St. Julie's Catholic High School

Key Stage 4

Course Information

June 2026

Introduction

This options booklet has been designed to help you make the first decision in your journey through Key Stage 4 Education. Whilst the choices that you make now will help to decide what you study for the next three years, it will also help to direct the courses that you can study at 16 and can even impact on the choices that you might make for University or your career.

This may be the first chance that you've had to choose what you want to study, and you might feel under pressure to make the right decision or worry too much about making the wrong one, but you should remember that it is a chance for you to take charge of your education and start giving it some direction of your own.

Having to make these decisions now can seem daunting, but everybody your age in pretty much every school is having to make the same decisions, so you're not on your own! Before you make your choice you'll probably want to have spoken to your parents or grandparents, your friends, your teachers or someone else that you trust who knows you well. You should try and get as much advice and guidance as you think you need, but the choice will ultimately be yours.

Ideally your choices will be...

Enjoyable	you're more likely to succeed at a course that you enjoy doing!
Relevant	the course should help you along your chosen educational or career pathway
Achievable	it's good to stretch yourself, but you should always try and make sure that your goals are realistic

The best place to start is usually by thinking about yourself and the things that you enjoy and are successful at. Do you like investigating things and finding out how they work? You might like to think about science based courses. Are you a creative person? Do you like performing and expressing yourself in different ways?

Reading each of the subject pages in this booklet will help you to get a feel for what the different subjects offer and if they are right for you.

You will also want to give some thought to the ways that you learn most effectively. Do you like to see something demonstrated, or do you prefer to be told how to do it so you can try for yourself? Do you prefer listening or watching? Look at the assessment methods listed in the subject pages and see if this information helps you to make a choice.

You should also give some thought to how well your chosen subjects go with each other. Some subjects share similar themes, or have other things in common. Lots of students find it easier to learn well with combinations of subjects that go well together rather than subjects that are all very different from each other.

What about if I don't have a chosen career?

That's alright – it's not vital that you have chosen a career path yet. Sticking to the principles in the section above should allow you to make choices that will still give you some flexibility when you reach the end of Year 11. Unfortunately, you should be aware that not choosing certain subjects will mean that there are certain paths that it would be very difficult to take in later life. As one example, if you choose not to take any kind of science option then you may find it very difficult to access science based courses at university.

Some GOOD reasons for choosing a course...

It helps you towards what you want to do for a career

It goes well with your other choices

You enjoy it and you think you will do well

It will give you useful transferable skills

You're thinking of studying the course in Sixth Form

This is one reason why it's really helpful to talk

about any career plans you think you might have with somebody who can help to advise you.

Some BAD reasons for choosing a course...

You think it sounds easy

Your friends have all picked it

You like the teacher that you have now

You just picked anything because you ran out of time

How can I find out more about a course?

This booklet is your starting point, but you may find that you want more detail about what a course is like. You can ask to speak to a teacher who teaches the subject, but you can also try and speak to some older students who are doing the course themselves to try and find out what it's really like.

Put Yourself in Charge!

Lots of people will be happy to give you advice about what you should choose, but the decision is yours. If you let other people make the choices for you then you might end up studying for courses that are good for them but not good for you!

Will I definitely be able to study the subjects that I choose?

Unfortunately we can't say that you'll definitely get all of your choices. The subjects that students do for their options have to be organised into blocks.

Many schools will give you the blocks before you make your choices, meaning that certain combinations of subjects don't work because they are taught at the same time and you can't be in two places at once.

This year we are waiting for you to indicate your preferences before organising the blocks to make sure that as many of you as possible do get the subjects you want.

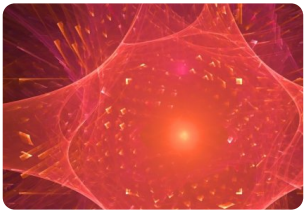
It is still possible that if your choices are very unusual compared to other people in the year then you might not get your first choices.

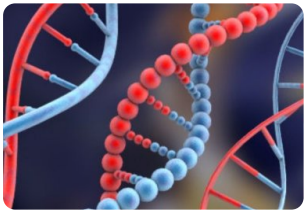
For now you should read through all of the subject pages and try to get a better understanding of what each subject involves. Your teachers will give you more information soon about what happens next.

We cannot guarantee that all students will have access to a full suite of GCSE qualifications. Careful consideration will be given to KS2 prior attainment and current academic progress. Individual meetings will be arranged with students and parents to discuss options throughout the Year 8 options process.

Changes...

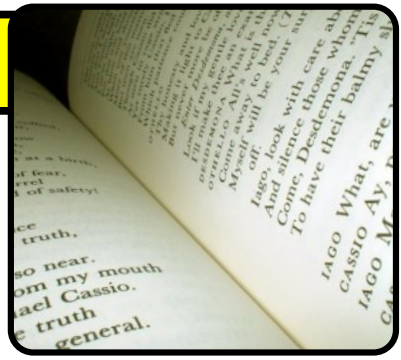
The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publishing but as you get closer to your final exams a few years from now, you should check things like qualification codes to make sure you have correct and up-to-date information.





CORE SUBJECTS

English Language



Language is power. GCSE English Language gives you the skills to command your language and be powerful. You will be given the opportunity to read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction texts. Analysing texts will reveal to you how writers make choices about their language and how those choices shape and change meanings. You will discover hidden meanings in texts and start to think about things in new, different and exciting ways.

For budding writers there are myriad opportunities to write creatively and freely. GCSE English Language encourages you to be imaginative when writing stories and descriptions, and also to write about real life issues such as the rise of food bank usage or how young people are portrayed in the media. If you fancy a job as a journalist, then GCSE English Language is your passage to the press!

The exams are untiered, with all students being taught the skills needed to access the full range of marks. GCSE English Language is a vital part of your future education and employment.

Exciting courses are open to you post-16 with GCSE English Language. At the moment, we offer two English courses at A-Level: A-Level English Literature and the combined A-Level English Language & Literature. The combined course is an interesting study of linguistics and sylistics, and would be an excellent foundation for anyone wanting to study English at university. Both courses are highly regarded by universities and employers.

GCSE English Language is more than just a core subject; it helps you acquire the necessary skills on which to build your future success. The English department at St. Julie's look forward to helping you unlock the power of language and develop real confidence in its usage.

Confidence and competency in English language will support your achievements across the whole curriculum: your GCSE English qualification will prove a real foundation for all your future experience and success. Our GCSE English Language results are good: they are consistently in line with national performance.

Course

Award
GCSE English Language
QAN Code
601/4292/3
Assessment
2 Papers, 1h 45m each
1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50% of GCSE)
2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50% of GCSE)
1 x Non-examined assessment

Skills

Communicating clearly and imaginatively
Following an argument
Developing critical and analytical skills
Evaluating how writers achieve effects
Reading with insight and engagement

Careers

Journalism
Publishing
Media
Advertising
Marketing and Sales
Arts Administration
Recruitment consultancy
Public Relations
Teaching
Health and Social Work
Research

English Literature

Studying GCSE English Literature immerses you in the world of words and books, and encourages you to embrace poetry and drama with fresh and exciting perspectives.

The study of GCSE English Literature will introduce you to new ideas and experiences. You will learn about books and literature while enjoying the comedies and tragedies of a variety of novels, plays and poetry.

The range of literature you will encounter over the three year course spans from Shakespeare to the present day, with inspiring texts at every level and genre. You will study Macbeth, An Inspector Calls, a 19th century novel, which will either be A Christmas Carol or The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde, and an AQA anthology of poetry about power and conflict.

At the end of the course, you will take two exams which will test your knowledge of three set texts, the anthology and your comparison of unseen poems. The exams are untiered, with all students being taught the skills needed to access the full range of marks.

English Literature is also a thriving and extremely popular subject at A level. Your love for literature can be extended here at St. Julie's post-16 with exciting and inspiring texts. The skills of literary analysis give you a good grounding for a variety of undergraduate courses.

GCSE English Literature gives you the ability to seek out the layers of meaning in texts. This is a skill that is essential for all the subjects you may choose to study and for all aspects of your future life where you will need to infer meaning and read 'between the lines'.

Studying English Literature at A-Level opens many doors. Universities consider English Literature one of the most challenging and rigorous A-Level subjects. Here at St. Julie's, we pride ourselves on giving you an effective springboard to this future success. Our GCSE English Literature results are good: they are consistently at least in line with, but usually above, national performance.

Course

Award GCSE **QAN Code** 601/4447/6

Assessment

Two papers:

1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel (1hr 45 mins) 40% of GCSE

2: Modern Texts and Poetry (2hrs 15 mins) 60% of GCSE

No Coursework

You do not need to choose this course as an option as it is included in your core English course.

Skills

Critical thinking
Understanding and evaluating
Comparative skills
Flexibility of thought
Debating and discussing
Inference

Careers

Journalism
Publishing
Media
Advertising
Arts Administration
Public Relations
Teaching
Law
Theatre and the Arts
Freelance writer

PSHE

PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)
PSHE is a core subject that helps you develop the knowledge, skills and attributes you need to manage your life now and in the future. It is about making informed decisions, understanding yourself and others, and preparing for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

What will you study?
PSHE covers three core themes that are essential for your personal development:

Health and Wellbeing
- Mental health and emotional wellbeing
- Healthy lifestyles and physical health
- Managing stress and building resilience
- Understanding risks and keeping safe
- First aid and emergency procedures

Relationships
- Developing and maintaining healthy relationships
- Understanding different types of relationships
- Respect, consent and boundaries
- Online safety and digital citizenship
- Recognising and responding to abuse

Living in the Wider World
- Financial capability and money management
- Career planning and employability skills
- Understanding rights and responsibilities
- British values and citizenship
- Enterprise and economic understanding

Why is PSHE important?
PSHE helps you develop transferable skills that support your success across all subjects and prepare you for life beyond school. You'll learn to make informed decisions, solve problems, and understand how your choices impact your wellbeing and future opportunities.

The course supports you in:
- Building confidence and self-awareness
- Developing critical thinking skills
- Making healthy, informed choices
- Preparing for the world of work
- Understanding financial matters
- Building positive relationships
- Staying safe both online and offline

Assessment
PSHE is not formally examined, but your engagement and understanding are monitored through:
- Class participation and discussion
- Project work and presentations
- Self-reflection activities

Skills you will develop

- **Communication** - expressing views clearly and listening to others
- **Decision-making** - weighing up options and making informed choices
- **Self-management** - setting goals and managing your wellbeing
- **Research** - finding reliable information and evaluating sources
- **Teamwork** - collaborating effectively with others
- **Critical thinking** - analysing information and challenging assumptions

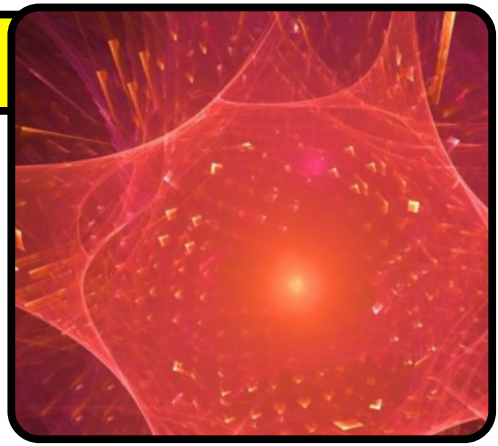
Careers and future pathways
The skills developed through PSHE are valuable for all career paths. Understanding health, relationships, and financial management are essential life skills that employers value highly. Whether you pursue further education, apprenticeships, or employment, PSHE equips you with the knowledge and skills to navigate adult life successfully. PSHE particularly supports careers in:
- Healthcare and social care
- Teaching and education
- Youth and community work
- Human resources
- Counselling and therapy
- Financial services
- Public services
- Charity and voluntary sector

Reading & Oracy

Students will complete one lesson a week which will focus on developing core skills which they will need for all of their GCSE subjects, and post 16 education. This will include a specific focus on reading skills and strategies, structured talk and discussion and extended writing.

Students will be exposed to high utility tier 2 vocabulary and high quality reading material, both fiction and non fiction across years nine to eleven. Pupils will read classic and modern fiction and they will be expected to articulate their thoughts and ideas in response to these texts, using key vocabulary.

Mathematics



The main reason for studying mathematics to an advanced level is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity, and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution of a problem has an excitement and a satisfaction. You will find all these aspects in your GCSE course.

You should also be aware of the wide importance of Mathematics, and the way in which it is advancing at a spectacular rate. Mathematics is about pattern and structure; it is about logical analysis, deduction, calculation within these patterns and structures. When patterns are found, often in widely different areas of science and technology, the mathematics of these patterns can be used to explain and control natural happenings and situations. Mathematics has a pervasive influence on our everyday lives, and contributes to the wealth of the country.

Mathematics is a universal part of human culture. It is the tool and language of commerce, engineering and other sciences - physics, computing, biology etc. It helps us recognise patterns and to understand the world around us. Mathematics plays a vital, often unseen, role in many aspects of modern life, for example:

- Space travel
- Safeguarding credit card details on the internet
- Modelling the spread of epidemics
- Predicting stock market prices
- Business decision making

As society becomes more technically dependent, there will be an increasing requirement for people with a high level of mathematical training. Analytical and quantitative skills are sought by a wide range of employers. Those who qualify in mathematics are in the fortunate position of having a wide range of career choices. The abilities

- to use logical thought,
- to formulate a problem in a way which allows for computation and decision,
- to make deductions from assumption,
- to use advanced concepts,

With a mathematics degree, you should be able to turn your hand to finance, statistics, engineering, computers, teaching or accountancy. This flexibility is even more important nowadays, with the considerable uncertainty as to which areas will be the best for employment in future years. Surveys show graduates in mathematicians and computer science at the top of the earning lists six years after graduation.

All of your future plans and ambitions need a solid foundation. Success in GCSE Mathematics will give you a fantastic platform on which to build the career and future of your dreams.

Maths is vital.

Course

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
EDEXCEL
QAN Code
601/4700/3
Assessment
Assessment is by a Linear exam in the summer of Year 11. There are three papers, two calculator and one non-calculator all worth 33.3%. There is no coursework.

Skills

Problem solving
Thinking skills
Logical reasoning
Develops perseverance
Independent learning
Working in a group
Statistical analysis

Careers

Maths is an essential tool for most jobs. It is particularly useful for the following professions...

Architecture, Banking and Finance, Chemists, Computer Programmers, Engineering, Nurses Medicine, Military Personnel, Teaching and Tradespeople.

Religious Education

Maybe it is worth beginning by saying what GCSE Religious Education isn't about!

It isn't about trying to 'brainwash' people into a particular way of thinking or to uncritically accept a particular set of beliefs. Instead, the Religious Education Department at St Julie's welcomes pupils of all faiths and none, and simply asks that they come to the lessons with an open mind and a readiness to listen to and respect the views of others.

Pupils quickly learn that RE lessons at St Julie's are places where they are entitled to challenge the views of others, provided that they are prepared to have their own views challenged in return - all done in a way that respects the dignity of those who hold views different to our own.

The course followed at St Julie's focuses mainly on the Roman Catholic faith tradition, as is right and proper given the ethos and mission of the school. However, over the three Units studied for this qualification, pupils will have the opportunity to reflect on a range of issues and questions that are of relevance to all people, regardless of their own faith background.

In Year 9, pupils will be finishing off the Key Stage 3 Course and beginning the GCSE course in January.

Course content is Foundational Catholic Theology making up 37.5% of study, Applied Catholic Theology 37.5% and Judaism 25%.

At the end of Year 11 pupils sit three examinations, to give the final grade.

If you still need convincing of the popularity and success of Religious Studies, look no further than the number of students who continue their studies in this subject at A2 Level in the 6th Form and then on to University!

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
Eduqas
QAN Code
601/8879/0
Assessment
Examination

Course

Skills

Empathy with others
Understanding and solving problems
Reasoning
Researching
Debating
Analysis
Critical thinking
Evaluation
You will also develop an understanding of self and others.

Religious Studies is useful for the following professions...

Law
Medicine
Nursing
Teaching
Politics
Counselling
Journalism
Communications

Careers

GCSE Combined Science

Science is about investigating how the natural world works. Our Science courses are designed to engage students' interests at every level by providing relevant and inspiring academic content and practical opportunities to undertake scientific enquiry and learn about the scientific process.

GCSE Combined Science provides you with the knowledge and understanding you need to make sense of the science that you will meet in your everyday life. The Nobel Prize winning French Scientist Mare Curie once said "Nothing in life is to be feared. It is only to be understood." GCSE Combined Science will enable you to understand the key issues in science that are relevant today.

Combined Science offers students a broad, coherent course of study that adds to their knowledge and understanding of the living, material and physical worlds.

This double award is equivalent to two GCSEs. There are twenty one required practicals that are essential for students' understanding of scientific theory.

Assessment:
Candidates will sit six papers; two biology, two chemistry and two physics.

The papers are equally weighted, each worth 16.7% of the overall grade.

Award
AQA Trilogy Science GCSE (x2)
Exam Board
AQA
QAN Code
601/8758/X
Assessment
100% exam

Course

Skills

Interpreting data
Critical thinking
Reasoning
Researching
Problem solving
Drawing conclusions
Making informed and considered choices
Evaluating evidence

The AQA Combined Science 'Trilogy' course offers an excellent grounding in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students who perform well in GCSE Combined Science are eligible to progress to separate sciences at A Level which would in turn - and dependent upon performance - allow progression to the full range of science related careers including medicine, veterinary science, forensic science, pharmacy, petrochemicals, environmental sciences, marine biology, zoology. The analytical and thinking developed through a study of sciences are of great value in a wide range of non-science related careers in the public and private sectors

Careers

Learning Support

If your child has been identified as having a Special Educational Need or Disability, then the Learning Support Team will continue to offer support and intervention throughout Key Stage 4.

As a team we offer several key services, including:

- In class one-to-one or small group support
- Transition support
- Revision and exam skills workshops
- A dedicated Key Stage 4 Learning Coach
- Mindfulness, Anxiety & Stress Management workshops
- Bespoke revision sessions
- Assertive Mentoring
- Work completed with the school Careers Advisor.
- Extracurricular clubs
- Social Skills Schemes
- Lego Therapy
- Colour Therapy
- Testing for exam access arrangements.

New interventions are devised each year based on the needs of individual pupils.

If you have any questions about the Learning Support Team and what can be offered to your daughter, please contact our SENCO, Miss S Jackson.

All interventions are based around the Graduated Approach (shown below) and are implemented based on information from subject teachers.

In class support, Quality First Teaching and differentiation form the first wave of intervention for all children.

Wherever possible, support will be offered within school, but in some cases, it may be necessary to enlist the help of more specialised, external agencies. If this is the case, all students and their parents /carers will be fully involved in the referral process.

Useful Resources and contacts:

Liverpool Local Offer
Liverpoool.gov.uk (select schools then SEN)

National Autistic Society:
www.autism.org.uk

Dyslexia Action
www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk

ADHD Foundation
www.adhdfoundation.org.uk

Spelling support
www.learnthat.org

Numeracy
uk.ixl.com

Extra Curricular and Super Curricular Opportunities

Extra and super curricular activities augment and enhance the student experience, as well as offering valuable additional life skills and experiences. We have opportunities available for students of all ages in our school.

STEM activities	Duke Of Edinburgh
Mathematics Problem-Solving Club	HE+ programme
Oxbridge Outreach Programme	Master-classes
Alumni Programme – presentations from former students	School trips abroad
Medlink and Vetlink	The Brilliant Club
Year 7 Scholars Programme	Girls' Network
Social Mobility Foundation	Elevate Programme
Accelerated Year 8 Maths Programme	Mentoring support
Leadership opportunities	Enterprise programmes
Cultural visits	Lectures at Hope University
Performing Arts Elite Companies	A range of clubs in all sports and arts

OPTIONS SUBJECTS

Art & Design

Art & Design is a broad course that explores practical and contextual work through a range of 2D and 3D processes, and new media and technologies. The course gives students a wide range of creative, exciting and stimulating opportunities to explore their interests in art and design.

GCSE provides a strong foundation for further progression to related courses such as A level and Further Education.

It is a general course where the candidates are expected to work with a variety of materials and processes associated with drawing, painting, textile design and ceramics. Each candidate is expected to produce a portfolio of work based on the theme of the natural world. It is essential that drawings are made from first hand observations and to aid this, visits are made to local venues and galleries where the students are encouraged to collect both visual (drawing and photographic) and written information which they will develop later as coursework.

For each project, the student is expected to demonstrate an ability to sustain work from initial starting points to the finished piece(s) as well as to show how their ideas developed and evidence of research of other artists work and show how it has influenced their work.

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
Eduqas
QAN Code
601/8087/0
Assessment
Portfolio of work:
60% of final mark
Externally Set Task:
40% of final mark

Course

Skills

Making appropriate use of colour, line,tone, texture, shape and form; using different approaches to record images; showing an understanding of the conventions of representational and non-representational imagery and genres; investigating different ways of working as appropriate to the different areas.

Industrial Design
Multimedia Design
Jewellery Design
Fashion Design
Architecture
Theatre design
Ceramics
Teaching

Careers

Business Studies

Business Studies is about the real world. If you want to be a young entrepreneur or business woman and set up your own business in the future then this is the subject for you!

It is the study of how businesses are set up, managed, financed, marketed and operated.
Famous business people include Duncan Ballantyne, Oprah Winfrey, Richard Branson, Anita Roddick and Bill Gates.

Business studies offers you the chance to understand the way firms in the UK operate. We look at how and why businesses make profits (or losses), how they provide the goods and services that we need, how they create employment, the risks that they take and why they are so important to the UK.
We will all enter the world of work at some point in our life. Business Studies prepares you for work, giving you the knowledge and understanding of all aspects of how businesses operate.
Business Studies will help you to think about and investigate your career options and to develop any business ideas you may have. You will learn how businesses recruit, get the best out of and keep their staff. You may also find it useful to learn about the job application process and what employers are looking for in their employees. Whilst studying Business you will also develop related skills such as numeracy, presentation skills, ICT and literacy.

When choosing this subject as an option you need to be aware that part of the course includes accounting and finance and so a good standard of numeracy is required.

Some of the topics you will study include:

- Entrepreneurs and enterprise
- Business Activity
- Marketing
- People
- Management
- Operations
- Production
- Finance and Accounting
- Economics
- Globalisation
- Politics
- Technology and Innovation

Course Structure

Paper 1: Investigating small business
Written examination: 1h 45 minutes
50% of qualification

A mix of short answer and structured questions based on stimulus material covering all of the specification content.

Paper 2: Building a business
Written examination: 1h 45 minutes
50% of qualification

Data response questions covering all of the specification content.

Course

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
Edexcel
QAN Code
603/0121/1
Assessment
Written Examination

Skills

Teamwork
Initiative
Problem Solving
Presenting Information
Researching
Making Judgements
Reaching Conclusions
Communication
Numeracy
Literacy
ICT

Careers

Business Studies provides both a foundation for further study at advanced level, and an ideal preparation for the world of work or setting up your own business.
As it is about the real world it is useful for a wide range of degree courses and professions including:
Law, Marketing, Event Management, Accountancy, Enterprise Management

Hospitality & Catering

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

This unit introduces you to the Hospitality and Catering vocational sector. You will learn about all aspects of the industry and be able to propose new hospitality and catering provision for specific locations. You will be able to use knowledge of different types of establishment and job roles to determine the best option. You will then apply your learning in relation to front of house and kitchen operations to determine how the proposed hospitality and catering provision will operate efficiently, legally and be financially viable.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

You will learn how to plan, cook and present food and apply the principles of nutrition, healthy eating and food safety. You will draw on your learning of different types of provision and kitchen and front of house operations in Unit 1, as well as personal safety in all your practical work.

Course

Award
Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering A.
Exam Board
WJEC
QAN Code
603/7022/1
Assessment
Written examination Unit 1
Practical and portfolio Unit 2

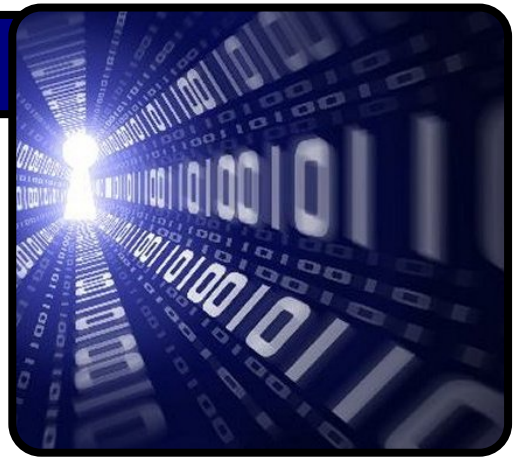
Skills

Use of equipment, use of techniques in the preparation and cooking of food commodities, cooking techniques, presentation, sensory analysis, food safety and hygiene, planning dishes for selection of menus, evaluating.

Careers

Catering,
Hospitality,
service industry,
manufacturing,
Home Economist,
Food journalist,
Food Teacher,
Environmental Health.

GCSE Computer Science



Computers play a vital role in our day-to-day lives and activities. GCSE Computer Science provides an opportunity to gain a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from your ICT lessons, other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give you an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which you will find both challenging and absorbing with opportunities to hone your technical and creative skills.
The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of information technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area. Students who've taken a GCSE in Computing and who then progress to study the subject at A Level or university will have an advantage over their colleagues who are picking up the subject at these levels.
The course will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills through the study of computer programming, giving you an interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

Component 1 - Computer Systems
This unit covers key computing concepts and theory on the following topics:

- Systems Architecture
- Memory and storage
- Wired and wireless networks including network topologies, protocols and layers
- System security
- System software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns

This unit of work is assessed in a 1 hour 30 minute examination and is worth 50% of the final GCSE mark.

Unit 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming
This unit covers programming and computational thinking, such as:

- Algorithms
- Programming techniques
- Producing robust programs
- Computational logic
- Translators and facilities of languages
- Data representation

This unit of work is assessed in a 1 hour 30 minute examination and is worth 50% of the final GCSE mark.

During the study of GCSE Computer Science students will also have to undertake a programming project. Which will include:

Programming techniques
- Analysis
- Design
- Development
- Testing and evaluation and Conclusions

This project will take 20 hours and is a formal requirment of the GCSE course.

Course

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
OCR
QAN Code
601/8355/X
Assessment
100% Examination

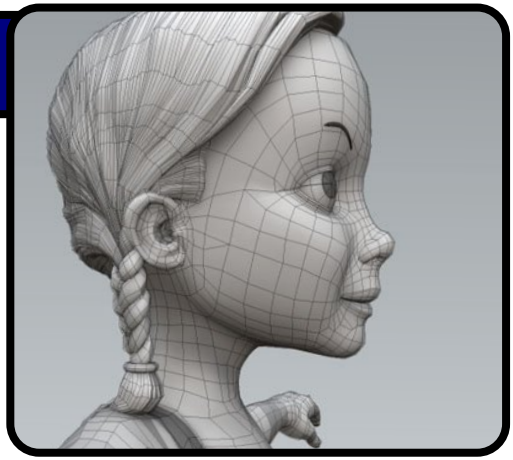
Skills

Application development
Critical thinking
Data management
Planning
Problem solving
Programming
Researching

Careers

Computer programmer
Engineering
Financial management
Games designer
Network manager
Product designer
Researcher
Resource management
Systems Analyst
Web designer

Creative iMedia (ICT)



Creative iMedia is a qualification that is media sector-focused, including film, television, web development, gaming, animation and has IT at the heart.

Creative iMedia provides knowledge in a number of key areas from pre-production skills to digital animation and allows students to have a motivated hands-on approach to learning.

The qualification in iMedia consists of four units:

Unit 1: Pre-production skills- 25% externally assessed

This unit will enable you to understand pre-production skills used in the creative and digital media sector.

Unit 2: Creating digital graphics - 25% internally assessed

This unit is for you to understand the basics of digital graphics editing for the creative and digital media sector, to learn where and why digital graphics are used and what techniques are involved in their creation

Unit 3: Creating a multipage website-25% internally assessed

This unit will enable you to understand the basics of creating multipage websites. It will enable you to demonstrate your creativity by combining components to create a functional, intuitive and aesthetically pleasing website.

Unit 4: Creating interactive multimedia products- 25% internally assessed

This unit will enable you to understand the basics of interactive multimedia products for the creative and digital media sector. You will learn where and why interactive multimedia is used and what features are needed for a given purpose.

Course

iMedia will be studied in Year 9-11 and you will complete all four units of study. iMedia is a GCSE equivalent qualifications and students will be graded as Pass, Merit, Distinction or Starred Distinction. iMedia is a very practical course and allows students to demonstrate and develop practical ICT skills which will enable them to progress into a number of different fields.

Award
Cambridge National Certificate Level 1/2
Exam Board
OCR
QAN Code
600/7043/2
Assessment
75% Internally assessed
25% Externally assessed

Course

Skills

The course lets learners gain knowledge in a number of key areas in the media field, from pre-production skills to digital animation. The course will also provide opportunities to develop useful transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

Web developer
Software engineer
Network and Communications Systems administration
Teacher
Game developer
Music producer
Digital artist
Graphic designer
Architect
...and any career which uses computers as core tools...

Careers

Dance

Dance is vital, an activity both exhilarating and liberating to watch or do.

As a physical activity, it promotes fitness, well being and a healthy mind. Dance supports learning across a range of subjects. Students develop confidence and self esteem.

As performers, they develop self and body awareness as well as sensitivity to others and team working skills. As a choreographer, students employ the skills of problem solving and creativity. In directing others, students develop their interpersonal and communication skills.

Dance consists of two components. Component one consists of two sections, performance and choreography. This unit develops their creative, imaginative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacities. Component two is a written paper developing knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills, critical appreciation of own work and critical appreciation of professional works.

Students will get the opportunity to attend workshops, participate in live performances and work with specialists from the dance profession.

Throughout the course there are regular visits to the theatre to see live performances such as musicals and a variety of dance companies which will develop their ability to make judgements.

We have several dance companies at St Julie's which tour many venues. Community work proves to be a rewarding and challenging aspect of the course.

Dance students are entered for a range of festivals, competitions and auditions and have been most successful.

Former students have gone on to study at leading establishments including The Royal Ballet, Italia Conti, Bird College, RADA, LIPA, Laban, Urdang and JMU.

Course

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
AQA
QAN Code
601/8549/1
Assessment
30% Performance
30% Choreography
40% Written Exam

Skills

Problem solving
Creativity
Interpersonal and communication skills
Researching
Analysis
Directing/ leading
Team work
Develop knowledge and understanding about self and body awareness

Careers

Teacher
Dance Therapist
Director
Choreographer
Performer
Events Management
Business Owner
Media and Production

Drama

Drama is an exciting,creative and expressive medium, giving you a range of opportunities.

Drama GCSE consists of 3 components.

Component 1 is a written exam where pupils will study the set text Blood Brothers and review a live performance they have seen during the course.

Component 2 is a devised performance where pupils will develop performance skills and theatrical devices.

Component 3 is a text performance where pupils will perform a selection of script extracts for an audience.

During the Drama GCSE you will study different styles of drama, researching historical periods, theatre companies and practitioners. You will also look at the different ways plays can be staged and how designers

communicate meaning to an audience. The present GCSE groups have worked with professional practitioners from the world of theatre including the Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse and the RSC.

Performance skills are developed so that you are able to create believable characters.

You will learn how to work collaboratively and creatively as a member of a production team and develop skills that will last a life time.

Throughout the course you will see a variety of live performances, including musicals, Shakespeare, comedy and community theatre.

You will also have the opportunity to take part in a range of prestigious events including Festivals, Page to Stage events and Workshops.

Pupils attend workshops and auditions, when the opportunity arises. As a result, past pupils have gained parts in local and national productions.

Former students have gone on to study at leading establishments including Bird College, LIPA, Guildhall and RADA.

Course

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
AQA
QAN Code
601/8575/2
Assessment
Written Paper 40%
Devised Work 40%
Texts in Practise 20%

Skills

Devised Theme work
Acting
Improvisation
Theatre in Education
Physical Theatre
Appreciation of texts and live performances
Evaluation of their own work and that of others

Careers

Drama is invaluable for any career as it helps to build confidence, and learn how to work as a member of a team.
Specific career paths include...
Performing
Directing
Teaching
Drama Therapy
Community and youth work
Former pupils have also followed pathways in Law, Medicine and Accounting

Geography

Geography is one of the most exciting and dynamic subjects you can follow at GCSE. The course we are running has been chosen with St. Julie's pupils in mind.

Studying Geography will enable you to gain a greater understanding of the world in which we live; where we are at present and where we are likely to end up in the future. Aside from classroom learning we are able to take pupils out of school and learn about different environments through field trips. By the time pupils complete the course they will have had opportunities to complete investigative fieldwork in Liverpool One (on how regeneration has impacted on the city), as well as investigating coastal processes in action at Crosby and New Brighton. Additionally we are planning to run a revision fieldtrip to visit river landscapes in Year 11. These fieldtrips are chosen and designed to expand pupils' knowledge and understanding of the course, as well as fulfilling the requirements to complete human and physical geography fieldwork for 15% of the GCSE exam.

There is also the option to go on a residential foreign field trip, which ran to the West Coast of the USA in October 2017, and again in February 2020, and previous locations including Iceland, Catalonian Spain & Italy. Wherever we go, it will provide endless lifelong memories as well as learning more about Geography along the way!

You will study Geography in various ways e.g.classroom learning, Geographical Information Systems (GIS – the application of ICT in Geography), independent and group based research, role plays, debates, through Geographical Skills and of course field trips!

The course we have chosen for you has an appealing mix of both 'traditional' and more contemporary Geography so that pupils are kept engaged and interested throughout the two years. It is split into 3 exams to reduce the length of any single exam, and there is no longer a requirement for controlled assessment coursework – it is all examined at the end of Year 11. All of the exam papers are designed to be accessible to all pupils, with questions ranging from multiple choice, short open questions and extended writing questions worth 8 or 12 marks. Spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPGST) are also key components of the assessment.

Unit 1: Living with the Physical Environment. This exam is 1.5 hours, and is worth 35% of the total GCSE grade. It covers the following topic areas that draw information from the UK and around the world: the challenge of natural hazards; the living world and physical landscapes in the UK.

Unit 2: Challenges in the Human Environment. This is the same structure as unit 1 and covers the following topics: urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenge of resources management.

Unit 3: Geographical Applications. This exam is 1.5 hours and worth 30% of the total grade. It will ask questions about fieldwork completed during the course.

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
AQA
QAN Code
601/8410/3
Assessment
All external examinations will be taken at the end of the three year course

Course

Skills

Use of data, interpretation, Map work, Critical thinking, Literacy, Numeracy, ICT

Types of career which use geography...
Police, Teaching, Environment Agency, Travel and Tourism, Hazard Planning, ICT

Careers

History

History GCSE provides a vital insight into where we have come from, which helps inform where we should be moving towards as a nation in our modern world. History teaches you a variety of significant 'transferable skills'. These are skills which, although you learn them in History, are used in all aspects of life. You learn to use information effectively - this can help you understand problems or issues confronting organisations or individuals; you learn to weigh up conflicting factors before making decisions and you learn to be analytical and critical when looking at information being presented to you. You will develop your questioning and understanding of certain events, people and issues. You also learn about how people have behaved in the past, why they did it and how they might do it again - learning about this can actually help you in your future job by understanding the complex relationships between people and organisations. You learn about the importance of debate and how to clearly express your own point of view. You will develop the ability to ask relevant questions about the past and to investigate them critically using a range of sources in their historical context.

All these valuable skills can help you through school, university, work and life in general. Most importantly, you are taught to think and then make up your own mind. In 1925 Hitler said, "The broad mass of the nation will more easily fall victim to a large lie than a small one." As a student of history you will be a lot less likely to fall victim to large or small lies.

The course is split into two sections, which are as follows: Paper 1 – Understanding the modern world and Paper 2: Shaping the nation. Within these two papers there are different sub-sections of study and time which you will cover. These include: one period study; one thematic study; one wider world depth study and one British depth study including the historic environment. Both papers are examined at the end of Year 11 as 2 hour exams and they are both worth 50% of your total grade.

Paper 1: This is split into two sections. Section A will be the period study of Germany 1890-1945. Section B is the wider world depth study focussed on the Inter-War Years 1918-1939 and the events that took place during that period.

Paper 2: Also split into two sections. The first section studies 'Britain: health and the people c1000 to the present day' as a thematic study and the second section is a British depth study investigating Elizabethan England c 1568-1603. This section includes the study of a historic site which we will try to take pupils to where feasible; there are plans afoot for current Year 10 pupils to visit their Historic site of the Kenilworth Castle, after past Year 11 visited their Historic site of Hardwick Hall in the summer of 2017. Year 11 in recent years visited the Thackray Medical Museum in Leeds to expand their knowledge and understanding of medicine through time.

All of these elements make studying History GCSE interesting, relevant and engaging, and when we add in to the mix opportunities to accompany Humanities foreign residential trips which have recently included The Battlefields of Northern Europe, Poland, Berlin and the West Coast of the USA, choosing to study History becomes an excellent decision.

Course

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
AQA
QAN Code
601/8217/9
Assessment
Paper 1 and 2 are external examinations that will be taken at the end of the three year course with 5% of marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Skills

Understanding and solving problems
Reasoning
Researching
Debating
Analysis
Critical thinking
Evaluating
Explaining
Essay writing
Making connections and comparisons with the past and present

Careers

History is useful for the following professions...
Politics
Journalism
Media
Law
Information Management
Research
Communications
Publishing
Archivist
Postgraduate studies
Teaching

Music

Music is an exciting, creative and challenging course which gives you a range of opportunities both in and outside of school.

Music at GCSE consists of both practical and listening elements. A major part of the course is about performing and composing both individually and in a group situation. You will have to perform 2 pieces of your choice (Solo and Ensemble) and compose 2 pieces of music. The course will allow you to develop your interest and enjoyment of music through studying a genre of your choice, along with a variety of set styles such as pop and rock music, world music and film music. At the end of the course you will sit a 90 minute listening exam based on these set styles.

Throughout the course you will be given the opportunity to develop your ICT skills. This will include the use of recording and sequencing equipment both through your performing and composing tasks.

If you take Music at GCSE you will have to either sing or play a musical instrument. In our current classes pupils sing, play piano, drums and guitar (Bass and Electric), and orchestral instruments (flute, viola and clarinet).

GCSE students will also have the opportunity to perform at the Wirral Festival of Music, take part in music workshops such as the Liverpool's Cavern Club and play at numerous venues inside and outside of school. Pupils are also given the opportunity to perform in school productions, concerts, gigs, assemblies and masses.

Choosing Music at GCSE will develop your interest and enjoyment of Music making you a more confident performer and composer while helping you appreciate a wide variety of styles and genres.

Former students have gone on to study at leading establishments including Bird College, LIPA, and JMU.

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
OCR
QAN Code
601/8216/7
Assessment
60% Coursework
40% Examination
(Listening)

Course

Skills

Performing (Solo and Ensemble)
Composing
Listening
Evaluation of your own work and others
Appreciation of a range Music

Performing
Composing
Teaching
Music therapy
Administration
Publishing
A variety of careers in recording, broadcasting and journalism.
And above all helps you to appreciate music, which is a universal language

Careers

Physical Education

The aim of Physical Education is to promote enjoyment through a variety of learning experiences and situations which stimulate the acquisition and development of a wide range of physical skills. At GCSE pupils are encouraged to investigate key issues affecting the modern world. Independent learning, research skills and the critical examination of evidence are central. Through enthusiastic teaching, creative curriculum development we aim to develop skills of critical enquiry as well as a firm understanding of concepts through a variety of key questions while in a range of challenging environments.

Physical Education is an exciting course which allows the pupils an opportunity to develop knowledge of applied anatomy and physiology, movement analysis, physical training, use of data, sports psychology, sociocultural influences and health, fitness and wellbeing. Students will be assessed in three practical activities in which they score the highest marks in. Out of one of these 3 sports students will be required to complete a written analysis and evaluation of their personal performance in one of their chosen activities. All pupils are encouraged to adopt a positive attitude towards physical activity, thereby realising the importance of the relationship that exits between physical and psychological wellbeing.

Our GCSE PE course is made up of 2 components and are as followed: Component 1 - Introduction to physical education which is a 2hr written exam worth 60% of the qualification. This exam paper is heavily science based. Component 2 - The active participant in physical education which is an internally & externally moderated component worth 40% of the qualification in which you will perform and be assessed in 3 different activities and complete a Personal Fitness Programme. The PE GCSE is a useful and challenging course, which includes personal performance and anatomy and physiology. Learners will develop theoretical knowledge and understanding of the factors that underpin physical activity and sport and use this knowledge to improve performance.

As part of this course, we do require students to attend as many extra-curricular sports clubs as possible so that they can improve and develop their sporting ability in order to get the best possible marks in practical.

Course

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
WJEC
QAN Code
601/8444/9
Assessment
60% Exam – Component 1
30% Practical – Component 2
10% Analysis and Evaluation Controlled Assessment – Component 2

Skills

Independent learning
Research skills
Critical thinking
Understanding of a healthy lifestyle and long-life involvement in physical activities
Practical ability in three independent areas
Analysis and Evaluation Skills

Careers

The content of the course is designed to provide a route to further study such as A-Levels enabling them to gain entry into a variety of courses such as, Physiotherapy, Sports Science, Physical Education Teaching, Recreational Management, Sports Studies and Professional coaching.

Separate Sciences (AQA)

Separate Sciences give you a deeper understanding of scientific ideas and how they have benefited humanity. These courses show you how scientists have improved our understanding of ourselves and the world we live in. It is suitable for students who wish to study a separate science at A Level.

Isaac Newton once said "If I have seen further than others it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". By taking Separate Sciences in one of the Option blocks you will be able to take your study of science further than what you learn in GCSE Combined Science.

Separate Sciences lead to 3 GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. All Science GCSE qualifications are assessed via linear exam upon completion of the delivery of the course content. The famous physicist Stephen Hawking once said "My goal is simple. It is the complete understanding of the universe". Studying Separate Sciences may not give you a complete understanding of the universe but it will provide an ideal foundation to continue your studies after GCSE as well as helping you develop skills that you will use throughout your life.

There are twenty eight required practicals across the three sciences that are essential for students' understanding of scientific theory (10 Physics, 8 Chemistry and 10 Blology).

Assessment: 100% Exam

Course

Award
GCSE
Biology/Chemistry/Physics
Exam Board
AQA
QAN Code
Biology: 601/8752/9
Chemistry: 601/8757/8
Physics: 6018751/7
Assessment
100% Written Exam

Skills

Investigative planning skills
Understanding and problem solving
Interpreting and Analyzing Data.
Drawing conclusions
Evaluating evidence

Careers

Separate Science GCSE allow students to pursue a more in-depth study of all three sciences and students who perform well will typically continue with one or more Science A Levels in Sixth Form. Many will then pursue science related careers including medicine, veterinary science, forensic science, pharmacy, petrochemicals, environmental sciences, marine biology, zoology

Sociology

This course requires a desire on the part of the student to be interested in relationships and institutions within society. It enables and encourages students to take a fresh and more objective view of some of our more familiar institutions such as The Family and Education by understanding the relationships between individuals and groups.

The student would learn to recognise patterns within society and evaluate them accordingly.

As the programme progresses, broader issues of Crime, The Media, Politics,Youth and Belief Systems would all be explored, examining each - both separately and identifying how one may affect the other.

With a general interest in current affairs and social issues, students will hopefully find some answers. For example "Why is knife/gun crime on the increase in Britain? Why are so many young people

not interested in politics? Does feminism work?

Sociology takes an historical look back at the development of certain issues and involves concepts of class, gender and multi-cultural material where necessary.

We all have opinions on issues and frequently express them. Sociology is about voicing those opinions, debating them and learning the facts - which may change our opinions forever!

Students will study two components duing GCSE Sociology.

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of qualification

This component covers the following topic areas:

Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission

Families

Education

Sociological research methods

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of qualification

This component covers the following topic areas

Social differentiation and stratification

Crime and deviance

Applied methods of sociological enquiry

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
WJEC
QAN Code
603/1045/5
Assessment
All external examinations will be taken at the end of the two year course

Course

Skills

Critical and reflective thinking; An understanding of people, society and the major institutions of society; Evaluation and analysis of research methods. Investigating and researching.; Objectivity; Organisation and communication; Debating

Welfare/Caring Professions
Teaching
Human Resources
Social Work
Law
Police
Politics

Careers

Spanish

Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world. There are around 500 million native Spanish speakers and 600 million total speakers (including second-language speakers).

Spanish is a Latin based language, which means that some of its words are similar to some English words. The way Spanish is pronounced is also quite straightforward for English people to copy. Also, if you ever go on holiday to Spain you will have ample opportunity to practise your Spanish as very few Spaniards know more than a few words of English!

Studying a Spanish GCSE will help you understand the culture and people of other countries: don't forget that in Spain life is sometimes very different to life in England, with different customs, food and celebrations.

Spanish is also spoken in over 21 countries worldwide and lots of people in the US have Spanish as their native tongue.

During the course you will learn how to talk about the things that are important to you in Spanish, for example your free time, your family, what you do at school and your holidays.

Having a good knowledge of another language and another society will make you more open to learning about different cultures in the future.

If you travel to Spain or Latin America and speak some Spanish, it will make you more aware of the difficulties that people have learning our language. It will also put you in a better position to help people in this country for whom English is not their native tongue.

There are lots of famous people who speak Spanish, some of them fluently - Gwyneth Paltrow, David Beckham, Gary Lineker and Shakira to name just a few!

Contrary to popular belief, Spanish is not something you can learn in a few weeks at evening classes before your summer holiday.

It is a skill that although takes time, once achieved will improve your career opportunities no end, and once you have mastered one language, who knows? The world could be your oyster!

Many universities now include a Modern Foreign Language at GCSE within their entry requirements. Pupils intending to proceed to university should choose a language in order to ensure they have a broad and balanced suite of qualifications when applying for university places.

Course

Award
GCSE
Exam Board
Pearson/Edexcel
QAN Code
601/3469/1
Assessment
Listening Exam, 25%
Reading Exam, 25%
Speaking Exam, 25%
Writing Exam, 25%

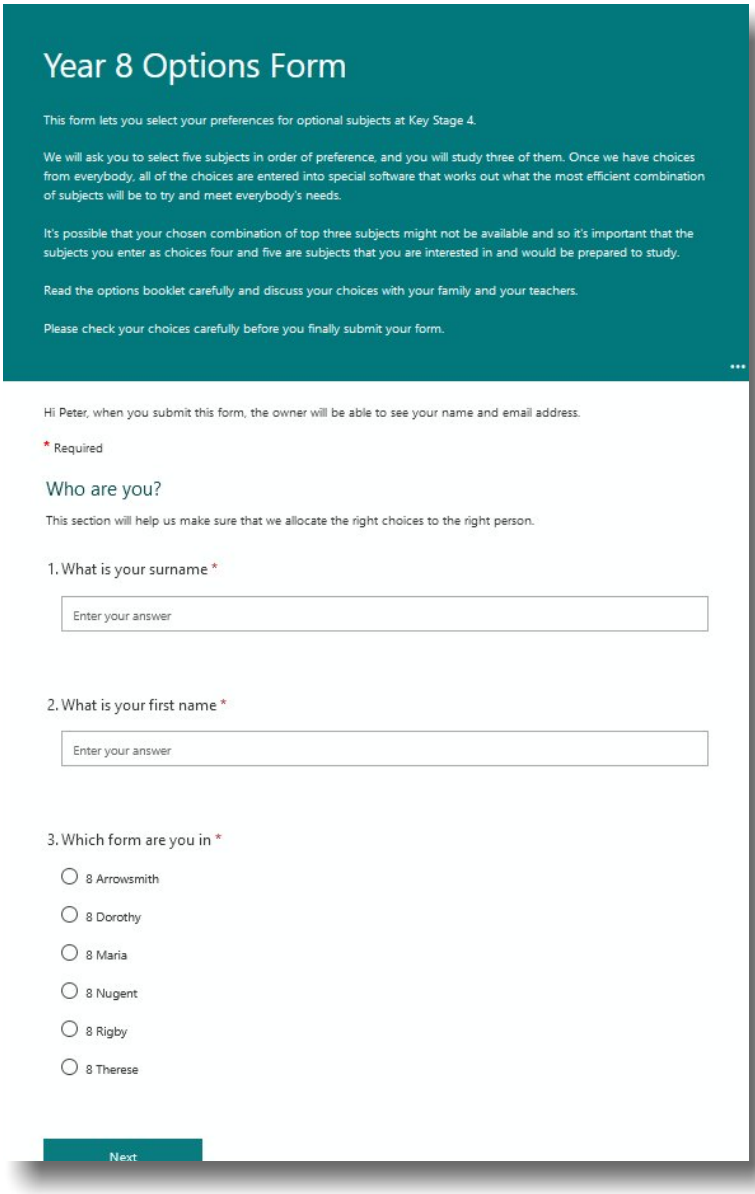
Skills

Awareness and knowledge of Hispanic culture
Understanding spoken and written Spanish
Speaking in Spanish, describing photos, roleplay and conversation.
Reading and understanding a variety of texts including literature.
Writing letters,e mails and blogs

Careers

Speaking Spanish could help get you a better job in the following sectors:
Sales and Marketing
Interpreting
Media
Journalism
Law
European Politics
Linguistics
Diplomacy
Property Management
Flight Attendant
Marketing

MAKING YOUR CHOICES



Year 8 Options Form

This form lets you select your preferences for optional subjects at Key Stage 4.

We will ask you to select five subjects in order of preference, and you will study three of them. Once we have choices from everybody, all of the choices are entered into special software that works out what the most efficient combination of subjects will be to try and meet everybody's needs.

It's possible that your chosen combination of top three subjects might not be available and so it's important that the subjects you enter as choices four and five are subjects that you are interested in and would be prepared to study.

Read the options booklet carefully and discuss your choices with your family and your teachers.

Please check your choices carefully before you finally submit your form.

Hi Peter, when you submit this form, the owner will be able to see your name and email address.

* Required

Who are you?

This section will help us make sure that we allocate the right choices to the right person.

1. What is your surname *

Enter your answer

2. What is your first name *

Enter your answer

3. Which form are you in *

- 8 Arrowsmith
- 8 Dorothy
- 8 Maria
- 8 Nugent
- 8 Rigby
- 8 Therese

Next

This year we're asking you to fill your form in online. You can use the QR code on the left or type this link into a browser: https://forms.office.com/e/MU4CNP87tN or alternatively, you can also click on the link in the Options section of our school website. **You will have to log in using your school email and password.** You will be asked to choose five subjects in order of preference. Please discuss your choices with your family.