



# KS4 Curriculum

# September 2026



Hele's School

# Useful names and contacts

Principal

Assistant Principal (Curriculum)

Examinations Officer

Careers Information, Advice & Guidance

Supportive Education

Mrs. E Clapham

Mrs. A Ayres

Mrs. K Revill

Miss R Miller

Millerr@heles.plymouth.sch.uk

Mrs. A Byrne

## Head of Year 9

Mrs. S Aldersley

## Tutors

9A Mrs L Shelley / Ms Oram

9B Ms K Horvarth-Nimmo

9C Miss K Marment

9D Miss E Locke

9E Miss J Andrew

9F Mrs A Greet / Ms L Cole

9G Mr R Ramage

9H Mr M Reynolds

## Curriculum area

## Point of contact

Art	Ms. C. Wakeham
Business Studies	Mr. A. Smith
Computing /Creative iMedia	Mr. A. Irvine
Design and Technology	Mrs. K. Wooding
Drama	Mr. S. Jones
English Language and English Literature	Mr. M. Miller
Geography	Mr. M. Kelly
History	Mr. S. Atkinson-Sporle
Hospitality and Catering	Mrs. K. Wooding
Latin	Mrs. T. Brookshaw
Mathematics	Mrs. E. Pearce
Modern Foreign Languages (German, French and Spanish)	Mrs. K. Blandin-Neaves
Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education	Mrs. S. Smith
Physical Education	Mr. M. Cusack
Religious Studies	Mrs. L. Shelley
Science	Mr. R. Ramage
Sports Studies	Mr. M. Cusack
Travel and Tourism	Mrs. K. Blandin-Neaves

## Important Dates

Jan-Feb	Careers in PD – Personal strengths/weaknesses; making choices and setting goals
Jan 8th	Careers Fair 5pm
Feb 12th	Options Assembly
Feb 13th	Options Booklet to students
Feb 23rd	IA2 subject reports issued
March 2nd-6th	National Careers Week – Spotlight on careers links in lessons
March 5th	Year 9 Subject Teacher/ Parents Evening
March 12th	Options Fair and Information Evening
Mar 13th	Option Forms issued electronically
Mar 20th	Deadline for return of Option Forms
Apr 27th - May 8th	1:1 meetings with Mrs Ayres if necessary
w/b May 18th	Subject choices confirmed in writing

# Introduction

We aim to provide a personalised Key Stage 4 curriculum with breadth, balance and depth so that students are able to achieve in ways appropriate to their individual strengths and interests. Key Stage 4 covers Years 10 and 11 and it is at this stage that students can start to make choices about which subjects to continue with to GCSE level. Whilst some courses are compulsory others are optional; a combination of compulsory, or core subjects, plus 4 GCSE "Options" make up each individual student's curriculum.

Students currently in Year 9 will be required to remain in education or training until the age of 18; this can include employment with training and so does not mean that students need to remain in school for the whole of this period. Considering future pathways early can mean that staying on until the age of 18 is enjoyable rather than a burden!

Choosing option subjects is an important process, as these courses and the qualifications achieved at the end of Year 11 form the passport for entry to further and higher education as well as employment.

This booklet explains the following:

- which subjects are compulsory (core curriculum)
- which subjects are available as optional choices
- what each of the optional courses involves, how they are assessed and where they can lead to in the future
- the English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc)
- restricted subject combinations

# Core Curriculum

All students at Hele's School will study the core curriculum, which is compulsory. The subjects which make up the core are:

- English Language GCSE
- English Literature GCSE
- Maths GCSE
- Combined Science: Trilogy 2 x GCSEs
- PSHE core studies and RS core studies
- Physical Education core studies

Many students will also take a Modern Foreign Language (French / German) as core, as we believe pupils will develop valuable skills for the future. We make provision for any student who wishes to study their core MFL to GCSE level. Some students will be guided to choose either History or Geography instead of French or German, as core.

# Optional Courses

In addition to the core curriculum all students will study 3 from the following list:

- Art and Design
- Business Studies
- Computing
- Creative iMedia

- Design Technology
- Drama
- Geography
- History
- Hospitality
- Latin
- Physical Education
- Religious Studies
- Spanish
- Sports Studies
- Travel & Tourism

## The English Baccalaureate (E-Bacc)

The Government introduced the E-Bacc in 2011. This is not a qualification in itself, but is an award given to students who achieve a GCSE "good pass" in all 5 of the following subjects, which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors:

- English
- Maths
- a science (including computer science)
- a humanities (either history or geography)
- a foreign or ancient language

Our curriculum model does not force all students to take all 5 E-Bacc subjects, but certainly the majority of students do so; all students on Pathway 1 as well as anyone considering going into higher education (such as university) are advised to include either history or geography as an option, to meet the requirements of the E-Bacc.

## A balanced curriculum

During Key Stage 4, students will start exploring and applying for their chosen route for years 12 and 13. It is important to keep this in mind when selecting Key Stage 4 choices. Whilst some students might have made a decision on what career path they would like to follow, this is unusual aged 13/14 and it is likely that the majority are, at this stage, unsure on possible careers.

We would advise all students to choose a broad range of courses to keep as many options open as possible, and to carefully consider taking at least one subject which has an element of internal assessment alongside those which are all examined at the end of Year 11. These subjects are Art & Design, Creative iMedia, Design Technology, Drama, Hospitality, Physical Education, Sports Studies and Travel & Tourism.

Further advice and guidance on careers information is available through PSHE lessons, through the links on the Careers section of our student page on our website, or through contact with Miss Miller - [millerr@heles.plymouth.sch.uk](mailto:millerr@heles.plymouth.sch.uk)

## Are you thinking of studying at university?

It is possible that a choice you make now may impact on the courses you can apply for at university, although this is unlikely. Students should be aware that some university courses will require a particular subject to have been studied at A Level, and many A levels require the subject to have been studied at Key Stage 4.

Universities publish their current entry requirements online, and they can also be found through the UCAS website, so students may wish to do a little research in this area. The E-Bacc can be a useful addition to your application for Higher Education.

