Formal observational assessment by the Teacher of 4 Breads and Scones, 4 Cakes and Biscuits and 4 Pastry Products.</p> <p>Photographic evidence of the learner's work is essential</p> | 50% of Level 2             |
| <p><b>Module to be decide based upon majority pupil voice and aspiration.</b></p>   | Year 12         | Controlled Assessment  | 50% of Level 2             |

### Entry Requirements:

A genuine interest in food, cookery and nutrition. A good work ethic demonstrated in Key Stage 3 alongside attendance. Full adherence to health and safety and food hygiene procedures while engaged in practical cookery. Good written and oral communication skills to help you fulfil all aspects of the course. The ability to complete independent research and further reading around the subject area.

### Career Progression:

This course can lead to careers within the catering/hospitality industry and can lead to courses at post-16 in a relevant subject area

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Level 2 Occupational Studies: Patisserie and Baking

| Level 3   | Level 4   | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p>At Level 3, students can pursue qualifications such as the <b>Advanced Diploma in Baking and Patisserie</b>. This level typically includes modules on advanced baking techniques, pastry making, and cake decoration, preparing students for higher education or entry-level positions in the culinary industry.</p> | <p>Level 4 pathways often involve <b>Higher National Certificates (HNCs)</b> in Baking and Patisserie. These qualifications provide practical skills and theoretical knowledge in areas such as artisan bread making, advanced pastry techniques, and food safety management, bridging the gap between Level 3 qualifications and higher education degrees.</p> | <p>At Level 5, students can pursue <b>Higher National Diplomas (HNDs)</b> or <b>Foundation Degrees</b> in Baking and Patisserie. These qualifications offer more advanced training in areas like patisserie artistry, chocolate work, and bakery management, leading directly to employment or further study at the bachelor's degree level.</p> | <p>At Level 6, students can pursue <b>Bachelor's Degrees</b> in Baking and Patisserie Arts—more commonly offered outside of NI. These programs provide in-depth knowledge and advanced skills in various aspects of baking and patisserie, including advanced pastry techniques, bakery entrepreneurship, and food innovation. They prepare students for professional practice or further academic study at the postgraduate level.</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I chose this course because it's very hands-on and creative, and it allows me to learn practical skills that I can use both in school and in real-life situations. I enjoy developing my baking techniques, learning how to present products to a professional standard, and understanding how to work safely and independently in a kitchen environment.*

*This course has helped build my confidence and has given me a great insight into careers within the food and hospitality industry."*

**DERVLA MCCALLION**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://cea.org.uk/key-stage-4/vocational/subjects/level-1-and-level-2-occupational-studies-2013>

Or scan here:



OS: Patisserie and Baking

# PERFORMANCE SKILLS: LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                            | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration   | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|--|-----------------|---|-------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Working in Performing Arts</b>              | Year 11         | Portfolio of evidence – Internally assessed and externally moderated. September - November                                  | 1/3 of Level 1                |
| <b>Unit 2: Developing Performance Skills</b>           | Year 11         | Portfolio of evidence – Internally assessed and externally moderated. December - February                                   | 1/3 of Level 1                |
| <b>Unit 3: Rehearse and Perform</b>                    | Year 11         | Portfolio of evidence and recorded rehearsal and performance – Internally assessed and externally moderated. February - May | 1/3 of Level 1                |
| <b>Unit 1: Working in the Performing Arts Industry</b> | Year 12         | Portfolio of evidence – Internally assessed and externally moderated. September - November                                  | 1/3 of Level 2                |
| <b>Unit 2: Develop Technique for Performance</b>       | Year 12         | Portfolio of evidence – Internally assessed and externally moderated. December - February                                   | 1/3 of Level 2                |
| <b>Unit 3: Rehearse and Perform</b>                    | Year 12         | Portfolio of evidence and recorded rehearsal and performance – Internally assessed and externally moderated. February - May | 1/3 of Level 2                |

### Entry Requirements:

It is essential for pupils to express an interest in acting, music, theatre, or performance. This might be demonstrated through participation in the school's drama clubs or school musical, or through external drama clubs.

Since the qualification focuses on script work, analysis of research and written evaluation of own and others' work, pupils must be able to demonstrate skills in reading and writing, achieving a Grade C/Level 4 in Key Stage 3 English.

Attendance and participation: We would expect students to have a good record of attendance and be able to demonstrate a willingness to work as a group, observed by staff in Key Stage 3 Drama lessons.

### Career Progression:

Studying Level 2 Performance skills provides a foundational understanding of the performing arts industry, which can be incredibly beneficial in various career paths. Here are some areas where a Level 2 in Performance Skills is particularly useful or even required:

**Actor/Performer (Amateur):** Begin performing in local theatre or amateur productions.

**Supporting Roles:** Work as a supporting cast member in theatre or background roles in TV/film.

**Theatre Technician (Entry-Level):** Assist in stage lighting, sound, or set design for school or community performances.

**Stage Crew Member:** Help backstage in managing props, costumes, or set changes.

### Progression:

Complete additional QCF modules in specific areas like acting, directing, or technical skills.

Gain practical experience through community theatre, school productions, or internships.

These careers benefit from the skills developed through studying a Level 2 Certificate in Performance Skills.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

We currently do not have a Level 3 Study, however, this is something we would aim to bring in for pupils in 2027, after the completion of this course. Performing Arts can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths. .

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Drama and Performing Arts

| Level 3  | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <p><b>SERC, SRC and NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts</p> <p><b>SERC:</b> BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma in Performing Arts Practice (Dance)</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Performing Arts Practice</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Creative &amp; Performing Arts</p> <p><b>SRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma Performing &amp; Production Arts</p> | <p><b>SERC:</b> HNC in Performing Arts</p> <p><b>NWRC:</b> HNC in Performing Arts (Acting Pathway)</p> | <p><b>SERC:</b> HND in Performing Arts</p> <p><b>NRC and NWRC:</b> HND in Performing Arts (Acting Pathway)</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Foundation Degree in Screen Acting and Producing.</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Drama</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BA (Hons) Drama with Music</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> BA (Hons) Drama BA</p> |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I love Drama because it helps me to express myself and because the classroom is safe, with a good atmosphere, I feel like I can really be myself. Everyone in Drama is very accepting and that helps me to feel like I belong to a good group of people."*

**KATE MCLAUGHLIN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/vocational/subjects/level-2-performance-skills-2010>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

Northern Ireland's creative industries (which include film, TV, drama and performing arts) have seen:  
· 27.4% GVA growth between 2019 and 2022- nearly double the overall NI economy's growth (13.9%).  
There is projected long term growth. (The Creative Industries, 2024)

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION: GCSE

Awarding Body: WJEC EDUQAS

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in                 | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification         |
|---|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Component 1: Introduction to physical education</b></p> <p>Learners will be assessed through a range of short and extended questions. The questions will be based on stimuli/sources</p>  | Linear qualification<br>Year 12 | Written examination:<br>2 hours | 60% of GCSE/Level 2<br>25% of GCSE |
| <p><b>Component 2: The active participant in physical education</b></p> <p>Learners will be assessed in three different activities in the role of performer in at least one individual and one team sport. Learners will be further assessed through a written analysis and evaluation of their personal performance in one of their chosen activities.</p> | Linear qualification<br>Year 12 | Non-exam assessment             | 40% of qualification               |

### Entry Requirements:

Pupils must be participating in one sport competitively and enjoy Physical Education. This specification builds on subject content which is typically taught at Key Stage 3 and provides a suitable foundation for the study of Physical Education at GCSE PE. In addition, the specification provides a coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study for learners who do not progress to further study in this subject.

### Career Progression:

#### Career Opportunities include:

**Sports Coaching and Development:** Working with athletes to improve their performance, from grassroots to elite levels.

