



Co-op Academy  
Bebington

"Shaping Exceptional Futures"



2026



YEAR  
**KS4 OPTIONS**  
NINE

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## Key Dates

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### January

19th

Future Choices Assemblies and taster sessions. Week beginning 19th.

21st

Progress report & Options Booklet shared via Parentmail.

22nd

Review Day & Options Information Evening

23rd

Online Options Form shared with Students & Parents

28th

Final Deadline to Submit Options Form.

### February

2nd

Student Options Meetings with Senior Staff

Summer Term

Final Options & Year 10 Timetable Confirmed.



# Message from the Deputy Headteacher

During Year 9, students are given the opportunity to choose the subjects they will study in Key Stage 4. These choices enable students to explore their interests, build on their strengths, and begin preparing for future pathways such as GCSEs, further education, or career aspirations. All students will continue to study the compulsory core subjects of English, Mathematics, and Science, alongside the foundation subjects of PSHE, Citizenship, Religious Education, and Physical Education. In addition, students will select four optional subjects. Please refer to the options block diagram.

Choosing subjects is an exciting and important milestone, but it can also feel daunting. Please be assured that students will be fully supported throughout the process to help them make informed and appropriate decisions that reflect their abilities, interests, and future ambitions. We strongly encourage families to discuss the options together at home.

It is important that students think carefully about their choices, considering what they enjoy, where their strengths lie, and how different subjects may support their future goals. Support and guidance from parents and carers play a vital role in this process.

## The Options Process

During Review Day, we encourage you to take the opportunity to speak with subject teachers about course content and your child's suitability for each subject. Please also take time to read your child's report and discuss with them what they enjoy, what they feel confident in, and whether they have any early ideas about future careers and the subjects these may require.

An options form will be sent home electronically via Google Mail. Please ensure this is completed by the stated deadline, as it allows us to begin scheduling individual meetings with students to discuss their choices in more detail. Any changes to the original parent or student selections will be communicated clearly with parents. Parents and carers are very welcome to attend this meeting; please indicate your preference on the options form or contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

If you experience any difficulties accessing the Google Form, please contact the school office at [schooloffice.bebington@coopacademies.co.uk](mailto:schooloffice.bebington@coopacademies.co.uk)

Thank you for working in partnership with us to support your child at this important stage of their education. We hope this booklet provides the information needed to encourage meaningful discussions at home and to support informed decision-making. We look forward to guiding your child through the options process and supporting them towards a successful and fulfilling Key Stage 4 experience.

If you have any questions or queries please do not hesitate to contact [tina.obrien@coopacademies.co.uk](mailto:tina.obrien@coopacademies.co.uk) (Ms O'Brien - Yr 9 Progress Leader)

Kind Regards

Ms D. Jennings

# KS4 Curriculum - What Will You Study?

## KS4 Curriculum

Core Subjects - All

English Language & Literature, Mathematics, Science  
Non examination - RE, PSHE, Core PE

Humanities & Spanish  
Option

Geography or History or Spanish GCSE

There are three  
option blocks  
with  
GCSE Qualifications  
&  
Vocational  
Qualifications

### Subjects \*

Not all subjects will be in each option block

- |                          |                    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| • DT Catering            | • Art              |
| • Construction           | • Animal Care      |
| • Drama                  | • Computer Science |
| • Enterprise & Marketing | • DT Graphics      |
| • Health & Social Care   | • Music            |
| • iMedia                 | • RE               |
| • Geography or History   | • Triple Science   |
| • Health & Fitness       | • Statistics       |
| • Spanish                |                    |

All students will take the core subjects. They will also choose either history or geography from the humanities block and three GCSE's or vocational qualifications from the option blocks.

\*Subject to change dependent on student interest.

## Making Your Decision

- Speak to your subject teacher to identify if you have the ability and skills to successfully complete the course.
- Is it relevant to your future career goals?
- Do you enjoy the subject and feel happy about studying it for the next 2 years?
- Speak to your parents/carers.
- Speak to students in the above years who have studied the subject.

There are lots of reasons to take a subject but here are some examples of the wrong reasons:

- My friends are doing the same subject.
- My sister or brother liked the course when they did it.
- You get to go on a trip.
- It looks easy.
- I like the teacher.
- I just picked it because I couldn't think of anything else.

It is important that you choose a range of subjects which match your interest and abilities. Many students will not yet have decided on a specific career and therefore should select options that provide a range of choices for the future. Consider the amount of assignment work and examination preparation each subject requires and how the work is completed.

## Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ): GCSEs and Vocational Assessments

### What are GCSEs?

GCSEs (General Certificate of Secondary Education) are traditional academic qualifications studied mainly in Years 10 and 11. Key features of GCSEs:

- They focus on subject knowledge and understanding, which is assessed largely through final written examinations at the end of Year 11.
- Some subjects include coursework eg Art
- Success depends heavily on revision, exam technique, and performance on the exam day

### GCSE Grading:

GCSEs are graded on a 9-1 scale, where 9 is the highest grade and 4 is considered a standard pass.

### What are Vocational Assessments (NEAs and PSAs)?

Vocational assessments (NEAs and PSAs) assess students' practical skills and applied knowledge through real-world tasks set by the exam board. Work is completed in school across Years 10 and 11, marked by teachers using official criteria, and externally moderated to ensure national consistency. All students complete the same or equivalent assessments in set windows, with each assessment contributing to the final Year 11 grade.

Because assessments are completed in lessons, every lesson counts—missing time can lead to lost marks, missed deadlines, and reduced support. Exam board deadlines are strict, and late or incomplete work may not be marked.

### Vocational Grading:

Most vocational qualifications are graded as:

- Level 1 Pass, Merit Distinction (Equivalent GCSE Grades 1-3)
- Level 2 Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction \* (Equivalent GCSE Grade 4- 8)

### Vocational Subjects using NEA's or PSA Assessments

Health & Fitness, Health & Social Care, i-Media, Business, Hospitality & Catering, Graphic Design, Construction, Drama, Animal Care, Music

Most of these subjects have a final written exam in Year 11.

### Are Vocational Qualifications Valued by Employers?

Yes. Employers and colleges value vocational qualifications just as highly as some GCSEs because they show that students have practical, real-world skills, can work independently, meet deadlines, and perform reliably under supervised conditions. Many employers actively seek students with vocational qualifications as they are often work-ready and well prepared for apprenticeships, further education, and employment.

# Compulsory Subjects

# English Language

**Qualification - GCSE**

**Exam Board - AQA**

## What Will I Learn?

Throughout the course, you will develop the skills needed to analyse a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts. You will learn how writers use language to create meaning and how to communicate your own ideas clearly and effectively, both in writing and through spoken language. Your analytical, interpretative and communication skills will grow steadily over the course, and these highly transferable skills will support your learning across all subjects.