The Russell Group represents leading UK universities which are committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector. They have launched an interactive website called "Informed Choices", which can be useful both for students who have a clear idea of the courses they might like to take and also for those who aim to attend a top university but are currently unsure of their particular focus on study. This website can be found at [informedchoices.ac.uk](http://informedchoices.ac.uk)

Our curriculum delivers Combined Science GCSE to all students; this does NOT preclude students from studying individual science subjects at A level, nor from going on to study Medicine, Veterinary Science or Dentistry at Higher Education.

## Choosing courses

When you are choosing your option subjects you need as much information as possible about each course. There is plenty of information in the pages ahead, and more if you look on line. You will be asked to express several preferences for subjects you would like to study over the next two years, and will be allocated courses from your list of preferences. The school will have the ultimate decision in determining the most appropriate package of courses for you in light of your past and current performance, your commitment to learning and your future plans. There may be some courses that do not recruit sufficiently to run; in this instance an alternative will be allocated in discussion with students and parents.

Do not make choices based on your friends' choices; the teacher you have now in Year 9, or the one you had in Year 7 or 8; whether it sounds easy/cool/good; because someone you know took it and really liked it; because it's new and you've never done it before. These are not valid reasons; you really need to be sure of what you are signing up for!

Consider a range of factors such as the assessment pattern (is it examined at the end of Y11, are there any non – examined assessments or internal assessments?); the course content; what it might lead to later in life; skills acquired throughout the course; whether or not you have enjoyed learning about this subject previously.

## Course allocation

Students will be allocated to courses in such a manner as to ensure that as many choices are met for as many students as possible. Where a course is oversubscribed, the school will consider a range of factors including subject preferences as identified on the Options Form, and Commitment to Learning. If a course does not attract enough students to run then the next preference will be taken from the student's Options Form.

## Changing and dropping courses

It is very unlikely that you will be able to change courses once you have started a course in September. Some courses will be full, and others will start on GCSE work very quickly, so moving because you feel you have chosen a course for the wrong reasons and later asking to swap to an alternative is sometimes impossible and often very difficult.

## Period 0

At Key Stage 4, we use 30 mins at the start of every day (which has previously been known as tutor time) to further develop all students' maths and English skills, as well as teaching revision techniques. The aim of this is to support towards securing the best possible outcomes in GCSE English and maths and to help become increasingly more independent as learners. Students will have specialist teaching in English and maths on a fortnightly rotation, delivered by a . All students have a year group assembly once a week led by their Head of Year.

# A personalised curriculum

Students are guided onto different pathways, to enable us to structure our curriculum appropriately and meet the needs of different groups of students. We pride ourselves on having a rigorous and broadly academic curriculum at the core of every student's learning and a wide range of Level 2 courses are offered with a variety of assessment models and content.

## Pathway 1

As well as the core curriculum listed previously, your son/daughter will have a Modern Foreign Language as part of their core curriculum, and will take a further 3 GCSE option subjects.

In order to fulfil the requirement of the EBacc we recommend that they select at least one of history or geography. In addition, to maintain a balanced curriculum and to spread the assessment load we recommend selecting a subject with some non-examined (internal) assessment. The assessment model is listed for each subject in the following pages.

## Pathway 2

As well as the core curriculum listed previously, your son/daughter will choose between their core Modern Foreign Language, or history, or geography as part of their core curriculum, and will take a further 3 GCSE option subjects.

If they wish to fulfil the requirement of the EBacc they would need to select their language as their core option, and either history or geography as one of the other 3. In addition, to maintain a balanced curriculum and to spread the assessment load we recommend selecting at least one subject with some non-examined (internal) assessment. The assessment model is listed for each subject in the following pages.

## Pathway 3

As well as the core curriculum listed previously, your son/daughter will choose between their core Modern Foreign Language or history, or geography as part of their core curriculum. They will take a further 2 option subjects and have additional time to work on areas of the curriculum to support their progress across a range of subjects. This may include some specialist teaching in Science, some mentoring and some support with functional literacy and numeracy

To maintain a balanced curriculum and to spread the assessment load we recommend selecting *at least* one subject with some non-examined (internal) assessment for the 2 option subjects. The assessment model is listed for each subject in the following pages.

## Alternative Pathway

A very small number of students will access a bespoke curriculum designed by the SEND department, should GCSE study be inappropriate.

# National Qualification Framework

Several subjects can be studied at different levels. Below is an explanation of the different types of qualification. You can find out if a subject you are interested in has different qualifications by reading the details for that subject.

Qualifications: what the different levels mean	Examples of Qualifications	What they give you
Entry Level	Entry Level Certificates	Basic knowledge and skills Appropriate for students who will find Level 1 courses too challenging.
Level 1	GCSE grades 1 - 3 BTEC Cambridge Nationals Technical Award Level 1 Music grades 1-3	Basic knowledge and skills. Ability to apply learning with guidance or supervision. Maybe linked to job competence.
Level 2	GCSE grades 4 - 9 BTEC Cambridge Nationals Technical Award Level 2 Music grades 4-5	Good knowledge and understanding of a subject. Ability to perform a variety of tasks with some guidance or supervision. Appropriate for many job roles.
Level 3	AS and A2 levels BTEC Diplomas, Certificates and Awards Cambridge Nationals Technical Level 3 Music grades 6-9	Ability to gain or apply a range of knowledge, skills and understanding, at a detailed level. Appropriate if you plan to go to university, work independently, or (in some cases) supervise and train others in their field of work.
Further levels 4-8 from higher apprenticeships and degrees to post graduate degrees and doctorates		

# Questions and Answers

## Why do I have to state my preferences for subjects to study?

For a number of reasons. You will be required to study subjects in a great deal more depth than at Key Stage 3, and there are only so many hours in a school week; there are too many subjects for you to be able to take them all. In addition, not everyone is equally successful at all subjects, so this is an ideal opportunity for you to concentrate more on subjects which are going to be important for you and that you enjoy.

## Why is my choice important?

- You are making a commitment now right through until the end of Year 11, and it is vital that you enjoy what you are doing.
- Your choice now may well make a difference to which courses you can take in Years 12 and 13 and, later, at university, college, or at work.
- Similarly, certain areas of employment may not be open to you if subjects have not been taken at KS4.

## If I don't choose a subject now, can I study it later as an A level without having passed it at GCSE?

Many subjects, including Drama, Media, Hospitality, Sociology, Business Studies, and Travel and Tourism, may all be studied successfully from 'scratch' in Post 16. There will also be a wide range of courses available through the Plym Learning Consortium, which will be available to you with no prior experience, as long as you reach the entry criteria for A Level/Level 3 study.

## How many examination subjects will I take?

Most pupils take 9 GCSE or equivalent subjects, although some will be doing more or fewer depending on whether they opt to study an extra course in twilight (after school), or whether they have been guided to Pathway 3.

## How many subjects do I choose?

All students must take the core:

- Examined GCSE courses in English, Mathematics and Science.
- Non - examined core studies in RS, PE and Personal, Social, Health and Economic studies (PSHE)

Most students will also continue with their core MFL (French or German), and if not this, then History or Geography. In addition you will express several preferences from a list of optional subjects, from which you will be allocated three to study until the end of Year 11.

Head of Department : Mr. M. Miller

# English Language and Literature

GCSE English Language, and GCSE English Literature.

## Qualifications

GCSE English Language, AQA, 8700; GCSE English Literature, AQA, 8702

## Entry Requirements

All students are required to study GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature

## What is this subject about?

Put simply, English matters. Few would argue with the suggestion in the national curriculum that 'English has a pre-eminent place in education and society'. Partly, this is because of the functional role that English plays: it is through mastery of English that students are able to communicate with the world – and have the world communicate with them – in a frictionless way. It is through the medium of English, for example, that those we teach are able to fully access the rich knowledge of history, art, science and every other subject they encounter at school; it is through the medium of English that opportunities open up beyond the school gates. As such, it is a powerful tool for social justice. Crucially, it is a subject which – particularly through literature, but not exclusively – can induct students into knowledge of the human condition; to both the universality and diversity of experience, to written works that can make the heart sing and the soul sigh; to cautionary tales about the world in which we live; to forms of creative self-expression that can capture an ephemeral moment in words like an insect trapped in amber; and to the analytical thinking, reading and writing that allows us to become critical consumers of the world around us.

Whether it be the basics of reading, writing and speaking, the knowledge of English as a discipline, or the cultural, emotional, intellectual, social, spiritual and creative development gained through the subject, our subject is fundamentally about enfranchisement.

## When and how am I assessed?

Non-Tiered Examinations

Language Paper 1

Language Paper 2

Literature Paper 1—Macbeth and A Christmas Carol

Literature Paper 2—An Inspector Calls, Power and Conflict poetry and Unseen Poetry.

## Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Please speak to your English teacher.

Core  
Subject

English Language & Literature

Head of Department : Mrs. E Pearce

## Maths

GCSE Mathematics

### Qualifications

Edexcel 1MA1

Core  
Subject

### Entry Requirements

All students are required to study GCSE Mathematics

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Mathematics teaches us how to approach and solve problems, both familiar and unfamiliar, in an ever changing world. These skills are essential to all aspects of education and life beyond school. You need to be willing to work hard and be resilient when facing difficulty, but everyone can do maths!

### What is this subject about?

Mathematics is a creative and highly interconnected discipline. It is essential for everyday life, critical to science, technology and engineering and necessary for financial literacy and most forms of employment. GCSE mathematics extends the topics met through Key Stage 3, deepening understanding and extending knowledge. You will study Number, Algebra, Ratio & Proportion, Geometry, Statistics and Probability throughout the course. You will be provided with the opportunity to develop mathematical knowledge and skills to set you up for life.

### When and how am I assessed?

There are 3 written examination papers at the end of the GCSE course. Any content from the entire specification can be on any of the three papers.

Paper 1 – non-calculator – 1 hour 30 mins.

Paper 2 – calculator – 1 hour 30 mins.

Paper 3 – calculator – 1 hour 30 mins.

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

Our mathematics curriculum is designed to provide a foundation for understanding the world, equipping you with the knowledge, tools and skills to give you access to your desired pathway beyond school. Being mathematically literate will ensure that you can approach adult life with an assurance of independence, especially around financial matters. GCSE Mathematics is an essential requirement for most Higher Education course and many employment opportunities.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your mathematics teacher for more information. There may be an opportunity for invited students to study an additional extended Maths qualification, outside of the normal taught curriculum, through a period 6 session. This will enhance and enrich your understanding of more complex mathematics.

Head of Department: Mr. R Ramage

## Science

Exam Board AQA

Core  
Subject

# Science

### Qualifications

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy – equivalent to two GCSE grades

### Entry Requirements

All students are required to study GCSE Combined Science Trilogy

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Science teaches us how to think, learn, solve problems and make informed decisions; these skills are integral to every aspect of education and life beyond the classroom.

### What is this subject about?

As you grow up in an increasingly technologically and scientifically advanced world, you need to be scientifically literate to succeed. We believe that Science fires our imagination as the foundation of everything, we are surrounded by technology and the products of Science every day. Science gives us opportunities to be wrong that move us forward; being wrong leads us to a better understanding of the world and ourselves.

### How am I assessed?

There are six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas.

#### Biology paper 1:

Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics.

#### Chemistry paper 1:

Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

#### Physics paper 1:

Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

#### Biology paper 2:

Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

#### Chemistry paper 2:

The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

#### Physics paper 2:

Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism.

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

We equip you with the skills, enthusiasm, knowledge and understanding that not only allows you to make sense of the world but to become the scientists, medics and engineers of a shared future.

Science is a system for exploring, and for innovation; it is integral to our nation's economic growth and can form a path for our young people in a competitive global marketplace.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Biology, Chemistry or Physics teacher.



# KS4 Curriculum

# Option Subjects



Hele's School



Curriculum Lead : Ms. C. Wakeham

# Art, and Design

AQA Art, Craft and Design

## Qualifications

GCSE Art & Design

## Entry Requirements

A keen interest in Art & Design, You need to be competent in using a range of different media including painting and drawing, and have an interest in exploring the visual world.

## Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

An understanding of the basic principles of art, craft and design; a willingness to take risks, work with different media and explore a range of artists; the ability to organise and communicate your own ideas.

## What is this subject about?

Art, craft and design develops visual awareness and creative skills. You will gain practical experience in the use of colour, tone, line pattern, shape, texture, form and construction, as well as gaining knowledge of important historical and contemporary artists and designers. Art, craft and design is an important subject for future careers in Architecture, Design of all kinds, Illustration, Fashion, TV and Film, Animation, Computer Graphics, Teaching, etc. Companies across the world look for creative problem-solvers, which is a skill you will learn

## When and how am I assessed?

Portfolio (60% of final mark).

- Sketchbook on a theme/subject showing detailed studies and ideas, including in-depth, written and practical work, looking at artists and designers.
- Investigation of a visual idea/theme to further your skills, knowledge and understanding. This will lead towards a final piece responding to your theme, using all of the skills and techniques developed throughout the coursework unit.
- Lots of experimentation in a variety of materials.
- Completed paintings/sculptures/prints with supporting written work to show the development of ideas leading to the final outcome.

Externally Set Task (40% of final GCSE mark).

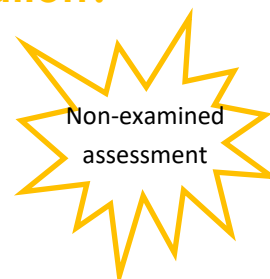
The externally set exam consists of a completed sketchbook and final piece. The Task paper is issued by AQA Exam Board from 2nd January of the year of examination with preparation time and 10hrs supervised time. This piece follows the same working processes

## Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course provides access to a range of courses. Many pupils progress to the A level course, however some choose other routeways offered elsewhere.

## Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Ms Wakeham or Miss Roberts.



# Art, and Design

# Business

Head of Department : Mr. A. Smith

## Business

OCR J253

### Qualifications

GCSE Business

### Entry Requirements

A secure grounding in English and Maths

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You need to possess a genuine interest in business, current affairs and the world around you. It is useful to be practical, methodical, a problem solver and able to work as part of a team as well as independently.

Most importantly you will require a positive attitude, self-motivation and organisation, with a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate those ideas effectively. These are not only the skills that you will need for the course, but also the skills needed to be successful in business.

### What is this subject about?

The Business GCSE course is varied in content and will cover a number of business topic areas such as marketing, finance, law, production, human resource management and basic economics.

Students explore how business operates and its influence on society. They learn how to solve problems and explore the world of work and gain insight into various possible careers.

The course provides varied and lively opportunities to develop many new skills and to link theory with practice.

Through practical tasks you will learn the basics of how businesses operate and are set up, moving on to learn the role that people play in this process. You will investigate topics such as recruitment and selection, motivation and location of industry as part of your studies.

### When and how am I assessed?

2 x 1 hour 30 minute exams, each worth 50% of final GCSE grade.

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

Almost every career has some element of business within it, and therefore the career opportunities after studying Business are almost unlimited.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mr Smith.

Head of Department : Mr. A. Irvine

# Computer Science

OCR J277

## Qualifications

GCSE Computer Science

## Entry Requirements

This can be a challenging subject and it is imperative that you have a keen interest in finding out how computers work and a wish to learn computer programming.

## Skills Required

A good background in ICT, Maths and Science is essential. You must be self-motivated and willing to work independently on solutions to difficult problems. The course is a mixture of theory lessons and programming tasks, and you should be able to focus on some tricky concepts and ask questions/research anything you do not understand.

## What is the subject about?

Unit 1 of OCR GCSE Computer Science focuses on computer systems, exploring how hardware and software interact to process data. It covers key topics like the CPU, memory, storage, networks, and security, as well as the ethical, legal, and environmental impacts of technology. The unit provides a foundation for understanding the principles of system architecture and the role of computing in society.

Unit 2 of OCR GCSE Computer Science focuses on computational thinking, algorithms, and programming. It covers problem-solving techniques such as decomposition, abstraction, and algorithm design, alongside practical programming skills using constructs like variables, loops, and conditionals. Additionally, it emphasizes testing and debugging to ensure robust

## When and how am I assessed?

Both Unit 1 and Unit 2 are examined at the end of the course., contributing 50% each

## Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course would allow you to progress on to a level 3 Computer Science course. At the time of printing the average Computer Scientist Salary is £57,500 per year.

**72%** of businesses in the UK have **vacancies** for workers with **digital skills**

**68%** of businesses find it **challenging to hire the digital workers** they need

How will you develop your digital skills?

How will you prove you have them?

Choose Computer Science and be one step ahead....

## Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mr Irvine and Mr Stenhouse.

# Computer Science

# Creative iMedia

Head of Department : Mr. A. Irvine

## Creative iMedia

### Qualifications

Cambridge National Creative iMedia Level 1/Level 2 J834



### Entry Requirements

You will have taken a keen interest in the iMedia unit in Year 9.

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this ?

A strong interest in ICT and using computers. Creativity - to be able to come up with designs which can be realised in a digital product. The ability to work independently on coursework which will count towards your final grade.

### What is this subject about?

The OCR Cambridge National in Creative iMedia focuses on developing practical skills and theoretical knowledge in digital media production. Students learn to plan, create, and evaluate a range of graphical media products using industry-standard tools and techniques. The course emphasizes pre-production skills, including storyboarding and scripting, alongside understanding audience needs, legal considerations, and the purpose of various media forms. It also encourages creativity and problem-solving while preparing students for careers in the digital media industry.

### When and how am I assessed?

The theory unit R093 makes up 40% of the final grade. There are also 2 units of course work. Unit R094 focuses on creating visual imagery for digital media products. Unit R095 focuses on creating digital comics and characters. For both course work tasks, students learn to plan, design, and produce engaging content that meets client requirements and resonates with target audiences. The units emphasize skills in the use of digital tools to create professional-quality media products with a focus on visual style, and technical considerations.

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

**72%** of businesses in the UK have **vacancies** for workers with **digital skills**

**68%** of businesses find it **challenging to hire the digital workers** they need

How will you develop your digital skills?

How will you prove you have them?

Choose Creative iMedia and be one step ahead....

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mr Irvine, Mr Stenhouse, or Mrs Smith.

Head of Department : Mrs. K. Wooding

## Design & Technology

AQA 8552

### Qualifications

GCSE Design & Technology

### Entry Requirements

If you have enjoyed KS3 Design & Technology and shown at least good commitment to learning, if you are creative and inquisitive and you enjoy problem solving and creating solutions, then this course is for you.

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Have you ever wondered what designers actually do? Have you ever wondered how things move or work or what makes products successful?

A qualification in Design and Technology will prepare you to become a creative and critical thinker, developing skills to design and deliver prototypes that solve real and relevant problems. You also need to be able to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills.

### What is this subject about?

This GCSE will help you to understand and appreciate the design and manufacture of existing products, and to be creative in your approach to work, develop your designing ability, use of digital technologies in designing and creating products. You will learn about creative, engineering and manufacturing industries as well as about important issues that affect design in the wider world such as sustainability, global issues and inclusive user-centred design.

During the course you will study a wide range of materials; you will also develop an understanding of systems, computer aided design and mechanisms to support any potential design solutions you may develop later on. You will then develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of specific materials and related techniques and processes,

### When and how am I assessed?

The Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) is a Design Challenge which is a single task that is worth 50% of the qualification. There will be open and real-world contexts for you to interpret and explore provided by the exam board.

The other 50% of the qualification covers the principles of design and technology in a written examination. This is a single examination component with questions covering both

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

The study of design and technology can lead to future careers in product design, engineering, architecture, fashion and graphic design; it will develop your design and thinking skills that open up a world of possibility, providing the tools to create the future. You will build and develop your broad knowledge and understanding from KS3. A variety of materials are studied and different processes experienced. Your skills will be developed through working with the appropriate materials and technologies for the task. This mirrors the world of real design and leads to further specialism at A level through Product Design.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Design & Technology teacher.



# Design Technology

# Drama

Head of Department : Mr. S. Jones

## Drama

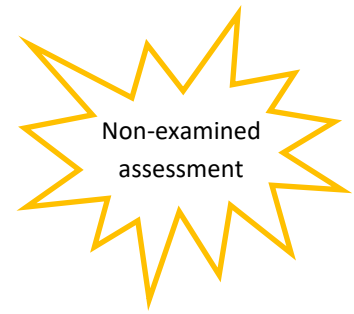
Eduqas

### Qualifications

GCSE Drama

### Entry Requirements

None



### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You will have the opportunity learn and develop a range of transferable skills and practise applying these to new situations. These include analytical, problem-solving, organisation and time management skills. You will need to be able to work collaboratively to generate, develop and communicate ideas, all of which will develop your emotional intelligence. Your practical skills will be refined and will demonstrate creativity, reflection and resilience, as well as developing confidence and strong presentation skills. Your written skills, both analytical and creative, as well as your ability to self-reflect, will be developed through a range of tasks. Studying drama will give you opportunities for higher order thinking, by considering ideas which go beyond language. This is great brain-training which will help you in other areas too. Through studying drama, you will be equipped with the skills to succeed in your next steps.

### What is this subject about?

You will be given the opportunity to develop not only your performance skills but also your design skills in areas such as:

Lighting design; Sound design; Set design; Costume, Hair and Make-Up Design.

You will collaborate in devising your own piece of theatre and perform from a text. You can choose to concentrate on acting or design. You will explore a range of texts and view a variety of live theatre productions.

The Eduqas GCSE Drama specification has three components: Devising Theatre, Performing from a Text, and Interpreting Theatre.

### When and how am I assessed?

**Component 1:** Devising Theatre 40% You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre. You will produce: a portfolio of supporting evidence based on the rehearsal process; a performance lasting between 5-16 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group); an evaluation of the final performance or design. Teacher assessed, and externally moderated

**Component 2:** Performing from a Text 20% You will study two extracts from the same text chosen by you or your teacher. You can choose to be assessed on acting or design. You will produce a performance lasting between 5-14 minutes using sections of text from both extracts. Externally assessed by a visiting examiner.

**Component 3:** Interpreting Theatre 40% Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. You will answer:

**Section A:** Set Text - A series of questions based on the set text that you have studied.

**Section B:** Live Theatre Review – One question from a choice of two, analysing and

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Drama teacher.

Head of Department : Mrs K. Blandin-Neaves

# French

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

## Qualifications

GCSE French

## Entry Requirements

Able linguists, with a passion for French, who have good or excellent commitment to

## Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Good communication skills, resilience, strong listening skills, literacy skills and interpreting information

## What is this subject about?

GCSE French helps students develop their French language skills and gives students a broad understanding of culture in French speaking countries.

The course encourages a love of language learning and allows students to take their place in our multi-lingual world.

The course allows students to study a wide variety of topics that are relevant to today, such as; technology, free time activities, customs and festivals, social issues, travel and tourism, global issues and education.

## How will I be assessed?

GCSE French will develop listening, reading, speaking, translation and writing skills.

Our aim is to enable students to develop their language skills to their full potential and to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to communicate in a variety of contexts.

Listening - Examination 25%

Speaking - Examination 25%

Reading - Examination 25%

Writing - Examination 25%

## Where could this subject take me in the future?

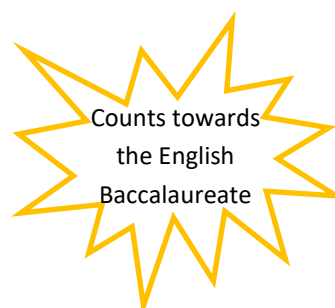
Anywhere in the world!

Having a GCSE in a modern foreign language means you can excel in a wide range of careers: Travel and Tourism, Services, Marketing, Journalism, Law, Translation and many more

## Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your French teacher.

*“To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world”*



# French

# Geography

Head of Department : Mr. M. Kelly

## Geography

AQA Geography 8035

### Qualifications

GCSE Geography

### Entry Requirements

An interest in the world around you, and good commitment to learning in Geography.

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

GCSE geographers should have a keen interest in the study of the world around them. You will be working with a variety of resources, including maps, photographic and statistical data as well as GIS (geographic information systems). Fieldwork is an essential element of the course which will mean planning, collecting and interpreting data from your own geographical investigations.

### What is this subject about?

The geography course is all about developing a better understanding of the world we live in. Topics of study are contemporary and relevant and include natural hazards, climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of meeting our needs for food, water and energy supplies. You will be encouraged to understand your role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

### When and how am I assessed?

The course is divided into 3 units with an exam for each one:

**Living with the physical environment** - natural hazards; river and coastal environments in the UK; tropical rainforest and hot desert ecosystems.

**Challenges in the human environment** - urban issues in the UK and in low income countries; global variations in economic development and quality of life; management of food, water and energy resources.

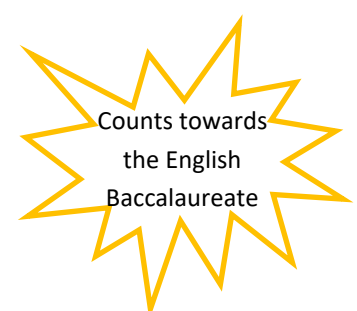
**Geographical applications** - a critical thinking and problem solving task based on the physical and human themes above and questions focused on two fieldwork investigations

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

Geography provides an excellent knowledge base from which to pursue many careers and post 16 courses. Geography makes use of literacy, numeracy, ICT, presentation and communication skills, many aspects of which are required in the workplace.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Geography teacher.



Head of Department : Mrs K. Blandin-Neaves

## German

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

### Qualifications

GCSE German

### Entry Requirements

Able linguists, with a passion for German, who have good or excellent commitment to

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

Good communication skills, resilience, strong listening skills, literacy skills and interpreting Information

### What is this subject about?

GCSE German helps students develop their German language skills and gives students a broad understanding of culture in German speaking countries.

The course encourages a love of language learning and allows students to take their place in our multi-lingual world.

The course allows students to study a wide variety of topics that are relevant to today, such as; technology, free time activities, customs and festivals, social issues, travel and tourism, global issues and education.

GCSE German will develop listening, reading, speaking, translation and writing skills.

Our aim is to enable students to develop their language skills to their full potential and to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to communicate in a variety of contexts.

Listening - Examination 25%

Speaking - Examination 25%

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

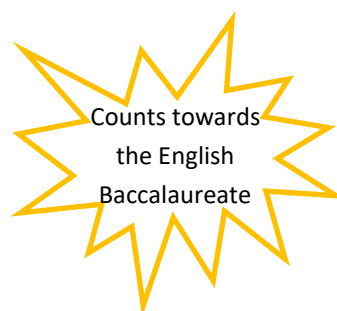
Anywhere in the world!

Having a GCSE in a modern foreign language means you can excel in a wide range of careers : Travel and Tourism, Services, Marketing, Journalism, Law, Translation and many more

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your German teacher.

*“A different language is a different vision of life*



# History

Head of Department : Mr. S. Atkinson-Sporle

## History

Edexcel History

### Qualifications

GCSE History

### Entry Requirements

Most important is a desire to learn about the past and a determination to succeed.

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You will need good literacy skills, the ability to reflect on your work and the ability to take on board feedback.

### What is this subject about?

Migrants in Britain, c800–present and Notting Hill, c1948–c1970

Early Elizabethan England 1558-1588

American West 1835-1895

Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939

### When and how am I assessed?

When and how am I assessed?

You will have 3 exams at the end of Year 11:

Paper 1 - Migrants in Britain - 1 hour 20 minutes

Paper 2 - American West and Early Elizabethan England - 1 hour 50 minutes

Paper 3 - Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918-1939 - 1 hour 30 minutes

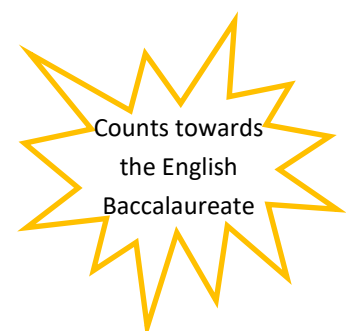
### Where could this subject take me in the future?

History provides essential skills for students wishing to further their academic studies and for students seeking employment in competitive careers. History students have an understanding of human motivation and the way societies develop.

History students learn how to argue a case from evidence, even if it is a viewpoint they do not agree with at first. In addition, History students learn how to scrutinise sources of information in a way that is intelligent and sceptical. For these reasons, historians are valued especially in the following professions: Journalism, Politics, Business, Teaching, Law, Civil Service.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your History teacher.



Head of Department : Mrs. K. Wooding

# Hospitality & Catering

WJEC 603/7022/2

## Qualificati

Level 1 / 2 Award in Hospitality & Catering 601/7703/2

### Entry Requirements

Enthusiasm for the subject, ability to communicate clearly in writing and an interest in preparing and cooking a range of food, as well as nutrition You must be able to listen to and follow instructions

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You will need to:

- have good verbal and written communication skills - be organised
- be able to meet strict deadlines
- have a curiosity about hospitality and catering
- be prepared to practise cooking and practical skills
- have a willingness to work in teams and independently
- have an interest in nutrition

### What is this subject about?

This subject is a vocational qualification about the Hospitality & Catering industry.

You will learn about health and safety, food safety, planning nutritious menus and food related causes of ill health. You will also learn the skills and techniques needed to

### When and how am I assessed?

There are two units of study:

Unit 1 The Hospitality & Catering Industry, which is examined at the end of year 11 and accounts for 40% of the overall grade.

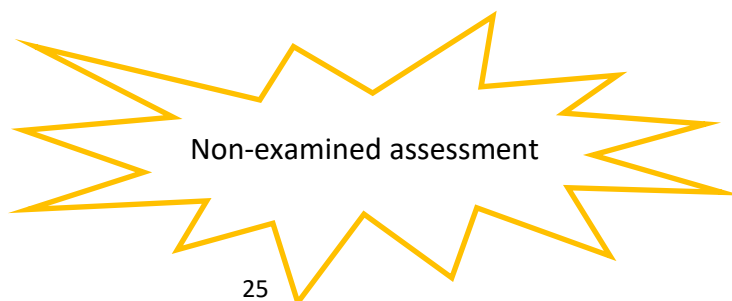
Unit 2 is about Hospitality & Catering in Action, and accounts for 60% of your grade. This is assessed through a piece of controlled coursework. This is also assessed in Year 11.