**Teaching:** Becoming a PE teacher in schools, colleges, or universities.

**Fitness Industry:** Roles such as personal trainers, fitness instructors, or gym managers.

**Sports Therapy and Rehabilitation:** Helping injured athletes recover and return to their sport.

**Sports Management and Administration:** Managing sports teams, facilities, or events.

**Sports Journalism and Media:** Reporting on sports events, writing for sports publications, or working in sports broadcasting.

**Outdoor Education and Adventure:** Leading outdoor activities and adventure sports.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

A grade 'B' or above in GCSE PE is required for A-Level PE. GCSE PE also provides foundational knowledge for BTEC Sport. GCSE PE can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a student's any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for GCSE Physical Education

| Level 3   | Level 4   | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level PE.</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Gym Instructing – level 2 Certificate (Active IQ), followed by Level 3.</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> BTEC Level 3 in Sports</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HNC Sport and Exercise Science</p> | <p><b>Stamillis University:</b> Foundation Degree in Sport</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Sports Science Coaching and Fitness</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Foundation Degree in Sports, Coaching and Fitness.</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND: Sport and Exercise Science</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BCs in Outdoor</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sports Studies</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sport and Exercise Nutrition</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sport and Exercise</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sport, Physical Activity and</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sports Coaching (Part-time)</p> <p><b>St. Mary's University College:</b> BEd Primary with PE</p> <p><b>St. Mary's University College:</b> BA Liberal Arts with PE</p> |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"Choosing GCSE Physical Education was an easy decision for me because it offers an unparalleled opportunity to combine my passion for sports with a deeper understanding of health and fitness. Through this course, I am able to explore the science behind physical activity, learn essential life skills like teamwork and leadership, and prepare myself for a future where I can inspire others to lead active and healthy lives."*

**ORAN GLACKIN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/ukinjoyx/eduqas-gcse-physical-education-spec-from-2016-e-02-10-20.pdf>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

Recent sports-related job postings point to clear areas of demand. For example high-Performance Sport & Sport System Development. Roles such as Performance Sport Developer (Sport NI) show continuing investment in performance pathways, data analysis, and coaching infrastructure.

# PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYABILITY SKILLS: LEVEL 2

Awarding Body: King's Trust

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration | Weighting of Qualification  |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|---|
| <p><b>This course gives learners the opportunity to:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Develop their own personal growth and engagement in, and through, learning,</li> <li>- Engage in learning that is relevant to them and supports their development of personal skills and attributes that are essential for working life and employment,</li> <li>- Develop their English and mathematics skills.</li> </ul> <p><b>Optional Units include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Career Planning</li> <li>Customer Service</li> <li>Digital Skills</li> <li>Interpersonal and Self-Management</li> <li>Managing Money</li> <li>Participating in Exercise</li> <li>Personal Project</li> <li>Practicing Leadership Skills</li> <li>Preparing for a Healthy Lifestyle</li> <li>Presentation Skills</li> <li>Teamwork Skills</li> <li>Work Experience</li> </ul> | Year 11 and 12  | Coursework                     | Each module is worth up to 6 credits. Learners must complete 6 optional units to achieve a total of 21 credits. |

### Entry Requirements:

An interest in skill development for the Workplace. This qualification is suited to pupils planning on leaving school after Year 12.

### Career Progression:

The King'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, apprenticeships and/or employment.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Whilst there is no directly related level 3 qualification, this qualification can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.



## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"Choosing a Prince's Trust qualification has empowered me to unlock my potential and build a brighter future. It offers me a unique blend of practical skills and personal development, equipping me with the confidence and capabilities to thrive in any career path I choose."*

**JODIE MUNCEY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://www.kingstrust.org.uk/about-us/qualifications/personal-development-and-employability-skills-2021>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

Kings Trust assists with the development of soft skills. Soft Skills are highlighted as increasingly essential in Northern Ireland's labour-market forecasts, with employers placing strong value on communication, teamwork, adaptability, and problem-solving. As the NI Skills Barometer shows, growth sectors such as professional services, ICT, and health rely heavily on interpersonal and collaborative abilities alongside technical knowledge.

# PREPARATION FOR ADULT LIFE: LEVEL 2 CERTIFICATE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration | Weighting of Qualification |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <p><b>There are 13 modules to cover.</b> Students will be familiar of many of the concepts from Key Stage 3 Learning for Life and Work.</p> <p>This course is 100% coursework and pupils will have time to discuss, debate and evaluate important issues that will impact their lives. This course is ideal for a pupil who can focus on producing high quality pieces of work in class.</p> <p><b>Modules include:</b></p> <p><b>Unit 1: Diversity and Social Inclusion</b><br/> <b>Unit 2: Democracy and Participation</b><br/> <b>Unit 3: Human Rights</b><br/> <b>Unit 4: Social Justice</b><br/> <b>Unit 5: Preparation for Work</b><br/> <b>Unit 6: Business in the Community</b><br/> <b>Unit 7: Effective Work Practice</b><br/> <b>Unit 8: Globalisation</b><br/> <b>Unit 9: Self Development</b><br/> <b>Unit 11: Healthy Relationships</b></p> | Year 11 and 12  | Coursework                     | 100% Coursework            |

### Entry Requirements:

This course is ideal for a pupil who can focus on producing high quality pieces of coursework in class and have an interest in KS3 Learning for Life and Work.

### Career Progression:

The CCEA GCSE "Preparation for Adult Life" qualification equips pupils with essential skills and knowledge that are valuable in various aspects of life. With this qualification, students can enhance their understanding of personal development, social responsibility, and career planning. This foundation allows

them to approach adulthood with greater confidence, making informed decisions about their personal and professional futures. Additionally, the skills acquired can be applied to further education opportunities, vocational training, or entry-level employment, where critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication are highly valued. Overall, this qualification serves as a vital stepping stone in navigating the complexities of adult life.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Not specifically but can be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.



## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I decided to study CCEA Level 2 in Preparation for Adult Life at Key Stage 4 because I want to learn the skills that will help me succeed in the future. This course will teach me how to manage my money, understand my rights and responsibilities, and make informed decisions. I believe that by preparing now, I can take control of my life and make the best choices for myself as I grow up."*

**ELLA MCERLAIN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/vocational/subjects/level-2-preparation-adult-life-2013>

Or scan here:



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description  | Year Studied in     | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification  |
|--|---------------------|---|---|
| <p><b>Y11: Unit 4</b><br/><b>Christianity through a study of the Gospel of Mark</b></p> <p><b>Y12: Unit 5</b><br/><b>An Introduction to Christian Ethics</b></p> | Year 11 and Year 12 | <p>Two written papers: (1 hour 30 minutes each)</p> <p><b>Year 11:</b> Paper 1 – Christianity through a study of the Gospel of Mark -</p> <p><b>Year 12:</b> Paper 2 – An Introduction to Christian Ethics -</p> <p>There is no Coursework in this subject.</p> <p>There is one tier of assessment in the examination papers. The full range of GCSE grades A*-G is available on the single tier.</p> | <p>50%</p> <p>Examined at the end of Year 11</p> <p>50%</p> <p>Examined at the end of Year 12</p> |

### Entry Requirements:

Compulsory for all students.

- problem-solving skills
- leadership skills
- understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences

### Career Progression:

Pupils studying GCSE Religious Studies will develop the following transferable skills which are relevant for a range of careers:

- 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

Possible Career Options include Law, education, social work, politics, medicine, nursing, charity fundraising, community development, communication and marketing, administration, journalism, or media.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Yes, pupils must achieve a Grade B in Religious Studies and English Language for entry to A-Level RE. GCSE RE can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths. .

## Sample Progressive Pathways for GCSE Religious Studies

| Level 3                                      | Level 4   | Level 5   | Level 6   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level Religious Studies</p> | <p>GCSE RE could help with any course that requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>analytical and strategic thinking</li> <li>research skills</li> <li>critical judgment</li> <li>the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas</li> <li>an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict</li> <li>problem-solving skills</li> <li>leadership skills</li> <li>understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences</li> </ul> | <p>GCSE RE could help with any course that requires:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>analytical and strategic thinking</li> <li>research skills</li> <li>critical judgment</li> <li>the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas</li> <li>an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict</li> <li>problem-solving skills</li> <li>leadership skills</li> <li>understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences</li> </ul> | <p><b>St. Mary's University College:</b> BEd Primary Religious Studies</p> <p><b>St. Mary's University College:</b> BEd Post Primary Religious Studies</p> <p><b>St. Mary's University College:</b> BA Liberal Arts in Religious Studies</p> <p><b>Stranmillis:</b> BEd Post Primary in Religious Studies</p> <p><b>Stranmillis:</b> BEd Primary Teaching</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"GCSE religious studies is an engaging and interesting subject which helps the development of important skills including communication, critical thinking, understanding of other perspectives, as well as empathy and respect for different worldviews. I have enjoyed learning about many different topics throughout the two year course, ranging from the life and legacy of Jesus: his miracles, his teachings, his death and resurrection, to the sanctity of life and how different beliefs on real topics can shape the world around us. GCSE Religious Studies is a fantastic asset to have!"*

**CLODAGH MOLLOY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-religious-studies-2017>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

The NI Skills Barometer highlights the growing importance of transversal skills- such as problem-solving, teamwork, and interpersonal understanding, across expanding sectors including professional services, health, ICT and community-focused roles. These soft skills, often strengthened through Religious Studies, are essential for engaging respectfully with different perspectives.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES: LEVEL 2 OCN

Awarding Body: OCN

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in                               | Assessment Method<br>and Duration   | Weighting of<br>Qualification                                   |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p><b>OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Religious Studies</b></p> <p>Units studied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addiction</li> <li>Charity and religious charities</li> <li>Exploring personal identity and faith</li> <li>Exploring religious traditions within your own community</li> <li>Life and death issues</li> <li>Life of a famous person of faith</li> <li>Marriage and divorce</li> <li>Prejudice and reconciliation</li> <li>World faith</li> </ul> | <p>Year 11 Unit 5 and<br/>Year 12 Unit 6.</p> | <p>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 their units to achieve their overall grade in OCN Religious Studies.</p> | <p>Equivalent of a<br/>Grade C<br/>at GCSE<br/>(15 Credits)</p> |

### Entry Requirements:

Pupils who are completing a vocational pathway at Level 2 will study OCN Religious Studies. This course is most suitable for pupils who finds examinations challenging and prefer course-work based learning.

- Provides entry into Further Education Colleges
- Pupils who have followed this pathway have pursued careers in childcare, youth work, care work, apprenticeships and trades.

### Career Progression:

Pupils will develop investigative skills in this subject as they learn how to research and make decisions. Studying OCN Religious Studies provides a foundational understanding of moral and ethical issues. Here are some areas where OCN Religious Studies are particularly useful:

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Pupils need to study GCSE RE to study A-Level RE, however OCN RE is accepted to gain entry into as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths..

## Sample Progressive Pathways for OCN Religious Studies

### Here are some areas where OCN Religious Studies are particularly useful:

- Provides entry into Further Education Colleges
- Pupils who have followed this pathway have pursued careers in childcare, youth work, care work, apprenticeships and trades.



## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I enjoy OCN Religion because it gives me an opportunity to complete my work in different formats such as through art, computer based tasks, research and group work with my class. The topics we study are really interesting such as comparing different Christian traditions, addiction and researching modern examples of people of faith. Studying OCN Religion enables me to achieve a GCSE equivalent qualification through completing portfolio based tasks rather than completing an exam."*

**ALEXIS BELL**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-religious-studies>

Or scan here:



### Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

The NI Skills Barometer highlights the growing importance of transversal skills- such as problem-solving, teamwork, and interpersonal understanding, across expanding sectors including professional services, health, ICT and community-focused roles. These soft skills, often strengthened through Religious Studies, are essential for engaging respectfully with different perspectives.

# SCIENCE- TRIPLE AWARD: GCSE A: BIOLOGY

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                                      | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification |
|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity</b>          | Year 11         | External written examination<br>1 hour 15 mins  | 35 % of GCSE/Level 2       |
| <b>Unit 2: Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health</b> | Year 12         | External written examination<br>1 hour 30 mins  | 40 % of GCSE/Level 2       |
| <b>Unit 3: Practical skills</b>                                  | Year 11-12      | Booklet A: Students carry out two externally marked pre-release practicals in the final year of study. 2 hours<br>Booklet B: External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing, and calculations, all set in a practical context 1 hour | 17.5 % of GCSE/Level 2     |

### Entry Requirements:

To study GCSE Biology it is pivotal that students have already established a solid foundation in their understanding of biological processes e.g. Photosynthesis, Respiration & Enzyme action from KS3. An enthusiasm and willingness to progress their understanding of biological concepts is also an important prerequisite for studying GCSE Biology. This course would be most appropriate for students who aspire to enter careers linked to science related subjects.

### Career Progression:

Studying GCSE Biology provides a foundational understanding of core biological principles such as Photosynthesis, Immune Response, functions of the Circulatory, Respiratory and Excretory systems. Additionally, students will develop their data interpretation and handling skills using a range of scientific apparatus. Establishing a strong basis in these concepts and skills are crucial for a range of career pathways.

Listed are some areas where GCSE Biology is particularly useful:

**Healthcare Careers:** Understanding human biology is essential for roles in medicine, dentistry, nursing, and other allied health professions.

**Environmental Science:** An insight into conservation, ecology and biodiversity.

**Biotechnology:** Development of skills in biological processes and laboratory techniques are crucial for this role.

**Education:** A prerequisite for those aspiring to teach Biology at advanced levels.

**Research:** Careers in scientific research require a strong foundation in across biological principles to work within academia, government or private sector labs.

**Pharmaceutical Industry:** Essential for roles in drug development, regulatory affairs, and quality control within this sector.

These careers benefit from the analytical, research, and data interpretation skills developed through studying GCSE Biology.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Grade B overall in GCSE Biology is required to study A-level Biology.

Grade C\* in GCSE Biology is required to study BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science (equivalent to 2 A-levels). GCSE Biology can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

Double Award Science can also be accepted for A-level/Level 3 study. See page 78.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Biology

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>SPC:</b> A-Level Biology<br><b>SPC:</b> BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science<br><b>NWRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Applied Science (Biomedical Science) | <b>Belfast Met:</b> HNC Applied Biology<br><b>Belfast Met:</b> HNC Healthcare Practice | <b>NRC:</b> HND Animal Management HND<br><b>NWRC:</b> HND Applied and Medical Science<br><b>Belfast Met:</b> Foundation Degree in Biological Sciences | <b>QUB:</b> BSc Biological Sciences<br><b>QUB:</b> BSc Medicine<br><b>QUB and UU:</b> BSc Pharmacy<br><b>UCD:</b> MVB Veterinary Science |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



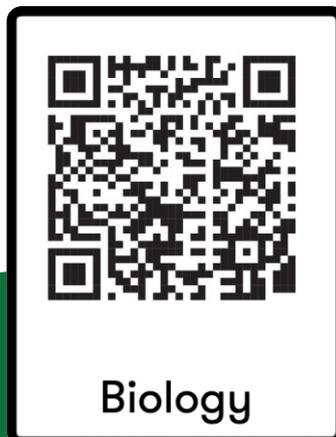
*"I believe Triple Award Biology is an excellent GCSE choice because it provides more time to develop a deeper understanding of the subject. The smaller class size allows for stronger connections with classmates and creates a supportive learning environment. I genuinely enjoy attending science lessons as the close-knit group makes learning engaging and enjoyable. I aspire to pursue a career in science, and Triple Award Biology offers the ideal preparation for A Level studies."*

**ROSE BRADY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-biology-2017>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

According to a major economic analysis:

- The life-sciences sector supports 18,000 full-time jobs in NI.
- Employment has grown by 12% since 2015, with pharmaceutical jobs up 6%.
- The sector generates over £1.1 billion GVA annually.

# SCIENCE- TRIPLE AWARD: GCSE B: CHEMISTRY

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description  | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification        |
|--|-----------------|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis</b>           | Year 11         | External written examination. Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations.<br>Foundation Tier: 1 hour Higher Tier: 1 hour 15 mins   | 35% of GCSE                       |
| <b>Unit 2: Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry</b> | Year 12         | External written examination<br>Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations. Foundation Tier: 1 hour 15 mins<br>Higher Tier: 1 hour 30 mins   | 40% of GCSE                       |
| <b>Unit 3: Practical skills</b>  | Year 11-12      | Booklet A: Externally marked Students carry out two pre-release practical tasks in the final year of study.<br>Foundation and Higher Tiers: 2 hours<br><br>Booklet B External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that require short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context.<br>Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour | 7.5% of GCSE<br><br>17.5% of GCSE |

### Entry Requirements:

To study GCSE Chemistry, it is pivotal that students have already established a solid foundation in their understanding of Chemistry in Year 10. An enthusiasm and willingness to progress their understanding of chemistry is also an important prerequisite for studying GCSE. This course would be most appropriate for students who aspire to enter careers linked to science related subjects.

### Career Progression:

The specification provides a thorough preparation for the study of chemistry and related courses at GCE Advanced Subsidiary level and Advanced level.

It allows you to develop transferable skills that will benefit you in vocational training and employment, for example in the following areas:

**Energy and The Environment:** Chemistry is helping us to cope with increasing pressures on energy, food, water and other natural resources.

**Human Health:** Chemistry is helping to improve and maintain human health through the development of new and improved pharmaceutical drugs and drug delivery systems.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Grade B overall in GCSE Chemistry is required to study A-level Chemistry.

Grade C\* in GCSE Chemistry is required to study BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science (equivalent to 2 A-levels). GCSE Chemistry can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Chemistry

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level Chemistry</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> BTEC Level 3 National Diploma in Applied Science</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Applied Science (Biomedical Science)</p> | <p><b>SERC:</b> HNC in Applied Sciences (Chemistry)</p> <p><b>SERC:</b> OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Chemistry for the Pharmaceutical and Life Science Industries</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> HND Chemistry/Applied Chemistry</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Foundation Degree in Chemical Sciences</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND in Forensic Science</p> | <p><b>QUB:</b> BSc Chemistry<br/>BSc Chemical Engineering<br/>BSc Biochemistry<br/>BSc Medicinal Chemistry<br/>BSc Pharmaceutical Biotechnology<br/>BSc Pharmaceutical Science<br/>Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Biomedical Science<br/>BSc Applied Biomedical Science<br/>Pharmacy</p> <p><b>UCD:</b> Veterinary Medicine</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I chose Chemistry because I enjoy the challenge it brings and the sense of achievement when I finally understand a difficult topic. I like how it makes me think carefully and solve problems step by step, rather than just memorising facts. Chemistry also helps me understand how things work in the real world, from materials we use everyday, to reactions inside our body. I also chose Chemistry as I know it can open the door to lots of exciting careers in the future, such as medicine, engineering, pharmacy, and many different types of environmental jobs."*

**BRIANNA DONAGHY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-chemistry-2017>

Or scan here:



### Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

The NI Skills Barometer (2023–2033) identifies life-sciences, advanced manufacturing, and health-and-science-related sectors as major growth areas, all of which require chemistry knowledge.

# SCIENCE- TRIPLE AWARD: GCSE C: PHYSICS

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description  | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification                         |
|--|-----------------|---|--|
| <b>Unit 1: Motion, Force, Density and Kinetic Theory, Energy, and Atomic and Nuclear Physics</b> | Year 11         | External written examination. There are two tiers of entry:<br>Foundation Tier: 1 hour 15 mins<br>Higher Tier: 1 hour 30 mins<br><br>Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.   | 37.5% of GCSE/Level 2                              |
| <b>Unit 2: Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism and Space Physics</b>          | Year 12         | External written examination. There are two tiers of entry:<br>Foundation Tier: 1 hour 15 mins<br>Higher Tier: 1 hour 30 mins<br><br>Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations.   | 7.5% of GCSE/Level 2                               |
| <b>Unit 3: Practical skills</b>  | Year 11-12      | Booklet A: Practical skills assessment Externally marked<br>Students carry out two pre-release practical tasks in the final year of study. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 2 hours<br><br>Booklet B: External written examination Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context. Foundation Tier: 1 hour.<br>Higher Tier: 1 hour 15 mins<br><br><b>Students must take both Booklet A and Booklet B at the same tier.</b> | 17.5% of GCSE/Level 2<br><br>17.5% of GCSE/Level 2 |

### Entry Requirements:

To study GCSE Triple Award Physics, it's essential for students on average to have ranked in the top 40 across the year group in Year 10.

- A-Level Physics, Chemistry, Biology
- BTEC Applied Science
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Engineering
- Actuary

### Career Progression:

Studying GCSE Physics enables learners to appreciate the value of physics in their lives and in the wider world around them, develop their knowledge and understanding of physics, develop their understanding of the effects of physics on society, develop an understanding of the importance of scale in physics and develop, apply their knowledge and understanding of the nature of physics and of the scientific process.

Here are some areas where GCSE Science is particularly useful or even required:

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Grade B overall in GCSE Physics is required to study A-level Physics.

Grade C\* in GCSE Physics is required to study BTEC National Diploma in Applied Science (equivalent to 2 A-levels). GCSE Physics can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Physics

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <b>PC:</b> A-Level Physics.<br><b>SPC:</b> Level 3 National Diploma in BTEC Science<br><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 Applied Science<br><b>Belfast Met:</b> Level 3 Apprenticeship in Software Development | <b>NRC:</b><br>HNC Engineering<br><b>Belfast Met:</b><br>HNC Engineering | <b>Belfast Met:</b> HND in Forensic Science<br><b>Belfast Met:</b><br>Foundation Degree in Mechanical Engineering<br><b>NRC:</b> HND Engineering<br><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND Engineering | <b>QUB:</b> BSc in Physics<br>BSc Applied Mathematics and Physics.<br>Physics is a preferred subject along with A-Level Maths for a range of Engineering degrees across both QUB and UU. |

\*Along with A-Level Maths, a range of Apprenticeships, Higher Apprenticeships and Degree of apprenticeships are available across all Regional Colleges with a range of employers.

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I love Triple Award Science because it makes learning feel exciting and personal. Being in a smaller class means the teacher has more time for each of us, so you can ask questions, get extra help, and really understand the work instead of just rushing through it. You also get to explore Biology, Chemistry and Physics in more depth which is perfect if you're curious about how the world works. And the best part? You only have to choose two other subjects instead of three so you can focus more on what you enjoy and feel far less stressed. If you love science and want to get the most out of it, Triple Award is a good choice for you."*

**BRIANNA DONAGHY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ceea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-physics-2017>

Or scan here:



## **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

A 2024 foresight study outlines major investments through the City & Growth Deals (CGDs), enhancing NI's capabilities in:

· Diagnostics · MedTech · Advanced manufacturing · Scientific R&D

These investments create opportunities for physics graduates in engineering design, measurement science, optics, materials development, and emerging tech fields.

# SCIENCE- DOUBLE AWARD: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description  | Year Studied in           | Assessment Method and Duration   | Weighting of Qualification                       |
|--|---------------------------|--|--|
| <b>Biology Unit B1:</b> Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity   | Year 11                   | External written examination. Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour   | 11%  |
| <b>Chemistry Unit C1:</b> Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis                      | Year 11                   |  | 11%  |
| <b>Physics Unit P1:</b> Motion, Force, Moments, Energy, Density, Kinetic Theory, Radioactivity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion | Year 11                   |  | 11%  |
| <b>Biology Unit B2:</b> Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health  | Year 12                   | External written examination. Students answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 15 mins   | 14%  |
| <b>Chemistry Unit C2:</b> Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry            | Year 12                   |  | 14%  |
| <b>Physics Unit P2:</b> Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism and Space Physics                           | Year 12                   |  | 14%  |
| <b>Unit 7:</b> Practical Skills This comprises Unit 7 Biology, Unit 7 Chemistry and Unit 7 Physics                         | Throughout Year 11 and 12 | Booklet A Externally marked. Students carry out three practicals (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) in the final year of study. There are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers: 3 hours<br><br>Booklet 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 are two tiers of entry. Foundation and Higher Tiers total time: 1 hour 30 mins (Biology 30 mins, Chemistry 30 mins and Physics 30 mins) | 25%<br><br>Part A is 7.5%<br><br>Part B is 17.5% |

### Entry Requirements:

The specification builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding developed through the Northern Ireland Curriculum for science at Key Stage 3. Before studying this specification, we expect students to have a level of skills in science, numeracy, literacy and communication that is commensurate with having studied science to Key Stage 3.

### Career Progression:

Science is a highly valued subject that nurtures the development of transferable skills essential for the workplace. Science provides a foundation for many science-related and unrelated careers such as: doctor, vet, physiotherapist, chemist, beautician, plumber, nurse, architect, surveyor, engineer, farmer, sports trainer, lawyer, journalist, computer games developer, marine biologist, and electrician, to name but a few.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

To study an A-Level in Chemistry, Biology or Physics, the following is required: A grade 'A' in both written papers in the subjects you want to study at A/s/A2 and a minimum of grade 'A' in Maths and a grade 'B' in English GCSE.

Double Award Science can also be used as 2 GCSE's to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for GCSE Double Award Science

| Level 3  | Level 4  | Level 5   | Level 6   |
|--|--|---|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A Level Physics, Chemistry and Biology, BTEC National diploma in Applied Science</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Applied Science (Biomedical Science) - Level 3 Extended Diploma</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> HNC in Applied Sciences (Chemistry)</p> <p><b>SRC:</b> OCN NI Level 4 Certificate in Chemistry for the Pharmaceutical and Life Science Industries</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> HND in Applied Sciences (Chemistry)</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND in Forensic Science</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Biomedical Science, BSc Nursing, BSc Paramedic science, BSc Applied Biomedical Science with DPP (pathology), BSc Marine Science, BSc Environmental science and many more</p> <p><b>QUB:</b> Pharmaceutical Science, Medicine, Biological science, Chemistry, Engineering, Nursing, Dentistry.</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I chose Double Award as I wanted to keep my options open. It allowed me to choose another subject at GCSE and still get a good foundation if I wanted to study any science after my GCSEs. I really enjoy the practical side of Double Award and carrying out lab work. It has helped me develop my confidence and scientific understanding."*

**DARRAGH KEALEY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-science-double-award-2017>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

Northern Ireland is projected to face an annual shortfall of 5,400 workers across the economy, with particular pressure in STEM fields. Science graduates- who bring analytical, research, and problem-solving abilities, are key to filling these shortages, especially in health, technology, and environment-related roles.

# SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description   | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration  | Weighting of Qualification |
|---|-----------------|---|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Biology</b><br>Cells, Food & Diet, Chromosomes & Genes, Co-ordination & Control, Reproductive Systems, Variation & Adaption, Disease & Body Defences, Ecological Relations   | Year 11         | External Exam 1 hr  | 25% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 2: Chemistry</b><br>Acids Bases & Salts, Elements Compounds & Mixtures, Atomic Structure & Periodic Table, Bonding, Materials, Symbols Formulae & Equations, Qualitative Analysis, Metals & Reactivity Series, Rates of Reaction, Organic Chemistry | Year 11 & 12    | External Exam 1 hr  | 25% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 3: Physics</b><br>Electrical Circuits, Household Electricity, Energy, Electricity Generation, Heat Transfer, Waves, Road Transport, Radioactivity, Earth in Space   | Year 12         | External Exam 1 hr  | 25% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 4: Practical Skills</b><br>Planning an Investigation, Carrying out an Experiment, Analysing Experimental Data & Drawing Conclusions from Experiment   | Year 12         | Part A: External Exam<br>Practical Skills Assessment. 2 hrs<br><br>Part B: External Exam<br>Foundation 1 hr. Higher = 1 ¼ hrs | 7.5%<br><br>17.5%          |

### Entry Requirements:

**Essential:** An interest in Science and a good performance at KS3 Science- on average grade 'C' or above in assessments throughout the year.

### Career Progression:

Can lead on to further studies of any area and many Science based subjects.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

GCSE Science can be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Single Award Science

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|--|--|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> BTEC Applied Science<br/>A-level Health &amp; Social Care</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b><br/>Social &amp; Community Work</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b><br/>Early Childhood Studies</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b><br/>Foundation Degree in Physical Education &amp; Sport</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b><br/>HND in Forensic Science</p> | <p><b>QUB:</b><br/>BSc Nursing<br/>BSc Midwifery<br/>BSc Biochemistry<br/>BSc Biomedical Science</p> <p><b>UU:</b><br/>BSc Nursing<br/>BSc Veterinary Nursing<br/>BSc Paramedic Science<br/>BSc Sport &amp; Exercise Science<br/>BSc Social Work</p> <p><b>St Mary's UC:</b> BEd Teaching</p> <p><b>Stranmillis UC:</b> BEd Teaching<br/>BA Early Childhood Studies</p> |

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"If you have trouble with some aspects of science or find it will be too difficult to carry out the three parts in one go in both year 11 and 12, the Single award science is the right option. You will have roughly 6 months to go through each part and don't have to 3 exams at the end of each year, giving your head peace and time to revise for your other exams. It is far less stressful and gives you good time to focus on each part Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Although if you want to do a science at A-level you must study Double Award or triple award."*

**MICHAEL MORAN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-science-single-award-2017>

Or scan here:



## Labour Market Information *Did you Know?*

The Life & Health Sciences (LHS) sector in Northern Ireland is described as "flourishing".

This sector relies heavily on applied science roles, including:

- Laboratory technicians
- Process operators
- Quality-control technicians
- Pharmaceutical production staff
- Diagnostic laboratory assistants

# SCIENCE (APPLIED): OCN LEVEL 2

Awarding Body: OCN NI

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description             | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Life processes and living things        | Year 11         | Portfolio of evidence (7 months)  | 35%                           |
| Materials and their chemical properties | Year 11/12      | Portfolio of evidence (7 months)  | 30%                           |
| Physical processes                      | Year 12         | Portfolio of evidence (7 months)  | 35%                           |

### Entry Requirements:

Pupils should have a foundational understanding of how to develop scientific knowledge and conceptual understanding through the specific disciplines of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. They have an understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science that help them to answer scientific questions about the world around them and are equipped with the scientific knowledge required to understand the uses and implications of science, today and for the future. They have a good level of practical skills developed through completion of a range of experiments.

### Career Progression:

These qualifications will enable learners to progress to further qualifications in applied science at a higher level or to study particular aspects of science in greater depth. They also provide learners with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that would support progression to employment within the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) sector.

BTEC Nationals in the regional colleges could be studied in

- Applied Psychology
- Applied Human Biology
- Forensic and Criminal Investigation

OCN Applied Science courses are designed to build key scientific skills and incorporate practical work to help you engage and develop students' knowledge in each scientific subject area - be that Biology, Chemistry or Physics or a combination of all three.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Not accepted to study A Level Science subjects but OCN Science can be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for OCN Science:

**NRC:** Animal Care Traineeship and some other Level 3 Science courses at the regional colleges.

# Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I really enjoy the course as I can work towards a qualification without the pressure of exams. The practical's are interesting and I am able to work in groups with my friends. I can study all the different topics from Biology, Chemistry and Physics. I can work on computers and develop my IT skills."*

**KATY BRADLEY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-applied-science>

Or scan here:



## **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

The Life & Health Sciences (LHS) sector in Northern Ireland is described as "flourishing".

This sector relies heavily on applied science roles, including:

- Laboratory technicians · Process operators · Quality-control technicians
- Pharmaceutical production staff · Diagnostic laboratory assistants

# SPANISH: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration   | Weighting of Qualification |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Listening</b>    | Year 11 + 12    | External examination (end of Year 12)<br>Foundation 35 mins, Higher 45 mins.     | 25%                        |
| <b>Unit 2: Speaking</b>     | Year 11 + 12    | 1 oral examination (April of Yr 12)  | 25%                        |
| <b>Unit 3: Reading</b>      | Year 11 + 12    | External examination (end of Year 12)<br>Foundation 50 mins, Higher 60 mins.     | 25%                        |
| <b>Unit 4: Writing</b>      | Year 11 + 12    | External examination (end of Year 12)<br>Foundation 60 mins, Higher 1hr 15 mins. | 25%                        |

### Entry Requirements:

At least an average of a B grade overall in Year 10 track assessments.

### Career Progression:

- Specialist language occupations - interpreting, translation and language teaching
- Law, Missionary Work

- Industries which need people with language skills: Hair and Beauty, Business, Administration and Finance, ICT, Travel and Tourism, Environmental and Land-based, Construction, Hospitality and Catering, Medicine, Engineering, Creative & Media, Manufacturing.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

To study A-Level Spanish a grade 'B' or above is required in GCSE Spanish. GCSE Spanish can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Spanish

| Level 3                     | Level 4    | Level 5   | Level 6  |
|-----------------------------|------------|---|--|
| <b>SPC:</b> A-Level Spanish | <b>N/a</b> | <p><b>Open University:</b><br/>Diploma of Higher Education in Language studies / Arts and Humanities / Business Management and Spanish / History and Spanish / Law and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Open University:</b><br/>Certificate of Higher Education in Language studies / Arts and Humanities / Business Management and Spanish / History and Spanish / Law and Spanish.</p> | <p><b>Open University:</b><br/>BA Hons Language Studies with English and Spanish / Business Management and Spanish / Arts and Humanities (Spanish) / History and Spanish / Law and Spanish</p> <p><b>QUB:</b><br/>BSc Accounting with Spanish<br/>BA Anthropology with Spanish<br/>BA Archaeology with Spanish<br/>BSc Economics with Spanish<br/>BA English and Spanish<br/>BA French and Spanish<br/>BA History and Spanish<br/>BSc International business with Spanish<br/>BA International relations and Spanish<br/>BA Irish and Spanish<br/>LLB Law with Spanish<br/>BSc Maths with Spanish<br/>BSc Physics with Spanish<br/>BA Politics with Spanish<br/>BA Spanish<br/>BA Spanish and Portuguese</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I enjoy Spanish as you learn all about their culture, traditions and food. If you're lucky you might even get the chance to try them for yourself. Don't think twice, do GCSE Spanish and explore a whole world of adventure"*

**EMMA MILLIGAN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-spanish-2017>

Or scan here:



### **Labour Market Information** *Did you Know?*

NI's labour-market forecasts emphasise rising demand for transferable skills such as communication, customer service, and cultural awareness, skills that language learners, especially Spanish students, naturally develop.

# SPORT: OCN LEVEL 2

**Awarding Body: OCN**

**Course Outline:** The course modules will be subject to teacher specialism and pupil aspiration.

| Module/<br>Unit Description         | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration | Weighting of Qualification |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| E.g. Applied Fitness Testing        | Year 11         | Coursework                     | 25%                        |
| E.g. Sports Coaching                | Year 11         | Coursework                     | 25%                        |
| E.g. Anatomy and Physiology         | Year 12         | Coursework                     | 25%                        |
| E.g. Developing Exercise Programmes | Year 12         | Coursework                     | 25%                        |

## Entry Requirements:

Open entry.

- prepare for entry into employment in the sports and active leisure industries
- progress to further/higher education

## Career Progression:

The OCN NI Level 2 qualification in Sport has been designed to provide an introduction to skills and knowledge required for working within the sports and active leisure sectors.

Learners will have the opportunity to:

- develop skills and knowledge applicable across a range of sports and active leisure activities

## Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Depending on modules studied, it could provide entry into BTEC Single Award Sport. OCN Sport can be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for GCSE Physical Education

| Level 3   | Level 4   | Level 5  | Level 6   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level PE.</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Gym Instructing – level 2 Certificate (Active IQ), followed by Level 3.</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> BTEC Level 3 in Sports</p> | <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HNC Sport and Exercise Science</p> | <p><b>Stanmillis University:</b> Foundation Degree in Sport</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Foundation Degree in Sports Science Coaching and Fitness</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> Foundation Degree in Sports, Coaching and Fitness.</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND: Sport and Exercise Science</p> | <p><b>UU:</b> BSc in Outdoor Adventure.</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sports Studies</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sport and Exercise Nutrition</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sport and Exercise</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sport, Physical Activity and</p> <p><b>UU:</b> BSc Sports Coaching (Part-time)</p> <p><b>St. Mary's University College:</b> BEd Primary with PE</p> <p><b>St. Mary's University College:</b> BA Liberal Arts with PE</p> |

## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*"I chose OCN Sport because I'm really interested in sports and training, especially boxing. I like that the course is more coursework-based instead of being all about exams, because it suits the way I work. It just sounded really interesting to me and something I knew I'd enjoy doing."*

**CHARLIE HEANEY**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://www.ocnni.org.uk/qualifications/ocn-ni-level-2-certificate-in-sport>

Or scan here:



# TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN: GCSE

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description                       | Year Studied in | Assessment Method and Duration   | Weighting of Qualification |
|---|-----------------|--|----------------------------|
| <b>Unit 1: Technology and Design Core Content</b> | Year 11         | External Written Examination: 1 hour 30mins<br>Students answer 10 questions from a core area of study                    | 25% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 2: Optional area of study</b>             | Year 11/12      | External Written Examination: 1 hour 30 mins<br>Option A. Electronic and Microelectronic Control Systems                 | 25% of GCSE                |
| <b>Unit 3: Design and Manufacturing Project</b>   | Year 12         | Controlled Assessment<br>Students complete a design project comprising a design folio and associated manufacturing task. | 50% of GCSE                |

### Entry Requirements:

To study GCSE Technology and Design, it is essential for students to have not only a foundational understanding of electronic concepts but also a genuine interest design and manufacture of products. Ideally, students should have demonstrated a strong academic performance in Year 10 Technology and Design, showcasing their capability to analyse and develop existing products and develop practical solutions to needs, whilst using their imagination to communicate design ideas and decisions. Pupils must also be able to combine a wide range of skills with knowledge and understanding in order to make quality products. Students should be aware that the focus selected for the specialist option will be electronics.

### Career Progression:

Studying GCSE Technology and Design offers pupils opportunities to develop transferable skills, which will benefit them in vocational training and employment. It introduces pupils to the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries. As a STEM subject Technology and Design is beneficial in gaining entry to courses from a wide range of backgrounds.

Here are some areas where GCSE Technology and Design is particularly useful or even required:

Engineering  
Architecture  
Manufacturing Engineer  
Product Designer  
Design Engineer  
Structural engineer  
Technology and Design Teacher  
Quantity Surveyor  
Industrial Designer  
Dental Technologist  
Aerospace Engineer

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

At least a grade 'B' in GCSE Technology and Design is required to study A-Level Technology and Design. Technology and Design can also be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a students any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths..

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Technology & Design

| Level 3   | Level 4  | Level 5  | Level 6  |
|---|--|--|--|
| <p><b>SPC:</b> A-Level Technology and Design</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> BTEC Level 3 in Construction</p> <p><b>SPC:</b> BTEC Level 3 in Engineering</p> <p>Apprenticeships with a range of employers and providers.</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> Construction Engineering with Surveying - Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA)</p> <p>Modern Methods of Construction - Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA)</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HNC in Construction Management</p> <p>Higher Apprenticeship with a range of employers and providers.</p> | <p><b>NRC:</b> Architectural Technology - Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA)</p> <p><b>NRC:</b> Advanced Manufacturing Engineering - Higher Level Apprenticeship (HLA)</p> <p><b>Belfast Met:</b> HND in Construction Management</p> <p>Higher Apprenticeship with a range of employers and providers</p> | <p>Usually along with other specific subjects, Technology and Design can assist with entry into:</p> <p><b>UU and QUB:</b> Mechanical Engineering<br/><b>UU and QUB:</b> Civil Engineering<br/><b>QUB:</b> Chemical Engineering<br/><b>QUB:</b> Computer Engineering<br/><b>QUB:</b> Electrical and Electronic Engineering<br/><b>UU:</b> Mechatronic Engineering<br/><b>UU:</b> Aerospace Engineering<br/><b>UU:</b> Building Surveying<br/><b>UU:</b> Construction Engineering and Management<br/><b>UU:</b> Biomedical Engineering<br/><b>UU:</b> Electronic Engineering<br/><b>UU:</b> Engineering management<br/><b>UU:</b> Mechanical Engineering<br/><b>UU:</b> Technology and Design</p> <p>Degree apprenticeships with a range of employers, usually through Ulster University.</p> |

## Meet one of our Past Pupils



*“Studying Technology opens many doors for GCSE students, you learn about topics such as electronics, manufacturing, and computer control. You also cover these topics practically in a way that helps you understand the theory at a deeper level. Technology classes are very interesting and fun. Technology and Design opens doors for A-level and University as well, due to it being a STEM subject. In T+D I am currently designing a project that covers all areas studied in the theory, designing a circuit and then manufacturing a case for my circuit. A lot of this is done on a computer, there are also some designs drawn freehand. So far I have completed drawing my circuit adding in all the parts and programming it to do things. My project is a device that shows the face of a football pitch with five LEDS which individually light up to show you where to shoot you have a certain amount to time to score as many points as possible within the time limit and then a buzzer will go off. Each project is individual to each classmate, so the project inspires creativity and gives you a chance to come up with something incredible.”*

**CAYDEN McCORRISTON**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-technology-and-design-2017>

Or scan here:



# TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION: LEVEL 1/2 OCCUPATIONAL STUDIES

Awarding Body: CCEA

## Course Outline

| Module/<br>Unit Description | Year Studied in | Assessment Method<br>and Duration | Weighting of<br>Qualification |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Bench Joinery               | Year 11         | Controlled Assessment             | 50% of Course                 |
| Carpentry and Joinery       | Year 12         | Controlled Assessment             | 50% of Course                 |

### Entry Requirements:

Students should have an interest in manufacturing products using wood, to a high standard. Students require a degree of fine motor skills so they can adequately manipulate the tools effectively and in a safe manner. Pupils should be able to demonstrate through previous experience in a workshop they are able to observe the health and safety rules of the workshop.

### Career Progression:

The world of work is constantly changing. It is increasingly unlikely that a single occupation will take employees from the beginning to the end of their working lives, so transferability and adaptability are important skills. This specification is structured with this in mind giving learners the opportunity to learn for work, through work and about work, with real outcomes that will give them skills for life.

Occupational Studies provides a hands-on approach to learning. What makes it different is its focus on particular kinds of knowledge, understanding and skills, providing the potential for learning in important 'out-of-school' contexts.

The subject is particularly suited to pupils who have a desire to follow apprenticeship pathways at post 16 level.

### Required for A-Level or Level 3 study in St. Patrick's College?

Not specifically but can be used to gain entry to Sixth Form as part of a student's any 5 A\*-C including English and Maths.

## Sample Progressive Pathways for Occupational Studies

### Level 3

**NRC:** Carpentry and Joinery (Bench) - Apprenticeship Level 3  
Carpentry and Joinery (Site) - Apprenticeship Level 3  
Plumbing - Apprenticeship Level 3  
Brickwork - Apprenticeship Level 3



## Meet one of our Key Stage 4 Pupils



*“Completing Occupational Studies in Bench Joinery and Carpentry & Joinery has been a great experience. I’ve learned how to work with wood using professional tools and techniques, and I enjoy creating pieces that are both practical and well-made. The hands-on projects have helped me build confidence and attention to detail, and I feel proud of the skills I’ve developed for future work in the construction and joinery industry.”*

**JAMES MCCANN**

You can read more about the subject here:

<https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/vocational/subjects/level-1-and-level-2-occupational-studies-2013>

Or scan here:



# CHOOSING YOUR SUBJECTS FOR GCSE

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

## 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.

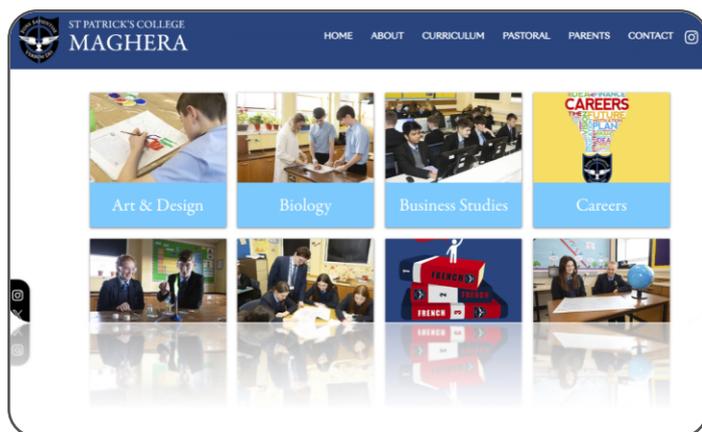
### 2. Subjects you are good at.

For many college or university courses or careers, no set subjects are specified. You will only require a certain number of subjects at GCSE 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 93, 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.**



## Choosing to study a BTEC qualification alongside GCSEs

BTEC Level 2 qualifications are acceptable to most, but not all, UK universities courses and will be considered within an applicant's academic profile. 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                                     |

## Choosing to study an OCN or Occupational Studies qualification alongside GCSEs

GCSEs are academic qualifications that cover a broad range of subjects, including core subjects like Mathematics, English, and Science. Whereas OCN and Occupational Studies qualifications are more vocational and skills-based, designed to provide practical skills and knowledge for specific industries or career paths. OCN and Occupational Studies are assessed using a variety of methods including coursework, practical assessment and portfolio work. Unlike GCSEs there will be **no external exams** with these qualifications.

Some courses require GCSE qualifications for entry and **do not** accept OCN or Occupational Studies qualifications.

It's important to check the specific entry requirements for each course to ensure you meet the necessary criteria.

| Qualification                | Grade                        | Equivalent to at GCSE: |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|
| OCN Level 2                  | Pass                         | C                      |
| Occupational Studies Level 2 | Distinction/<br>Distinction* | A/A*                   |
|                              | Merit                        | B                      |
|                              | Pass                         | C                      |
| Occupational Studies Level 1 | Distinction                  | D                      |
|                              | Merit                        | E                      |
|                              | Pass                         | F/G                    |

## 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. You should note this if you are considering courses in the ROI.

## Career Paths and Subject Combinations

It is important to also consider what you would like to do after A Levels, as some subject are required for entry to certain career paths. So if you already have an idea what you would like to 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.

Additionally when selecting your GCSE subject choices, be aware that whilst many degrees do not require specific subjects, some 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 courses in future years. Be careful as some courses like Business Management and Accountancy require you to have a B in Mathematics. Some 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 presented over the next few pages is a good starting point.

Any queries please speak to member of the Careers Department.

