

KS4 Options 2021-23

It's Your Choice!



PONTELAND HIGH SCHOOL
Aiming for our students to be happy, feel safe and secure, and achieve exceptionally well



CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	2 – 4
<u>Core Subjects</u>	5
English Language	6
English Literature	7
Mathematics	8
Modern Foreign Languages (French, German, Spanish)	9 – 10
Physical Education	11
Religious Studies	12
Science	13 – 14
<u>Options Subjects</u>	15
Art & Design – Art, Craft and Design	16
Art & Design – Graphic Communication	17 - 18
Art & Design – Textiles	19 – 20
Business Studies	21 - 22
Business Vocational	23
Dance	24 - 25
Design and Technology – Resistant Materials	26 – 27
Drama	28 – 29
Geography	30 – 31
History	32 – 33
Hospitality and Catering Vocational	34 – 35
ICT	36 - 37
Media Studies	38
Music	39
Sports Studies	40 – 41
Sports Studies Vocational	42 - 43
Your Option Choices Summary	44

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INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2021 KS4 Options Booklet. This booklet has been created to set out the opportunities available to you, as you begin the next stage of your education at Ponteland High School.

Leaving school may seem a long way ahead, however, the decisions you make now may affect future options and what you can go on to do later. Consequently, the choices you make are important, so please give them plenty of thought and consideration.

Our advice is to read through the booklet carefully, making sure you understand the differences between the various choices available. Ask questions and discuss your options but do remember that:

- you are more likely to achieve well in a subject that you are interested in
- you are more likely to be motivated to work hard in a subject you enjoy
- your subjects need to suit your particular strengths
- you need to consider the impact your subject choices might have on your long-term aims such as post-16 courses, university, college, apprenticeships, training schemes and future employment

Although this year is very different to previous years with the majority of students currently not in school, we are still providing a range of resources and support to help you make an informed decision. You will need to play your part and ensure you access these resources and in asking your Form Tutor and teachers for guidance on your option choices.

Our KS4 curriculum has been designed to help you develop a wide range of knowledge, understanding, skills and attitudes by studying a variety of subjects. This is why almost everyone follows a core of exam courses in English (Language & Literature), Mathematics, Science, one Modern Foreign Language and Religious Education, as well as a non-exam course in PE.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is not a qualification in itself and there is no additional certificate associated with it. It is intended to indicate that students have gained qualifications in English, Maths, at least two of the three separate sciences or in the combined science course, a foreign language and a humanities subject (either Geography or History). The Government introduced this in an attempt to encourage more students to follow a traditionally academic curriculum that supports language and humanities study, and which will help students as they move on to further and higher education. The EBacc is not compulsory and students should carefully consider whether this combination of subjects suits their personal interests and strengths.

We know that language skills are extremely important in this shrinking world, where business is increasingly international in nature, and there are more opportunities to pursue a career in other countries. That is why almost every student follows at least one Modern Foreign Language course, usually French. Please note that only after discussion with your MFL teachers, should Spanish or German be selected as your one compulsory language. It is possible to study two languages, however, this choice should only be made if you are currently studying two languages and after detailed discussions with your MFL teachers.

It may be that your teachers believe you are unlikely to achieve a grade 4 in each of GCSE English, maths and a foreign language, but could improve your grades in English and Maths,

with a little more support. ***If this applies to you, you will receive a letter saying that you can opt for a programme of additional support for other areas of the curriculum instead of taking a foreign language GCSE.*** Please note that only students who meet a strict set of criteria will receive this letter.

Option choices

You can choose three option courses from the wide range available. While the choice is yours, your teachers at the forthcoming Y9 parents evening and options Q&A evening will provide guidance based on your past and predicted performance in your lessons. Our aim is to give you as much support as possible throughout this process.

Support for parents and students

Dedicated KS4 Options Google Classroom – Code: 3lu4g5e

This Google Classroom allows Year 9 students to access information about each of the KS4 subjects as well as watch a promotional video for each of the option subjects.

Virtual Y9 Parents' Evening (online)

You and your parents will have an opportunity to talk with subject teachers on either Thursday 25 February or Wednesday 3 March. You will be able to find out how you are progressing in your various subjects, ask questions and get advice about option subjects.

Year 9 Parents' Evening will take place on:

1. Thursday 25 February for students in the following tutor groups

a) Mr Weir, Mr Egner, Mr O'Laoire (for Mr Smith), Mr Tulip, Ms Baker, Ms Barclay (for Miss Cowell)
or

2. Wednesday 3 March for students in the following tutor groups

b) Mr Morrison, Mrs Porteous, Mrs Hunter, Miss Inkster, Mrs Tuck

Virtual Options' Q&A Evening (online)

There will be a KS4 Options Q&A Evening on Wednesday 10 March from 5.00 – 7.00pm. You and your parents can make appointments to speak to teachers of options subjects and members of the Senior Leadership Team for advice.

By no later than **9.15am on Friday 19 March** you must:

- talk about your choices with your parents
- read the information in this booklet and watch the promotional videos for the subjects you are interested in
- complete the KS4 Options Form ([click here](#)) and ask your parents to enter their name at the bottom of the form to confirm that they are aware of your choices

We will do everything we can to give you your first three choices, and are usually able to do so. There are occasions, however, when this is not possible such as when, for example:

- too many students opt for a subject compared to the staffing available
- not enough students choose a particular subject to make it possible for us to run the course
- particular combinations of subjects just aren't possible

That is why we ask you to rank your three options (ranking them from 1-3 in terms of importance to you, 1 = first choice so most important, 3 = third choice so least important). We also ask you to list two reserve options again in order of preference.

If we have restricted numbers of places available in any particular subject, we look closely at student's achievements and ambitions before making any decisions. We will let you know as soon as we can if any of your first (three) choice subjects are not available.

Mr Kieran McGrane

Headteacher

February 2021

CORE SUBJECTS

	Page
English Language	6
English Literature	7
Mathematics	8
Modern Foreign Languages (French, German, Spanish)	9 – 10
Physical Education	11
	12
Religious Studies	13 – 14
Science	

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

Teacher in Charge: Ms R Clarke

Examination Board: Edexcel

Website Address: www.edexcel.com

What will I study?

In English you will study an extremely wide variety of texts. You will need to demonstrate your ability in functional English; to investigate, analyse and evaluate the use of language and to experiment and use language creatively. The course is all about developing the skills that you already have so that you become independent and confident communicators.

How many examinations will be taken?

The examination consists of **two** papers which will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

This examination is responsible for 100% of the assessed grade

Paper 1- 1 hr 45mins (40%)

Section A (15%) Unseen 19th Century Fiction:

Extract will be approximately 650 words

Shorter response questions will focus on close analysis of the text; longer response questions will ask students to show their understanding of the whole text

Section B (25%) Creative Writing

Choice of 2 tasks linked to the theme of the 19th century fiction.

One task will include images to help students address the task

Audience and purpose along with Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar will be assessed.

Paper 2- 2 hrs 05mins (60%)

Section A (30%) Comparison of two unseen texts from the 20th and 21st century

One non-fiction; one literary non-fiction

Extracts will be approximately 1000 words in total

Shorter response questions will focus on close reading of the texts; longer response questions will ask students to compare the texts.

Section B (30%) Transactional Writing

Choice of two tasks linked to the theme of the texts

Newspaper articles, letters etc

Audience and purpose along with *Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar* will be assessed.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Teacher in Charge: Ms R Clarke

Examination Board: Edexcel

Website Address: www.edexcel.com

What will I study?

In English Literature, you will experience a range of Literature with a wide variety of appeal drawn from contemporary and modern texts from the English literary canon, which have had a significant influence on our British and Irish literary and cultural heritage.

How many examinations will be taken?

The examination consists of **two** papers, which will be taken in the summer of Year 11.

This examination is responsible for 100% of the assessed grade

Paper 1- 1 hr 45 mins (50%)

Section A (25%) Shakespeare: Two questions

One based on a 30 line extract and one on the whole play

Section B (25%) Post-1914 British Drama or Prose: Either DRAMA or PROSE

Choice of essay questions

Paper 2- 2 hrs 15 mins (50%)

Section A (25%) 19th Century Fiction

Two questions: One based on a 400 word extract and one on the whole novel

Section B (25%) Poetry

One question comparing one named poem from the chosen anthology collection with another of the student's choice from the collection

One question comparing the two unseen contemporary poems

MATHEMATICS

Teacher in Charge: *Mr D Harding*

Examination Board: AQA 8300

Website Address: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/mathematics/gcse/mathematics-8300>

What will I study?

You will study aspects of number, algebra, shape and space and data handling. Throughout the course, there is an emphasis on using and applying mathematics to solve problems. Students will also be assessed in functional elements of mathematics.

How many pieces of coursework are required?

None

How many examinations will I take?

Students will sit three papers, two calculator and one non-calculator; these will take place during the same exam season.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

To be successful in Mathematics, you must:

- be prepared to work hard, take an active part in every lesson and put full effort into all homework.
- be prepared to ask lots of questions.
- have a scientific calculator and a basic geometry set, and bring them to **every** lesson.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A wide variety of teaching styles is used. We have access to a range of ICT facilities including laptops and graphical calculators. There will be whole-class teaching, small group work and individual work.

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

All examination boards use the same core specification for Mathematics. There are no options within the specification and students must attempt every question on the final examination papers.

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES (FRENCH, GERMAN & SPANISH)

Teacher in Charge: *Mrs Tuck*

Examination Board: AQA

Website Address: www.aqa.org.uk

MFL Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

Language skills are extremely important in the modern world. Business is increasingly international in nature, and there are lots of opportunities to develop a career in other countries. That is why most students follow **at least one** Modern Foreign Language course, but some students may opt to carry on with both languages.

As most students have a greater depth of experience with studying French than with German or Spanish, the expectation is that the majority of students who study a single MFL subject will opt for French.

Students and parents will have an opportunity to discuss language options at parents' evening.

What will I study?

Students study 3 main themes:

- **Identity and culture**
- **Local, national, international areas of interest**
- **Current and future study and employment**

Each will have 4 sub-topics covering the general topics of relationships, tourism, education, social and environmental issues, education, work and free-time.

How many examinations will I take?

There will be a Listening exam (25%), a Reading exam (25%), a Speaking exam (25%) carried out by MFL teachers in school and a written paper (25%).

All examinations will take place in the summer of Year 11

What qualities do I need to be successful?

You need to:

- Understand that the need to communicate in another language is important for your own personal success.
- Realise that knowledge of another language and culture greatly enhances your knowledge of your own language and culture.
- Be willing to participate in class activities.
- Be prepared to learn and practise essential items of vocabulary and grammar for success.

- Recall and use grammatical rules in your own writing without reference material
- Be able to spell accurately in the foreign language
- Be able to speak the target language with some level of spontaneity and accurate pronunciation

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

There is a wide variety of styles used in teaching and learning in MFL. Students are actively involved in lessons, in pairs, groups and individually, and are expected to respond in the target language where possible. This course is supported by faculty prepared resources, grammar booklets, and online interactive exercises for the four skill areas of listening, reading, writing and speaking.

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

All pupils follow the AQA specification and the topic areas stipulated above.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

With commitment and a positive attitude to learning, you will enjoy languages and achieve your potential, as well as gain an enormous amount of self-esteem and sense of achievement. A foreign language is a great advantage in the modern world for academic and employment prospects.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Teacher in Charge: *Mr P Dunn*

What will I study?

You will follow the PE National Curriculum, in which you will further refine and develop your skills, knowledge and understanding in a wide range of physical activities linked to your preferred activities. You will also continue to develop your levels of fitness and understand how to exercise safely in a range of fitness activities. Finally, you will be able to develop key character skills such as your ability to work as part of a team, communicate effectively and motivate others through leadership opportunities and volunteering.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

You need to be prepared to step outside your comfort zone, embrace the opportunities that are presented to you and participate in all activities. We expect that you participate in all activities, try your best and consider others in your group. To do this, you must bring your correct PE kit to every lesson.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A variety of teaching styles will be used:

- Teaching Games for Understanding: Where activities will be active, game based games to develop your knowledge and understanding of new activities;
- Direct instruction: Where the teacher will aim to support and guide you to develop your individual skills;
- Problem-solving: Where lessons include modified games and encourage students to work as a team and improve your decision making to overcome challenges;
- Leadership: Where you design and lead individual practices for individuals and small groups, including primary school students;
- Health Based: Where lessons are focussed around moderate to high intensity activity to develop your understanding of how to safely train and develop an understanding of how to manage your own personal health and wellbeing;

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

We will endeavour to ensure PE and Health Based lessons are tailored to you as an individual. We believe PE plays an important role in your development and we will aim to ensure you feel comfortable and challenged in all types of lessons. PE and School Sport is more than just participating in a range of activities. PE has the power to develop a range of holistic skills that support you in life after school so embrace the opportunities presented to you.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Teacher in Charge: *Miss C Naylor*

Examination Board: *AQA Religious Studies Specification A*

RE Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

As part of their core entitlement at PHS, all pupils follow a three-year course of Religious Studies beginning in Year 9.

Pupils continue to have one lesson of Religious Studies per week across Years 10 and 11. The KS4 syllabus continues directly from their studies in Year 9.

This qualification is **in addition to** pupils' option choices and does not constitute one of their choices. Religious Studies is a compulsory element of the PHS curriculum.

How many pieces of coursework are required?

There is no coursework or controlled assessment.

How many examinations will I take?

The GCSE examination will involve two exams lasting 1hr 45mins at the end of Y11.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

The GCSE modules that will be studied in Year 10 and Year 11 are:

- Component 1 – The Study of Religions: beliefs, teachings and practices
 - i) Christianity
 - ii) Buddhism

- Component 2 – Thematic Studies
 - i) Religion and Life
 - ii) Religion, Peace and Conflict
 - iii) Religion, Crime and Punishment
 - iv) Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

SCIENCE

Teacher in Charge: *Mr N Tuck*

Examination Board: *Edexcel GCSE Science (9-1)*

Website Address: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/>

Science Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

Combined Science	or	Separate Science
Double award qualification with Biology, Chemistry and Physics subject material assessed in 6 exams (70 mins each) at the end of Year 11		Three separate GCSEs. Each subject (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) assessed in two exams (6 in total – 105 mins each) at the end of Year 11

- The majority of students study Combined Science (2 GCSEs). For more able students we offer GCSE Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs).
- For both courses students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics using a theoretical and a context based approach. Both courses contain a significant amount of content and require students to apply mathematical techniques. There are core practical tasks that students must attempt with the experimental method and analysis of results assessed throughout the exams.
- GCSE Separate Science draws on the material covered in Combined Science as well as additional subject material to deepen students' understanding.

Is there any coursework element?

For GCSE (9-1) qualifications there is no internally assessed coursework component. Students complete a series of exam board specified core practical tasks during lessons. Their knowledge of these tasks is assessed in the final examinations.

What will I do in lessons?

All GCSE Science courses are supported by an extensive range of electronic and paper-based resources. A wide range of learning activities will include:

- Student practical tasks and teacher demonstrations
- Textbook questions
- Worksheet questions
- Starter quick quizzes
- Progress self-assessments
- Teacher presentations supported by videos and animations

- Note taking
- Online mini tests and animations (set for homework as well)

Will I be taught in a mixed ability class?

There are typically four Separate Science classes. There is no difference in ability between these classes and all students are taught the higher tier material. For Combined Science the classes are mixed ability. In the mixed ability classes some topics are clearly identified as higher tier. This approach allows all students to have the opportunity to be entered for higher tier if they demonstrate in internal assessments that they are capable of this.

How many hours of science will I get?

For both the Combined Science and Separate Science courses, students receive 11 hours of lesson time a fortnight in Years 10 and 11. Separate Science students take an extra GCSE qualification but with no additional lesson time. Combined Science students are taught by two Science teachers who split the subject material between them. Separate Science students are taught by three teachers.

Which science route will I follow?

Students will be allocated to either a Separate Science class or a Combined Science class at the end of year 9. The allocation will be based on a range of assessment data gathered throughout year 9. If you are allocated to Separate Science but feel the Combined Science route would be more appropriate, please contact us.

OPTIONS SUBJECTS

	Page
*Art & Design – Art, Craft and Design	16
*Art & Design – Graphic Communication	17 – 18
*Art & Design - Textiles	19 – 20
Business Studies	21
Business Vocational	22 - 23
Dance	24 – 25
Design and Technology – Resistant Materials (timbers and metals)	26 – 27
Drama	28 – 29
Geography	30 – 31
History	32 – 33
Hospitality and Catering Vocational	34 – 35
ICT Vocational	36 – 37
Media Studies	38
	39
Music	40 – 41
Sports Studies	42 – 43
Sports Studies Vocational	
Your Option Choices Summary	44

***Students may only choose one Art & Design Course**

ART AND DESIGN

Art, Craft and Design

Teacher in Charge: Mrs K Murphy

Examination Board: AQA 8201

Website Address: www.aqa.org.uk

Art, Craft and Design Information Video: [\[Click Here\]](#)

What will I study?

Drawing, Painting, Graphic Design, Illustration, Printmaking, Mixed Media etc

How many pieces of coursework are required?

There are four assignments worth 60% of the final mark.

How many examinations will be taken?

One in the spring term of Year 11 which is worth 40% of the final mark.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

You should be interested in:

- Drawing and recording from direct observation
- The context and importance of Art and Design in society
- Developing research and analytical skills using experimentation and creative thinking
- Exploring a wide variety of techniques with a strong focus on drawing
- Presenting ideas in a variety of ways including sketchbooks and boards
- Developing an individual creative approach in order to produce a range of personal and highly developed pieces of artwork.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A wide variety including practical development and experimentation, thoughtful and focused research, drawing and theme based sketchbook work.

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

Certain practical skills and techniques must be covered, but students are given freedom to pursue their chosen subject matter within a structured course.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

Please note

You can only choose ONE Art & Design Course out of:

Art & Design (Art, Craft and Design): Art & Design (Graphics): Art & Design (Textiles)

For many students, Art and Design in all its guises – Architecture, Fashion, Graphic Design, Printing and Fabric Design, Digital Textiles, Interior Design, Photography and Ceramics all make a popular degree choice.

ART AND DESIGN

Graphic Communication

Teacher in Charge: *Ms C Light*

Examination Board: *AQA 8203*

Website Address: www.aqa.org.uk

Graphic Communication Information Video: [\[Click Here\]](#)

What will I study?

In Component 1 (Portfolio) and Component 2 (Externally set assignment) students are required to work in **one or more** area(s) of graphic communication, such as those listed below:

- communication graphics
- design for print
- advertising and branding
- illustration
- package design
- typography
- interactive design (including web, app and game)
- multi-media
- motion graphics
- signage
- exhibition graphics.

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

How many pieces of coursework are required? (Component 1- 60% of Final Mark)

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

How many examinations will I take? (Component 2- 40% of Final Mark)

One in the spring term of Year 11. Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. This is assessed after the creation of a preparatory portfolio and sketchbook, produced over a period of 6-10 weeks, followed by 10 hours of supervised exam conditions time to manufacture the final outcomes.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

You should be interested in:

- All or most areas of Visual Communication, current and past designers and artists.
- Being creative, imaginative and practical.
- Investigating and experimenting with techniques and materials.
- Using a combination of hand drawings, media experimentation and computer aided design to generate ideas to manufacture.

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

All students will be given an initial design brief that may focus on one area, but it will allow for the students to develop creative thinking and ability into expressing their own interpretation of the final outcome.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A range of teaching styles will be used, including: whole-class, focused practical tasks, group work, one-to-one tutorial sessions, ICT led sessions and individually led challenges.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

There is no written exam in this specification unlike the GCSE Design and Technology offered previously. It is exactly like the Art, Craft and Design GCSE 8201 (see page 15) but the subject focus is all Graphic Communication and a more noticeable use of the ICT to produce effective imagery.

Please note

You can only choose ONE Art & Design Course out of:

Art & Design (Art, Craft and Design): Art & Design (Graphics): Art & Design (Textiles)

For many students, Art and Design in all its guises – Architecture, Fashion, Graphic Design, Printing and Fabric Design, Digital Textiles, Interior Design, Photography and Ceramics all make a popular degree choice.

ART AND DESIGN

Textiles

Teacher in Charge: Mrs K Murphy

Examination Board: AQA 8204

Website Address: www.aqa.org.uk

Textiles Information Video: [\[Click Here\]](#)

What will I study?

Areas of study in Component 1 and Component 2 students are required to work in one or more area(s) of textile design, such as those listed below:

- art textiles
- fashion design and illustration
- costume design
- constructed textiles
- printed and dyed textiles
- surface pattern
- stitched and/or embellished textiles
- soft furnishings and/or textiles for interiors
- digital textiles
- installed textiles.

They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

How many pieces of coursework are required? (Component 1- 60% of Final Mark)

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

How many examinations will I take? (Component 2- 40% of Final Mark)

One, in the spring term of Year 11. Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. It is assessed through a preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

You should be interested in:

- all areas of Textiles and Fashion, current and past designers and artists.
- being creative, imaginative and practical.
- investigating and experimenting with techniques and materials.
- using a combination of hand drawings, media experimentation and computer aided design to generate ideas to manufacture.
- developing ideas from sketch to a final outcome.

- using a sewing machine

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

All students will be given an initial design brief that may focus on one area, but it will allow for the students to develop creative thinking and ability into expressing their own interpretation of the final outcome.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A range of teaching styles will be used, including: whole-class, focused practical tasks, group work, one-to-one tutorial sessions, ICT led sessions and individually led challenges.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

There is no written exam in this specification unlike the GCSE Design and Technology offered previously. It is exactly like the Art, Craft and Design GCSE 8201 (see page 15) but the subject focus is all Textiles.

Please note

You can only choose ONE Art & Design Course out of:

Art & Design (Art, Craft and Design): Art & Design (Graphics): Art & Design (Textiles)

For many students, Art and Design in all its guises – Architecture, Fashion, Graphic Design, Printing and Fabric Design, Digital Textiles, Interior Design, Photography and Ceramics all make a popular degree choice.

BUSINESS STUDIES - GCSE

Teacher in Charge: *Mr A Sutherland*

Examination Board: OCR

Website Address: www.ocr.org.uk

Business (GCSE & Vocational) Information Video: [\[Click Here\]](#)

What will I study?

The course introduces all aspects of business. There are seven basic areas of business covered: business activity, marketing, human resources (people in the business context), operations/production, finance, the interdependent nature of businesses and influences on business e.g. laws, economics, government etc.

How many pieces of coursework are required?

None

How many examinations will I take?

There are two exams:

- Paper 1: Business activity, marketing and people. 90 minute paper. (50%)
- Paper 2: Operations, finance and influences on business. 90 minute paper. (50%)

What qualities do I need to be successful?

It helps to:

- be enthusiastic and hard working.
- be able to apply what you learn to actual business situations and use it to suggest solutions to problems, e.g. decision-making is a key skill in business and the course tries to introduce students to this.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

We use a wide variety of techniques including group work, presentations, discussions, video etc. There is an emphasis on trying to simulate a work environment in the lessons. ICT is used as often as possible.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

Most students will eventually work within a business, and business schools are central to all major universities, so gaining an understanding of business and developing your business skills is clearly going to be of benefit to you in the future.

Although we ask students to state their preferred Business course on the options form the final decision will be made by staff. This will be based on students' prior attainment and discussions with students and parents.

BUSINESS VOCATIONAL

Cambridge National Certificate in Enterprise and Marketing

Teacher in Charge: *Mr A Sutherland*

Examination Board: *OCR*

Website Address: www.ocr.org.uk

What will I study?

You will study three key areas of business:

- Enterprise and marketing concepts
- Design a business proposal
- Market and pitch a business proposal

How many pieces of coursework are required?

You will complete two projects/assignments worth 50% of the final qualification grade.

How many examinations will I take?

You will take one exam, which covers the marketing and enterprise topics. This is worth 50% of the overall qualification.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

The Cambridge National aims to give students a good understanding of how to set up and market a business. It also looks to improve students' preparation for employment, in addition to building their subject knowledge. Emphasis is placed on careful planning and research by students into the theory and practice of the business world. You will need to:

- be organised and hardworking
- have an interest in how businesses operate
- be willing to carry out research into local and national businesses.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A range of teaching methods is used. Where appropriate, students will be involved in:

- Group work and role-play activities
- Individual and group research and problem solving
- Use of ICT to prepare controlled assessment reports
- Using the Internet to gather research
- Business visits/speakers

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

Students will be assessed using grades from level 1 Pass to level 2 Distinction star rather than GCSE grades 9 to 1. The Cambridge National carries the same value as a GCSE.

Although we ask students to state their preferred Business course on the options form the final decision will be made by staff. This will be based on students' prior attainment and discussions with students and parents.

DANCE

Teacher in Charge: Miss J. Byers & Mrs E. Lee

Examination Board: Pearson BTEC Dance

Dance Information Video: [\[Click Here\]](#)

What will I study?

Throughout the course, you will explore the discipline of Dance and the many different styles within it for example Jazz, Commercial, Contemporary, Ballet and Urban. You will gain an understanding of what it is like to work as a professional within the performing arts industry through the performance and choreography of Dance. This will allow the development of skills and techniques in Dance through the participation in workshops, classes and rehearsals, these skills will then be applied to a performance. You will also have the chance to create your own choreography exploring your chosen Dance style whilst working to a professional brief and collaborating with your peers.

How many pieces of coursework are required?

There are three Components to complete, all of which are coursework based; you will be required to produce practical and written evidence for each component, the written evidence may be in the format of a piece of extended writing, PowerPoint presentation and Log Book. Practical coursework evidence is submitted via workshop/class recordings, teacher observations and workshop performance.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (30%)

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (30%)

Component 3: Performing to a Brief (40%)

How many examinations will I take?

- You will take one examination under controlled assessment conditions. This is Component 3: Performing to a Brief and is worth **40%**.
- You will be given a brief published by the exam board and allowed to explore a stimulus through a chosen dance style.
- You will choreograph, develop and perform a dance that is inspired by the stimulus.
- You will be given a time scale to complete this task.
- You will also be required to document the process in a written log and evaluation report.

What percentage of my final mark is determined by coursework?

60% of your final mark is determined by coursework, split between two components

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (**30%**)

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (**30%**)

When does the coursework have to be complete?

Internal assessments must be completed in line with the PE departments assessment calendar as all work completed must be internally and externally moderated.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (**30%**) must be completed by the end of Year 10

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts (**30%**) must be completed by the end of Year 11

What qualities do I need to be successful?

- In order to be successful you will need to be focused and willing to develop your practical Dance skills through workshops, rehearsals and feedback.
- It is important that you are also willing to use any feedback in independent rehearsals to allow you to progress.
- You should have a keen interest in several styles of dance and be open to learning new techniques and specific styles.
- You should also be equally interested in the written aspect of the course that will allow you to gain knowledge and understanding of several practitioners, which in turn will be applied to practical interpretation.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

- Retrieval practices to consistently revisit learned content;
- Group tasks and discussion in lessons to demonstrate understanding of content;
- Individual tasks to demonstrate understanding of content;
- Direct instruction to improve individual skills;
- Analysis of performances, video and digital camera work;
- Evaluation of performances as an individual and in a group
- Practical technique classes.
- workshops to develop understanding of Dance styles

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

Throughout the course, we will explore several different choreographers and styles of Dance allowing you to play towards your strengths and weaknesses in particular areas of Dance.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

This is a fantastic opportunity that we are now able to offer at Ponteland High school. If you are passionate about Dance, enthusiastic and are willing to learn, you will enjoy this course. An understanding of Dance in one or more styles is desirable. The course can be very demanding when taking into consideration the written and practical element. You should be aware that you may be required to complete rehearsal of practical work in your own time after school; this is to allow you to refine your work to the best of your ability.

DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Resistant Materials

Teacher in Charge: *Ms C Light*

Examination Board: AQA 8552

Website: www.aqa.org.uk

Design & Technology Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

- Core technical principles: of all material categories (papers and boards, natural and manufactured timbers, metals and alloys, polymers, textiles)
- Specialist technical principles: Timbers and manufactured boards, Metals, Alloys and composite materials
- Designing and making principles within a range of contexts and briefs.
- Mathematical skills and scientific knowledge application in design and technology

How many pieces of coursework are required?

One – A non-exam assessment (NEA): 30-35 hours approx. **(50% of final mark)**

How many examinations will I take?

One - In the summer of Year 11 when students complete a 2-hour exam. **(50% of final mark)**

- *Section A* - Core Technical Principles (20 marks)
A mixture of multiple choice and short answer questions assessing a breadth of knowledge and understanding
- *Section B* - Specialist Technical Principles (30 marks)
several short answer questions and one extended response to assess a more depth knowledge of technical principles
- *Section C* - Designing and Making Principles (50 marks)
A mixture of short answer and extended response questions

What percentage of my final mark is determined by coursework?

- Non -exam assessment (NEA): 30-35 hours approx.
- 100 marks
- **50% of final GCSE grade**

When does the coursework have to be complete?

Contextual challenges to be released by AQA on 1st June in the year prior to the submission deadline (in Year 10). NEA to be completed by March of Year 11. The NEA will take the form of a substantial design and make task, by producing a prototype and a portfolio of evidence.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

You should be interested in:

- All areas of Design Technology and manufacturing using timber and metals, including CAD and CAM mass production with 2D and 3D computer simulation and product development for prototyping.
- Learning about and using modern manufacture using fabricating and wasting methods.
- Investigating new technologies.
- Being creative, imaginative and practical and solving problems.
- Investigating and experimenting with techniques and materials.
- Developing ideas from sketch to a final outcome.
- Using a combination of hand-drawn and computer-aided design to generate ideas to manufacture.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A range of teaching styles will be used, including whole-class, focused practical tasks, group work, one-to-one tutorial sessions, ICT-led sessions and individually led challenges.

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

All students will be given an initial design brief that may focus on one area, but it will allow for the students to develop creative thinking and ability into expressing their own interpretation of the final outcome.

DRAMA

Teacher in Charge: Mrs E Lee

Examination Board: EDEXCEL

Drama Information Video: [\[Click Here\]](#)

What will I study?

Students will study how to use the drama strategies, medium and elements to explore themes and selected texts. In the practical examination they will devise and perform a created piece of theatre in response to a set stimulus.

Technical aspects of performance will also be studied in an integrated way throughout the course.

How many pieces of coursework are required?

There will be a range of pieces of coursework spread over two years.

In the practical controlled tests in Years 10 and 11, students will be set a variety of tasks to assess their creativity, group skills and understanding of how the strategies, medium and elements can be used to explore themes, text, eras and genres. Their outcomes will be recorded and analysed in the written controlled tests to evidence the extent of their knowledge and the depth of their understanding.

The 60% non-exam assessment marks are made up as follows:

- 20% for marks to assess the creation and development of ideas to communicate meaning for theatrical performance;
 - 30% for marks used to apply theatrical skills to realise artistic intentions in live performance; and
 - 10% for the analysis and evaluation of students' own work.
- Therefore 60% of the marks will be used to assess practical elements of the course.

How many examinations will I take?

One exam worth 40% assessment by written examination

What percentage of my final mark is determined by coursework?

60% of the final mark is determined by the practical and written coursework.

When does the coursework have to be complete?

By the end of March in Year 11.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

Talented drama students have a range of qualities that allow them to work with focus and concentration whilst experimenting and exploring their creative ideas. They are always patient and hardworking and enjoy working collaboratively and independently. To be successful in this subject you will need to be an imaginative and resourceful student who builds an excellent rapport with others.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

The most exciting thing about the drama experience is the wide variety of teaching styles used in the classroom. Teaching focuses on the interpretation of text through performance and the practical use of the drama strategies, medium and elements to explore selected themes. In devised theatre workshops students use improvisation techniques to inspire their playwriting ideas. The technical components of the course are delivered in an integrated way, with opportunities for the creative use of costume, make-up, set design, lighting and sound. Students are taught to write critical reviews of live performance in response to seeing A Level performance work.

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

All students will have a great deal of choice when it comes to the direction they take with their devised work, how they choose to explore the given themes and their approaches to characterisation, design and staging.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

Any student thinking of studying Post 16 Performing Arts is strongly advised to take GCSE Drama because the course is an excellent foundation for Post 16 work.

Talk to other students about why they enjoy GCSE drama.

This is a challenging and stimulating course, which will provide you with many opportunities to develop your talent to the full.

Please talk to Mrs Lee or Ms Hartley if you have any further questions.

GEOGRAPHY

Teacher in Charge: *Mr P Ross*

Examination Board: *EDEXCEL*

Website Address: <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/geography-a-2016.html>

Geography Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

The course is split into three units covering aspects of physical and human geography, major environmental issues and Geographical Investigation. A variety of skills including ICT and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) will be included.

The Units are:

The Physical Environment

Content overview

- Topic 1: The changing landscapes of the UK – an overview of the distribution and characteristics of the UK's changing landscapes including sub-topics from
 - 1A: Coastal landscapes and processes - types of coastal landforms and how they change and the management of coastal areas using hard and soft engineering.
 - 1B: River landscapes and processes – river processes and landforms and how they change, flooding and flood prevention with hard and soft engineering schemes and how we manage rivers.
- Topic 2: Weather hazards and climate change - an overview of the global circulation of atmosphere and climate change over time and two detailed studies of tropical cyclones and drought.
- Topic 3: Ecosystems, biodiversity and management - an overview of the distribution and characteristics of global and UK ecosystems and two detailed studies of deciduous woodlands and tropical rainforests.

The Human Environment

Content overview

- Topic 4: Changing cities - factors affecting the location and shape of settlements, changes in rural settlements, urban land use in the UK, changes in urban areas in the UK. Changing urban areas in less developed parts of the world.
- Topic 5: Global development - this covers an overview of the causes and consequences of uneven global development and detailed case studies of challenges that affect a developing or emerging country.
- Topic 6: Resource management – this covers an overview of the global and UK distribution of food, energy and water and one detailed study of water resource management at different scales.
 - 6B: Water resource management – Water is a vital resource, we cannot live without it. This section looks at how and why water is used and managed in different parts of the world.

Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges

25% of the qualification

Content overview

This component brings together practical geographical enquiry into physical and human processes and environments and the interactions between the two. The component is divided into two sections:

- Topic 7: Geographical investigations – fieldwork. Two geographical investigations each involving fieldwork and research. There is a choice of one from two environments in 7A:
Investigating physical environments (rivers or coasts) and one from two environments 7B:
Investigating human landscapes (central/inner urban area or rural settlements).
- Topic 8: Geographical investigations – UK challenges. Students are required to draw on their knowledge and understanding of the UK, from the physical and human geography drawn from Components 1 and 2, in order to investigate a contemporary challenge for the UK. Students are required to have a geographical overview of the four UK challenges in Topic 8 from which the assessment context will be drawn.

Geographical Investigation

The topic will be set by the exam board and will be assessed via an exam

How many examinations will I take?

Three 1 hour 30 minute papers

What qualities do I need to be successful?

This is about you and your world, so an interest in the world around you and the major issues that affect people, both now and in the future, is vital. You must be *prepared to work hard* and *get involved* in the lessons. An enquiring mind is very important.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A wide variety, including fieldwork and research, use of ICT and videos, role play and decision making, discussion and small group work, as well as more traditional classroom activities.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

The GCSE students in geography **consistently** produce excellent results. However, students only gain success by working hard.

Fieldwork is an important part of Geography. All pupils will undertake two separate field visits, and there *may* be the opportunity to take part in residential fieldwork, possibly abroad.

HISTORY

Teacher in Charge: *Mr D Bartlett*

Examination Board: AQA

Website Address: <http://www.aqa.org.uk/>

History Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

Component 1: Understanding the modern world

Section A: Period studies

- America 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality

Section B: Wider world depth studies

- Conflict and tension in Asia 1950-75

Component 2: Shaping the nation

Section A: Thematic studies

- Britain: health and the people (Medicine)

Section B: British depth studies including the historical environment (local study)

- Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

How many examinations will I take?

Component 1: Understanding the modern world

What is assessed?

In section A, the period studies will focus on two key developments in a country's history over at least a 50-year period.

In section B, the wider world depth study will focus on international conflict and tension.

How is it assessed?

Written exam – 2hrs

84 marks (including four marks for spelling and punctuation and grammar)

50% of GCSE

Questions

Section A – six compulsory questions (40 marks)

Section B – four compulsory questions (40 marks)

Plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar

Component 2: Shaping the nation

What is assessed?

In section A the thematic study will look at key developments in Britain over a long period.

In section B the British depth study will incorporate the study of a specific historical environment (local study).

How is it assessed?

Written exam – 2hrs

84 marks (including four marks for spelling and punctuation and grammar)

50% of GCSE

Questions

Section A – four compulsory questions (40 marks)

Section B – four compulsory questions (40 marks)

Plus 4 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar

What qualities do I need to be successful?

Above all, you need to be inquisitive and to have an interest in people and what they have done in the past but it will help if you are also able to:

- form your own opinions and express your own views;
- listen to and appreciate the views of others;
- organise your work and keep to deadlines;
- apply yourself to all tasks, including learning your work, in a determined and conscientious way.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

The teaching of History is very structured – you do not have to do the boring bits like making notes because the units of work you will be given in your file give you all the information you will need.

This means that lessons can be devoted to group and class discussions, role-play exercises, watching videos, using computers for research and interactive class exercises, critical thinking and problem-solving tasks based on a range of historical sources such as photos, cartoons and letters to develop your skill in detecting bias, evaluating information and reaching your own conclusions.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

- Students at Ponteland consistently do well in History.
- GCSE History is a subject where all students sit the same exam papers – there are no tiered papers, so all students can achieve their full potential.
- History not only satisfies a natural interest in the past, it also gives you a better understanding of the world you are living in – after all, how can you know where you are going until you know where you have been?
- History provides you with skills that enable you to interpret and evaluate information, communicate and apply your knowledge, form your own opinions and argue them convincingly – all skills that employers and universities are looking for and which prepare you for a multitude of jobs and professions including law, accountancy, journalism, management and teaching.

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING Level 2 Vocational Award

Teacher in Charge: *Mrs N Gray*

Examination Board: *WJEC*

Website: www.edugas.co.uk / www.wjec.co.uk

Hospitality and Catering Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

The ***Hospitality and Catering*** technical award is split into two units:

- **Unit 1:** The Hospitality and Catering Industry
- **Unit 2:** Hospitality and Catering in Action

What will I study?

- The range of hospitality and catering providers and how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful.
- Issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations.
- Develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.
- The type of job roles in the hospitality and catering industry that may be available to assist them in making choices about progression.

How many pieces of coursework are required?

One internal assessment is required: (60% of final mark)

Learners apply their learning to safely prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. They will draw on their learning of different types of provision and kitchen and front of house operations in Unit 1, as well as personal safety in their preparations. The content is relevant not only to employees within food production, but also those with a responsibility for food safety in the industry, nutritionists and managers and owners. This extends the learners' appreciation of the whole vocational area beyond the kitchen environment.

How many examinations will I take?

One 1 hour 30 mins written examination at the end of Year 11 covering Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40% of final mark)

Grading: Level 1 Pass, Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*

What percentage of my final mark is determined by coursework?

60% see above

When does the coursework have to be completed by?

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action has 32 guided hours through Year 10 and into Year 11. The internal assessment task will begin in Year 11 giving students guidelines and timelines to collect information, plan your work, carry out practical investigations, evaluate and complete the task in lesson time. The practical session to prepare, cook and present dishes will be 3 hours. The portfolio of evidence will be a maximum of 15 pages of A4.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

- The most important quality is to have an interest in food and food products and to enjoy practical work.
- You should be able to carry out research and investigations independently
- You should be able to work successfully with other students.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

Roughly 60% of the time allocated to Hospitality and Catering is spent making food products and learning a wide variety of skills. You will also carry out practical investigations, watch demonstrations, use ICT to analyse foods and work closely with other students.

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

You will have an element of choice within the internal assessment tasks.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

- There is a large practical element to this course and you must be prepared to bring ingredients to school each week.
- Expectations are high and results in this subject area have been consistently good.
- The qualification provides learners with a broad appreciation of work in the hospitality and catering sector and wider opportunities for progression into further education, employment or training.

BTEC ICT

Tech Award in DIGITAL INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Teacher in Charge: *Mr N Armstrong*

Examination Board: *EDEXCEL*

Website Address: <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology.html>

ICT Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

Part 1: Exploring User Interface Design Principles and Project Planning Techniques [30%]

You will:

- explore user interface design and development principles
- investigate how to use project planning techniques to manage a digital project
- discover how to develop and review a digital user interface.

Part 2: Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data [30%]

You will:

- explore how data impacts on individuals and organisations
- draw conclusions and make recommendations on data intelligence
- develop a dashboard using data manipulation tools.

Part 3: Effective Digital Working Practices [40%]

You will:

- explore how modern information technology is evolving
- consider legal and ethical issues in data and information sharing
- understand what cyber security is and how to safeguard against it.

How many examinations will I take?

There is one exam lasting 90 mins that covers part 3 of the course: Digital Working Practices

What percentage of my final mark is determined by coursework?

60% (see parts 1 and 2 above)

When does the coursework have to be complete?

Each coursework unit is divided into sections and deadlines will be set for each component. Students must meet the deadlines or this will affect their grade. Students are given one opportunity to improve coursework once it has been handed in by the deadlines set.

What qualities do I need to be successful?

Students must:

- be well organised and able to meet deadlines
- be interested in ICT
- enjoy extended project work

- be self-motivated and able to study under your own initiative.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

- Teacher demonstration.
- One-to-one tuition.
- Whole-class teaching and activities.
- Peer mentor.
- Project work.
- E-teaching and learning.

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

No.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

All project work will be presented to the examining body electronically.

Students must be able to meet deadlines and be good at completing tasks based on electronic learning activities.

MEDIA STUDIES

Teacher in Charge: Ms A Burridge

Examination Board: EDUQAS

Website Address: www.eduqas.co.uk

Media Studies Information Video: [\[Click Here\]](#)

What will I study?

TV, film, radio, newspapers, magazines, the music industry, social media, computer games, advertising

How many pieces of coursework are required?

One – which will be to produce a media product.

How many examinations will I take?

Two – each lasting 1½ hours

What percentage of my final mark is determined by coursework?

30%

When does the coursework have to be completed by?

Christmas of Year 11

What qualities do I need to be successful?

You will need creativity and imagination, awareness of the world around you and the ability to analyse and evaluate existing media texts, as well as the work you produce.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A very even split between theory work (analysing, discussing and writing about existing media texts, e.g. films, TV programmes, websites and advertising) and practical work (creating your own videos, TV programmes, websites and adverts).

Will I have any choice in terms of the subject areas I study?

In your coursework you will pick from a choice of briefs that gives you the freedom to choose your own particular area of interest to concentrate on.

MUSIC

Teacher in Charge: *Mr P Noble*

Examination Board: *EDEXCEL*

Website Address: www.edexcel.org.uk

Music Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

In Music you will be given tasks in each of the three main areas; listening, composing and performing.

How many pieces of coursework are required?

Performances (30%)

- A solo performance (15%)
- An ensemble performance (15%)

Composition (30%)

- You will create two compositions (or arrangements), each based on a different area of study. You will be taught how to use Cubase and Sibelius Music Software to compose your pieces.

How many examinations will I take?

One exam, Listening and Appraising, will be taken in the summer term of Year 11 (40% of the final grade)

What percentage of my final mark is determined by coursework?

60%

When does the coursework have to be complete?

Both performances have to be recorded by Spring Term of Year 11

The composition coursework is completed as a ten hour controlled assessment.

The first controlled assessment is in November of Year 11, the second in March of Year 11

What qualities do I need to be successful?

The main qualities you will need are:

- a curiosity about how music is made
- an interest in writing and performing music.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

Students learn through doing, following a cycle of practical activity. They write their own pieces, using a wide range of IT, which are performed and recorded. Students then use their growing listening skills to refine and re-write their pieces – and the cycle begins again.

SPORTS STUDIES - GCSE

Teacher in Charge: *Mr P Dunn*

Examination Board: *OCR*

Website Address: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/physical-education-j587-from-2016/>

Sports Studies GCSE Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

The qualification is divided into key aspects including theoretical knowledge and practical performance.

Theory content (60% of final mark)

J587/01 Physical factors affecting performance

This component will assess:

- 1.1 Applied anatomy and physiology (body systems & effects of exercise)
- 1.2 Physical training (components of fitness, types of training and training programmes)

J587/02 Socio-cultural issues and sports psychology

This component will assess:

- 2.1 Socio-cultural influences (engagement patterns of different social groups)
- 2.2 Sports psychology (mental preparation and goal setting)
- 2.3 Health, fitness and well-being (diet and nutrition and mental wellbeing)

Practical (40% of final mark)

- You will be assessed in three different practical activities (<https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234827-guide-to-non-exam-assessment-gcse.pdf>), which must include one team activity, one individual activity and/or another team/individual activity;
 - Each activity is graded out of 20 marks;
 - Each activity requires learners to complete a competitive logbook to support their final grade;
 - Final grades are externally assessed with an external moderator.
- Analysis and evaluation of performance through a controlled internal assessment which reviews your current levels of skills and fitness before creating an action plan to improve upon an area of weakness;
 - The internal assessment is worth 20 marks (10% of overall qualification) and must be completed within a 14 hour controlled time period.

How many examinations will I take?

Students will sit **two written papers** both of which last **1 hour** and are each worth 30% of total GCSE (9–1). Each paper is assessed out of 60 marks and each paper consists of a mixture of objective response and multiple-choice questions, short answers and extended response items

What percentage of my final mark is determined by coursework?

The practical work comprises 40% of the final mark.

When does the coursework have to be completed by?

All coursework is to be completed by the end of March in Year 11, including practical logbooks from performances during Year 10 and 11, internal assessment and practical video evidence

What qualities do I need to be successful?

- Please note that it is **desirable** that students who opt for this qualification are practically able and participate competitively in sport outside of school.
- You must have a keen interest in sport and demonstrate good all round practical skills
- Demonstrate good organisational skills and take responsibility for your learning by logging your performances, managing your kit and participating in every lesson.
- Be prepared to improve your skills in a range of sporting activities. For example if you are a keen team games player outside of school, you must dedicate time each week to attend extra curricular practices to improve skills in another activity;

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A variety of teaching styles are used:

- Retrieval practices to consistently revisit learned content;
- Group tasks and discussion in lessons to demonstrate understanding of content;
- Individual tasks to demonstrate understanding of content;
- Flipped learning to develop knowledge prior to lessons;
- Ever Learner assessments every week to assess progress;
- Direct instruction to improve individual skills;
- Analysis of performances, video and digital camera work;
- Evaluation of performances as an individual and in a group.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

While we value the options choice procedure the PE department will make the final decision as to the correct sport qualification for your child. Due to the nature of the course and the emphasis on a high skill level in a number of sports, we will use our experience to guide you into the correct qualification. We will make this decision based on what we see as the best possible outcome for your child and will discuss this with you further if we need to.

It is a very demanding course. Many students who choose this subject are surprised by the amount of class-based work. The time is split, four theory lessons and one practical lesson over two weeks. Lessons will be taught in mixed gender groups and practical lessons will focus mainly on your child's third potential activity.

This qualification will support your child with a smooth progression into their education post 16 and beyond.

SPORTS STUDIES

Level 2 Cambridge National Award

Teacher in Charge: *Mr P Dunn*

Examination Board: *OCR*

Website Address: www.ocr.org.uk

Sports Studies Vocational Information Video: [[Click Here](#)]

What will I study?

Learners must complete four units across 120 guided learning hours. This will include two mandatory units, including an externally assessed exam and internal assessment. The additional two optional units selected by the PE department and are internally assessed.

R041: Reducing the risk of sports injuries: students will prepare for an external assessment to understand different factors that influence the risk of injury and how to respond and manage injury.

R042: Applying principles of training: students will complete an internal assessment that includes assessing an individual's overall level of fitness and planning a training programme to improve components of fitness.

R043: The body's response to physical activity: students will complete an individual portfolio about the different body systems in the human body, how they respond to exercise and the importance of these systems to our general health and long-term wellbeing.

R045: Sports nutrition: students will complete an individual portfolio about the different components of a balanced diet, the impact our diet can have on our fitness and general health and learn how to plan a nutrition guide to meet a persons' desired goals.

How many examinations will I take?

There is **one** examination, which can be completed at any point during the qualification. Students will complete the examination at the end of Year 10 or in the January examination series during Year 11. This is worth 25% of their final overall grade.

When does the coursework have to be completed by?

Internal assessments must be completed in line with the PE departments assessment calendar as all work completed must be internally and externally moderated.

R042: Applying principles of training - End of Year 10

R043: The body's response to physical activity - End of Year 11

R045: Sports nutrition - December of Year 11

What qualities do I need to be successful?

- You must have a keen interest in sport and physical fitness;
- Take responsibility for your learning managing your kit and participating in every lesson;
- Be prepared to participate in physical activity;
- Respectful to external agencies who could support with the delivery of the qualification through providing voluntary employment experiences;
- Be organised, hardworking and conscientious.

What sort of teaching styles are typically used?

A variety of teaching styles are used:

- Retrieval practices to consistently revisit learned content;
- Group tasks and discussion in lessons to demonstrate understanding of content;
- Individual tasks to demonstrate understanding of content;
- Flipped learning to develop knowledge prior to lessons;
- Ever Learner assessments every week to assess progress;
- Problem solving and guided discovery to support you with your long term planning.

Is there anything else you think I should know about this subject?

The PE department will make a final decision as to whether we feel this sports qualification is suitable for your child (for example if your child is interested in this qualification but we feel they have strong practical skills). We will discuss this further with you and your child.

It is a very demanding course. Many students who choose this subject are surprised by the amount of class-based work. The time is split, four theory lessons and one practical fitness based lesson over two weeks. Lessons will be taught in mixed gender groups and practical lessons will focus on physical fitness.

This qualification will support your child with a smooth progression into their education post 16 and beyond.

Summary of Your Options Choices

Choose **three** courses from the following:

- *Art and Design GCSE (Art, Craft and Design)
- *Art and Design GCSE (Graphic Communication)
- *Art and Design GCSE (Textiles)
- Business Studies GCSE or Business Vocational (school decision but please state your preference on the Options Form)
- Dance BTEC
- Design and Technology GCSE - Resistant Materials (Timbers and Metals)
- Drama GCSE
- Geography GCSE
- German GCSE
- History GCSE
- Hospitality and Catering (Level 2 Vocational Award)
- ICT Vocational (Level 2 Certificate in Digital Applications)
- Media Studies GCSE
- Music GCSE
- Spanish GCSE
- Sports Studies GCSE or Sports Studies Vocational (school decision but please state your preference on the Options Form)

*** *Please note you can only choose one Art and Design course***

A vocational level 2 award is the equivalent of a GCSE, but with components assessed by coursework

Deadline for submitting your Options Choice Form [[Click Here](#)]: **9.15am on Friday 19 March**