



# St. Julie's Catholic High School

# Key Stage 4



**Course  
Information**

**MARCH 2020**



# Introduction

This options booklet has been designed to help you make the first decision in your journey through Key Stage 4 Education. Whilst the choices that you make now will help to decide what you study for the next three years, it will also help to direct the courses that you can study at 16 and can even impact on the choices that you might make for University or your career.

This may be the first chance that you've had to choose what you want to study, and you might feel under pressure to make the right decision or worry too much about making the wrong one, but you should remember that it is a chance for you to take charge of your education and start giving it some direction of your own.

Having to make these decisions now can seem daunting, but everybody your age in pretty much every school is having to make the same decisions, so you're not on your own! Before you make your choice you'll probably want to have spoken to your parents or grandparents, your friends, your teachers or someone else that you trust who knows you well. You should try and get as much advice and guidance as you think you need, but the choice will ultimately be yours.

Ideally your choices will be...

- Enjoyable**      you're more likely to succeed at a course that you enjoy doing!
- Relevant**      the course should help you along your chosen educational or career pathway
- Achievable**    it's good to stretch yourself, but you should always try and make sure that your goals are realistic

The best place to start is usually by thinking about yourself and the things that you enjoy and are successful at. Do you like investigating things and finding out how they work? You might like to think about science based courses. Are you a creative person? Do you like performing and expressing yourself in different ways?

Reading each of the subject pages in this booklet will help you to get a feel for what the different subjects offer and if they are right for you.

You will also want to give some thought to the ways that you learn most effectively. Do you like to see something demonstrated, or do you prefer to be told how to do it so you can try for yourself? Do you prefer listening or watching? Look at the assessment methods listed in the subject pages and see if this information helps you to make a choice.

You should also give some thought to how well your chosen subjects go with each other. Some subjects share similar themes, or have other things in common. Lots of students find it easier to learn well with combinations of subjects that go well together rather than subjects that are all very different from each other.

## What about if I don't have a chosen career?

That's alright – it's not vital that you have chosen a career path yet. Sticking to the principles in the section above should allow you to make choices that will still give you some flexibility when you reach the end of Year 11. Unfortunately, you should be aware that not choosing certain subjects will mean that there are certain paths that it would be very difficult to take in later life. As one example, if you choose not to take any kind of science option then you may find it very difficult to access science based courses at university.

### Some GOOD reasons for choosing a course...

**It helps you towards what you want to do for a career**

It goes well with your other choices

**You enjoy it and you think you will do well**

It will give you useful transferable skills

**You're thinking of studying the course in Sixth Form**

This is one reason why it's really helpful to talk

about any career plans you think you might have with somebody who can help to advise you.

### **Some BAD reasons for choosing a course...**

**You think it sounds easy**

**Your friends have all picked it**

**You like the teacher that you have now**

**You just picked anything because you ran out of time**

## **How can I find out more about a course?**

This booklet is your starting point, but you may find that you want more detail about what a course is like. You can ask to speak to a teacher who teaches the subject, but you can also try and speak to some older students who are doing the course themselves to try and find out what it's really like.

## **Put Yourself in Charge!**

Lots of people will be happy to give you advice about what you should choose, but the decision is yours. If you let other people make the choices for you then you might end up studying for courses that are good for them but not good for you!

## **Will I definitely be able to study the subjects that I choose?**

Unfortunately we can't say that you'll definitely get all of your choices. The subjects that students do for their options have to be organised into blocks.

Many schools will give you the blocks before you make your choices, meaning that certain combinations of subjects don't work because they are taught at the same time and you can't be in two places at once.

This year we are waiting for you to indicate your preferences before organising the blocks to make sure that as many of you as possible do get the subjects you want.

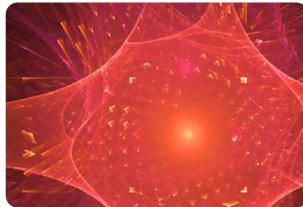
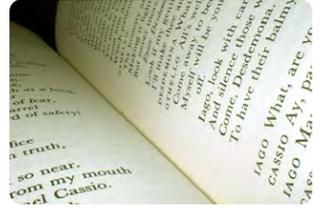
It is still possible that if your choices are very unusual compared to other people in the year then you might not get your first choices.

For now you should read through all of the subject pages and try to get a better understanding of what each subject involves. Your teachers will give you more information soon about what happens next.

We cannot guarantee that all students will have access to a full suite of GCSE qualifications. Careful consideration will be given to KS2 prior attainment and current academic progress. Individual meetings will be arranged with students and parents to discuss options throughout the Year 8 options process.

## **Changes...**

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publishing but as you get closer to your final exams a few years from now, you should check things like qualification codes to make sure you have correct and up-to-date information.



# CORE SUBJECTS



# English Language

**Language is power.** GCSE English Language gives you the skills to command your language and be powerful. You will be given the opportunity to read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Analysing texts will reveal to you how writers make choices about their language and how those choices shape and change meanings. You will discover hidden meanings in texts and start to think about things in new, different and exciting ways.

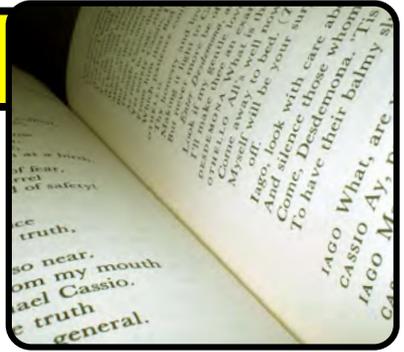
For budding writers there are myriad opportunities to write creatively and freely. GCSE English Language encourages you to be imaginative when writing stories and descriptions, and also to write about real life issues such as the rise of food bank usage or how young people are portrayed in the media. If you fancy a job as a journalist, then GCSE

English Language is your passage to the press!

The exams are untiered, with all students being taught the skills needed to access the full range of marks. GCSE English Language is a vital part of your future education and employment.

Exciting courses are open to you post-16 with GCSE English Language. At the moment, we offer two English courses at A-Level: A-Level English Literature and the combined A-Level English Language & Literature. The combined course is an interesting study of linguistics and stylistics, and would be an excellent foundation for anyone wanting to study English at university. Both courses are highly regarded by universities and employers.

GCSE English Language is more than just a core subject; it helps you acquire the necessary skills



on which to build your future success. The English department at St. Julie's look forward to helping you unlock the power of language and develop real confidence in its usage.

Confidence and competency in English language will support your achievements across the whole curriculum: your GCSE English qualification will prove a real foundation for all your future experience and success. Our GCSE English Language results are good: they are consistently in line with national performance.

## Award

GCSE English Language

### QAN Code

601/4292/3

### Assessment

2 Papers, 1h 45m each

1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% of GCSE)

2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% of GCSE)

**No Coursework**

## Course

## Skills

**Communicating clearly and imaginatively**

**Following an argument**

**Developing critical and analytical skills**

**Evaluating how writers achieve effects**

**Reading with insight and engagement**

## Journalism

Publishing

Media

Advertising

Marketing and Sales

Arts Administration

Recruitment consultancy

Public Relations

Teaching

Health and Social Work

Research

## Careers

# English Literature



**Studying GCSE English Literature immerses you in the world of words and books, and encourages you to embrace poetry and drama with fresh and exciting perspectives.**

The study of GCSE English Literature will introduce you to new ideas and experiences. You will learn about books and literature while enjoying the comedies and tragedies of a variety of novels, plays and poetry.

The range of literature you will encounter over the three year course spans from Shakespeare to the present day, with inspiring texts at every level and genre. You will study Macbeth, Blood Brothers, a 19th century novel, which will either be A Christmas Carol or The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde, and an AQA anthology of poetry about love and relationships.

At the end of the course, you will take two exams which will test

your knowledge of three set texts, the anthology and your comparison of unseen poems. The exams are untiered, with all students being taught the skills needed to access the full range of marks.

English Literature is also a thriving and extremely popular subject at A level. Your love for literature can be extended here at St. Julie's post-16 with exciting and inspiring texts. The skills of literary analysis give you a good grounding for a variety of undergraduate courses.

GCSE English Literature gives you the ability to seek out the layers of meaning in texts. This is a skill that is essential for all the subjects you may choose to study and for all aspects of your future life where you will need to infer meaning and read 'between the lines'.

Studying English Literature at A-Level opens many doors. Universities consider English Literature one of the most challenging and rigorous A-Level subjects. Here at St. Julie's, we pride ourselves on giving you an effective springboard to this future success. Our GCSE English Literature results are good: they are consistently at least in line with, but usually above, national performance.

## Award

GCSE

## QAN Code

601/4447/6

## Assessment

Two papers:

1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (1hr 45 mins)  
40% of GCSE

2: Modern Texts and Poetry (2hrs 15 mins) 60% of GCSE  
No Coursework

**You do not need to choose this course as an option as it is included in your core English course.**

## Course

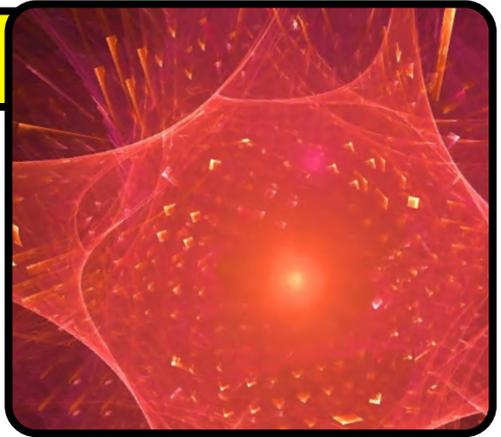
## Skills

**Critical thinking**  
**Understanding and evaluating**  
**Comparative skills**  
**Flexibility of thought**  
**Debating and discussing**  
**Inference**

Journalism  
Publishing  
Media  
Advertising  
Arts Administration  
Public Relations  
Teaching  
Law  
Theatre and the Arts  
Freelance writer

## Careers

# Mathematics



The main reason for studying mathematics to an advanced level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. You will find all these aspects in your GCSE course.

You should also be aware of the wide importance of Mathematics, and the way in which it is advancing at a spectacular rate. Mathematics is about pattern and structure; it is about logical analysis, deduction, calculation within these patterns and structures. When patterns are found, often in widely different areas of science and technology, the mathematics of these patterns can be used to explain and control natural happenings and situations. Mathematics has a pervasive influence on our everyday lives, and contributes to the wealth of the country.

Mathematics is a universal part of human culture. It is the tool and language of commerce, engineering and other sciences - physics, computing, biology etc. It helps us recognise patterns and to understand

the world around us. Mathematics plays a vital, often unseen, role in many aspects of modern life, for example:

- Space travel
- Safeguarding credit card details on the internet
- Modelling the spread of epidemics
- Predicting stock market prices
- Business decision making

As society becomes more technically dependent, there will be an increasing requirement for people with a high level of mathematical training.

Analytical and quantitative skills are sought by a wide range of employers. Those who qualify in mathematics are in the fortunate position of having a wide range of career choices. The abilities

- to use logical thought,
- to formulate a problem in a way which allows for computation and decision,
- to make deductions from assumption,
- to use advanced concepts,

With a mathematics degree, you should be able to turn your hand to finance, statistics, engineering, computers, teaching or accountancy. This flexibility is even more important nowadays, with the considerable uncertainty as to which areas will be the best for employment in future years. Surveys show graduates in mathematics and computer science at the top of the earning lists six years after graduation.

All of your future plans and ambitions need a solid foundation. Success in GCSE Mathematics will give you a fantastic platform on which to build the career and future of your dreams.

Maths is vital.

**Award**  
GCSE

**Exam Board**  
EDEXCEL

**QAN Code**  
601/4700/3

**Assessment**

Assessment is by a Linear exam in the summer of Year 11. There are three papers, two calculator and one non-calculator all worth 33.3%. There is no coursework.

**Course**

**Skills**

**Problem solving**  
**Thinking skills**  
**Logical reasoning**  
**Develops perseverance**  
**Independent learning**  
**Working in a group**  
**Statistical analysis**

**Maths is an essential tool for most jobs. It is particularly useful for the following professions...**

Architecture, Banking and Finance, Chemists, Computer Programmers, Engineering, Nurses, Medicine, Military Personnel, Teaching and Tradespeople.

**Careers**

# Religious Education



**Maybe it is worth beginning by saying what GCSE Religious Education isn't about!**

It isn't about trying to 'brainwash' people into a particular way of thinking or to uncritically accept a particular set of beliefs. Instead, the Religious Education Department at St Julie's welcomes pupils of all faiths and none, and simply asks that they come to the lessons with an open mind and a readiness to listen to and respect the views of others.

Pupils quickly learn that RE lessons at St Julie's are places where they are entitled to challenge the views of others, provided that they are prepared to have their own views challenged in return - all done in a way that respects the dignity of those who hold views different to our own.

The course followed at St Julie's focuses mainly on the Roman Catholic faith tradition, as is right and proper given the ethos and mission of the school.

However, over the three Units studied for this qualification, pupils will have the opportunity to reflect on a range of issues and questions that are of relevance to all people, regardless of their own faith background.

In Year 9, pupils will be finishing off the Key Stage 3 Course and beginning the GCSE course in January.

Course content is Catholic Christianity making up 50% of study, Judaism 25% and Philosophy and Ethics 25%.

At the end of Year 11 pupils sit two examinations, to give the final grade.

If you still need convincing of the popularity and success of Religious Studies, look no further than the number of students who continue their studies in this subject at A2 Level in the 6th Form and then on to University!

## Award

GCSE

## Exam Board

AQA

## QAN Code

601/8401/2

## Assessment

Examination

Course

## Skills

Empathy with others  
Understanding and solving problems  
Reasoning  
Researching  
Debating  
Analysis  
Critical thinking  
Evaluation

You will also develop an understanding of self and others.

## Religious Studies is useful for the following professions...

Law  
Medicine  
Nursing  
Teaching  
Politics  
Counselling  
Journalism  
Communications

Careers

# GCSE Combined Science



**Science is about investigating how the natural world works. Our Science courses are designed to engage students' interests at every level by providing relevant and inspiring academic content and practical opportunities to undertake scientific enquiry and learn about the scientific process.**

GCSE Combined Science provides you with the knowledge and understanding you need to make sense of the science that you will meet in your everyday life. The Nobel Prize winning French Scientist Mare Curie once said "Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood." GCSE Combined Science will enable you to understand the key issues in science that are relevant today.

Combined Science offers students a broad, coherent course of study that adds to their knowledge and understanding of the living, material and physical worlds.

This double award is equivalent to two GCSEs. There are twenty one required practicals that are essential for students' understanding of scientific theory.

#### Assessment:

Candidates will sit six papers; two biology, two chemistry and two physics.

The papers are equally weighted, each worth 16.7% of the overall grade.

#### Award

GCSE (x2)

#### Exam Board

AQA

#### QAN Code

601/8758/X

#### Assessment

100% exam

Course

#### Skills

**Interpreting data**  
**Critical thinking**  
**Reasoning**  
**Researching**  
**Problem solving**  
**Drawing conclusions**  
**Making informed and considered choices**  
**Evaluating evidence**

The AQA Combined Science "Trilogy" course offers an excellent grounding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students who perform well in GCSE Combined Science are eligible to progress to separate sciences at A Level which would in turn - and dependent upon performance - allow progression to the full range of science related careers including medicine, veterinary science, forensic science, pharmacy, petrochemicals, environmental sciences, marine biology, zoology. The analytical and thinking developed through a study of sciences are of great value in a wide range of non-science related careers in the public and private sectors

Careers

# Global Citizenship

The Global Citizenship curriculum is designed to enable Year 9 students to recall the knowledge they have gained from the National Curriculum in Key Stage 3, in a way that allows them to deepen and apply it to a relevant issue facing all of us, but especially young people – our environment. This curriculum is broken down into half term units with assessments each half term. The assessments are designed to assess higher order skills such as analysis, evaluation, reasoning and also practical skills.

## Half term 1

The starting point is a deep dive into the Industrial Revolution, how it spread through Europe and its impact there. The initial focus is on the development of a mechanised textiles industry, why cotton production flourished and how this industry led to the expansion of the slave trade. A comparison study between the British and Spanish colonial empires is carried. This is compared to working conditions in the textiles industry today in places like India and our role in this trade, with the



demand for 'fast fashion' and 'disposable fashion'.

## Half term 2

The focus then shifts to industrialisation and the importance of coal as a source of energy for steam engines to power machines and gas to power lights, which led to greater urbanisation, population growth and longer working hours. In turn this led to changes in housing, living conditions, the subsequent pollution of air and water and impact on human health and the growing prevalence of diseases. Students develop an understanding of changing landscapes as cities start to grow rapidly.

## Half term 3

From the Industrial Revolution the curriculum moves forward to the era of

Romanticism and poets like Keats, Wordsworth, Blake, Byron, Shelley and Coleridge. Their work reflects the changing attitudes towards industrialisation due to its effect on the natural environment.

## Half term 4

Next the birth of conservation societies and the early environmental movement is studied. These groups lobbied for the formation of National Parks and sites of special scientific interest (SSSI). Studies on species populations, species decline and pioneer species are afforded through field studies.

## Half term 5

Students then move on to chart the rise of climate change with examples, causes, impact and solutions.



Case studies enable students to link the effect of climate change to secondary factors such as melting of ice sheets releasing carbon dioxide, less dissolved oxygen in the seas and how these compound global temperatures and affect wildlife.

phones and other disposable items, where food comes from and the impact of how it is farmed, packaged and transported. Innovation of electrical items, leading to electrical goods being replaced before their end of life, is debated. Using all the

The Global Citizenship curriculum supports the development of responsible citizens who can make good choices for the planet, able to discern sustainable approaches to healthy lifestyles, whilst being capable of defending their decisions with reasoned arguments and raising concerns based on factual information. As such, lessons will be focussing on how we, as global citizens, are all responsible for the environment and what happens within it.



**Half term 6**

Sustainable living is examined and students learn about the sources of materials for mobile

information gathered during the year, students formulate their own views and opinions on what it means to be a global citizen.



Global Citizenship supports the application of learning from the program of study at Key Stage 3, ensuring that all students have a broad and balanced curriculum.

**Course**

**Skills**

The course will equip pupils with the skills and knowledge to explore political and social issues critically, to weigh evidence, debate and make reasoned arguments. Pupils will become digitally literate – able to use, and express themselves and develop their ideas through, information and communication technology – at a level suitable for the future workplace and as active participants in a digital world.

- Local Government
- Information security analyst
- Application Software developer
- Research analyst
- Augmented reality developer
- Human resources
- Environmental Consultant

**Careers**

# Learning Support

If your child has been identified as having a Special Educational Need or Disability, then the Learning Support Team will continue to offer support and intervention throughout Key Stage 4.

As a team we offer several key services, including:

- In class one-to-one or small group support
- Transition support
- Revision and exam skills workshops
- A dedicated Key Stage 4 Learning Coach
- Mindfulness, Anxiety & Stress Management workshops
- Bespoke revision sessions
- Assertive Mentoring
- Work completed with the school Careers Advisor.
- Extracurricular clubs
- Social Skills Schemes
- Lego Therapy

**If you have any questions about the Learning Support Team and what can be offered to your daughter, please contact our SENCO, Mrs G Dooley.**

- Colour Therapy
- Testing for exam access arrangements.

New interventions are devised each year based on the needs of individual pupils.

All interventions are based around the Graduated Approach (shown below) and are implemented based on information from subject teachers.



In class support, Quality First Teaching and differentiation form the first wave of intervention for all children.

Wherever possible, support will be offered within school, but in some cases, it may be necessary to enlist the help of more specialised, external agencies. If this is the case, all students and their parents /carers will be fully involved in the referral process.

Useful Resources and contacts:

**Liverpool Local Offer**  
[Liverpool.gov.uk](http://Liverpool.gov.uk)  
(select schools then SEN)

**National Autistic Society:**  
[www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

**Dyslexia Action**  
[www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk)

**ADHD Foundation**  
[www.adhdfoundation.org.uk](http://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk)

**Spelling support**  
[www.learnthat.org](http://www.learnthat.org)

**Numeracy**  
[uk.ixl.com](http://uk.ixl.com)

# Extra Curricular and Super Curricular Opportunities

Extra and super curricular activities augment and enhance the student experience, as well as offering valuable additional life skills and experiences. We have opportunities available for students of all ages in our school.



STEM activities	Duke Of Edinburgh
Mathematics Problem-Solving Club	HE+ programme
Oxbridge Outreach Programme	Master-classes
Alumni Programme – presentations from former students	School trips abroad
Medlink and Vetlink	The Brilliant Club
Year 7 Scholars Programme	GirlsNetwork
Social Mobility Foundation	Elevate Programme
Accelerated Year 8 Maths Programme	Mentoring support
Leadership opportunities	Enterprise programmes
Cultural visits	Lectures at Hope University
Gifted and Talented Performing Arts Companies	A range of clubs in all sports and arts





# OPTIONS SUBJECTS

# Art & Design

**Art & Design is a broad course that explores practical and contextual work through a range of 2D and 3D processes, and new media and technologies. The course gives students a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in art and design.**

GCSE provides a strong foundation for further progression to related courses such as A level and Further Education.

It is a general course where the candidates are expected to work with a variety of materials and processes associated with drawing, painting, textile design and ceramics. Each candidate is expected to produce a portfolio of work based on the themes of natural forms and local environment. It is essential that drawings are made from first hand observations and to aid

this, visits are made to local venues and galleries where the students are encouraged to collect both visual (drawing and photographic) and written information which they will develop later as coursework.

For each project, the student is expected to demonstrate an ability to sustain work from initial starting points to the finished piece(s) as well as to show how their ideas developed and evidence of research of other artists work and show how it has influenced their work.



**Award**  
GCSE

**Exam Board**  
Eduqas

**QAN Code**  
601/8087/0

**Assessment**  
Portfolio of work:  
60% of final mark

**Externally Set Task:**  
40% of final mark

**Course**

## Skills

**Making appropriate use of colour, line, tone, texture, shape and form; using different approaches to record images; showing an understanding of the conventions of representational and non-representational imagery and genres; investigating different ways of working as appropriate to the different areas.**

Industrial Design  
Multimedia Design  
Jewellery Design  
Fashion Design  
Architecture  
Theatre design  
Ceramics  
Teaching

**Careers**

# Business Studies



**Business Studies is about the real world. If you want to be a young entrepreneur or business woman and set up your own business in the future then this is the subject for you!**

It is the study of how businesses are set up, managed, financed, marketed and operated.

Famous business people include Duncan Ballantyne, Oprah Winfrey, Richard Branson, Anita Roddick and Bill Gates.

Business studies offers you the chance to understand the way firms in the UK operate. We look at how and why businesses make profits (or losses), how they provide the goods and services that we need, how they create employment, the risks that they take and why they are so important to the UK.

We will all enter the world of work at some point in our life. Business Studies prepares you for work, giving you the knowledge and understanding of all aspects of how businesses operate.

Business Studies will help you to think about and investigate your career options and to develop any business ideas you may have. You

will learn how businesses recruit, get the best out of and keep their staff. You may also find it useful to learn about the job application process and what employers are looking for in their employees. Whilst studying Business you will also develop related skills such as numeracy, presentation skills, ICT and literacy.

When choosing this subject as an option you need to be aware that part of the course includes accounting and finance and so a good standard of numeracy is required.

Some of the topics you will study include:

- Entrepreneurs and enterprise
- Business Activity
- Marketing
- People
- Management
- Operations
- Production
- Finance and Accounting
- Economics
- Globalisation

- Politics
- Technology and Innovation

## Course Structure

Paper 1: Business Dynamics  
Written examination: 2 hours  
62.5% of qualification

A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the specification content.

Paper 2: Business Considerations  
Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes  
37.5% of qualification

Data response questions covering all of the specification content.

## Award

GCSE

## Exam Board

Eduqas

## QAN Code

603/0305/0

## Assessment

Written Examination

Course

## Skills

Teamwork  
Initiative  
Problem Solving  
Presenting Information  
Researching  
Making Judgements  
Reaching Conclusions  
Communication  
Numeracy  
Literacy  
ICT

Business Studies provides both a foundation for further study at advanced level, and an ideal preparation for the world of work or setting up your own business. As it is about the real world it is useful for a wide range of degree courses and professions including: Law, Marketing, Event Management, Accountancy, Enterprise Management

Careers

# Hospitality & Catering

## Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

This unit introduces you to the Hospitality and Catering vocational sector. You will learn about all aspects of the industry and be able to propose new hospitality and catering provision for specific locations. You will be able to use knowledge of different types of establishment and job roles to determine the best option. You will then apply your learning in relation to front of house and kitchen operations to determine how the proposed hospitality and catering provision will operate efficiently, legally and be financially viable.

## Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

You will learn how to plan, cook and present food and apply the principles of nutrition, healthy eating and food safety. You will draw on your learning of different types of provision and kitchen and front of house operations in Unit 1, as well as personal safety in all your practical work.



### Award

Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering A.

### Exam Board

WJEC

### QAN Code

601/7703/2

### Assessment

Written examination Unit 1  
Practical and portfolio Unit 2

### Course

### Skills

**Use of equipment, use of techniques in the preparation and cooking of food commodities, cooking techniques, presentation, sensory analysis, food safety and hygiene, planning dishes for selection of menus, evaluating.**

Catering,  
Hospitality,  
service industry,  
manufacturing,  
Home Economist,  
Food journalist,  
Food Teacher,  
Environmental Health.

### Careers

# GCSE Computer Science

Computers play a vital role in our day-to-day lives and activities. GCSE Computer Science provides an opportunity to gain a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from your ICT lessons, other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give you an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which you will find both challenging and absorbing with opportunities to hone your technical and creative skills. The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Students who've taken a GCSE in Computing and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an advantage over their colleagues who are picking up the subject at these levels.

The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving you

an interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

## Component 1 - Computer Systems

This unit covers key computing concepts and theory on the following topics:

- Systems Architecture
- Memory and storage
- Wired and wireless networks including network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

This unit of work is assessed in a 1 hour 30 minute examination and is worth 50% of the final GCSE mark.

## Unit 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This unit covers programming and computational thinking, such as:

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs

- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

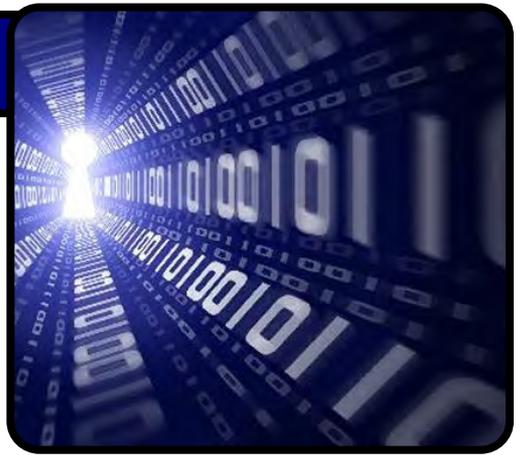
This unit of work is assessed in a 1 hour 30 minute examination and is worth 50% of the final GCSE mark.

During the study of GCSE Computer Science students will also have to undertake a programming project. Which will include:

Programming techniques

- Analysis
- Design
- Development
- Testing and evaluation and Conclusions

This project will take 20 hours and is a formal requirement of the GCSE course.



## Award

GCSE

## Exam Board

OCR

## QAN Code

601/8355/X

## Assessment

100% Examination

Course

## Skills

Application development  
Critical thinking  
Data management  
Planning  
Problem solving  
Programming  
Researching

Computer programmer  
Engineering  
Financial management  
Games designer  
Network manager  
Product designer  
Researcher  
Resource management  
Systems Analyst  
Web designer

Careers

# Creative iMedia (ICT)

**Creative iMedia is a qualification that is media sector-focused, including film, television, web development, gaming, animation and has IT at the heart.**

Creative iMedia provides knowledge in a number of key areas from pre-production skills to digital animation and allows students to have a motivated hands-on approach to learning.

The qualification in iMedia consists of four units:

## **Unit 1: Pre-production skills- 25% externally assessed**

This unit will enable you to understand pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector.

## **Unit 2: Creating digital graphics - 25% internally assessed**

This unit is for you to understand the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector, to learn

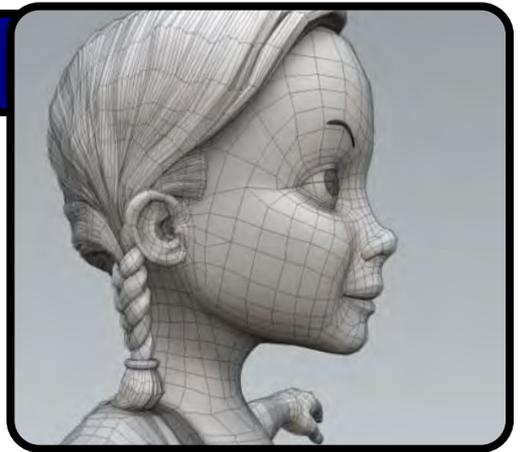
where and why digital graphics are used and what techniques are involved in their creation

## **Unit 3: Creating a multipage website-25% internally assessed**

This unit will enable you to understand the basics of creating multipage websites. It will enable you to demonstrate your creativity by combining components to create a functional, intuitive and aesthetically pleasing website.

## **Unit 4: Creating interactive multimedia products- 25% internally assessed**

This unit will enable you to understand the basics of interactive multimedia products for the creative and digital media sector. You will learn where and why interactive multimedia is



used and what features are needed for a given purpose.

## **Course**

iMedia will be studied in Year 9-11 and you will complete all four units of study. iMedia is a GCSE equivalent qualifications and students will be graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Starred Distinction. iMedia is a very practical course and allows students to demonstrate and develop practical ICT skills which will enable them to progress into a number of different fields.

## **Award**

Cambridge National Certificate Level 1/2

## **Exam Board**

OCR

## **QAN Code**

600/7043/2

## **Assessment**

75% Internally assessed

25% Externally assessed

## **Course**

## **Skills**

**The course lets learners gain knowledge in a number of key areas in the media field, from pre-production skills to digital animation. The course will also provide opportunities to develop useful transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.**

Web developer  
Software engineer  
Network and Communications Systems administration  
Teacher  
Game developer  
Music producer  
Digital artist  
Graphic designer  
Architect  
...and any career which uses computers as core tools...

## **Careers**

# Dance

**Dance is vital, an activity both exhilarating and liberating to watch or do.**

As a physical activity, it promotes fitness, well being and a healthy mind. Dance supports learning across a range of subjects. Students develop confidence and self esteem.

As performers, they develop self and body awareness as well as sensitivity to others and team working skills. As a choreographer, students employ the skills of problem solving and creativity. In directing others, students develop their interpersonal and communication skills.

Dance consists of two components. Component one consists of two sections, performance and choreography. This unit develops their creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. Component two is a written paper developing knowledge and

understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills, critical appreciation of own work and critical appreciation of professional works.

St Julie's has a partnership with John Moores University. Students will get the opportunity to attend workshops, participate in live performances and work with specialists from the dance profession.

Throughout the course there are regular visits to the theatre to see live performances such as musicals and a variety of dance companies which will develop their ability to make judgements.

We have several dance companies at St Julie's which tour many venues. Community work proves to be a rewarding and challenging



aspect of the course.

Dance students are entered for a range of festivals, competitions and auditions and have been most successful.

Former students have gone on to study at leading establishments including The Royal Ballet, Italia Conti, Bird College, RADA, LIPA, Laban, Urdang and JMU.

Currently, we have several former students performing at the West End.

## Award

GCSE

## Exam Board

AQA

## QAN Code

601/8549/1

## Assessment

30% Performance

30% Choreography

40% Written Exam

Course

## Skills

**Problem solving**

**Creativity**

**Interpersonal and communication skills**

**Researching**

**Analysis**

**Directing/ leading**

**Team work**

**Develop knowledge and understanding about self and body awareness**

## Teacher

Dance Therapist

Director

Choreographer

Performer

Events Management

Business Owner

Media and Production

Careers

# Drama

**Drama is an exciting, creative and expressive medium, giving you a range of opportunities.**

Drama GCSE consists of 3 components.

Component 1 is a written exam where pupils will study the set text *Blood Brothers* and review a live performance they have seen during the course.

Component 2 is a devised performance where pupils will develop performance skills and theatrical devices.

Component 3 is a text performance where pupils will perform a selection of script extracts for an audience.

During the Drama GCSE you will study different styles of drama, researching historical periods, theatre companies and practitioners. You will also look at the different ways plays can be staged and how designers communicate meaning to an audience. The present GCSE groups have worked with professional practitioners from the

world of theatre including the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse and the RSC.

Performance skills are developed so that you are able to create believable characters.

You will learn how to work collaboratively and creatively as a member of a production team and develop skills that will last a life time.

Throughout the course you will see a variety of live performances, including musicals, Shakespeare, comedy and community theatre.

You will also have the opportunity to take part in a range of prestigious events including Festivals, Page to Stage events and Workshops.

Saint Julie's is one of eight schools which is a unique partner school with The Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse. Pupils attend workshops and auditions, when the



opportunity arises. As a result, past pupils have gained parts in local and national productions.

Former students have gone on to study at leading establishments including Bird College, LIPA, Guildhall and RADA.

GCSE Drama isn't about being "a star". It is for those who have a genuine interest in theatre, for whatever reason.

**Award**  
GCSE

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**QAN Code**  
601/8575/2

**Assessment**  
Written Paper 40%  
Devised Work 40%  
Texts in Practise 20%

**Course**

**Skills**

**Devised Theme work**  
**Acting**  
**Improvisation**  
**Theatre in Education**  
**Physical Theatre**  
**Appreciation of texts and live performances**  
**Evaluation of their own work and that of others**

Drama is invaluable for any career as it helps to build confidence, and learn how to work as a member of a team. Specific career paths include...  
Performing  
Directing  
Teaching  
Drama Therapy  
Community and youth work  
Former pupils have also followed pathways in Law, Medicine and Accounting

**Careers**

# Geography

Geography is one of the most exciting and dynamic subjects you can follow at GCSE. The course we are running has been chosen with St. Julie's pupils in mind. Studying Geography will enable you to gain a greater understanding of the world in which we live; where we are at present and where we are likely to end up in the future. Aside from classroom learning we are able to take pupils out of school and learn about different environments through field trips. By the time pupils complete the course they will have had opportunities to complete investigative fieldwork in Liverpool One (on how regeneration has impacted on the city), as well as investigating river processes in action on the River Alyn in North Wales. Additionally we are planning to run a revision fieldtrip to visit river and coastal landscapes in Year 11. These fieldtrips are chosen and designed to expand pupils' knowledge and understanding of the course, as well as fulfilling the requirements to complete human and physical geography fieldwork for 15% of the GCSE exam. There is also the option to go on a residential foreign field trip, which

ran to the West Coast of the USA in October 2017, with a repeat trip planned for February 2020, and previous locations including Iceland, Catalanian Spain & Italy. Wherever we go, it will provide endless lifelong memories as well as learning more about Geography along the way! You will study Geography in various ways e.g.classroom learning, Geographical Information Systems (GIS – the application of ICT in Geography), independent and group based research, role plays, debates, through Geographical Skills and of course field trips! The course we have chosen for you has an appealing mix of both 'traditional' and more contemporary Geography so that pupils are kept engaged and interested throughout the two years. It is split into 3 exams to reduce the length of any single exam, and there is no longer a requirement for controlled assessment coursework – it is all examined at the end of Year 11. All



of the exam papers are designed to be accessible to all pupils, with questions ranging from multiple choice, short open questions and extended writing questions worth 8 or 12 marks. Spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST) are also key components of the assessment.

Unit 1: The Physical Environment. This exam is 1.5 hours, and is worth 37.5% of the total GCSE grade. It covers the following topic areas that draw information from the UK and around the world: river landscapes, coastal landscapes, weather hazards and climate change, ecosystems, biodiversity and management.

Unit 2: The Human Environment. This is the same structure as unit 1 and covers the following topics: changing cities, global development and resource management.

Unit 3: Geographical Investigations: Fieldwork and UK Challenges. This exam is 1.5 hours and worth 25% of the total grade. It will ask questions about fieldwork completed during the course, and then have a section which is focused upon geographical challenges that face the UK to ensure that our course is fully contemporary and relevant for pupils in their futures.

**Award**  
**GCSE**  
**Exam Board**  
EDEXCEL  
**QAN Code**  
601/8134/5  
**Assessment**

All external examinations will be taken at the end of the three year course

**Course**

## Skills

**Use of data, interpretation, Map work, Critical thinking, Literacy, Numeracy, ICT**

Types of career which use geography...  
Police, Teaching, Environment Agency, Travel and Tourism, Hazard Planning, ICT

**Careers**

# History



**History GCSE provides a vital insight into where we have come from, which helps inform where we should be moving towards as a nation in our modern world.** History teaches you a variety of significant 'transferable skills'.

These are skills which, although you learn them in History, are used in all aspects of life. You learn to use information effectively - this can help you understand problems or issues confronting organisations or individuals; you learn to weigh up conflicting factors before making decisions and you learn to be analytical and critical when looking at information being presented to you. You will develop your questioning and understanding of certain events, people and issues. You also learn about how people have behaved in the past, why they did it and how they might do it again - learning about this can actually help you in your future job by understanding the complex relationships between people and organisations. You learn about the importance of debate and how to clearly express your own point of view. You will develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically using a range of sources in their historical context.

All these valuable skills can help you through school, university, work and life in general. Most importantly, you are taught to think and then make up your

own mind. In 1925 Hitler said, "The broad mass of the nation will more easily fall victim to a large lie than a small one." As a student of history you will be a lot less likely to fall victim to large or small lies.

The course is split into two sections, which are as follows: Paper 1 – Understanding the modern world and Paper 2: Shaping the nation. Within these two papers there are different sub-sections of study and time which you will cover. These include: one period study; one thematic study; one wider world depth study and one British depth study including the historic environment. Both papers are examined at the end of Year 11 as 2 hour exams and they are both worth 50% of your total grade.

Paper 1: This is split into two sections. Section A will be the period study of Germany 1890-1945. Section B is the wider world depth study focussed on the Inter-War Years 1918-1939 and the events that took place during that period. Paper 2: Also split into two sections. The first section studies 'Britain: health and the people c1000 to the present day' as a thematic study and the second section is a British depth study investigating Elizabethan England c 1568-1603. This

section includes the study of a historic site which we will try to take pupils to where feasible; there are plans afoot for current Year 10 pupils to visit their Historic site of the Kenilworth Castle, after past Year 11 visited their Historic site of Hardwick Hall in the summer of 2017. Year 11 in recent years visited the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds to expand their knowledge and understanding of medicine through time.

All of these elements make studying History GCSE interesting, relevant and engaging, and when we add in to the mix opportunities to accompany Humanities foreign residential trips which have recently included The Battlefields of Northern Europe, Poland, Berlin and the West Coast of the USA, choosing to study History becomes an excellent decision.

## Award

GCSE

## Exam Board

AQA

## QAN Code

601/8217/9

## Assessment

Paper 1 and 2 are external examinations that will be taken at the end of the three year course with 5% of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

## Course

## Skills

Understanding and solving problems  
Reasoning  
Researching  
Debating  
Analysis  
Critical thinking  
Evaluating  
Explaining  
Essay writing  
Making connections and comparisons with the past and present

## History is useful for the following professions...

Politics  
Journalism  
Media  
Law  
Information Management  
Research  
Communications  
Publishing  
Archivist  
Postgraduate studies  
Teaching

## Careers

# Music

**Music is an exciting, creative and challenging course which gives you a range of opportunities both in and outside of school.**

Music at GCSE consists of both practical and listening elements. A major part of the course is about performing and composing both individually and in a group situation. You will have to perform 2 pieces of your choice (Solo and Ensemble) and compose 2 pieces of music. The course will allow you to develop your interest and enjoyment of music through studying a genre of your choice, along with a variety of set styles such as pop and rock music, world music and film music. At the end of the course you will sit a 90 minute listening exam based on these set styles.

Throughout the course you will be given the opportunity to develop your ICT skills. This will include the use of recording and

sequencing equipment both through your performing and composing tasks.

If you take Music at GCSE you will have to either sing or play a musical instrument. In our current classes pupils sing, play piano, drums and guitar (Bass and Electric), and orchestral instruments (flute, viola and clarinet).

GCSE students will also have the opportunity to perform at the Wirral Festival of Music, take part in music workshops such as the Liverpool's Cavern Club and play at numerous venues inside and outside of school. Pupils are also given the opportunity to perform in school productions, concerts, gigs, assemblies and masses.

Choosing Music at GCSE will develop your interest and



enjoyment of Music making you a more confident performer and composer while helping you appreciate a wide variety of styles and genres.

Former students have gone on to study at leading establishments including Bird College, LIPA, and JMU.

**Award**  
GCSE  
**Exam Board**  
OCR  
**QAN Code**  
601/8216/7  
**Assessment**  
60% Coursework  
40% Examination  
(Listening)

**Course**

## Skills

**Performing (Solo and Ensemble)**  
**Composing**  
**Listening**  
**Evaluation of your own work and others**  
**Appreciation of a range of Music**

Performing  
Composing  
Teaching  
Music therapy  
Administration  
Publishing  
A variety of careers in recording, broadcasting and journalism.  
And above all helps you to appreciate music, which is a universal language

**Careers**

# Physical Education



**The aim of Physical Education is to promote enjoyment through a variety of learning experiences and situations which stimulate the acquisition and development of a wide range of physical skills.**

**At GCSE pupils are encouraged to investigate key issues affecting the modern world. Independent learning, research skills and the critical examination of evidence are central.**

Through enthusiastic teaching, creative curriculum development we aim to develop skills of critical enquiry as well as a firm understanding of concepts through a variety of key questions while in a range of challenging environments.

Physical Education is an exciting course which allows the pupils an opportunity to develop knowledge of applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of

data, sports psychology, sociocultural influences and health, fitness and well being.

Students will be assessed in three practical activities which they will have to choose from.

All pupils are encouraged to adopt a positive attitude towards physical activity, thereby realising the importance of the relationship that exists between physical and psychological well being.

The PE GCSE is a useful and challenging course, which includes personal performance, anatomy and physiology, how sport is organised both locally and internationally and the prevention of injuries through risk assessment procedures.

**Award**  
GCSE

**Exam Board**  
AQA

**QAN Code**  
601/8279/9

**Assessment**  
30% Practical  
10% Controlled Assessment  
60% Written Exam

**Course**

**Skills**

**Independent learning**  
**Research skills**  
**Critical thinking**  
**Understanding of a healthy lifestyle and long life involvement in physical activities**  
**Practical ability in three independent areas**

The content of the course is designed to provide a route to further study such as A-Levels enabling them to gain entry into a variety of courses such as, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Physical Education Teaching, Recreational Management, Sports Studies and Professional coaching Careers relevant to this course

**Careers**

# Separate Sciences (AQA)



**Separate Sciences give you a deeper understanding of scientific ideas and how they have benefited humanity. These courses show you how scientists have improved our understanding of ourselves and the world we live in. It is suitable for students who wish to study a separate science at A Level.**

Isaac Newton once said "If I have seen further than others it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". By taking Separate Sciences in one of the Option blocks you will be able to take your study of science further than what you learn in GCSE Combined Science.

Separate Sciences lead to 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All Science GCSE qualifications are assessed via linear exam upon completion of the delivery of the course content. The famous

physicist Stephen Hawking once said "My goal is simple. It is the complete understanding of the universe". Studying Separate Sciences may not give you a complete understanding of the universe but it will provide an ideal foundation to continue your studies after GCSE as well as helping you develop skills that you will use throughout your life.

There are twenty eight required practicals across the three sciences that are essential for students' understanding of scientific theory (10 Physics, 8 Chemistry and 10 Biology).

Assessment: 100% Exam

## Award

GCSE

Biology/Chemistry/Physics

## Exam Board

AQA

## QAN Code

Biology: 601/8752/9

Chemistry: 601/8757/8

Physics: 6018751/7

## Assessment

100% Written Exam

Course

## Skills

**Investigative planning skills**

**Understanding and problem solving**

**Interpreting and Analyzing Data.**

**Drawing conclusions**

**Evaluating evidence**

Separate Science GCSE allow students to pursue a more in-depth study of all three sciences and students who perform well will typically continue with one or more Science A Levels in Sixth Form. Many will then pursue science related careers including medicine, veterinary science, forensic science, pharmacy, petrochemicals, environmental sciences, marine biology, zoology

Careers

# Sociology



**This course requires a desire on the part of the student to be interested in relationships and institutions within society. It enables and encourages students to take a fresh and more objective view of some of our more familiar institutions such as The Family and Education by understanding the relationships between individuals and groups.**

**The student would learn to recognise patterns within society and evaluate them accordingly.**

As the programme progresses, broader issues of Crime, The Media, Politics, Youth and Belief Systems would all be explored, examining each - both separately and identifying how one may affect the other.

With a general interest in current affairs and social issues, students will hopefully find some answers. For example "Why is knife/gun crime on the increase in Britain? Why are so many young people not interested in politics? Does feminism work?"

Sociology takes an historical look back at the development of certain issues and involves concepts of class, gender and multi-cultural material where necessary.

We all have opinions on issues and frequently express them. Sociology is about voicing those opinions, debating them and learning the facts - which may change our opinions forever!

Students will study two components doing GCSE Sociology.

## **Component 1: Understanding Social Processes**

**Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes**

50% of qualification

This component covers the following topic areas:

Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission

Families

Education

Sociological research methods

## **Component 2: Understanding Social Structures**

**Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes**

50% of qualification

This component covers the following topic areas

Social differentiation and stratification

Crime and deviance

Applied methods of sociological enquiry

### **Award**

GCSE

### **Exam Board**

WJEC

### **QAN Code**

603/1045/5

### **Assessment**

All external examinations will be taken at the end of the two year course

**Course**

### **Skills**

**Critical and reflective thinking; An understanding of people, society and the major institutions of society; Evaluation and analysis of research methods. Investigating and researching.; Objectivity; Organisation and communication; Debating**

### **Welfare/Caring Professions**

Teaching  
Human Resources  
Social Work  
Law  
Police  
Politics

**Careers**

# Spanish



**Spanish is one of the most important global languages. 6.7% of the world's population speaks Spanish as their first language compared with only 5% speaking English.**

Spanish is a Latin based language, which means that some of its words are similar to some English words. The way Spanish is pronounced is also quite straightforward for English people to copy. Also, if you ever go on holiday to Spain you will have ample opportunity to practise your Spanish as very few Spaniards know more than a few words of English!

Studying a Spanish GCSE will help you understand the culture and people of other countries: don't forget that in Spain life is sometimes very different to life in England, with different customs, food and celebrations.

Spanish is also spoken in over 21 countries worldwide and lots of people in the US have Spanish as their native tongue.

During the course you will learn how to talk about the things that

are important to you in Spanish, for example your free time, your family, what you do at school and your holidays.

Having a good knowledge of another language and another society will make you more open to learning about different cultures in the future.

If you travel to Spain or Latin America and speak some Spanish, it will make you more aware of the difficulties that people have learning our language. It will also put you in a better position to help people in this country for whom English is not their native tongue.

There are lots of famous people who speak Spanish, some of them fluently - Gwyneth Paltrow, David Beckham, Gary Lineker and Shakira to name just a few!

Contrary to popular belief, Spanish is not something you can learn in a few weeks at evening classes

before your summer holiday.

It is a skill that although takes time, once achieved will improve your career opportunities no end, and once you have mastered one language, who knows? The world could be your oyster!

Many universities now include a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE within their entry requirements. Pupils intending to proceed to university should choose a language in order to ensure they have a broad and balanced suite of qualifications when applying for university places.

## Award

GCSE

## Exam Board

AQA

## QAN Code

601/8160/6

## Assessment

Listening Exam, 25%

Reading Exam, 25%

Speaking Exam, 25%

Writing Exam, 25%

## Course

## Skills

**Awareness and knowledge of Hispanic culture**  
**Understanding spoken and written Spanish**  
**Speaking in Spanish, describing photos, roleplay and conversation.**  
**Reading and understanding a variety of texts including literature.**  
**Writing letters, e-mails and blogs**

Speaking Spanish could help get you a better job in the following sectors:

Sales and Marketing  
Interpreting  
Media  
Journalism  
Law  
European Politics  
Linguistics  
Diplomacy  
Property Management  
Flight Attendant  
Marketing

## Careers

# Year 8 Course Options 2020

The completed form  
should be returned by  
23.03.2020

Name: *Stu Dent*

Form: *8A*

## Compulsory Subjects

English Language (1 GCSE)

Religious Education (1 GCSE)

English Literature\* (1 GCSE)

Core Science (2 GCSE)

Mathematics (1 GCSE)

Global Citizenship

## Options

Please choose 3 of the subjects and reserve choices below, indicating with a number 1 (first subject), 2 (second subject) and 3 (third subject). Please indicate your first reserve subject with a number 4 and your second reserve with a number 5.

Art & Design

History

Business Studies

Creative iMedia (ICT)

Food Prep & Nutrition

Music

Computer Science

Physical Education

Dance

Sociology

Drama

Separate Sciences

Geography

Spanish

We cannot guarantee that all students will have access to a full suite of GCSE qualifications. Careful consideration will be given to KS2 prior attainment and current academic progress. Individual meetings will be arranged with students and parents to discuss options throughout the options process.

Parent Signature: *P. Rent*

Date: *15/3/20*

EXAMPLE