



**GROBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
*Achieving Excellence Together*

# **COURSE DESCRIPTION BOOKLET**

**2014 ⇒ 2016**

**For all new YEAR 10 students  
starting in August 2014**

[www.grobycoll.com](http://www.grobycoll.com)

**Updated June 2014**

[www.grobycoll.com](http://www.grobycoll.com)

This booklet contains a listing of all course descriptions.

## SUBJECTS SUMMARY

<b>CORE SUBJECTS</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Exam</b>
English Language	GCSE
English Literature	GCSE
Maths	GCSE
Science in year 10	GCSE
Science in year 11	GCSE
Life Skills	No qualification
Religious Studies	Half a GCSE
PE	No qualification

## **ADDITIONAL OPTION SUBJECTS**

**Students study THREE chosen subjects from the list below:**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Exam</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Exam</b>
Art	GCSE	History	GCSE
Business	GCSE	ICT	OCR National
Computer Science	GCSE	Media Studies	GCSE
Drama	GCSE	Music	GCSE
Food Technology	GCSE	Performing Arts	GCSE
Food & Hospitality	BTEC	PE	GCSE
French	GCSE	Resistant Materials	GCSE
Geography	GCSE	Spanish	GCSE
German	GCSE	Sport	BTEC
Graphics	GCSE	Textiles	GCSE
Health & Social Care	BTEC	Triple Science	3 GCSEs

# ART (FINE ART) GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course content

#### Unit 1:

- Portfolio of work covering a number of individual projects

#### Unit 2:

- Externally set task

### Assessment

#### Internally

- Students are monitored regularly through one-to-one during lesson times.
- Verbal and written feedback, which is documented in relation to the assessment criteria.

**Interim assessments** - Students evaluate their own and others' work. Checklists are allocated in order to monitor progress/weekly homework.

#### External

- Assessment is through the portfolio of work (60%) and an externally set task (40%) in year 11.

### Advice to parents

Students are encouraged to invest in an A3 plastic folder for carrying their work home safely. A set of paints and pencils for home use will support the quality of homework tasks carried out alongside their class studies. Art materials / equipment may be ordered and purchased from the Art department.

Thank you, Art and Design Faculty



# BUSINESS & COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

The course consists of 6 topic areas:

- ICT in the business environment
- communication
- human resources
- work place organisation
- the business environment
- computer applications

## Main skills developed

ICT skills including:

- research, organisation, analysis and evaluation skills
- spreadsheets, charts and presentation skills
- word processing
- web authoring
- team work
- graphics
- databases

## Assessment

The 6 topic areas will be covered across the 2 years.

The qualification consists of a:

- written exam paper worth 40% which is sat at the end of year 11
- controlled assessment is worth 25% carried out during year 11
- practical exam paper is worth 35% which is sat at the end of year 11



## Advice to parents

Students will need to have a keen interest in ICT and in the world of business. They will need to keep up-to-date with current business news. Students will require a USB which can be purchased from the college shop. Some homework tasks will require the use of a computer either at home or using the college facilities.

# COMPUTER SCIENCE GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

The course consists of 3 mandatory units:

Unit A451: Computer systems and programming (40% weighting)

Unit A452: Practical investigation (30% weighting)

Unit A453: Programming Project (30% weighting)



## Assessment

- Unit A451 is externally assessed through a 90 minute written exam.
- Unit A452 is assessed through an OCR set scenario where students carry out an investigative task.
- Unit A453 is assessed through a controlled assessment set by OCR; this will involve students carrying out a programming task where they will be required to find the solution to a problem.

## Advice to parents

Students will need to have a keen interest in ICT. Students will require a memory stick which can be purchased from the college shop. Some homework tasks will require the use of a computer either at home or using the college facilities.

Thank you, LBI Faculty



# DRAMA GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course content

Project 1 - Stimulus  
Project 2 - Set text  
Performance - devised / scripted  
Explorative strategies - e.g. hot seating  
Drama medium - e.g. lights  
Elements of drama - e.g. action, plot

### Main skills developed

Performance skills  
Devising pieces  
Organisational skills  
Teamwork and communication  
Leadership  
Negotiation and evaluation skills  
Theatre skills

### Assessment

**Internally**

- Unit 1 coursework 30%
- Unit 2 coursework 30%

Two different projects lasting 6 weeks will be completed comprising of practical work and written coursework. These take place in the first term of year 11.

**External**

- Unit 3 Performance 40% (scripted/devised or performance support)
- The Performance takes place in April/May of year 11

### Advice to parents

Students will need to have an enthusiasm in drama, be imaginative, creative and focussed. They need to work well with others and be willing to perform in front of an audience. To support this course the college regularly hosts performances. The Youth Theatre also provides valuable support.

Thank you, Expressive Arts Faculty



# ENGLISH LANGUAGE GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course content

All students complete two GCSEs: 'English Language' and 'English Literature'.

#### Unit 1 English Today:

- one reading task where two pieces of media are compared; one writing task
- internally assessed in Controlled Conditions in the classroom
- worth 20% of the final GCSE - completed in the Autumn term of year 10 and submitted at the end of year 11 to meet linear assessment rules

#### Unit 2 The Writer's Voice:

- one question focusing on the writer's language in a set text and one writing question
- assessed in year 11 by a 1hr 45min examination (Higher and Foundation tiers available)
- worth 60% of the final GCSE

#### Unit 3 Spoken Language:

- one reading based task comparing two transcripts; one written task based on speech
- internally assessed in Controlled Conditions in the classroom
- worth 20% of the final GCSE
- written work completed in the Spring term of year 10 and submitted at the end of year 11 to meet linear assessment rules.

