



ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

Together we will shape your future.



GCSE Options

2022/2023

Contents

Principal's Address.....	1
Getting Ready for Year 11.....	2
What Next?.....	3-8
External Qualifications.....	9
Core Subjects.....	10
English Language.....	11
English Literature.....	12
Mathematics.....	13
Single/Double Award Science (BTEC).....	14
Double Award Science.....	15
Learning for Life and Work (Core).....	16
OCN Religious Studies.....	17
Physical Education (Core).....	18
Options.....	19
Art & Design	20
BTEC Business Studies.....	21
GCSE Business Studies.....	22
Child Development.....	23
COPE (Level 2).....	24
Film and Photography.....	25
Digital Technologies.....	26
Drama.....	27
Geography.....	28
Health and Social Care (BTEC).....	29
Health and Social Care.....	30
History.....	31
Hospitality.....	32
ICT (BTEC).....	33
Learning for Life and Work.....	34
Modern Languages.....	35

Contents

Music.....	36
Occupational Studies.....	37
Physical Education.....	38
Preparation for Adult Life.....	39
Princes Trust.....	40
Religious Studies.....	41
Technology and Design.....	42
Occupational Studies - Technology and Innovation	43

Welcome



Principal's Welcome

Dear Parent(s)/ Guardian(s)

I hope you will find this booklet useful in making the all-important decisions that your child faces in the coming weeks.

As you will be aware, recent developments in education have seen the broadening of the curriculum in order to facilitate more applied, practical subjects in the school timetable. This recognises that students have different ways of learning, different skills that highlight abilities which can sometimes be missed by the more 'paper-based' curriculum.

We are embracing the move in trying to offer more alternatives to our students. This includes a number of applied / vocational options.

We hope the extra information we have given on these courses will help you understand more about them. If you have any direct questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

This booklet will help inform you of the subject areas that are appropriate for your child and assist with future planning, *however, please bear in mind that places are limited on many of the courses and interviews may be required. Please also note that, in some cases, courses may not run if there are insufficient numbers.*

I hope you know you have the full support of the school in helping you both make decisions at this important time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian McGinn". The signature is written in a cursive style.



Getting ready for Year 11

It is an exciting time in the life of a 14-year-old. This is a period of change, a period of choice and a period which could well lead to a successful and prosperous career.

The end of Key Stage 3 is nearly upon us, and has managed to provide a firm and broad educational base for all concerned. It is a tried and tested path, but one which allows for personal choice in KS4.

Much of what is taught at KS3 is seen in KS4, but there is now an opportunity to choose a personal direction; this new path could be a specialised one, or could include numerous paths to allow for further choices at a later stage. Whatever the path, expectation and excitement is high.

Every pupil must study the following subjects:

- *English*
- *Mathematics*
- *Science*
- *PE*
- *Learning for Life and Work (LLW) and / or RE;*

Pupils will choose a number of courses which will be one of the following qualifications: *GCSE, Applied GCSE, BTEC or Occupational Studies;*

Pupils will pick from a range of subjects which include: *Art, Business Studies, Child Development, Digital Technologies / IT, Drama, French, Geography, Health and Social Care, History, Hospitality, Irish, Music, PE, RE, Spanish, Technology & Design & The Prince's Trust*

Careers

What Next?

“When today’s schoolchildren enter the workplace, many will be faced with roles that do not exist today. We want to equip these children with skills that are more resilient in the changing job market”. Future Skills Project, NESTA

Points to remember when deciding on choices:

- Which subjects I enjoy and love working hard at in school?
- What type of activities do I love to do in school?
- What subjects would help me in a job I might like to do?

Year 10 Careers to help decision making

- This year every Year 10 pupil has had a careers lesson this year to help prepare them for making these decisions.
- It is recommended you look at the booklets, resources and quizzes your daughter will have completed to date on Teams.
- Use the careers service Year 10 subject choices website for extra advice. www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/subject-choices-year-10

Where can I get help?

Support is available for parents and pupils to help them make the best choices.

- Year 10 Careers Teachers – Mrs Martin, Miss Connolly, Miss Sweeney, Miss Curran,
- Head of Careers – Mrs Rogan
- Department for Economy Careers Advisor – Elizabeth Melaugh
- Speak to a careers adviser through live chat at www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/careers

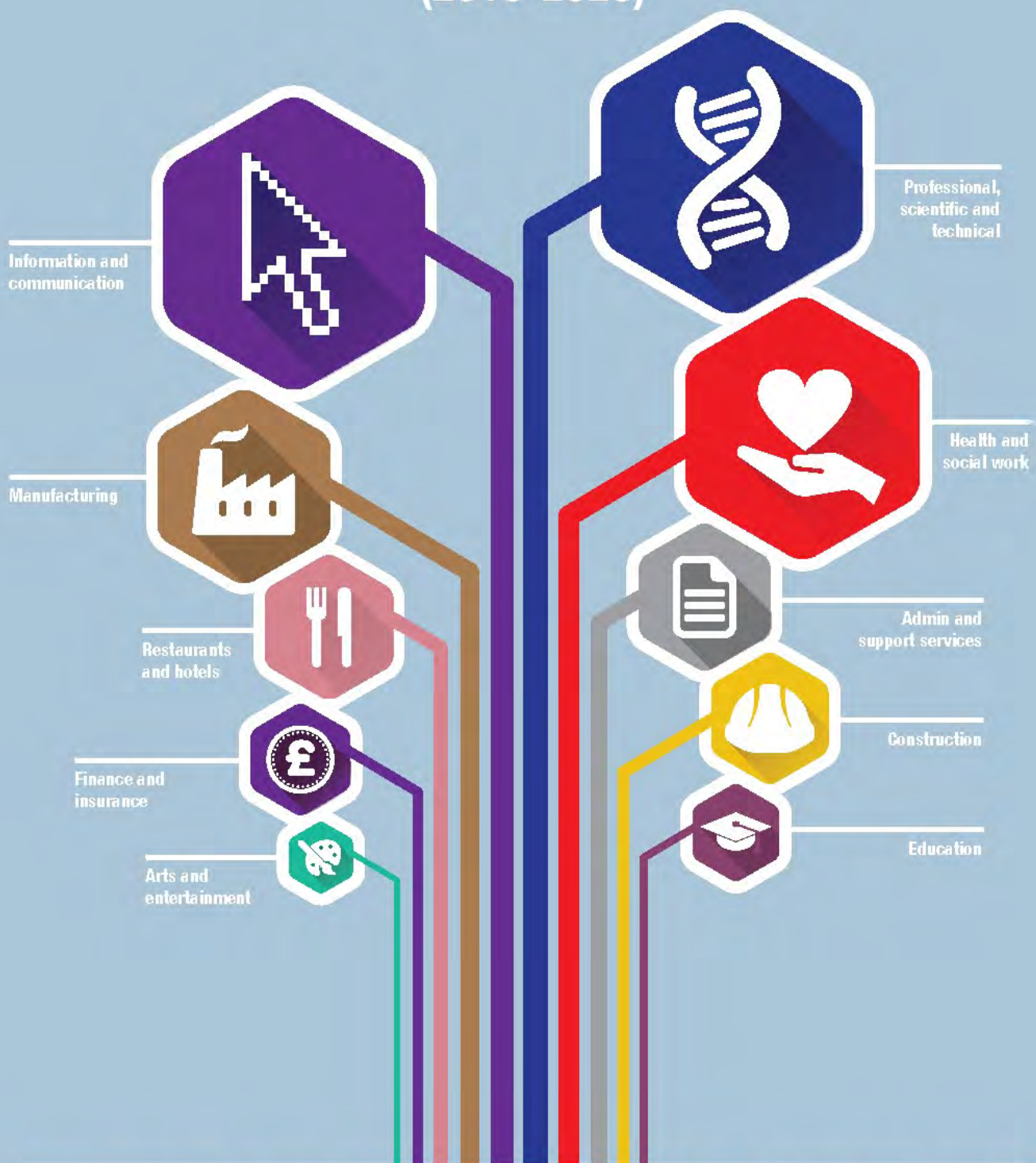
What skills will be needed in the future?

It is important to consider what skills will be important in the future. This means that young people can ensure they have the right qualifications to be successful. Areas of growth for Northern Ireland in the next 10 years include:

- ICT;
- Creative and digital media;
- Agri food sector;
- Business and financial services;
- Advanced manufacturing and engineering;
- Renewable energies and recycling; and
- Health and life sciences.

EMPLOYMENT PROJECTIONS

Top 10 growth sectors (2018-2028)



There will be growth opportunities for all skills levels across a range of sectors - the focus will be predominantly on higher level skills.

Careers

‘Looking ahead to make the best choice for you’

Looking to Universities, Colleges and Courses

- It is important to know which subjects are needed at GCSE and A-Level if you are thinking of a particular career path.
- Most courses at University and Colleges require certain subjects to be studied and they can be different from college to college and course to course.
- Each year the requirements are updated and subject to change.
- The following table summarises the subjects that are useful to study if you are thinking of a particular course career.
- This information is based on entry to courses in September 2021. You can investigate further using some of the following websites: ulster.ac.uk, qub.ac.uk, smucb.ac.uk, nwrc.ac.uk, stran.ac.uk, swc.ac.uk, pwc.ac.uk, careersportal.ie

Consider the costs

- Colleges and Universities charge student tuition fees each year of their course.
- Every student receives a tuition fee loan to cover this cost.
- There is also means tested financial support to help with living costs.
- Tuition fees for Northern Ireland courses are £ 4,530 in 2021. Courses in England, Scotland and Wales tuition fees are £9250.
- Further education colleges such as the North West Regional College charge around £2500 per year for higher education courses.
- Tuition fees for courses in the Republic of Ireland Colleges cost around €3000 per year.

Other ways to gain qualifications:

Higher Level Apprenticeships are work-based programmes which enables young people to earn while they learn and gain a recognised professional qualification. Foundation degrees and HNCs are higher education programmes offered in further education colleges, they offer excellent progression paths into careers and university. They are offered at NWRC, Ulster and Belfast Met.

Career Pathways Table

Career Area	Useful GCSE Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects	University Pathway	Apprenticeship Pathway / Foundation Degree
Accountancy	Maths* English* Business Digital Technology	Maths* Business BTEC IT Software Systems Development	Ulster University <u>BSc Hons Accounting</u> A-Level ABB (BBB if Maths A-Level) / BTEC D*DD GCSE Maths B, English C	North West Regional College <u>Higher Level Apprenticeship in Accountancy</u> 96 UCAS points (CCC) GCSE Grade C in English and B in Maths
Art & Design	Art* BTEC IT English Technology	Art* Technology & Design Moving Image Arts	Ulster University <u>BA Hons Fine Art</u> A-Level BBB BTEC DDD GCSE English C	North West Regional College <u>BTEC HND in Art (Textiles or Art Practice)</u> 40 UCAS points & 4 GCSEs (Grade C or above) to include Art, Maths and English
Business	Maths* English* Business	Business studies BTEC IT Maths Health & Social Care	Ulster University <u>BSc Hons Business Studies</u> A-Level BBC BTEC DDD GCSE Maths C, English C	North West Regional College <u>Foundation Degree in Business & Finance</u> 72 UCAS Tariff points GCSE C in English & Maths
Computer Science	Maths* English* Digital Technology	Software Systems Development* Maths* IT Technology & Design	Ulster University <u>BSc Hons Computer Science</u> A-Level ABB BTEC D*DD GCSE Maths C, English C	South West College (Omagh) <u>Foundation Degree in Cyber Security</u> 48 UCAS points, plus 5 GCSE Grade Cs including English and Maths;
Drama	English* Drama Moving Image Arts	English Literature* Drama Moving Image Arts	Queen's University BA Hons Drama A-Level BBB	North West Regional College <u>BTEC HNC/ HND in Performing Arts</u> UCAS points: 32
Early Years	Maths* English* Child Development Science	Health & Social Care* Children's Learning Life & Health Science English Literature	Stranmillis University College <u>BA Early Childhood Studies</u> A-Level BBB BTEC DDD Health & Social Care GCSE Grade C in Maths and English	North West Regional College <u>HND Early Childhood Education and Care</u> 42 UCAS points and GCSE English C
English Literature	English* English Literature	English Literature* History RE Modern Language	Ulster University BA Hons English with Education A-Level CCC BTEC DMM	North West Regional College <u>BTEC HNC in Creative Media Production (Journalism)</u> 32 UCAS Points plus GCSE (Grade C or above) in English;
Engineering	Maths* English* Technology Digital Technology Geography	Maths* Physics Technology & Design* Digital Technology	Ulster University BEng (Hons) Engineering Management BBB to include Technology or Maths BTEC DDD	North West Regional College <u>Higher Level Apprenticeship in Electrical & Electronic Engineering</u> 56 UCAS points; Level 3 Grade C in one of Maths, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Engineering, Science. Grade C in GCSE Maths & English
Geography	Maths* English* Geography	Geography* Biology Chemistry	Ulster University BSc Hons Geography with Education	South West College (Omagh) <u>Foundation Degree in Energy, Environment and Sustainability</u> CC, or CD

Career Area	Useful GCSE Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects	University Pathway	Apprenticeship Pathway / Foundation Degree
		Maths BTEC IT	A-Level BCC to include Geography BTEC DDM GCSE Maths C, English C	to include Geography plus GCSE Grade C in Science, English & Maths
Hospitality	English* Hospitality Modern Language Geography Business	Hospitality Geography Modern Language Business BTEC IT	Ulster University BSc Hons International Hospitality Management A-Level BCC BTEC DDM GCSE Maths C, English C	North West Regional College <u>Higher Level Apprenticeship in International Travel & Tourism Management</u> 72 UCAS points plus GCSE Grade C in English & Maths
History	History* English* RE	History* English literature Politics RE	Ulster University <u>BA Hons History with Education</u> A-Level CCC	North West Regional College <u>NCTJ Diploma in Journalism</u> 32 UCAS Points
IT	Maths* BTEC IT Digital Technology Business Technology	ICT Software Systems Development Business Maths	Ulster University <u>BSc Hons Information Technologies</u> A-Level BBC BTEC DDD GCSE Maths C, English C	North West Regional College <u>Higher Level Apprenticeship in Software Development</u> 56 UCAS points with GCSE English & Maths Grade C
Law	English* History Modern Language RE	History Modern Language English RE Politics	Ulster University LLB Hons Law A-Level BBB BTEC DDD GCSE English C	Legal Apprenticeships (Paralegal) available through solicitors firms
Media	English* BTEC IT History Drama	Moving Image Art English History Drama	Queen's University <u>BA Hons Broadcast Production</u> A-Level ABB	North West Regional College <u>BTEC HNC / HND in Creative Media Production</u> 32 UCAS Points, GCSE English C
Medicine	GCSE DA or TA Science* English* Maths* 9 GCSE in total	Chemistry* Biology* Either Maths or Physics (or both)* 3 A levels / 4 AS levels	Queen's University <u>MB Medicine</u> A-Level A*AA OR AAA + 4 th AS. A-level Chemistry and one from Biology, Physics or Maths. 9 GCSEs. University Clinical Aptitude Test (UCAT).	North West Regional College <u>Foundation Degree Medical and Applied Sciences</u> 48 UCAS points including A Level pass in a Science. GCSE Maths C, Science C, English C
Midwifery	GCSE Science* English* Maths* Health & Social Care Childcare	Life & Health Science* Biology Health & Social Care	Queen's University BSc Midwifery Sciences A-Level BBC BTEC DDM 5 GCSE at Grade B to include Maths and GCSE Science	North West Regional College <u>HNC Applied Science (Biology)</u> 48 UCAS Points including a pass in a Science. GCSE Maths C, Science C, English C
Music	English* Music* Drama	Music* Grade VII / VIII for main instrument* English Literature	Ulster University BMus Hons Music A-Level BBC (B Music or Grade 8 Practical) BTEC DMM	North West Regional College <u>HND in Music or Music Production</u> 32 UCAS Points

Career Area	Useful GCSE Subjects	Useful A-Level Subjects	University Pathway	Apprenticeship Pathway / Foundation Degree
Nursing	Maths* English* Science* Health & Social Care Childcare	Life & Health Science* BTEC Science Biology Health & Social Care	Ulster University BSc Hons Adult Nursing A-Level BBC BTEC DDD GCSE Maths, English and Science C	North West Regional College <u>HNC Healthcare Practice</u> 64 UCAS points 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above, to include English GCSE and Maths
Psychology	English* History Health & Social Care Childcare	Health & Social Care Biology Maths Psychology	Ulster University BSc Hons Psychology A-Level BBB BTEC DDM GCSE English C	North West Regional College <u>Foundation Degree (FdSc) Health & Social Care</u> 48 UCAS points; 5 GCSEs including Maths and English.
Radiotherapy	Maths* English* DA Science* Health & Social Care	Life & Health Science* Health & Social Care Maths Biology	Ulster University <u>BSc Hons Diagnostic Radiography & Imaging</u> A-Level BBB to include Maths or Science. HPAT. GCSE Maths C, English C and DA Science BB	North West Regional College <u>Foundation Degree (FdSc) Health & Social Care</u> 48 UCAS points; 5 GCSEs including Maths and English.
Social Work	Maths* English* Health & Social Care Childcare History	Health & Social Care RE Politics History English Lit	Ulster University BSc Hons Social Work A-Level BBB BTEC DDD GCSE English & Maths C	North West Regional College <u>HNC Healthcare Practice</u> 64 UCAS points 5 GCSEs at Grade C or above, to include English GCSE and Maths
Sport Science	Maths* English* DA Science* PE / Sport	Life & Health Science* BTEC Sport* PE BTEC Science Biology	Ulster University BSc Hons Sport and Exercise Sciences A-Level ABB BTEC D*DD Grade B in PE/ Sport/Science	North West Regional College <u>Foundation Degree in Sport, Exercise & Fitness</u> 64 UCAS points GCSE Maths C, English C
Teaching	Maths* English* DA Science* Health & Social Care Childcare	A-Level in the Subject you want to teach* PE/ Sport Music	St Mary's University College, Belfast <u>BEd Hons Primary Education</u> A-Level AAB-GCSE Science, Maths & English C <u>BEd Hons Post Primary</u> A-Level AAB – BBC GCSE Maths C; Eng C	North West Regional College <u>Foundation Degree in Early Childhood Studies</u> 72 UCAS points + GCSE Maths & English C (or equivalent)

UCAS Tariff Points: A-Level - A* 56; A 48; B 40; C 32; D 24. BTEC - Distinction 56; Merit 32; Pass 16

*Essential for some university & college pathways

External Qualifications

GCSE

- General Certificate in Education. Grades range from A* - G (C* has now been introduced). Some GCSEs are assessed throughout the 2 year course and are called modular GCSEs.
- GCSEs are usually assessed through a combination of coursework and examinations. Coursework has now become “controlled”, which means there are rules on how it can be completed. These rules differ from subject to subject.
- Where a subject is tiered, the foundation tier is targeted at grades C to G, while the higher tier is targeted at grades A* to D.
- Some courses are offered as a Double Award GCSE. This means that the course is worth the equivalent of 2 GCSEs.

BTEC

- BTECs are work-related qualifications, suitable for a wide range of learners that are designed to accommodate the needs of employers as well as allowing progression to university. They provide a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a theoretical background.
- There are key units that pupils must study as well as a choice of specialist units.
- BTECs are assessed by portfolio/coursework and examination. Pupils are awarded grades at pass, merit or distinction. The BTEC offered are double award or single award and equivalent to 2 GCSEs.

Occupational Studies

Occupational Studies are qualifications very similar to BTEC in that they are work related qualifications that give learners opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills in a context directly related to employability. They are completely portfolio based and are equivalent to GCSE.

Core Subjects*

**Every pupil must study the following subjects at Keystage 4.*

GCSE English Language

How will I be assessed in this subject?

You will be assessed through a combination of external written examinations and internally assessed Controlled assessment. The external written examinations are worth 60% of the GCSE English Language course. The two written papers are untiered. The Controlled assessment units are worth 40% of the GCSE English Language course. They are assessed by the class teacher, internally moderated by the English Department and externally moderated by CCEA.

Which units will I study?

The specification has four units:

- Unit 1: Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts (External Exam: 30%)
- Unit 2: Speaking and Listening (Controlled Assessment Unit: 20%)
- Unit 3: Studying Spoken and Written Language (Controlled Assessment Unit: 20%)
- Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts (External Exam: 30%)

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- work independently
- be creative
- think critically
- communicate your ideas with confidence
- think logically

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

English is invaluable for your future no matter what you are aiming for. A good command of the spoken and written word will help you every day and benefit all your other GCSEs too. Whatever you end up doing, English is a must have subject for college, university, work and life. This qualification can lead to careers in the media, advertising or marketing and, with further study,

GCSE English Literature

Why Study GCSE English Literature?

Our GCSE in English Literature encourages students to be enthusiastic, independent, imaginative, critical and analytical readers. It aims to increase their enjoyment of reading, helping to nurture a lifelong love of literature. The specification deepens students' knowledge and understanding of a range of poetry, prose and drama, including texts by local and modern writers. Students explore the impact of language, structure and form in the texts. Connecting the texts' ideas, themes and issues is another key focus. Students also learn how to explain settings, characters and themes creatively through social, cultural and historical contexts. They develop their ability to research, plan and prepare their responses using their own ideas and interests, as well as critical reading. This qualification offers lots of opportunities to develop transferable skills, such as generating creative, individual responses to problems and writing accurately and clearly. Pupils will study Literature (within their Language class time) at the discretion of the Head of Subject / classroom teacher.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

GCSE English Literature is a unitised specification, with three assessed units. There are two written exams and one extended writing task. The examination units are untiered.

Which units will I study?

Unit 1: The Study of Prose (30%)

Unit 2: The Study of Drama and Poetry (50%)

Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare (20%)

External examination 1 hour and 45 minutes.

External examination 2 hours

Controlled Assessment 2 hours

What skills and attributes will I develop in this subject?

Research and planning

Curiosity

Creativity

Managing Information

Empathy

Critical and analytical reading

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Students who successfully complete a GCSE in English Literature may enter the English Literature A-Level course. This is an excellent choice of A-Level and could lead to further study of a variety of disciplines at third level. Employers and universities are always keen to recruit students who are in possession of highly developed communication skills.

GCSE Mathematics

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Pupils will begin studying for their GCSE Maths in Y10. Tier of entry will be decided at the end of Y10. Pupils studying higher GCSE Maths will sit their first paper in January of Y11. At the end of Y11 pupils studying for the foundation qualification will sit their first paper. Also, higher tier pupils can also either resit a module or progress to a higher module depending on the results of their January exam. In Year 12 most pupils will sit their second and final module in January, given pupils the opportunity to repeat in the summer if need be.

Which units will I study?

Units M1 – M4: One written paper (Calculator)

45% of the GCSE mathematics assessment

Units M5 – M8: Two written papers (Calculator and non-calculator))

55% of the GCSE mathematics assessment

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Mathematics builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in the N. Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

The study of maths is compulsory for everyone. It can lead to employment in the mathematics and finance sector, accounting, business, statistics, engineering, teaching and many more.

Single / Double Award BTEC Science

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Pupils follow the Edexcel Level 2 BTEC First Award in Applied Science which allows them to achieve a Double or Single GCSE equivalent qualification in science at either Pass, Merit or Distinction level. These levels are equivalent to grades CC, BB and AA respectively if doing the Double Award and C, B and A if doing Single Award. It is also possible to achieve a Distinction* which is equivalent to an A*A* or A* at G.C.S.E.

Which units will I study?

This course comprises 4 units in Year 11 - 3 units of portfolio work (coursework) and one examination which allow very motivated pupils to complete one GCSE in Year 11.

In year 12 these pupils can then proceed to the second GCSE in Applications of Applied Science with a further 4 units of work (three portfolios and one examination).

Topics studied include – the atom, the periodic table, chemical reactions, materials and their uses, energy, space exploration, radiation, electricity, DNA, medicines including antibiotics, cloning, diseases & identification keys.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Science builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in the N. Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3. This course also develops skills such as time management, research skills and referencing, practical science skills, numeracy and ICT.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Pupils who have completed this course could continue their study of science, possibly doing a Level 3 BTEC Subsidiary Diploma in Applied Science. In the past pupils have continued their study of science at University doing course such as Nursing and Sociology.

GCSE Double Award Science

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The first units in Biology, Chemistry and Physics are completed and assessed in year 11 and make up 33% of the total marks for the qualification.

Three more exams follow in the second year of the course (year 12) and they make up the remaining percentage of the qualification.

Which units will I study?

This course comprises 7 units of work – 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry, 2 Physics as well as a practical skills unit.

The practical skills unit is a controlled assessment based around a science experiment and an associated exam.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Science builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in the N. Ireland Curriculum at Key Stage 3. The course also develops cross curricular skills and personal capabilities such as team work, managing information and time, working independently, following instruction, numeracy and ICT.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

It is possible for pupils who have studied this course to continue their study of science in sixth year and pursue a science related career – nursing, forensic science, biological science, bio-chemistry, radiography, zoology, physiotherapy, marine science and many more.

***** Some pupils may be 'invited' to follow Triple Award Science (with the third GCSE being one of their Options). The HoD will contact individuals about this upon return to school *****

Learning for Life and Work (CORE)

Overview of Learning for Life and Work

Learning for Life and Work (LLW) is central in helping young people develop the fundamental skills, knowledge, qualities and dispositions that are prerequisites for life and work.

The Northern Ireland Curriculum has included this Area of Learning as a key component because research indicated a need for closer links between the curriculum and developing skills and capabilities necessary for life and work.

The research concluded that young people require an engaging and relevant curriculum that:

- Helps them develop as individuals and members of society;
- Delivers the skills and capabilities needed for adult life and work;
- Helps them cope with the changing global economy; and
- Helps them learn how to make informed choices.

Key Elements

- The curriculum objectives are broken down into Key Elements. The Key Elements are a vehicle for ensuring that Areas of Learning directly connects to the curriculum objectives and to Learning for Life and Work.
- At Key Stage 4, Learning for Life and Work contains three contributory strands:
 - Employability
 - Local and Global Citizenship
 - Personal Development

OCN Religious Studies

How will I be assessed in this subject?

OCN Religious Studies is assessed by continuous assessment through building a portfolio of coursework.

Which units will I study?

- Addiction
- Charity and Religious Charities
- Exploring Personal Identity and Faith
- Exploring Religious Traditions within your own Community
- Life and Death
- Life of a Famous Person of Faith
- Marriage and Divorce
- Prejudice and Reconciliation
- World Faith

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

This course is designed for learners who wish to develop knowledge and understanding in religious studies in order to make sense of religious choices people make in today's society. It is intended that learners will develop empathy, respect and awareness of other religious beliefs and cultural diversity.

Religious Studies facilitates the development of many transferable skills that can be used in a wide range of situations. These skills are

- researching
- analysing information
- communication skills (spoken and written)

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

This course prepares students for further study of religious studies and for the following careers: Solicitor, Barrister, Medical Research, Nursing, Teaching, Policing, Journalism, Researching, Lecturing, Social Work, Community Work and Charity Work.

Physical Education (CORE)

Overview of Physical Education

Participation in Physical Education enables young people to learn through movement so that they develop, extend and refine their skills in a range of movement contexts. Physical Education should also help young people to develop positive attitudes towards participation in physical activities in their pursuit of a healthy lifestyle. Active, enjoyable and challenging learning experiences in this area aim to help young people to develop:

- Positive attitudes to and enjoyment of physical activity;
- An awareness of the positive impact of physical activity on health and wellbeing; and
- Positive relationships, sportsmanship, fair play and respect for differing capabilities.

Key Elements of Physical Education

The **Key Elements** provide a means to connect learning in Physical Education to Learning for Life and Work.

Physical Education is a natural fit for the Key Elements of:

- Personal Health;
- Personal Understanding;
- Mutual Understanding; and
- Moral Character.

Options

**Pupils can choose which subjects to study for GCSE.*

Art & Design

How will I be assessed in this subject?

This is a linear qualification. There are two components: Component 1 (60%) and Component 2 (40%). It places a renewed emphasis on drawing, and on understanding and applying the design process.

Which units will I study?

Component 1:

Part A: Exploratory Portfolio

Part B: Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries

Component 2:

Externally Set Assignment

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Students become increasingly skilled at developing ideas, applying understanding of relevant practices, refining their ideas, recording as they go and using visual language critically.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

GCSE Art & Design pupils perform very well at Saint Mary's College and it should also be encouraging to note that our A-Level success is also remarkable. Should you decide to pursue Art and Design at A-Level, we will explore many possible 3rd Level Pathways. We have developed strong links with the School of Art Design and Architecture in Ulster University. They have provided our pupils with tailored and personalised tours around the entire Belfast campus and have helped pupils prepare for portfolio submission. More locally, we have developed links with Letterkenny Institute of Technology and Design. A representative visits the school to discuss all the 3rd level pathways available to pupils who wish to study closer to home. The number of our pupils who apply and who are successfully accepted onto 3rd level courses is exceptionally high.

Careers in the Creative Industries include:

Accessory Design	Advertising Design	Animation	Architecture
Fashion Design	Games Design	Graphic Design & Illustration	
Interaction Design	Painting	Photography	Product Design
Sculpture	Textile & Fashion Design		

BTEC Business Studies

Course: BTEC First in Business

What is BTEC Business?

BTEC Business is an excellent vocational course designed to introduce students to the Business environment. The course is delivered through a healthy mixture of theory and skills based learning. This course is equivalent to 1 GCSE.

How will I be assessed in this course?

2 Units in Year 11 and 2 Units in Year 12 from the following

Unit 1: Setting up a Business (100% coursework)

Unit 2: Finance and accountancy (external assessment)

Unit 3: Synoptic Assessment

Unit 4: Advertising and Social Media*

*****There is a range of units to choose from*****

Skills and Qualities needed for this subject

- Attendance
- Ability to manage yourself and work independently
- Research skills
- Good literacy and numeracy skills

Where will this take me?

The knowledge and skills you will acquire, as outlined above, support progression to a broad range of level 3 study, whether academic or vocational, for example a BTEC National in Business or a BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, A Level Business or A Level Economics.

GCSE Business Studies

How will I be assessed in this subject?

This GCSE allows students to study Business across a range of themes and topics.

In terms of assessment there is one exam in Year 11 (40%) and Year 12 (40%) and controlled assessment (20%) instead of coursework.

Which units will I study?

Business Studies is an excellent, current subject that allows students to explore a wide variety of subjects, topics and concepts from Economics, Accountancy, Human Resource Management, Marketing, International Business and Management and many more. It is a cross curricular subject and appeals to academic and vocationally gifted students with a rich mixture of numeracy and literacy themes challenging all students and raising standards.

Unit 1 – Year 11: Business Start-up, Marketing, Production

Unit 2 – Year 12: Finance and Accountancy, Human Resources, Business Planning, International Marketing, Business Growth.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Studying Business will allow each learner to appreciate the world around them and identify the links between Business, Government, Society and the wider world. Students will understand the Business and Political landscape locally, nationally and internationally.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

In terms of employability and careers the study of Business Studies enhances students' employment opportunities as they are studying the wider business environment. This allows for a smoother transition from student life to actively contributing to the business operations in their chosen area of industry and career. Possible careers include: Management, Entrepreneurs, International Business, Solicitors, Accountants, all levels of Management, Politics, Economists, Secretary, Clerical Officer, Retail and Merchandising, Sales and Marketing and Education and Training.

Child Development

How will I be assessed in this subject?

In GCSE Child Development you will be assessed by completing two written papers and one controlled assessment over two years. You can achieve up to an A* grade in GCSE Child Development.

Unit 1	Parenthood, Pregnancy and the New Born baby	Written Paper	30%
Unit 2	The Development of the Child 0-5 Years	Written Paper	30%
Unit 3	Investigation Task	Controlled Assessment	40%

Which units will I study?

You will study pregnancy and how to maintain a healthy body during that time. You will study the physical, social, intellectual and emotional development of the child from conception to the age of five years. You can achieve 1 GCSE Grade A*- E.

Unit 1: Parenthood, Pregnancy and the New Born Baby - You will learn about the responsibilities of parenting, the development of a healthy pregnancy, the stages of labour and the arrival and care of a new born baby. EXTERNAL EXAM – WRITTEN PAPER - 1 hour 15 minutes includes short structured questions and extended writing questions - 30%.

Unit 2: The Development of the Child 0-5 Years - You will learn about the needs of a child and the importance of all aspects of a child's health and development from 0-5 years. EXTERNAL EXAM - WRITTEN PAPER - 1 hour 15 minutes includes short structured question and extended writing questions- 30%.

Unit 3: INVESTIGATION TASK CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT - You will carry out a 3000 WORD written research task - 40%

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Child Development offers pupils the opportunity to work independently through the controlled assessment. Pupils should be able to manage deadlines, complete research individually and critically analyse and evaluate findings. Pupils will continue to develop many of the skills developed in KS3 such as managing information, time management, communication, problem solving and ICT.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Child Development is a good subject to study as it is accepted by all universities as a 'solid' GCSE. It is particularly useful if you wish to follow a career in: Nursing, Midwifery, Medicine, Teaching, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, Health Care, Social Work, Youth and Community Work, Family Support and Childhood Studies.

Level 2: CoPE

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The Certificate of Personal Effectiveness, offered by ASDAN, enables St Mary's College to achieve our fundamental aim of providing a curriculum that meets the needs of each individual pupil and provides them with an opportunity to access both academic and vocational pathways.

In addition to obtaining invaluable personal and professional skills, pupils are awarded the equivalent of 1 Grade B at GCSE level.

Which units will I study?

- Working with Others
- Improving Own Learning and Performance
- Problem Solving
- Planning and Carrying out a Piece of Research
- Communication through Discussion
- Planning and Giving an Oral Presentation

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- work independently
- think critically
- communicate your ideas with confidence
- think logically
- be creative
- time management

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Pupils address issues relating to mental health, human rights, homelessness, community facilities, the environment, technology, bullying, farm and water safety and many more. They have the opportunity to be an active member of the community developing national campaigns, lobbying for political action, creating facilities, build enterprises and make real and lasting positive change.

OCN Film and Photography

Level 2 Certificate in Creative Arts and Digital Media

The creative and digital technologies sectors are recognised as growth areas within the economy. The OCN NI Creative Arts and Digital Technologies qualifications have been designed to meet emerging skills requirements in these sectors. This qualification is equivalent to a grade B at GCSE.

Units Studied in this qualification will be:

1. Film and Video Production:

- Know the film and video production process.
- Be able to produce pre-production materials.
- Be able to produce production materials.
- Be able to develop a final version of a short film or sequence of a film.
- Know the certification process.

2. Using Imaging Software:

- Be able to obtain, insert and combine information for images.
- Be able to use imaging software tools to create, manipulate and edit images.

3. Photography: Using a Camera & Accessories:

- Be able to use a camera and accessories to create images.
- Know how to frame and light an image.
- Be able to transfer images from a camera for printing.
- Know Health and Safety Procedures

This subject focuses very much on the practical elements of the digital and the moving image and may act as a precursor for those interested in studying MIA at A'Level and indeed those who are interested in Film or Photography as a career.

To choose this subject you should have an interest in Photography and Film, have enthusiasm and a strong independent work ethic. You will ultimately have to make a short film, produce a portfolio of carefully considered photographs and then utilise software such as Photoshop to manipulate those images.

GCSE Digital Technologies

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Unit 1: Digital Technology – Assessment: Written examination 1 hour

– Weighting: 30%

Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts – Assessment: Written examination 1 hour 30 mins

– Weighting: 40%

Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice – Assessment: Controlled Assessment (Coursework)

– Weighting: 30%

Which units will I study?

Unit 1: Digital Technology - In this compulsory unit, you will explore a range of current digital technologies. You will also have the opportunity to evaluate the importance of data security and data legislation.

Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts - In this unit, you will gain an understanding of how to develop, test and evaluate a range of digital systems.

Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice - In this practical unit, you will design, develop and test digital multimedia systems. You will have the opportunity to develop your own database and website for a client.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

To successfully complete this GCSE, you simply need to be committed to your studies, have very good attendance and a willingness to try new things. Skills that you will acquire throughout this course include, investigation, analysis, communication, problem-solving, time management and working with others. You will also develop practical skills with regard to programming concepts, multimedia and databases.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Digital Technology would be beneficial in a wide range of careers. However, the IT industry now accounts for a significant proportion of our economic output. It is a sector with salaries much higher than the Northern Ireland average and job opportunities are increasing rapidly, particularly for women. The specification develops practical skills using a range of generic software. It provides a sound basis for further study in both GCE Software Systems Development, GCE Digital Technologies and Btec Level 3 IT.

Careers include: App Developer, Computer Games Developer, Digital Animator, Graphic Designer

Drama

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There is one examination worth 40% of the total marks (Unit 1) and two controlled assessment tasks, worth 60% of the total marks.

Which units will I study?

Component 1: Devised Performance - Total: 25%

- Controlled assessment. In response to a stimulus, students either:
- *Devise and present a group performance* **or** *Devise and give a design presentation*
- All students submit a student log. Teachers submit a recording of every student's performance or presentation. Teachers mark the tasks, and CCEA moderates the results.

Component 2: Scripted Performance - Total: 35%

- Using a published play script, students either:
- *Present a group performance* **or** *give a design presentation*
- Teachers mark the tasks, and an external examiner moderates the results.

Component 3: Knowledge and Understanding of Drama - Total: 40%

- External written examination 1 hour 30 mins.
- Students answer three questions using one set text. Open book

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

GCSE Drama develops the **Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities** that all 21st century employers are looking for; **Being Creative**, excellent **Communication Skills**, **Working with Others**, **Managing Information** and **Meeting Deadlines**. Drama encourages - **enthusiasm, confidence, self-esteem, conversation and social skills**

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

In today's world, employers are looking for mature, creative people who are good communicators – exactly the skills that drama develops. Drama will help develop your ability to work independently on your own initiative and as part of a team. Study of drama can lead to careers in acting, stage management, journalism, teaching, psychology, presenting, producing, directing and many more...

Geography

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Module 1 -- Understanding our Natural World – Earthquakes and Volcanoes, Weather and Rivers and Coasts (40%) (Exam end of year 11).

Module 2 Living in our World -- Population, Settlement, Development and Resources/Tourism (40%) (Exam at the end of year 12).

Module 3 -- Fieldwork exam (20%)-- A study of the Curlyburn River in Magilligan.(Exam at the end of year 12)

Which units will I study?

Module 1 – Understanding our Natural World (40%)

Module 2 – Living our World (40%)

Module 3 – Fieldwork exam (20%)

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

It is very important that initially you enjoy this subject as this will make learning the case studies on the various different topics e.g. Global Warming, Super Volcanoes and Earthquakes etc. easier. It is important that you also are quite good at maths as geography involves studying a lot of graphs and tables of results etc.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Combining geography with other GCSE subjects could lead you to jobs such as working in the leisure industry, advertising, architecture, renewable energies, landscape architecture, agriculture, environmental health, estate management, nature conservation, teaching, selling and marketing or working in civil aviation.

BTEC Health & Social Care

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Pupils will complete four units of work over two years. This will consist of three portfolio units and one exam unit.

Therefore, 75% of the qualification will be internally assessed with portfolio/coursework and 25% of the qualification will be externally assessed with an examination.

Which units will I study?

In year 11 pupils will study:

Unit 1: Human Lifespan Development (1hour exam)

Unit 6: The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing, (Portfolio).

In Year 12 pupils will study:

Unit 2: Health and Social Care values (Portfolio)

Unit 5: Promoting Health and Wellbeing (Portfolio)

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Pupils must be hard working, focused and conscientious, have the desire, drive and motivation to achieve, have excellent attendance, be attentive in class and have the ability to work both independently and in groups.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

This subject is useful for anyone with an interest in pursuing career as: domiciliary care worker, care assistant, practice nurse, social worker, community/district nurse, health visitor, youth worker, social work assistant and many more...

GCSE Health & Social Care

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There are 2 units studied over 2 years.

The controlled assessment unit, Working in the Health, Social Care and Early Years Sector Unit. This will be based on pre-release material which becomes available in November of Year 12. There is also 1 ½ hour exam based on the Personal Development, Health and Well-Being unit.

Coursework: 50% / Exam: 50%

Which units will I study?

Unit 1: Personal Development, Health and Well-Being. This is the written exam element and will be completed at the end of Year 11.

Unit 2: Working in the Health, Social Care and Early Years Sectors. This is the controlled assessment element and will be completed in Year 12.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Pupils must be hard working, focused and conscientious, have the desire, drive and motivation to achieve, have excellent attendance, be attentive in class and have the ability to work both independently and in groups. They must also be organised and prepared for class.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

This subject is useful for anyone with an interest in pursuing career as: Social Worker, Clinical Psychologist, Radiotherapist, Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, Practice nurse, Community/District Nurse, Health Visitor, Speech and Language Therapist and many more.

History

How will I be assessed in this subject?

We follow the **CCEA** exam specification. There are 2 written exams and no controlled assessment. You will have the opportunity to sit an examination at the end of year 11 and year 12

Which units will I study?

Unit 1:

Modern World:

Depth Study – Life in Nazi Germany, 1933-45

Local Study – Changing relations: Northern Ireland and its Neighbours 1965-1998

Unit 2:

Outline Study:

International Relations 1945-2003

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

You will develop skills in researching and organising information, analysing and weighing up evidence and reaching a conclusion that you can substantiate. You will develop the ability to think critically and ask questions, identify patterns and trends and learn how to reach and write a coherent argument.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Studying history can lead to a wide range of careers and opportunities for further study. The skills that you develop through history make history a well-respected and attractive subject to universities and employers.

- Law
- Politics
- Civil service
- Business
- Marketing,
- Finance
- Accountancy

Hospitality

How will I be assessed in this subject?

In GCSE Hospitality (CCEA) you will be assessed by completing two written papers and one controlled assessment over two years. You can achieve up to an A* grade in GCSE Hospitality.

Unit 1	The Hospitality Industry	Written Paper (1h)	25%
Unit 2	Hospitality & the Customer	Written Paper (1h)	25%
Unit 3	Food & Beverage Preparation & Service	Controlled Assessment	50%

Which units will I study?

You will develop an understanding of and acquire knowledge about the diversity of the hospitality industry and customer service. You can achieve 1 GCSE Grade A*- E.

Unit 1: The Hospitality Industry - You will explore the Hospitality industry, the economy and careers and job roles available. You will also research diet and health, safety in the workplace and first aid. This unit is assessed by an **external exam**.

Unit 2: Hospitality & the Customer - You will learn about the needs of a customer, customer care standards and how to effectively communicate with and promote and market goods to customers. This unit is assessed by an **external exam**.

Unit 3: Food & Beverage Preparation & Service - Students will complete tasks individually and in groups. You will have the opportunity to plan, prepare and serve a range of dishes. This unit is **portfolio based** (coursework and continuous assessment).

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

GCSE Hospitality offers pupils the opportunity to work independently and develop life-long skills. Pupils should be able to manage deadlines, complete research individually and critically analyse and evaluate findings. Pupils will continue to develop many of the skills developed in KS3 such as managing information, time management, communication, problem solving and ICT.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

By studying GCSE Hospitality, you will have strong foundations for studying BTEC Hospitality at 6th year. Careers within the Hospitality and tourism sector are growing in Northern Ireland, with 60,000 employees. The skills you develop in Hospitality can be used anywhere around the world, with great opportunities for career progression.

ICT (BTEC)

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The BTEC Tech Award consists of 3 compulsory units. Pupils will complete 2 coursework units and 1 exam.

This is a new and innovative qualification suitable for a wide range of students. More than 92% of all new jobs require IT literacy. This qualification will help equip students with these essential skills and provides an excellent platform from which to enter a range of careers.

Which units will I study?

Unit 1 - Exploring User Interface Design and Project Planning – Students will plan, design and create a user interface (Coursework)

Unit 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data - Students will plan, design and create a dashboard to display data (Coursework)

Unit 3 - Effective Digital Working Practices - (Exam) – Pupils will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

To successfully complete this qualification, you simply need to be committed to your studies, have a good attendance record and a willingness to try new things. The study of Digital Technologies will help students develop a range of specialist digital skills and more general transferrable skills. These skills include, investigation, analysis, communication, problem-solving, time management and working with others. Students will also develop practical skills with regard to multimedia and data analysis.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Job opportunities within this sector are increasing rapidly in Northern Ireland, particularly for women. The IT industry offers many different roles and career paths which appeal to a wide range of skills from coding to graphic design to IT consulting. This qualification provides a sound basis for further study in both A Level Applied ICT and Btec Level 3 IT.

Possible job roles within the IT industry include: Social Media Management, Network Management, IT Support, Testing (Quality Assurance), Cyber Security, Project Management, Computer Architecture, Teaching (Primary or Secondary), Software Development, Web Development, Hardware Technician, Lecturing, Computer Games Development, Digital Animation, Graphic Design, Marketing/Product Design and many more.

GCSE Learning for Life and Work

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There are 3 written examinations - 2 in Year 11 (May) and 1 in year 12 (May). Each examination module is worth 20%, together 60% of final mark.

Which units will I study?

Unit 1 Local and Global Citizenship
Unit 3 Employability

Unit 2 Personal Development
Unit 4 Controlled Assessment Report

Local and Global Citizenship - Diversity and inclusion in Northern Ireland and the wider world. Rights and social responsibilities, in relation to local, national and global issues. The role of society and government in safeguarding rights. Non-governmental organisations. Key democratic institutions and their role in promoting inclusion, justice and democracy. Understanding how to participate in a range of democratic processes.

Personal Development - Understanding how to maximise and sustain health and well-being. Concept of self, managing emotions and reactions. Recognising, assessing and managing risk. Understanding relationships and sexuality, and the responsibilities of healthy relationships. Understanding the roles and responsibilities of parenting. Developing further competence as discerning consumers in preparation for independent living.

Employability - The impact of globalisation on employment. Recruitment and selection procedures. The rights and responsibilities of employees and employers. Self-employment and relevant sources of support. Investigating the increasing social responsibility of business in the community.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Work independently
Think logically

Think critically

Communicate your ideas with confidence

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

This course provides students with the skills they require to think independently, make informed decisions, and take appropriate action when faced with personal, social, economic and employment issues. The careers opportunities of this course are vast, but in particular it provides preparation for careers within law, local government, health, civil service, social work and education.

Modern Languages (French, Irish, Spanish)

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Both **CCEA GCSE Language Courses** and the **OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Modern Languages course** have four assessed components. The key difference is that CCEA units are assessed at the end of the 2 year course whereas OCN assessments are carried out at regular intervals over the 2 year course, more like ongoing assessment/ coursework.

Unit 1: Listening – 25%

Unit 2: Speaking – 25%

Unit 3: Reading – 25%

Unit 4: Writing – 25%

Which units will I study?

Topics covered include: Self; Family; Relationships; Hobbies; Social Media; Healthy Living; Environment; Social Issues; Holidays; School & Future Plans.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

We live in a multicultural society where most employers highly value basic language skills. Through language study you will develop your **communication, presentation and interpersonal skills** which will greatly enhance your opportunities in the world of work.

Desirable personal qualities:

Curiosity, Creativity, Good Attendance, Positive attitude, Diligence

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

In terms of employability and careers, the study of a foreign language enhances students' employment opportunities as they develop skills which are vital in the world of work. Possible career choices include: teaching, working in the travel and tourism industry or hotel industry, air-hostess, holiday representative, tour guide, international business trainee, translating, interpreting, trainee chartered accountant, a sales manager, a TV researcher, publishing assistant, a conference organiser, leisure manager, recruitment consultant, retail manager, restaurant manager, marketing, sales, PR and advertising, a business analyst, investment banker, internet journalist.

GCSE Music

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Performance – 35% of final mark, Composition – 30% of final mark, Written exam – 35% of final mark.

Which units will I study?

Performance – 2 pieces to be performed on any instrument e.g. recorder, voice, violin etc.

Composition – You will compose two original pieces of music; one is free choice and one is in response to a stimulus.

Written – There is one written paper which lasts for 1 hr & 30 minutes. The following four areas will be studied in class in preparation for this examination: **Western Classical Music 1600–1910** , **Film Music, Musical Traditions of Ireland, Popular Music 1980–present day**

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

GCSE Music is not just for students who are considering specialising in music and neither is it solely aimed at those with a classical training; GCSE Music is for everyone. For someone who has talent as a performer, who enjoys composing their own music, who is interested in music technology or who simply enjoys music of any description, GCSE Music offers a way to develop their potential and ultimately to achieve a worthwhile qualification. You will have the opportunity to: Develop the knowledge, understanding and skills needed to communicate effectively as a musician. Develop awareness of music technologies and their use in creating and presenting music. Reflect critically on your own work and the work of others; and progress to further study and/or employment.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

A wide variety of job opportunities are available in music or associated areas for suitably qualified and motivated people. The most obvious careers are those that are directly involved in creating and performing music, such as instrumentalists, singers, accompanists, conductors, composers and arrangers. There are various types of music teaching jobs in the primary and secondary sectors, with more specialised work in third level institutions such as universities and colleges. Instrumental and vocal tuition (whether classical, traditional, jazz or popular) may be carried out privately or on a peripatetic basis. For those with a background in music technology, there is the possibility of employment in the recording industry as a composer, producer or sound engineer. Instrument making and repair are sometimes overlooked and yet provide a lucrative income because of the specialised nature of the work. There are numerous jobs associated with music, such as arts management, music publishing, musicology and music journalism. Music is also a rewarding leisure activity for those who take part in choirs, bands and amateur ensembles or simply enjoy attending concerts or listening to music.

Occupational Studies

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Occupational Studies is a vocational course that allows pupils to achieve 2 GCSE equivalent grades through a variety of activities, practical lessons and continuous assessment. Occupational Studies is 100% portfolio based. Pupils will complete 2 units in Business & Services and 2 units in Design & Creativity.

Which units will I study?

Business & Services:

- Childcare: the play environment – this unit introduces learners to working with children in a childcare environment. It includes designing a game, making a book prop and learning how a child develops.
- The physical care of babies – this unit helps learners to develop an understanding of the physical needs of babies. It includes learning to bath a baby, make a baby bottle and putting a baby to bed safely.

Design & Creativity:

- Contemporary Cuisine – this unit provides learners with some of the basic principles required by chefs in the catering industry. Pupils will make 4 starters, 4 main courses and 4 desserts.
- Patisserie and baking - this unit provides learners with some of the basic baking principles required by pastry chefs in the catering industry. Pupils will make 4 different breads or scones, 4 different cakes or biscuits and 4 pastry desserts.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Time-management
- Organisation
- Good attendance
- Creativity

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Occupational Studies allows pupils to experience two areas; childcare and cookery. Pupils will have the opportunity to continue with their chosen area at Level 3.

Physical Education

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Students are assessed on the quality, efficiency and effectiveness of their performances in three practical sports (150 marks), an oral analysis and comprehensive evaluation of their own or another pupil's performance (50 marks) which equates to 50% and two written examinations in May of their final GCSE year. (50%)

Which units will I study?

Component 1: Developing Knowledge, Understanding and Skills for Balanced, Healthy Lifestyles and Participation in Physical Activities

Component 2: Developing and Maintaining a Balanced, Healthy Lifestyle

Component 3: Individual Performance in Physical Activities

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Current participation in sport outside school (own sport/club)
- Excellent key stage 3 routine of bringing full PE uniform to class
- Willingness to commit to training at least 2/3 days every week
- Ability to participate in different sporting activities
- Excellent key stage 3 PE participation record
- Willingness to learn new skills e.g. hillwalking, camp craft, hiking, personal survival etc
- Interest in sport

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Possible careers include: PE teacher, Sports Coach, Fitness Instructor, Physiotherapist and many more.

Preparation for Adult Life

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The Level 2 Preparation for Adult Life qualification, offered by CCEA, enables St Mary's College to achieve our fundamental aim of providing a curriculum that meets the needs of each individual pupil and provides them with an opportunity to access both academic and vocational pathways.

We aim to educate the whole pupil, providing each unique pupil with the essential and desirable skills for life and employment and endeavouring to keep our promise to our pupils that "Together we will shape your future".

Assessment is portfolio based. Students will produce evidence that shows how they have met the assessment criteria for each unit. There is no examination in this qualification.

Which units will I study?

- Unit 1: Diversity and Social Inclusion
- Unit 2: Democracy and Democratic Participation
- Unit 3: Human Rights and Social Responsibility
- Unit 4: Equality and Social Justice
- Unit 5: Preparation for Work
- Unit 6: Business in the Community
- Unit 7: Effective Work Practice
- Unit 8: Globalisation and the Labour market
- Unit 9: Self-Development
- Unit 10: Roles and Responsibilities of Parents
- Unit 11: Healthy Relationships
- Unit 12: Maintaining Personal Health and Well-Being
- Unit 13: Effective Financial management

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

By studying Preparation for Adult Life, students gain transferable personal and professional skills in working with others, problem solving and research. Students will also develop skills such as self-awareness, application of number; communication; improving own learning and performance and information and communication technology. In addition to obtaining these invaluable personal and professional skills, students are awarded the equivalent of 1 Grade B at GCSE level.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

This qualification provides a progression route to higher learning. The Level 2 Preparation for Adult Life qualifications develops a wide range of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The Achieve programme draws on the Trust's expertise in **youth based work** and its heritage of **working with diverse partners**, such as sports organisations and employers to reinforce and **enhance existing learning** in an education setting. The Achieve programme is designed to **help young people who are at risk of educational underachievement or exclusion** by re-engaging them with education and supporting them to achieve their full potential. This course is the equivalent to 2 B grades at level 2.

Which units will I study? – Pupils can choose six units

Career planning	Presentation	Work experience
Money management	Enterprise	Healthy eating
Community Impact	Digital Skills	Physical Activity

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

- Dedication
- Organisation
- Communication
- Time management

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

The Prince's Trust qualifications in Personal Development and Employability Skills recognise a breadth of personal skills, qualities and attitudes required by employers across a range of sectors. They have been developed with the aim of progressing learners into further education and/or employment and are available for use with pre and post 16 learners.

Religious Studies

How will I be assessed in this subject?

GCSE Religious Studies is a two year course delivered over four lessons per week. Students will study the CCEA specification.

Which units will I study?

Taught Units

1. **Unit 5:** Christianity through a Study of the Gospel of Mark
This unit aims to introduce students to a number of themes in the life of Jesus as portrayed in the Gospel of Mark. In their study students have the opportunity to enhance their knowledge, understanding and ability to evaluate key passages.
2. **Unit 6:** An Introduction to Christian Ethics
This unit aims to introduce students to ethics within the study of Religion. Students explore personal and family issues, matters of life and death, developments in bio ethics, equality, poverty and war and peace.

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

Religious Studies facilitates the development of many transferable skills that can be used in a wide range of situations. These skills are

- researching
- analysing information
- communication skills (spoken and written)
- writing essays, reports and other documents
- being objective, recognising bias and balancing different viewpoints.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

This course prepares students for further study of religious studies and for the following careers: Solicitor, Barrister, Medicine, Medical Research, Nursing, Teaching, Policing, Journalism, Researching, Lecturing, Social Work, Community Work and Charity Work.

Technology & Design

How will I be assessed in this subject?

This highly respected qualification opens the door to a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries as well as being excellent preparation for numerous other professions. Technology & Design is purposeful, as well as being fun and exciting! People with Engineering and Technology degrees earn approximately 20% more per year than the average graduate salary. GCSE Technology & Design is the best pathways into our successful A level course. In today's society there are excellent job prospects for students who study Technology & Design for AS and A Level.

The new GCSE Technology and Design course requires one Design and Manufacture project which consists of a design folder (maximum 10 A3 page portfolio and a manufactured product). This coursework is worth 50% of the final GCSE mark/grade. Each pupil will design and manufacture a product of their choice with teacher guidance. This allows students to complete coursework on an area of personal interest or connected to a hobby. Students will also complete two exam papers one in each Year 11 and Year 12.

Which units will I study?

Unit 1: Technology and Design Core Content	25%	Exam 1hr 30 min	Year 11
Unit 2: Product Design	25%	Exam 1hr 30 min	Year 12
Unit 3: Design and Manufacture Project	50%	Coursework	Year 11, Year 12

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

It's fun to design and make things! If you have enjoyed Technology in Year 8-10 and are achieving good marks you will continue to do so. The course also develops team work and time management skills which are highly prized by employers. It will also allow you to be creative and hands on.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Typical career opportunities would be in: Advertising, Animation, Architecture, Computer Programming, Design (fashion, furniture, graphic, interior etc.), Engineering (civil, electrical, electronic etc.), Marketing, Planning, Robotics, Teacher, Traditional Trades and many more.

Occupational Studies - Technology and Innovation

How will I be assessed in this subject?

This qualification will be 100% internally assessed. Learners complete two units from the Technology & Innovation area. You will carry out tasks to gather the required assessment evidence in a portfolio for each unit. Tasks include answering questions, carrying out practical activities and evaluating their own performance. Your teacher assesses the portfolio of evidence, and the examination board carry out external moderation.

Occupational Studies allows learners to learn for work, through work and about work. This hands-on approach is ideal for those who prefer to develop their skills in a more practical, occupational environment.

Which units will I study?

Two Units from the list below will be selected for study based on the skill set of the students. Each unit will be worth 50% of the final grade awarded:

- Bench Joinery
- Carpentry and Joinery
- Computer Aided Design
- Digital Imaging
- Digital Music
- Manufacturing Techniques – Hand Fitting
- Manufacturing Techniques – Sheet Metal
- Sound Production
- TV and Film Production

What skills and attributes do I need to be successful in this subject?

It is fun to design and make things! If you have enjoyed the practical aspect of Technology & Design in Years 8-10 you will continue to do so. You will also be using modern technology including Computer Aided Design to complete your portfolios. The course will develop team work and time management which are highly prized by employers.

What careers pathways are available to me if I study this subject?

Typical career opportunities include those in various areas of engineering and the many apprenticeships on offer including those in traditional trades.

“

Education is
the most **POWERFUL**
WEAPON!
which *you* can use
to *change*
the **WORLD.**

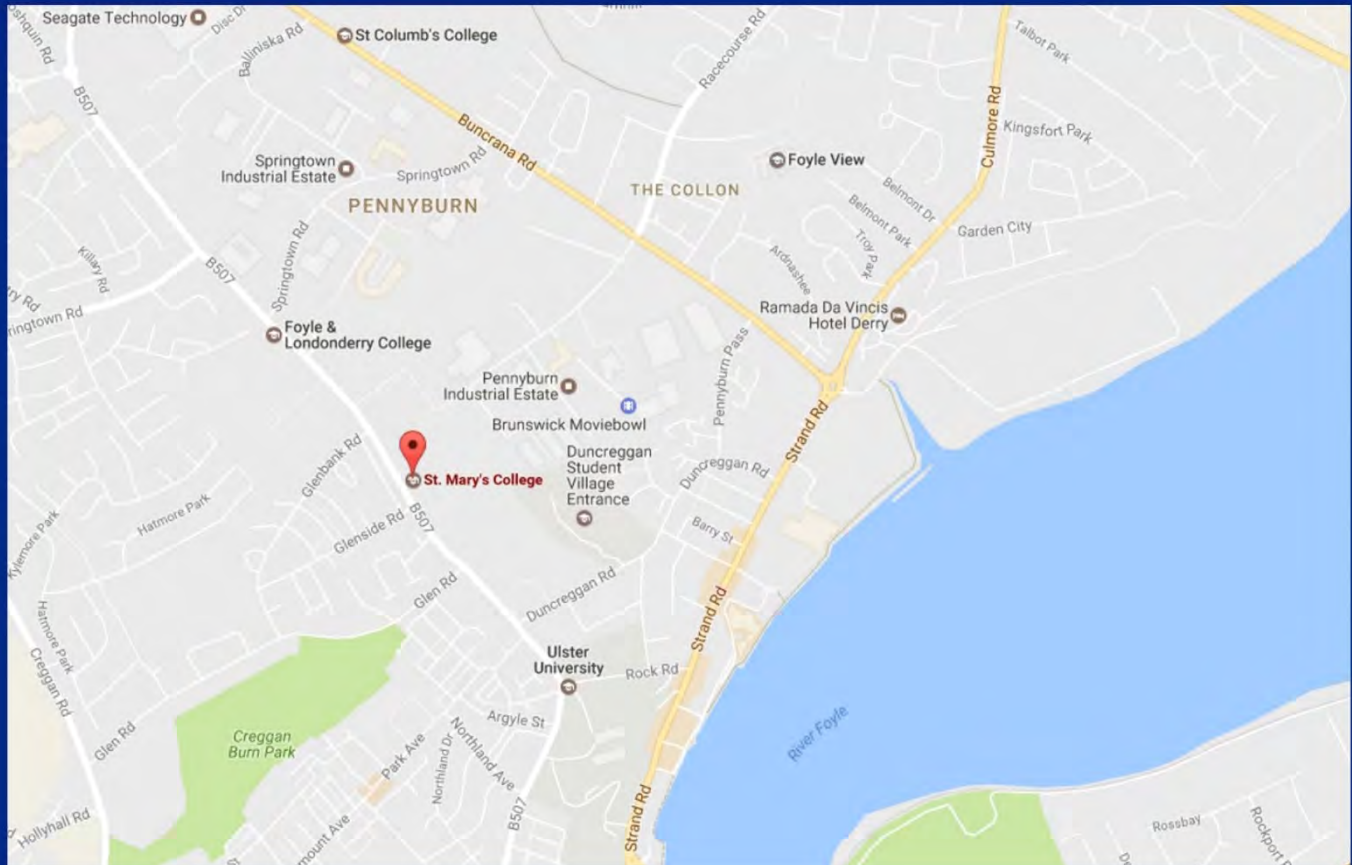
”

-Nelson Mandela



ST MARY'S COLLEGE

Together we will shape your future



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'May respect for each other be the light that guides us'