

**Blackwater  
Integrated College  
Year 10 Options  
Booklet  
March 2019**



## **Choosing subjects: a note to parents**

As your daughter or son approaches the end of Key Stage 3 there will be discussions about which subjects to study for the next two years.

Apart from the compulsory subjects, students will choose from a range of optional subjects.

Many factors influence the choices which will be made. Students should carefully consider their learning styles, future ambitions, your wishes as parents and the recommendations of their teachers.

Some courses are offered through our participation in the Lecale Learning Community with part of the course being taught in Blackwater Integrated College and other parts in another school in the learning community.

Courses like GCSE Music may be offered through the Lecale Learning Community and may require extra music lessons which parents will have to pay for. Some courses may require uniform such as catering whites for Contemporary Cuisine and Patisserie module; this will mean an added cost for the pupil.

All students should be aware of the importance of good attendance. This is closely monitored, both in the College and in other locations and in some courses there are marks for attendance so poor attendance may have a serious impact on final grades.

If you are thinking about your future, getting into STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) could be a worthwhile choice to make as many employers in our modern technological society look for the skills developed through these subjects when recruiting new staff. **Also, if you are thinking about progressing to A level studies it is essential that you choose courses which will be recognised for admission to sixth form study.**

Please be aware that the Options meeting allows students to indicate an interest in a subject: these decisions are not final. The College will try to accommodate students with their choices, however, **some classes with less than the minimum required may not be viable and the College will not run them.**

\*As we work in collaboration with partner schools in the Lecale Learning Community, further subjects may be added as options. Students and parents will be informed.

**Please bring this booklet to the meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> March**

### **Where can you get advice?**

There is advice available from a range of people including:

Principal – Mr Taylor

Vice Principal/ Curriculum Coordinator – Ms Gilmore

SENCO – Miss McCammon

Mathematics Coordinator - Mrs McVeigh

Subject teachers

Form Tutors – 10EK- Mrs Killen and 10CMC-Mr McClean

Parents

Careers Service

**An Options event, combined with Year 10 parent teacher consultations, will be held on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March.**

**10 CMC will attend between 10.00 and 12 noon; 10 EK will attend from 1.00 - 3pm.**

Parents are encouraged to attend this and Mr Taylor and Ms Gilmore will speak to all parents / guardians in the Assembly Hall at each session to give guidance on the process. Attendance is strongly recommended to ensure that informed decisions are made regarding future choices.

Students will be advised on suitable subjects from option groups. This is an important time for Year 10 students and the support of parents and teachers is vital in helping the young people to make wise choices which will have a significant impact on their future lives and careers.

There will be an opportunity to speak with someone from Careers Service NI.

**The next few pages are for you to record your thinking about the subjects you will choose and your discussions with parents/ guardians and staff.**

**How are subjects chosen?**

Jot your ideas in the spaces provided and bring this booklet to your appointment on 15<sup>th</sup> March.

**MAKING YOUR DECISIONS**

- **What might I want to do in the future?**

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I currently have no clear plan for my career

- **Which subjects am I best at?**

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Read your recent reports to see which subjects you have done well in. Circle these in the list above.

- **Which subjects are important for these career paths or to keep options open if still undecided?**

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- **What have my subject teachers advised me to study?**

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- Investigate the subjects available at Key Stage 4 by reading this booklet and speaking to others who are studying these subjects.
- Talk to your teachers and parents too. What advice do they have for you?
- Also check out the Careers library in the Media Suite.  
The choices that you make are important now and in the future but it is also good to remember that if you change direction in terms of your career plans you can always take up new courses post-16.

## **RESEARCH**

To help you with your decision-making, here are some questions to ask yourself.

What do I enjoy doing?

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Do my chosen subjects involve coursework? If so, what percentage?

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Will I have to do a project in any of my chosen subjects?

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Does how the way the subject is taught suit my learning style? Am I a visual, aural or kinaesthetic learner?

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What practical skills are involved in my chosen subjects? Are these my strengths?

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What skills will I develop?

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Have I selected an appropriate range of subjects that will be required for the next steps to my chosen career?

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Consider the consequences of the choice, for example is there any subject that I must take to progress to a particular career? Is there any career which would be closed at this time by omitting a subject?

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**Courses Available: (GCSE unless otherwise indicated)**

Agriculture

Art and Design

CoPE (GCSE grade C equivalent)

English

Essential Skills English (Communication)

French

Geography

History

Hospitality

BTEC Information and Creative Technology (ICT)

OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications

Learning for Life and Work

Mathematics

Music

Prince's Trust

Religious Studies

Science – Single Award and Double Award and OCN Applied Science

BTEC Firsts in Sport - Level 2

Technology (Contemporary Crafts GCSE)

CCEA Occupational Studies (may be at another school in Learning Community)

<b>SUBJECT Art and Design</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD CCEA</b>	<b>LEVEL GCSE Level 2</b>
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## **COURSE CONTENT**

### Component 1

Part A – Exploratory Portfolio	Part B – Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries
You will experiment with some of the following disciplines. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fine Art – drawing and painting/ sculpture/ printmaking</li> <li>• Textiles</li> <li>• Ceramics</li> <li>• Graphic Design/Photography</li> </ul>	You will <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• complete one practical task, set by your teacher.</li> <li>• have the opportunity to go on museum visits, gallery visits or collaborate on projects.</li> <li>• document your research and use drawing to support the development of your work.</li> <li>• produce a final piece</li> </ul>

### Component 2

- You will complete work in response to an examination paper that is released in January of Year 12.
- You will complete research and experimental work based on the theme of the paper.
- You will produce and complete a final piece based on your preparatory work within a set period of 10 hours under exam conditions.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Component 1 Part A Part B	Controlled Assessment 50 marks (25%) 70 marks (35%)	60%
Component 2	Controlled Assessment 80 marks	40%

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who

- is creative
- is organised and can manage their time when working towards a deadline
- enjoys exploring the work of artists
- enjoys experimenting with different materials, techniques and processes
- can confidently communicate new ideas

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

You may become an artist, designer or architect and contribute to the economy as part of the fast-growing creative and cultural industries. Students of Art and Design develop valuable transferable skills, sought after by colleges and universities, employers and industry leaders. Northern Ireland is influential in the Film Industry and Art based courses can lead to jobs including set design, special effect make-up and costume design. With the increased use of technology in Art it can also lead to employment in Graphic Design and Web Design.



<b>SUBJECT</b> Business and Communication Systems	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL 2</b> GCSE
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The BCS GCSE course provides students with the opportunity to study modern business activity, investigating how ICT has changed the business environment. You will have the opportunity to develop valuable, practical ICT skills becoming more confident in all Microsoft Applications including Word, Excel, Access, PowerPoint and Publisher.

You will also develop knowledge of Business and ICT issues in the workplace. This will include topics such as:

- Ⓢ The Business Environment
- Ⓢ Workplace Organisation
- Ⓢ Human Resources
- Ⓢ Communication
- Ⓢ ICT in the Business Environment
- Ⓢ Computer Applications in the Business Environment



Assessment	Weighting	Completed
<b>Unit 1:</b>  <b>Software Applications for Business</b>	<b>40%</b>  <b>Practical ICT Examination.</b> <b>(2 hour)</b>	<b>Summer Term</b> <b>Year 11</b>
<b>Unit 2:</b>  <b>The Business Environment</b>	<b>35 %</b>  <b>External written examination</b> <b>(1 hour)</b>	<b>Summer Term</b> <b>Year 12</b>
<b>Unit 3:</b>  <b>Developing Digital Solutions</b>	<b>25%</b>  <b>Controlled Assessment</b>	<b>Winter</b> <b>Year 12</b>



### CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

This course helps students develop practical ICT skills and business knowledge that are useful in a diverse range of employment roles. As ICT is becoming a vital part of many careers, this course helps pupils to keep up to date with skills demanded in many industries. It also prepares students for studying business and ICT at a more advanced level and would benefit those students considering starting their own business.



<b>SUBJECT</b> CoPE	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> ASDAN	<b>LEVEL</b> GCSE <b>EQUIVALENT</b> <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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## **COURSE CONTENT**

The 6 main skills that students will develop are:

- Working with Others
- Improving own Learning and Performance
- Problem Solving
- Research
- Discussion
- Oral Presentation

The aims of this qualification are to help students develop and demonstrate a range of skills and to gain credit for a variety of activities that they already undertake inside and outside formal education.

## **ASSESSMENT**

The qualification is 100% portfolio based and teacher assessed and carries performance points comparable to a GCSE. Level 2 is equivalent to a grade B and Level 1 is equivalent to a grade E.

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

- Someone who is highly motivated
- Someone who will work well with others
- Someone who will take risks for learning
- Someone who will confidently express opinions orally and in writing
- Someone who enjoys on going assessment instead of examinations

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

This subject lends itself to careers in all working environments where people will be asked to work together as part of a team, research independently, follow instructions, manage their own learning and be prepared to undertake a wide range of tasks.

<b>SUBJECT</b> English	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL</b> GCSE <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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## COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT

Content	Assessment	Weightings
<b>Unit 1:</b> Writing for Purpose and Audience & Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts	External written examination Untiered 1 hour 45 mins Students respond to five tasks.	30%
<b>Unit 2:</b> Speaking and Listening	Untiered Teacher Assessed	20%
<b>Unit 3:</b> Studying Spoken & Written Language	Controlled Assessment Untiered	20%
<b>Unit 4:</b> Personal or Creative Writing & Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts	External written examination Untiered 1 hour 45 mins Students respond to five tasks.	30%

## WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR

A student who

- is highly motivated
- is committed to working to improve standards in English for personal development and to obtain best possible grade
- will work well with others
- will take risks for learning
- will confidently express opinions orally and in writing

## CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

English enables students to develop transferable skills and provides opportunity to develop work related skills such as communication, team work, meeting deadlines and presenting information clearly.

English is a gateway to post 16 studies and an essential requirement for the majority of further courses and jobs and leads to careers in working environments from administration, hospitality and retail to teaching and the caring professions to name a few.

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>EXAM BOARD</u>	<u>LEVEL</u>
Essential Skills English (Communication)	OCN NI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Entry level 1, 2 and 3</li> <li>• Level 1 + 2</li> </ul>

## **COURSE CONTENT**

The specific aims of any Certificate in Essential Skills are to improve candidates' ability to:

- Speak, listen and respond: This means developing the ability to express and communicate meaning in spoken language and to interpret what others say.
- Read and comprehend: This means developing the ability to read, understand and engage with various types of text for enjoyment and learning.
- Write to communicate: This means developing the ability to make and shape text in order to communicate meaning in written language, appropriate to context, purpose, reader and audience.

## **ASSESSMENT**

- Entry Level 1 is assessed through an end of level test and also a formal interview which is completed with the class teacher.
- Entry Level 2 and 3 are assessed through an end of level test, a formal group discussion and also a formal interview which is completed with the class teacher.
- Levels 1 and 2 are assessed through external end of level test. There are also two formally assessed speaking and listening elements to the course in the form of formal and informal discussions.

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

Students who

- wish to improve their essential literacy skills
- wish to become better qualified
- wish to improve their employment and training opportunities
- wish to progress through the national qualifications framework
- may feel less confident in their language skills

## **Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance**

Essential Skills qualifications are widely recognised by FE Colleges such as SERC and by employers in a range of fields so this course can open the door to both employment and further studies.

<b>SUBJECT</b> English Literature	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL GCSE</b> <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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### **COURSE CONTENT & ASSESSMENT**

Content	Assessment	Weightings
<b>Unit 1: The Study of Prose</b>	External Examination  Untiered  1 hour 45 mins  Students answer two questions, one from Section A and the set question in Section B.  Section A is closed book	30%
<b>Unit 2: The Study of Drama and Poetry</b>	External Examination  Untiered  2 hours  Students answer two questions. The examination is open book.	50%
<b>Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare</b>	Controlled Assessment  Untiered  2 hours  Students complete one task: an extended writing question based on a theme	20%

### **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

- a student who enjoys reading and discussion
- someone who has opinions and ideas
- a student with solid writing skills
- a student who loves to learn about people and history
- someone who enjoys learning in a small, supportive group
- an independent worker who will dedicate the time needed for revision of the subject

The specification deepens students' knowledge and understanding of a range of poetry, prose and drama, including texts by local and modern writers. Students explore the impact of language, structure and form in the texts. Connecting the texts' ideas, themes and issues is another key focus. Students also learn how to explain settings, characters and themes creatively through social, cultural and historical contexts. They develop their ability to research, plan and prepare their responses using their own ideas and interests, as well as critical reading.

This specification aims to encourage students to:

- become critical readers of prose, drama and poetry;
- develop the ability to analyse the impact of language, structure and form in a range of texts;
- connect ideas, themes and issues in a range of texts;
- explore contexts and experience different times, cultures, viewpoints and situations in texts;
- read for enjoyment and nurture a lifelong love of literature.

### **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

This qualification offers lots of opportunities to develop transferable skills, such as generating creative, individual responses to problems and writing accurately and clearly.

<b>SUBJECT</b> French	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL</b> GCSE <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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## **COURSE CONTENT**

Students will build on their knowledge from Key Stage 3 and in Year 11 will cover familiar topics such as family, home, eating out and places in the town, however, these will be extended to cover new material such as healthy eating and family relations. The following year, students will cover topics such as school, career and holidays and will choose one of these areas as part of their speaking test at the end of that year.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Students will be tested in four skills and each skill is worth 25%. Foundation and Higher Tier are available for each examination and students can mix the tiers to match their strengths.

**Reading:** Students must be able to read texts in French and understand key points and ideas. There is also a translation from French into English.

**Listening:** Students will be expected to listen to French sentences and answer questions in English.

**Speaking:** Students will prepare a presentation on their chosen topic and present this to the teacher. There will also be a short conversation in French and role-play questions.

**Writing:** Students will progress from writing a short task with single words to writing paragraphs on topics such as school, holidays and region.

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who

- is highly motivated
- is interested in finding out how languages work
- has gained above average marks in French at Key Stage 3
- can perform well under examination conditions
- can confidently express opinions orally and in writing

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

In Northern Ireland, the Tourism and Hospitality sector has enjoyed steady growth and having a GCSE in French is an asset if you would like to get a job in a hotel, restaurant or Tourist Office. Most employers judge languages to be very useful and therefore you would be more likely to get a job with a company if you spoke another language.

<b>SUBJECT</b> Geography	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL</b> GCSE <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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## **COURSE CONTENT**

### **Paper One**

Rivers

Volcanoes and Earthquakes

Coasts

Weather

### **Paper Two**

Population

Development

Settlement

Resource Use

## **ASSESSMENT**

Exams at the end of each year- modules can be retaken.

We will have a minimum of **two days of fieldwork** for Geography GCSE. One day will be in Belfast and the other will be looking at physical geography e.g. a coastal area or a river.

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR?**

A student who

- is a good communicator
- is a problem solver
- likes to work with pictures and graphs
- has a sense of wonder about the world
- likes a challenge

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

The **transferable skills** which Geography fosters (like literacy, numeracy and communication skills) are useful in the world of employment. Geography is about the future of our world and encourages flexible thinking, as well as providing a firm base for life-long learning. It links well with other GCSEs such as Science, Maths, English and Business.

Many past students have gone on to study 'A' level Geography in other schools.





<b>SUBJECT</b> History	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL</b> GCSE <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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The aim of the History GCSE is to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives, as well as its objectives:

- to develop the young person as an individual;
- to develop the young person as a contributor to society; and
- to develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment

### **Unit 1: Section A: Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1945**

External written examination - 1 hour 45 minutes

### **Unit 1: Section B: Changing Relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours, 1920–49**

**60% of overall grade**

There are **two** sections within the examination paper.

#### **Section A:**

Students answer **five** questions. The paper includes short response questions, structured questions and an essay question.

#### **Section B:**

Students answer **six** questions. The paper includes source-based questions, short response questions and an essay question.

### **Unit 2: Outline Study International Relations, 1945–2003**

#### **Unit 2: International Relations, 1945–2003**

**40% of the overall grade.**

#### **External written examination**

1 hour 15 minutes

Students answer **six** questions. The paper includes source-based questions, a structured question and an essay question.

### **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who is highly motivated, enjoys extended writing, is curious and thinks outside the box.

### **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

History enables students to develop a range of transferable enquiry based skills. There is a focus on evaluation and analysis of sources as well as content based learning. History is still deemed to be an academic subject and is not for the faint hearted. If you enjoy ongoing assessment History is not for you.

This subject lends itself to careers in all working environments from administration, hospitality and retail to teaching and the caring professions as well as opening doors to further study post-16.

<b>SUBJECT Hospitality</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD CCEA</b>	<b>LEVEL GCSE LEVEL 2</b>
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Through studying a GCSE in Hospitality, students develop a broad knowledge and understanding of the hospitality industry. In particular, they learn about:

- ✓ how hospitality organisations operate;
- ✓ the products and services offered by the hospitality industry;
- ✓ employment possibilities in hospitality;
- ✓ the importance of quality and customer service in the hospitality industry;
- ✓ basic food hygiene practices;
- ✓ the skills required to provide food and drink for customers.

### ASSESSMENT

Unit	Assessment	Percentage of final mark
<b>Unit 1: Hospitality Industry</b>	60 minute examination paper	25%
<b>Unit 2: Reception and Accommodation</b>	60 minute examination paper	25%
<b>Unit 3: Food and Drink</b>	Controlled Assessment Portfolio of three tasks Meal and Function Task	50%

### GCSE Hospitality suits a student who

- can recall facts in an examination
- can work and manage their time independently
- has regular attendance
- is interested in pursuing a career in this area

### CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Hospitality is a major growth industry in Northern Ireland and this specification provides opportunities for students to progress into further education, training and employment in the hospitality industry. Many students with a qualification in GCSE Hospitality go on to have successful careers as chefs, waiters, front office managers, events managers and account managers.

**The Hospitality Sector sustains 60,000 jobs across Northern Ireland (Hospitality Ulster)**

**Tourism in Northern Ireland currently generates revenue of £764 million and attracts 4.5 million visitors. The aim is to double tourism's contribution to the economy by 2022. (NI Business Info, February 2018)**

<b>SUBJECT</b> ICT	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> Pearson (Edexcel)	<b>LEVEL</b> BTEC LEVEL 2
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## COURSE CONTENT

### BTEC First Award in ICT

The BTEC Firsts in ICT have been designed to build on learning from Key Stage 3 for those who may wish to explore a vocational route throughout Key Stage 4. It is equivalent to one GCSE.

The course is designed to give learners a basic grounding in understanding and knowledge of ICT. Learners will specialise in Database Management, Web Design and The Online World by completing 4 units over the 2 years.

- 1: The Online World (Examination Unit)
- 2: Creating a Digital Portfolio
- 3: Database Development (Double Unit)

## ASSESSMENT

Unit 1 is assessed externally via an online examination which is worth 25% of the overall course. The remaining units are assessed by ongoing Controlled Assessments which are marked internally and then externally verified.

## WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR

A student who:

- Works independently to complete tasks to the best of their ability
- demonstrates good literacy skills
- can manage time to meet deadlines
- has an interest in developing ICT skills
- would like to study ICT at a higher level
- takes pride in their work and can review and improve practical/written work.

## CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

This vocational qualification will give you skills that could be essential in your future workplace. This subject lends itself to careers across a range of industries as ICT is becoming a key skill in many job roles.



<b>SUBJECT</b> <b>Information Technology Applications</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> <b>OCN NI</b>	<b>LEVEL 2</b> <b>GCSE Equivalent Grade B</b>
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Today's work environment depends increasingly on a range of technologies. The OCN NI Level 2 Award and Certificate in Information Technology Applications are designed to provide learners with the IT skills required to function successfully in the work and wider environment. Instead of sitting examinations students are assessed by portfolio of evidence their skills and understanding across the units outlined below:

Unit Title
<b>Email Software Skills</b> Using Microsoft Outlook
<b>Presentation Software</b> Using Microsoft PowerPoint
<b>Spreadsheet Software</b> Using Microsoft Excel
<b>Using the Internet</b> Using Internet Explorer
<b>Multimedia Game Design Software</b> Using GameMaker <b>*Units may change</b>



### **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

This qualification will give you skills that could be essential in your future workplace. This qualification ensures students can confidently use Microsoft Office in the workplace. As ICT is used in nearly all industries this course helps pupils to ensure they are confident ICT users who can complete tasks independently.



<b>SUBJECT</b> Learning for Life and Work	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL</b> GCSE LEVEL 2
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## **COURSE CONTENT**

**The subject content is divided into three distinct compulsory areas of study:**

- Local and Global Citizenship
- Personal Development
- Employability

## **ASSESSMENT**

- There is a single tier of entry
- There are three written examinations that assess each of the areas of study
- There is one controlled assessment task

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who

- is highly motivated
- works well with others
- engages in research tasks
- demonstrates persistence to complete tasks
- confidently expresses opinions orally and in writing

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

Learning for Life and Work will prepare young people to participate in society as active citizens.

It is recognised as an academic qualification suitable for access to post 16 studies.

This subject gives a grounding in a range of areas connected with public life and service in the local and global community.

SUBJECT <b>Mathematics</b>	EXAM BOARD <b>CCEA</b>	LEVEL <b>GCSE</b> <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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## COURSE CONTENT

Mathematics is an integral part of everyday life and it is essential that students obtain a qualification in Mathematics. To accommodate this, we are offering GCSE Mathematics at both Foundation and Higher tier.

- GCSE Mathematics is a modular course
- Students are required to sit 3 papers

The grade students can obtain depends on the tier they are entered for.

Higher level:	Grades	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E
Foundation level:	Grades	C	D	E	F	G		

	Assessment Unit Combinations	Available Final GCSE Grades
Foundation Tier	M1 and M5	D - G
	M2 and M6	C - F
Higher Tier	M3 and M7	B - E
	M4 and M8	A* - C

Content	Assessment	Weightings
Foundation Tier M1 and M2	External written examination <b>with</b> calculator 1 hour 45 mins	45%
M5 and M6	Two external written examinations: Paper 1 <b>without</b> calculator 1 hour 10 mins Paper 2 <b>with</b> calculator 1 hour 10 mins	55%
Higher tier M3 and M4	External written examination <b>with</b> calculator 1 hour 45 mins	45%
M7 and M8	Two external written examinations: Paper 1 <b>without</b> calculator 1 hour 10 mins Paper 2 <b>with</b> calculator 1 hour 10 mins	55%
Students must take at least 40 per cent of the assessment (based on unit weightings) at the end of the course as terminal assessment.		

## WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR

Students who enjoy Mathematics and problem solving.

## CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

GCSE Mathematics is **required** by students who wish to study A' Levels.

<b>SUBJECT</b> Essential Skills Application of Number	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> OCN	<b>LEVEL</b> Level 1 or Level 2
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### **Purpose of the qualification**

The aim of this qualification is to improve the learners' ability to understand, use, calculate and manipulate mathematical information and interpret results.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

- Number
- Measures, shape and space
- Handling data
- Representing information
- Carrying out calculations
- Interpreting results and presenting findings

### **ASSESSMENT**

- Students complete Level 1 or Level 2 Essential Skills.
- There is one externally set and externally marked examination.
- This examination lasts for 1 hour and 30 mins
- Calculators are allowed.
- Pass Mark is between 60% and 70 %
- Assessment outcome is: PASS or FAIL
- It can be repeated 3 times in year 12.

### **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

Students who

- have found Mathematics challenging at Key Stage 3
- wish to follow a more vocational route

### **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Essentials Skills Application of Number enables progression to other recognised qualifications at Level 2 and above. This qualification will assist a learner to gain entry onto vocational courses at SERC.



<b>SUBJECT</b> Entry Level Certificate in Numeracy	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> OCN	<b>LEVEL</b> Entry 1, Entry 2 or Entry 3
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### **Purpose of the qualification**

The aim of this qualification is to improve the learners' ability to understand, use, calculate and manipulate Mathematical information and interpret results.

### **COURSE CONTENT**

To achieve the certificate, learners must be assessed in each of the 3 skills:

- Number
- Measure, Shape and Space
- Handling data

### **ASSESSMENT**

Learners must demonstrate competence in all 3 skills areas in order to be awarded an entry level certificate. An award cannot be made for achievement of only one or two of the skills areas.

