

St John Fisher Catholic College

Year 8 Options Guidance

2017



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Introduction

This booklet has been designed to give you all of the information you will need to understand the curriculum your child will follow during Years 9-11. Some subjects are compulsory and are known as ‘Core Subjects’, whereas others can be chosen by students and are called ‘Option Subjects’.

The process of choosing options can be an exciting one, with students choosing from a wide range of subjects, both familiar and new. Whilst exciting, the process can at times be daunting and at St John Fisher we aim to make this process as accessible and stress free as possible. The information contained within this booklet, coupled with the Options Evening, Parents Evenings, reports and guidance available from numerous sources listed later in the booklet should ensure that the decisions made over the next month are the best ones for you child and will help them progress onto future careers and training of their choice.

Core Curriculum

Students should be at ease in the knowledge that all students follow a core curriculum of subjects that are essential to engaging with and flourishing in today’s society. These subjects include Maths, English (Language & Literature), Religious Education, Science, IT and PE. With the exceptions of IT and PE the other core subjects are, on completion, awarded GCSE Qualifications. IT and PE, whilst compulsory, are not awarded qualifications at the end of Y11 unless students choose to use one of their options to study the qualification version of the course.

With this core set of subjects it means that no matter which subjects a student chooses for their options there are very few career pathways they will not be able to follow when they finish Year 11.

English Baccalaureate

The English Baccalaureate has been, in recent years, a recognition of having studied and achieved a good pass in what is perceived as a range of “academic” subjects. To achieve the English Baccalaureate students must achieve a grade 5 or above in GCSEs in Maths, English, a Modern Foreign Language, a Humanities subject and two Science subjects. Achieving the English Baccalaureate does not gain any additional qualifications but could conceivably be used as a benchmark of success by certain institutions in the future.

No student is “forced” into an English Baccalaureate route. Instead students need to use their options to accomplish it. We would advise students moving into competitive fields to consider whether their option choices allow them to accomplish the E Bacc.

Maths	English	Modern Foreign Language	Humanities	Science
Maths	English Language	French	History	Biology
	English Literature	German	Geography	Chemistry
A 5 or above in one from EACH of these columns				Physics
				Combined Science (counts as two GCSEs)
				Computer Science

5 or above in TWO of the Sciences above

Curriculum Reform

Over recent years qualifications have undergone significant changes.

These include:

- Increased level of demand
- A removal of resit and early entry opportunities. All examinations must be sat at the end of the course (Year 11).
- A decrease in the proportion of controlled assessment/coursework and an increase the proportion of assessment via examination.
- A new grading system for GCSE qualification

An approximate comparison of how the new grades and traditional grades compare with each other can be seen in the table below:

Traditional GCSE Grades	G	F	E	D	C	B	A	A*	
New GCSE Grades	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

↓
"Good" level of pass – classed as a Level 2 Pass

The Government and Ofqual have indicated that the same percentage of learners nationally who currently achieve a C grade or above will receive the new 4 or above. Similarly the same percentage of learners nationally that currently receive an A grade or above will receive a new 7 or above.

In addition to the changes in how qualifications are graded, the government is also "raising the bar" in what they class as a good pass. Traditionally learners who achieved a C grade were seen to have passed the qualification at a "good" standard. However in the new system a "good pass" will be classed as grades 5 and above. A new grade 5 is equivalent to a traditional high C/low B.

Types of Qualification

Whilst having core curriculum of subjects prevents students from choosing a combination of options that will prevent them from accessing particular careers, it is still extremely important that students choose the subjects that will suit them best. These are subjects that students will be studying for three years and we want them to not only succeed in their chosen subject but also enjoy the process.

One key factor to consider is what type of qualification is the most suitable. The two main styles of qualification are:

1. **GCSE** – These qualifications are fairly traditional. Whilst there are some exceptions, most GCSE qualifications are assessed through examination only. GCSE subjects that do have controlled assessment/coursework as an element of their assessment (Product Design and Art for example) will still have a substantial proportion of the overall assessment through examination.

2. **Technical Qualifications** – These are qualifications, such as BTECs, where the majority of assessment is through controlled assessment/coursework and will be completed throughout Years 10 and 11. Technical qualifications still have an element of examination as a method of assessment, but this tends to be in the region of 25% of the overall assessment.

Advice and Guidance

Good reasons for choosing an option:

- You are good at that particular subject
- You think you will enjoy the course
- It fits with your current career plans
- It gives you plenty of choice when choosing post 16 courses
- The method of assessment suits your strengths/learning style

Not so good reasons for choosing an option:

- Your friend has chosen it
- You think that the course will be “easy”
- You are basing your choice on the hopes a particular teacher will teach you
- You feel that you are “expected” to take it

Where to go for more information:

- Your Subject Teachers
- You can use the Careers Library in school which has a lot of information about jobs and further education to help you understand how some subjects relate to certain job areas. See Mrs Edwards for more information.
- Older friends and siblings who have taken subjects are a good source of information about what happens during the course. However be aware that courses change over time and the new courses may not be identical to ones previously studied by your friend.
- The following websites offer a range of advice on both choosing options and considering future careers:
 - <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/>
 - <https://www.fasttomato.com/>
 - <http://entrust.education/Page/755>
 - <https://www.plotr.co.uk>

How to Choose your Options

In addition to the core subjects students will get to follow **FOUR** Option Courses. All students must choose **ONE** of the courses from Block A and then **THREE** choices in order of preference from the subjects listed under Blocks B-D.

We must make it clear that there is no guarantee that a course will run. Some of the courses will be dependent on whether the appropriate number of students choose to follow the course. Unfortunately, we also cannot guarantee that a student will get **ALL** of their chosen subjects. When the subjects are finally placed into blocks some subjects may clash with students other choices. For these reasons **ALL** students **MUST** choose a reserve choice in the unfortunate event that one of their options either does not run or clashes with one of their other choices.

Every opportunity will be taken to ensure students get as many of their choices as possible. Choices will be allocated according to preference i.e. we will endeavour to ensure the first choice is allocated, then followed by the second etc. Therefore please think carefully about the order in which you write down your Option Choices.

Block A	Blocks B, C and D		
Computer Science	Art	Business Studies BTEC	Citizenship
French	Children's Learning & Development Technical Award	Computer Science	French
Geography	Geography	German	Health & Social Care - BTEC
German	History	International Hospitality BTEC	IT – Technical Award
History	Music (GCSE)	Music Technology - BTEC	Performing Arts - BTEC
	PE (GCSE)	Sport - BTEC	Product Design
Support/Vocational Studies	Travel & Tourism - BTEC	Astronomy	

One Choice from here

Three choices PLUS a reserve from here.

The attached Options Form (final page) must be used to complete your choices. A copy of the form can also be found within the curriculum menu on our website.

The deadline for the completed form is **Monday 3rd April**. After Easter any student whose options cannot be met completely will be met to discuss alternatives.

Course Title: English Language

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Miss Ravenscroft

Course Outline:

Students will draw upon a range of texts as reading stimulus and engage with creative as well as real and relevant contexts. Students will have opportunities to develop higher-order reading and critical thinking skills that encourage genuine enquiry into different topics and themes

There are 2 papers, each with two sections:

Section A - Comprehension tasks in response to reading material on both papers

Section B - Creative responses to describe and narrate for Paper 1 and argue and persuade for Paper 2

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Critical analysis, communication skills, comprehension skills, literacy, technical accuracy, creative skills

How the course will link to the world of work:

Law, journalism, personnel, teaching, advertising, media and communication

Course Assessment

100% examination

Course Title: Mathematics

Exam Board: Edexcel Qualification: GCSE
Tiers of Entry: Yes
For More Information Contact: Mr Bailey

Course Outline:

GCSE mathematics covers a lot of basic skills that you will need to use in a variety of ways all through your life and because of this it is a compulsory subject for all students in Key Stage 4.

You will use a lot of what you learn in GCSE mathematics in the other GCSEs that you study. For example, in Science you may be asked to use formulae and solve equations, in Geography you will need to read charts and diagrams and use statistics and in D & T you will need to use measures and make scale drawings. Most college and 6th Form courses require GCSE Maths as an entry requirement, as do many jobs and careers.

GCSE Mathematics covers a wide range of basic mathematical knowledge and skills, grouped into four areas.

- Number and algebra
- Shape, space and measure
- Data handling
- Application of mathematics

You probably won't notice a lot of difference in your mathematics when you start this course as your teacher will be able to carry on from the work you did at Key Stage 3.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Emphasis on the new GCSE is on the use of maths and problem solving. They continue their work from KS3 in the areas of Number , Algebra , Ratio and Proportion , Geometry and Measures and Statistics. There is a requirement to learn most of the mathematical formulae and to use a scientific calculator

How the course will link to the world of work:

Almost all jobs and careers require you to have mathematics GCSE, but the following careers are some that would enable you to make a lot of use of your mathematics

- Economics , Medicine , Architecture ,
- Engineering , Accountancy , Teaching ,
- Psychology , Computing , Banking
- Business management

Course Assessment

There are three papers at higher and foundation all of them are 1 hr 30 mins long .
Paper 1 Non Calculator . Paper 2 and 3 Calculator.

Course Title: Religious Studies GCSE

Exam Board: Eduqas Qualification: GCSE
Tiers of Entry: No
For More Information Contact: Ms Rogers

Course Outline:

During year 10 and 11 students follow Eduqas Route B Religious Studies where they study three separate papers looking at beliefs and practices of both Catholic Christians and Jews. Issues looked at include sources of authority and contemporary issues such as good and evil.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Critical analysis skills, evaluation skills, personal opinion development.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Medicine/Nursing, Teaching, Law, Personnel Management, Police

Course Assessment

At the end of year 11 students sit three papers, one for each unit. There is no controlled assessment.

Course Title: Combined Science (some students will study separate GCSE Biology, Chemistry & Physics)

Exam Board: AQA Qualification: GCSE
Tiers of Entry: Yes
For More Information Contact: Mr Melling

Course Outline:

Science will be taught by specialist teachers as Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The content covered in each of three areas of science is sufficiently detailed to allow students to progress onto post 16 courses such as A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics and entry to all universities and scientific courses.

The Biology section includes the nature and variety of living organisms along with their internal structure and function, reproduction and inheritance, ecology, the environment and the use of biological resources.

The Chemistry includes atomic structure and chemical bonding, the periodic table, reactivity, electrolysis and the extraction of metals, chemicals from crude oil, energy changes, rates of reactions, reversible reactions.

The Physics syllabus includes sections on kinetic theory, electricity and magnetism, forces and motion, waves, energy resources and energy transfer, and nuclear physics.

Decisions on whether a student will study the combined science qualification (worth two GCSEs) or three separate GCSEs in the separate sciences will be made during Year 10 and will be based on performance in Science assessments to that date.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

A Science qualification links together many different skills. You will develop practical skills and further learn how to draw conclusions from experimental data. You will develop problem solving skills as well as communication skills. You will learn how to work together so that practical work is a success. You develop your skills of numeracy and literacy in how you solve the mathematical of problems and also how to communicate your ideas effectively.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Science is important in all aspects of modern life. You could use science to pursue courses in Health and Beauty and Engineering. A Levels in Science can be pursued by following both GCSE Combined Science or Triple Science, which would then lead onto medicine, veterinary science, engineering as well as a huge amount of other university courses.

Course Assessment

The course will be assessed by external examinations in each of the three sciences which will be taken at the end of Year 11. There will be no coursework. The examinations will be either higher or foundation tiers. The number of examinations will depend upon if the pupil is completing GCSE Combined Science or Triple Science.

Course Title: Computer Science

Exam Board: AQA Qualification: GCSE
Tiers of Entry: No
For More Information Contact: Mr Wakefield

Course Outline:

Unit 1: **Computational Thinking and Problem Solving.** Scenario based **written exam** based around a range of real world scenarios accounting for **40% of the final grade.** This paper is mainly focussed on assessing your ability to take problems from the real world ready for development as digital applications.

Unit 2: **Computer Systems.** A **written exam** assessing your understanding of computer science theory, accounting for **40% of the final grade.** This paper is focussed on the fundamentals of computer science, requiring you to demonstrate an understanding of how a computer system works.

Unit 3: **Non-Exam Assessment.** Internally assessed **project work** accounting for **20% of the final grade.** This assessment aspect requires you to develop a functional program according to a given scenario. It will test your practical programming ability.

While there is no entry requirement for the course it is important to note that those most suited to the course and who tend to achieve grades in keeping with their target have usually achieved a **grade 3H or above in Mathematics** by the end of Year 8.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

This qualification has been developed to enable learners to work with real-world programming challenges and has been designed to provide learners with a good understanding of the principles of computing. Having successfully completed the qualification you will understand the fundamentals of computer science and will be capable of developing your own functional applications using the Visual Basic development language.

Course Assessment

There are two externally examined units, each representing 40% of your final grade, equivalent to 80% of the qualification. Additionally there is an internally assessed unit which represents 20% of the qualification. The system of assessment is based on the new GCSE scale.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Students who complete this course will be equipped with the logical and computational skills necessary to succeed at A-level, the workplace or beyond. Consider this course if you are interested in application design and development.

Course Title: FRENCH/GERMAN

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Tiers of Entry: Yes

For More Information Contact: Mrs Higgins

Course Outline:

Core content

Students study all of the following themes on which the assessments are based.

Theme 1: Identity and culture (Family/Technology/Free-time/Customs and traditions)

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest (Town/Social issues/Global issues/Travel and tourism)

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment (My studies/ Life at school/college/ Education post-16 / Jobs, career choices and ambitions)

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Through the study of GCSE MFL pupils will develop confidence in communication and learn all kinds of skills which will benefit them in future courses of study, namely: the ability to converse fluently with others, to work independently and part of a team and to improve aural skills.

How the course will link to the world of work:

A diverse range of careers require Foreign language skills: Law, Medicine, Politics, Business, Translation/Interpreting, Teaching, Travel and tourism, Film/TV

Course Assessment

Exam tests 4 skill areas in either Higher or Foundation level 25% Listening, 25% Writing, 25% Reading and 25% Speaking

Course Title: Geography

Exam Board: OCR B

Qualification: GCSE

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Ms Gentle-Lloyd

Course Outline:

Global Hazards: Weather and tectonic plates.

Changing Climate: Past climate change and 21st Century impacts worldwide and on the UK.

Distinctive Landscapes: Coasts and Rivers.

Sustaining Ecosystems: Tropical rainforests and polar environments.

Urban Futures: Urbanisation and Ways of life in an LIDC or EDC city.

Dynamic Development: Uneven development.

UK in the 21st Century: population and economic changes and Political and cultural influences.

Resource reliance: Food security.

Synoptic assessment of topics linked to components –

Our Natural World (01) and People and Society (02).

Fieldwork and Geographical Skills.

Decision Making Exercise.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Knowledge of locations, places, environments and processes at different scales including global; and of social, political and cultural contexts.

Interactions between people and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the interrelationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts.

Fieldwork skills

Enquiry skills

Geographical skills

Course Assessment

Our Natural World (01) 35% of total GCSE: 1hr 15 mins written exam paper,

People and Society (02) 35% of total GCSE: 1 hour 15 mins written exam paper.

Geographical Exploration (03) 30% of total GCSE: 1 hr 30 mins written exam paper.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Geography skills can be used in office work, team management and research posts. Former students have gone into the following careers: Town planner, Teacher, Conservation workers, Surveyors and Project managers for humanitarian aid charities.

Course Title: History

Exam Board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Mr Lemmon

Course Outline:

History of Crime and Punishment 1200-2000 - Looking at the development of crime, policing and punishment through an 800 year period.

The Making of America 1789-1900 - This unit includes the American War of Independence, the civil war, the Native American Indians and law and order in the "Wild West".

Nazi Germany 1933-45 - This will focus on what it was like to live in Germany under Nazi rule and will include topics such as the Hitler Youth, the use of terror and the holocaust.

The Elizabethans 1580-1603 - examining the reign of Elizabeth 1, the war with Spain, colonising the Americas and what life was like for an ordinary person in Elizabethan England.

A local historical study

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Critical analysis
Developing secure and deep historical knowledge
Debating and argument
Presentation
Independent research
Understanding of social and cultural diversity
Developing ICT skills
Developing extended writing techniques
Time management

How the course will link to the world of work:

Archivist
Journalist
Teacher
Lawyer
Any other professions where critical thinking, analysis and communication are required.

Course Assessment

100% of the course will be tested by examination- 3 separate exams (two lasting 1 hour 45 minutes and a third lasting 1 hour.)

Course Title: Business Studies

Exam Board: Pearson Qualification: BTEC
Tiers of Entry: No
For More Information Contact: Mr Schauer

Course Outline:

Learners will study two mandatory units and choose a further two units from six optional units, giving them a broad introduction to the business sector.

Mandatory units

Unit 1: 'Finance for Business' – this unit covers the key aspects of finance that underpin all businesses such as profit and loss, financial planning and cash flow forecasting

Unit 2: 'Enterprise in the Business World' – covers the development of business models and looks at the key trends, structures and other factors that help a business become successful.

Optional units

Learners build on the knowledge gained in the two mandatory units by studying two of the following units:

- Unit 3: Promoting a Brand
- Unit 4: Principles of Customer Service
- Unit 5: Sales and Personal Selling
- Unit 6: Introducing Retail Business
- Unit 7: Providing Business Support
- Unit 8: Recruitment, Selection and Employment

Skills that will be developed during the course:

As part of the course learners develop, enhance and apply their research, practical, communication and technical skills through creating and presenting a business plan for a realistic business start-up in their local area. Students will study finance and analyse key financial statements such as profit and loss accounts, and balance sheets, reviewing their importance in the successful financial management of a business.

Course Assessment

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Business includes an externally assessed finance unit in the core (25% of the total award). The assessment approach taken in internally assessed units of the BTEC award in Business (75% of the total award) allows learners to provide evidence towards the assessment criteria. Evidence for assessment may be generated through a range of diverse activities, including assignment and project work, case studies, workplace assessment, role play and presentations.

How the course will link to the world of work:

This is a particularly suitable course for learners seeking a career in the following areas: marketing; customer services; finance; business development; sales; the retail sector; business support and human resource management.

Course Title: Children's Learning and Development

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: Technical Award

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Mrs Ayre

Course Outline:

The Technical Award in Children's Learning and Development can prepare learners for further study and employment within the childcare sector. It will particularly appeal to learners who are looking for a course that is practical in nature. This course will give learners the opportunity to study children aged 0 to 10 years, developing an understanding of: growth and development; communication and language development; learning and play; education provision (until the end of KS2); child health and safety; the role of professionals and voluntary organisations. Learners will complete three units of work over the three years:

Unit 1: Research task (Internally assessed - 30%) Learners will carry out an in-depth research study on a topic of their choosing.

Unit 2: Child study (Internally assessed - 30%) Learners will need to have access to a child aged up to 10 years for 4-6 months. Learners will work with their chosen child and carry out and evaluate appropriate research.

Unit 3: Development of the child from pre-conception to 10 years old (Externally assessed exam -40%) Learners will study the fundamentals of children's learning and development and acquire the underpinning knowledge required to carry out the two practical units.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

The course will provide learners with a understanding of children's learning and development. They will develop a wide range of practical skills relevant to a career in the childcare sector such as observing, communicating and working with children and other skills such research, communication, decision-making and problem-solving, valuable to all career paths.

Course Assessment

60% Internal Assessment (Unit 1 and Unit 2)

40% External Assessment – Exam (Unit 3)

How the course will link to the world of work:

This links to a wide range of careers e.g. early years teaching, nursery nurse, teaching assistant, children's nursing and midwifery and other health care job roles working with children, social work, youth work & counselling. Visiting speakers from professionals used where possible and learner's will complete a work placement to give learners first-hand experience working in the early years sector.

Course Title: Health and Social Care

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: Technical Award

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Mrs Ayre

Course Outline:

The Technical Award in Health and Social Care can prepare learners for further study and employment within the health and social care sector. It will particularly appeal to learners who are looking for a course that is practical in nature. This course will give learners the opportunity to develop an understanding of: the stages and patterns of human growth and development; expected development at each life stage; life events; sources of support/services for life events; roles of professionals from the sectors who are involved in supporting life events; definitions of health and well-being; factors influencing health and well-being. Learners will complete three mandatory units (one externally assessed and two internally assessed) over three years.

Unit 1: Improving the well-being of an individual (internally assessed) Learners will choose a client and carry out a range of testing techniques to measure and evaluate their health. **Unit 2: Promoting healthy living** (internally assessed) Learners will research and evaluate existing health promotion campaigns and then plan and deliver their own health promotion campaign. **Unit 3: Development through the life stages** (externally assessed) Learners will study the fundamentals of health and social care and acquire the underpinning knowledge required to carry out the two practical units.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

This course will provide learners with a understanding of health and social care. They will develop a wide range of practical skills, such as taking health measurements, identifying and planning improvements to health and well-being and working with clients, communication, critical analysis and evaluation, decision-making and problem-solving.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Relevant to a wide range of careers e.g. Nurse, Midwife, Physiotherapist, Paramedic, Dietician, Pharmacist, Occupational therapy, Care assistant, Social worker, Counsellor, Probation service as well as careers working with children. Care professionals are used as visiting speakers and the course involves a work placement to give learners first-hand experience working in the health and social care sector.

Course Assessment

60% Internal Assessment (Unit 1 and Unit 2)

40% External Assessment – Exam (Unit 3)

Course Title: International Hospitality

Exam Board: Pearson Qualification: BTEC
Tiers of Entry: No
For More Information Contact: Ms Fields

Course Outline:

Unit 1: Introducing the Hospitality Industry – this unit covers the different aspects of the hospitality industry, looking at its component parts and the different products and services that are offered as well as the essential processes involved in operating a hospitality business.

Unit 2: Working in the Hospitality Industry – this unit covers the importance of team working and customer service for working in a variety of roles within the hospitality industry and looks at other important aspects such as personal appearance and personal attributes necessary to work successfully.

Unit 4: Planning, Preparing, Cooking and Finishing Food – where learners will explore the understanding and skills required for proficiency in planning, preparing, cooking and finishing a range of food types in the hospitality industry.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

One of the main purposes of BTEC qualifications is to help learners to progress ultimately into employment. The vast majority of employers require learners to have certain technical skills, knowledge and understanding to work in a particular sector, but they are also looking for employability skills to ensure that employees are effective in the workplace. Unlike technical skills, which may become outdated over time, employability skills enable learners to adapt to the ever-changing roles needed to survive in the global economy. These skills include: self-management, team working, business awareness and customer awareness, problem solving, communication, basic literacy and numeracy, a positive attitude to work, and the use of IT.

Course Assessment

25% externally assessed exam and 75% internally assessed coursework:

How the course will link to the world of work:

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Hospitality provides the skills, knowledge and understanding for level 2 learners to progress to:

- Other level 2 vocational qualifications
- Level 3 vocational qualifications, such as BTEC Nationals, specifically the Pearson BTEC Level 3 in Hospitality
- Related academic qualifications
- Employment within the hospitality industry for example, working in junior roles such as assistant chef, waiter/waitress, hotel porter, assistant front-of-house staff, temporary events/matchday hospitality staff, concessions catering assistants, fast food servers, etc or apprenticeships in hospitality and catering.

Learners who achieve the qualification at Level 1 may progress to related level 2 vocational or academic qualifications, such as BTECs or GCSEs.

Course Title: Information Technology

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: Technical Award

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Mr Wakefield

Course Outline:

There are three units in this course. Unit 1 and Unit 2 are internally assessed (in school) and moderated by the exam board and Unit 3 is a written exam. There are two skill areas to unit 1 and 2 that we intend to cover here at SJFCC.

1. **Creative** (websites, animation, online games, sound and video),
2. **Technical** (building and repairing PCs and building and managing networks)

The Unit 3 exam focuses on hardware and how computers work.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

It is intended that learners will gain a range of creative and technical skills from building websites, fault finding Pc's to building their own PC and managing a small network.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Learners are effectively learning technical skills that would link well to an Apprenticeship (IT Technician or IT helpline) or to Level 3 qualifications such as Level 3 Tech Levels or BTECs.

Course Assessment

There are two units which are internally assessed and board moderated equivalent to 60% of the qualification. Additionally there is an examination which is 40% of the qualification. Grades are Level 2 (Distinction * / Distinction / Merit / Pass) and Level 1 (Advanced Credit / Credit). A Level 2 pass is equivalent to the old C grade and a level 5 with the new GCSE grading system

Course Title: Music (with Technology Options)

Exam Board: Pearson Qualification: BTEC
Tiers of Entry: No
For More Information Contact: Mrs Golds

Course Outline:

Throughout the 3 years, you will complete a variety of coursework assignments. The assignments will form a Portfolio of work which will be assessed internally and externally, and a grade awarded –PASS, MERIT or DISTINCTION alongside a 1 hour exam in Year 11.

All students take 2 *CORE UNITS*:

Managing a Music Product – 30 GLH

The Music Industry – 30 GLH

You also take 2 *SPECIALIST UNITS* from

Introducing Music Compositions – 30 GLH

Introducing Music Recording – 30 GLH

A BTEC First Certificate is a practical, work-related course. You learn by completing **projects** and **assignments** that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands, with a small exam element. There will be a **1 hour exam** in Year 11.

Level 2 means that it is the same level as GCSE, which means when you have finished the course you can move on to a higher level qualification such as a Level 3 BTEC National Diploma (equivalent to A-level courses).

Skills that will be developed during the course:

You will develop skills in Compositing music to a given brief (adverts), recording live music, managing and promoting your own musical product and learn about the music industry and the different areas that encompasses.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Careers and next steps include: Level 3 BTEC in Music/Music technology, Degree in Music and/or Music Technology, Performing, Teaching, Music Therapy, Music and Audio Production, Sound Engineering, Producer, Studio Work.

Course Assessment

1 hour exam (*externally assessed*), the remainder of the work is coursework (*Internally assessed and externally moderated*)

Course Title: Performing Arts

Exam Board: Pearson

Qualification: BTEC

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: **Mrs Page** (Head of Dance – St Margaret Ward Catholic Academy)

Course Outline:

Do you love to perform? Do you want to learn more about the industry of performing arts and be able to stage your own productions? Performing Arts lessons will include a wide range of workshops in various disciplines from Drama, Dance, Music and other performance arts such as, Musical Theatre and Theatre in Education.

This vocational course is exciting and creative and develops your skills and confidence in all areas of the Performing Arts, Acting, Dance and Singing. You will participate in our performance company and create and perform pieces in the Musical Theatre and Contemporary Theatre style for performance in and outside of school. You will have the chance to experience what it is like to be a professional actor, dancer or musical theatre performer across many different styles. Recent projects have included touring performances to our Primary schools and leading workshops and performing at local and national theatres in both dance and drama productions.

Students also develop their CVs and professional portfolios through photo shoots and the creation of audition material. Students also have the opportunity to explore the technical side of theatre through exploration of set, lighting, costume, prop and make-up.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

The style of this course is mostly practical with written portfolio type assignments. Students study in an exciting vocational way – having lots of opportunity to perform for audiences. We develop physical and technical skills in the areas of dance, acting and musical theatre through a range of performance styles. We aim to enrich the students' experience by visiting working theatres, inviting guest teachers - often West End dancers or choreographers, to deliver workshops. We also run regular trips to see live performances and have annual trips to London's West End to see a piece of musical theatre and perform a workshop at Pineapple Dance Studios with the cast of the show.

Our Trinity Sixth Form offers BTEC National Diploma in Performing Arts. Students can specialise in either acting, dance, music or a mixture of the three. Performing Arts provides a good grounding in a range of skills that can be taken forward into any sixth form study. You can also choose to study A Level Dance or Drama at Trinity as a direct progression.

How the course will link to the world of work:

The creative, co-operative and communication skills acquired in following this course also prove attractive to a wide range of employers and further education. Studying BTEC Performing Arts gives you the opportunity to develop lifelong skills such as leadership, confidence, the ability to meet deadlines, teamwork and creativity, giving you the employability skills to better prepare you for the demands of further education and the workplace.

Course Assessment

The course is assessed by your teachers through; practical coursework, written portfolios and an element of external assessment. You are filmed and assessed in most workshops, which will serve as evidence that you have completed projects to an appropriate standard.

Course Title: Sport

Exam Board: Pearson Qualification: BTEC
Tiers of Entry: No
For More Information Contact: Mr Hall

Course Outline:

Four units are covered. These are:

Fitness for Sport and Exercise

Practical Sports Performance

Training for Personal Fitness

Leading Sports Activities

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Team working
Working from a prescribed brief
Time management
Presenting information effectively
Accurately completing administrative tasks
Communication
Sport specific skills
Problem solving

How the course will link to the world of work:

Employment in the sport and active leisure industry
Journalist
PE Teacher
Recreation assistant
Sports development officer
Physiotherapist

Course Assessment

Each unit and learning aim has specified assessment criteria. The quality of the evidence provided is internally assessed and this determines the grade awarded. A final unit grade is awarded after all opportunities for achievement are given. A learner must achieve all the assessment criteria for that grade.

Course Title: Travel and Tourism

Exam Board: Pearson Qualification: BTEC
Tiers of Entry: Yes
For More Information Contact: Mrs Bishop

Course Outline:

1. The UK Travel and Tourism Sector
2. UK Travel and Tourism Destinations
3. The Development of Travel and Tourism in the UK
4. International Travel and Tourism Destinations
5. Factors Affecting Worldwide Travel and Tourism
6. The Travel and Tourism Customer Experience

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Employability skills - self-management, team working, business awareness and customer awareness, problem solving, communication, literacy and numeracy, a positive attitude to work, and the use of IT.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Level 3 vocational qualifications, BTEC Level 3 in Travel and Tourism.

Employment within the travel and tourism industry – travel agencies, visitor attractions and the tourist information centre.

Related apprenticeships or academic qualifications.

Course Assessment

25% External assessment Mandatory unit 1.

75% Internal assessment from a choice of 3 optional units.

Course Title: Vocational Studies & Support

Exam Board: ASDAN Qualification: Non
Tiers of Entry: No
For More Information Contact: Mrs Bishop

Course Outline:

This course is aimed at developing students skills in areas that will aid them in the world of work. Units on Work Related Learning, Enterprise, and Problem solving along side support on both Literacy and Numeracy skills have been proven to improve students confidence and performance in their other areas of study.

The course follows the ASDAN Certificate of Personal Effectiveness and also includes a vocational Short Course in first aid.

Functional English and Mathematics will be taught by subject specialists who will focus on the use of English and Maths in the wider world of work. The topics covered in these areas will help build confidence and increase skill levels for students who would otherwise at times struggle in their usual English and Maths lessons.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Team working
Research
Improving learning
Discussion
Problem solving
Presentation

How the course will link to the world of work:

Pupils following this course usually go on to either an apprenticeship or a level 2/3 course in their chosen vocational area at college.

Evidence has shown that pupils taking Vocational Studies improve their targets in other subjects especially English and Maths.

Course Assessment

100% Coursework
Potential Work Experience

Course Title: Citizenship

Exam Board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Mrs Edwards

Course Outline:

1. Our rights responsibilities and the law. This is worth 25% of the course and is examined through a 50 mark paper. The exam is a new type of learner-friendly exam where learners select their answers from a list of options.
2. Citizenship in action. This is worth 50% of the course and is examined in a 1 hour and 45 minute exam worth 100 marks. It focuses on the learners own citizenship action – (information about what they do??)
3. Our society and our links with the wider world. This is worth 25% of the course and is a 60 minute paper worth 50 marks. In this final paper, learners analyse and evaluate different viewpoints to refine and justify their own judgements on issues and debates connected to the whole theme

Skills that will be developed during the course:

1. Communication Skills
2. Interpersonal Skills
3. Research Skills
4. Problem Solving Skills
5. Teamwork Skills
6. Leadership skills
7. Initiative Skills
8. Organisational Skills
9. Basic Numerical Skills
10. Information technology Skills
11. Analytical Skills

How the course will link to the world of work:

The study of Citizenship provides an excellent all round education which will be valuable for a range of career options. Skills that are developed are necessary for many forms of employment. However, Citizenship is particularly well suited for a career as a politician, teacher, journalist, project manager and the police force. It also provides an excellent base for further education leading on to 'A' levels in subjects such as Government and

Course Assessment

Three assessments as outlined in the course content.

Course Title: Design & Technology

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Mr Milan

Course Outline:

Core Technical principles – this unit covers the areas of new and emerging technologies, energy storage and generation, modern and smart materials, systems approach to designing, mechanical devices, materials and their working properties.

Specialist technical principles relating to timbers, metals and polymers – this unit covers the areas of selection of materials or components, forces and stresses, ecological and social footprint, scales of production, sources and origins, using and working with materials, stock forms types and sizes, specialist techniques, surface treatments and finishes.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Vocationally, Design & Technology is one of the most useful subjects in the curriculum. DT develops skills that are valuable for a variety of careers, ranging from semi-skilled craft workers to postgraduate professionals such as chartered engineers. These skills are readily transferable and can be applied in a very wide range of careers, which might appeal to those with an interest in the subject. There are in fact few careers that do not use some of the skills developed by design and technology. We work closely with KMF engineering who are our department sponsor. They have provided us with equipment including a 3D printer and 12 PCs and have also financed our racing team. This year we qualified for the Greenpower F24 International Finals at Rockingham where we competed against teams from USA, Portugal, Poland, and across the UK - finishing as the top placed Staffordshire school. KMF offer our students work experience placements and have apprenticeship places available for those interested in following a career in Engineering.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

To identify, investigate and outline design opportunities, To design and make prototypes which are fit for purpose, To analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes. To develop ICT skills including CAD/CAM. To develop making skills both hand and machine based.

Course Assessment

Written Exam (2 hours)- 50% of GCSE, Non Exam Assessment (approx 35 hours) - 50% of GCSE. Section A - Core Technical Principles 20%, Section B - Specialist Technical principles 30%, Section C - Designing and Making principles 50%

Course Title: Music

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Mrs Golds

Course Outline:

Following a GCSE Music course will develop your understanding of how music is created. You will cover 4 Areas of Study

1. Western Classical Tradition 1650-1910
2. Popular Music
3. Traditional Music
4. Western Classical Tradition since 1910

- All students must Critically Appraise music from Area of Study 1 and another from 2-4
- Key areas of study include: Haydn Symphony 101 AND The Beatles Sgt Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band
- You will also learn how to compose music in different ways and develop skills in performing and appraising music.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

You will develop skills in Performance, Score Analysis, Writing about music in depth, composing music in different styles and hone your aural ability.

How the course will link to the world of work:

Careers and next steps include: A-Level Music, Degree in Music, Performing, Teaching, Music Therapy, Music and audio Production, Sound engineering,

Course Assessment

40 % Exam (*externally assessed*)

30% performance coursework (one solo and one ensemble) (*Internally assessed and externally moderated*)

30% composition coursework (2 compositions) (*Internally assessed and externally moderated*)

Course Title: Physical Education

Exam Board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Tiers of Entry: No

For More Information Contact: Mrs Rundle

Course Outline:

Applied anatomy and physiology:

- Movement analysis
- Physical training
- Use of data
- Sports psychology
- Socio-cultural influences
- Health, fitness and well-being

Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer (one in a team activity, one in an individual activity and a third in either a team or in an individual activity).

- Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Leadership, team work, practical skills, communication, psychomotor skills, perceptual skills, data analysis, independent research, performance analysis, presentation, time management

How the course will link to the world of work:

- Sports Coaching
- Sports Development
- Fitness Instructor
- Journalism
- Sport & Business
- Teaching & Lecturing
- Nutrition
- Health & Fitness
- Sports Psychology
- Coaching & Instructing
- Physiotherapy
- Emergency Services
- Medical Profession
- Armed Forces

Course Assessment

2 Written exams both: 1 hour 15 minutes, 78 marks, each worth 30% of GCSE

Practical Assessed by teachers and moderated by AQA - 100 marks worth 40% of GCSE

Course Title: Astronomy

Exam Board: EDEXCEL Qualification: GCSE
Tiers of Entry: No
For More Information Contact: Mrs Upton

Course Outline:

This course has been developed to build on our natural fascination with the night sky and our continued exploration of the universe. Astronomy is constantly in the media in both fact and film which makes this course all the more engaging and relevant to students.

Example topics covered during the course include:

Solar System Observation

Time and Earth-Moon-Sun Cycles

Planetary motion and gravity

Exploring the moon

Celestial observation

Formation of planetary systems

Stellar evolution

Skills that will be developed during the course:

Observational skills – students must undertake at least one unaided and one aided observation. Within these tasks students will develop skills including design, analysis, recording and evaluation.

How the course will link to the world of work:

This GCSE will demonstrate a sound knowledge and interest in this fascinating scientific field. It provides an excellent foundation for any student wishing to study Astronomy or Astrophysics course at university

Course Assessment

2 papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each. You will need to provide evidence of independent observation of the night sky.

Year 8 Option Choices

Name: _____

Form: _____

Before completing this form please ensure you have thought carefully about:

- What qualifications do you need for a chosen career?
- Which courses you will enjoy studying?
- Which courses you feel you are most likely to succeed in?
- What style of assessment and course best suits your learning style?

Block A	Blocks B, C and D		
Computer Science	Art	Business Studies BTEC	Citizenship
French	Children's Learning & Development Technical Award	Computer Science	French
Geography	Geography	German	Health & Social Care - BTEC
German	History	International Hospitality BTEC	IT – Technical Award
History	Music (GCSE)	Music Technology - BTEC	Performing Arts - BTEC
	PE (GCSE)	Sport - BTEC	Product Design
Support/Vocational Studies	Travel & Tourism - BTEC	Astronomy	

Block A Choice:

Choices from those available in Blocks B-D:

First Choice: _____

Second Choice: _____

Third Choice: _____

Reserve Choice: _____

Signed (Student): _____ Signed (Parent/Guardian): _____

Please return to your FORM TUTOR by **Monday 3rd April**