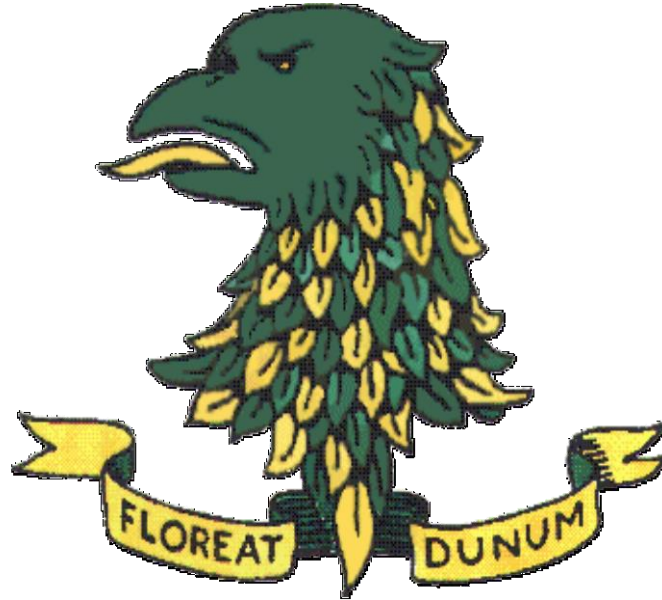


Down High School



Sixth Form Courses

2020-22

Sixth Form Courses

About this Booklet

This booklet is designed to give you information on the structure of Sixth Form study and the courses available in the Sixth Form at Down High School. Section 1 provides you with some general information on A-level study and a list of the courses currently available. In Section 2 a brief description of each subject is provided to help you make the right choice.

Section 1: A-Level Study – General Information

For entry into Year 13 you should be aiming to achieve as many GCSE points as you can. GCSE points (GCSE points are scored as follows using the actual GCSE grades obtained: A*=5, A=4, B=3, C*=2, C=1) and *at least* a grade C in English and Mathematics. Our admissions criteria for 6th Form are on the school website, but because many A-Level courses require at least a B at GCSE to access the A-Level class, you should certainly be aiming for more than the six passes mentioned in these criteria.

A-Levels are very different to GCSE. In Year 13 pupils **normally take three or four subjects** to AS Level (or BTEC Level 3). An AS level for NI CCEA qualifications is equivalent to 40% of a full A-level course.

English awarding body specifications (AQA Sociology and PE) are what we call decoupled or linear A-Levels. The final grade will be as a result of the Upper 6th examinations. You will do an AS exam in PE and Sociology, but if you continue with these subjects into Year 14, the AS grade becomes irrelevant to your overall grade.

We also currently offer a number of two-year vocational **BTEC** Level 3 courses in Engineering, ICT and Sport and a two-year Level 3 qualification in Tourism. For Tourism, you will be awarded with a Certificate at the end of Year 13 and the A-Level equivalent Diploma at the end of the two years. These qualifications are valued by many universities for a number of their courses. Assessment – practical and theory-based – is continuous throughout the two years but the new BTEC qualifications from 2018 include a formal examination component. You are advised to speak to Mr Williamson or Mrs Calvert if you are considering one of the BTEC options.

In Year 14 it is normal to focus on **three** subjects and take these to full A2 level (or a combination of A-Levels and BTECs).

Sixth Form study requires more depth; you will find Sixth Form studies **more demanding** than GCSEs, but you should expect – and relish – this challenge. You will be expected to work with greater independence, display higher levels of personal organisation, self-motivation and maturity, and develop a broader range of skills and qualities.

In recent years we introduced Applied A-Levels in **Health and Social Care** and **Moving Image Arts** into the Year 13 curriculum. These **Applied A-level** courses are more accessible to pupils who might find traditional A-level subjects too exam-focused. They do not contain as much academic content but require pupils to demonstrate a broader range of skills, since a larger proportion of the marks available are awarded for coursework. These courses should not be regarded as easier than traditional A-levels; indeed success in them will require pupils to be very well organised to meet a large number of challenging deadlines. Nevertheless, for a pupil who struggles with subjects

that are assessed fully by examination, it may be appropriate for him or her to consider taking one or more of these Applied A-Levels. Since they are closely related to an area of the world of work, you may find them to be very relevant to your needs.

Applied A-Levels are accepted for entry to most university courses but are not appropriate for pupils who plan to apply to some high demand courses at top universities.

**The full range of courses available for A-level study is shown below
(* indicates the applied A-level courses).**

Further Mathematics is marked **. Pupils and parents should note that selecting Further Maths means studying the Maths A-Level in Year 13 before embarking on Further Maths in Year 14. While some additional timetabled classes are established for pupils doing the Further Maths option, the pace of the course is necessarily fast and significant homework will need to be set in order to help cover the course content.

It should also be noted that care should be taken when making your A-Level choices as some universities have criteria which disallow certain combinations of subjects. Information on this can be found on the university undergraduate pages of the university website, prospectuses or at www.ucas.com
The Careers Department is also available for consultation should you require clarification.

Courses Available at A-Level

Art	Health and Social Care*	Religious Studies
Biology	History	Sociology
Business Studies	ICT BTEC	Software Systems Development
Chemistry	Mathematics	Spanish
English Literature	Further Mathematics**	Sport BTEC
Engineering BTEC	Moving Image Arts*	Technology and Design
French	Music	Theatre Studies/Drama
Geography	Nutrition and Food Science (Home Ec.)	Tourism Level 3
Government and Politics	Physical Education	
	Physics	

You should note that subjects will run in accordance with demand. **If there are insufficient numbers in any course it may not run.**

Choosing AS level subjects

An AS subject choices sheet accompanies this booklet. Please make your **provisional choices** on this sheet from the subject list above and return to your Form Teacher by the date indicated. You should discuss your choices with your parents. ‘Option blocks’ will then be created to accommodate as many choices as possible and **final choices** will be requested during March of Year 12. Choices will normally be confirmed with students by May of Year 12.

Option Blocks

Options blocks are reviewed annually to maximise pupil choice. Down High School reserves the right to withdraw a course should demand prove insufficient or staffing become unavailable. **You should also understand that the constraints imposed by option blocks may prevent your combination of preferred A-Level courses. When selecting desired courses, you should also keep one or two subjects “in reserve” so that you can choose one or more of these if your original choice cannot be accommodated. Flexibility is a positive attribute.**

Course choice and career

In preparing to choose subjects for Sixth Form study you should be aiming for a balance between these important factors:

- Your academic interest and capability
- Your personal qualities
- The implications of subject choice on your future career plans

When choosing your subjects, you should remember that you are an individual and your combination of subjects should reflect your interests and abilities. Your choice must **not** be influenced by what your friends are doing or what other people want you to do.

When in doubt about what to choose for post-16 study, always select a subject in which you are interested and in which your level of ability is at least good, not average, because the reality is that A-Level/BTEC study is demanding.

Success at A-Level depends not only on hard work, but also on how well-equipped you are to cope with the subjects you choose. In order to ensure that you have acquired sufficient knowledge and skills to meet the demands of your chosen AS Level subjects and to secure a place in those subjects in Y13, it will often be necessary for you to obtain at least a ‘B’ grade at GCSE in either the chosen subject or related subjects. Our experience shows that an overall B grade in a Science subject at GCSE can mask the fact that, in some cases, this grade was achieved through a good practical assessment and the exam element was, in fact, a C. Access to Biology, Chemistry and Physics will be possible only if you have achieved **at least** a B grade in the theory papers of that subject at GCSE and **at least** a B grade has been awarded overall. The science subjects are significantly more difficult when you get to A-Level, so speak to your teachers if you are considering choosing one of the sciences.

Employers

From a careers perspective, employers are looking for individuals who are not only academically educated to a high standard but those who also possess common sense

and a wide variety of transferable skills. Some of these sought-after skills include the ability to act on instructions, interact effectively with others in a team situation, and a willingness to be versatile.

Choosing the right courses

It is expected that students will take **three or four AS Levels (or a combination of AS courses and BTECs)** in Y13 leading to three A2 levels in Y14.

The school encourages most people in Year 13 to start their year studying four subjects. This allows you to “dip your toe in the water” for each subject; to start with three leaves you with nowhere to go if one of the subjects proves challenging or is not to your liking after all. Choosing four subjects in Year 13 gives you the potential for accumulating UCAS points and more flexibility when choosing which three to continue with in Y14, but there is very little point in stretching yourself to breaking point and choosing four AS subjects if you are going to be struggling to cope. The reality is that universities require three A-Levels for entry, but you will need to achieve the appropriate grades to progress to Year 14 and the fourth subject can often be the insurance grade you need – especially if one of your other subjects is one of those where the jump between GCSE and A-Level is greatest (for example, in the science subjects).

For courses such as Medicine, Veterinary and Dentistry - or if you are interested in applying to courses in the Republic of Ireland - you are advised to speak to a member of the Careers team.

Students scoring 12-17 points or fewer at GCSE will take three subjects (this might include one BTEC course) since the additional study time will help them cope with the increased academic demands at A-Level. It is very important that full consideration is given to your choices at this stage as you would be committing to those three subjects for two years in order to obtain three A-levels at the end of Y14. Any student scoring between 18-23 points at GCSE may wish to consider studying a fourth AS level. Advice should be sought about this option. Any student scoring 24 or more points at GCSE is advised to study a fourth AS level course. (Since the introduction of the C* grade at GCSE in 2019, GCSE points are scored as follows using the actual GCSE grades obtained: A*=5, A=4, B=3, C*=2, C=1).

If in doubt check with the Careers Department **BEFORE** you make your final decision. Remember also that certain university courses do demand specific combinations of subjects, so again check with the Careers Department first.

Advice

If you need advice on choosing the right course to suit your career aspirations you should speak to your parents, to staff in the Careers department and to the relevant Head of Department. Speak to your teachers about your suitability for a particular subject at A-Level.

Timetabled non-examination classes

In addition to your A-Level subjects, your weekly timetable will include the following compulsory classes:

Careers/RE	2 periods (personal development and careers)
Games:	3 periods

Students also have an opportunity to become involved in a Community Action programme, where you can make a contribution to the learning of pupils in the junior school in a variety of subjects and settings. Voluntary service opportunities in the community are also available for students. Students may also volunteer to mentor younger pupils during their mutual non-timetabled periods.

Extra-curricular activities

In addition to the academic side, you should also consider your non-academic input both inside and outside of school. It is important for you to realise that prospective employers and university tutors attach a great deal of importance to what students do in their spare time. A-Level grades will only give an indication of your academic ability, but hobbies and other activities provide an insight into your personality and personal qualities. You could be involved in sport, community work, join the School Magazine Committee, attend meetings of the Current Affairs society, join the choir, orchestra, etc. Think about how you might boost your UCAS Personal Statement, but also how engagement in extra-curricular activities can enhance your connection with school. Remember to look at all your options, discuss them with others, research career opportunities and make an informed decision.

Making your choice


You will receive an AS Level choices sheet onto which you are asked to record your **provisional** choices from the subjects available. There is no block structure at this stage, so you can indicate your preferred choice combination. Remember to be flexible and add a fifth subject that you might think seriously about in the event of a clash. You should discuss your choices with your parents. Firm choices from Option blocks will be requested during March of Year 12. Choices will normally be confirmed with students by May of Year 12.



Changing your subject choice


If you change your mind over the summer holidays or in light of your GCSE results, it may be possible to accommodate your new choice, **subject to places being available** in the chosen course.


A pupil advice day is held on GCSE Results Day, during which you will be able to explore your options and request changes in subject choice. **You should discuss any changes with your parents, the Careers Department and Mr Dawson.**


If you have any further questions about subject choices or need additional information please ask your Form Teacher, careers adviser or the Head of Department of the subject concerned.


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Art and Design</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS: This specification aims to encourage students to develop:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual, imaginative, creative and intuitive capabilities • Investigative, analytical, experimental, practical, technical and expressive skills • Aesthetic understanding and critical judgement • Independence in generating, refining and communicating their own ideas, intentions and personal outcomes • Interest in, enthusiasm for and enjoyment of art, craft and design • Experience of working with a broad range of media • Knowledge of art, craft and design media and technologies in contemporary and past societies and cultures 		
<p>SPECIFICATION SUMMARY AS is made up of 2 parts;</p> <p>AS 1 Experimental Portfolio Theme based: students develop, explore and record ideas. Teachers assess students' work, and CCEA moderate their marks. Work displayed in sketchbook format. Weighting 50% of AS. 20% of A Level</p> <p>AS 2 Personal Response Students present a personal outcome in response to the set theme They will bring this to completion during a 10 hour controlled test. Teachers assess students' work, and CCEA moderate their marks. Weighting 50% of AS. 20% of A Level</p> <p>A2 1 Personal and Critical Investigation Written and practical work inform each other and are integrated, but marked separately Teachers assess the practical investigation and CCEA moderate their marks Weighting 40% of A2. 24% of A Level Written investigation 1000-2000 words – externally assessed Weighting 20% of A2. 12% of A Level</p> <p>A2 1 Thematic Outcome Students present a personal outcome in response to the set theme They will bring this to completion during a 15 hour controlled test. Teachers assess students' work, and CCEA moderate their marks Weighting 40% of A2. 24% of A Level</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Self-Management, Working with Others, Self-expression, Creativity and Problem Solving Students will be encouraged to, for example: • record ideas, responses, intentions and outcomes in coherent forms such as sketchbooks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • plan their 10-hour examination period; • share materials and resources and consider health and safety guidelines; • participate effectively in teams when developing collaborative artworks or consulting with clients on a brief or artists in their work place • explore a theme or compare the work of artists or designers; and • respond to the demands, constraints and parameters of set briefs, projects or commissions. 		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY: The study of Art and Design creates a pathway to a future career in the creative industries. The creative industries are one of the fastest growing sectors of the UK economy. contributing almost 90 billion GVA (gross value added. GVA in the creative industry is forecast to grow to £128bn by 2025 (3.9% year on year increase) and to generate one million new creative jobs by 2030. In Northern Ireland creative industries employ over five percent of the entire workforce contributing nearly £1bn GVA. Northern Ireland has world leading expertise in the sector including: Advertising, Architecture, Craft design (ceramics/jewellery), Graphic design, Product design, Creative technologies (video games/animation/software design), Filmmaking (make-up/ costume/ set design), Fashion design, Textile design, Museums and galleries, Photography and Visual arts. A wide range of STEM careers such as engineering now also require creative, artistic and design skills. Students with a qualification in Art and Design are highly regarded in the employment market for their high level of creativity and problem solving skills.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>A McCluskey HOD</p>


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Biology</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>		
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop interest in and enthusiasm for Biology, including an interest in further study of the subject. • To appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the sciences contribute to the success of economy and society • To appreciate the effects of human impact on biodiversity and explore ways in which these issues can be addressed. 			
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molecules and Cells. • Organisms and Biodiversity. • Assessment of Practical Skills. 			
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physiology and Ecosystems. • Biochemistry, genetics and evolutionary trends. • Assessment of Practical skills. 			
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS: Two 1Hr 30 written papers. One practical internal assessment (lab book). One hour written practical paper. 40% of A level.</p> <p>A2: Two 2Hr 15 written papers. One practical internal assessment (lab book). 1Hr 30 written practical paper. 60% of A level.</p>			
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Effective handling of scientific data and information. • Independent learning to include maintenance of lab books and production of effective revision materials. • Analysis, application and evaluation of information. • Practical skills including dissections. 			
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It opens doors into disciplines and careers such as: Research, Health Care, Environmental management and conservation, Education, Biotechnology, Forensic science, Politics and policy, Business and industry, Economics, Mathematics, and Science writing and communication. • STEM opportunities; Live communication with scientists and hands on experience of using latest laboratory techniques. 			
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mrs Rachel Wilson. Head of Biology.</p>	

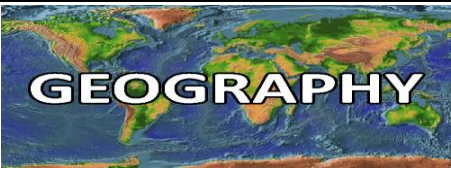
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<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop an interest in and enthusiasm for chemistry Develop essential knowledge and understanding of the different areas of the subject and how they relate to each other Appreciate how society makes decisions about scientific issues and how the subject contributes to the success of the economy and society. 														
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and an Introduction to Organic Chemistry Basic Practical Chemistry 														
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further Physical and Organic Chemistry Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry Further Practical Chemistry 														
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p>														
<p>AS</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>UNIT</th><th>ASSESSMENT</th><th>% of AS</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>AS1</td><td>1hr 30 min exam Multiply choice and structure questions</td><td>40 % (16% A2) Summer Exam</td></tr> <tr> <td>AS2</td><td>1 hr 30 min exam Multiply choice and structure questions</td><td>40 % (16% A2) Summer Exam</td></tr> <tr> <td>AS3</td><td>1hr 15 min practical exam 1hr 15 min written practical paper</td><td>20 % (8% A2) Summer exam</td></tr> </tbody> </table>			UNIT	ASSESSMENT	% of AS	AS1	1hr 30 min exam Multiply choice and structure questions	40 % (16% A2) Summer Exam	AS2	1 hr 30 min exam Multiply choice and structure questions	40 % (16% A2) Summer Exam	AS3	1hr 15 min practical exam 1hr 15 min written practical paper	20 % (8% A2) Summer exam
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<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Chemistry helps to develop skills like adaptability, creativity, curiosity, tenacity and analytical skills. Chemistry also develops competence and ability in practical, mathematical and problem-solving skills.</p>														
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>Careers in chemistry are everywhere. Chemistry is essential for careers in Chemical Sciences, Medicine, Veterinary Science, Dentistry, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Industry and Chemical Engineering. Many other disciplines like Law, Accountancy, Food Science and Physiotherapy welcome students with a background in chemistry.</p>														
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>	<p>Mrs H Hamilton</p>													


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Business Studies</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a lifelong interest in business; • gain a holistic understanding of business and the international marketplace; • develop a critical understanding of organisations and their relationship with key stakeholders; • evaluate the role of technology in business communication, business operation and decision making; • generate enterprising and creative solutions to business problems and issues; • understand the ethical dilemmas and responsibilities faced by organisations and business decision makers; • develop advanced study skills that help them prepare for third level education; • acquire a range of relevant business and generic skills including decision making, • problem solving and interpretation of management information. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Business • Growing the Business 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Decision making • The Competitive Business Environment 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS External written exams (2 Papers) 1 hour 30 mins each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each paper is worth 20% of the overall A level. <p>A2 External written exams (2 Papers) 2 hours each</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each paper is worth 30% of the overall A level. 		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>(AO1) demonstrate knowledge of terms, concepts, theories, methods and models to show an understanding of how individuals and organisations are affected by and respond to business issues;</p> <p>(AO2) apply knowledge and understanding to various business contexts to show how individuals and organisations are affected by and respond to issues</p> <p>(AO3) analyse issues in a business, showing an understanding of the impact of external and internal influences on individuals and organisations</p> <p>(AO4) evaluate quantitative and qualitative information to make informed judgements and propose evidence-based solutions to business issues</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>This course enables progression to higher education, training and employment</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>	<p>Mr.Simpson (Coordinator of Business Studies)</p>	


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>WJEC</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and apply an informed, analytical framework for making, performing, interpreting and understanding drama and theatre • Develop an understanding and appreciation of how the social, cultural and historical contexts of plays have influenced the growth of drama, theatre & film 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <p><u>Unit 1 Theatre Workshop</u> Students are assessed on either acting or design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students create a reinterpretation of an extract from a text featuring the working methods of a practitioner – we use Brechtian techniques • This Unit is internally assessed and externally moderated (recorded and sent to WJEC) <p><u>Unit 2 Text in Theatre</u> A series of questions based on one performance text; we currently study <i>A View from the Bridge</i> by Arthur Miller</p>		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <p><u>Unit 3 Text in Action</u> Students are assessed on either acting or design Students create two pieces of theatre based on a stimulus supplied by WJEC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A devised piece using the techniques of Bruiser Theatre Company • An extract from a text in a different style chosen by the students (usually Naturalism) • Students are assessed by a visiting examiner • Students choosing design must also give a non-assessed 5-10 minute presentation of their design to the examiner (costume or set); completion of a written creative log <p><u>Unit 4 Text in Performance</u> Two questions, based on two different texts – currently, <i>Sweeney Todd</i> by Sondheim and Wheeler and <i>The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning</i> by Tim Rice</p>		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS Unit 1 – 24% of qualification (90 marks) Unit 2 – 16% of qualification (60 marks)</p> <p>A2 Unit 3 – 36% of qualification (120 marks) Unit 4 – 24% of qualification (95 marks)</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED: Students who study this course will enhance their skills in: Creative thinking; Teamwork & collaboration; Analysis; Presentation skills; Planning; Communication – both verbal and written</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY: Aside from a career in Performance, other examples include: Theatre stage manager or Director; Community Arts Worker; Teacher; Media Researcher; Television Production; Theatre Manager; Arts Administrator; Drama Therapist; Broadcast Presenter; Law; Project and Events Management</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Miss Mills (Acting Head of Drama)</p>


<p>SUBJECT: English Literature</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS: This specification aims to encourage students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them; • develop and apply effectively their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation; • explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them; • deepen their understanding of the changing traditions of literature in English; • carry out independent research and present personal responses in the form and language appropriate to literary study; • develop advanced study skills that help them prepare for third level education; • demonstrate through challenging internal and external assessments that they understand and can apply key concepts; and • nurture a lifelong interest in English literature. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS 1: The Study of Poetry 1900–Present (Philip Larkin and Elizabeth Jennings) and Drama 1900–Present (<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>) • AS 2: The Study of Prose Pre 1900 (<i>Wuthering Heights</i> or <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>) 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2 1: Shakespearean Genres (Tragedy: <i>Othello</i>) • A2 2: The Study of Poetry Pre 1900 (Keats) and Unseen Poetry • A2 3: Internal Assessment (comparing and contrasting two novels, one of which must be 21st century) 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS 1: The Study of Poetry 1900–Present (Philip Larkin and Elizabeth Jennings) and Drama 1900–Present (<i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>) 60% of AS; 24% of A Level. • AS 2: The Study of Prose Pre 1900 (<i>Wuthering Heights</i> or <i>The Scarlet Letter</i>) 40% of AS; 16% of A Level. <p>A2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2 1: Shakespearean Genres (Tragedy: <i>Othello</i>) 20% • A2 2: The Study of Poetry Pre 1900 (Keats) and Unseen Poetry 20% • A2 3: Internal Assessment of 2500 words (Comparing and contrasting two novels, one of which must be 21st century) 20% 		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Using ICT • Self-management • Working with others • Problem solving 		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY: Through the study of English Literature you will be given the opportunity to explore a varied range of texts, from classical literature to modern dramatists and novelists. You will build on your experiences at GCSE and develop your ability to write concisely and with confidence.</p> <p>A qualification in English Literature will help you to develop vital communication and analytical skills that will be valuable in any prospective career. English Literature is a very useful facilitating subject in relation to Law, Marketing, Public Relations and Media.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mrs S. Cooper</p>


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>French</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an enthusiasm for and an understanding of the language and culture in a variety of contexts and genres; • communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the French language for a range of purposes; and • acquire knowledge and advanced skills that will help them progress to further study, higher education or employment. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships - different family structures; • roles, responsibilities and relationships within families; • challenges for families; • intergenerational issues; and • influences on young people, for example peers, family and friends. • Culture and Lifestyle - physical well-being, for example diet or exercise; • risk-taking behaviour, for example smoking, alcohol and drugs or extreme sports; • dealing with stress and challenges, for example school or examinations; • hobbies and interests, for example sport or music; • the arts, film, fashion and design; • social media and new technology; and • holidays, festivals and tourism. 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young People in Society • part-time jobs; • education and employment; • career planning – aspirations and/or intentions; • young people and democracy; • European citizenship – advantages, disadvantages and opportunities; and • societal attitudes and young people. • Our Place in a Changing World • equality/inequality and discrimination/prejudice; • poverty at home and abroad – causes, consequences and measures to combat it; • immigration and emigration – causes, benefits and related issues; • multicultural society and cultural identity – benefits and challenges; • causes, consequences and resolution of conflict; and • sustainable living and environmental issues. 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting): AS –Speaking – 30%, Listening / Reading – 40%, Writing - 30% (40% of A Level) A2 – Speaking – 18%, Listening / Reading – 24%, Writing – 18% (60% of A Level)</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED: You will be encouraged to develop your conversational and communication skills and learn how to cope in practical situations when you travel to France or another French-speaking country. Learning a modern language is a vital part of your studies as it helps you in other skill areas such as learning how to express yourself and communicate well, doing presentations, working with other people and writing accurately.</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY: Aside from the traditional areas of translation and teaching, Modern Languages are frequently seen as providing the skill set for computing when combined with Mathematics. Languages also provide valuable support to those studying Business, International Relations, International Studies and European Studies, all of which develop cultural and language awareness that is vital to global business operations. This is particularly the case when combined with History and Government & Politics. Languages combined with University studies in Law provide a strong foundation for working in Government and in international business. Modern European languages also provide the foundation from which the languages of the emerging economies in countries such as Brazil, Russia, India and China can be learned.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>L. Brown</p>


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Geography</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>GCSE</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <p>This specification aims to encourage students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop a lifelong interest in Geography; • draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and understanding; • develop higher order thinking skills, for example independent learning, creative thinking and problem-solving; • apply their knowledge and skills to real world situations; • work with others in groups; • carry out research and present their findings in different formats; • develop advanced study skills that help them prepare for third level education; • provide extended responses and evidence of quality of written communication; and • demonstrate that they understand and can apply key concepts. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <p>Geography examines the links between people and their environments, and the AS/A2 course concentrates on contemporary issues and problems that are affecting our world today. AS Geography will consist of three modules:</p> <p>AS1: Physical Geography including processes and human interactions in fluvial environments; ecosystems; and the atmosphere.</p> <p>AS2: Human Geography population; including challenges for urban and rural environments; and processes of development including globalisation.</p> <p>AS3: Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography</p>		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <p>The AS Geography course aims to develop students' understanding of geographical concepts and processes to help them interpret our changing world. There is considerable emphasis on the interactions between natural and human systems.</p> <p>The A2 course builds on AS and covers a number of topics and concentrates on management issues:</p> <p>A2 1: Physical Processes, Landforms and Management</p> <p>A2 2: Processes and Issues in Human Geography</p> <p>A2 3: Decision Making in Geography</p>		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS 40% A2 60%</p> <p>Both AS and A2 are examined through written papers only. Fieldwork carried out as part of the course will be tested through these written papers. At AS level the fieldwork component investigates the sand dune systems at Murlough Nature Reserve. The A2 examination includes a Decision-Making exercise which will test student ability to process information; present arguments and counterarguments; and justify conclusions.</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Geography provides both skills and knowledge that are relevant in today's changing workplace. AS and A2 Geography include a considerable range of transferable skills important to employers including, in addition to those above, ICT and data handling/manipulation skills; research and independent enquiry skills; communication and presentation; creative thinking; and teamwork.</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>The study of Geography complements both scientific and arts subjects and therefore can lead to jobs in a wide variety of disciplines. Geographers develop a whole range of employability skills including numeracy, teamwork through field trips, analytical skills and a technical ability through using various specialist computing applications such as Geographical Information Systems. The subject cultivates a world view and a cultural sensitivity. These all potentially help a geographer to stand out in the labour market. Employers require the mix of technical and social skills people receive from studying Geography, which they see as very transferable. Eg. cartographer, emergency management specialist, environmental lawyer, surveyor, diplomat, landscape architect, human resources manager, transportation planner, agricultural policy advisor....and many, many more.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mrs J Smyth Head of Geography</p>


SUBJECT:	EXAM BOARD	
Government and Politics	CCEA	
SUBJECT AIMS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the development a lifelong interest in and knowledge and understanding of politics • Encourage pupils to think critically about different political systems • Develop understanding of key political concepts and the ability to think and write critically. 		
AS TOPICS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and Politics of Northern Ireland • The British Political Process 		
A2 TOPICS: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparative study of the Government and Politics of the USA and UK • Political Power 		
ASSESSMENT (including weighting): <p>AS 2 Written examinations 40%</p> <p>A2 2 Written examinations 60%</p>		
SKILLS PROMOTED: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Critical Analysis • Managing Information • Self-Management • Working with Others • Research 		
EMPLOYABILITY: <p>The skills developed in Government and Politics are highly valued by a wide range of sectors and employers including Business, Administration, Law and the Media.</p>		
For further information, please contact:		Mrs C Wood


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Health and Social Care</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <p>To give pupils an insight into the health care industry and develop an interest in the health, social care and early year's sectors.</p> <p>Learn about concepts of health and well-being, growth and development and the factors that affect health and well-being.</p>		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <p>Promoting Quality Care, Communication, Health and Well-Being</p>		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <p>Providing Services, Health Promotion, Supporting the Family</p>		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS - Students produce two written reports based on practice in a health, social care or early years setting that they have experienced. Teachers mark the coursework, and CCEA moderate the results. These assessment tasks are worth 50% of the AS level. Students will also sit one external written examination where they answer three compulsory questions. This is worth 50% of the AS level.</p> <p>A2 - Students produce two written reports. Teachers mark the coursework, and CCEA moderate the results. These assessment tasks are worth 30% of the A2 level. Students will also sit a 2 hour external written examination based on pre-release material released in February. This is worth 30% of the A2 level.</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Develop higher order thinking skills, creative thinking and problem-solving skills.</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>The health, social care and early years sectors are major employers in the public, voluntary and private sectors in Northern Ireland. This broad based qualification gives students the opportunity to study a range of subjects relevant to these sectors. Healthcare is the fastest growing job sector. An extensive range of careers exist in the Health, social care and early year's sectors for example, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, radiography, speech therapy, midwifery, health visiting, nursing, social work and teaching.</p> <p>During Year 13, it is essential that all Health and Social Care students obtain work experience in the sector. This could be during their free periods, before or after school, during Games (if they aren't part of a school sports team) or at the weekend.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mrs McKee (Head of Department)</p>


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>HISTORY</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop pupils' knowledge and understanding of the past and how it has been interpreted • To develop pupils' skills in communication, problem solving and critical analysis • To encourage pupils to become effective and independent learners with enquiring minds. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Germany 1919-45 • Russia 1914-41 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clash of Ideologies 1900-2000 • Ireland 1778-1803 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS 2 Written examinations 40%</p> <p>A2 2 Written examinations 60%</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication • Critical Analysis • Managing Information • Self-Management • Working with Others 		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>The skills developed in History are highly valued by a wide range of sectors and employers including Business, Administration, Law and the Media.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mrs C Wood</p>


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>A Level Mathematics</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand mathematics and mathematical processes to promote confidence, foster enjoyment and provide foundation for further study; • To extend range of mathematical skills and techniques; • To understand how different areas of mathematics are connected; • To apply mathematics in other fields of study; • To make logical and reasonable decisions when solving problems and communicate solutions clearly; • To construct mathematical proofs; • To solve problems in familiar or unfamiliar contexts; • To use diagrams and graphs to aid solution to problems; • To interpret solutions and communicate their interpretation correctly; • To use technology such as computers and calculators effectively and recognise when such equipment is inappropriate; • To take responsibility for their learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS1 Pure: Algebra and Functions, Co-ordinate geometry in (x,y) plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Exponentials and Logarithms, Differentiation, Integration, Vectors. • AS2 Mechanics and Statistics: Quantities and units in mechanics, Kinematics, Forces and Newton's Laws, Statistical sampling, Data presentation and interpretation, Probability, Statistical distributions, 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A21 Pure: Further development of the following AS1 topics: Algebra and Functions, Co-ordinate geometry in (x,y) plane, Sequences and Series, Trigonometry, Differentiation, Integration, along with Numerical methods. • A22 Mechanics and Statistics: Kinematics, Moments, Impulse and Momentum, Probability, Statistical distributions, Statistical hypothesis testing. 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS 1: One paper 1 hour 45 minutes worth 60% of AS and 24% of A2</p> <p>AS 2: One paper 1 hour 15 minutes worth 40% of AS and 16% of A2</p> <p>A2 1: One paper 2 hours 30 minutes worth 36% of A2</p> <p>A2 2: One paper 1 hour 30 minutes worth 24% of A2</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Analytical, problem solving, numerical, investigative, communication, IT, logical thinking, teamwork, perseverance, critical thinking, time management, working independently.</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>Engineer, Accountant, Actuary, Software Developer, Computer Programmer, Game Designer, Doctor, Pharmacist, Research, Teacher, Statistician, Systems Analyst, Pilot, Financial Planner, Banking, Government, Space/Aircraft industry</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your class teacher or • Ms A Droogan (Head of Mathematics Department) 		


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>A Level Further Mathematics</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand mathematics and mathematical processes to promote confidence, foster enjoyment and provide foundation for further study; • To extend range of mathematical skills and techniques; • To understand how different areas of mathematics are connected; • To apply mathematics in other fields of study; • To make logical and reasonable decisions when solving problems and communicate solutions clearly; • To construct mathematical proofs; • To solve problems in familiar or unfamiliar contexts; • To use diagrams and graphs to aid solution to problems; • To interpret solutions and communicate their interpretation correctly; • To use technology such as computers and calculators effectively and recognise when such equipment is inappropriate; • To take responsibility for their own learning and the evaluation of their own mathematical development. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS1 Pure: Further Algebra and Functions, Complex Numbers, Matrices, Vectors. • AS2 Mechanics and Statistics: Hooke's Law, Work and Energy, Power, Circular Motion, Further particle equilibrium, Resultant and relative velocity, Further circular motion, Gravitation, Dimensions, Sampling, Probability, Statistical distributions, Bivariate distributions. 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A2 1 Pure: Proof, Further algebra and functions, Complex numbers, Further calculus, Polar co-ordinates, Hyperbolic functions, Differential equations, • A2 2 Mechanics and Statistics: Simple harmonic motion, Damped oscillations, Centre of mass, Frameworks, Further circular motion, Linear combinations of independent variables, Sampling and estimation, The t-distribution, χ^2 tests 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS 1 Pure: One paper 1 hour 30 minutes worth 50% of AS and 20% of A2</p> <p>AS 2 Applied: One paper 1 hour 30 minutes worth 50% of AS and 20% of A2</p> <p>A2 1 Pure: One paper 2 hours 15 minutes worth 30% of A2</p> <p>A2 2 Applied: One paper 2 hours 15 minutes worth 30% of A2</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Analytical, problem solving, numerical, investigative, communication, IT, logical thinking, teamwork, perseverance, critical thinking, time management, working independently.</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>Engineer, Accountant, Actuary, Software Developer, Computer Programmer, Game Designer, Doctor, Pharmacist, Research, Teacher, Statistician, Systems Analyst, Pilot, Financial Planner, Banking, Government, Space/Aircraft industry</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your class teacher or • Ms A Droogan (Head of Mathematics Department) 		


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>MOVING IMAGE ARTS</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD:</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop creative and critical abilities in writing, directing, editing, producing and analysing film works. • develop creative enterprise, technical literacy, research, analysis and evaluation skills, plus leadership, planning, organisation and people management skills. • provide a solid foundation for progression into higher education and employment within the film and television industries. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory - Section A – Hitchcock and the Classical Hollywood Style, Section B – Formalism: Early European Cinema and American Expressionism • Practical Portfolio– Investigate Realist and Formalist filmmaking techniques Students must produce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a Statement of Intention detailing plans for creation of a personal film or animation influenced by the work of selected filmmakers ○ pre-production materials including script, shotlist, storyboard and director's notebook ○ a 3–4 minute narrative film sequence or 1½ – 2 minute animation sequence based on provided stimuli; and ○ an evaluation of the success of the film in relation to stated intentions 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theory Section A – Realism: Narrative and Visual Style, Section B – Creative Exercise, Section C – Comparative Analysis • Practical Portfolio– Advanced techniques in research and production Students must produce: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ an Illustrated Essay detailing plans for creation of a personal film or animation influenced by the work of selected filmmaker ○ pre-production materials including script, shotlist, storyboard and director's notebook ○ a 4-7 minute narrative film sequence or 2 - 3.5 minute animation sequence; and ○ • an evaluation of the success of the film in relation to stated intentions 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS Theory (critical response) Students take a 1.5hr long, online examination with questions on clips from set study areas. (16% of A level) Practical Portfolio (detailed above) Teachers mark the coursework and CCEA moderate the results (24% of A level)</p> <p>A2 Theory (critical response) Students take a 2.25hr long, online examination with questions on clips from set study areas and an unseen script. (24% of A level) Practical Portfolio (detailed above) Teachers mark the coursework and CCEA moderate the results (36% of A level)</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>Moving Image Arts offers a challenging and rewarding course for students intent on any career path and includes many transferable skills, for example independent thinking, creative thinking, decision making, teamwork and setting and meeting deadlines. It promotes developing creative enterprise, technical literacy, research, analysis and evaluation skills, plus leadership, planning, organisation and people management skills. Moving Image Arts is a key driver of the creative industries. It is an ideal course for any student wanting to pursue a career in film, TV, games development or internet content provision.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mrs J Trainor (Subject Co ordinator)</p>

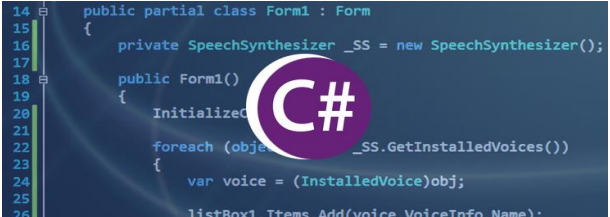
<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>MUSIC</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD:</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <p>If you have a keen interest in music or are looking to pursue a career in music, A Level Music teaches students to develop performance and composition skills and to further develop knowledge of a variety of music. Musicians need to be performing at a Grade 5 standard at least on entering the course and if you have not completed GCSE Music grade 5 theory is required.</p>		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <p>Music for Orchestra 1700–1900 Sacred Vocal Music (anthems) Secular Vocal Music (musicals)</p>		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <p>Music for Orchestra in the Twentieth Century Sacred Vocal Music (mass/requiem mass) Secular Vocal Music 1600 to the present day</p>		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS A solo performance at a level equivalent to at least Grade 6 standard of 5 to 7 minutes duration and a viva voce assessed by a Visiting Examiner (13% A level) An internally assessed composition task or composition task with music technology of 1½ to 2½ minutes' duration (13% A level) 1-hour test of aural perception and a 2 hour written examination (14% A level)</p> <p>A2 A solo performance at a level equivalent to at least Grade 7 standard of 8 to 10 minutes duration and a viva voce assessed by a Visiting Examiner (19.5 A level) An internally assessed composition task or composition task with music technology of 2 to 3 minutes' duration (19.5 A level) 1 hour test of aural perception and a 2 hour written examination (21% A level)</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as a musician; • Reflect critically on your own work and the work of others; and • Progress to further study and/or employment 		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrumentalists, singers, accompanists, conductors, composers and arrangers. • Music teaching jobs in Schools, Further education and in Music colleges and Peripatetically. • Employment in the recording industry and media as a composer, producer or sound engineer or presenter or researcher • Instrument making and repair • Arts management, music publishing, musicology and music journalism. 		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>	<p>T Clarke (Head of Music)</p>	


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>NUTRITION AND FOOD SCIENCE</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	 <p>Nutrition and Food Science</p>
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop and demonstrate knowledge, understanding and skills of factors which impact upon us as humans – for example, diet and health; resource management to meet human needs in a diverse and ever changing society. • Examine consumer behaviour when making food purchasing decisions and consider the issues and implications of consumer food choice. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Principles of Nutrition • Diet, Lifestyle and Health 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food Security and Sustainability • Research Project 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS</p> <p>Two external written examinations, 1 hour 30 minutes each. Students answer all short questions in Section A and a choice of extended writing questions in Section B. Each module is worth 50% of the AS qualification.</p> <p>A2</p> <p>One external written examination, 2 hours 30 minutes. Students answer a compulsory structured question in Section A and three extended writing questions from a choice of four in Section B. This exam is worth 30% of the A level.</p> <p>Internal assessment - Students complete a 4000 word research-based project of their own choice. Teachers mark the projects, and CCEA moderate the results. This assessment task is worth 30% of the A level.</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Critical thinking skills (problem-solving and decision making); self-management and teamwork, cross-curricular skills (Communication, Using Maths, Using ICT) and research skills.</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>Nutrition and Food Science is very useful in relation to jobs in the Agri-Food sector, one of employment sectors in the Northern Ireland economy experiencing the strongest growth. Many Food Science courses will also require a science at A-Level.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mrs McKee (Head of Department)</p>


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>PE</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD:</p> <p>AQA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide students with the opportunity to explore a broad range of topics within Physical Education and Sport. • To encourage and reward students for long term commitment to improved sporting performance. • To help students learn how to analyse performance and consider ways of improving performance. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applied anatomy and physiology • Skill acquisition • Sport and society • Biomechanical movement • Sport psychology • Sport and society and the role of technology in physical activity and sport 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As at AS but more depth in each topic 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS: 70% Examination (1 x 2-hour paper), 15% Practical performance in chosen sport, 15 % Written Analysis of Performance</p> <p>A2 (Linear): 70% Examination (2 x 2-hour paper), 15% Practical performance in chosen sport, 15 % Written Analysis of Performance</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Sport specific skills Analysis skills Digital skills – capturing video footage, storing footage. Presentation skills Written communication skills</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>The most common courses that A-level PE students pursue at University are Sports Science, Physiotherapy, Podiatry and Teaching.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>	<p>Mr Knox/Miss Hill/P E Dept.</p>	


<p>SUBJECT: Physics</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting and cultivating a deep understanding of and curiosity for the world and space around us. • Developing problem solving skills and thinking strategies, deepening critical and clear thinking. • Equipping pupils to access a wide spectrum of careers whilst becoming future leaders and thinkers, positively impacting upon society. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1: Forces, Base Units, Electricity, Momentum, Moments. • Unit 2: Waves, Lenses, Vision, Quantum, Wave-Particle duality and Astronomy. • Unit 3: Practical Techniques and Practical Theory including sources of error, uncertainties by calculation and graphical analysis. 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit 1: Deformation of Solids, Thermal Physics, Harmonic Motions, Atomic and Nuclear Physics including Fission and Fusion Technologies. • Unit 2: Gravitational, Electric and Magnetic Fields, Capacitors, Particle Accelerators and Fundamental Particles. • Unit 3: Practical Techniques and Practical Theory. 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS (40% overall): Units 1&2: 2x1h45min exams, 40% of AS, 16% of A Level (each). Unit 3: 2x1hr components, one practical, one theory, 20% of AS combined. In total Unit 3 equates to 8% of the final A Level grade.</p> <p>A2 (60% overall): Units 1&2: 2x2hr exams, with each exam worth 24% of A Level. Unit 3: 2x1hr components, one practical, one theory. 12% of A Level. (All exams externally marked.)</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing logical and conceptual thinking skills. • Developing pupils' mathematical skills and application. • Developing teamwork, leadership and communication skills. • Developing an appreciation of the scientific method. • Developing initiative and problem-solving skills. 		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics demonstrates an individual's ability to deal with complexity and varied forms of information whilst often working as a team. A skill that has crossover in every workplace. • Traditional careers include the engineering and medical disciplines but with growing Space, Energy, Data, IT and AI sectors Physics can be a pathway into all these careers. 		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mr A. Miller (HoD)</p>


<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>RELIGIOUS STUDIES</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop pupil interest and curiosity for the academic study of religion and philosophy. • To enable students to think and reflect critically on their own studies whilst developing their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their learning; • To develop the ability to make responsible judgements on significant theological, philosophical and ethical issues. 		
<p>AS TOPICS: The CCEA Course is followed by all students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two units of study are Religious Ethics and Philosophy of Religion. • A range of ethical and philosophical topics are studied such as moral theory, life and death issues, the existence of God and the problem of evil. 		
<p>A2 TOPICS: CCEA course.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two units of study are again Religious Ethics and Philosophy of Religion. • New topics which were not studied in Year 13 include religion and science, life after death, human rights, justice, law and punishment. • At Year 14 an additional area of study is the 'synoptic assessment' which encourages students to reflect on their understanding of the subject as a whole. 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS 40% of the full A-Level grade. Two written exam papers - 1hr 20mins.</p> <p>A2 60% of the full A-Level grade. Two written exam papers - 2hrs.</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>Religious Studies aims to develop a wide range of practical and critical thinking skills. Students develop their capacity to reason, reflect and analyse abstract ideas and arguments; communication and teamwork; problem solving and leadership. Students also learn to research and read independently, prepare for presentations and develop the necessary confidence for working under pressure.</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>Graduates in Theology, Religious Studies and Philosophy are highly sought-after in the modern workplace. Our students gain a strong academic training in critical thinking skills and have the ability to work with a wide range of people and issues. They have also acquired the maturity to make informed, well-balanced arguments and judgements - a highly valued skill in the context of employment.</p> <p>On leaving school our students find themselves in a wide range of professions such as law, social work, medicine/nursing, publishing, teaching and youth work.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>NH Martin, Head of Religious Studies</p>

<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Software Systems Development</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD:</p> <p>CCEA</p>	 <pre> 14 public partial class Form1 : Form 15 { 16 private SpeechSynthesizer _SS = new SpeechSynthesizer(); 17 18 public Form1() 19 { 20 InitializeComponent(); 21 foreach (obj in _SS.GetInstalledVoices()) 22 { 23 var voice = (InstalledVoice)obj; 24 listBox1.Items.Add(voice.VoiceInfo.Name); 25 } 26 } </pre>
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills in programming, software development and testing using the C# programming language To develop effective management skills and understand industry methodologies in effectively managing teams and projects relating to software development 		
<p>AS TOPICS: Introduction to Object Oriented Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Defining data (data types, objects, methods, static variables, attributes, properties and interfaces) Program control structures (sequence, repetition and selection) Objects and classes (encapsulation, inheritance and polymorphism) Data structures (string manipulation and static arrays) Exception handling and managing input/output Testing an object-oriented application Event driven programming (portfolio based evidence provided) 		
<p>A2 TOPICS: Systems approaches and database concepts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reasons for systems development Systems Methodologies and managing projects Testing (black/white box, unit, integration and system testing) Database concepts and entity relationship (ER) models Normalisation and Structured Query Language (SQL) 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS: Unit 1 – Introduction to Object Oriented Development</p> <p>AS: Unit 2 – Event Driven Programming</p> <p>A2: Unit 1 – Systems Approaches and Database concepts</p> <p>A2: Unit 2 – Implementing Solutions</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Effective communication (interpret, analyse and present information) Numeracy (understanding mathematical language, calculations, estimations, interpretation of results and present data in a variety of formats) Self-management (planning, target setting, monitoring and reviewing progress and effectively managing time) Working with others (learn with and from others and influence group thinking and decision making) Problem solving and ICT capabilities 		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>There are opportunities for IT and computing graduates across many industries carrying out a range of roles. This can lead to employment in a range of industries, including retail, financial services, telecommunications, broadcast media, digital media, manufacturing, transport, tourism, the public sector and healthcare.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mrs K Stuart kstuart688@c2ken.net</p>

<p>SUBJECT: Spanish</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop an enthusiasm for and an understanding of the language and culture in a variety of contexts and genres; • communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the Spanish language for a range of purposes; and • acquire knowledge and advanced skills that will help them progress to further study, higher education or employment. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Relationships - different family structures; • roles, responsibilities and relationships within families; • challenges for families; • intergenerational issues; and • influences on young people, for example peers, family and friends. • Culture and Lifestyle - physical well-being, for example diet or exercise; • risk-taking behaviour, for example smoking, alcohol and drugs or extreme sports; • dealing with stress and challenges, for example school or examinations; • hobbies and interests, for example sport or music; • the arts, film, fashion and design; • social media and new technology; and • holidays, festivals and tourism. 		
<p>A2 TOPICS: Young People in Society • part-time jobs; • education and employment; • career planning – aspirations and/or intentions; • young people and democracy; • European citizenship – advantages, disadvantages and opportunities; and • societal attitudes and young people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Place in a Changing World • equality/inequality and discrimination/prejudice; • poverty at home and abroad – causes, consequences and measures to combat it; • immigration and emigration – causes, benefits and related issues; • multicultural society and cultural identity – benefits and challenges; • causes, consequences and resolution of conflict; and • sustainable living and environmental issues. 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting): AS –Speaking – 30%, Listening / Reading – 40%, Writing -30% (40% of A Level) A2 – Speaking – 18%, Listening / Reading – 24%, Writing – 18% (60% of A Level)</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <p>You will be encouraged to develop your conversational and communication skills and learn how to cope in practical situations when you travel to Spain or another Spanish-speaking country. Learning a modern language is a vital part of your studies as it helps you in other skill areas such as learning how to express yourself and communicate well, doing presentations, working with other people and writing accurately.</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>Aside from the traditional areas of translation and teaching, Modern Languages are frequently seen as providing the skill set for computing when combined with Mathematics. Languages also provide valuable support to those studying Business, International Relations, International Studies and European Studies, all of which develop cultural and language awareness that is vital to global business operations. This is particularly the case when combined with History and Government & Politics. Languages combined with University studies in Law provide a strong foundation for working in Government and in international business. Modern European languages also provide the foundation from which the languages of the emerging economies in countries such as Brazil, Russia, India and China can be learned.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>L. Brown</p>

<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Sociology</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>AQA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS: Studying Sociology offers insight into social and cultural issues. It will help you develop a multi-perspective and critical approach to understanding issues around culture, family, crime, religion, childhood and social power.</p>		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Families and Households • Education with Research Methods 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beliefs in Society • Crime and Deviance with Theories and Methods 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS – Two written papers (1 hour 30mins each) – 100% of AS grade</p> <p>A2- Three written papers (2 hours each) – 100% of A2 grade</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED: Communication Skills / Interpersonal Skills / Analytical Skills / Problem Solving Cross-Cultural Understanding / Leadership Skills / Research Skills</p>		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY: Law / Business / Administration / Health and Welfare Service / Education Journalism / Public Relations / Police / Marketing / Research / Politics</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>	<p>J Gunson / A Allen</p>	

<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Technology and Design</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD:</p> <p>CCEA</p>	
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop subject knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to technology and design; • demonstrate a critical and analytical approach to problem-solving; and • make informed decisions about further learning opportunities and career choices within the sector. 		
<p>AS TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Materials • Systems and Control • Internal Assessment – Product Development 		
<p>A2 TOPICS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Systems and Control • Internal Assessment – System Design and Manufacture 		
<p>ASSESSMENT (including weighting):</p> <p>AS: External written examinations: Paper 1: Core area of study Paper 2: Specialist area of study Each paper is one hour long. There will be a 20 minute break between papers – 50% of AS and 20% of A level. Internal assessment: You will produce a design folder and a practical outcome. Externally moderated - 50% of AS and 20% of A level.</p> <p>A2: External written examination: You will answer two questions on your specialist area of study, i.e. electronic systems and control. The paper is two hours long – 30% of A level. Internal assessment: You will produce a design folder and a practical outcome. Externally moderated – 30% of A level.</p>		
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop creative and innovative ideas; • develop higher order thinking skills; • recognise and overcome challenges; • develop design and making skills; • study a specialist area of technology and design in depth; • develop an understanding of contemporary design and technology practices; and • develop ICT skills in communication, graphics and making. 		
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>The range of career options open to you is very wide due to the nature of GCE Technology and Design as it involves problem-solving, application of scientific principles to the design of products, the process of design itself and the use of materials and techniques such as computer-aided design. This can provide you with a useful basis for entry into careers such as product design, engineering, graphic design, teaching and architecture.</p>		
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>		<p>Mr. M. Patton</p>

