



OPTION CHOICES 2022



Vocational Programme

As your child approaches the end of Key Stage 3, they move towards a Vocational Programme here at Blackwater Integrated College. 10 LSC has worked well as a teaching group and will stay together for most subjects at Key Stage 4 in a small class setting with a continued emphasis on pastoral care. They will remain on this programme for the next two years.

This programme has been designed to offer students a balanced curriculum including English and Mathematics and a range of other subjects, selected to provide suitable pathways to employment or further study.

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

Students may complete accredited qualifications in the following areas:

- GCSE Art and Design or GCSE Contemporary Crafts or Construction
- GCSE Occupational Studies
- Essential Skills Literacy and Communication
- Essential Skills Numeracy and Application of Number
- Prince's Trust Achieve Programme
- OCN Science
- OCN IT

**The initial Options consultations this year will be held on
Wednesday 16th 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 – Mrs Mallon

Head of Junior School - Mrs Love

Subject teachers

Form Tutors – 10AC Mrs Cockfield, 10JC Miss Conaty

Parents

Careers Teacher – Mrs Stott

Careers Service - S Doolan

email siobhan.doolan@economy-ni.gov.uk/careers or

mobile number 07795646489



This year all Year 10 students also have access to a KS4 Careers information room on Google Classroom entitled '**Year 10 Career Pathways**'. This has been set up to provide immediate advice and support for students. The room is regularly updated by staff.

The Careers Advisory website (www.nidirect.gov.uk/careers) also provides up to date information in relation to subject content at KS4 level and how to go about making the best choices.

**The initial Options consultations this year will be held on
Wednesday 16th March.**

Parents are encouraged to prepare for this by reading the information in this booklet. Form Tutors and Senior Staff will speak to parents / guardians to discuss and give guidance on the process to ensure that informed decisions are made about future choices.

Students will be advised on suitable subjects. 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.

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, such as English and Mathematics, students will choose from some 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.

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.

Please be aware that the Options consultation 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 fewer than the minimum number required may not be able to run.

*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 have this booklet available for meetings
on Wednesday 16th March**

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1 (60% Part A + Part B)

Part A - Exploratory Portfolio (25%)

You will experiment with some of the following disciplines.

- Fine Art – drawing and painting/ sculpture/ printmaking
- Textiles
- Ceramics
- Graphic Design/Photography

Part B - Investigating the creative and Cultural Industries (35%)

- complete one practical task, set by your teacher
- have the opportunity to go on museum visits, gallery visits or collaborate on projects
- document your research and use drawing to support the development of your work
- produce a final piece

Component 2 (40%)

- 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

WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR

A student who

- is creative
- is organised and can manage their time
- enjoys exploring the work of artists
- enjoys experimenting with different materials
- 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. 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.

COURSE CONTENT

Component 1 - Making: Exploring Materials, Techniques and Processes

- 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 enthusiasm for making
- is organised and can manage their time
- enjoys experimenting with different materials



CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Students of Contemporary Crafts develop transferable skills, required by many colleges, employers and industry leaders. These practical skills and 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.

COURSE CONTENT

Essential Skills course aims 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 a formal interview which is completed with the class teacher.
- Entry Levels 1, 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 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
- 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.

COURSE CONTENT

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 through a portfolio of evidence which demonstrates their skills and understanding across the units outlined below:



Unit Title	*Units may change
Email Software Skills Using Microsoft Outlook	
Presentation Software Using Microsoft Powerpoint	
Spreadsheet Software Using Microsoft Excel	
Using the Internet Using Internet Explorer	
Multimedia Game Design Software Using GameMaker	

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.

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 minutes.
- 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 help a learner to get onto vocational courses at SERC.

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



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

- One unseen assessment task.
- Externally set, internally marked and externally moderated.
- Each test 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

WHO THIS COURSE IS FOR

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

CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

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

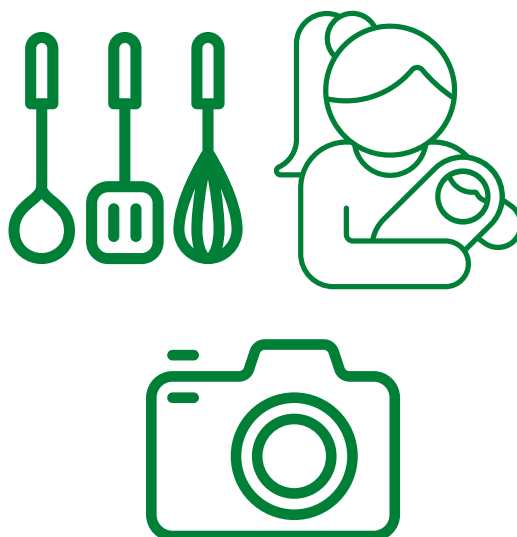
COURSE CONTENT

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

Availability will depend on numbers choosing specific units. Units that may be available include the following pairs:

Basic Fast Fit and Electrical Wiring

Contemporary Cuisine and Patisserie

Carpentry and Joinery and Plumbing

Sports Leadership and Running a Leisure event

Physical Care of Babies and Childcare. The Play Environment

Digital Imaging and TV & Film Production

CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

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

COURSE CONTENT

The Achieve programme offers a varied curriculum which covers different topics across a range of 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
- 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 2 is equivalent to 2 GCSEs at Grade B

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 practical learning environment
- prefers ongoing assessment to formal written exams



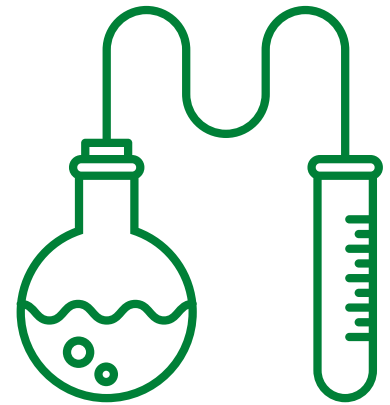
CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

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.

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.

COURSE CONTENT

Students learn to interpret drawings of domestic buildings and explore the materials and sustainable methods used in domestic and commercial construction. The specification also helps students to appreciate the importance of health and safety in the construction industry.

To enhance their practical skills, students complete a craft project based on woodwork, brickwork or blockwork. They also develop their computer-aided design knowledge, understanding and skills by producing a portfolio of work.

The specification has four units:

Unit 1: Introduction to the Build Environment
Written Examination - 20%

Unit 2: Sustainable Construction
Written Examination - 30%

Unit 3: The Construction Craft Project
Controlled Assessment - 25%

Unit 4: Computer Aided Design in Construction
Controlled Assessment - 25%



CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE

Students will develop their knowledge in the following occupations: Architect, Surveyor, Engineer, Construction Manager, Bricklayer, Electrician, Joiner, Plasterer, Plumber, Tiler, Gas Engineer