### Areas of study include:

Explorations in Creative Writing and Reading  
 Section A: Reading - one literature fiction text  
 Section B: Writing - descriptive or narrative writing  
 Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives  
 Section A: Reading - one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text  
 Section B: Writing - writing to present a viewpoint

Spoken Language - 0%

Speaking and listening skills are assessed separately and do not contribute to the final GCSE grade. Students will be assessed on presenting ideas, responding to questions and feedback, and using Standard English. There is one tier of entry, with grades awarded from 9 to 1.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

The GCSE English Language qualification is assessed through two examination papers, which together make up 100% of the final grade.

There is one tier of entry, with grades awarded from 9 to 1.

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

Achieving a GCSE in English Language is essential for further education and future career pathways, as it demonstrates strong communication skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening. The qualification supports progression into a wide range of careers, including media, journalism, law, medicine, engineering and the arts.

# English Literature

**Qualification** - GCSE

**Exam Board** - EDEXCEL

## What Will I Learn?

Throughout the course, you will study how writers use language, form and structure to create meaning in literary texts. You will also explore how social, cultural and historical contexts influence literature and shape writers' ideas. By engaging with a wide range of challenging and engaging texts, you will develop strong analytical and critical thinking skills.

You will learn how to write detailed, well-structured essays that analyse and evaluate texts effectively—skills that are essential for success at GCSE and highly valuable for further education.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

The GCSE English Literature course is assessed through two examination papers, which together make up 100% of the final grade.

There is one tier of entry, with grades awarded from 9 to 1.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-Century Novel  
1 hour 45 minutes Exam 40% of the GCSE

- Section A: Shakespeare - Macbeth
- Section B: 19th-Century Novel - A Christmas Carol

Paper 2: Modern Texts and Poetry  
2 hours 15 minutes Exam 60% of the GCSE

- Section A: Modern Texts - An Inspector Calls or Blood Brothers
- Section B: Poetry - Power and Conflict poetry
- Section C: Unseen Poetry

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

Achieving a GCSE in English Literature demonstrates strong analytical, evaluative and written communication skills, which are highly valued by colleges, universities and employers. The subject supports progression into a wide range of careers, including media, journalism, law, medicine, engineering, marketing, publishing, public relations and the arts



# Mathematics



**Qualification** - GCSE

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**Exam Board** - EDEXCEL

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## **What Will I Learn?**

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The aim of the course is to encourage students to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards Mathematics and to recognise the importance of Mathematics in their own lives and to society. It will provide a strong mathematical foundation for students who go on to study Mathematics at a higher level post-16. Course Content and Assessment

During the course, all students will study the four key areas of GCSE Mathematics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Geometry
- Statistics and Data Handling

## **How Will I Be Assessed?**

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Assessment consists of three equally weighted examination papers, all taken at the end of Year 11. Each paper is 1 hour and 30 minutes long. Students will be entered for either:

- Foundation Tier (Grades 1-5), or
- Higher Tier (Grades 4-9)

The examination papers are:

- Paper 1: Non-calculator
- Paper 2: Calculator allowed
- Paper 3: Calculator allowed

## **Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways**

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Employers and further education providers place a high value on GCSE Mathematics, as it demonstrates strong numeracy, problem-solving and decision-making skills. These are essential skills for everyday life and for understanding information, managing finances and making informed choices.

A good Mathematics qualification can lead to a wide range of career opportunities, including engineering, architecture, medicine, business, finance, computer scientist, accountant, software tester. and many other fields.

# Combined Science: Trilogy

**Qualification - GCSE**

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**Exam Board - AQA**

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## What Will I Learn?

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Studying Science will develop your understanding of the world around you and help you to think logically, analytically and critically. You will learn how scientific ideas are developed, tested and applied, and how science plays an essential role in everyday life and future innovation. Each lesson offers new challenges and opportunities to explore ideas and concepts you may not have encountered before.

The course is divided into three main scientific disciplines:

- Biology
- Chemistry
- Physics

Within each discipline, you will study a wide range of topics that build knowledge and understanding over time.

Marks from Biology, Chemistry and Physics are combined to produce two GCSE grades for Combined Science.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

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Each science discipline—Biology, Chemistry and Physics—is assessed by two examinations, making a total of six exams.

- Each exam lasts 1 hour 15 minutes
- Each exam contributes to the final Combined Science grade
- All examinations are taken at the end of the course

Students will be entered for either:

- Foundation Tier (Grades 1–5), or
- Higher Tier (Grades 4–9)

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

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This course will help you understand the world around you and build confidence in how science works. You will develop valuable skills such as problem-solving, logical thinking and analysing information, which are useful both in school and in everyday life. These skills are highly valued by colleges, universities and employers and will support you in a wide range of future careers. Combined Science provides strong foundations for careers in areas such as medicine, veterinary science, healthcare, education, as well as many other science-related and technical fields.



# Option Subjects

# Animal Care

**Qualification** - BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award

**Exam Board** - EDUQAS

## What Will I Learn?

The BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Animal Care is a practical, hands-on course designed for students who have a genuine interest in working with animals. You will learn how to care for a variety of animals, focusing on their handling, housing, health and welfare, while also developing an understanding of animal behaviour and safe working practices.

The course combines classroom learning with practical activities, allowing you to apply your knowledge in real-life situations. Students will gain experience caring for a range of animals, including the school's Shetland pony, goats, guinea pigs, chickens and reptiles.

Animal Care is a vocational qualification that helps you develop both practical and personal skills. You will learn how to work independently and as part of a team, follow instructions, solve problems and work confidently in a range of challenging environments.

## Course Content

Students study three components:

- Animal Handling
- Animal Housing and Accommodation
- Animal Health and Welfare

## How Will I Be Assessed?

Due to the practical nature of the course, assessment is varied and engaging. Students will demonstrate their understanding through a combination of:

- Written reports
- Practical tasks
- Video evidence of completed activities

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

This course is ideal for students interested in animal care, agriculture, veterinary work, or farming. It provides a strong foundation for roles in kennels, catteries, wildlife centres, and animal welfare organisations, with opportunities for work experience and industry contact. Students can progress to Level 3 Animal Management, leading to a wide range of careers in the animal care and agricultural industries, including emerging areas such as genetic testing and livestock breeding technologies.



# Art & Design

**Qualification** - GCSE

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**Exam Board** - EDUQAS

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## What Will I Learn?

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The GCSE Art and Design course offers plenty of opportunity to develop a range of practical and personal skills relevant to you as a person and valuable in many work situations. Employers are looking for creative people, someone who can problem solve and be willing to experiment with a range of ideas. The Art GCSE course also builds on your ability to work independently and be self-motivated.

Here in the Art department, we devise new projects every year to suit the needs and interests of each new class. So that your new teacher knows what you are interested in, we ask you to select an area you would like to specialise in. Here are some ideas for what each one may involve.

- Design Crafts
- 3D Design
- Fine Art
- Graphic Design
- Interactive Multimedia
- Fashion/Textiles

## How Will I Be Assessed?

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The course is divided into two units.

Unit 1: Personal Portfolio in Art and Design

The portfolio is a single project worth 60% of your marks.

Unit 2: Externally set assignment in Art and Design.

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

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You can use your GCSE in art to go on to study Art at A Level and then to Degree level. You can study a range of Art related courses such as Fashion, Architecture, Graphics, Illustration, Game Designer, Sculpture etc. Design careers include: Interiors, Product, Computer, Fashion or Jewelry design. Other careers are: Hairdressing, make-up artist, beauty therapy, teaching, advertising and photography.



**Qualification** - GCSE

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**Exam Board** - OCR

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## What Will I Learn?

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You will learn the core principles of computer science and develop skills in problem solving and computational thinking, building on the skills you have learned in Key Stage 3 in computer studies. Following on from more visual programming environments such as Scratch and Kodu, programming skills are further developed using high-level text based programming languages.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

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There are 2 exam papers that you will take at the end of year 11. Each exam is worth 50% each and this will make up your final grade. There is one tier: Grades 9 - 1.

Areas of Study Include:

Paper 1

- Systems Architecture
- Memory
- Wired and wireless networks
- Network topologies,
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural

Paper 2

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Data representation

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

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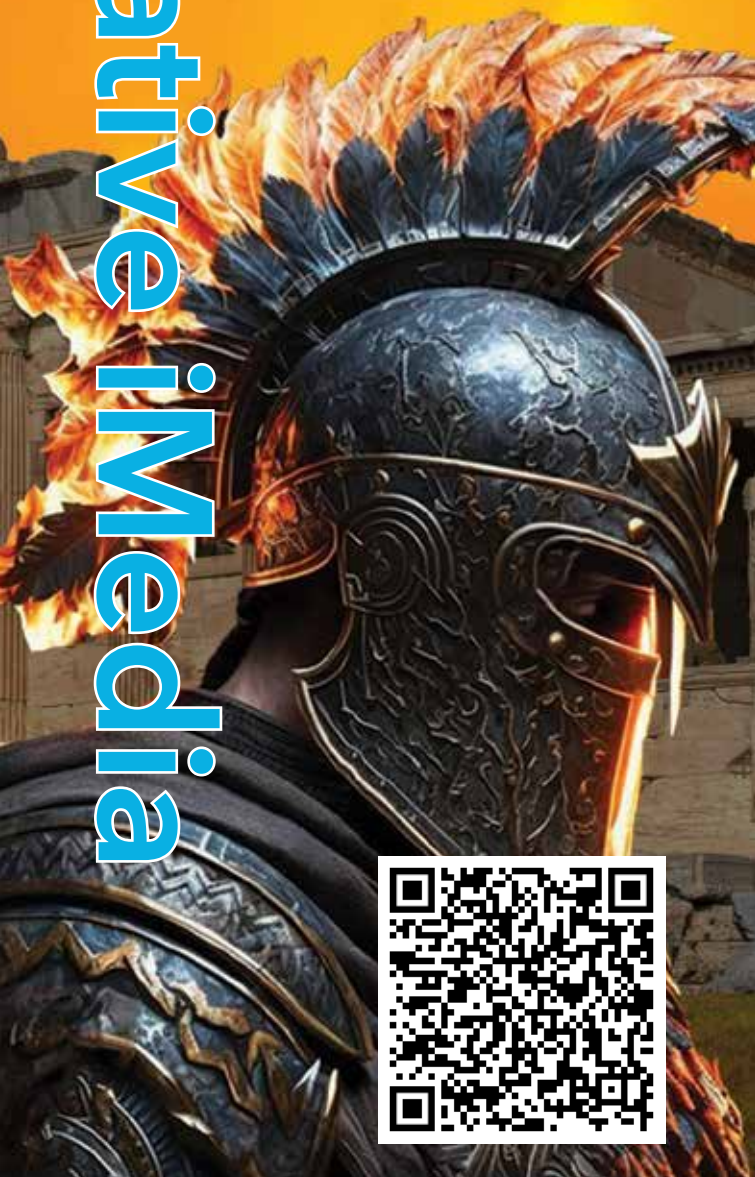
Gaining a qualification in Computer Science is an important advantage in today's world, whether you are going on to further education or making a career choice. It provides an excellent understanding of the 'underpinning' technical concepts which are useful in many subjects, including technology, science and engineering.

It will allow you to pursue a career in cyber-security, games design and creation, robotics, app development and to contribute to the development of future technologies. It will ensure that you are well prepared to access the rapidly increasing number of Computing careers of the future.

*\*Only students who are in set 1 or 2 for Maths should consider doing this course.*

# Computer Science





**Qualification** - Cambridge Nationals

**Exam Board** - OCR

### What Will I Learn?

The Level 1/Level 2 Cambridge National in Creative iMedia is aimed at students aged 14-16 years and will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that would be used in the media industry.

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

- Developing visual identities for clients
- Planning and creating original digital graphics
- Planning, creating and reviewing original digital media products.

This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the media industry. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations.

This qualification will complement other learning that you are completing for GCSEs or vocational qualifications at Key Stage 4 and help to prepare you for further study.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Year 10 coursework - 25%

Year 11 coursework - 35%

Year 11 exam - 40%

### Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

Creative iMedia is media-sector focused, including film, web development, gaming and animation. It provides a wide range of skills in digital media which are highly sought after in media-based industries.

As a future worker, the ability to design systems used in the workplace, develop project management and manage teams are all important, marketable skills. Creative iMedia delivers skills across a whole range of learning styles and abilities, engaging and inspiring all students to achieve great things.

This qualification is useful to students intending to follow Level 3 courses in media and IT. Examples include Cambridge Technical IT or Media courses, Media Studies and the Apprenticeship Framework.

**Qualification** - L1/2 Vocational Award

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**Exam Board** - WJEC

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## What Will I Learn?

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If you enjoy food, cooking and being creative, the Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is an exciting and practical course to choose. You will learn what food is made of, how it affects health and performance, and how to design, prepare and serve food products for different purposes and people.

The course covers a wide range of real-world topics, including:

- Cooking and food preparation
- Special diets and nutrition
- Sports nutrition
- Multicultural cuisine
- Restaurant and customer service
- Hotel and hospitality work
- Sustainability and celebration foods

Throughout the course, you will develop practical cooking skills, creative design ideas and a strong understanding of how food is prepared and served in different settings. You will also build valuable transferable skills such as research, problem-solving, organisation and time management, which are useful in many subjects and careers.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

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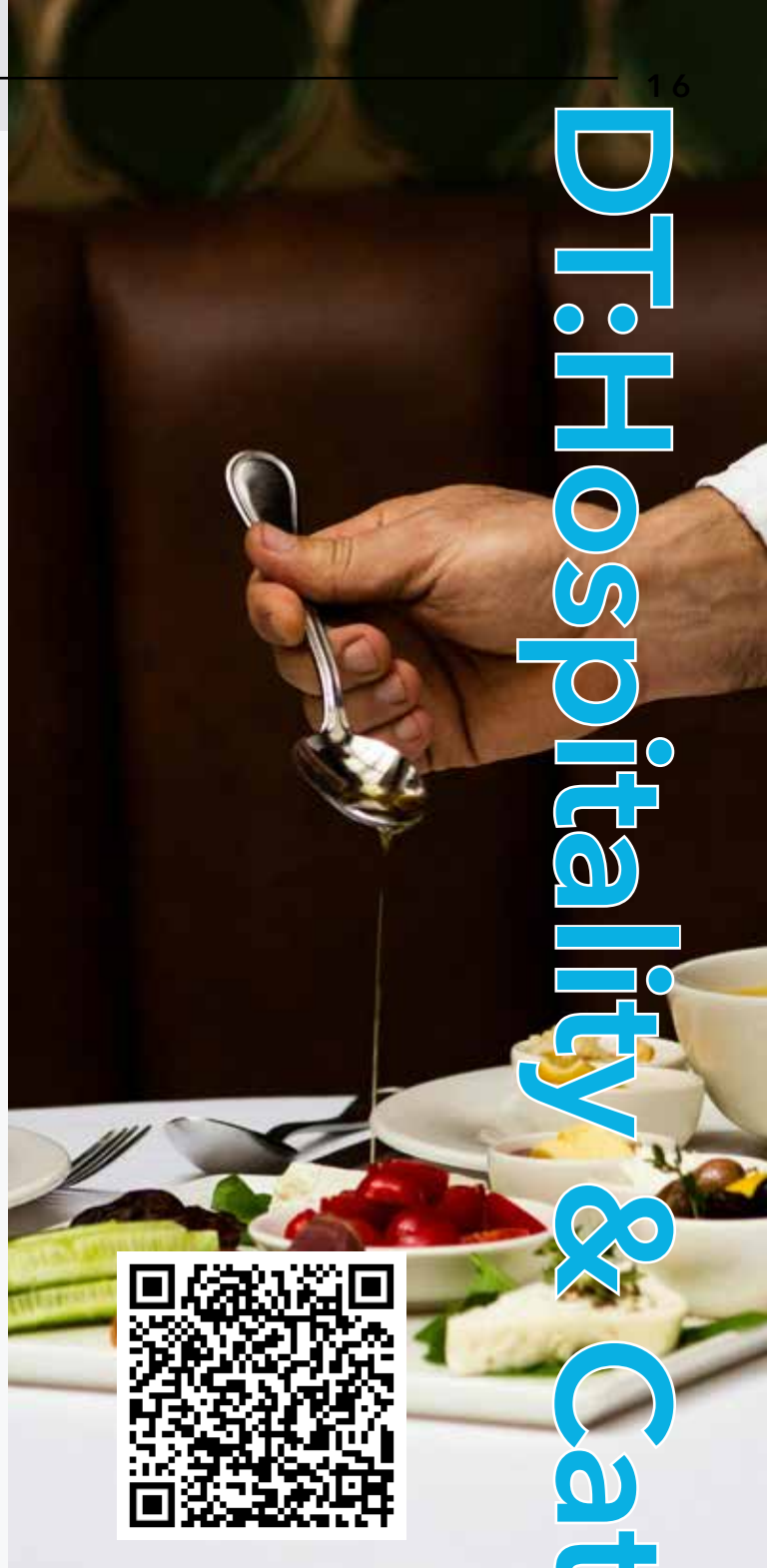
Assessment is a combination of coursework and an exam:

- Coursework: 60% - Completed through two practical and written assessments
- Examination: 40% - A 1 hour 20 minute exam (online or paper) based on topics studied during the course

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

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This course prepares students for further study and careers in the hospitality and catering industry. It can lead to Level 2 or 3 college courses, including professional chef and hospitality management qualifications. Career opportunities include roles such as chef, nutritionist, restaurant or hospitality manager and other food service positions.



# DT: Hospitality & Catering

# Notes





**Qualification** - Level 2 Technical award

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**Exam Board** - Pearson BTEC

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### What Will I Learn?

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This qualification allows you to explore the construction and built environment industry. If you enjoy practical, hands on tasks but also want to discover how buildings are constructed and what happens when they require repair, maintenance or refurbishment then this qualification is for you.

You will explore the structure of the construction and built environment industry in terms of how different people work together to deliver construction projects. You will develop an understanding of what makes a building and how the selection of different materials affects the overall look and feel, as well as how the building actually stands up. You will have the opportunity to carry out a selection of realistic practical construction tasks related to the repair, maintenance and refurbishment of a building.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

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There are 3 components which are assessed throughout Year 10 and 11

Component 1 - external assessment - 40% of total grade

Component 2 - internal assessment 30%

Component 3 - internal assessment - 30%

Component 2 is completed in Year 10 and contributes 30% of the overall grade. Good attendance is essential to ensure successful completion of this component.

Assessments are graded using the Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction\* system.

### Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

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After completion of this course, you can go on to study Industry standard qualifications at college in a specific trade e.g. full-time bricklaying, joinery, plumbing etc. which would qualify you to work on site within that sector. Or stay in study for a Level 3 qualification in our 6th form or at a college.

This could lead on to the following employment opportunities:

- Construction Design Technician.
- Site Manager.
- Property Developer.
- Civil Engineer.

**Qualification** - L1/2 Technical Award

**Exam Board** - NCFE

### What Will I Learn?

We are surrounded every day of our lives by items designed by Graphic designers. These products include the logo on your coat, the colouring and designs of the food packaging you bought from the shop this morning, the cover of the game you played on your console last night and the poster you just seen in a bus stop or on an advertising board this morning.

Graphic design has more jobs than any other area of the art and design world, is fun and enjoyable to take part in and allows you to be creative and successful without being good at drawing or painting, all you need is imagination.

You will learn about colour and the way it can influence our moods and choices when buying products, you will learn how to set magazine covers out, you will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator to help you design, you will learn about methods of producing graphic designs, you will learn about successful graphic design and designers from the past as well as the best current designers and designers working in the industry today.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Written exam - 40% (90mins)

Coursework - 60% - Internally assessed / externally moderated (17.5 hours)

### Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

After completion of this course, you can go on to study other Level 2 or 3 DT courses in our sixth form, go to Art college to study Graphic design at Level 3, go to college to study advertising, undertake a variety of Art courses at level 2 or 3, get an apprenticeship in Graphic design, branding, advertising or marketing at a private company.



DT: Graphic Design



**Qualification** - BTEC Technical Award

**Exam Board** - BTEC Technical Award L2

### What Will I Learn?

At KS4, students who choose to study BTEC Tech Award- Acting will receive a broad, coherent and rigorous course of study, which will inspire creativity and provide opportunities for students to make and understand Drama.

Students will have the opportunity to explore a variety of performance texts, understanding their social, cultural and historical context including the theatrical conventions of the period in which they were created. Alongside this, students will further develop a range of theatrical skills and apply them to create effective performances, working collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas as creative, effective, independent and reflective students.

\*You must have a passion for the arts and performing to take the course.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

Assessment is graded using the Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\* system. Students are assessed through a combination of practical performance and written tasks. There is no final written exam, but theory is assessed throughout the course using methods such as research logs, performance logbooks and written evaluations.

The qualification is modular and consists of three units. One unit is externally assessed, while the other two are internally assessed but externally moderated. One unit is completed in Year 10 and contributes 30% of the overall grade, so good attendance is essential for success.

### Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

This course will allow you to study Drama at 6th form or college and move onto a career in the following: Actor /Actress, Stage Manager, Arts Administrator, Drama Teacher, Drama Therapist, TV presenter, Media Producer, Radio Presenter and Theatre Director.

**Qualification** - Cambridge Nationals

**Exam Board** - OCR

## What Will I Learn?

Students explore the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract and retain customers.

Students are presented with a business challenge from which they create a researched and costed business proposal. They will carry out market research, present data, use idea generation tools, seek and act on feedback, and cost their proposals. In their work on this unit they will develop their self-assessment, collaborative working, creativity, numeracy, research and evaluative skills.

Students prepare for and pitch the business proposal that they developed in the previous unit. They develop a brand identity and investigate how best to promote their product and then plan, practise and finally deliver their pitch. Afterwards they review both their performance and their business proposal. This will help develop their analysis and self-evaluative skills as well as those relating to self-presentation.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

There is one exam paper worth 50%, and two coursework projects, each worth 25% of the final marks for your grade.

One unit is completed in Year 10 and contributes 30% of the overall grade, so good attendance is essential for success.

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

- Marketing executives
- Entrepreneurs
- Accountants
- Business Development Managers
- Product Developers



# Enterprise & Marketing

# Geography



**Qualification** - GCSE

**Exam Board** - AQA

## What Will I Learn?

Geography helps you understand the world around you and how people and environments are connected. It is a practical, relevant and exciting subject that explores real-world issues that affect everyone.

You will study a wide range of topics that help explain today's biggest global challenges, including climate change, poverty and inequality, global economic change and the sustainable use of resources. Through a variety of case studies, you will explore places in the UK, higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs).

Geography encourages you to think critically about your role in the world by exploring different viewpoints, values and attitudes. Learning goes beyond the classroom, with fieldwork opportunities including a physical geography trip to the River Allyn and a human geography trip to Chester, allowing you to apply your knowledge in real environments.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment.  
 Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment  
 Paper 3: Geographical applications

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

A GCSE in Geography can lead to careers in the following fields:

- Cartographer
- Commercial/residential surveyor
- Environmental consultant
- Geographical information systems officer
- Planning and development surveyor
- Teaching and Lecturing
- Town planner
- Funding & Strategy Senior Advisor - Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management
- GIS Analyst

## Qualification - NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award

### Exam Board - NCFE

### What Will I Learn?

The NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness complements GCSE qualifications. It is aimed at 14-16 year olds studying Key Stage 4 curriculum who are interested in the health and fitness industry sector. This qualification is designed to match the rigour and challenge of GCSE Study. The qualification focuses on an applied study of the health and fitness sector and learners will gain a broad understanding and knowledge of working in the sector.

Throughout this qualification, learners will gain valuable knowledge of:

- The main body systems and their functions.
- Principles of training and FITT.
- How physical activities affect the body in the short and long term.
- How relevant fitness tests can be used for specific health and skill components of fitness.
- Different lifestyle analysis tools and how to apply them.
- Creating a health and fitness programme.

### How Will I Be Assessed?

The qualification consists of two mandatory units, both of which must be passed to achieve the award. Learners must achieve at least a Level 1 Pass in both internal and external assessments.

- Unit 1: Introduction to Body Systems and Principles of Training (40%)  
Assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute written examination
- Unit 2: Preparing and Planning for Health and Fitness (60%)  
Assessed through a synoptic project, allowing learners to apply knowledge and skills in a practical context

### Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

This qualification provides a strong foundation for progression into Level 3 Sport or Health-related courses in Sixth Form. It is highly valued by colleges and universities for its balance of applied learning and academic knowledge. The course also supports progression into careers in sport, leisure, health, education, and the Uniformed Services, while developing key transferable skills such as leadership, communication, teamwork, organisation, and problem-solving.



# Health & Social Care



## Qualification - Technical Award

## Exam Board - NCFE

## What Will I Learn?

If you are interested in your own health, the health and well-being of others and have a kind and caring nature, this course is for you. In this subject you have an opportunity to:

- Gain a practical introduction to life and work within Health and Social Care.
- Gain practical, transferable skills that will give you the confidence to progress in whatever career you choose.

You will study 8 units.

Unit 1 - Health and social care provision and services

Unit 2 - Job roles in health and social care and the care values that underpin professional practice

Unit 3 - Legislation, policies and procedures in health and social care

Unit 4 - Human development across the life span

Unit 5 - The care needs of the individual

Unit 6 - How health and social care services are accessed

Unit 7 - Partnership working in health and social care

Unit 8 - The care planning cycle

## How Will I Be Assessed?

The qualification is split into 50% non-exam coursework assessment and 50% external examination.

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

This course is suitable for anyone who wants to work in the Health & Social Care sector.

Social care workers provide care and support for vulnerable people, such as those with disabilities and older people. Social care is provided in the community: at the home of the person receiving care, or in a care home, for example.

Social care is also available for families, making sure children from vulnerable or disadvantaged backgrounds are growing up in a safe and healthy environment.

A qualification in Health and Social Care helps both health care and social care workers to understand the needs of the people they are looking after, and how to provide care in a safe and dignified way.

**Qualification - GCSE****Exam Board - AQA****What Will I Learn?**

History is an exciting, modern course that covers a range of different historical periods. GCSE History will enable students to develop skills required for other literacy based examinations. Pupils gain a knowledge and understanding of the past and how it has been represented. The subject gives pupils the opportunity to think analytically about the causes and consequences of historical events. Students will learn about important historical people, events and why they are significant in history. Students will be taught to write at length and in detail. History is an academically demanding course requiring students to study independently, at home, in order to be successful.

**Paper 1:**

Germany 1890-1945, Democracy and dictatorship  
Conflict and tension, 1918-1939

**Paper 2:**

Health and the people; C.100 to the present day  
Elizabeth, c.1568-1607

**How Will I Be Assessed?**

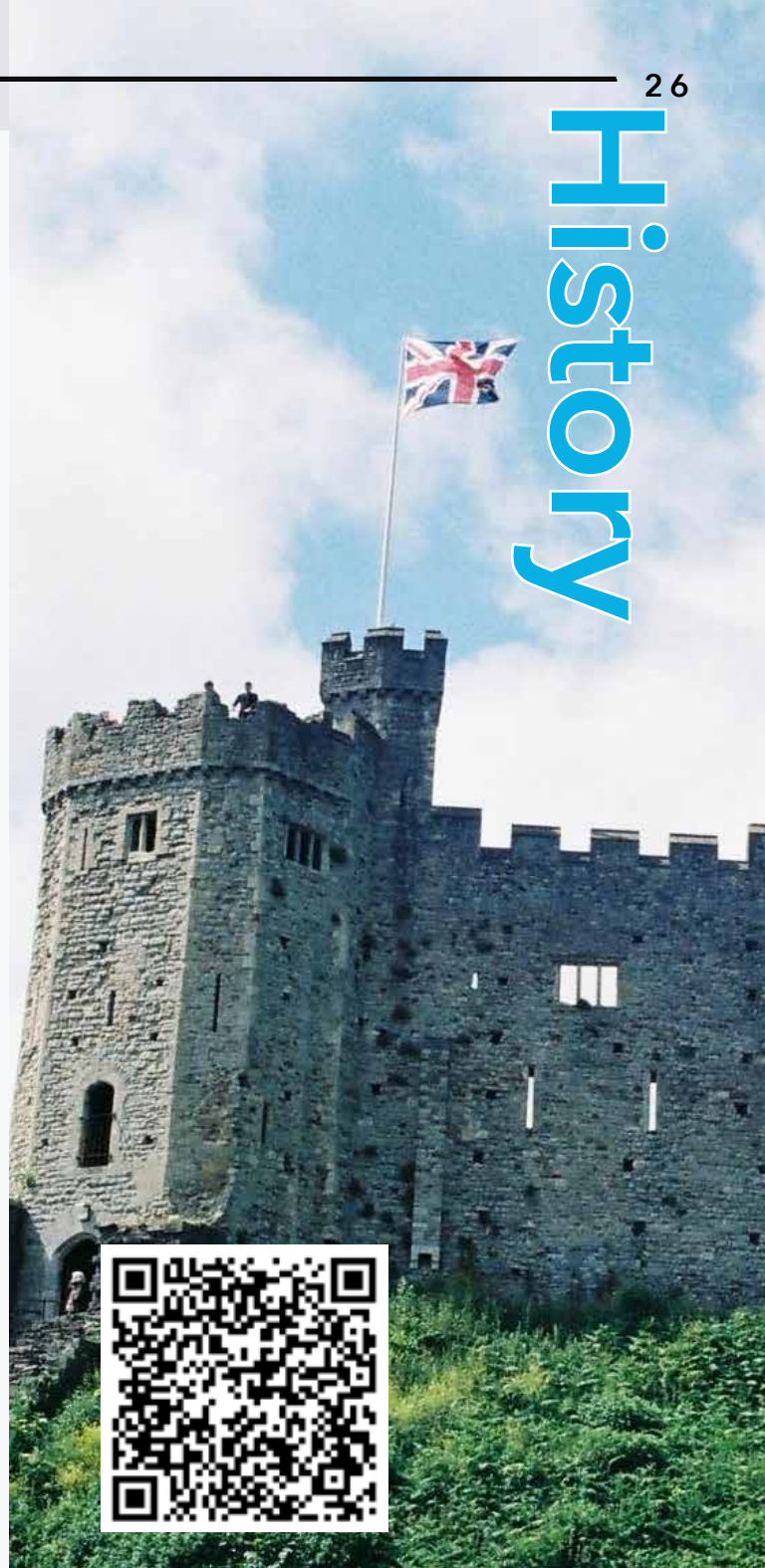
There are two external exams at the end of the two-year course.

Paper 1: 2 hours

Paper 2: 2 hours

**Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways**

You can further deepen your knowledge by embarking on AS/A2 Examinations; Higher Education/ College/University. Possible careers include: teaching, journalism, human resources and working with people.



# Music



**Qualification** - BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

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**Exam Board** - Pearson Edexcel

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## What Will I Learn?

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BTEC Music is a popular and practical choice for those wishing to study and learn about the music industry. You will learn about the various music products, develop valuable skills and techniques in music creation, performance and production, and explore potential careers in the industry.

You will complete three components across the 2 year course:

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles - exploring the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigating the key features of different musical styles and genres

Component 2: Music Skills Development - developing two musical disciplines such as performing, creating or producing music with the use of technology

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief - developing and presenting music in response to a given music brief from the exam board

## How Will I Be Assessed?

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The course includes a combination of internally and externally assessed components, with students completing assignments set by the exam board. Component 2 is completed in Year 10 and contributes 30% of the overall grade, making good attendance essential for success. To achieve the highest possible grades, students are expected to attend practice sessions at lunchtime and/or after school. Assessment is graded using the Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\* system.

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

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After completing the course, you can continue onto further vocational and academic study of music performance, music technology or music production at level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships.

Alternatively, you may wish to go into a job where it is useful to have had experience of music or where you will need to use some of the skills developed during this course. These might include careers in sound production, DJ, publishing, entertainment and teaching or any job, which involves independent, communication and expressive skills.

## Qualification - GCSE

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## Exam Board - Eduqas

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## What Will I Learn?

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This interesting subject gives pupils the opportunity to think about the modern world as we see it today and how people can cooperate, even when from different backgrounds and belief systems. We use our own opinions and ideas of the world to contrast and compare many issues such as poverty or abortion, referring to the impact of religious teachings on individuals and society as a whole.

You will learn about religious, philosophical and ethical studies in the modern world, through:  
Issues of relationships, including cohabitation and marriage.

Issues of life and death, including the creation of the world (with science) and how abortion is viewed.

Issues of good and evil, including capital punishment and how evil entered the world.  
Issues of human rights, including equality and attitudes to racism.

Beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity.

Beliefs, teachings and practices in Judaism

## How Will I Be Assessed?

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Three External Examinations

Paper 1:

Philosophy, Moral and Ethical Studies in the modern world: 2 hours.

Paper 2:

Christianity: 1 hour.

Paper 3:

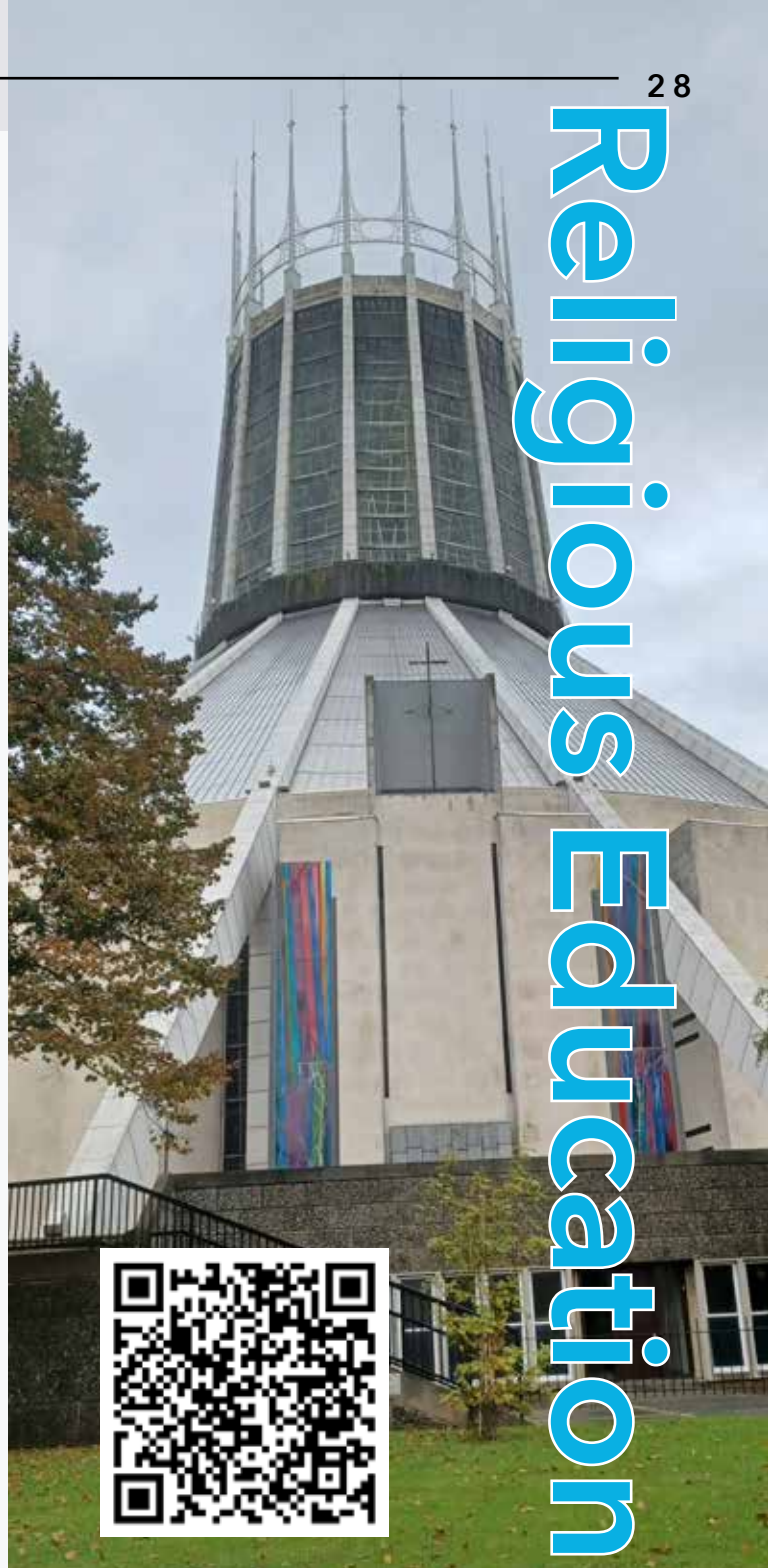
Judaism: 1 hour.

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

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AS/A2 Examinations; Higher Education/College/University

Possible careers: teaching, journalism, human resources, law including policing, social care and working with people.



# Separate Sciences: Triple



## Qualification - GCSE

## Exam Board - AQA

## What Will I Learn?

GCSE Separate Sciences (Triple Science) allows students with a strong interest in Science to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as three individual GCSEs, instead of Combined Science. This option counts as one option choice and includes additional Science lessons. Choosing Separate Sciences means you do not also study Combined Science.

Each subject is taught in greater depth than Combined Science, helping to prepare students for A Levels and further study.

- Biology: cells, systems in the body, inheritance, evolution, ecology, and key biological processes
- Chemistry: atomic structure, bonding, reactions, organic chemistry, energy changes, and chemistry in the real world
- Physics: energy, forces, electricity, waves, magnetism, atomic structure, and space physics

Across all three sciences, students complete practical investigations, building skills in experimentation, data collection, and analysis.

## How Will I Be Assessed?

Each separate science subject is assessed by:

- Two examinations, each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes
- All exams are taken at the end of Year 11

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

GCSE Separate Sciences are highly recommended for students considering science-based A Levels, university courses and careers. Many top universities prefer applicants for science degrees to have studied Triple Science at GCSE.

The qualification provides an excellent foundation for careers in areas such as medicine, engineering, veterinary science, research, technology and environmental science. The skills developed are highly valued by employers across a wide range of industries.

\*Students choosing Triple Science should be capable of Higher Tier Science and working at around a Grade 6 or above in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Suitability will be advised by Mr Marsh or Mr Pritchard.

**Qualification** - GCSE

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**Exam Board** - AQA

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### **What Will I Learn?**

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In GCSE Spanish, you will learn to use four main aspects of essential skills for communication in Spanish (and, indeed, in any language): Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

During the course you will cover topics within the following themes:

- Identity and Culture - describing yourself and others, learning about customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries.
- Local area, holiday and travel - describing your town, local area and neighbourhood, describing holidays you have been on and your future travel plans.
- School - describe your school life, your subjects and rules at your school.
- Future aspirations, study and work - explain what you would like to do in the future in terms of study and work plan, describe what plans you have for the future.
- International and global dimension - global issues such as the environment and poverty.

### **How Will I Be Assessed?**

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In your Spanish GCSE all four areas of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing will be assessed by separate examinations at the end of Year 11 at either foundation or higher tier.

### **Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways**

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A GCSE in Spanish is extremely useful for a variety of jobs, not just teaching or translating; for example, you might use these skills in careers such as tourism, web design, medicine, engineering or ICT. If you decide to continue your language learning to university level, you will be given the opportunity to spend time in Spain or Latin America.

A qualification in a language will always look good on your CV, whether you use the language in the course of your work or not, as it tells potential employers and colleges that you can use the four essential skills for communication.



# Further Mathematics



**Qualification** - Level 2 Certificate

**Exam Board** - AQA

## What Will I Learn?

\* This is an additional qualification to be studied by students who have opted for Statistics GCSE

This qualification will enable you to deepen your knowledge in mathematics and develop skills which will allow you to succeed in your chosen pathway. It places and emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem solving skills and is designed to challenge you to dive deep into key concepts, to encourage stretch and enjoyment and help you to reach your potential!

This qualification is based on the content of the GCSE mathematics qualification and is designed to taught in parallel with GCSE mathematics. There are 6 distinct topic areas although questions will be asked that range across these topics:

- Number
- Algebra
- Coordinate geometry (2 dimensions only)
- Calculus
- Matrices
- Geometry

## How Will I Be Assessed?

The examination is split into two evenly weighted papers that focus on the same content and skills. Each paper consists of a mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as you progress through the paper. Both papers are 1 hr 45 minutes and 80 marks each. Paper 1 is non-calculator and paper 2 is a calculator exam.

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

The further mathematics course is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to prepare for future A level study as it bridges the gap between GCSE and A levels. It is an ideal qualification to study should you be thinking of a career in mathematics, business, IT or medicine.

## Qualification - GCSE

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## Exam Board - Edexcel

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## What Will I Learn?

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\* Students who opt for statistics will also study Further Maths in Year 11.

Statistics are everywhere, from predicting the weather, deciding on how much traffic there will be on a motorway to monitoring workflow in the office. It is a huge part of everyday life, careers and further study.

This qualification will enable you to acquire transferable skills to support you in progressing beyond GCSE in a range of subjects. An understanding of data in the real world and how it can be used (or misused) can empower you and is relevant to everyone.

GCSE statistics compliments your GCSE mathematics course with lots of topics covered across both, some of these topics include:

- Probability
- Collecting and interpreting data
- Averages
- Scatter diagrams
- Measures of spread
- Constructing tables and charts
- Types of data
- Sampling

## How Will I Be Assessed?

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The examination is split into two evenly weighted papers that focus on the same content and skills. Both papers are 1hr 30 minutes and 80 marks each. Calculators may be used in both examinations.

This examination for Statistics will be taken in the Summer Term of Year 10, with students completing the Further Mathematics qualification in Year 11. Further details about the Further Mathematics course can be found on the next page. As a result, students will leave school with three qualifications in the field of mathematics.

## Opportunities for Further Study and Career Pathways

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GCSE Statistics develops essential transferable skills such as problem solving, critical thinking, communication, and collaborative working, which are highly valued in further education and employment. Confidence in statistics supports progression into a wide range of subjects and careers, including geography, science, social sciences, business, economics, law, and politics.



# Who Should I Speak to?

## Compulsory Subjects

|                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| English Language              | Miss Redmond |
| English Literature            | Miss Redmond |
| Mathematics                   | Mrs Kempster |
| GCSE Combined Science:Synergy | Mr Marsh     |

## Option Subjects

|                           |               |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Animal Care               | Miss McRae    |
| Art & Design              | Mrs Fleming   |
| Computer Science          | Mr McLaughlin |
| Creative iMedia           | Mr McLaughlin |
| DT:Hospitality & Catering | Mr Braniff    |
| DT:Graphic Design         | Mr Braniff    |
| DT:Construction           | Mr Braniff    |
| Drama                     | Miss Brown    |
| Enterprise & Marketing    | Mr McLaughlin |
| Geography                 | Ms Hart-Jones |
| Health & Fitness          | Mr Lloyd      |
| Health & Social Care      | Ms O'Brien    |
| History                   | Ms Barnes     |
| Music                     | Miss Utley    |
| Religious Education       | Mrs Rickers   |
| Separate Sciences:Triple  | Mr Marsh      |
| Spanish                   | Mr Avison     |
| Statistics                | Mrs Kempster  |
| Further Maths             | Mrs Kempster  |

You may also speak to your subject teacher for further information and guidance.  
Ms Heald, our careers advisor is also available.

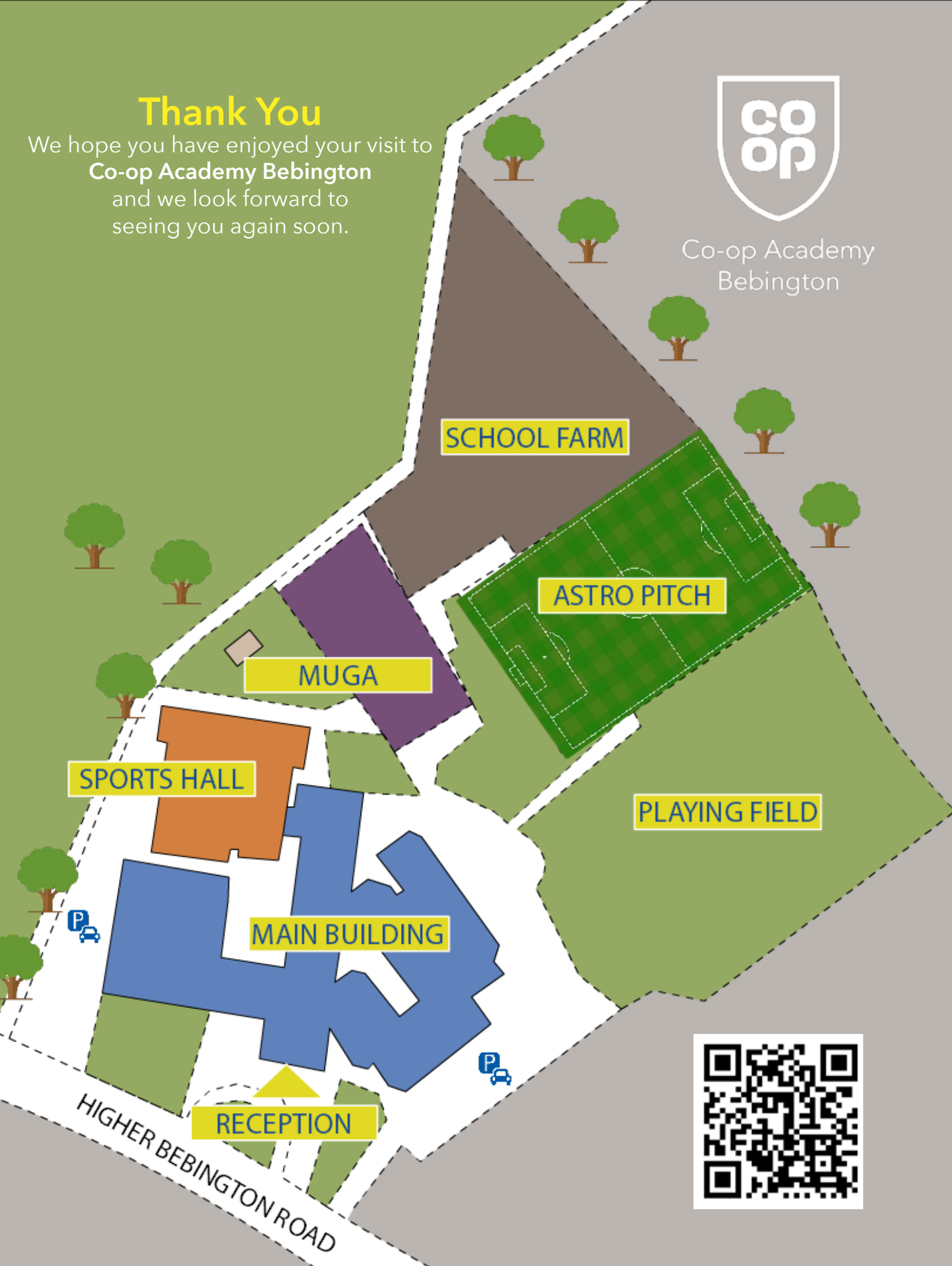


## Thank You

We hope you have enjoyed your visit to  
**Co-op Academy Bebington**  
and we look forward to  
seeing you again soon.



Co-op Academy  
Bebington



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