<p>SUBJECT:</p> <p>Level 3 Applied Diploma in Tourism</p>	<p>EXAM BOARD</p> <p>WJEC</p>							
<p>SUBJECT AIMS:</p> <p>The tourism industry is one of the biggest growth sectors in the UK economy. This course offers students the opportunity to pursue the major issues in the area.</p> <p>The course aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • give learners the opportunity to enter Higher Education and employment in the Travel and Tourism sector • give learners the opportunity to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life. 								
<p>TOPICS and ASSESSMENT:</p> <p>Students will complete two mandatory units in Year 13:</p> <p>Unit 1: The United Kingdom Tourism Product: This unit is assessed externally through an examination. The aim of this unit is to understand what the United Kingdom offers to inbound and domestic tourists and to appreciate the range of employment opportunities available in the tourism industry. Links to the industry have been developed with trips to the Slieve Donard Hotel and local Visitor Information Centre.</p> <p>Unit 2: Worldwide Tourism Destinations: This unit involves the completion of coursework throughout the year. This unit explores the idea that all tourism destinations have a range of attractions and facilities and aims to give students an understanding that destinations acquire an image and reputation that affects the types of tourists to whom they appeal.</p> <p>Students complete two further mandatory units in Year 14:</p> <p>Unit 3: The Dynamic Tourism Industry, which is externally assessed. In this unit, students learn that tourism is an ever-changing industry which has to adapt quickly to external pressures and changes in society at the national and global scale. Again, links to local attractions and businesses have taken place with visits to the Giant's Causeway and Salhouse Hotel, Ballycastle.</p> <p>Unit 4: Event and Itinerary Planning This, again, involves pupils completing coursework and students gain an understanding of the process of event management and the nature of tour itineraries within the UK.</p>								
<p>Weighting</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Year 13:</td> <td>Unit 1: 25%</td> <td>Unit 2: 25%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Year 14:</td> <td>Unit 3: 25%</td> <td>Unit 4: 25%</td> </tr> </table>			Year 13:	Unit 1: 25%	Unit 2: 25%	Year 14:	Unit 3: 25%	Unit 4: 25%
Year 13:	Unit 1: 25%	Unit 2: 25%						
Year 14:	Unit 3: 25%	Unit 4: 25%						
<p>SKILLS PROMOTED include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • creativity and innovation • problem solving, planning and organising • critical thinking, analysis and evaluation • independence, teamwork and professionalism 								
<p>EMPLOYABILITY:</p> <p>The qualification will prompt research, investigation and consideration of many aspects of tourism which will promote an understanding of the career opportunities available. The qualification has been designed to support access to Higher Education undergraduate degree courses such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Tourism Management <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing <input type="checkbox"/> Business <input type="checkbox"/> International Tourism <input type="checkbox"/> Event Management <p>The qualification will also enable learners to gain the required understanding and skills to be able to consider employment within a wide spectrum of tourism sectors.</p>								
<p>For further information, please contact:</p>	<p>Mrs. J. Smyth Head of Geography</p>							

BTEC LEVEL 3

*In partnership with the South Eastern
Regional College*

The new specification BTECs are made up of a number of units, and students will be assessed on each unit throughout the course, including by external examination. Unit results are graded as DISTINCTION*, DISTINCTION, MERIT or PASS, as opposed to the more familiar A*-E classification. Students gaining BTEC qualifications will also earn UCAS points at the same time. These subjects have A-Level equivalence and are accepted by universities. The next few pages detail our courses in:

- Sport
- Engineering
- ICT

BTEC Level 3 in SPORT

This BTEC Level 3 **QUALIFICATION** offers a specialist qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment within the appropriate vocational sector, in this case the sport and leisure industry. The BTEC Level 3 is a qualification which can extend a learner's programme of study and give vocational emphasis.

BTECs are made up of a number of units and students will be assessed on each unit throughout the course. BTEC Sport is taken by Mr Knox and a member of staff from SERC.



Year 13

- Principles of Anatomy and Physiology in Sport (External exam June, with a repeat option in January of Y14)
- Practical Skills Performance (coursework unit)

In Year 14 students extend the specialist work-related focus of the BTEC Level 3 Certificate and cover the key knowledge and practical skills required in the appropriate vocational sector.

Year 14

- Application of Fitness Testing (assessed by a set task)
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry (coursework)

Credit is awarded on completion of a number of practical and theory tasks over the course of the two years. It is important that you have a genuine interest in Sport.

For further information contact Mr Knox or Mr Dawson

BTEC Level 3 in Engineering

The engineering sector offers huge potential for learners. The UK is currently regarded as a world leader in sectors including renewable energy, space, low carbon, aerospace, creative industries, utilities, automotive, agri-food and bioscience.

By 2020 Engineering enterprises are projected to have 2.74 million job openings, including over 400,000 technician roles where the predominantly ageing workforce is expected to retire over the next 10 years.



The BTEC Level 3 in Engineering is primarily a Technical Level qualification, equivalent in size to an A level.

As the qualification was designed in close collaboration with industry, it is fully supported by the Sector Skills Council (SSC) for the engineering sector, SEMTA. A range of professional organisations/employers in the sector have also confirmed their support for this BTEC Level 3 in Engineering. This means it is a highly respected route for those who wish to move into employment in the sector, either directly or following further study (e.g. at a college or university).

There is a mathematical component to this course, but it is expected that GCSE mathematics will have given the students a grounding for this.

Year 13

- Engineering Principles (assessed by external exam – June only)
- Delivery of Engineering Processes Safely as a Team (coursework)

Year 14

- Engineering Product Design and Manufacture (set task)
- Computer Aided Design in Engineering (coursework)

For further information contact Mr Patton or Mr Dawson

BTEC Level 3 in ICT

This BTEC Level 3 offers a specialist qualification that focuses on particular aspects of employment within the appropriate vocational sector. The BTEC Level 3 is a qualification which can extend a learner's programme of study and give vocational emphasis. The BTEC Level 3 is equivalent to a full A-Level.



Year 13

- Creating Systems to Manage Information (set task)
- Using Social Media in Business (coursework)

Year 14

- Information Technology Systems (Set Task)
- Website Development (coursework)

All assessment for the BTEC qualifications in this specification (internal and external) is criterion referenced, based on the achievement of specified learning outcomes. Each unit within the qualification has specified assessment and grading criteria which are to be used for grading purposes. A final unit grade can be awarded at pass, merit or distinction:

- To achieve a 'pass' a learner must have satisfied all the pass assessment criteria
- To achieve a 'merit' a learner must additionally have satisfied all the merit grading criteria
- To achieve a 'distinction' a learner must additionally have satisfied all the distinction grading criteria.

Assessment units will be **current**, i.e. to reflect the most recent developments and issues; **local**, i.e. to reflect the employment context and **flexible** to reflect learner needs, i.e. at a time and in a way that matches the student's requirements so that they can demonstrate achievement.

For further information contact Mrs Stuart or Mr Dawson

ADDITIONAL COURSES

All students take the following compulsory courses in Year 13. These courses are not examined.

1. COURSE TITLE - CAREERS EDUCATION

Careers Education is a compulsory module aimed at building self-awareness and confidence through teamwork activities and self-marketing exercises. Students are given the chance to develop interpersonal skills through presentations and interview techniques. Decision-making is one of the 3 key skills explored together with a range of other transferable skills. University application procedures are dealt with in detail as well as alternatives to Higher Education. All pupils participate in a Work Experience programme, Mock Interviews in the Spring term and group guidance interviews in specific career areas.

2. COURSE TITLE - RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

This personal development and preparation for life beyond school course is a combination of visiting speakers and teacher-convened classes, looking at a wide spectrum of topics e.g. community responsibility, financial responsibility, safe driving, alcohol, drugs, faith issues etc.

6TH FORM COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAMME

Down High School's Community Action Programme is designed to give students an opportunity to **volunteer** and make a difference to the work of a wide range of local organisations. Possible roles could include assisting with sports coaching, homework clubs, nurseries, primary schools, nursing homes, hospitals, charity shops, churches, conservation groups, animal welfare groups, community associations and other voluntary organisations.

To be eligible to participate in the scheme you need to have consecutive private study periods on a given morning or afternoon and be prepared to spend ***at least one hour*** assisting in the host organisation. The onus is on you to organise your own placement and transport.

Participating in the Community Action Programme will allow you to make a positive difference in the local community, help you to develop as a person and strengthen your university application and employability.

Further information on the 6th form Community Action Programme is available from Mrs Hamilton (Head of 6th Form)