There are also a variety of speaking and listening tasks completed throughout years 10 and 11. These tasks are no longer included in the GCSE grade, but are acknowledged on the exams certificate.

### Qualities needed for success in the course

To do well you need to be able to listen carefully to instructions and always work to the best of your ability. An interest in all types of reading, being curious about how language works and a creative, flexible approach to learning will give you the best opportunities to do well.

### Advice to parents

Reading newspapers, magazines, novels or blogs and websites would be a big contribution, together with lots of conversation about world events and topical issues. The skills of argument and persuasion are very important ones for students to have developed by year 11, so watching and discussing news programmes would be beneficial. Help with staying on track with homework tasks would also be really appreciated.



Thank you, Faculty of English, Film and Media

# ENGLISH LITERATURE GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

All students complete two GCSEs: 'English Language' and 'English Literature'.

### Unit 1 Understanding Prose:

- one section on Literary heritage
- one section on a novel from a different culture
- assessed in year 11 by a 1hr 45min examination (Higher and Foundation tiers available)
- worth 50% of the final GCSE

### Unit 2 Understanding Poetry:

- one question on an 'unseen' poem selected by the Board
- one question from the anthology we study in class
- assessed in year 11 by a 1hr and 45min examination (Higher and Foundation tiers available)
- worth 25% of the final GCSE

### Unit 3 Shakespeare and Contemporary Drama:

- one Shakespeare task and one based on contemporary drama
- internally assessed in Controlled Conditions in the classroom
- worth 25% of the final GCSE - completed later in the Spring term of year 10 and submitted at the end of the course to meet linear assessment rules.

## Qualities needed for success in the course

To do well you need to be able to listen carefully to instructions and always work to the best of your ability. An interest in reading different types of texts (novels, plays and poetry) and being curious about different cultures and experiences, as well as a creative, flexible approach to learning will give you the best opportunities to do well.

## Advice to parents

All learners benefit from wider reading, so access to books is really important. This could be via e-readers and audio CDs as well as the more traditional routes. Encouragement to read different forms and genres is helpful: novels, short stories, plays and poetry as well as literary non-fiction. Help with staying on track with homework tasks would be really appreciated.

Thank you, Faculty of English, Film and Media





# FOOD TECHNOLOGY GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

**Year 10** (The controlled assessment project is started during the Summer term in year 10)

- Concentration on the development of practical skills, methods and processes.
- Developing and understanding of the functional properties of ingredients.
- To understand the nutritional properties of food.
- To understand the wider consideration of food design related to social, cultural, environmental, and economic issues.
- To understand the relationship of hygiene and safety considerations when using food.

Students will work through small projects that link theory to practical skills. You will be expected to bring in ingredients for practical activities on a regular basis. Homework is set regularly to support class learning and to carry out additional research into the topics covered. The controlled assessment project is started during the Summer term in year 10.

**Year 11**

- Students will concentrate on the controlled assessment project and then on the preparation for the Summer theory exam.

## Assessment

- Ongoing assessments including key research for homework.
- Full written tests during year 10 and 11, including a mock GCSE exam.
- Controlled assessment project marked internally and externally moderated.
- Written public exam at the end of year 11 for the full ability range A\* - G.



## Advice to parents

Students will need to have a genuine interest in food and start to develop competent practical skills. Students need to be prepared to work hard both in college and at home. Commitment to sourcing and bringing in ingredients for practical activities. Students need to research and develop the scientific understanding of ingredients and use a computer to present their work. Students are expected to bring in their ingredients for every practical lesson.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION - PLEASE READ**

#### **HEALTH AND SAFETY IN ART AND DESIGN LESSONS**

We take health and safety very seriously at Groby Community College and undertake detailed risk assessments for all our activities and try to minimise the risk of accident and injury within the classroom and workshop.

It is crucial that your child listens carefully, and is sensible and follows classroom rules to avoid distraction.

As a department, we reserve the right to withdraw your child from practical work if he/she knowingly behaves in a way that endangers their own safety or that of others.

Make sure your child is prepared for each lesson with a full set of equipment and coloured pens.

Make sure your child is prepared for food lessons with the correct ingredients.

**Please help us to minimise risk by taking the following precautions at home:**

- Ensure your child does not have to carry large glass bowls for Food Technology lessons unless they are needed for a specific lesson such as lasagne or apple crumble, as these can easily break and cause an accident.
- Inform us of any allergies, such as food or chemicals.
- Make sure all high risk foods are refrigerated as soon as you receive them.
- Do not allow art, textile or resistant material products to be put near fire.
- Products made in art, design and technology may have small components with sharp edges and should not be handled by small children.

**Thank you in anticipation of your support and if you have any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Art and Design Faculty.**



# FOOD & HOSPITALITY BTEC

## Level 2 First Award in Hospitality

Exam Board: Edexcel

YEAR 10 & 11

### Course content

#### Units of study will be:

- Unit 1 - Introducing the Hospitality Industry
- Unit 2 - Working in the Hospitality Industry
- Unit 3 - Food Safety and Health and Safety in Hospitality
- Unit 6 - Planning, Preparing, Cooking and Finishing Food



You will be expected to bring in ingredients for practical activities on a regular basis. Homework is set regularly to support class learning, to carry out additional research into the topics covered and to present the evidence of your work effectively in your folder.

### Assessment

Work assessed by completing the necessary assignment units and achieving credits to gain the BTEC qualification.

BTEC level 2 First Award = 1 GCSE. Within the grading system you can be awarded a Pass, Merit and Distinction depending on your meeting the required points criteria. When students consistently achieve distinction over the 2 years they can achieve Distinction\*. 25% of work is externally assessed (Unit 1).

### Advice to parents

Students will be expected to work to strict deadlines in order to complete the necessary units of work. They will build up a comprehensive folder of evidence of their work. Students are expected to bring in their ingredients for every practical lesson.

# FRENCH GCSE

Exam Board: WJEC

YEAR 10 & 11

<b>Course overview</b>	Listening; 20%	Controlled Assessment Speaking; 30%
	Reading; 20%	Controlled Assessment Writing; 30%



### Course breakdown

There are 4 themes to be covered over the 2 years, dealing with different situations:

- Personal and social life** - Self, family, friends, home life, shopping, meals, healthy living, illness and accident, free time, fashion, relationships and future plans.
- Local community** - Home town, school, education, local environment, pollution, recycling, local facilities, comparisons with other towns and regions, weather and seasons.
- The world of work** - Work experience, part-time jobs, future careers, technology (sending messages, accessing information)
- The wider world** - Travel and holidays, media, social issues (e.g. life of young people today, homelessness, crime, drugs, healthy living, religion, politics) life in the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

### Assessment

**Internal:** Controlled Assessment Speaking 30%; 2 speaking assessments (presentation and discussion & structured conversation) to take place over the 2 years on different themes.

**Internal:** Controlled Assessment Writing 30%; students to complete 2 writing tasks over the 2 years.

**External:** At the end of year 11; Reading 20% & Listening 20%

There are 2 levels of entry for reading and listening; Foundation C - G & Higher A\* - D.

### Advice to parents

Students are encouraged to invest in a bilingual dictionary and to buy some of the Modern Language guides that are all reasonably priced, to support them in their studies.

Thank you, LBI Faculty

# GEOGRAPHY GCSE

Exam Board: AQA (Geography Spec B)

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

### Unit 1 Managing places in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century:

- the urban environment
- the coastal environment

### Unit 2 Hostile World and Investigating the Shrinking World:

- Section A - living with natural hazards (wildfires, tropical storms, earthquakes and volcanoes) and the challenge of extreme environments
- Section B - investigating the globalisation of industry and investigating global tourism

### Unit 3 Local Investigation including Fieldwork and Geographical Issue Investigation:

- task one; local investigation including fieldwork
- task two; geographical issue investigation



## Assessment

**Unit 1 and unit 2** are each assessed by a 1 hour 30 minute examination at the end of year 11. Unit 1 will require students to answer all questions and Unit 2 will require students to answer one question from section A and one question from section B. The exams are tiered into Higher and Foundation.

**Unit 3** is made up of Local Investigation including Fieldwork, which equals 15% of the full GCSE and a Geographical Investigation, equal to 10%. Investigations will be written up in controlled conditions but research will be carried out first. After each section of each unit has been taught, students will be given an end of unit test to help them practice. There will also be a mock exam at the end of year 10 and in year 11.

## Advice to parents

Students will need to have an interest in the world around them, environment, maps, photographs, ICT, drawing and sketching, fieldwork. Reading a newspaper and watching the news will help to keep students informed of current geographical events.

Thank you, Humanities Faculty

# GERMAN GCSE

Exam Board: WJEC

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course overview

Listening; 20%      Controlled Assessment Speaking; 30%  
Reading; 20%      Controlled Assessment Writing; 30%



## Course breakdown

There are 4 themes to be covered over the 2 years, dealing with different situations:

**Personal and social life** - Self, family, friends, home life, shopping, meals, healthy living, illness and accident, free time, fashion, relationships and future plans.

**Local community** - Home town, school, education, local environment, pollution, recycling, local facilities, comparisons with other towns and regions, weather and seasons.

**The world of work** - Work experience, part-time jobs, future careers, technology (sending messages, accessing information)

**The wider world** - Travel and holidays, media, social issues (e.g. life of young people today, homelessness, crime, drugs, healthy living, religion, politics) life in the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

## Assessment

**Internal:** Controlled Assessment Speaking 30%; 2 speaking assessments (presentation and discussion & structured conversation) to take place over the 2 years on different themes.

**Internal:** Controlled Assessment Writing 30%; students to complete 2 writing tasks over the 2 years.

**External:** At the end of year 11; Reading 20% & Listening 20%

There are 2 levels of entry for reading and listening; Foundation C - G & Higher A\* - D.

## Advice to parents

Students are encouraged to invest in a bilingual dictionary and to buy some of the Modern Language guides that are all reasonably priced, to support them in their studies.

Thank you, LBI Faculty

# GRAPHIC DESIGN GCSE

Exam Board: WJEC

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course content

Adobe Photoshop  
Corporate identity  
Animation  
Packaging  
Industrial manufacture  
CAD/CAM

### Main skills developed

Research and analysing  
Developing specifications  
Generating and developing ideas  
Planning and making  
Graphical communication and use of ICT  
Evaluating  
Awareness of industrial production and environmental issues

In year 10 students will be allocated to one of six country themed groups and will undertake both individual and group tasks that will enable them to produce an extensive and varied body of work for a design portfolio. The majority of these mini projects will include work based on existing graphic designers, image manipulation using Photoshop. During these projects students will learn how to manipulate images and develop their presentation skills.