## 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<br>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. (Minimum of 6A*s)<br>QUB  |
| Agriculture          | 3A' Levels in relevant subjects.<br>(Preferably Biology/Chemistry)                         | GCSE Maths and DA Science<br>QUB/CAFRE   |
| Architecture         | AAA/BBC<br>GCSE: Eng Language and Maths  | Portfolio required if GCSE Art has not been studied.<br>Check website for more information.  |
| Art and Design       | 3'Levels including Art (UU)  | Foundation year in Art and Design.   |
| Biochemistry         | ABB Chemistry and another<br>Science; Biology preferred. QUB                               | GCSE Maths and DA Science.   |
| Biology              | 3 A'Levels including Biology.  | Another science preferred.<br>GCSE Maths, English and DAS.   |
| Biomedical Science   | 3A'Levels and 2 science subjects.<br>AAB/AAB QUB/BBB UU                                    | Biology and Chemistry preferred.   |
| Building Surveying   | BBC to include Grade B in<br>specified subjects: UU  | Maths and Science subjects preferred   |
| Business Studies     | 3A'Levels  | Business Studies<br>GCSE Grade B Mathematics .   |
| Chemical Engineering | AAB/BBB to include Maths,<br>Chemistry, and a Science. (QUB)                               | GCSE Maths and DA Science  |
| Chemistry            | 3A'Levels to include Chemistry<br>and a second science.                                    | GCSE Maths and DA Science  |
| Civil Engineering    | AAB/BBB (Maths and one other<br>from preferred list QUB and UU)                            | Useful Subjects: Science A'Levels, ICT, Digital Technology,<br>Geography, Software Systems Development.<br>GCSE Maths, English and DA Science. Check website for<br>further clarification. |
| Computer Science     | 3A'Levels at UU<br>BBB at QUB from preferred list.   | GCSE Maths and DA Science.<br>Useful Subject examples: Mathematics/ Computing/<br>Software Systems Development/ Chemistry/ Digital<br>Technology/ Physics/ Technology.                     |
| Dentistry            | AAA and A grade at AS Level to<br>include Chemistry, biology and<br>one of Physics, Maths. | UCAT Aptitude Test and Interview<br>Excellent GCSE Profile required of As and A*s. Check the<br>QUB admissions policy for full details. (7+A*s)  |

| Career/Course          | Requirements  | Other Comments   |
|------------------------|---|--|
| Dietetics              | BBB to include two science subjects from specified list at UU.  | Chemistry preferred<br>Subjects: Science A'Levels and Maths.<br>GCSE: English, Maths and DA Science<br>Entrance Test or Interview will be required (TBC)                                   |
| Drama                  | CCC at UU<br>BBB at QUB   | No subject requirements but must show an interest in practical performance.<br>A'Level Drama or similar useful. Interview/auditions required.  |
| Economics              | 3A'Levels   | A'Level Maths/Business Studies useful.<br>GCSE Maths at high grades required.  |
| Electronic Engineering | AAB to include Maths and one from Science/ Technology at QUB<br>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.<br>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<br>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.<br>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<br>AAA/BBB depending on university and course.  | High GCSE profile required.<br>Some universities require and aptitude test so research this in advance.<br>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<br>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.<br>Chemistry plus one other from Maths, Biology and Physics. Biology to be studied to at least A-Level. | UCAT exam and MMI extremely important.<br>Excellent GCSE profile of A's and A*s required.<br>Work experience important.<br>Check university websites for further information and guidance. |

| Career/Course               | Requirements  | Other Comments   |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 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   | Entrance test - MSAT. No specific requirement of subjects. GCSE Maths, English and DA Science useful.  |
| 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.  |
| Paramedic Science           | A level Grades BBC or equivalent  | Personal statement and Interview very important  |
| 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.   | Entrance test - MSAT. DA Applied Science may also be accepted but check module requirements.   |
| Podiatry                    | BBB to include a B from Maths, Physics, Chemistry and Biology.  | Entrance test - MSAT. 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, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering or Construction.  | ABB if including one of these preferred subjects and AAA if offering none of these subjects at UU.   |
| Radiography                 | BBB to include B in one of the following: Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, DA Applied Science. BB or better needed in DA Science at GCSE or in Triple Award, C in Physics module and C in either Biology or Chemistry. . | Entrance test – MSAT. DA Applied Science may also be accepted but check module requirements.   |
| Social Work                 | ABB/BBB   | Interview Important. Work experience/Voluntary work very important.  |
| Speech and Language Therapy | BBB   | Entrance test - MSAT. 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. |

| Career/Course                             | Requirements  | Other Comments  |
|---|---|---|
| Veterinary Nursing                        | New to Ulster Degree BCC<br>Essential subject requirement: Biology or DA Life and Health Sciences.  | Pass an interactive component; this is an interview with staff with questions based on the professional attributes of a veterinary nurse.<br>Complete 37 hours relevant work experience with small animals in a veterinary practice or other relevant facility such as an animal charity, kennels, or cattery. This may include voluntary work and evidence will be required. |
| Veterinary Science                        | UK and UCD.<br>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.<br>Check each university for individual requirements.<br>Veterinary experience essential for application.<br>Aptitude test required for some universities.  |
| Youth Work: Community<br>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<br>GCSE: Chemistry, DA Science and Maths  |

### Abbreviations

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Belfast Met | Belfast Metropolitan College                |
| CAFRE       | College of Agriculture and Rural Enterprise |
| NRC         | Northern Regional College                   |
| NWRC        | North West Regional College                 |
| OCN         | Open College Network                        |
| SERC        | South Eastern Regional College              |
| SMUCB       | St. Mary's University College, Belfast      |
| SWC         | South Western College                       |
| TTS         | Transport Training Services                 |
| QUB         | Queen's University Belfast                  |
| UCC         | University College, Cork                    |
| UU          | Ulster University                           |



# QUALIFICATION LADDER

*Providing a line of sight to work*

| Level                                       | Qualification   |     | Equivalent Qualifications   | Vocational Qualifications<br>of same Equivalency | Apprenticeship Route   |
|---|---|-----|---|--|--|
| Level 8                                     | Doctorate (PhD)   |     |   |  |  |
| Level 7<br>(Usually 1 Year Full-time)       | Masters Degree<br>(E.g MSc, MA, MEng)                   |     |   |  | Masters Degree Apprenticeship<br>(E.g. Level 7 Apprenticeship in Civil Engineering)        |
| Level 6<br>(Usually 3 or 4 Years Full-time) | Bachelor Degree   |     | Foundation Degree<br>E.g Foundation Degree in Cyber Security  | HND  | Degree Apprenticeship<br>(E.g. Degree Apprenticeship in Quantity Surveying)                |
| Level 5<br>(Usually 1 Year Full-time)       |   |     |   | HNC  | Higher Apprenticeship<br>(E.g. Foundation Degree Apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering) |
| Level 4<br>(Usually 1 Year Full-time)       |   |     |   |  |  |
| Level 3<br>(Usually 2 Years Full-time)      | A-Level   | A2  | BTEC L3 National Diploma (2 A-Level equivalency)<br>BTEC L3 National Certificate: (1 A-Level equivalency) | OCN Level 3                                      | Apprenticeship<br>(E.g. Level 3 in Electrical Installation)                                |
|   |   | A/S |   |  |  |
| Level 2<br>(Usually 2 Years Full-time)      | GCSE<br>(Grades A*-C)                                   |     | BTEC L2 Diploma:<br>(2 GCSE equivalency)<br>BTEC L2 Certificate:<br>(1 GCSE equivalency)                  | OCN Level 2<br>Essential Skills Level 2          | Apprenticeship<br>(E.g. Level 2 in Carpentry and Joinery)                                  |
| Level 1<br>(Usually 2 Years Full-time)      | GCSE<br>(Grades D*-G)                                   |     | BTEC L1 Diploma:<br>(2 GCSE equivalency)<br>BTEC L1 Certificate:<br>(1 GCSE equivalency)                  | OCN Level 1<br>Essential Skills Level 1          | Traineeship (E.g. Level 1 traineeship in Catering)   |
| Entry Level                                 | A range of subjects available at Entry Level 1, 2 and 3 |     |   |  |  |



*Key Stage 4*  
**PROSPECTUS**

**2025-2026**

ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAGHERA