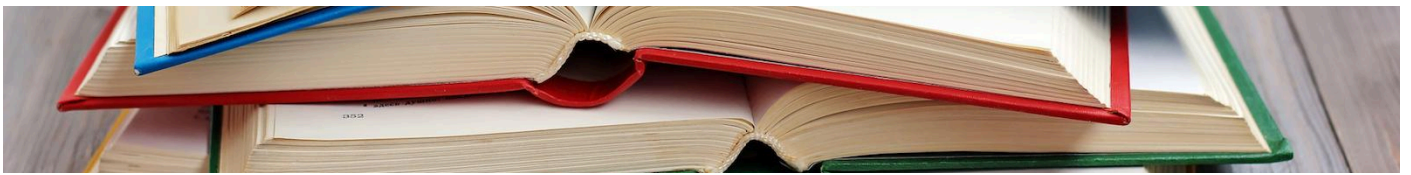
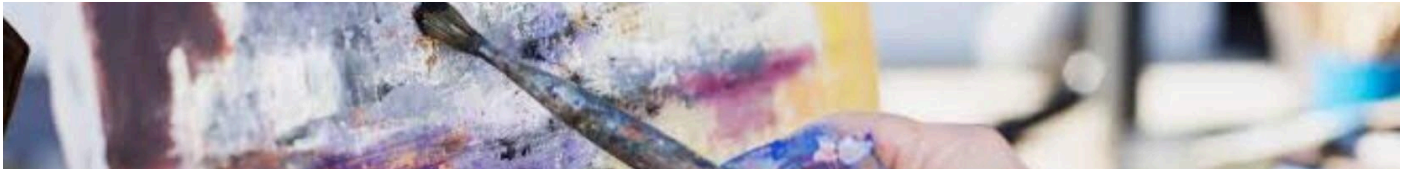




LIMAVADY  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



# A LEVEL SUBJECT CHOICES

2025/26

## **Foreword**

This booklet is designed to introduce you to Year 13 in Limavady Grammar School and to give you information about the courses available to you. We want to encourage our current Year 12 students to continue their education here but also welcome students from other schools to join us in our thriving and successful Sixth Form.

All subjects in this booklet are likely to be on offer but students should note that some subjects may be oversubscribed, may not run or may be delivered in another school within the Roe Valley Learning Community.

## **High Expectations**

The atmosphere in the Sixth Form should encourage you to realise your full potential. In all classes the teacher's aim is to establish an environment where you feel at ease and so benefit fully from a free exchange of ideas.

The more you are prepared to involve yourself in the study of the subject, the more likely you are to make good progress. Involvement means asking questions about points that you have not understood and having confidence to put forward your own ideas.

**It is not possible to follow a Sixth Form course successfully without a considerable amount of study, both in school and at home.** You will be expected to develop habits of personal organisation, private study and reading that will be of value to you in the future, whether you progress to higher education or to work. In Limavady Grammar School we expect our students to achieve an attendance rate of 95% or above. The pace of work is much faster at A Level and even short absences can have a significant effect on your progress.

Be careful that you are aware of the workload of each subject. Don't take on subjects with too much coursework if you don't think you can manage it.

## **Curriculum**

All pupils entering Year 13 in September are expected to meet our preferred criteria:

1. A minimum of 14 points (A/A\* = 4, B = 3, C\* = 2, C = 1) at least 3 of which are GCSE Grade B level or high C\* (former Grade B in 2018), including at least a Grade C in English and Mathematics. (The Principal will award points for non-GCSE level 2 equivalents). English Board examination points on a 1-9 scale will be converted to CCEA equivalent grades.
2. A sound record of attendance in Years 11 and 12 (95% +) (the school will take into account contemporaneous medical evidence in relation to this).
3. For every AS subject chosen, the student must ensure that they fulfil the entry requirements set by subject departments.
4. Satisfy the Principal, together with the Vice-Principals that they have a sound good behaviour record in Years 11 and 12 or to have a significantly improved behaviour record in Year 12.

(Pupils transferring from other schools will be required to present a good behaviour record, similar to that described, in their previous school).

If a student seeks application to Year 13 and has not fulfilled these criteria he/she may, following an interview, be placed on a waiting list from which places will be awarded on merit. Where the entry criteria for a particular subject have not been met, the Head of Department may exercise discretion regarding a student's suitability in that subject.

\*It should be noted that occasionally a Sixth Form subject is oversubscribed, in which case the following criteria will be applied progressively until the **maximum class size** is reached:

1. Pupils who have initially selected the subject at Careers Interview in Year 12 and who have attained the minimum entry requirement as published by each department;
2. Pupils will be admitted to each class in rank order, based on attainment in relevant GCSE subjects in the May/June examinations, as published by each department.

If, after the application of the above criteria, there are a number of applicants of equal rank, so that, if they were all accepted, the maximum class size would be exceeded, priority will be given to applicants on the basis of total GCSE points score.

Conversely, where a course is not viable, the School reserves the right not to run that particular course.

Students may only study a maximum of **one** link course at a RVLC course provider.

As per the LGS Curriculum Policy statement, it cannot be guaranteed that every pupil seeking to take 4 subjects at A2 level can be timetabled to do so.

The following diagram shows how A level grades are allocated.

UCAS Tariff Points for A levels achieved are as follows:

Grade	A Level Points	AS Level Points
A*	56	
A	48	20
B	40	16
C	32	12
D	24	10
E	16	6

These tariff points may be used in conjunction with Grades for some university applications.

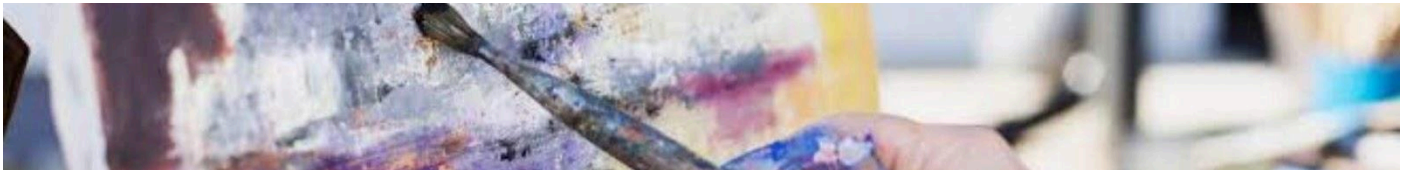
In addition to your academic studies, you will participate in a Sixth Form Recreation programme. Extra-curricular activities will still be on offer and all students are encouraged to avail of these opportunities, not least to help you build an impressive CV.

Please be aware that some universities in the Republic of Ireland do not accept applied A level subjects so check entry requirements carefully.

May I wish you every success in your forthcoming GCSEs and I look forward to welcoming you into the Sixth Form in September.

# ART & DESIGN

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	50%	20%	Teacher assessed with external moderation	Experimental Portfolio
AS Module 2	50%	20%	Teacher assessed with external moderation	Personal Outcome
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		60% of A2 36% of A level	Teacher assessed with external moderation	Personal and Critical Investigation Practical Investigation – 40% of A2, 24% of A level
			Externally assessed only	Written Investigation of 1000–2000 words – 20% of A2, 12% of A level
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		40% of A2 24% of A level	Teacher assessed with external moderation	Thematic Outcome

## Career Opportunities

Students holding an A level in Art & Design can use their skills in many areas of design including: Art and Design teacher, Advertising Art Director, Artist, Animator, Architect, Blacksmith, Ceramics Designer, Illustrator, Costume Designer, Fashion Designer, Fashion/Advertising, Games Designer, Photographer, Footwear Designer, Furniture Designer, Hairdresser, Window Dresser, Glass Designer, Graphic Designer, Web Designer, Product Designer, Occupational Therapist, Medical Illustrator, Set Designer, Special Effects Designer.

## Entry requirements

Grade A (UMS 162) in GCSE Art and Design is **preferred** and a good portfolio with a broad spectrum of work is essential. (B Grade with UMS 152 and above, with discussion, may be accepted).  
 B grade in English preferred to assist with the written element of the course.

## Other Information

Please note – A2 Module 1 – written and practical work inform each other and are integrated, but are marked separately.

Students will:

- develop knowledge, understanding and awareness of the purpose of art, craft and design in a variety of contexts through their own work and the research of others' work
- have opportunities to actively engage in the creative process of art, craft and design, developing their creative, imaginative and intuitive capabilities, critical and reflective thinking skills and technical skills
- be encouraged to work independently and with a broad range of media to experiment, take risks and refine ideas and outcomes

You can produce work in 2D, 3D, fine art and design, including drawing, painting, graphic design, textile design, lens-based media, critical and contextual studies, 3D design and sculpture.

# BIOLOGY

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	37½%	15%	1½ hour exam	Molecules and Cells
AS Module 2	37½%	15%	1½ hour exam	Organisms and Biodiversity
AS Module 3	25%	10%	Internal practical assessment (marked by teachers and moderated by CCEA) & 1 hour external written exam assessing practical skills	Practical skills
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		24%	2¼ hour exam	Physiology, Co-ordination and Control, and Ecosystems
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		24%	2¼ hour exam	Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends
<b>A2 Module 3</b>		12%	Internal practical assessment (marked by teachers and moderated by CCEA) & 1 ¼ hr external written exam assessing practical skills	Practical skills

## Career Opportunities

Fields of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Speech and Language Therapy, Pharmacology, Physiology, Biomedical Science, Forensic Science, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation.

## Entry requirements

- A minimum of 80% in Biology (320 UMS marks totalled from Unit 1,2 &3) OR 80% in the Biology theory papers in DAS (120 UMS marks totalled from Biology Unit 1 & 2). In the unlikely event of UMS marks being the same between candidates competing for the last space in the class, the raw marks will be considered.
- Students should show an ability in Chemistry, achieving a minimum of 70% in Chemistry (280 UMS marks) or 70% in the Chemistry theory papers in DAS (105 UMS marks).
- Please note to meet the above criteria, higher tier modules should be sat in both Biology and Chemistry.
- Admission to Biology, if oversubscribed, will follow the Sixth Form Admissions criteria.

# BUSINESS STUDIES

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	50%	20%	External written examination 1½ hours Two compulsory structured data responses (80 marks)	Introduction to Business
AS Module 2	50%	20%	External written examination 1½ hours Two compulsory structured data responses (80 marks)	Growing the Business
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		30%	External written examination 2 hours Five compulsory structured data responses (90 marks)	Strategic Decision Making
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		30%	External written examination 2 hours Six compulsory structured data responses (90 marks)	The Competitive Business Environment

## Career Opportunities

This course offers an excellent foundation for a career in Marketing, Finance, Accountancy, Human Resource Management, Management or self employment.

## Entry requirements

- There is no specific requirement to have studied GCSE Business Studies, although it is an advantage. Students who do not have GCSE Business Studies must have displayed a commitment to their studies, an ability to meet deadlines and a willingness to learn.
- It is expected that those students already holding a GCSE in Business Studies or equivalent will have obtained a minimum of 80% (240 UMS).
- All students wishing to take A level Business Studies must hold a B grade in both GCSE English Language and GCSE Mathematics.

## Other Information

- Candidates will discover how businesses operate and engage in decision making and risk taking processes in all levels of the organisation.
- They will develop a greater awareness of the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities that organisations face as they conduct their business.
- The case studies and sources they will be presented with are often real life scenarios from local companies and they will be encouraged to problem solve and come up with practical cost effective solutions to business problems.