### Assessment

#### Internal:

Each project will be marked and detailed feedback sheets given to aid improvement. This extensive body of work will be then reviewed, selected and presented effectively by the student with staff support for a formal assessment. The portfolio accounts for 60% of the final GCSE grade

#### External

The externally set task is 40% of the GCSE grade. This will be based on a theme set by the exam board. Students will be given time for research & preparation which will culminate in a 10 hour session under exam conditions.

### Coursework requirements

- Year 10/11 - candidate portfolio (mini projects) personally selected and internally assessed
- Year 11 - externally set task (40% of the final GCSE grade)

### Advice to parents

Students are encouraged to buy A3 folders for their work so that they can transport homework to and from college. A 2Gb or above USB memory stick would also be very useful.

Students will need to use 10 hours of homework time in order to successfully complete the external set task. Staff and work space in college will be available at the end of the school day to support students with aspects of their work. Students are encouraged to buy a presentation folder for their portfolio of work.

Thank you, Art and Design Faculty



# HEALTH and SOCIAL CARE BTEC

## Level 2 Extended Certificate

(equivalent to 1 GCSE)

Exam Board: Edexcel

### YEAR 10 & 11

#### Course content

##### Core Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development

In this unit you will explore human growth and development across life stages and investigate factors that affect human growth and development and how they are interrelated. This is externally assessed by an hour long exam in year 10.

##### Core Unit 2: Health and Social Care Values

In this unit you will explore the care values that underpin current practice in health and social care and investigate ways of empowering individuals who use health and social care services. This unit is assessed by a coursework portfolio.

##### Optional Specialist Unit 3: Effective Communication in Health & Social Care

In this unit you will investigate different forms of communication, investigate barriers to communication in health and social care and examine how to communicate effectively in health and social care. This unit is assessed by a coursework portfolio.

##### Optional Specialist Unit 6: The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing

In this unit you will explore the nutritional needs of individuals at different stages of their lives. You will also learn more about the specific diets that some individuals need, for example individuals with allergies or other particular dietary needs. This unit is assessed by a coursework portfolio.

#### Assessment

Three of the four units are assessed by a coursework portfolio or project. This means that you have to be well organised to meet the deadlines set by your teacher. One unit will be examined through external assessment. This will be one hour long and be in the June of year 10.

The course is graded as equivalent to GCSE, please see below:

Grade	Equivalent GCSE Grades
Pass	C
Merit	B
Distinction	A
Distinction*	A*

#### Advice to parents

You do not need any prior knowledge of Health and Social Care but you do need to be very interested in studying it or even thinking of a career in Health and Social Care. The course does involve a lot of work and you should be able to work independently. Students will ideally have a good sense of humour, good work ethic and a determination to achieve the best grades that they can.

Thank you, Humanities Faculty





# HISTORY GCSE

Exam Board: OCR

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

**Unit 1:** Aspects of International Relations (The Interwar Years, 1919-1939) with Depth Study (causes and events of World War I)

**Unit 2:** British Depth Study (Britain 1919-1975)

**Unit 3:** Historical Enquiry (The Civil Rights Movement in the USA, 1945-75)



## Assessment

Assessment is 75% exam, with two exam papers on units 1 and 2.

Unit 3 is assessed through controlled conditions coursework.

Coursework is a taught course where you are taught about the broad topic, with an emphasis on source work. You will then be required to select relevant knowledge and sources in order to answer a question set by the exam board. This will be done in the first part of year 11.

## Advice to parents

All homework set throughout the course will need to be completed. A number of internal module tests take place to assess learning and a mock exam will be set at the end of year 10. Students will need to prepare for these examinations independently, although there will be revision sessions available to students at lunchtimes / afterschool closer to the exam. Students will also be required to meet coursework deadlines. You will be advised of the dates for these.

Thank you, Humanities Faculty

# ICT

## OCR Level 2 Cambridge National Certificate

(Equivalent to 1 GCSE) Exam Board: OCR

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

Two mandatory units:

**Unit 1 Understanding computer systems**

**Unit 2 Using ICT to create business solutions**

**Two optional units** (decided by the teacher) from:

Handling data using spreadsheets

Handling data using databases

Creating an interactive product using multimedia component

Creating digital image

Creating dynamic products using sound and vision

Introduction to computer programming

Exploring computer hardware and networks

Developing control systems

Understanding technology – a project approach



## Assessment

Unit one is assessed through a one hour written exam. Unit 2 and all optional units are centre-assessed and externally moderated by OCR. The full award and units from this qualification are graded as Pass, Merit or Distinction and Distinction\*. These grades are equivalent to C, B, A and A\* at GCSE.

## Advice to parents

Students will need to have a keen interest in ICT. Students will require a memory stick which can be purchased from the college shop. Some homework tasks will require the use of a computer either at home or using the college facilities. Students will need to manage their time well to ensure there are able to meet coursework deadlines.

Thank you, LBI Faculty

# MATHS GCSE

Exam Board:

Set 1 students: AQA ([www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk))

Sets 2, 3 and 4: Edexcel ([www.edexcel.com](http://www.edexcel.com))

## YEAR 10 & 11

Maths is a challenging, rewarding and enjoyable experience for many students. They recognise the importance of this core subject and from their first day, are determined to do well and achieve the best grade they can. A Maths qualification is essential to many career paths.

Students have four lessons of Maths per week. The topics covered will build on the work done at high school. There will be new skills and concepts to learn. Classroom activities are designed to improve mental agility and logical thought. Students are encouraged to work independently and in small groups, sharing ideas to become confident learners.