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course could provide ideas for possible Y10 work experience opportunities and part time work. Whether you intend to continue into Post 16 or move to college or training (such as apprenticeships) this qualification will give you an excellent foundation for a successful and rewarding career in the Hospitality & Catering industry. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotels and bar managers, and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mrs Wooding.



# Latin

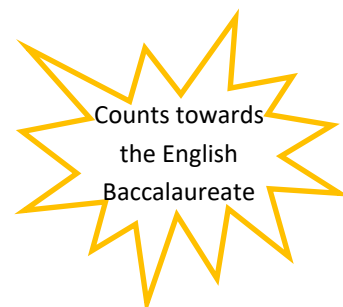
Head of Department : Mrs T Brookshaw

## Latin Qualifications

WJEC Eduqas GCSE in Latin

## Entry Requirements

If you have not studied Latin before, this not an issue as we will be starting ab initio (from the beginning).



## Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

This GCSE will captivate students who are interested in Languages, English and English etymology and History. Logic and recognition of patterns is a key skill as well as developing

## What is this subject about and how am I assessed?

The aim of Latin GCSE is to acquire a foundation in language and culture central for understanding the world around us. You will gain knowledge and understanding of the Roman world through reading and responding to its language, literature, art and archaeology. You will deepen your understanding of English and other languages, and develop transferrable analytical skills, equipping you for further study in arts, humanities and sciences.

Component Title	Assessment and Weighting
<b>Latin Language</b>  Students learn a defined vocabulary list of 450 words and prescribed grammar and syntax.  Students are examined on unseen passages of Latin via comprehension questions and translation.	1 hour 30 minute exam, worth 50% of the qualification
<b>Latin Literature</b>  Students study a prescribed selection of Latin literature on Roman love and marriage, together with prescribed ancient source materials. Topics include marriage, morality, courtship and heartbreak.	1 hour 15 minute open book exam, worth 30% of the qualification
<b>Roman Civilisation</b>  Students demonstrate knowledge of an aspect of Roman civilisation (Roman religion).  Students analyse and respond to ancient source material: literature in translation, ancient art and archaeology.  Topics include gods and goddesses, temples, sacrifices and offerings, curses and divinations, and foreign gods.	1 hour exam, worth 20% of the qualification

## Where could this subject take me in the future?

Latin provides the foundation for many careers, particularly law, medicine and sciences. Students who have studied Latin have also gone into politics, business, law, journalism and media. **Latin is considered a 'prestigious' subject: it is highly respected by universities and employers.**

## What if I have not studied Latin at KS3?

If you have not studied Latin before, this not an issue as we will be starting ab initio (from the beginning).

Head of Department: Mr. M. Cusack

## Physical Education

Exam Board AQA

### Qualifications

GCSE PE 8582

### Entry Requirements

It is recommended that pupils have a secure grasp of English, Maths and Science due to the academic nature of the theory content. Pupils need to be regularly playing **at least 2 sports** from the prescribed list of sports and these can be either individual or team sports. Pupils need to attend extra-curricular clubs to improve their skills and tactical awareness.

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

To be accepted on this course you **MUST** play at least two sports (minimum of one outside of school). We would expect to see regular attendance at extra-curricular clubs. Lastly, at least a good commitment to learning grade in PE.

### What is this subject about?

The subject will help develop your confidence and competence across a range of practical sports and you will be assessed in 3 of these as a practical performer within a competitive context. Theoretical knowledge development will center around anatomy and physiology (how the body works), sports psychology (how the mind works), and contemporary issues in sport. **The majority of the course is classroom based.**

### How am I assessed?

Terminal exams (2 x written papers 60%),

Written coursework (10%),

3 practical sports (10% each).

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

GCSE PE is a good prerequisite for A Level PE, BTEC Level 3 Sport and then leading to higher education degree level Sports Science, Sports Psychology and Physical Education and coaching courses. Physiotherapy, Sports Coaching or Sciences, PE Teaching, Armed Forces and Nursing/Medicine would all be career paths that students could follow with GCSE PE.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mr Cusack, Miss Marment, Mr Carwardine, Ms Prifti or Mr Rayner.

### Important!

**To be allocated to this subject you will select “PE/Sports Studies” which appears as one subject through the Options process, and then the PE Dept will ensure you are put onto the course which best suits your sporting and academic profile. Both courses lead to a Level 2 qualification and both can**

Head of Department : Mrs. L. Shelley

## Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

### Qualifications

AQA, Religious Studies GCSE A, 8062

### Entry Requirements

The desire to study and engage in debates about religion, ethics and philosophy.

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

An enquiring, thoughtful approach to issues that concern humanity. The ability to look at beliefs from different perspectives. A positive attitude to developing your own personal beliefs. Motivation and commitment towards constructing written answers.

### What is this subject about?

The GCSE consists of two papers. The Themes paper focusses on topics that are current and at the heart of modern society. The topics include, medical ethics, treatment of animals and the ethics of medical testing on animals, beliefs about the origins of the universe, human relationships and sexuality, gender roles and family life, war and conflict, crime and punishment and ideas about the afterlife. The Beliefs Paper focusses on the study of two religions. Currently, we study Christianity and Islam.

### When and how am I assessed?

The course is assessed through 100% examination at the end of year 11.

There are two papers, each being 1 hour 45 minutes long.

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

The knowledge and skills gained through RS lend themselves to careers such as, Law, Police, Teaching, Nursing, Paramedic, Medicine, Journalism, Armed Forces and any job that requires a certain ability to empathise, communicate and understand other people. Many students who take GCSE progress to study the A level in Philosophy and Ethics. This is valued highly by the top universities due to the critical thinking skills involved in the subject.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your Religious Studies teacher.

Head of Department : Mrs K. Blandin-Neaves

## Spanish

Exam Board Pearson Edexcel

### Qualifications

GCSE Spanish

### Entry Requirements

You must be on Pathway 1, and have at least good commitment to learning in your current modern foreign language, be achieving 70% or more in vocabulary tests and have a secure understanding of grammar

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You need to understand and provide information and opinions about particular themes relating to your own experiences and those of other people, including people in countries where Spanish is spoken.

### What is this subject about?

GCSE Spanish helps students develop their Spanish language skills and gives students a broad understanding of culture in Spanish speaking countries.

This course will start by introducing you to the new language and quickly build foundations, like at KS3, of vocab and grammar, before moving to GCSE content.

The course encourages a love of language learning and allows students to take their place in our multi-lingual world.

The course allows students to study a wide variety of topics that are relevant to today, such as; technology, free time activities, customs and festivals, social issues, travel and tourism, global issues and education.

GCSE Spanish will develop listening, reading, speaking, translation and writing skills.

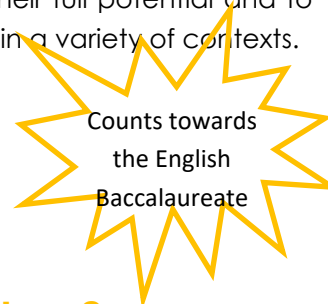
Our aim is to enable students to develop their language skills to their full potential and to equip them with the knowledge and confidence to communicate in a variety of contexts.

Listening - Examination 25%

Speaking - Examination 25%

Reading - Examination 25%

Writing - Examination 25%



### Where could this subject take me in the future?

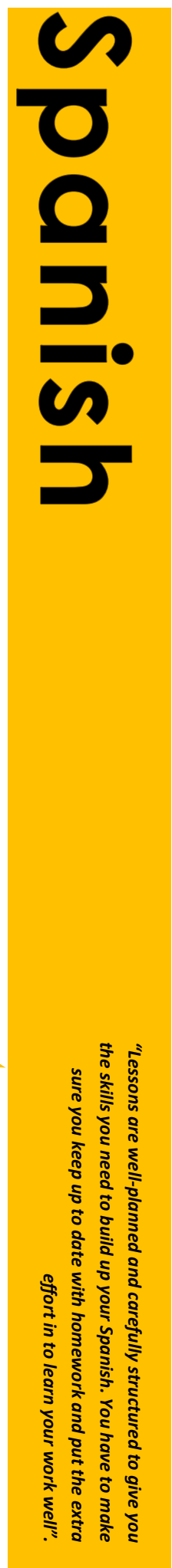
Anywhere in the world!

Having a GCSE in a modern foreign language means you can excel in a wide range of careers : Travel and Tourism, Services, Marketing, Journalism, Law, Translation and many more.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mrs Blandin-Neaves, Head of MFL.

*"The limits of my languages  
are the limits of my world"*



# sports studies

Head of Department: Mr. M Cusack

## Sports Studies

Cambridge National in Sports Studies Level 1 / Level 2

### Entry Requirements

Students should be members of extra-curricular school sports clubs and/or outside sports clubs. Students also need to have competency in ICT and English. As part of the course students have the option to purchase a CNSS polo shirt for £23.00 which has their name on it.

### Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

As well as being a practically strong student in a range of sports, you will also need to enjoy developing knowledge of various sports e.g. through watching competitive sport. You will need to be a confident communicator and leader as you will be expected to be assessed in both leadership and orienteering tasks. You will need to be self-motivated, organised, and capable of meeting coursework deadlines. Finally, you should possess strong verbal and written communication skills as the course requires short and extended writing for the exam and coursework assignments.

### What is this subject about?

Sport studies involves learning about contemporary issues in sport such as user groups, barriers to participation, solutions to barriers and performance enhancing drugs and the impact they can have on performers, officials, and the sport. Students will be expected to perform practically in two sports and will keep a logbook of practical training and competition. Students will be expected to analyse their strengths and weaknesses in their main sport and create a plan to improve their performance as part of their coursework assessment. Students will also gain invaluable leadership qualities and experience and will plan and deliver their own session to Year 7. Students will also gain practical and theoretical experience in orienteering and outdoor education throughout the course.

### How am I assessed?

**R184:** Contemporary issues in sport, assessed through an external exam (1 hour and 15 minutes) 40% of overall grade

**R185:** Performance and leadership in sports activities, assessed through written coursework (x 4 assignments) and practical assessment of leadership session.

**R187:** Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities, assessed through four written coursework assignments and one practical assessment of an orienteering course.

### Where could this subject take me in the future?

This course will also offer a progressive route through to Technical Certificates, Tech Levels, BTEC Level 3 National diplomas, A levels and a career in the sports industry.

### Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to your PE teacher.

### Important!

**To be allocated to this subject you will select “PE/Sports Studies” which appears as one subject through the Options process, and then the PE Dept will ensure you are put onto the course which best suits your sporting and academic profile. Both courses lead to a Level 2 qualification and both can lead on to higher study and careers in PE-related fields.**

Head of Department : Mrs. K. Blandin-Neaves

# Travel & Tourism

## Qualifications

Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism - 603/7048/8

## Entry Requirements

Good commitment to learning and a genuine interest in the industry. An interest in KS3 geography and some experience of travel are helpful.

## Which skills and aptitudes do I need for this subject?

You need to be able to work well independently, be committed and conscientious. Research skills will be developed throughout the course as well as planning skills and being able to make decisions and judgements. All lessons take place in a computer room so IT

## What is this subject about?

The travel and tourism industry is studied in vocational contexts with real life examples. You will learn about the aims, products and services of different travel and tourism organisations, their use of consumer technologies, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer needs and preferences, and the influences on global travel and tourism. Many of the skills learnt and the knowledge acquired are transferable to other industries and subjects and it gives you the opportunity to practically apply your knowledge and skills through research and investigation.

## When and how am I assessed?

Component 1 is assessed in year 10 terms 3 and 4 and is Controlled Assessment, it counts for 30% of your overall grade.

Component 2 is also Controlled Assessment and is covered in year 11 terms 1 and 2, this is again worth 30%.

Component 3 is assessed by a terminal exam in the Summer of year 11 and counts for 40% of the overall grade.

## Where could this subject take me in the future?

Travel & Tourism students can go on to study the subject in further education. This subject could lead you to work within the industry and build your career prospects. This is particularly useful in this part of the UK.

Many Travel & Tourism students go on to have very successful careers in marketing, hospitality and management.

## Who do I need to speak to for more information?

Speak to Mrs Greet.





**Principal: Emma Clapham**

**Assistant Principal (Curriculum):** Andrea Ayres

Hele's School

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**[www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk](http://www.heles.plymouth.sch.uk)**