#### **Assessment 100% Externally set task**

- One unseen, contextualised assessment task.
- Externally set, internally marked and externally moderated.
- Each task can be taken only once but there are no restrictions upon the number of tasks a candidate can take.
- Normally 60-90 minutes duration to complete all elements of the task.
- Taken in the normal learning environment but under controlled conditions
- Each Numeracy sub-skill is equally weighted. There are differentiated outcomes at Entry 1, 2 and 3. The pass threshold for each sub-skill, at each level is set at 80% of the available marks.
- The overall outcome is calculated using the lowest outcome for each sub-skill.
- Each task covers: all 3 sub-levels at Entry level, i.e. Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3;

### **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

Students who find Essential Skills Level 1 difficult to achieve at this stage.

### **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

#### **Progression Opportunities**

The OCN NI Entry Level Certificate in Essentials Skills enables progression to the OCN NI Level 1 and Level 2 Certificate in Essential Skills.

<b>SUBJECT</b>	<b>MUSIC</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD</b>	<b>CCEA</b>	<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>GCSE</b>
				<b>Level 2</b>	

## **COURSE CONTENT**

This two-year course builds on the knowledge that you have already acquired from primary school through to the present day. Over the two years you will actively make and respond to music through composition, performance and listening to a wide variety of musical styles and traditions.

### **ASSESSMENT – 65% of this course is based on coursework activities**

- **COMPOSITION AND APPRAISING (30%)** You will compose TWO contrasting pieces of music (lasting 3 – 6 minutes in total) and keep a diary or log.
- **PERFORMANCE AND APPRAISING (35%)** You will perform ONE solo and ONE ensemble piece (each lasting no more than 5 minutes) and be able to discuss your performances with an external assessor.
- **LISTENING AND APPRAISING (35%)** You will listen and appraise a range of music from 1600 to present day. There will be a 90-minute test, based on your learning, at the end of the course.

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who

- is motivated to work independently to develop his/her creativity through composition, making informed decisions about musical quality, and is committed to achieving high grades
- welcomes an opportunity to develop understanding of different cultures and traditions
- is keen to develop their confidence through performance and in writing

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

- This course will help students to develop a range of transferable skills which can be used in other subjects and all areas of life, for example, pair and team work, listening skills, organisational skills, self-awareness, self-confidence and public speaking.
- The Music business falls into **two** categories: performers and composers who create music; and administrators, publishers, record companies, instrument manufacturers, teachers, broadcasters, DJs, journalists and many more. The Music Industry is one of the biggest in the world.

<b>SUBJECT</b> <b>Personal Development and Employability (PDE)</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> <b>The Prince's Trust</b>		<b>LEVEL</b> <b>Entry 3, Level 1, Level 2</b>
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## COURSE CONTENT

The Achieve programme offers a varied curriculum which covers different topics across five activity areas. Students will follow an active learning programme during which they build up a portfolio of evidence and submit completed units for assessment in Personal Development and Employability (PDE). As part of the programme, you will explore the following:

- **Personal and social development:** By working in small groups, you'll be able to meet new people and make new friends
- **Life skills:** Through fun and interactive sessions, you'll learn how to manage money, be healthy and stay safe
- **Active citizenship:** You'll work as part of a team to make a difference to your local community
- **Enterprise project:** This is a Dragons' Den style challenge. Ready to put your entrepreneurial skills to the test?
- **Preparation for work:** Create a tip-top CV, practise for future interviews and explore your skills and talents

## ASSESSMENT

Portfolio based. Units completed and assessed throughout the course.

A Prince's Trust Certificate in PDE at Level 1 is equivalent to 3 GCSEs at grade F.

A Prince's Trust Certificate in PDE at Level 2 is equivalent to 2 GCSEs at A\*-C

Students who do not complete sufficient units may gain a Prince's Trust Award in PDE and credit for all units they have completed.

## WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR

A student who

- may struggle to achieve 5 A\*-C GCSE grades
- will thrive in a less formal learning environment
- prefers ongoing assessment to formal written exams
- enjoys practical activities and will be involved in their learning experience
- will work well with others
- can keep evidence, and is able to organise and compile it into a portfolio
- can meet deadlines

## CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

This course offers a practical approach to help students fulfill their potential. Students develop transferable skills while boosting confidence and motivation. They are prepared for their career with a CV, self-confidence, and the ability to present and promote themselves and products, and they know how to stay motivated working independently and as a team player. These are valued skills and qualities in the workplace.

<b>SUBJECT</b> <b>Religious Studies</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> <b>CCEA</b>	<b>LEVEL GCSE</b> <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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## **COURSE CONTENT**

In Year 11 pupils will study the life and ministry of Jesus and look at how his life still influences some people today. In Year 12 pupils will study a range of moral issues such as equality, matters of life and death, personal and family issues, war and peace.

## **ASSESSMENT**

- There is a single tier of entry
- There are two externally assessed written examinations, each worth 50%

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who

- ✚ is highly motivated
- ✚ is interested in debating
- ✚ can manage a wide range of information from different sources
- ✚ works well with others and is willing to listen to others' views
- ✚ is confident in writing extended and essay type answers

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

- ✚ Whether you go on to further studies or into the world of work, you will meet people from all walks of life with different religious and moral opinions. GCSE Religious Studies will help you understand and appreciate them.
- ✚ Religious Studies is a valuable entry qualification to post 16 education and further education. Universities welcome students with Religious Studies onto a variety of courses in Humanities, Arts and Sciences as well as courses in Religious Studies.
- ✚ Religious Studies can lead to a variety of careers, for example, in charity organisations, counselling, journalism, libraries, museums, public service, sales and marketing companies, teaching and youth work.

<b>SUBJECT</b> Double Award Science	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL 2</b> 2 GCSEs
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### COURSE CONTENT

The course incorporates the skills, knowledge and understanding of how science works. It allows students to develop transferable skills that will benefit them in vocational training and employment.

### ASSESSMENT

The specification includes seven units

<b>Content</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Completion</b>
<b>Biology Unit 1 (B1):</b> Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity	An externally assessed written examination	11%	November of Year 11
<b>Chemistry Unit 1 (C1):</b> Structures, Trends and Chemical Reactions, Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis.	An externally assessed written examination	11%	February of Year 11
<b>Physics Unit 1 (P2):</b> Motion, Force, Moments, Energy, Density, Kinetic Theory, Radioactivity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion.	An externally assessed written examination	11%	Summer of Year 11
<b>Biology Unit 2 (B2):</b> Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health.	An externally assessed written examination	14%	Summer of Year 12
<b>Chemistry Unit 2 (C2):</b> Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry.	An externally assessed written examination	14%	Summer of Year 12
<b>Physics Unit 2 (P2):</b> Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism Space Physics.	An externally assessed written examination	14%	Summer of Year 12
<b>Unit 7: Practical Skills</b>	For each of the three sciences, students carry out one practical task in the laboratory and a written exam, with questions based on any of the prescribed practical tasks and any other practical tasks from the specification.	25%	Throughout Year 11 and 12.

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who

- is highly motivated
- is committed to working to improve standards in Science for personal development and to obtain their best possible grade
- can work well both independently and with others
- has good mathematical ability
- has well developed practical and problem solving skills
- can recall and express information concisely under examination conditions

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

Not all scientists wear white coats or work in labs and can be found in all types of employment areas from the more traditional – offices, laboratories, building sites and factories to the less conventional – up a mountain, on an oil rig, at a water treatment plant, at an airport and under the ground.

Choosing Double Award Science will widen options later in life as science is a valued and useful subject for the majority of careers. For those hoping to follow a Science related career path or hoping to study Science post 16, Double Award Science is an essential stepping stone.

Considered one of the STEM qualifications (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics), there is a perceived degree of difficulty attached to Science that differentiate students with this qualification, making them very employable. Similarly, good grades in STEM subjects are highly valued by further education establishments.

<b>SUBJECT</b> <b>Single Award Science</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> <b>CCEA</b>	<b>LEVEL 2</b> <b>1 GCSE</b>
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**COURSE CONTENT**

This Single Award Science course encourages students to be inspired, motivated and challenged by following a broad, coherent, practical, satisfying and worthwhile course of study. It encourages them to develop their curiosity about the living, material and physical worlds and provides insights into and experience of how Science works.

**ASSESSMENT**

The single award specification includes four units:

<b>Content</b>	<b>Assessment</b>	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Completion</b>
<b>Unit 1: Biology</b> Cells, food and energy, chromosomes and genes, co-ordination and control, the reproductive system, variation and adaptation, disease and body defences, ecological relationships.	Externally assessed written examination	25%	February of Year 11
<b>Unit 2: Chemistry</b> Acids, bases and salts, elements, compounds and mixtures, the Periodic table, atomic structure and bonding, materials, metals and the reactivity series, rates of reaction, organic chemistry.	Externally assessed written examination	25%	November of Year 12
<b>Unit 3: Physics</b> Electrical circuits, household electricity, energy, electricity generation, heat transfer, waves, forces and motion, radioactivity, the Earth in space.	Externally assessed written examination	25%	Summer of Year 12
<b>Unit 4: Practical Skills</b>	Students carry out two practical tasks in the laboratory under exam conditions and a written practical theory exam, with questions based on any of the prescribed practical tasks from the specification.	25%	Throughout Year 11 and Year 12

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who

- is motivated
- is committed to working to improve standards in Science for personal development and to obtain their best possible grade
- can work well with others
- has reasonable mathematical ability
- enjoys practical work
- can recall information under examination conditions

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

Science is everywhere: just about everything from the mobile phones that we use to the gel we put on our hair involves Science somehow. Science gives you the best options to expand your career opportunities whatever path you take. The analytical, problem-solving skills you gain from studying Science are quite possibly the most useful skills you can get and employers are always keen to take on people with a Science background.



<b>SUBJECT</b> OCN Applied Science	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> OCN NI	<b>LEVEL 2</b> <b>GCSE EQUIVALENT</b> Grade B
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## **COURSE CONTENT**

Learners must successfully complete all three mandatory units to achieve the qualification.

- Physical Processes
- Life Processes and Living Things
- Materials and their Chemical Properties

## **ASSESSMENT**

The qualification is 100% portfolio based and teacher assessed and carries performance points comparable to a GCSE Level 2 equivalent to a grade B.

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

This qualification is targeted at individuals who are interested in developing their knowledge and understanding in applied science. It will enable learners to progress to further qualifications in applied science at a higher level or to study particular aspects of science in greater depth.

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

This qualification will provide learners with the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that would support progression to employment within the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) sector.

<b>SUBJECT</b> <b>Sport</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> <b>Pearson / Edexcel</b>	<b>BTEC First Award</b> <b>Level 2</b>
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This BTEC First Award in Sport enables progression to further study and prepares learners to enter the workplace.

There is a clear progression to a Level 3 course or an apprenticeship.

It is a vocational qualification which allows students to develop knowledge and understanding by applying their learning and skills in a work related context.

It allows students to develop skills working as a team, working to deadlines, presenting information effectively and completing administrative tasks.

The course is designed to give students a basic knowledge and understanding of the sport and leisure industry. Students will specialise in sports performance, exercise and fitness.

### **ASSESSMENT**

Students will complete 4 units over the 2 years

Unit 1	Fitness for Sport and Exercise	25% external online exam
Unit 2	Practical Performance in Sport	Internal assessment of portfolio
Unit 3	Applying the principles of Personal Training	Synoptic assessment and internally assessed
Unit 4	Leading Sports Activities	Internal assessment of portfolio

Internal assessments will be a combination of written, practical and verbal presentations and students will need to have good research and ICT skills to present their work efficiently and neatly.

### **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

Students who are enthusiastic about sport and want to improve their fitness level and understand how exercise affects the body.

Students who can work well with others and have an interest in sport and participate on a regular basis.

Students who would enjoy a course which is continually assessed and internally moderated by staff within the college with a 25% focus on an external examination.

### **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

This course is useful for those students who wish to pursue a Level 3 course in Sport at either SERC or Belfast Met post-16.

This subject lends itself to careers across a range of industries, such as working in a leisure centre, coaching, sports business management and personal fitness training.

<b>SUBJECT</b> Contemporary Crafts Technology	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL GCSE</b> LEVEL 2
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## **COURSE CONTENT**

### Component 1 – Making: Exploring Materials, Techniques and Processes

Students will:

- work with a range of materials, tools and equipment
- demonstrate design/ideas development through relevant research, sketches, plans, working drawings and sample pieces
- produce a learning file which will include information on designers, evidence of health and safety practices, evidence of business models and employability options within the creative industries
- create final outcomes

### Component 2

In response to a set brief released in January of Year 12 you will produce preparatory work, a final outcome and a written evaluation.

## **ASSESSMENT**

Component 1	Controlled Assessment	60%
Component 2	Controlled Assessment	40%

## **WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR**

A student who

- is creative and enjoys practical work
- is keen to develop their interest and enthusiasm for making
- is organised and can manage their time when working towards a deadline
- enjoys experimenting with different materials, techniques and processes

## **CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE**

Students of Contemporary Crafts develop transferable skills, required by many colleges, employers and industry leaders. These practical skills, the ability to solve problems and think creatively will be used throughout your career. The construction industry in Northern Ireland currently needs employees to work at trades such as joinery, bricklaying and metal fabrication. Contemporary Crafts will assist you if you decide to explore these jobs.

Having the opportunity to work in a wide range of materials will also teach you how to create your own craft business.

<b>SUBJECT</b> <b>Occupational Studies</b>	<b>EXAM BOARD</b> CCEA	<b>LEVEL</b> GCSE <b>LEVEL 2</b>
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## COURSE CONTENT

This course is for learners of all abilities and provides a more flexible and ‘hands-on’ approach to learning in practical and occupational settings. This qualification has been uniquely structured with this in mind as learners will have the opportunity to learn **for** work, **through** work and **about** work with a real outcome that will deliver skills for life.

## ASSESSMENT

Coursework is the major part of the Occupational Studies course: you will be marked on the practical tasks you complete and you should be able to recall knowledge of these tasks.

Award	Equivalent GCSE Grade
Level 2 Distinction*	A*
Level 2 Distinction	A
Level 2 Merit	B
Level 2 Pass	C
Level 1 Distinction	D
Level 1 Merit	E
Level 1 Pass	F

## WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR

A student who

- enjoys working in a practical setting
- can recall knowledge for assessments
- works well with others

## CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

This course is good preparation for careers in a range of industries and further educational courses.

**Availability will depend on numbers choosing specific units.**