CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

GCSE SUBJECT CHOICE BOOKLET

for GCSE courses 2026-28

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet outlines the GCSE courses on offer at Carrickfergus Grammar School in September 2026 and describes the knowledge and skills you will acquire in each of the subjects. If you are to succeed at GCSE, you must take responsibility for your learning; this begins with careful selection of subjects which complement each other and reflect your aspirations, ambitions, interests and abilities. In addition to this booklet, advice will be given by subject teachers and members of the Careers Team, to help you choose the best possible combination of subjects.

To meet individual pupils' needs we have a broad and balanced range of courses:

Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Child Development, Digital Technology, Drama, English Language, English Literature, Food and Nutrition, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Studies, Spanish, Technology.

What are GCSEs?

- General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) qualifications are important for ensuring movement into further and higher education, for careers and employment.
- Often you MUST have an A*-B pass in a subject at GCSE before you can study it at 'A' Level. In most cases at Carrickfergus Grammar School, at least a 'B' grade must be achieved. In Chemistry and Physics an 'A' grade is necessary, and an 'A' grade in Mathematics or 'B' grade in Further Mathematics is required to study Mathematics at 'A' Level.
- Subjects such as English and Mathematics require at least a 'C' grade at GCSE, and in some cases higher, to ensure entry into University.
- Pupils would be expected to achieve at least 36 points to guarantee entry into the Sixth Form at Carrickfergus Grammar School, including at least three 'B' grades.

GCSE Grade (CCEA)	GCSE Grade (non-CCEA)	Return Points
A*	9	9
A	8/7	7
B	6	6
C*	5	5
C	4	4

Choosing GCSE subjects:

There are a number of subjects you must study. These are:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- At least one Science
- At least one Modern Language for the majority of pupils.

All subjects are equally demanding both on your time and ability; there is no such thing as an 'EASY' option.

Guidance in making your choice:

- Talk to those who can give you good reliable advice:
    - Careers teachers, subject teacher, Head of Department;
    - Form Teacher;
    - Head of Careers, Mr Martin, or the Vice-Principal, Miss McKinley.
- Visit the careers library or the Careers Google Classroom;
- Discuss options with parents / guardians.

Some reasons for keeping pathways open:

- Career choices are changing all the time. You could be ignoring exciting possibilities which you have not yet heard of!
- You as a person will develop and change in the coming years up to 18. You will learn and develop new skills and qualities. These might open different career pathways to you.

Factors that may influence your choice of subject:

- Choose subjects that give you a balanced curriculum: your choices should leave future plans flexible;
- Choose subjects you need: use careers lessons, booklets, presentations, your own research and discussions with key staff to have an idea of required subjects for a certain type of employment;
- Choose subjects that you are good at: use your previous tracking tests and examination scores to guide you;
- Interests and aptitudes: you may know at this stage your broad areas of career interest, e.g. active, practical, scientific or artistic.

Decision on the number of Sciences:

Two or three sciences are more or less a requirement for anyone contemplating entering a scientific or engineering career. If you have a career in mind such as veterinary medicine, dentistry, medicine or pharmacy, then three Sciences must be taken.

Useful Information:

www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers – Northern Ireland based careers website to help you and your parents make informed choices about your future career pathway by letting you carry out a variety of searches on occupational areas.

www.prospects.ac.uk – a wide range of careers advice, including quizzes to investigate and match interests, aptitudes and skills to potential careers.

www.ucas.com – provides a comprehensive guide to all degree courses and diplomas offered in the UK.

www.ccea.org.uk – the Examination Board used by all of our subjects at GCSE level. Whilst primarily written for teachers, the individual subject pages, in particular the pupil guidance in the 'support' sections will provide useful information for pupils.

www.russellgroup.ac.uk – a group of 24 universities, including Queen's University, Belfast. Some of these universities will accept a maximum of 1 Applied A Level out of the 3 or 4 A Levels an applicant is studying. The 'Informed Choices' section of the Russell Group's website https://www.informedchoices.ac.uk/ may be particularly helpful.

www.cao.ie – information about applying to universities and other Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Ireland.

UNIVERSITY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The table below and overleaf provides information on potential 'A' Level requirements (and preceding GCSE requirements) for a small number of popular University courses and degree qualifications. A larger list of higher level courses and essential / useful 'A' Level qualifications can be found in Appendix 1. Information on such courses is fluid and at the discretion of individual higher education institutions. Some universities, in particular those belonging to the Russell Group (this includes Queen's University, Belfast) will accept only one 'Applied' A Level out of the three or four subjects an applicant may be studying. The information provided in the table and in Appendix 1 is meant only as a general, broad steer, and it is the responsibility of pupils to research and satisfy themselves about the specific entrance criteria for Universities of choice.

COURSES	GCSE REQUIREMENTS	A LEVEL SUBJECTS REQUIRED	OTHER TESTS REQUIRED by SOME UNIVERSITIES
Accountancy	Maths English Language (at least 'B' grades often required)	Some require Maths. CGS also offers Accounting specifically	
Actuarial Studies	Maths (at least 'A' grade often required). English Language	Maths. Some require Further Maths.	
Architecture	Maths English Language Ability in Art (portfolio essential). A Science*** may be required.	Some require Maths and Physics. Art is also desirable, and for some courses a requirement.	
Computing and Information Technology	Maths	Any Computing Mathematical, Scientific or Technological subject.	
Dentistry*	Maths English Language Science***. (A*/A/B stipulated in some subjects)	Chemistry ('A' grade) Biology or another Science subject.	YES
Education*	Maths English Language (+ English Literature for Scottish Colleges). Science*** subject.	Depends on 'main' subject for teaching. At least two other subjects.	CRB Enhanced level clearance and health checks required.
ENGINEERING	Maths English Language Science***.	Maths and / or Physics or another Science subject or Technology and Design.	Cambridge may use STEP as part of conditional offer.

COURSES	GCSE REQUIREMENTS	A LEVEL SUBJECTS REQUIRED	OTHER TESTS REQUIRED by SOME UNIVERSITIES
Law	Maths English Language	None specific. Candidates offering Art and Music need to check if these are accepted.	
Medicine*	Maths English Language Science***. A good range of Science and non-Science subjects will be required with very high grades	Chemistry. Maths, Physics or Biology. Most courses require Chemistry and at least two of the other subjects mentioned above. Most require Biology to at least AS Level.	YES CRB clearance also required.
Nursing / Midwifery*	Maths English Language Science***.	Science subjects required for some courses.	Occupational Health check. CRB clearance also required.
Occupational Therapy	Maths English Language Science***.	None specific, in general. A Social Science qualification is preferred.	Occupational Health check. CRB clearance also required.
Optometry	Maths English Language Science***. Good grades required.	2/3 Sciences recommended. At least 2 (sometimes 3) of AS Maths, Physics, Chemistry, Biology.	
Pharmacy	Maths English Language Science***.	Chemistry. At least one or two other Science qualifications. Some courses specify Biology.	

COURSES	GCSE REQUIREMENTS	A LEVEL SUBJECTS REQUIRED	OTHER TESTS REQUIRED by SOME UNIVERSITIES
Physiotherapy	Maths English Language Science***. Many Universities specify A*-B grades in specific subjects.	2 Sciences preferred. Some courses require Biology.	Occupational Health check. CRB clearance also required.
Podiatry	Maths English Language Science***.	Ulster University requires one Science subject. Some require and / or prefer a Science subject, such as Biology.	HqB Tuberculosis Tetanus Immunisation. CRB clearance also required.
Product Design	Maths English Language Science (Physics preferred). Art and Design / Technology and Design.	Maths and at least one other from either a Science, Technology or Art and Design	
Radiography	Maths / English Language Science***.	At least one or two Science qualifications. (Biology often required or preferred)	Visit to or Work Experience in a hospital imaging department.
Speech Therapy	Maths English Language A Modern Language. Science***.	At least one science - Biology may be stipulated. University of Ulster requires one from English, Maths, Modern Language or a Science.	YES
Veterinary Medicine**	Maths (at least a grade B) English Language Science***. A good range of Science and non-Science subjects will be required with high grades	Chemistry. Some courses also require Biology.	Health checks.

* Relevant work experience required.

** Relevant work experience required (large and small breeds)

*** The particular Science(s) required will vary within individual universities; it is recommended for some courses that all three Sciences are studied at GCSE level.

USEFUL WEBSITES:

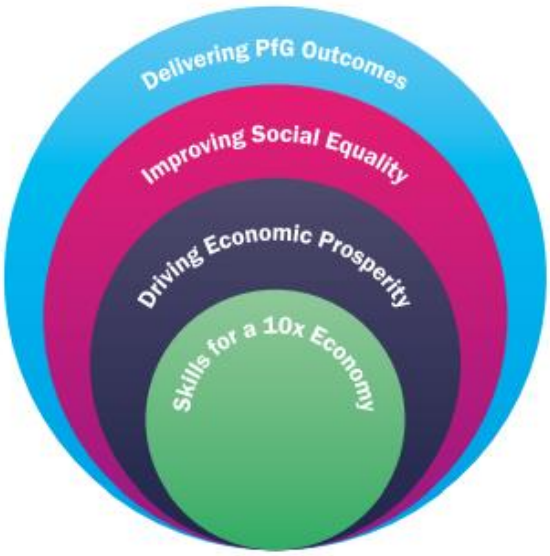
www.prospects.ac.uk; www.ucas.ac.uk; www.russellgroup.ac.uk

LABOUR MARKET TRENDS

In 2022, the Department for the Economy in Northern Ireland published its 'Skills for a 10x Economy' which sets a strategic framework for the development of our skills system to 2030. The Strategy was developed over several years and is based on a substantial programme of research and engagement to deliver an evidence-based informed Strategy.

https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/economy/Skills-Strategy-for-Northern-Ireland-Skills-for-a-10x-economy.pdf

This document sets out the vision for delivering an economy that is ten times stronger, more prosperous, more resilient and more successful in a post-COVID context.



2021 Northern Ireland Skills Barometer

The Northern Ireland (NI) Skills Barometer was commissioned by the Department for the Economy (DfE) to provide a better understanding of the future skills needs across the NI economy. The most recently published report is available via the link below.

The aim is for young people to make well informed decisions based on the likely employment outcomes of different subject courses. For further information, please see this link. https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/economy/Skills-Barometer-2021-Summary-Report.pdf

Advice for Young People: The Skills Barometer should help young people (and their parents and careers advisors) when making career decisions and may encourage more to study in an under-supplied subject area.

However, young people should always study a subject which plays to their strengths and for which they have a strong interest. In some instances, pupils drift into a subject area in which they have no strong desire to find subsequent employment, as a consequence they are less likely to be successful both academically and professionally in that area.

ART and DESIGN

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-art-and-design-2017

Why study Art?

Art will give you an understanding and appreciation of a form of communication without words. It will develop your creative potential helping you approach problems in different and resourceful ways.

What will I be studying?

The course is 100% coursework, split into two sections, a portfolio of project work and ESP (externally set project) which is assessed by means of an exhibition at the end of Year 12.
The portfolio work is divided into two sections

- Fine Art
- Design work

What skills will I develop?

- Observational and analytical skills
- Drawing and painting skills
- Computer skills
- Photographic skills

Careers?

GCSE Art and Design helps to develop creative thinking and investigative skills which are key fundamentals for any employer.
Specifically, the areas of study within art provide the skills for careers in -

Product design	Ceramic design
Graphic design	Jewellery design
Fashion design	Textile design
Furniture design	Interior design
Teaching	

BIOLOGY

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-biology-2017

Why study Biology?

Biology is such an important subject which is frequently featured in the news and media. Gene cloning, threats to conservation, our landscape and new advances in medical treatment are just a few of the issues which are current news headlines. In Biology, we learn about the fascinating human body and how all its organ systems function. We study and do research on global issues of pollution and conservation, as well as learning about plants and why they are so important to the world around us.

What will I be studying?

YEAR 11

Unit 1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity - external written exam - 35%

YEAR 12

Unit 2: Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health - external written exam - 40%

Unit 3 - PRACTICAL SKILLS - SECTION A: 2 practicals are carried out in year 12 (externally marked) - 7.5% SECTION B: Written exam on Practical Biology (externally marked) - 17.5%

What skills will I develop?

Studying Biology will help you develop a wide variety of skills in a fun and interesting way. Here are a few of the skills which you would develop: - Planning investigations, collecting and recording evidence, presenting information clearly, drawing conclusions from information, supporting arguments, working well in a group, and very importantly, appreciating the wider effects that Biology has on many aspects of our lives.

Careers

Physiotherapists, teachers, nurses and midwives, doctors, dentists, vets, dieticians, forensic scientists, medical laboratory workers, workers for drug companies, researchers in human genetic diseases, cancer and the development of new drugs, agricultural workers, journalists, nature conservationists and many more!!

BUSINESS STUDIES

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-business-studies-2017

Why study Business Studies?

Business Studies is relevant to pupils regardless of the career they later pursue, since it is useful for everyone to have a basic understanding of the key operations and decision-making processes of modern businesses. Pupils also learn about businesses' recruitment and selection procedures, including interviews, thereby enhancing their employability in the future.

We endeavour to utilise input from local businesses where relevant, to help bring to life the core topics of marketing, finance, operations and human resources. In the past, pupils have visited local businesses such as Tayto, Ryobi and Chain Reaction amongst others.

What will I be studying?

The course is split into the following topics:

- Business Start Up
- Production
- Marketing
- Finance
- Managing People
- Business Growth
- Business Planning

What skills will I develop?

Business Studies helps us to develop analytical and evaluative skills, looking deeper into business situations to develop an understanding of the key operations and decision making processes of modern businesses. You will develop specific skills such as business analysis; marketing; research methods; sensitivity to organisational needs; and good quantitative skills. You will develop more general skills that are relevant to independent study; cross-cultural working; leadership and teamwork; communication and information technology. Good exam technique in Business Studies demands that pupils are able to express themselves eloquently and fluently in written English and much effort goes into developing this skill

Careers

Many employers search hard for applicants with commercial awareness and Business Studies pupils should have the edge.

Business Studies graduates are found in almost every employment sector. Typically, about 50% of our A-Level Business Studies pupils follow the theme of their subject and take University degrees in Accounting, Business, Economics, Finance, Human Resources, Law or Management.

After University, commercial roles are found within: retail; manufacturing; utilities like electricity, gas and water supply; construction; distribution; hotel and catering; transport; ICT; and business services. Relevant accounting and finance opportunities include those in professional services (chartered accountancy, consultancy, law and tax); those with major industrial and manufacturing organisations and finance - banking, city markets or insurance.

A-Level Business Studies has also proven a useful preparation for pupils who have gone on to study courses as diverse as Law, Engineering and Biomedical Science at the country's top Universities.

CHEMISTRY

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-chemistry-2017

Why study Chemistry?

Chemistry is the central science. Without a detailed understanding of Chemistry at a fundamental level, today's biologists, physicists, material scientists, Nano scientists and others would be able to do little worthwhile. Chemistry is the study of all materials and is vital to every aspect of life. It surrounds us from the moment we are born and throughout our lives.

We teach Chemistry because:

- we want to produce future chemists
- it helps to develop important skills needed in today's world
- we want people to become effective citizens in an increasingly scientific and technological world
- There are many challenges facing us today. These include:

Medicine
Not only do chemical scientists need to develop more drugs for treatment but they also need to find cures for many serious diseases.
Materials
New body parts have to be developed which will not be rejected by the body.
Molecular biology
We need to work out the three dimensional structure of proteins and the conformations they can adopt, and without this we cannot treat many diseases.
Environmental chemistry
We need to develop cleaner energy sources to combat issues facing us today e.g. climate change

What will I be studying?

Unit 1: Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions/ Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis

Unit 2: Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry

You will sit an external exam at the end of Year 11 and Year 12.

Unit 3 will assess Practical Skills and will be carried out in centres in the final year of the course and marked externally.

What skills will I develop?

- problem-solving;
- analytical, decision-making and numerate skills;
- interpersonal skills;
- practical skills;
- group work skills;
- communication skills.

Careers

Chemistry is a useful subject to have because it keeps your options open. The skills you will develop while studying chemistry can be used in many different careers. Remember, that if you want to work in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, and a whole host of other health related fields, you will need Chemistry.

The following (small) list should give you some idea of where Chemistry can take you!

Biochemist, Geologist, Biomedical scientist, Materials scientist, Biotechnologist, Pharmacist, Broadcasting (creative), Teacher, Chemical engineering, Vet, Dietician, Zoologist, Dentist, Doctor, Food scientist, Forensic scientist.

HOME ECONOMICS: CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-home-economics-child-development-2017

Why study Child Development?

This subject focuses on the study of the development of young children from conception to the age of five years. Pupils learn about how children develop physically, socially, intellectually and emotionally, and how they develop skills in communication.

Child Development GCSE aims to encourage an understanding of pregnancy, the responsibilities of parenthood and the overall needs of young children. Throughout the course, it emphasises the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The course will open gateways to a range of careers.

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into two sections –

- Parenthood, Pregnancy and the Newborn Baby (examined in Year 11)
- The Development of the Child (0-5 years) (examined in Year 12)
- There are two exams, one taken each year of the GCSE and there is one piece of Controlled Assessment which is completed in Year 12.

What skills will I develop?

This specification encourages pupils to adopt skills in decision-making and problem-solving. Pupils will explore a range of parenting skills aimed at providing quality care for an infant or young child, this would include the practical skills necessary for child care and food preparation. Pupils evaluate choices and decisions and become informed and discerning consumers equipped to provide a safe and stimulating environment for a young child. Skills in research will be developed and interpersonal skills will be a further acquisition. The controlled assessment task allows for the development of skills in research, data analysis and report writing.

Careers

This subject will appeal to those interested in working with children. Many health professionals will value the knowledge, understanding and skills adopted during the study of this G.C.S.E. Midwifery, Social Work or early years' education may appeal to some; others may be interested in child psychology. This subject is an excellent companion subject to both Biology and Food & Nutrition.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-digital-technology-2017

Why study Digital Technology?

Digital Technology encompasses the wide range of devices, services and networks which influence the way we live, work and learn. Computers and computer software are used to create, convert, access, store, organise, protect, present, communicate and transmit information in a variety of electronic forms. Technology is increasingly utilised to facilitate effective management and processing of information within many organisations and is inextricably infused in our everyday lives both in the workplace, and in our social and recreational activities.

This course aims to provide pupils with the technical knowledge, practical skills and innate understanding needed in a world increasingly dominated by the use of Digital Technology. In addition, pupils can further develop analytical and problem solving skills as they undertake specific practical tasks.

What will I be studying?

This qualification is available as: A digital authoring qualification focusing on multimedia.

All pupils study:

Unit 1: Digital Technology
Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts
Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice

The specification develops practical skills using a range of generic software tools and provides a sound basis for further study.

What skills will I develop?

Pupils are encouraged to:

- become independent and discerning users of Digital Technology who can make informed decisions about its use and are aware of its implications for individuals, organisations and society.
- acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of Digital Technology in a range of contexts.
- develop Digital Technology based solutions to solve problems.
- develop their understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental issues raised by Digital Technology.
- recognise potential risks when using Digital Technology and develop safe, secure and responsible practice.
- develop the skills needed for the workplace.

Careers

The study of Digital Technology can lead to careers such as computer programming, database management, website design, website management or graphic design. In addition, Digital Technology is also employed in a wide range of areas including healthcare, the financial sector and creative industries.

DRAMA

Examination Board: CCEA
https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-drama-2017

Why study Drama?
GCSE Drama is a gateway to a wide range of careers, not just those related to the entertainment industry. It is important for pupils to keep a creative channel open to ensure they have a full set of skills at GCSE. N. Ireland has a flourishing industry in theatre, television, and film.
Work experience places are offered free of charge to pupils by Screen Works NI, part of the educational company, ***Into Film***.

What will I be studying?
The GCSE offers a thorough grounding in acting skills, knowledge and understanding of theatre practitioners, rehearsal techniques, devising, scripting, working with others and self-management. Exam techniques will be acquired, as Drama is an academic subject.

There are 3 components to GCSE Drama:

1: Devised Performance (25%)
2: Scripted Performance (35%)
3: Knowledge and Understanding (40%)

For **Components 1 and 2**, pupils will choose a Performance or Design Pathway.

The Performance Pathway is

- Acting.

The Design Pathway is a choice of **ONE** of the following:

- Costume
  or
- Set Design

Component 3 is an open book exam on the set text 'Blood Brothers'.

GCSE Drama is a linear subject.

Additional Information

- Theatre Trips are organised once per year, this is an important aspect of the study of Drama.
- Opportunities for work experience are available free of charge, with permission from parents and school, at various times throughout the academic year through Screen Works, part of the educational organisation that supports the Film industry here: https://www.intofilm.org/screenworks.

What skills will I develop?

In addition to skills associated with Drama, transferrable skills are developed including:

- Self-confidence.
- Creativity
- Presentation skills
- Critical thinking and problem solving.
- Teamwork and collaboration.
- Professionalism and strong work ethic.
- Oral and written communications skills.
- Leadership.

These are all skills that future employers are keen to see in their employees.

Careers

Drama prepares pupils for any future career. There is growing wisdom in the world of science that creativity through the Arts is vital to success, as Albert Einstein once said, "the greatest scientist are artists as well."

Careers include:

Actor, Broadcast presenter, Community arts worker, Arts administrator, Media researcher, Primary School teaching, Post-Primary School teaching, Further education teacher, Human Resources, Administration

ENGLISH LANGUAGE and LITERATURE

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-english-language-2017

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-english-literature-2017

Why study English Language and Literature?

These subjects are the keystone on which learning develops. The study of English allows us to articulate, comprehend and effectively express in written form our views, ideas and beliefs. We will study all three literature genres and develop an understanding of a diverse range of social and historical contexts from a variety of cultures.

What will I be studying?

English Language

The course includes:

- Literary and non-literary texts
- Writing for a variety of audiences
- Speaking and listening situations

English Literature

The course includes:

- Close study of poetry, prose and drama from
- Shakespeare to the present day.

What skills will I develop?

English Language and Literature develop myriad skills integral to success both inside and outside the classroom. Essential skills such as the ability to reflect, reason and express critical responses are fostered throughout the course. Speaking and listening scenarios develop the ability to work meaningfully with others and encourage pupils to have the confidence to articulate and present their views appropriately and effectively. Literature study allows us to empathise, relate and critically analyse the views and action of others.

Careers

A GCSE qualification in English is imperative for virtually any further course of study and the list of possible career options are endless. Careers which draw directly from the subject include journalism, teaching and the Arts. While careers in areas such as the media, librarianship, law, PR and speech therapy will undoubtedly benefit from close study of English.

HOME ECONOMICS: FOOD and NUTRITION

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-home-economics-food-and-nutrition-2017

Why study Food and Nutrition?

The Food and Nutrition course aims to develop an interest in the diverse range of food now available and to develop skills in food preparation. The subject content allows pupils to make effective choices for their health and wellbeing and to practise skills in effective resource management. Pupils are encouraged to develop an understanding of human needs within our multicultural society, taking account of technological and scientific developments affecting consumers.
This academic content is relevant to the lives of pupils now and when they leave school and provides scope for a wide range of potential careers in Northern Ireland's booming agri-food industry. Pupils will study human nutrition, diet and health in detail. They consider how dietary needs change through the lifecycle and study special dietary requirements.

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into 2 key areas:

- Food and Nutrition
- Practical Food and Nutrition

What skills will I develop?

Food and Nutrition helps develop skills to plan, sequence and present meals to take account of individual needs, situations and budgets. The course teaches pupils how to implement safe and hygienic practices in the storage, preparation and cooking of food. The practical skills associated with Food and Nutrition activities will develop resource management, teamwork and communication skills. Through a range of contexts, pupils will develop a critical and analytical approach to decision making and problem solving and so improve the quality of life for themselves and others.

Careers

In choosing Food and Nutrition, you will not be limiting your choices after GCSE. No matter what career you choose, the communication, analytical, planning and management skills you will develop through Food and Nutrition at GCSE, means employers will be interested in you. A wide variety of careers are open to graduates of Food and Nutrition. Those who have studied this subject often find themselves with a career in nutrition, dietetics, medicine, nursing or health promotion. Careers in food preparation, product development and retail are further options. The subject can also be valuable to sports scientists, biochemists and environmental health practitioners.

FRENCH

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-french-2017

Why study French?

French is one of the major languages of global trade and of international relations- it is one of the languages most in demand by UK businesses. It is one of the two official languages of the European Union, and is the first or second language in over 45 countries or regions world-wide. Studying French therefore offers an insight into the language, culture and society of metropolitan France, and opens onto an exciting spectrum of cultures throughout the world. The proximity of France and its popularity as a holiday destination make French a useful, relevant and enriching choice. Don't forget…it is the language of love!

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into 3 Context for Learning covering a range of topics under the headings:

- Identity, Lifestyle and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- School Life, Studies and the World of Work.

What skills will I develop?

The study of Modern Languages helps us to appreciate other cultures and traditions and develop our skills of communication and powers of analysis. It also boosts your confidence and improves your memory.

A GCSE Modern Language consists of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Not only will you improve your ability in French, but your English will also improve! Having studied a language travel becomes more interesting and you will have a better understanding of the world around you.

Careers

If you are thinking about a career using language skills, there are many exciting and interesting opportunities. People often tend to only consider the obvious careers in languages such as translation, interpreting or teaching. There are many other careers which can require language skills. These include: Marketing and Public Relations; Finance and banking; Media; Travel and Tourism; Event Organiser; International Sales Manager; Customer Relations; Technology; Engineering.

GEOGRAPHY

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-geography-2017

Why study Geography?

Most pupils enjoy the scope of the material they cover in Geography, the insights it can provide into understanding the world around us and the sheer contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

This year has proven (yet again) the need for Geography in schools. Migration, bad weather? Rivers that flood? Storm surges? Earthquakes? Tropical Cyclones? Cities that are expanding? Farming catastrophes? Ice caps that are melting? Climate Change?

These are the things of Geography. The news is filled with Geography from start to finish. At GCSE we make sure that our pupils understand the implications of these issues - the things that are behind the news.

What will I be studying?

At GCSE pupils revisit many of the topics studied at Key Stage 3 and enhance their knowledge and understanding of people and places through the study of 8 geographical themes:

Year 11 – Physical Geography – Paper 1
A River Environments
B Coastal Environments
C Our changing weather and climate
D The Restless Earth

This is currently assessed in the summer term of Year 11 with a 1h 30 m external exam.

Year 12 – Human Geography – Paper 2
A Population & Migration
B Changing urban areas.
C Contrasts in world development
D Managing our Environment.

This is currently assessed in the summer term of Year 12 with a 1h 30 m external exam.

Geography Fieldwork collects data which is then used in Paper 3 Fieldwork exam. This is a one hour paper worth 20%. The current fieldwork exercise involves a river study of the Curly Burn, followed by an overnight stay at Magilligan Field Centre.

What skills will I develop?

The transferable skills that pupils acquire in Geography can reap employment dividends in many other fields – computing, financial services, management, marketing, the media, tourism, public administration, transport, and so on, across the alphabet of careers.

Careers

Geography is about 50% Arts based and 50% Science based so it blends well with most subject choices, particularly if you wish to keep your career options open.

Geographers are very employable. The choice of careers includes some areas in which their studies are put to direct use, such as environmental agencies and consultancy, GIS applications, planning, civil engineering, conservation, Law and teaching.

- Selling and Marketing
- Transport and Communications
- Armed Forces
- Regional Development workers for Charities
- Civil Engineering
- Estate Agency
- Leisure Industry & Travel and Tourism
- Conservation & Environmental Management
- Surveying & Town and Country Planning

HISTORY

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-history-2017

Why study History?

History helps us understand how and why today's world has evolved the way it has. Studying GCSE History gives us an insight into the origins of modern political and social problems. By studying History, we also learn to appreciate that people in the past were not just 'good' or 'bad' but motivated in complex and inconsistent ways, just like us. In short, the study of History is the study of humanity- if you are interested in people, then you will be interested in History!

What will I be studying?

We will study the CCEA specification which is divided into 2 Units, each focusing on 20th Century History.

Unit 1 ***(Studied and Examined in Year 11)*****:**
Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1945
and
Northern Ireland and its neighbours 1965-1998 ***(60%)***

Unit 2: ***(Studied and Examined in Year 12)*****:**
International Relations ***(40%)***

What skills will I develop?

History helps us develop the skills to look beyond the headlines, to question, to think independently and to express our own opinions. History teaches how to process information, how to write clearly and how to analyse and interpret evidence. Through History we also develop interpersonal skills, learning how to communicate, understand and empathise with alternative viewpoints.

Careers

Given the skills you will develop through History at GCSE, employers of all kinds will be interested in you. Those who have studied History regularly enter occupations in -

- law
- management
- consultancy work
- publishing
- media
- journalism
- teaching
- Civil Service and other branches of public life such as local politics.

MATHEMATICS

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-mathematics-2017

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a compulsory subject at GCSE level. However, at Carrickfergus Grammar School we also seek to create an interest in the subject so that all pupils will ultimately find it rewarding and build on skills and knowledge gained in years 8 to 10.

What will I be studying?

Pupils are streamed according to their exam results at the end of Year 10 into 5 classes. The top 2 classes are put into an accelerated scheme and will complete GCSE Higher Mathematics at the end of Year 11. This enables them to study GCSE Further Mathematics in Year 12. The remaining three classes study Higher Mathematics over two years, sitting either modules M3 & M7, targeting a B grade, or M4 & M8 targeting an A or A* grade.

The course is divided into three main sections with functional mathematics embedded within this, which provides opportunities for candidates to develop and apply these mathematical skills to real-life contexts.

Number and Algebra Including -	**Shape, Space & Measure Including -**	**Handling Data Including -**
Fractions, decimals & percentages	Circle Geometry	Statistics
Financial capability	Polygons	Probability
Graphs	Trigonometry (2D & 3D)	
Algebraic methods	Similarity	
Equations and Inequations	Transformations	
Linear Programming	Vectors	
Indices	Area and Volume	

Pupils hoping to study AS Level Mathematics must complete modules M4 & M8 and should aim to complete Further Mathematics as well.

What skills will I develop?

Throughout the course you will continue to develop your numeracy skills, including the ability to use mathematical equipment. You will have the opportunity to investigate many different aspects of Mathematics and develop your investigative and problem-solving skills.

Careers

There are very few jobs for which a grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics is not one of the criteria for application. It is also an essential qualification for entry to any course in third level education. If you enjoy Mathematics and have shown ability at KS3 level, you must work hard to try to get into one of the accelerated classes and have the opportunity to study Further Mathematics GCSE.

MUSIC

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-music-2017

Why study Music?

The Creative Industry, with Music at its heart, is the fastest growing industry in the UK and the 2nd greatest contributor to the economy. With the east coast of Northern Ireland being the 4th largest cluster area for jobs in this industry it makes sense to study Music to at least GCSE Level. It is also enjoyable, something a bit different and encourages you to be independent, confident and creative at every opportunity.

What will I be studying?

You will learn to know and recognise a wide range of musical styles. As part of the course you will be able to be part of a vocal and an instrumental ensemble taking your musical experiences far beyond the classroom.

Composing (30%)
Pupils submit two compositions, one of which will be in response to a stimulus and the other is completely up to you! We often use music technology to assist you. You can compose for any instrument or style; your teacher will mark this component and CCEA will moderate it.

Performing and Appraising (35%)
Pupils present a solo (2 minutes) and an ensemble performance of up to a combined total of six minutes' duration. The expected standard is around Grade 3. You will also be able to discuss one of the performances you have given with the friendly, visiting examiner.

Listening and Appraising (35%)
You will sit 1 listening paper which will cover familiar and unfamiliar music from the following areas of study:

- Western Classical Music, 1600 to 1910
- Film Music
- Musical Traditions of Ireland
- Popular Music, 1980 to Present Day

What skills will I develop?

Studying Music develops numerous skills - from teamwork to discipline, originality and obviously creativity as well as building up your confidence to be in front of a listening audience.

Careers

Virtual reality sound environments; Music therapist; recording editor; Music arranging; Film Scoring; Teaching/Lecturing; Performer; Tuner; Technician; Instrument repair; Church musician; Music librarian; Recording engineering; Publisher/Editor; Copyright administrator; Post-production scoring; Advertising jingles; Acoustical engineer; Producer; Arts administrator; Manager/Booking agent; Audio engineering; Promotions and marketing; Music Dealer; Music software developer and programmer; Newspaper critic/Reporter; Importer and wholesaler: for instruments, accessories, electronics, recordings, software; Orchestral/Band player.

But even if you are not going towards a career focused on music, a basic Music qualification can give you the edge over others in applying for jobs as often short listing will include simply, *"possess a music qualification"* without stating a specific level.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Exam Board: WJEC/Eduqas

Link: https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/physical-education-gcse/#tab_keydocuments

Why study Physical Education?

If you have a genuine interest in Physical Education and prove this through regular participation in a variety of activities and represent the school in at least one activity, then GCSE Physical Education is the ideal subject for you. Physical Education will give you the chance to excel in your chosen activities and give you the opportunity to try new activities and exercises.

What will I be studying?

There are five major areas covered during the two years of study:

1. **Health, training and exercise**
   Topics covered include diet and nutrition, components of fitness, fitness testing, training methods, warm up and cool down, principles of training and training zones.

2. **Exercise Physiology**
   Topics covered include the musculoskeletal system, the cardiovascular system, the respiratory system, aerobic and anaerobic exercise and the short and long term effects of training.

3. **Movement Analysis**
   Topics covered include antagonistic muscle action, levers, planes and axes of movement and sports technology.

4. **Psychology of sport and physical activity**
   Topics covered include goal setting, information processing, guidance, motivation, mental preparation, skill and practice.

5. **Socio-cultural issues in physical activity and sport**
   Topics covered include participation, provision, performance and commercialisation.

P.E theory classes have strong cross-curricular links with other areas of the curriculum such as Biology, Physics and Home Economics, allowing linked up learning to take place, giving a more holistic picture of how our bodies work.

Assessment Summary:

Theory: 60% of overall grade
Consists of one paper lasting two hours and sat in the Summer of Year 12

Practical: 40% of overall grade
Learners will be assessed in three different activities in the role of performer in at least one individual and one team sport. Learners will be further assessed through a written analysis and evaluation of their personal performance in one of their chosen activities.

What skills will I develop?

You will develop knowledge in theory classes that will help you to understand how your body responds to exercise and how to improve your performance in sport. You will be able to make more informed decision regarding your own health, fitness and well-being. You will also gain an insight into the importance of psychology in sport as well as enhancing your use of tactics and strategies during your performance. Finally, you will look at how socio-cultural influences can shape your sporting involvement.

Careers

Given the skills you will develop through P.E at GCSE, employers of all kinds will be interested in you. With the current concerns about health and fitness of society, more jobs are likely to be created in the health and leisure industry. Other occupations that may be pursued are P.E teaching, Coaching, Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine and within the Media.

PHYSICS

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-physics-2017

Why study Physics?

Physics lies at the heart of all Science and Technology; it deals with how and why things behave as they do. Physics is used to solve all types of problems - environmental, health, technological, engineering and many more. It tries to explain things in our world and helps discover lots more beyond our world that we do not understand. Physics has numerous practical applications in industry and at home. Much of the technology which we take for granted was only made possible by the discoveries of Physicists. DVDs, CDs, MP3 players, mobile phones, the internet, MRI scanners, X-ray machines, radiotherapy and laser surgery are just some of them. If you are interested in the world around you and you would like to learn more about it, then Physics is for you!

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into a number of key topics which include:
Unit 1: Motion, Force, Moments, Energy, Density, Kinetic Theory, Radioactivity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion

Unit 2: Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism, Space Physics

Unit 3: Practical Skills Assessment comprising a practical exam and a written exam. These include extended writing and calculations set in a practical context.

What skills will I develop?

If you decide to become a Physicist, you will develop:

- a logical and numerate mind
- the ability to solve problems
- communication skills in report-writing and oral presentations

Careers

Studying Physics can lead to a variety of careers. These include:

- astronomy
- education
- engineering
- medicine
- nanotechnology
- scientific research
- space exploration
- telecommunications

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-religious-studies-2017

Why study Religious Studies?

In a world that is becoming increasingly pluralistic it is important that we have an understanding of our own beliefs and the beliefs of others. When it comes to religion, gaining knowledge of Christianity and other world faiths will only serve to encourage debate and promote tolerance. GCSE Religious Studies provides an opportunity for pupils to engage with philosophical questions and current ethical issues that are at the forefront of our society, in order that they may develop informed opinions and be aware of the views of others. The GCSE course will afford an opportunity to ask the important questions about faith and the nature of religion.

What will I be studying?

Philosophy of Religion and Christian Ethics make up the two components of the CCEA Full Course.

Philosophy of Religion:

- **The Existence of God—**an overview of a range of arguments, including the religion/science debate.
- **The Nature of God—**an exploration of the characteristics of God as evidenced by a range of religious traditions.
- **Evil & Suffering—**the problem posed to religious faith by the existence of evil and suffering in the world, including the origin of evil.
- **Experiencing God—**an analysis of what various religions suggest about how God can be experienced.
- **Life After Death—**an exploration of key religious beliefs on life after death and near-death experiences.

An Introduction to Christian Ethics:

- **Personal and Family Issues**— Christian views on the meaning and purpose of sexual relationships, the benefits and challenges of marriage and divorce and alternatives to heterosexual marriage.
- **Matters of Life and Death**—social, political, biblical views on the ethical issues of abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment.
- **Developments in Bioethics**—the nature of human infertility and the means to overcome it, the role of IVF, issues surrounding human surrogacy and the role of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.
- **Contemporary issues in Christianity**—the issue of social justice including responsibility towards people in need and causes and types of prejudice and discrimination.
- **Modern Warfare**—the causes of war, cost of war, the ethics of modern warfare and the debate on pacifism and the Just War Theory.

What skills will I develop?

Religious Studies will help you develop a range of invaluable skills. Debating and communication skills are foundational to the subject. You will learn the correct vocabulary for discussing religious and ethical issues. You will be given the opportunity to evaluate and analyse a range of opinions and theories on many philosophical and ethical topics. You will learn how to research effectively and how to compose a strong argument, taking into consideration a range of viewpoints. You will also have an opportunity to improve your written communication skills.

Careers

Those who study Religious Studies find themselves in a variety of careers. Many go on to study Theology or Education. Others take on careers in social work, youth work, administration, publishing and in the legal profession. While an arts subject, the Ethics course of study means that Religious Studies complements **STEM** subjects which can lead into a further range of careers.

SPANISH

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-spanish-2017

Why study Spanish?

Spanish is the world's third most widely spoken language, the first language of over twenty countries across the globe. As such it is a major vehicle for international commerce and trade, as well as the doorway into a variety of vibrant and fascinating cultures.

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into 3 topics which cover:

- Identity, Lifestyle and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global areas of Interest
- School Life, Studies and the World of Work

What skills will I develop?

The study of Modern Languages helps us to appreciate other cultures and traditions and develop our skills of communication.

A GCSE Modern Language consists of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Not only will you improve your ability in Spanish, but your English will also improve! Studying a language makes travel more interesting and you will have a better understanding of the world around you.

Careers

If you are thinking about a career using language skills, there are many exciting and interesting opportunities. People often tend to only consider the obvious careers in languages such as translation, interpreting or teaching. There are many other careers which can require language skills. There a number of occupations where language skills are currently in demand, including:

- Marketing and public relations
- Finance and banking
- Media
- Travel and tourism
- Event organiser
- International sales manager
- Customer relations
- Technology engineering

The increasing popularity of Spain as a holiday destination makes Spanish a very useful, relevant and enriching choice.

TECHNOLOGY and DESIGN

Examination Board: CCEA

https://ccea.org.uk/key-stage-4/gcse/subjects/gcse-technology-and-design-2017

Why study Technology?

Technology & Design affords the opportunity to investigate real life problems, design solutions to those problems and make the product which has been designed. Technology and Design links naturally with, and complements, many other subjects. Designing activity has an important contribution to make to pupils' general education as part of preparation for living and working in a modern technological society.

What will I be studying?

- Product/Graphic Design—Computer Aided Design, Perspective Drawing and Presentation Skills
- Energy & Control - Electronics, Computer & Microprocessor Control, Pneumatics & Mechanical Control Systems
- Manufacture – CAD/CAM including solid modelling, visualisation and 3D printing, Material Awareness, Decision Making, Forming, Finishing & Fabrication Techniques.

What skills will I develop?

Technology is about developing an awareness of the world around us and how we live our everyday lives. As a subject it promotes the development of attitudes such as concern for the welfare and development of society, the preservation of the environment and adherence to safe working practices.

Technology provides opportunities to work with a range of constructional materials including plastics, metal and wood and where appropriate, other materials, hence developing decision making skills and investigating alternatives.

In T&D we develop and promote high quality in all aspects of work. From taking an initial idea, through conceptualisation and into reality, key skills are evident in terms of organisation and determination to achieve a viable product/project outcome at all levels.

We recognise the need to maintain a safe and organised working environment and adopt safe working practices when using hand tools, machines and equipment focusing on school workshop situations but also building an understanding for industrial practices.

Ultimately, T&D encourages pupils to take pride in their achievements through setting targets and becoming disciplined in their approach to achieving the desired objective.

Careers

Careers for those who study Technology and Design span multiple fields, with the course providing an important grounding in all aspects of Engineering and Design. The course is widely recognised as an excellent starting point for university courses in Electrical, Microelectronic (computer), Civil, Aeronautical, Mechanical and Robotic Engineering courses, as well as such courses as Architecture, Fashion and Quantity Surveying.

Engineering and manufacturing

- **Civil Engineer:** Designs and oversees the construction of infrastructure projects like bridges, roads, and buildings.
- **Mechanical Engineer:** Designs, develops, and tests mechanical devices.
- **Robotics Engineer:** Designs, builds, and maintains robots.
- **CAD Engineer:** Uses computer-aided design software to create blueprints and models.
- **Automotive Engineer:** Works on vehicle design, production, and maintenance, particularly in areas like low-carbon vehicle development.

Creative and digital

- **Web Developer/Designer:** Creates and maintains websites and applications.
- **UX/UI Designer:** Focuses on the user experience and interface design for digital products.
- **Graphic Designer:** Creates visual concepts, using computer software to communicate ideas that inspire, inform, or captivate consumers.
- **Game Designer:** Creates the concepts and rules for video games.
- **Art Director:** Manages the overall visual style and images for publications, advertising campaigns, or films.
- **Sound Engineer:** Records, mixes, and reproduces sound.

Architecture and interior design

- **Architect:** Designs buildings and other structures, using technology to visualise and plan projects.
- **Interior Designer:** Focuses on creating functional and aesthetically pleasing interior spaces.

Product and fashion

- **Product Designer:** Develops new products from concept to production, focusing on form, function, and user experience.
- **Industrial Designer:** Designs manufactured products that are then mass-produced.
- **Fashion Designer:** Creates clothing, accessories, and footwear.

Other related careers

- **Multimedia Specialist/Animator:** Creates multimedia content such as videos, animations, and interactive media.
- **Technical Writer:** Creates technical documentation like manuals and instructions.
- **Project Manager:** Oversees technical projects from start to finish.

Sixth Form Entrance Criteria

Please note that the list of subjects and criteria on Page 41 is indicative and may have changed by the time you choose 'A' level subjects in 2 years' time.

The table overleaf shows the entrance requirements (based on GCSE results) that must be satisfied before any subject is studied at A level at Carrickfergus Grammar School.

For admission to Sixth Form you must attain a minimum of **36 points** whereby an A*= 9 points, A= 7 points, B= 6 points, C*= 5 points and C= 4 points.

For GCSE Art and Design, the number you receive as your GCSE grade will broadly equate to the same in relation to points.

GCSE Grade (CCEA)	GCSE Grade (non-CCEA)	Return Points
A*	9	9
A	8/7	7
B	6	6
C*	5	5
C	4	4

The criteria of 36 points outlined above must include a minimum of 3 B grades.

Pupils who achieve 32-35 points may be considered for entry to Sixth Form if there are spaces available within the year group, at a subject level if criteria in the table below and overleaf have been met and following a meeting with the Principal/Vice-Principal.

Pupils wishing to enter Sixth Form must also have:

- a good behaviour record;
- a good attendance record at Key Stage 4 (in line with or above the school average of 95%, unless there are extenuating circumstances);

Where very exceptional circumstances apply, entrance to Sixth Form may be granted at the discretion of school leadership.

Alternative Entry Qualifications

Those applicants to Year 13 who have followed alternative qualifications shall be considered on the merits of those courses and their results profile.

Subject	Entrance Criteria (based on GCSE performance)	Head of Department
Accounting	B or better in GCSE Maths	Mr S. Martin
Art and Design	6 or better in GCSE Art and Design.	Mr K. Hamilton
Biology	B or better in GCSE Biology	Mrs. S.A. Simms
Business Studies *	B or better in GCSE Business Studies B or better in GCSE English Language	Mr P. McKittrick
Cambridge Applied ICT *	B or better in Digital Technology B or better in GCSE Maths	Mr L. Morrow
Chemistry	A or better in GCSE Chemistry	Mr K. Crooks
Computer Science	B or better in Digital Technology	Mr L. Morrow
English Literature	B or better in GCSE English Literature	Mrs C. Reid
Environmental Technology *	B or better in GCSE English Language	TBC
French	B or better in GCSE French and Higher Tier in all components	Mrs S. Murray
Geography	B or better in GCSE Geography	Mr N. Massey
Government and Politics *	B or better in GCSE History B or better in GCSE English Language	Miss F. McKinley
Health and Social Care *	B or better in GCSE Health and Social Care B or better in GCSE English Language	Miss W. Lemon
History	B or better in GCSE History	Mrs B. McMaw
Mathematics	B or better in GCSE Further Maths / A or better in GCSE M4/M8 Maths (if Further Maths not studied)	Mr K. Marshall
Further Maths	B or better in GCSE Further Maths	Mr K. Marshall
Music *	B or better in GCSE Music Musicianship to Grade 5 standard	Mr E. Craig
Nutrition and Food Science *	B or better in GCSE Nutrition and Food Science B or better in GCSE Biology	Mrs V. Ross
Physical Education *	B or better in GCSE PE B or better in GCSE Biology	Mr N. Kennedy / Mrs J. Botha
Photography *	6 or better in GCSE Art and Design (advised)	Mr K. Hamilton
Physics	A or better in GCSE Physics	Miss S. Patterson
Religious Studies	B or better in GCSE Full Course Religious Studies	Mrs L. Best
Sociology*	B or better in English Language	Mrs E. Squires
Spanish	B or better in GCSE Spanish and Higher Tier in all components	Ms B. Claver
Technology and Design	B or better in GCSE Technology and Design	Mr R. McMorris
BTEC Engineering*	B or better in GCSE Technology and Design At least a Merit in OS Engineering	Mr R. Currie

Subjects which are asterisked and highlighted in blue are subjects which can be taken up at 'A' Level, without first having been studied at GCSE. **At least one of the entrance criteria must be met for access to the subject at Sixth Form.** If you have studied the subject at GCSE level, you should have received at least a 'B' grade in it.

A Level Sciences

For those who have studied Double Award— At AS Level, Science is studied as 3 separate subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Choosing and being accepted for an AS Science class will be limited to those pupils who achieved an AB or better, with an A in Double Award Science in their subject of choice for A Level.

Those studying Single Award Science will not have the option to study a Science at A Level.

A Level Religious Studies

Pupils wishing to access A Level Religious Studies and who have studied Short Course, must obtain an A grade in Short Course Religious Studies at GCSE.

The following additional details apply to entry to AS Classes in September 2026:

Class size

1. AS/A2 Level classes will usually be no larger than 22 pupils. If a class is oversubscribed, pupils will be chosen on the basis of their GCSE performance in that subject or, if not studied at GCSE, performance in allied subject(s) as listed on Page 11. In each subject, if a tie exists after relevant criteria are employed, pupils with the highest % attendance in Year 12 will be admitted before those with lower and in the exceptionally unlikely event that a tie still exists, random selection will be employed through a randomised number being allocated in Microsoft Excel, with the higher-ranking number gaining admission.

2. If a class is undersubscribed, it may not be offered.

Moving on to A2 Courses for Year 14

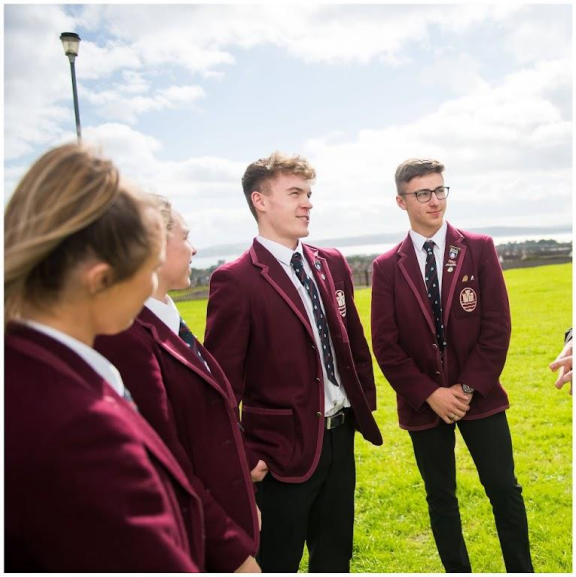
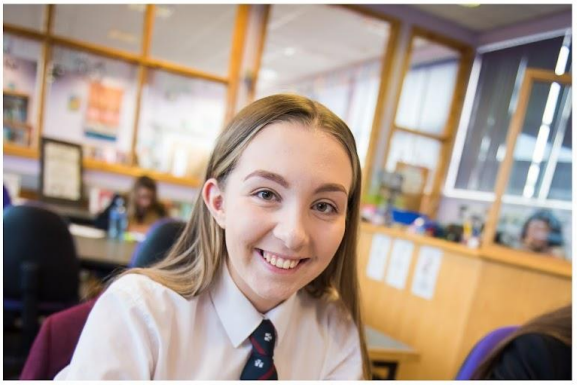
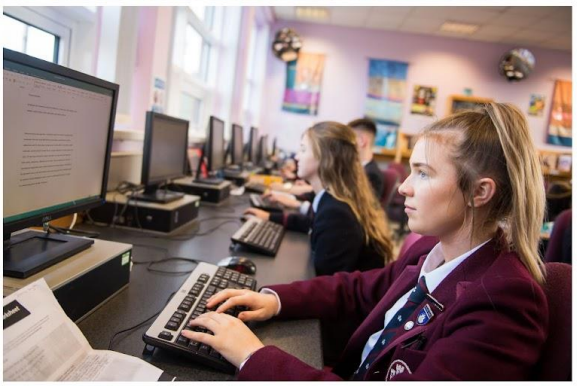
AS results mark the end of Year 13 studies after which most pupils will have two options: -

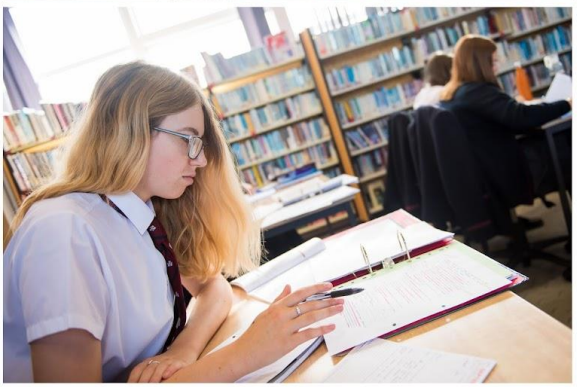
1. Leave school with their AS grades;

2. Continue to A2 if the AS grades are appropriate.

Any pupil with the equivalent of 3 ‘D’ grades or less will not be permitted to continue without being interviewed. The purpose of such interviews will be to ascertain the appropriate next steps. Continuing to study a subject in which an ’E’ grade (or below) has been achieved may not be permitted.

Relevant decisions will be confirmed during interviews with senior staff in mid-August after the results are available.



Distributed to all Year 10 pupils and parents, December 2025