Strangford Integrated College



Sixth Form Options Booklet 2020

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Introduction

Deciding on subjects to study at Sixth Form is a very important decision, and therefore a lot of thought and consideration must take place when going through this process. Here at Strangford College, it is our priority to ensure that we provide as much advice and guidance as possible to pupils and parents as they make these vital choices. Each pupil will be given details of each subject including: an overview of the subject, how the subject is assessed, the examination board used, and the career pathways that will follow, including university, apprenticeships, employment and alternative routes.

Overview of course requirements

# GCE A Level

These courses are made up of two externally examined modules: one at AS Level in Year 13 and the other at A2 Level in Year 14. These courses generally have an additional coursework element that will be completed throughout each year respectively. These courses are graded in the traditional A\*- U method and will open up doors to a range of universities and colleges across the UK and beyond as well as apprenticeship and employment opportunities.

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# BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary

These courses differ from traditional A-Levels in that there is a greater focus on coursework, with the majority of assessment in this format. This means that pupils can work on tasks throughout Year 13 and 14 with very little external assessment in the form of an examination.

Because of the large amount of coursework in these courses, pupils should consider choosing no more than 2 BTEC qualifications at A-Level study to ensure workload is not too heavy throughout the year.

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# BTEC Level 3 Double Award

These courses follow the same structure as the BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary courses but count as two qualifications. Pupils will be assessed in the same way, but the workload and portfolio of evidence will be doubled to achieve the qualification.

BTEC subjects are ideal for pupils who are more suited to coursework than exams. These subjects are graded slightly differently than traditional A-Levels.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Traditional Grade** | **BTEC Equivalent** |
| A\* | Distinction \* |
| A | Distinction |
| C | Merit |
| E | Pass |

These subjects open up doors to a range of universities and colleges across the UK and beyond as well as apprenticeship and employment opportunities. However, it is important to note that a small number of university courses will not accept more than 1 BTEC qualification.

Most pupils will study 3 subjects in Year 13, however pupils who have achieved outstanding grades at Year 12 may be considered for 4 choices. When choosing these subjects, pupils should carefully consider the subjects they enjoy, subjects that maximise their ability and subjects that support the pathway for their chosen career.

Entry requirement for Academic AS study at Strangford Integrated College

It is our overriding concern that students, staff and parents have clear evidence that the pupil is academically capable of benefiting from the courses of study that we offer. Appropriate evidence will be based on the results of the GCSE examinations.

It is important to note that Sixth Form courses offered at Strangford College are demanding and require a high level of independent study. Therefore, we have to consider not just your academic achievement but also your career path, skills, attributes and the likelihood of success.

**Entry requirements for ALL students applying to Sixth Form at Strangford:**

**• Grade C or above in GCSE English Language & GCSE Mathematics**

**• Minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C and/or BTEC level 2 at grades Distinction\* - Pass**

**• Minimum entry requirement of preferred subjects should be met. This will usually be a GCSE grade B or BTEC Level 2 Merit. (This information can be found throughout the booklet)**

Life at Sixth Form in Strangford Integrated College

We would love to invite you to study post-16 at Strangford College. We are fortunate to have a thriving and growing school and this includes our Sixth Form. We offer a blended curriculum and our Sixth Form students have a choice of studying a wide range of A Levels and/or BTEC subjects. At Strangford College we are continually reviewing our curriculum to ensure it meets the demands and expectations of our students.

At Strangford College we take the time to focus on personal relationships and to get to know our students. Sixth Form at Strangford College is more than a community, it is a “family”, a word used by our students on a regular basis to describe it.

At Strangford College we have a dedicated Sixth Form pastoral team who work together to offer both academic and pastoral support to our students. We are fortunate to have teachers responsible for Careers, UCAS and Curriculum and Collaboration on the team.

In Year 13, there is a residential at Lorne House and in Year 14 a residential at Corrymeela. Both of these experiences give the students the opportunity to reflect on their time in Strangford College and how the values of an integrated college can transfer to their lives in society. In 2019 we were delighted to embark on the first of many ‘Journey with Purpose’ expeditions to India through the charity ‘Saphara’. In Strangford College we have an evolving enrichment programme that ensures our students gain valuable life experience outside of the classroom. This includes First Aid, gym/fitness, regular guest speakers, finance matters and “Surviving University” skills.

In Sixth Form at Strangford College we operate an innovative prefect system under the leadership of the Head Boy, Head Girl and their Deputies. Our Head Boy and Head Girl are more than just figure heads; they lead our students and represent the college at public events. They are role models for the rest of the student body. This leadership team, which also includes our Head of House, House captains and Senior Prefects, ensures that the student voice is heard.

Please take the time to look at the options available. We will meet with each interested student to discuss **your** choices and tailor a curriculum which will meet **your** needs and play to **your** strengths.

We look forward to welcoming you to the Sixth Form family in August 2020.

Mrs Nicola McLean

(Head of Sixth Form)

University Applications

At the end of Year 13, Strangford College pupils will begin the process of applying to universities through the UCAS system. This system requires pupils to produce a personal statement and confirm GCSE and A- Level grades. In addition to this, the UCAS Team at the College will work with individual pupils to complete a reference that accompanies the form to universities.

Universities offer a wide range of courses that will suit pupils with varying skill sets and qualifications. Each one will require pupils to have a certain amount of UCAS points. These points are gained through subjects studied at Sixth Form and the higher the grade achieved, the greater amount of UCAS points earned.

# UCAS Points Explained

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| A-Level Grade | BTEC Grade | UCAS Points |
| A\* | Distinction \* | 56 |
| A | Distinction | 48 |
| B |  | 40 |
| C | Merit | 32 |
| D |  | 24 |
| E | Pass | 16 |

Grades achieved for all subjects at the end of Year 14 will give pupils a combined total of UCAS points. If pupils achieve the minimum grade entry requirements for the course, then the university may decide to give the pupil an offer for a place at their university.

For more information on the UCAS process please visit [www.ucas.com/undergraduate](https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate)

Careers Guidance

The most valuable things you can do to help with your career planning are:

* Be open to ideas and explore all your options
* Base your choices and decisions on your aspirations and abilities

**Parents, encourage your child to:**

* Talk about their careers ideas and future plans
* Research a wide range of career pathways and progression routes
* Be aware of all the options available, including those in education, employment and training
* Ensure your son/daughter prepares for and makes the most of their careers classes in school.
* Talk to their teachers and attend any careers events the college organises.
* Find out about training, college, and university entrance requirements as well as what is needed for jobs they are interested in
* Develop their skills by taking part in clubs and activities, both within and outside of school - this will help them when they are applying for courses or jobs
* Find out about the world of work through work experience or talking to relatives or family friends about the kinds of work they do

**Look at future career options with your child**

To make a successful career choice, it is crucial that you and your child are aware of current and future employment opportunities. There are job opportunities across all occupations in Northern Ireland but the following areas have been highlighted as being extremely important to the Northern Ireland economy:

* Business and financial services (including accountancy, corporate recovery, financial analysts)
* ICT (particularly software development skills, database development, systems architecture and internet specialist skills)
* Agri-food sector (including lab technicians, food scientists, biotechnologists, quality managers, food marketing and production)
* Advanced manufacturing and engineering (CAD skills, CNC machine operatives, mechanical and electrical engineering skills including at technician level, strategic marketing skills)
* Renewable energies and recycling
* Land use and environmental engineering
* Health and life sciences (biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, biomedical technologies, life applications technologies, nutraceuticals and biomedical devices)
* Creative and digital media
* Hotels and catering (to boost tourism)

Our students are making important decisions at this time which may affect future employment prospects. In terms of job opportunities, STEM subjects offer many openings however, it would be foolish to choose these subjects if strengths lie in Arts and Humanities subjects. There are many college courses for which there are no specific subject requirements. If you have not yet decided on a particular course of study, then consider carefully the careers which your course of GCSE study may exclude and seek advice from a careers teacher.

It is important for our students to recognise that they are not on their own. There are a wide range of people within the school that they can discuss their career pathways and subject choices with. These include:

* Careers Teachers
* Form Teacher
* Learning Coordinator
* Careers Adviser
* Subject Teachers

In Careers lessons your son/daughter has had the opportunity to develop a career plan which has included identifying:

* Their skills
* Their qualities
* Their learning style
* What subjects they are good at
* What subjects they enjoy
* Job research – requirements for certain jobs.

The purpose of these learning opportunities is to help each pupil to make informed subject choices for GCSE and identify where their employability strengths lie.

To best support your son/daughter in this important transition period we recommend that you discuss with him/her their career plan and assist them in making appropriate choices.

**Key School Contacts:**

Head of Careers - Mrs R Beattie

Careers Service N.I Advisers – Kathy Dutton and Gillian Young

**Information**

**on**

**Courses**

#### 



Art and Design

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

Essential - Grade B or above in GCSE Art and Design.

Desirable - Grade C or above in GCSE English.

**What will I learn?**

AS – Unit 1 - Experimental Portfolio - 50% AS (20% Total A Level)

Unit 2 - Personal Response - 50% AS (20% Total A Level)

A2 – Unit 3 - Personal and critical Investigation – 60% A2 (36% Total A Level)

Unit 4 - Thematic Outcome – 40% A2 (24% Total A Level)

**What other skills will I develop?**

A Level Art and Design teaches and encourages students to:

* Develop creativity and independent thought;
* Express themselves visually;
* Be imaginative and explore possibilities;
* Communicate ideas through a variety of methods and media.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

A Level Art and Design can lead to a **foundation** **degree** in Art and Design or directly to **degree courses** in a number of specialist areas. It can lead to more **technical and vocational courses** at Further Education Colleges.

**Career options**

Architecture, Fine Art, Graphic Design, Textiles and Fashion Design, Interior Design, Ceramics, Film and Media, Photography, Teaching, Web Design and New Media and many others.

It is also valued by other occupations at many levels. Companies value creativity; Imagination and good design is fundamental to generating business and standing out from the crowd. This is developed throughout all components of the A Level course.

**Head of Department:** Mrs Milligan

Business Studies (Single Award)

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

Students need to have achieved a grade C in both English and Mathematics to be able to cope with the demands of this course. Students also need to have studied either GCSE Business studies or Business Communication Systems.

**What will I learn and what skills will I develop on this A level course?**

In Year 13 students take 2 units. One is internally assessed and one externally assessed.

**Unit 1 – Exploring Business (internally assessed)**

Learners will study the purposes of different businesses, their structure, the effect of the external environment and how they need to be dynamic and innovative to survive.

**Unit 2 – Developing a Marketing Campaign (externally assessed)**

Students receive preliminary information two weeks prior to the exam so they can carry out the necessary research. The exam itself is 3 hours and is based on the research carried out. The assessment is set and marked by the exam board.

Both Unit 1 and 2 carry the same weighting.

**In Year 14 students take 2 units.**

**Unit 3 – Personal and Business Finance**

This involves the understanding of why money is important and how managing money can help prevent future financial difficulties. Students prepare and analyse business accounts in order to determine profitability, liquidity and efficiency. This unit is externally assessed by a written examination and is worth two thirds of the Year 14 course.

One third of the Year 14 course is **an internally assessed unit on Recruitment and Selection**. Learners carry out research into how this process is carried out in a business. Students will take part in recruitment and selection interviews and review their performance.

**What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?**

Overall 58% of the course is external assessment and 42% internal assessment.

One case study based assessment in Year 13 and a written examination related to the finance unit in Year 14.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

The extended certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

The course in Business could lead to Higher Education courses or university in the following areas;

-Business and Enterprise -Business and Finance

-Marketing -Human Resource Management

**Head of Department:** Mrs Flaherty

Business Studies (Double Award)

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

Students need to have achieved a grade C in both English and Mathematics to be able to cope with the demands of this course. Students also need to have studied either GCSE Business Studies or Business Communication Systems. There is potential for the quali­fication to prepare learners for employment in the appropriate vocational sector and it is suitable for those who have decided that they wish to enter a particular area of work. It is broadly equivalent to two GCE A Levels.

**What will I learn and what skills will I develop on this A level course?**

The four core units in the Double Award course give learners an introduction to and understanding of the business environment, management of resources, marketing and communication, all fundamental to the success of business organisations. In addition to this, pupils will study a range of business modules that will expand on their knowledge and understanding of the corporate world.

**What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?**

BTEC Qualifications are generally assessed through a range of coursework tasks. These are vocationally based and allow pupils to understand what working in the public services would look like.

The BTEC qualifications in this specification are designed to provide highly specialist work-related qualifications in a range of vocational sectors. They give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment. These qualifications accredit the achievement for courses and programmes of study for school based learning.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

The extended certificate is for learners who are interested in learning about the business sector alongside other fields of study, with a view to progressing to a wide range of higher education courses, not necessarily in business-related subjects. It is designed to be taken as part of a programme of study that includes other appropriate BTEC Nationals or A Levels.

The course in Business could lead to Higher Education courses or university in the following areas;

-Business and Enterprise -Business and Finance

-Marketing -Human Resource Management

**Head of Department:** Mrs Flaherty

Design and Technology- Product Design

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

* Due to the demands of this course, you must have attained **grade B** or above in GCSE Technology and Design in order to be considered.
* A good grade in GCSE Mathematics (B or above)
* A high degree of skill in Solidworks (CAD) **and** freehand sketching.

The **T&D course** is a two year course with a terminal exam and coursework submission in Year 14.

There is no longer an AS qualification available. (normally undertaken in Year 13)

There are two components to this subject-

* Component 1 – Externally assessed 2.5 hour exam on Principles of Design and Technology (worth 50% of the A level course)
* Component 2 – Internally assessed and externally moderated Design and Make Project (worth 50% of the A level course)

|  |
| --- |
| **What other skills will I develop?**  The course will develop your oral and written communication describing concepts and details of a design solution, as well as your IT skills. Graphical forms of communication will also be developed when conveying ideas and concepts. This will strengthen your mathematical skills, using measurement and 3D modelling of ideas. |
| **What can I do after I have completed the course?**  Those of you who study this subject at this level could progress to a related course at university, or a career involving Product Design, Engineering or Manufacturing. |

**Head of Department:** Mr Allen

English

Exam Board: AQA

**What do I need before taking this course?**

A minimum Grade C in GCSE English or English Language. It is preferable that you also have achieved at least a Grade C GCSE English Literature

**What will I learn?**

**Year 13 – AS Level**

There are 2 Units studied at AS Level. Unit 1, entitled ‘Views and Voices’, involves the study of a novel and a selection of poems. This unit is assessed through a 90 minute exam and is worth 50% of the AS-Level. Unit 2, ‘People and Places’ involves the study of non-literary texts, as well as re-creative writing and writing a critical commentary. This unit is also examined through a 90 minute exam and is worth 50% of the AS-Level

**Year 14 – A Level**

A Level is similar to AS, but the content and skills are developed to a higher level. Unit 1 consists of the material studied at AS-Level, but as A-Level is a separate qualification, the material is examined in a 3 hour examination worth 40% of the A-Level. Paper 2 involves the study of a chosen play, as well as study of a novel and creative writing. This is examined through a 2 ½ hour examination and is worth 40% of the A-Level. Furthermore, there is a coursework element worth 20% of the A-Level in which students must conduct a personal investigation that explores a specific technique or theme in both literary and non-literary discourse (2,500–3,000 words).

**These qualifications are linear. Linear means that students will sit all the AS exams at the end of their AS course and all the A-level exams at the end of their A-level course.**

**What other skills will I develop?**

Designed with a focus on the integration of language and literature, this course enables students to see how linguistic and literary methods are related and to explore these links in their work. It allows students to build on the skills and knowledge already gained and prepare for their next steps. The variety of assessment styles used, such as re-creative writing, commentary writing, discursive essays and research-based investigative writing, allow students to develop a wide range of skills. These include the ability to read critically, analyse, evaluate and undertake independent research, which are invaluable for both further study and future employment.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

English can lead to many university courses but it is also held in high regard by many employers due to the vast range of skills required and developed throughout the A Level course. Skills such as communication, independent research, decision making, enquiry and working in teams are just a few as well as the essential ability to write creative, constructive essays and discuss and debate topics.

**Head of Department:** Miss Peppiatt

Film Studies

Exam Board: Eduqas (WJEC)

**What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

A minimum of Grade C + in GCSE English Language is required in order to take this ‘A’ Level. It is desirable that you have experience of academic GCSE due to the wealth of new information this subject involves.

**How am I assessed?**

As a linear A-Level subject, students are required to sit two examinations at the end of Year 14:

* Component One – Media Productions, Industries and Audiences – 2h 15mins [35%]
* Component Two – Media Forms and Products in depth – 2h 30 min [35%]
* Component Three – Cross-Media Production [30%] – **INTERNALLY ASSESSED**

Through all components, students will develop an insightful knowledge of the Media Studies Theoretical Framework which underpins all components including:

* Media Language – the codes which create media texts.
* Representations – how media creates/ represents reality to us.
* Media Industries – the workings of the media and its institutions.
* Audiences – how media relates to us and creates desired effects.
* Media contexts – how society, history, culture and the economy impacts media.

Some of the media forms, through set texts you will explore includes:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Advertising & Marketing:  Tide Water Aid  Kiss of the Vampire | Music Videos:  Beyonce: Formation  Vance Joy: Riptide | Newspapers:  Daily Mirror – Brexit Focus  The Times – Brexit Focus |
| Film Industry:  Straight Outta Compton  Black Panther | Radio  Late Night Woman’s Hour | Video Games  Assassin’s Creed III: Liberation |
| Television:  Humans  The Returned | Magazines  Vogue (1960s edition)  The Big Issue | Online Media:  PointlessBlog  DesiMag |

Studying media will provide you with a skills base for studying Media/ Film in at third level education. As well as being appropriate for careers in teaching/ journalism and so much more. This is an exciting time to be studying Media with so many media/ film production such as Games of Thrones availing of Northern Ireland for their global productions.

**Head of Department:** Mr McCartney

French

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need before taking this course?**

CCEA AS French allows students to progress with their language skills in order to obtain a more natural and competent level of fluency. It aims to enable students to:

* develop an enthusiasm for and an understanding of the language and culture in a variety of contexts and genres;
* communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in the French language for a range of purposes; and
* acquire knowledge and advanced skills that will help them progress to further study, higher education or employment.

Language learning can open up a world of opportunities to students.

**What will I learn?**

This specification is made up of two parts: AS and A2. Students may take the AS as a

stand-alone qualification without progressing to A2. However, to gain the full GCE students must complete the AS and A2 units. The AS units make up 40% of the full A level qualification and the A2 units make up 60%.

The specification allows students to explore two broad areas of interest. These are:

* social trends and issues; and either
* political culture, intellectual culture or artistic culture.

Students explore the areas of interest by studying four themes. The following 2 are covered in Year 13 at AS level

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AS** | **A2** |
| Relationships | Young People in Society |
| Culture and Lifestyle | Our Place in a Changing World |

**Film/ Literature**

For **AS**, students study **one** of the following four set works:

Film:

* Berri: *Manon des sources*
* Truffaut: *Les 400 coups*

Literature:

* Camus: *L’Étranger*
* Vigan: *No et moi*

For Unit AS 3: Extended Writing, students write one essay, in French, based on their chosen set work. This is to be confirmed but it is likely we will cover Les 400 coups at AS level as a film study instead of a text.

**Head of Department:** Mrs Boomer

Geography

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need before taking this course?**

It is necessary to have completed a GCSE in Geography and to have achieved a B grade or above.

**What will I learn?**

**Year 13 – AS Level (40% of full A Level)**

There are three units:

•Unit 1 – Physical Geography: fluvial (river) environments, ecosystems and atmospheric processes (40% of AS / 16% of A Level)

•Unit 2 – Human Geography: population, rural/urban environments and development. (40% of AS / 16 % of A Level)

•Unit 3 - Fieldwork Skills & Techniques in Geography (20% of AS / 8% of A Level

**Year 14 – A2 Level (60% of full A Level)**

A2 also comprises three units:

• Unit 1 - