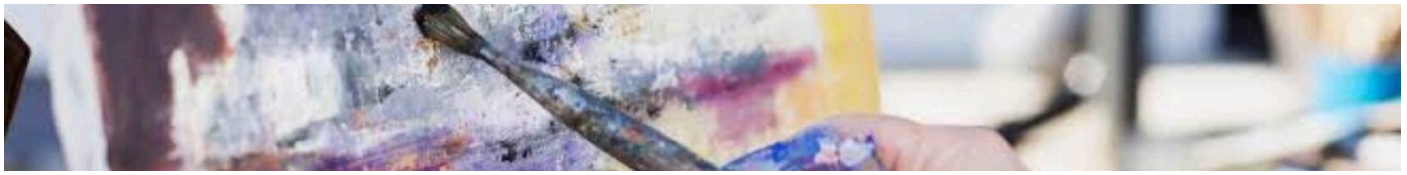
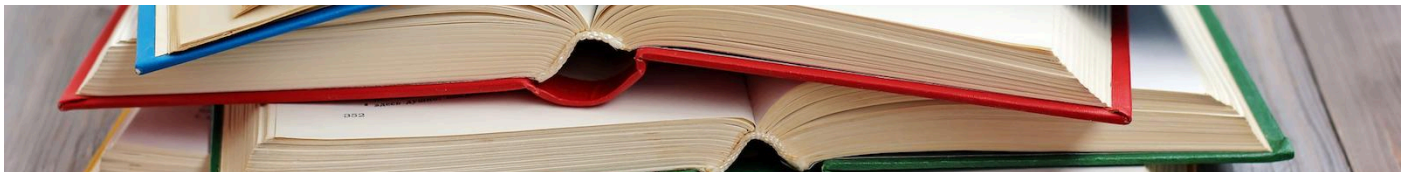
LIMAVADY
GRAMMAR SCHOOL





GCSE SUBJECT CHOICES

2026/27

Introduction

You have reached an important stage in your educational journey and now have the opportunity to choose some of the subjects you will study for the next two years.

You will spend a long time studying each of your subjects, so it is well worth taking time to find out all you can about them, before you make your choices. Read this booklet carefully as it outlines the subjects that are compulsory to study, those which are optional and how you should make your mind up.

Don't make assumptions about which subjects will be timetabled against each other - just because some combinations clashed last year, doesn't mean to say that will be the case this year. The timetablers create the 'best-fit' model for each year group and the choices you make.

No matter what subjects you choose, you will find GCSE work very different to that in Years 8-10. You will have more work to do, even though you have fewer subjects. You must regularly revise your work at home to consolidate it and keep on top of it.

If you have any questions about your subject choices, the careers staff will be only too happy to help.

Best wishes in making your choices.

Career Requirements and Choosing GCSE Subjects

Many careers require, as an important first step, a minimum number of GCSEs: usually English, Mathematics, plus two, three or four others.

In many cases there is no restriction on what the *'other'* subjects are, although for some careers, subjects may be specified.

If you have a career plan:

- ensure that any required and, if possible, any preferred subjects are chosen. (Consult careers staff and carry out personal research)

If you have not yet finalised your career plan:

- try to choose a balanced set of subjects, closing as few careers doors as possible.

Note on GCSE Subjects

You will have studied many of these subjects already and so you should have a good idea of what they involve. However, the nature of some subjects changes considerably in Year 11 and some subjects will be new to you. To help give you some idea of what the GCSE course in each subject involves, a short note on each subject has been written by specialist teachers.

Some subjects may choose to sit a GCSE module at the end of Year 11.

Controlled Assessment – what is it?

Controlled Assessment is an important aspect of GCSE qualifications and is used for aspects of a subject that can't be readily assessed through external examination, such as research, carrying out tasks, and performance and production skills. The amount and type of controlled assessment required varies between subjects. The marks obtained in Controlled Assessment are **crucial** in determining the overall grade at GCSE.

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

Examination Subject Groups

Examination Subjects will form two groups

1. Compulsory Areas of Study *and*
2. Optional Subjects

This is explained below.

Compulsory Areas of Study for ALL PUPILS

In addition to the statutory requirement to study *Enrichment* Religious Education (Note: RE can be chosen as a full GCSE), Learning for Life and Work and Games, **all pupils** must study:

GCSE **English** **&**
GCSE **Mathematics**

Compulsory Science Choice for ALL PUPILS

All pupils must choose one of the following science options: Single Award, Double Award or Triple Award. This choice will inform the number of optional GCSEs pupils can choose as shown below.

GCSE **Single Award Science**
Optional GCSE 1
Optional GCSE 2
Optional GCSE 3
Optional GCSE 4
Optional GCSE 5
Optional GCSE 6

GCSE **Double Award Science** (2 GCSEs)
Optional GCSE 1
Optional GCSE 2
Optional GCSE 3
Optional GCSE 4
Optional GCSE 5

GCSE **Triple Award Science** (3 GCSEs)
Optional GCSE 1
Optional GCSE 2
Optional GCSE 3
Optional GCSE 4

Note:

- Some pupils choosing the **Double Award** option may be encouraged to take the GCSE **Single Award Science**, where this is deemed to be the most appropriate pathway. The decision will be based on their overall performance in their Year 9 and Year 10 amalgamated science tracking assessments to date.
- One science class will follow the **Triple Award** Specification. The class will be limited to a maximum of 24 pupils. If necessary, the pupils will be selected on the basis of their overall performance in their Year 9 and Year 10 amalgamated science tracking assessments to date.

Optional Subject Choices

Depending on their science choice, pupils may choose four, five or six subjects from the following:

Art & Design	Further Maths
Business Communication Systems **OR**	Geography
Business Studies	Health & Social Care
Child Development	History
Digital Technology (Multimedia) **OR**	Music
Digital Technology (Programming)	Physical Education
Drama	Religious Studies
English Literature	Spanish
Food & Nutrition	Technology (Product Design) **OR**
French	Technology (Systems & Control)

It should be noted that although <u>every effort will be made</u> to facilitate all subject combinations, some may <u>still not be possible</u> because of staffing limitations or insufficient interest.

- The school reserves the right to withdraw subjects if there is not sufficient uptake to create a viable class or for other curricular reasons.
- Some subjects are limited in the number of pupils that can be catered for. If such subjects are over-subscribed, evidence of ability and/or aptitude, e.g. as shown by year 10 assessments or CAT assessments, will be used for selection. In addition, students may be ranked according to the order of preference of GCSE subject choices.
- Late changes can only be considered if class size permits.

Prohibited Combinations

Students may not study

- Business Communication Systems **AND** Business Studies
- Digital Technology (Multimedia) **AND** Digital Technology (Programming)
- Technology (Systems & Control) **AND** Technology (Product Design)

CHOOSING OPTIONAL SUBJECTS FOR GCSE

Making a Decision

1. What subjects do you like?
2. What subjects are you good at?
3. What special skills are required for the subjects you may choose?
4. What subjects particularly interest you?
5. What subjects do you need for any career you may have considered?
6. If your career choice changes, would your subject choice change?
7. How balanced is your choice?
8. Are you planning to stay at school for 6th form studies? If you are, what A-levels would your choice permit? What careers could follow such a choice?
9. Have *you* consulted your parents, subject teachers, careers teachers etc?
10. Are you happy with your choice?

Career Requirements

Entry to most careers requires certain **minimum** educational qualifications,
eg:

- 5 GCSEs (including English and Mathematics); ***or***
- A-levels (plus GCSEs); ***or***
- University degree (or other professional or technical qualification).

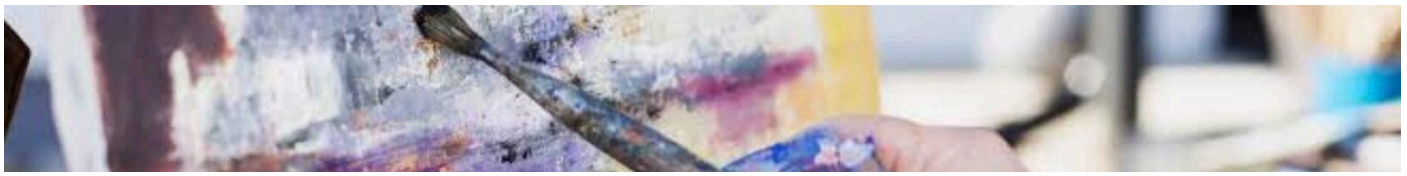
For many careers there are no specific subject requirements. Employers may simply require that a certain level of attainment has been achieved. For example: an advertisement may state that applicants should have a university degree. The employer can therefore assume that applicants will have a certain level of aptitude and that they will have developed certain skills which may be appropriate to the job advertised. In such cases the subject studied is irrelevant - graduates (people with a university degree) in Science/Arts etc compete on equal terms. More important is the person applying - personal qualities being more important than the subject studied.

For some careers certain subjects are **preferred** - applicants with qualifications in such subjects have therefore an advantage over others, e.g. it may be an advantage, though not necessary, to have studied English Literature or History if you plan a career in Law.

Many other careers require qualifications in certain specific subjects, e.g. doctors are required to have a university degree in medicine and will probably have studied Chemistry, Biology and another science at A-level. Some medical schools prefer a mix of subjects and showing a flair for modern languages or Arts subjects, such as English or History, may also prove advantageous. Please be aware that some universities in the Republic of Ireland require a language at GCSE.

ART & DESIGN

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	60%	TEACHER ASSESSED with external moderation	Part A - Exploratory Portfolio (25%) Part B – Investigating the Cultural and Creative Industries (35%)
Unit 2:	40%	TEACHER ASSESSED with external moderation	Working to a stimulus – a minimum of 20 hours of preparatory work followed by a 10 hour exam period.

Career Opportunities

Students holding a GCSE 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.

Other Information

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

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	35%	External written exam Foundation Tier: 1 hour 15 mins Higher Tier: 1 hour 15 mins	Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity
Unit 2:	40%	External written exam Foundation Tier: 1 hour 30 mins Higher Tier: 1 hour 30 mins	Body Systems, Genetics, Micro-organisms and Health
Unit 3:	7.5% 17.5%	Students carry out two pre-release practicals Tasks 1 written examination 1hr (Higher Tier) or 1hr (Foundation Tier)	Practical Skills

Career Opportunities

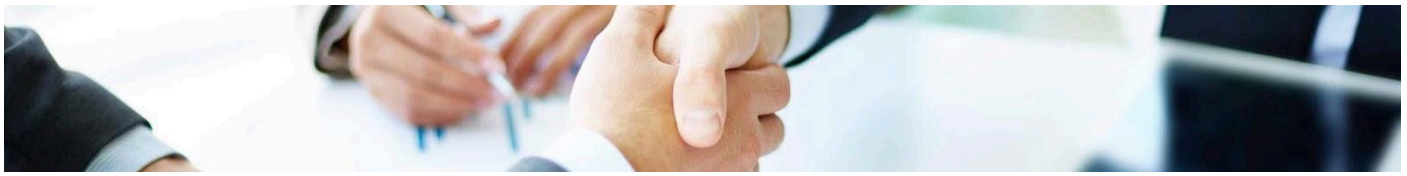
Study to A level can lead to careers in the fields of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Speech and Language Therapy, Pharmacology, Physiology, Biomedical Science, Forensic Science, Agriculture and Environmental Conservation.

Other Information

One class will follow the GCSE (Triple Award) specification. The class will consist of a maximum of 24 pupils who have opted to take Triple Award Science and the pupils will be selected on the basis of their overall performance in their Year 9 and Year 10 amalgamated science assessments to date.

BUSINESS COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (BCS)

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1	40%	External computer-based examination 2 hours	Software Applications for Business
Unit 2	35%	External Written Exam 1 hour	The Business Environment
Unit 3	25%	Controlled Assessment (Internally Assessed)	Developing Digital Solutions

Career Opportunities

Studying this subject will provide you with the knowledge of business and the use of software applications that will give you a sound basis as a future employee or employer. It can lead to further study or a career, for example in a business environment, research or ICT.

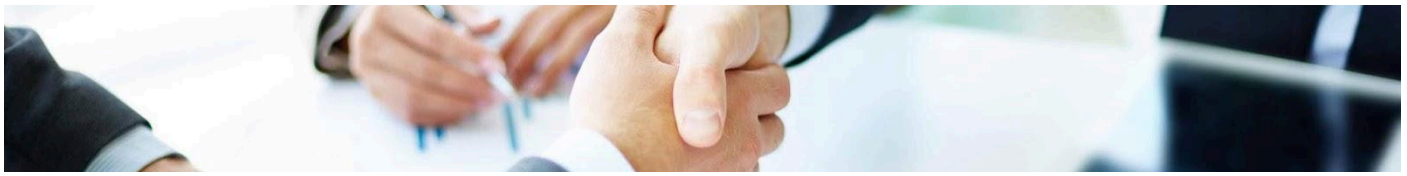
Other Information

Students learn about file management and applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, databases, web authoring, web browsing, email and presentation software. They also study types of business, recruitment, selection, training, marketing, the role of stakeholders and customers, and how best to communicate a message.

In the event of the class being over-subscribed, pupils will be selected through appropriate careers guidance.

BUSINESS STUDIES

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1	40%	External Written Exam 1 hour 30 minutes	Starting a Business
Unit 2	40%	External Written Exam 1 hour 30 minutes	Developing a Business
Unit 3	20%	Controlled Assessment (Internally Assessed)	Planning a Business

Career Opportunities

Potential career opportunities include:

Marketing, Finance, Accounting, Economics, Human Resources, Public Relations, International Business and starting their own business.

Other Information

This course provides pupils with an insight into starting, developing and running a business. Topics such as Marketing, Finance and International Business are covered throughout the two year course. Candidates will also have the opportunity to plan and develop their own business plan, all of which will develop their entrepreneurial skills.

In the event of the class being over-subscribed, pupils will be ranked by Year 10 Spring Tracking in English and Maths.

CHEMISTRY

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	35%	1hr 15mins	Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions /Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis
Unit 2:	40%	1hr 45mins	Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Organic Chemistry
Unit 3:	7.5%	Booklet A 2 hr practical exercise Marked externally, carried out in centre in final year of course	Practical Skills
	17.5%	Booklet B 1hr	Questions based on practical context

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.

Other Information

One class will follow the GCSE (Triple Award) specification. The class will consist of a maximum of 24 pupils who have opted to take Triple Award Science and the pupils will be selected on the basis of their overall performance in their Year 9 and Year 10 amalgamated science assessments to date.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1	30%	External Written Exam (1 hour 15 mins)	Unit 1: Parenthood, Pregnancy, and the newborn baby
Unit 2	30%	External Written Exam (1 hour 15 mins)	Unit 2: The Development of the Child (0-5 Years)
Unit 3	40%	Controlled Assessment (100 marks)	Unit 3: Investigation Task

Career Opportunities

This course prepares students for further study in child health or education, or the world of work. EG: Nursing, Midwifery, Childcare provider, teacher, play therapist, social worker, youth worker, family support worker, counsellor, child psychotherapist.

Other Information

The CCEA GCSE Child Development specification is a broad, coherent course on the development of babies and small children (0–5 years). It encourages students to develop knowledge, understanding and skills, including practical skills, by focusing on these key areas:

- pregnancy, childbirth and caring for a newborn baby;
- the responsibilities involved in parenting and other family roles; and
- the social, physical, intellectual, communication and emotional development of small children, including their dietary, health and educational needs.

Pupils may study this subject alongside GCSE Food and Nutrition.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: MULTIMEDIA

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1	30%	External Written Exam (1 hour)	Unit 1: Digital Technology
Unit 2	40%	External Written Exam (1 ½ hours)	Unit 2: Digital Development Concepts
Unit 3	30%	Controlled Assessment	Unit 3: Digital Development Practice

Career Opportunities

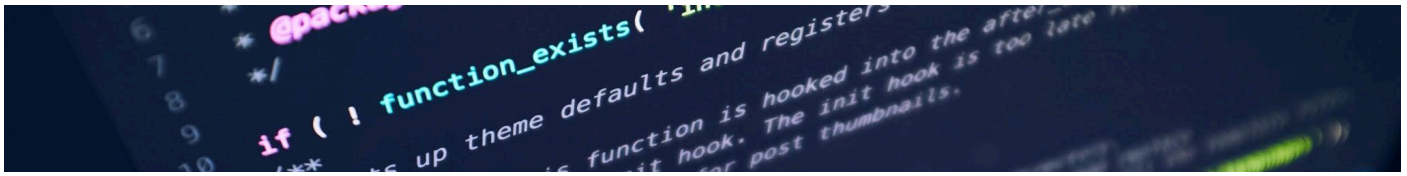
Opportunities for employment in the Computing and Digital Technology industry have never been better. There is an incredibly high demand in Northern Ireland, and further afield, for the skills and abilities that can be developed through this subject. Career avenues may include: Web Designer/Developer, Multimedia Designer, Online publishing (editorial/design) and User Interface Design.

Other Information

GCSE Digital Technology: Multimedia is a great way to develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills which can be transferred to further learning and to everyday life. This is an excellent stepping-stone for the future study of Computer Science or employment in the field of Computer Science, as well as most other areas of employment.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY: PROGRAMMING

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1	30%	External Written Exam (1 hour)	Unit 1: Digital Technology
Unit 2	40%	External Written Exam (1 ½ hours)	Unit 4: Digital Development Concepts
Unit 3	30%	Controlled Assessment	Unit 5: Digital Development Practice

Career Opportunities

Opportunities for employment in the Computing and Digital Technology industry have never been better. There is an incredibly high demand in Northern Ireland, and further afield, for the skills and abilities that can be developed through this subject. Career avenues may include Game Design, Database Programmer/Administrator, Programmer, Security Analyst, Software Developer/Engineer, Digital Forensics and Big Data Analytics.

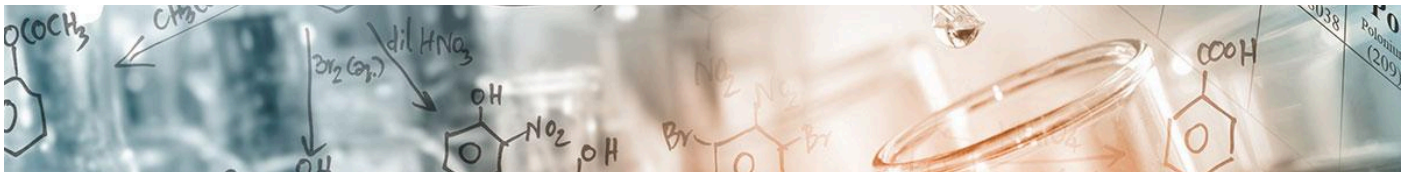
Other Information

It should be noted that those pupils who wish to study Digital Technology: Programming must have a strong academic profile, excelling in areas such as Maths and Physics. Programming is a highly academic subject and will require significant determination, resilience, problem solving and perseverance. Pupils must be self-motivated and display a genuine interest in computing.

Pupils who have studied GCSE Digital Technology: Programming will be well placed for further study of Computer Science or Software Systems Development at A Level and beyond. This subject is suitable for those who have an aptitude for subjects that require structured reasoning, such as Mathematics and Physics.

DOUBLE AWARD SCIENCE

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Biology Unit 1:	11%	External written exam - Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour	Living Processes and Biodiversity
Chemistry Unit 1:	11%	External written exam - Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour	Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis
Physics Unit 1:	11%	External written exam - Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour	Motion, Force, Energy, Moments, Energy, Density, Kinetic Theory, Radioactivity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion
Biology Unit 2:	14%	External written exam - Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 15 mins	Body Systems, Genetics, Micro-organisms and Health
Chemistry Unit 2:	14%	External written exam - Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 15 mins	Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry
Physics Unit 2:	14%	External written exam - Foundation and Higher Tiers: 1 hour 15 mins	Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism and Space Physics
Unit7 Practical Skills	7.5%	Students carry out three pre-release practical tasks (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)	Practical Skills
	17.5%	1 written examination 1hr 30 mins (Higher and Foundation Tiers: 30 mins Biology, 30 mins Chemistry, 30 mins Physics)	Practical Skills

Career Opportunities

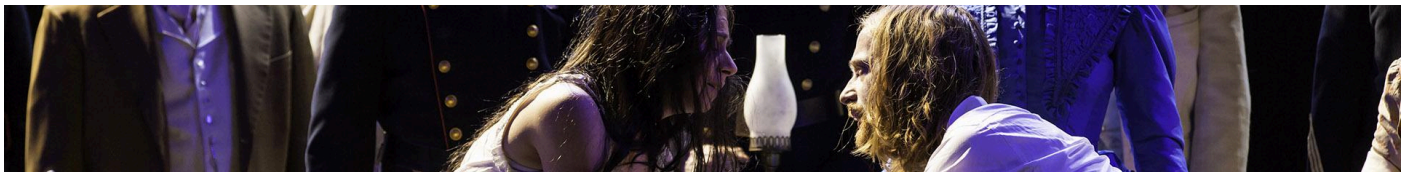
Taking Double Award Science at GCSE enables the study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics to A level, leading to careers in the fields of Medicine, Nursing, Dentistry, Veterinary Science, Speech and Language Therapy, Pharmacology, Physiology, Biomedical Science, Forensic Science and Agriculture, manufacturing and medical occupations, Computer Gaming and the Finance sector, Analytical Chemistry, Industrial Pharmaceuticals, Nursing and Radiography.

Other Information

Double Award Science is studied in the time allocated to two other subjects and it is worth two GCSEs. It is a suitable pathway for progression to study Biology, Chemistry, Physics or Life & Health Science at A level, provided individual subject entry criteria are met.

DRAMA

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	25%	Controlled Assessment	Devised Performance
Unit 2:	35%	Controlled Assessment	Scripted Performance
Unit 3:	40%	External written examination	Knowledge and Understanding of Drama

Career Opportunities

This qualification prepares students for further study in the Performing Arts, a career in acting or Design, or work in a related area such as Arts Management. Its emphasis on innovation, presentation, collaboration, communication and evaluation makes it relevant to many careers.

Other Information

The CCEA GCSE in Drama is a broad and coherent course that can motivate and inspire students. It encourages them to develop a personal interest in drama and allows them to build and showcase their competence in a range of creative, practical and performance skills.

Students choose one of two pathways – performance (acting) or design (costume, lighting, multimedia, set or sound). They work creatively with others, generating, developing and communicating their ideas for a devised performance and for a scripted performance. They also explore social, historical and cultural influences on drama texts and activities.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	30%	External written examination 1 hour 45 mins	Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts
Unit 2:	20%	Controlled Assessment	Speaking and Listening
Unit 3:	20%	Controlled Assessment	Studying Spoken and Written Language
Unit 4:	30%	External written examination 1 hour 45 mins	Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non- Fiction Texts

Career Opportunities

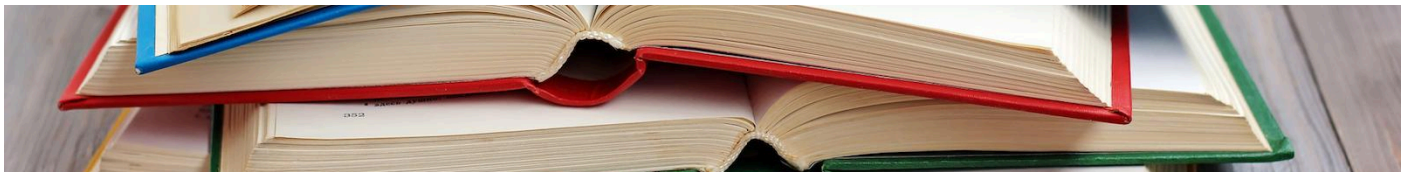
All branches of the Legal Profession, Broadcasting, Journalism, Theatre, Publishing, Translating, Education, Marketing and Advertising.

Other Information

You will need a good pass grade in your GCSE English Language (at least a grade C*) for virtually any job/career path/course of study at third level.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	30%	External written examination 1 hour 45 mins	The Study of Prose
Unit 2:	50%	External written examination 2 hours	The Study of Drama and Poetry
Unit 3:	20%	Controlled Assessment	The Study of Shakespeare

Career Opportunities

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

Other Information

Pupils who choose to study GCSE English Literature will be excellently equipped for further study of literary subjects at A level or beyond. Our GCSE in English Literature encourages students to be enthusiastic, independent, imaginative, critical and analytic readers, transferable skills considered vital in any professional career, whether it be in the Arts, Social Sciences or Science.

FOOD & NUTRITION

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	50%	2 hour exam at the end of Year 12	Food and Nutrition
Unit 2:	50%	Controlled Assessment	Practical Food and Nutrition; pupils complete one task in Year 12

Career Opportunities

Progression to AS Nutrition and Food Science. Human Nutrition, Dietetics, Sports Nutrition, Environmental Health, Nursing, Radiotherapy, Teaching, Food Science and Technology, Food Innovation, Food & Nutrition, and Engineering.

Other Information

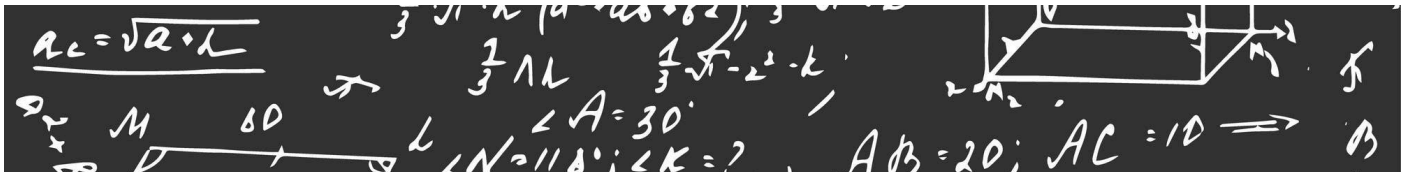
To gain entry to GCSE Food & Nutrition, pupils should have completed both the Year 10 practical and written assignment.

GCSE Food and Nutrition allows students to develop their knowledge and understanding of food and nutrition. It provides opportunities for students to develop confidence in demonstrating high level practical food skills. Course content includes:

- Food Provenance
- Food Processing
- Food and nutrition for good health
- Nutrients
- Nutritional needs for groups of people
- Priority health issues
- Food safety
- Food preparation, cooking and presentation skills

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	50%	Written examination (2 hours)	**Pure Mathematics** students investigate algebra, trigonometric equations, differentiation, integration, logarithms, matrices and quadratic inequalities.
Unit 2:	25%	Written examination (1 hour)	**Mechanics** includes exploring kinematics, vectors, forces, Newton's Laws of motion and moments.
Unit 3:	25%	Written examination (1 hour)	**Statistics** includes investigating central tendency and dispersion, probability, the binomial and normal distributions and bivariate analysis.

Career Opportunities

Further Mathematics can help students progress to other studies that require mathematical knowledge and skills, for example higher level Science, Geography, Technology or Business.

Other Information

Further Mathematics should only be chosen by students who enjoy Mathematics and have consistently performed at a high level in assessed work. There will be a maximum of 60 students who can study Further Mathematics. Students should have achieved at least 75% in two of their three assessments throughout the year and also demonstrated an interest in Mathematics through their effort in classwork and homework.

GEOGRAPHY

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	40%	External written exam 1 hour 30 minutes	Understanding Our Natural World
Unit 2:	40%	External written exam 1 hour 30 minutes	Living in Our World
Unit 3:	20%	External written exam 1 hour	Fieldwork

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. Geography graduates, however, are also increasingly finding that their skills open up careers for them in Accountancy, Banking, Insurance and Law.

Other Information

The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions which affect our world and enjoy interesting topics such as weather and climate, world development, coasts, rivers and hazards.
There is also the opportunity to enjoy local fieldwork.
There has never been a better time to study Geography, so make the choice to go places with Geography by taking it at GCSE.

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	50%	1 ½ hour External written examination	Personal Development, Health and Well Being
Unit 2:	50%	Controlled Assessment	Working in the Health, Social Care and Early Years Sectors

Career Opportunities

Childcare, Nursing, Social Work, Teaching, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and similar careers.

Other Information

Students will gain knowledge and understanding of the health, social care and early years sectors. This course will increase awareness of the issues affecting these sectors and provides an insight into some of the more important aspects of human development and personal wellbeing. Controlled Assessment in Year 12 (50% of the course) requires a good standard of literacy and the ability to work independently.

HISTORY

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	60%	1 written exam (1 hr 45 mins)	Study in depth: Germany 1933-45; Changing Relationships between Britain, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland 1965-98
Unit 2:	40%	1 written exam (1 hr 15 mins)	Outline study: International Relations 1945-2003 (Cold War)

Career Opportunities

Jobs directly related to a history degree include:

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

A wide range of transferable skills involved will be of very high value in careers in

- Law / legal sector
- Journalism
- Civil Service
- Marketing
- Politics and Public Relations
- Publishing

Other Information

This course provides students with an excellent understanding of historical events from the 1900s. In doing so, it offers a valuable insight into global affairs today, particularly Irish Politics, conflict in the Middle East and East-West relations. Themes that are explored include racism, sectarianism, terrorism, and superpower rivalry into the 21st century. This course will appeal to students who are naturally curious, critical thinkers and who like to ask the big questions.

GCSE trip to Germany (Berlin or Munich) may be offered as well as

- Local history trips
- Support for essay competitions and debating

MATHEMATICS

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	45%	2 hour exam	Either M3 orM4
Unit 2:	55%	1¼ hour exam (no calculator) and 1¼ hour exam (calculator)	Either M7 or M8

Career Opportunities

The importance of a **GCSE** in **Mathematics can** be reflected upon by the fact that nearly 97% of jobs now **require** the candidate to obtain at least a C grade in GCSE Mathematics.

Other Information

Regardless of the subject you want to study, the majority of university courses look for at least a C grade in both English and Mathematics.

MODERN LANGUAGES (French & Spanish)

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	25%	Exam at the end of Year 12 (35 /45 minutes)	Listening
Unit 2:	25%	Exam at the end of Year 12 (7-12 minutes + 10 minutes preparation time)	Speaking
Unit 3:	25%	Exam at the end of Year 12 (50 minutes / 1 hour)	Reading
Unit 4:	25%	Exam at the end of Year 12 (1 hour / 1 hour 15 minutes)	Writing

Career Opportunities

The following are careers which place a high degree of importance on foreign languages. 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 whole range of different jobs and is an extra string to your bow in terms of what you can offer to future employers.

Other Information

As well as being useful for your future career and travel, 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 strongly encourage pupils who are strong at languages to consider studying both French and Spanish for GCSE. It is a misconception that pupils will become confused between the two. Instead, learning one language often complements the learning of the other.

It is hoped that students studying one or more languages at GCSE 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.

Please note that a qualification in a Modern Language at GCSE level is an entry requirement for many universities in the Republic of Ireland and some UK universities.

MUSIC

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	35%	Solo and ensemble performance and viva voce, visiting examiner	Performing and Appraising
Unit 2:	30%	Composition portfolio of 3 to 6 minutes, internally assessed, externally moderated	Composing and Appraising
Unit 3:	35%	A 1 hour 30 minute written examination, based on aural perception of familiar and unfamiliar music.	Listening and Appraising

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

Other Information

- GCSE music is intended to develop not just your abilities as a performer, but also your appreciation of a wide range of music through detailed study of famous pieces and also your creative potential as a composer.
- Although it is not a requirement for entry, pupils would usually have regular vocal or instrumental lessons.
- While the minimum standard is equivalent to Grade One, most pupils will perform significantly above this level. Pupils would generally be performing around Grade Three by the end of year 10.
- Pupils will compose two pieces: one of their own choice, perhaps a song or any other type of piece in any style; and one based on a musical stimulus released by CCEA at the beginning of year 12, this may a melody, rhythm, chord pattern or other idea that will form the basis of your piece.
- Pupils will study a wide range of music: Classical music from the 17th to 19th centuries, Film music, recent Pop music and Irish Traditional music.
- Pupils will use the skills they have developed studying set pieces to identify and describe similar features of unfamiliar music.
- All pupils considering GCSE Music must discuss their suitability for the course with the Head of Department.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Component 1:	25%	External Written exam at the end of Year 12 (1 hr and 15mins) Total = 100 marks	Factors Underpinning Health and Performance
Component 2:	25%	External Written exam at the end of Year 12 (1 hr and 15mins) Total = 100 marks	Developing Performance
Component 3:	50%	Controlled Assessment (student performs 3 physical activities or sports) 3 x 50 = 150 marks Students are assessed on the quality of analysis and evaluation 1 x 50 = 50 marks Total = 200 marks	Individual Performances in Physical Activities and Sports

Career Opportunities

It helps students to develop a well-rounded skill set for adult life and employment. It encourages students to be inspired, motivated and challenged and enables them to make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career pathways. It provides a good base for further study at advanced level, for example GCE Sports Science and the Active Leisure Industry.

Other Information

Entry Requirements:

Pupils would be expected to display a high level of performance in at least two sporting activities and participate at a competitive level during the specific sporting season. Only one of your chosen sports may be outside school. Alongside this, pupils should have a reasonable standard of fitness and be able to perform well in a battery of fitness tests.

A good level of knowledge and understanding of Biology is required and it is recommended that pupils wishing to study GCSE PE should be studying Double or Triple Award Science. Anatomy and Physiology are the basis of both written external exams.

Students are introduced to health, the active leisure industry, human anatomy and physiology, physical fitness and performance in a range of physical activities and sports.
The three components of the specification are integrated, so what students learn for the written examinations is applied in the physical component and vice versa.

PHYSICS

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	37.5 %	1 hr 30 min paper	Motion, Force, Density and Kinetic Theory, Energy and Atomic and Nuclear Physics
Unit 2:	37.5 %	1 hr 30 min paper	Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism and Space Physics
Unit 3:	7.5%	2 hour practical exam	Practical Skills
	17.5%	1 hour 15 min written paper	Practical Skills

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.

Other Information

One class will follow the GCSE (Triple Award) specification. The class will consist of a maximum of 24 pupils who have opted to take Triple Award Science and the pupils will be selected on the basis of their overall performance in their Year 9 and Year 10 amalgamated science assessments to date.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 4:	50%	1 written exam (1hr 30mins)	Christianity through a study of the Gospel of Matthew
Unit 6:	50%	1 written exam (1hr 30mins)	An Introduction to Christian 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. Religious Studies provides opportunities to explore ethical decision making which is highly relevant to a range of careers:
e.g. Law, Medicine, Nursing, Health Care, Journalism, Primary Teaching, Youth Work, Politics, Psychology, Social Work, Counselling, Secondary Teaching, Sports Psychology, Business, Management, Digital Ethics.

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.
Students study Christian beliefs and the reasons behind these, basing their study on the Gospel of Matthew. This is the first book of the New Testament and is factual and straightforward to learn focusing on areas such as:

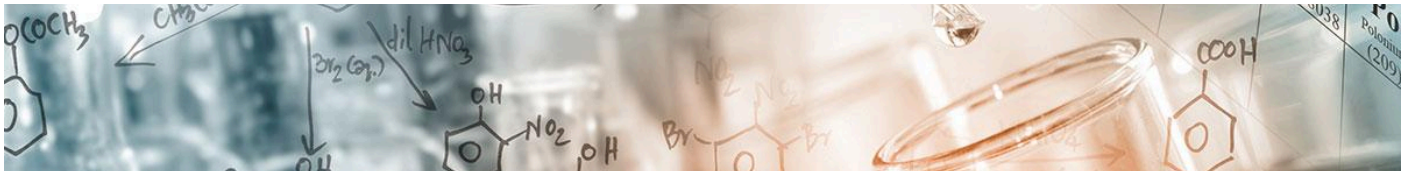
- The Life of Jesus and why He is still worth studying today?
- Big Questions about religious topics like "Are miracles today possible? Did they really happen?"
- Jesus' teaching (parables) and its relevance today, to issues like social media, drugs and helping others

The second area pupils study is ethical issues, exploring these from a Christian and secular perspective, but also looking at different religious beliefs and practices surrounding the following areas:

- Abortion
- Euthanasia
- Prejudice and equality
- Gender issues
- War
- Capital punishment
- Relationships and family
- Human infertility and IVF
- Surrogacy

SINGLE AWARD SCIENCE

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**



Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	25%	1 written exam (1 hour) (Higher or Foundation tier). Usually sat in February of Year 11.	**Biology:** Cells, Food and diet, Chromosomes and genes, Coordination and control, Reproductive system, Variation and adaptation, Disease and body defences, Ecological relationships
Unit 2:	25%	1 written exam (1 hour) (Higher or Foundation Tier) Usually sat in November of Year 12.	**Chemistry:** Acids, bases and salts, Elements, compounds and mixtures Atomic structure and Periodic Table, Bonding, Materials, Symbols, formulae and Equations, Qualitative analysis, Metals and the reactivity series, Rates of reaction, Organic chemistry
Unit 3:	25%	1 written exam (1 hour) (Higher or Foundation Tier). Usually sat in May/June of Year 12.	**Physics:** Electrical circuits, Household electricity, Energy, Electricity Generation, Heat transfer, Waves, Road transport and safety reducing reliance on fossil fuels, Radioactivity, Earth in space
Unit 4:	7.5% 17.5%	Students carry out **two** pre-release practical tasks (from two of Biology, Chemistry and Physics) 1 written examination 1hr 15 mins (Higher Tier) or 1hr (Foundation Tier).	Practical skills assessment

Career Opportunities

Careers in Science, Research, Engineering and Technology which do not require an A Level science are an option as a career.

Other Information

- One class will follow this specification which is worth one GCSE. Pupils follow a modular pathway.
- GCSE Single Award is not a suitable method of progression to studying Biology, Chemistry or Physics to A Level, but it is considered to be a useful pathway for some students.
- Students who achieve an A* at GCSE will be considered for entry to A level Life & Health Science if they have the agreement of the Head of Department and have completed additional bridging work.

TECHNOLOGY (Systems)

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1:	25%	Externally assessed written paper Examination lasts 1 hour	Technology and Design Core
Unit 2:	25%	Externally assessed written paper Examination lasts 1 hour	Systems and Control: Mechanical and Pneumatic Control Systems
Unit 3:	50%	CCEA sets the project. Students take Element 1: Systems Design and Manufacturing.	Design Project

Career Opportunities

Technology (Systems) combined with Maths and Physics is an excellent choice for all Engineering based careers. With a firm background in electronics, materials, mechanisms, fluid control, Computer Numerical Control and Computer Aided Design, there are many other career paths that would be assisted in our modern world by a GCSE in Technology and Design.

Other Information

- Technology and Design (Systems) coursework accounts for 50% of the full GCSE. Many pupils will know before they even sit their exam that they only need a few marks to attain a pass grade. However, we set our sights very much higher than that.
- You can choose your own practical project title. We have a wide range each year e.g. sports scoreboards, electronic counters and displays, warning signs, various alarms etc.
- A Technology portfolio is ten A3 pages. This will average out at less than one A4 page each week. Written coursework will be the majority of homework set throughout the two years.
- Technology students have opportunities to: study electronic and microelectronic control systems, mechanisms, pneumatic control systems, manipulate new materials, practical work, CNC manufacture, three dimensional modelling, programming and many more.
- You will need: an interest in the subject, access to a computer, to be highly organised and have the ability to work independently to meet deadlines.

TECHNOLOGY (Product Design)

GCSE Exam Board: **CCEA**

Modules	% of GCSE Grade	How it is Assessed	Unit Title
Unit 1	25%	Externally assessed written paper Examination lasts 1 hour	Technology and Design Core
Unit 2	25%	Externally assessed written paper Examination lasts 1 hour	Product Design
Unit 3	50%	Controlled assessment CCEA sets the project. Students take: Element 2: Product Design and Manufacturing.	Design Project

Career Opportunities

Technology (Product Design) is an excellent choice for a wide range of careers. Pupils will have the opportunity to be innovative when designing using a wide range of materials, components, fabrication techniques and manufacturing practices. They will explore the social responsibility of product design and market influences. Product Design develops knowledge, understanding and skills in a range of situations which develop core skills and employment-related experiences that are valued by employers, professional organisations and academic institutions.

Other Information

- Technology and Design (Product Design) coursework accounts for 50% of the full GCSE. Many pupils will know before they even sit their exam that they only need a few marks to attain a pass grade. However, we set our sights very much higher than that.
- You can choose your own practical project title. We have a wide range each year e.g., primary school learning aid, portable baby changing table, etc.
- A Technology portfolio is ten A3 pages. This will average out at less than one A4 page each week. Written coursework will be the majority of homework set throughout the two years.
- Technology students have opportunities to: analyse existing products, develop practical solutions to consumer needs, wants and opportunities, design and make quality products and understand that designing and making reflect and influence cultures and societies, understand that products have an impact on lifestyle, develop their creativity and critical analysis skills, make links between existing solutions, technological knowledge and the principles of good design, explore how aesthetic, technical, economic, environmental, ethical and social dimensions interact to shape designing and making, develop decision-making skills, consider sustainability and gain insight into related sectors, such as manufacturing and engineering.
- You will need: an interest in the subject, access to a computer, to be highly organised and have the ability to work independently to meet deadlines.