Students make regular use of computers, using spreadsheets, graph plotters, geometry programs and tutorial sites on the internet. We subscribe to the MyMaths and just Maths website and we expect students to use this from home too. Some students take part in local and national maths competitions and challenges. Confidence in problem solving is promoted at every level.

**Homework is an important part of the course and will be used to help the students' progress.**

### Course Breakdown

All students will study for a GCSE in Maths. The qualification is based on 100% examination, taken at the end of year 11.

Students will sit either the higher tier (A\* - D) or foundation (C - G). Tier entry is decided in the Spring of year 11.

Higher ability students will also have the opportunity to study GCSE further Maths, also examined at the end of year 11.

### Assessments

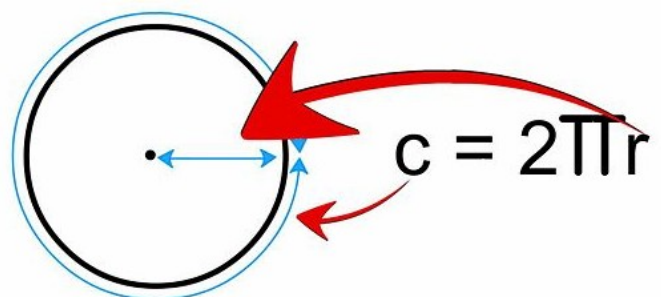
**GCSE Mathematics  
(with Further Maths for set 1 students)**

- Exam taken at the end of the course.
- No internal assessment.

### Advice to parents

We recommend that all students have their own geometry set, calculator and revision guide throughout the course. These are available at reasonable prices from the college shop. Students need to work hard and have the confidence to work independently to solve problems. Complete all homework and hand in on time.

Thank you, Maths Faculty



# MEDIA STUDIES GCSE

Exam Board: WJEC

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

Media Studies is a subject that requires students to be critical and thoughtful about the world around them. Much of what we know about the world is mediated through some form or another, be it in television, films, newspapers or the internet. Rather than simply passively consume what the media presents us with, we encourage discussion, insights and ideas and questioning of the world around us and the way the media works.

## Assessment

**Internal Controlled Assessment (Assessed throughout the course = 60% of the final mark)**

Three Pieces of work:

- one textual investigation on audio-visual media (10%)
- one textual investigation into print media (10%)
- a media production consisting of research, planning, a production and an evaluation of that Production (Horror film or a personal choice) (40%)

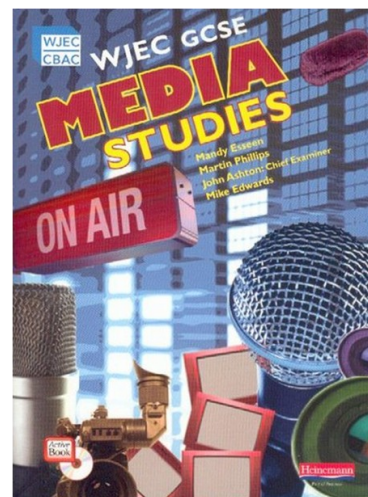
**External Assessment (Exam in June 2016 = 40% of the final mark)**

Section A – Film Trailers

- Investigating the media: a four part question based on a topic chosen by the exam board

Section B – Film Posters

- Planning the media: a series of creative tasks based on knowledge of convergent media



## Advice to parents

Not only watching TV, but discussing content and analysing methods of production is an important part of this GCSE. Keeping up to date with homework tasks is also important. Students need to bring a USB stick to lessons.

Thank you, Faculty of English, Film and Media

# MUSIC GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

YEAR 10 & 11

## Course content

- Performance can be on any instrument or voice. A piece of about grade 4/5 standard would gain the top grade if performed perfectly, (any style of music is acceptable). Ongoing practice is expected as homework.
- Composing techniques are explored in year 10.
- 10 – 15 minutes of each lesson is used to develop listening skills and knowledge.
- The rest of the time is used for practical performing and composing.

## Assessment

**Internal** – Solo and ensemble performance and first composition

**External** – Second composition and listening exam

## Coursework requirements

- First composition completed by December of year 11
- One solo performance recorded by December of year 11
- One ensemble performance recorded by April of year 11
- Second composition completed by April of year 11
- Listening exam taken in May of year 11

## Advice to parents

How well a student performs (on voice or instrument) largely determines how well they do in GCSE music. Apart from a little composition no set homework will be given. However it is expected that students will practise regularly: little and often is best; 5 times a week for at least 20 minutes. Instrument and voice lessons are strongly recommended and can be arranged.



Thank you, Expressive Arts Faculty



# PERFORMING ARTS GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course content

A highly practical course which looks at the whole business of staging productions for a specific audience. This course is highly suitable to those who love to perform live in drama, dance or music, but also to those interested in backstage roles, like lighting and sound, costume design or stage management and set design. Students choose the main areas they work in according to their strengths and interests.

### Assessment

Assessment is through a portfolio of evidence of skill development (unit 1: 60%) and a live performance to an examiner with an action plan and evaluation (unit 2: 40%).

### Coursework requirements

The skill portfolio is built and assessed throughout the course. The final performance takes place between March and mid May in year 11.

### Qualities needed for success in the course

- A love of putting on live performances
- A genuine interest in some aspect of the Performing Arts
- An ability to work independently and take lots of responsibility for your own work
- Regular participation out of college or in our own productions is a distinct advantage

Thank you, Expressive Arts Faculty





# PHYSICAL EDUCATION - CORE

No exam board or qualification

## YEAR 10 & 11



Students have one lesson of PE a week. This gives them the opportunity to develop their knowledge of health related fitness and improve skills in a range of physical activities. Activities covered include traditional sports, like football and basketball, alongside Outdoor Education activities like team building.

We encourage students to develop sporting interests and offer an extensive range of extra-curricular activities. Teams compete in a variety of inter-school competitions, such as badminton, basketball and rugby, and the inter-house competitions supplement this. We also guide students to other sport and leisure opportunities outside college.

We take pride in our subject and really encourage students to make participation in physical activity a life-long experience.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION GCSE

Exam Board: Edexcel

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course content

#### Unit 1 – The Theory of Physical Education

The theory aspect of the course is classroom based and covers issues relating to physical activity. Section 1.1 (Healthy, active lifestyles) includes topics such as health, fitness, exercise, training and diet. Section 1.2 (Your healthy, active body) looks at the cardio-vascular system, respiratory system, muscular system and skeletal system in relation to physical activity and sport.

#### Unit 2 – Performance in Physical Education

The practical aspect of the course gives students the opportunity to develop their skills, techniques and understanding across various activity areas. It includes four practical performances from two different activity areas. Students can be assessed as a performer, official or coach/leader. Performances while representing college teams or local clubs can be used to support your work.

### Assessment

**Practical** - members of the Physical Education staff will assess practical activities during a practical exam week in year 11. Students are required to offer four performances in practical activities, each marked out of 10. This is externally moderated. In addition, students must complete an *Analysis of Performance* task, based on one of their chosen practical activities, that includes a *Personal Exercise Programme*. This is out of 10.

**Exam** - students sit a 1½ hour written paper at the end of year 11 covering all the theory covered as part of Unit 1. This is marked externally and is worth 40% of your final grade.



### Advice to parents

Students need to be strong practical performers in a range of sports and participating in physical activity regularly outside of school. They also need to be academically sound to cope with the demands of the theoretical component of the course. Appropriate homework will be set throughout the course and students will be expected to complete regular written tests.

Thank you, Expressive Arts Faculty

# LIFE SKILLS (No exam board or qualification)

## Course breakdown for year 10 & 11

### Year 10 topic areas covered are:

- Emotional Wellbeing, looking at issues surrounding stress and coping with stress.
- Healthy Lifestyles, looking at issues concerning exercise and diet
- Making informed Career Choice, which will prepare year 10 students for applying to A Level courses, FE colleges and apprenticeships
- Sex and Relationships Education (SRE), which will include STI's, body image and relationships and contraception
- Study Skills, which aims to provide students with help and advice in the lead up to the exams.

### Year 11 topic areas covered are:

- LeCap – Applying for Sixth Form, Further Education and Apprenticeships
- Personal Finance, including budgeting and accounts

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES GCSE

## Exam Board: Edexcel (Short course - half a GCSE )

In year 10 and 11 All students will do a GCSE Short Course (half a GCSE) in Religious Studies, assessed by AQA, Specification B, Unit 1 Religion and Citizenship. It is taught as part of Life Skills, in year 10 and year 11. Students will focus on Christianity and Islam and covers the following topics:

- Religion and Relationships
- Religion and Work
- Religion and Multicultural Society
- Religion and Human Rights

### Assessment

The course will be assessed by examination in May/June of year 11 and gives students the opportunity to achieve half a GCSE in this subject.

Thank you, Humanities Faculty



# RESISTANT MATERIALS GCSE

## Exam Board: AQA

### Course breakdown for year 10 & 11

Students will be required to work with wood, metal, plastics, glass and combinations of materials to produce 3D outcomes to a series of design briefs, while developing practical skills and knowledge. Students will use creative thought, decision-making and self criticism to become "discriminating and informed users of products, and become innovators".

### Year 10

Mini projects to learn and develop skills, knowledge and understanding of machines, materials, processes, concepts of design and wider world issues. Homework will be issued regularly to support classroom learning. Students will begin the GCSE Controlled Test towards the end of year 10.

### Year 11

Students will be involved predominantly in the designing and making of a 3D quality product for the Controlled Test. After the deadline of the Controlled Test at the end of March students will focus on revision and preparation for the written examination.

### Assessment

**Internal** – coursework 60%

**External** – examination 40% (2 hours)

### Coursework requirements

There are various deadlines to be met for coursework in year 11. A coursework folder/record of design ideas and processes will be produced, usually an A3 flip file demonstrating the train of thought from ideas to final outcomes.

### Advice to parents

Students will be taught the skills required but an ability to listen carefully to advice, instructions and work hard will enable them to reach their potential.

Thank you, Art and Design Faculty



# SPANISH GCSE

Exam Board: WJEC

## YEAR 10 & 11

**Course overview**      Listening; 20%      Controlled Assessment Speaking ; 30%  
   Reading; 20%      Controlled Assessment Writing; 30%

### Course breakdown

There are 4 themes to be covered over the 2 years, dealing with different situations:

**Personal and social life** - Self, family, friends, home life, shopping, meals, healthy living, illness and accident, free time, fashion, relationships and future plans.

**Local community** - Home town, school, education, local environment, pollution, recycling, local facilities, comparisons with other towns and regions, weather and seasons.

**The world of work** - Work experience, part-time jobs, future careers, technology (sending messages, accessing information)

**The wider world** - Travel and holidays, media, social issues (e.g. life of young people today, homelessness, crime, drugs, healthy living, religion, politics) life in the countries and communities where the language is spoken.

### Assessment

**Internal:** Controlled Assessment Speaking 30%; 2 speaking assessments (presentation and discussion & structured conversation) to take place over the 2 years on different themes.

**Internal:** Controlled Assessment Writing 30%; students to complete 2 writing tasks over the 2 years.

**External:** At the end of year 11; Reading 20% & Listening 20%

There are 2 levels of entry for reading and listening; Foundation C - G & Higher A\* - D.

### Advice to parents

Students are encouraged to invest in a bilingual dictionary and to buy some of the Modern Language guides that are all reasonably priced, to support them in their studies.





# SCIENCE GCSE

Exam Board: GCSE OCR Gateway Science Suite

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course Overview

We live in exciting times and our society is increasingly based on the advances of science and technology. It is essential for all students to study all aspects of science (chemistry, physics and biology) up to the age of 16 so that they can better understand the world around them and make informed decisions as citizens. Studying science is increasingly based on the use of knowledge and problem solving and so develops many skills necessary for the world of work and is a requirement for many careers.

Experimental practical work is a major feature of the course as a whole and will be used together with a variety of other classroom activities to stimulate interest and increase understanding. All students will have regular access to the science ICT suite and will be expected to use a variety of tools such as data logging and office applications to enhance their learning. Homework is an important part of the course and will be used to help the students progress.

### Course Breakdown

Most students follow the GCSE 'Core Science' programme in year 10 and the 'Additional Science' programme in year 11. Students in the flexible learning tier will study the GCSE 'Core Science' programme over 2 years.

### Year 10 – GCSE Science

#### Assessment

- 2 exams worth 35% and 40% respectively taken at the end of the course.
- Controlled assessment worth 25% of the course.

### Year 11– GCSE Additional Science

#### Assessment

- 2 exams worth 35% and 40% respectively taken at the end of the course.
- Controlled assessment worth 25% of the course

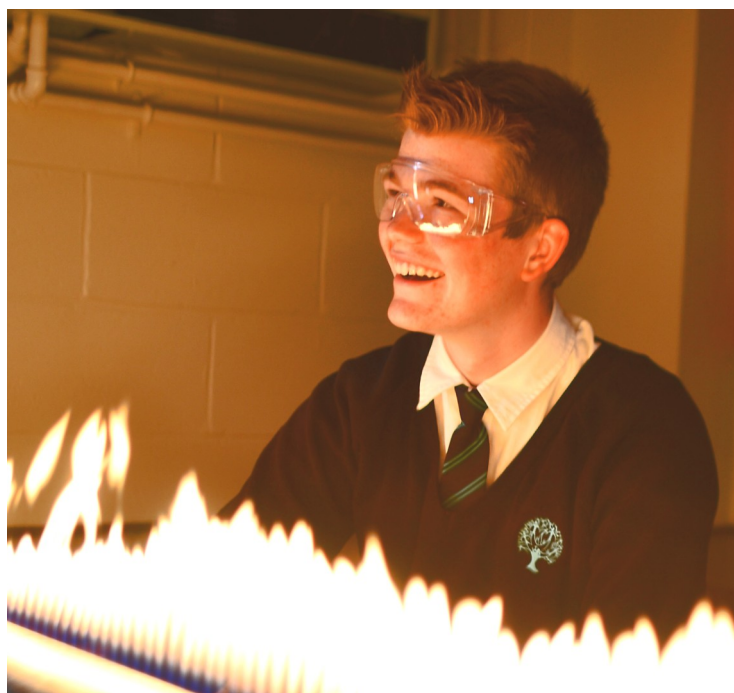
This course will prepare students to follow A level courses in any of the Sciences.

### Advice to parents

For success in the course students will need to be determined and hard working and have an interest and ability in all aspects of science including carrying out experiments with care and skill. Also the ability to interpret data from a variety of sources, including their

own experiments.

Thank you, Science Faculty





# SPORT BTEC

## BTEC Level 1/2 First Certificate in Sport (NQF) (equivalent to 2 GCSEs) Exam Board: Edexcel

### YEAR 10 & 11

#### Course Overview

This course provides opportunities for students interested in Sport and PE to gain a recognised vocational qualification. It involves both practical and theoretical units of work, which require you to research topics independently and in small groups. It is primarily coursework based with assignments that are internally assessed. A quarter of the qualification is externally assessed with Edexcel setting and assessing the work.

#### Course breakdown

The course consists of eight main components, four in each year of study.

##### Year 10

##### **Unit 1 - Fitness for Sport and Exercise**

This unit covers components of fitness, principles of training, methods of fitness training and fitness testing. Lessons will mainly be based in a practical setting, but preparation for the **onscreen test** will be done in the classroom.

##### **Unit 2 – Practical Sports Performance**

This unit focuses on developing and improving your own practical sports performance in two sports. Through participation it is expected that you will develop knowledge of the associated rules, regulations, scoring systems, skill, techniques and tactics. There will also be a section asking you to review your own sports performance and consider ways to improve.

##### **Unit 5 – Training for Personal Fitness**

This unit builds on the knowledge gained from unit 1 and involves designing, completing and reviewing a 6 week fitness training programme.

##### **Unit 10 – Injury and the Sports Performer**

This unit centres on injuries – how they occur, how to manage them and how to avoid them.

##### Year 11

##### **Unit 4 – The Sports Performer in Action**

This unit covers the short-term and long-term effects that exercise and training has on the different body systems. Why do these changes take place?

##### **Unit 6 – Leading Sports Activities**

This unit involves planning, leading and reviewing sports activity sessions, using examples of successful sports leaders as guidance.

##### **Unit 7 – Anatomy and Physiology for Sports Performance**

This unit concentrates on the body systems and how they work during sporting performances. The musculoskeletal system; including bones, joints, muscles and muscle movements, and the cardiorespiratory system; including thermoregulation and gaseous exchange, are covered in depth. This is assessed via an onscreen test.

**A fourth unit will be covered in year 11**

#### Assessment

**External** - *Unit 1: Fitness for Sport and Exercise* and *Unit 7: Anatomy and Physiology in Sports Performance* are both assessed via an onscreen test lasting 1 hour, containing different types of questions, that is externally marked by the exam board.

**Internal**- The remaining six units consist of coursework assignments that must be completed by specific deadlines. The BTEC Level1/Level 2 First Certificate in Sport (NQF) is broadly equivalent to 2 GCSE's and work is graded as *Level 1, Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction\**.

#### Advice to parents

Students require strong organisational and independent study skills.



Thank you, Expressive Arts Faculty

# TEXTILES TECHNOLOGY GCSE

Exam Board: AQA

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course content

Fibres and fabrics  
Enhancement of fabrics  
Fabric finishes  
Components  
Systems and control  
Quality  
Products and applications  
Manufacturing  
Health and safety  
Fashion and textiles  
Smart materials  
Sustainability

### Main skills developed

Research and analysis  
Design and development  
Planning and making  
Evaluation  
Communication skills - written, spoken and illustrated  
Use of ICT including CAD/CAM  
Awareness of industrial production and environmental issues

### Course breakdown

- Introduction to the sewing machine and samples of various stitches and construction processes like seams, edge and hem treatments produced.
- Skills based project with the production of an equipment bag created using a variety of embellishment techniques including CAD/CAM. Samples of these techniques included in students theory folders.
- Homework is built in to schemes of work to support classroom learning and issued on a regular basis.
- Manufacture of pillowcase dresses and shorts from recycled materials that will be donated to international charities.
- The Circular Economy project from the Ellen McArthur Foundation.
- Short projects using smart, modern, technical and electronic textiles.
- Controlled test – GCSE 45 hour project begins in year 10 and continues into year 11.
- Exam theory and revision covered before students go on examination leave.

### Assessment

- Assessment of coursework and homework is ongoing. Students will have the opportunity for self and peer assessment and parents are also invited to be involved in the process during the controlled test.
- Trial examinations at end of year 10 and before the examination period in year 11.
- Controlled test marked by teaching staff and moderated by AQA examiners.
- Written examination at end of year 11.

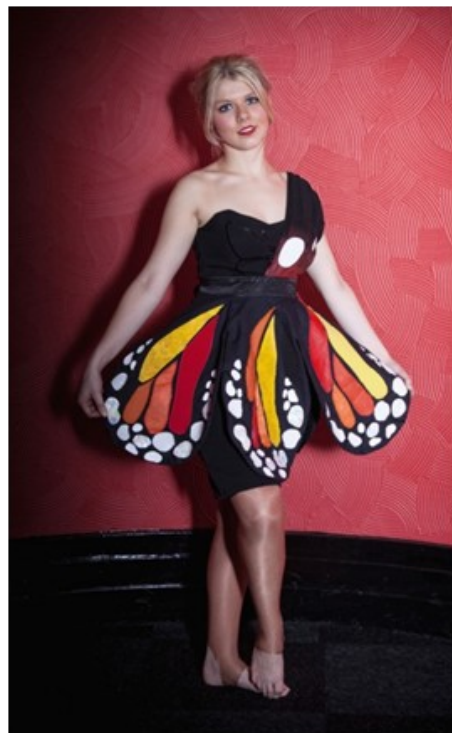
### Coursework requirements

- Equipment bag project and theory work, Autumn term of year 10.
- Child's clothing project Spring term of year 10.
- Circular Economy Project beginning of the Summer Term of Year 10
- Short materials based projects in summer Term
- GCSE controlled test begins Summer term of year 10 and completed February of year 11.
- GCSE examination preparation ongoing until exam leave.

### Advice to parents

Students are encouraged to buy a small pack of basic sewing equipment and A3 homework folder.

Students are encouraged to design and make quality products that show complexity of structure and decoration, to enable them to attain the higher marks. Students are also encouraged to use a guide sheet issued at start of major project and to use exam preparation sheet to support exam revision. Revision guides are available through the college.



Thank you, Art and Design Faculty

# TRIPLE SCIENCE GCSE

Exam Board: GCSE OCR Gateway Science Suite

## YEAR 10 & 11

### Course overview

This course covers extra biological, chemical and physical content as an extension of units covered in the 'core' and 'additional science' pathways. It is an excellent preparation for AS level courses in the sciences and is most suitable for those with a real interest in and aptitude for science. Students who choose this option will need to have achieved at least level 7 in their teacher assessment at KS3 (the end of year 9).

#### Triple Science aims to give learners opportunities to:

- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for biology, chemistry and physics
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- acquire and apply skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works and its essential role in society
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning

### Course breakdown

**Year 10:** students will cover the first 3 units in each subject - Units B1-B3, C1-C3, P1-P3

**Year 11:** students will cover the second 3 units in each subject - Units B4-B6, C4-C6, P4-P6

### Assessment

Each science is assessed separately, leading to the award of three separate GCSEs. The assessment for **each** individual science consists of two exams at the end of the two years of the course, as well as coursework tasks in each subject.

The exams are worth 35% and 40% respectively and the coursework contributes 25% to the final grade.

### Advice to parents

Students must have an interest and ability in all aspects of science including experiments and interpretation of data and be determined and hard working.

Thank you, Science Faculty







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*Achieving Excellence Together*