# CHEMISTRY

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	40%	16%	1½ hour exam	Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry
AS Module 2	40%	16%	1½ hour exam	Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and Introduction to Organic Chemistry
AS Module 3	20%	8%	Booklet A 1hr 15mins Booklet B 1hr 15mins	Basic Practical Chemistry
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		24%	2 hr exam	Further Physical and Organic Chemistry
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		24%	2 hr exam	Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry
<b>A2 Module 3</b>		12%	Booklet A 1hr 15mins Booklet B 1hr 15mins	Further Practical Chemistry

## Career Opportunities

Health - Pharmaceuticals, Medicine, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Nursing and other Healthcare Professions.

Engineering - in particular Chemical Engineering

Analytical - including Forensic Science, Toxicology, Clinical Biochemistry

Food Science and Agriculture - chemistry is helping us cope with increasing pressures on food, water and other natural resources.

Materials - incorporating Nanotechnology and Polymer Technology. The development of new materials is the foundation of advances in electronics, sports and many other areas.

## Entry requirements

- 75% in GCSE Chemistry which is equivalent to 320/400 UMS marks.
- Minimum of 80% in the Chemistry component for GCSE Double Award Science, obtained in higher tier papers. This equates to 120/150 UMS marks on combined C1 and C2 papers.
- All others achieving AA, AB or BB will be considered in rank order of achievement in Chemistry and at the discretion of the HOD.
- In the event of UMS marks being the same in TA and DA then raw marks will be considered.
- Admission to Chemistry, if oversubscribed, will follow the Sixth Form Admissions Criteria.

# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Exam Board: **WJEC**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Unit 1	50%	20%	On-screen Exam (2 hours)	AS 1: Innovation in Digital Technology
AS Unit 2	50%	20%	Non-Exam Assessment (Coursework)	AS 2: Creative Digital Practices
<b>A2 Unit 3</b>		30%	On-screen Exam (2½ hours)	A2 1: Information Systems
<b>A2 Unit 4</b>		30%	Non-Exam Assessment (Coursework)	A2 2: Application Development (Case Study)

## Career Opportunities

Career prospects in the Computing and Digital Technology industry are at an all-time high. With the digital world driving innovation across every sector, the demand for skilled professionals in Northern Ireland—and globally—has never been greater. This subject equips you with cutting-edge skills and knowledge, opening doors to exciting and high-paying roles.

Career opportunities exist in the areas of **Software Development, Game Development, Data Analytics, Cybersecurity, Digital Media and Creative Technology, Artificial Intelligence, IoT Developer, Robotics, Project Management and Education**. Students may also progress with further studies or become involved in specialised roles in emerging technologies such as blockchain and Quantum computing.

## Entry requirements

- Students must have already studied DT Programming or DT Multimedia at GCSE and have achieved a minimum of a B grade.
- **Any other entry will be at the discretion of the Head of Department.** To be considered students must have a strong academic profile and a proven track record in Controlled Assessment subjects. References may be sought from subject teachers to inform this decision.

## Other Information

This is a new specification being offered at A-Level replacing the CCEA qualification. This new qualification offers students the opportunity to study an up-to-date and industry relevant qualification. Coursework accounts for 50% of the course and includes Game Design and Development alongside Website and Database Development. Assessments for theory units are completed as on-screen exams.



# ENGLISH LITERATURE

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	60%	24%	External written examination 2 hours	The Study of Poetry 1900–Present and Drama 1900–Present
AS Module 2	40%	16%	External written examination 1 hour	The Study of Prose Pre -1900
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		20%	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins	Shakespearean Genres
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		20%	External written examination 2 hours	The Study of Poetry Pre -1900 and Unseen Poetry
<b>A2 Module 3</b>		20%	Internal Assessment	Internal Assessment based on Prose

## Career Opportunities

English Literature could be useful in any career, as it provides strong evidence of good communication skills.

All branches of the Legal Profession; Broadcasting; Journalism; Theatre; Publishing; Translating; Education; Marketing and Advertising.

## Entry requirements

Those students who wish to study English Literature at AS/A level should have achieved a minimum of 70% of the total UMS scores in **both** GCSE English Language **and** GCSE English Literature. **Note:** GCSE English Lang 70% = 280 UMS; GCSE English Lit 70% = 140 UMS

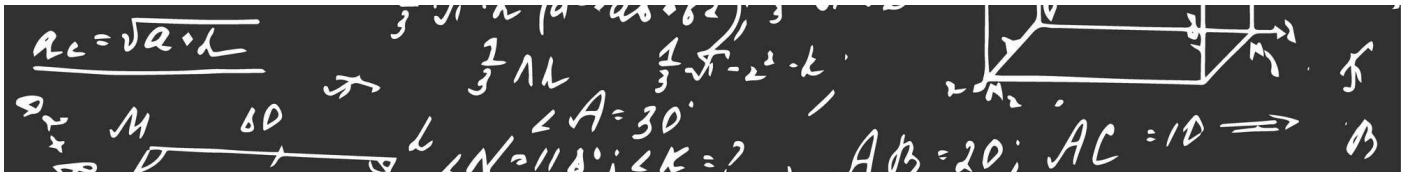
**Any other entry will be at the discretion of the Head of Department.**

## Other Information

All students of English Literature should share a love of the subject and have an ability to read widely and independently. This, in turn, develops a breadth of skills required in the modern world.

# FURTHER MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	50%	20%	1½ hour exam	Pure Mathematics
AS Module 2	50%	20%	1½ hour exam	Applied Mathematics
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		30%	2¼ hour exam	Pure Mathematics
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		30%	2¼ hour exam	Applied Mathematics

## Career Opportunities

This subject is suitable for students hoping to follow a career in Mathematics, Physics or a related area like Engineering.

## Entry requirements

This specification assumes knowledge of GCE Mathematics and therefore can only be chosen with GCE Mathematics.

Those students wishing to study Further Mathematics should have a flair for the subject and it is expected that they have achieved high grades in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics at GCSE – at least A grades in both.

**Note:** Those considering taking this subject are advised to check university entry criteria – this is particularly important for those considering OxBridge applications.

# GEOGRAPHY

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	40%	16%	1¼ hour exam	Physical Geography
AS Module 2	40%	16%	1¼ hour exam	Human Geography
AS Module 3	20%	8%	1 hour exam	Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		24%	1½ hour exam	Physical Processes, Landforms and Management
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		24%	1½ hour exam	Processes and Issues in Human Geography
<b>A2 Module 3</b>		12%	1½ hour exam	Decision Making in Geography

## Career Opportunities

There are a large number of careers where the study of Geography would be considered a distinct advantage, for example, Architecture, the Civil Service, Civil Engineering, Marketing, Town and Country Planning, Transport and Communications, Tourism, the Armed Services and Civil Aviation. However, Geography graduates are also increasingly finding that their skills open up careers for them in Accountancy, Banking, Insurance and Law.

## Entry requirements

A mark of 70% (UMS 210) or above in GCSE Geography is a prerequisite for the A-level course. The physical topics in particular demand a knowledge of terminology and processes that build on GCSE understanding.

## Other Information

Geography is concerned with providing a spatial perspective on the world. It allows the Science specialist to develop important literacy skills and the Arts specialist to develop skills in numeracy and graphical work.

# GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	40%	16%	1 written exam (1¼ hours)	The Government and Politics of Northern Ireland
AS Module 2	60%	24%	1 written exam (1¼ hours)	The British Political Process
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		35%	1 written exam (2¼ hours)	Comparative Study of the Government and Politics of the USA and the UK
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		25%	1 written exam (1½ hours)	Political Power

## Career Opportunities

Jobs directly related to a degree in Politics include:

- Civil Service
- Government Social Research Officer
- Politician's Assistant
- Public Affairs Consultant
- Public Relations Account Executive
- Social Researcher

Jobs where a degree in Politics would be useful:

- Human Resources Officer
- Local Government officer
- Market Researcher
- Marketing Executive
- Newspaper Journalist
- Public Relations Officer

## Entry requirements

1. A minimum of a B grade in GCSE English Language and/or Literature is **essential**.
2. A grade of B in GCSE History is **preferred**.
3. Students **must** be interested in researching political stories and events using a range of media. Any other entry will be at the discretion of the Head of Department.

## Other Information

- Trips to London Westminster and Stormont Parliament Buildings may be offered.
- Visits from MLAs and Councillors.
- Local trips to 'Let's Talk' events.
- Support for essay competitions and debating.

# HISTORY

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	50%	20%	1 written exam (1½ hours)	Weimar and Nazi Germany 1919-1945
AS Module 2	50%	20%	1 written exam (1½ hours)	Russia 1914-1941
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		20%	1 written exam (1¼ hours)	The American Presidency 1901-2000
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		40%	1 written exam (2½ hours)	Partition of Ireland 1900-25

## Career Opportunities

Jobs directly related to a History degree include:

- Heritage Manager
- Historic Buildings Inspector/Conservation Officer
- Museum Education Officer
- Museum/Gallery Curator
- Museum/Gallery Exhibitions Officer
- Secondary School Teacher

Jobs where a History degree would be useful include:

- Academic Librarian
- Archaeologist
- Archivist
- Journalist
- Civil Service Administrator
- Politician's Assistant/Researcher
- Solicitor
- Primary School Teacher

## Entry requirements

1. GCSE History is **essential**. Only those achieving a minimum of a B grade will be considered.
  2. A minimum of 70% in GCSE English Language (280 UMS) and/or Literature (140 UMS) is also **essential**.
  3. An interest and ability to critique written sources.
- Any other entry will be at the discretion of the Head of Department.

## Other Information

The History department also supports students in preparation for essay competitions and debates. Students are also supported through the Law Society and external projects which include opportunities to develop research skills, working with others and opportunities for foreign travel.

# LIFE & HEALTH SCIENCES

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS 1	33⅓%	13⅓%	Internal Assessment	Experimental Techniques
AS 2	33⅓%	13⅓%	External Written Exam 1⅓ hours	Human Body Systems
AS 3	33⅓%	13⅓%	External Written Exam 1⅓ hours	Aspects of Physical Chemistry in Industrial Processes
<b>A2 1</b>		20%	Internal Assessment	Scientific Method, Investigation, Analysis and Evaluation
<b>A2 2</b>		20%	External Written Exam 1¼ hours	Organic Chemistry
<b>A2 Optional Unit</b>		20%	External Written Exam 1¼ hours	Option may vary but will be either Biology - Genetics, Stem Cell Research and Cloning or Physics - Sound and Light and will depend on staff availability in the A2 year of the course

## Career Opportunities

Life and Health Science related industries such as Pharmaceutical, Chemical and the NHS (25% of NI total economic output)

Life and Health Sciences will be accepted as a 'Science' subject for courses such as Nursing but not for courses such as Medicine, Pharmacy and Dentistry. We strongly recommend that you check the entry requirements for your desired career path.

## Entry requirements

Minimum of BB in Double Award Science (to include a minimum of 70% in each of the Biology, Chemistry and Physics components which must be achieved in higher tier papers; this equates to 105 UMS marks in both B1+B2, C1+C2 and P1+P2) and a minimum of 70% in GCSE Maths (280 UMS).

In exceptional circumstance, students who achieve an A\* in Single Award Science will be considered. In this case the students must consult with the HoD no later than 1st February of Y12 so that arrangements can be made for them to complete a course upgrading to DAS equivalent standard in certain key areas over the summer before final acceptance onto this course. A student who has not provided evidence that they have upgraded their knowledge cannot be accepted.

## Other Information

AS level Life & Health Science may be taken alongside other science AS levels. At A2 it counts as an individual subject for all Allied Health courses at Ulster University and will be counted as an achieved separate grade even if taken with Biology, Physics or Chemistry. If you are considering applying to any other university, we strongly recommend you check with admissions before continuing to A2.

# MATHEMATICS

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	60%	24%	1¾ hour exam	Pure Mathematics
AS Module 2	40%	16%	1¼ hour exam	Applied Mathematics
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		36%	2½ hour exam	Pure Mathematics
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		24%	1½ hour exam	Applied Mathematics

## Career Opportunities

As one of the STEM subjects, Mathematics opens doors to employment and higher educational courses and opportunities to learn about the relevance of Mathematics to everyday life. To name but a few, Mathematics can lead to careers in Finance, Business, IT and Teaching.

## Entry requirements

If a student has studied GCSE Further Mathematics, they require at least a B grade in Further Mathematics **OR** a high grade A (UMS score of at least 340) or A\* in GCSE Mathematics.

If a student is only studying GCSE Mathematics they need to achieve a high A grade (UMS score of at least 340, having completed M4 and M8 modules) or A\* in GCSE Mathematics.

## Other Information

Mathematics is the bedrock of other subjects including the Sciences, Economics and Engineering and is extremely relevant to subjects like Psychology and Technology and Design.

# MODERN LANGUAGES (FRENCH & SPANISH)

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	30%	12%	11 minute exam	Speaking
AS Module 2	40%	16%	2 hour exam	Listening, Reading and Use of Language
AS Module 3	30%	12%	1 hour exam	Extended Writing (based on a film or work of literature)
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		18%	15 minute exam	Speaking
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		24%	2¼ hour exam	Listening and Reading
<b>A2 Module 3</b>		18%	1 hour exam	Extended Writing (based on a work of literature)

## Career Opportunities

The following careers place a high level of importance on the ability to speak another language. Teaching, Travel and Tourism, Journalism, Business, Banking and Finance, Interpreting and Translation, Diplomatic Service, Law, Engineering, Politics and International Relations, Foreign Aid and Charity Work. However, the ability to speak another language in today's fast-changing world is an asset which can be used in a wide variety of different fields and is often seen as an extra string to your bow by many employers.

## Entry requirements

Pupils wishing to study languages at AS and/or A Level should have attained a minimum of a B grade in the appropriate language at GCSE and should have been entered for the higher tier in all GCSE language modules.

## Other Information

As well as being useful for your future career and travel opportunities, studying a modern language brings many other benefits. Learning another language will help to improve your communication skills (in English as well as in the language you are learning). It will also give you a better understanding of the grammar of your own language and will help to improve your thinking and problem-solving skills. These are all skills which are prized by future employers.

We would encourage pupils considering a career which directly involves languages, and who have studied both languages to GCSE level, to consider studying both for A Level as the ability to speak more than one foreign language will be an advantage in many language-related careers.

It is hoped that students studying one or more languages at AS/A Level will have the opportunity to spend some time in the country of the language that they are studying on either an exchange or a short visit.



# MUSIC

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	32.5%	13%	Solo Performance of 5 to 7 minutes and a viva voce, visiting examiner	Performing
AS Module 2	32.5%	13%	Composition of 1½ to 2½ minutes, 1000 word commentary. Internal assessment external moderation	Composing
AS Module 3	35%	14%	1 hour test of aural perception 2 hour written examination	Responding to Music
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		19.5%	Solo performance of 8 to 10 minutes and a viva voce, visiting examiner	Performing
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		19.5%	Composition task or composing with technology task, of 2 to 3 minutes, 1200 word commentary, external assessment	Composing
<b>A2 Module 3</b>		21%	1 hour 15 minute test of aural perception 2 hour written examination	Responding to Music

## Career Opportunities

- Creative Arts: encompassing Music, Teaching, Therapy, Writing and Arts Administration
- Education: Private and Public sector including Schools, Further and Higher Education
- Media: expanding opportunities in Television, Radio, Film, Corporate Production and Interactive Media

## Entry requirements

Entry to AS with a grade B or higher at GCSE. Entry without GCSE may be considered in some cases through discussion with the Head of Department. Pupils would normally be committed to regular vocal or instrumental lessons.

## Other Information

All prospective students considering Music must discuss their suitability for the course with the Head of Department.

# NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	50%	20%	1½ hour exam	Principles of Nutrition
AS Module 2	50%	20%	1½ hour exam	Diet, Lifestyle and Health
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		30 %	2½ hour exam	Food Security and Sustainability
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		30 %	Internally assessed assignment	Research based project on a topic of individual choice

## Career Opportunities

Nutrition and Dietetics, Human Nutrition, Food Science and Technology, Sports Nutrition, Environmental Health, Product Development, Food Innovation, Food & Nutrition, Teaching and Engineering.

## Entry requirements

Entry criteria applied following preferences below:

1. Grade B at GCSE Food and Nutrition or similar based subject.
2. Minimum 65 marks in Component 1 (exam).
3. If no GCSE Food and Nutrition, BB in Double Award Science or at the discretion of the HOD

## Other Information

Nutrition and Food Science features regularly in the national media and, given the current global and national food issues, there is no better time to develop knowledge and understanding of the subject.

# PHYSICS

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	40%	16%	1¾ hours exam	Forces, Energy and Electricity
AS Module 2	40%	16%	1¾ hours exam	Waves, Photons and Astronomy
AS Module 3	20%	8%	2 x 1 hour exams	Practical Techniques and Data Analysis
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		24%	2 hour exam	Deformation of Solids, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		24%	2 hour exam	Fields, Capacitors and Particle Physics
<b>A2 Module 3</b>		12%	2 x 1 hour exams	Practical Techniques and Data Analysis

## Career Opportunities

Engineering (mechanical, civil, electrical and aerospace), Medicine, Sciences, Research, Teaching, Nursing, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Technology, Forensic Science, Medical Physics, Radiography, Finance, Computer Science and Material Science.

## Entry requirements

Essential Criteria:

- A minimum of 75% in TA Physics (300 UMS marks totalled from Unit 1,2 &3) OR 80% in the Physics theory papers in DAS (120 UMS marks totalled from Physics Unit 1 & 2). In the unlikely event of UMS marks being the same between candidates competing for the last space in the class, the raw marks will be considered.
- Grade A in Mathematics (having completed the M4 module)
- All others achieving AA, AB or BB will be considered in rank order of achievement in Physics and at the discretion of the Head of Department.

Admission to Physics, if oversubscribed, will follow the sixth form admissions criteria.

## Other Information

Physics is a highly regarded subject and develops many high order skills which are sought after by higher and further education and employers.

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	50%	20%	1 written exam (1 hr 20mins)	An introduction to the Gospel of Luke
AS Module 2	50%	20%	1 written exam (1 hr 20mins)	Foundations of Ethics with Special Reference to Issues in Medical Ethics
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		30%	1 written exam (2 hours)	Themes in the Synoptic Gospels
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		30%	1 written exam (2 hours)	Global Ethics

## Career Opportunities

Religious Studies teaches the skill of presenting an argument as well as listening to and understanding others point of view. It is therefore a brilliant choice for students who are interested in working with people and arguing a case. The Ethics course particularly prepares students for the ethical aspects of medical and legal environments as well as any profession interacting with sensitive information. e.g. Law, Medicine, Nursing, Health Care, Journalism, Primary Teaching, Youth Work, Politics, Psychology, Counselling, Secondary Teaching, Sports Psychology, Business, Management, Digital Ethics.

## Entry requirements

### Essential Criteria:

A grade B in Religious Studies GCSE (This is 146 UMS or above).

If the class is oversubscribed at this point, students with GCSE Religious studies will be ranked on their raw mark.

If more places remain in the class, then students will be considered on the condition they meet both of the following criteria:

1. A grade B in English Language

### AND

2. A grade B in History **or** English Literature

If the class is oversubscribed at this point, students will be ranked based on their raw mark in History or English Literature.

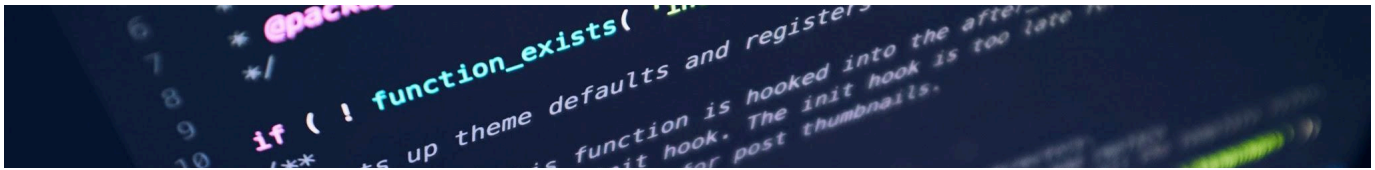
If a student does not meet the above criteria then entry to the class will be at the discretion of the HOD and only if the candidate has achieved a grade B or above in GCSE English Language.

## Other Information

Religious Studies is current and relevant to the issues being addressed in the news and gives pupils an opportunity to develop an understanding of the world around them and why people have differing opinions and beliefs.

# SOFTWARE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	50%	20%	External Examination (2 hours)	Introduction to Object Oriented Development
AS Module 2	50%	20%	Internal assessment	Event Driven Programming
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		30%	External Examination (2 hours)	Systems Approaches and Database Concepts
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		30%	Internal assessment	Implementing Solutions (Case Study)

## Career Opportunities

The employment prospects in the Computing industry have never been more promising. There is an exceptionally high demand for the skills and abilities that can be developed through studying SSD, both in Northern Ireland and beyond. Pursuing a career in Computing can open doors to a variety of exciting and rewarding roles, including: **Game Design, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Database Administrator, Programmer, Security Analyst, Software Developer, Software Engineer, Digital Forensics, Cyber Security and Big Data Analytics.**

## Entry requirements

**Essential criteria:** Grade B in DT Programming and 80 UMS in the Controlled Assessment component. Grade B in GCSE Mathematics

**Any other entry will be at the discretion of the Head of Department.**

It is recommended that students who undertake this course should also be studying either Physics and/or Mathematics at A level.

## Other Information

Northern Ireland has already established a reputation for being a regional centre for excellence in IT. Over the last ten years, the region has attracted the investment of some of the largest companies in the world, several of whom have established their entire IT divisions here in the province. This trend is set to continue as more and more companies realise the high quality of graduates our education system is producing. Software Engineers are currently in high demand in Northern Ireland with the overwhelming majority of graduates gaining permanent employment once they graduate from university. These jobs are often well-paid and offer very competitive benefits packages and, in some cases, opportunities for travel within the company. A Level Software Systems Development was introduced to try to encourage and foster the development of object-oriented programming skills, a key requirement for anyone considering not only a career in IT but indeed any STEM-related career. There are many jobs which require an understanding of object-oriented programming even though it is clearly not a core requirement e.g. Engineering.

# SPORTS SCIENCE & THE ACTIVE LEISURE INDUSTRY

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	60%	24%	COURSEWORK	Sports Science & the Active Leisure Industry: Fitness & Training for Sport
AS Module 2	40%	14%	External written exam (2 hours)	Sports Science & the Active Leisure Industry: Health, Fitness & Lifestyle
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		60%	COURSEWORK	Sports Science & the Active Leisure Industry: Event Management in the Active Leisure Industry
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		40%	External written exam (2 hours)	Sports Science & the Active Leisure Industry: The application of Science to Sports Performance

## Career Opportunities

This qualification is accepted by most universities as an A level entry for sport related courses. The onus is on the student to **check university entrance criteria** before committing.

It can open up a wide range of opportunities in higher education which will help you begin a successful career, for example as a PE Teacher, Sports Development Officer or Physiotherapist.

You can also choose to pursue a career as a Personal Trainer, Leisure Centre Manager or a Sports Coach.

In this course you will develop your knowledge, understanding and skills in research, analysis, planning, time management, event management, problem-solving and communication as a coach or instructor.

## Entry requirements

All students wishing to study this course at A level must:

- Be an active participant in at least one sport inside or outside of school
- Have a proven record of meeting deadlines and commitment to his/her studies

Those who have taken GCSE PE must have:

- Achieved at least a B in GCSE PE and C\* GCSE English Language
- Studied DAS and achieved at least 65% in the Biology component of the course (97.5 UMS)

If a student has not studied GCSE PE, then they must have:

- Achieved at least a B in English Language
- Studied DAS and achieved at least 70% in the Biology component of the course (105 UMS)

## Other Information

By studying this course, you will develop an understanding of Sports Science and the Active Leisure Industry relating specifically to sport and recreation and health and fitness. Leisure is one of the fastest-growing industries in the world today, with gym and indoor sports facility use becoming a way of life. This course will give you the opportunity to gain an insight into a fast-growing leisure environment.

# TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	50%	20%	One external written examination consisting of two papers: Paper 1: Core area of study Paper 2: Specialist area of study	Design and Materials  Option: Systems and Control
AS Module 2	50%	20%	Internal assessment Students complete one task, producing a practical outcome with a design folder.	Coursework: Product Development
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		30%	External written examination (2 hours) Students answer two questions from either Section A, Section B or Section C.	Systems and Control
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		30%	Internal assessment Students complete one task, producing a practical outcome with a design folder.	Coursework: Product-System Design and Manufacture

## Career Opportunities

Technology combined with Maths and Physics is an excellent choice for engineering- based careers. With a firm background in electronics, materials, mechanisms, fluid control, manufacturing and computing, Technology has proven to be beneficial for students studying a wide range of subjects at university. Past students have gone on to study a vast range of subjects including Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Information Technology, Education and Software Engineering.

## Entry requirements

Essential criteria: a good grade B in GCSE Technology: 233 plus AND a coursework mark of 132 UMS or above.  
Desirable criteria: A or A\* in GCSE Technology and an A or A\* in Physics or Maths.

## Other Information

- The A Level is comprised of four units, the first two making up an AS-Level, which can be awarded as a discrete qualification. The A2 comprises a further two units and completes the full A Level qualification.
- **Unit 1** examines Product Design and Systems and Control (Mechanisms, Pneumatics and Electronics. Since we specialise in two of these areas at GCSE, students will benefit as a large section of the specification will be known to them). This unit is assessed by one examination at the end of Year 13.
- **Unit 2** is a re-design project chosen by the student, folio and product will be presented and assessed at the end of Year 13.
- Students who proceed to the full A Level will study two further units which combine to manufacture a practical project with the Design and Manufacture elements assessed separately. This project is internally assessed at the end of Year 14.
- The final assessment of the Technology A Level will be the A2 examination, which is a continuation of the Mechanisms/Pneumatics or Electronics studied in AS Unit 1.
- Coursework accounts for 50% of the full A Level.

# LINK COURSES

2025/26





# APPLIED SCIENCE

(LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE) at NWRC

Exam Board: **EDEXCEL**



Modules	% of Extended Certificate	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
<b>Year 13</b>	50%	External Exam (50%)  Coursework - internally assessed (50%)	Principles and Application of Science 1 - External Examination  Practical Scientific Procedures and Techniques - Coursework
<b>Year 14</b>	50%	External Exam (67%)  Coursework - internally assessed (33%)	Science Investigation Skills - External Examination  Physiology of Human Body Systems

## Career Opportunities

This extended certificate is **currently** acceptable as a Science A Level onto the following courses: Nursing, Human Nutrition, Social work and Humanities courses that do not specifically require A Level Science-based subjects. Please note that university entry requirements can change, especially regarding the acceptability of Applied Courses. Students are advised to research university courses thoroughly before choosing this subject.

## Entry requirements

You must have a Grade C or above in either GCSE Double Award or Single Award Science **and** a Grade C or above in Mathematics. This course cannot be studied together with Biology or Chemistry or Physics or Life and Health Science.

## Other Information

Award grade: Distinction*	56 UCAS points
Distinction	48 UCAS points
Merit	32 UCAS point
Pass	16 UCAS points

# CONSTRUCTION AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

(LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE) at NWRC

Exam Board: **EDEXCEL**



Modules	% of Extended Certificate	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
<b>Year 13</b>	33.33%	Externally Assessed Examination	Construction Principles
	16.66% (50% of Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate)	Coursework - Internally assessed and externally verified	Construction Technology
<b>Year 14</b>	33.33%	Externally Assessed Examination	Construction Design
	16.66% (50% of Pearson BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate)	Coursework - Internally assessed and externally verified	Health & Safety in Construction

## Career Opportunities

- Further study such as BTEC Higher Nationals in Construction.
- Construction- related employment.
- Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Civil Engineering or Building Services Engineering degree courses.

## Entry requirements

It is essential to have Mathematics and English at Grade C GCSE.

## Other Information

The Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level. It is designed for learners who are interested in learning about the construction sector, alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in construction-related subjects.

# ENGINEERING

(LEVEL 3 NATIONAL EXTENDED CERTIFICATE) at NWRC

Exam Board: **EDEXCEL**



Modules	Qualification Title	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Year 13	<b>Pearson BTEC Level 3, National certificate in Engineering</b>	Pearson set Exam in May/June. External assessment  (Double unit 67%)  Written and practical coursework. Internally assessed and externally verified. (Single Unit 33%)	<b>Engineering Principles</b> – Combination of Mathematics, Electrical, Electronic and Mechanical Principles (Double Unit – External Exam)  <b>Delivery of Engineering Processes Safely</b> (Coursework)
<b>Year 14</b>	<b>Pearson BTEC Level 3, National Extended Certificate in Engineering</b>  Equivalent to one A Level.	Pearson set task based assignment. External assessment in May/June (Double unit 67%)  Written and practical coursework. Internally assessed and externally verified. (Single Unit 33%)	<b>Engineering Product Design &amp; Manufacture</b>  (Double unit, External Assessment – Task Based)  <b>Computer Aided Design in Engineering</b> (Coursework)

## Career Opportunities

Engineering, Design, Technology.

## Entry requirements

It is essential to have Mathematics at Grade C GCSE. It would be beneficial to have a design-related subject at Grade C GCSE. Students who have not taken the GCSE Mathematics M4/M7 combination may find difficulty with the mathematical aspects of this course.

## Other Information

Award grade:	Distinction*	56 UCAS points	This is normally a 2 year course, but it is possible to claim a certificate at the end of Year 1 without proceeding to the Extended Certificate level.
	Distinction	48 UCAS points	
	Merit	32 UCAS point	
	Pass	16 UCAS points	

# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

At NWRC

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS 1	25%	10%	Portfolio assessment (internal)	Promoting Quality Care
AS 2	25%	10%	Portfolio assessment (internal)	Communication in Health, Social Care and Early Years Settings
AS 3	50%	20%	External written exam (2 hours)	Health and Wellbeing
<b>A2 2</b>		15%	Portfolio assessment (internal)	Monitoring Body Systems
<b>A2 5</b>		15%	Portfolio assessment (internal)	Supporting the Family
<b>A2 3</b>		30%	External written exam (2 hours)	Providing Services

## Career Opportunities

Health, Social Care, Early Years provision.

## Entry requirements

A grade B in English is preferred, or any subject showing evidence of extended writing.

## Other Information

This subject offers a number of learning opportunities which will provide candidates with a choice of assessment methods suitable for their needs/strengths. The qualification will be delivered by professionally qualified staff, including Nurses and Social Workers.

# MOVING IMAGE ARTS

At LIMAVADY HIGH SCHOOL

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS 1	60%	24%	Portfolio – film production	Realist and Formalist Techniques and Classical Hollywood. Planning and making a 3-5 minute film based on original ideas.
AS 2	40%	16%	Online examination	Analysis of previously unseen clips to show understanding of techniques and director's intentions.
<b>A21</b>		36%	Portfolio – film production	Creative Production and Research. Planning and making a 4-7 minute film based on original ideas.
<b>A22</b>		24%	Online examination	Analysis of previously unseen clips as well as creative response to a short screenplay.

## Career Opportunities

This subject is an ideal choice for students wishing to pursue a career in the creative industries where independence, originality, creative enterprise and technical skills are valued and promoted.

## Entry requirements

Pupils selecting Moving Image Arts at 'A' level must have achieved at least a C grade in English or English literature at GCSE. An interest in film, animation, media or gaming is essential.

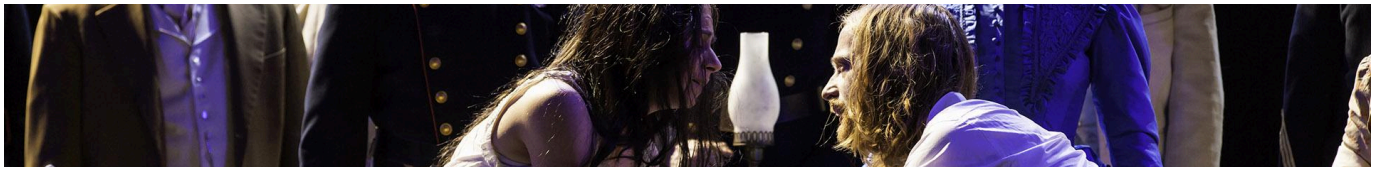
## Other Information

- This is a practical and creative course with full freedom to make a short film/animation based on your own original ideas. The coursework portfolio showcases your skills in research, planning, filming and editing.
- We have links with ScreenWorks NI and encourage pupils to undertake the free work experience placements offered in a range of disciplines within the moving image industry.
- No previous filming or editing experience is needed. Please note that filming will need to be done outside of class hours, so time-management and organisational skills are important.
- This course offers an excellent foundation for education at third level.

# PERFORMING ARTS

At LIMAVADY HIGH SCHOOL

Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of AS Grade	% of A2 Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
AS Module 1	60%	24%	Internally assessed, externally moderated	<b>Developing Skills and Repertoire</b> – Explored through a group performance and a monologue. Two practical performances with accompanying written coursework.
AS Module 2	40%	16%	Externally assessed	<b>Planning and Realising a Performing Arts Event</b> – a script is chosen based on a theme issued from CCEA. Final performance exam to an audience with accompanying controlled written tasks (all completed prior to final performance exam)
<b>A2 Module 1</b>		36%	Internally assessed, externally moderated	<b>Planning for Employment</b> – preparing for professional auditions through the selection of two monologues which are performed to a panel with an interview. Accompanied by written coursework portfolio including promotional material
<b>A2 Module 2</b>		24%	Externally assessed	<b>Performing to a Commission Brief</b> – a devised performance based on a brief issued from CCEA. Students form a productions company and fully devise and create a performance which is presented to an audience for the final exam. Accompanied by a written portfolio exploring arts organisations and job roles within the industry (all completed prior to final performance exam)

## Career Opportunities

Performing Arts – Drama, Dance, Special Effects, Journalism, Set Design

## Entry requirements

Pupils selecting Performing Arts at A level must have achieved at least a C grade in English or English literature at GCSE.

## Other Information

- Students have the opportunity to develop specialist knowledge, understanding and skills in **either** performance or production.
- Students **choose one discipline**, within either performance or production, to develop through AS and A2.
- Students investigate employment opportunities and working methods linked to industry practice, providing a sound basis for progression to further training and/or study.
- Assessment at A2 includes stretch and challenge reflected in working to a commission brief, undertaking an administrative role, synoptic assessment and extended writing.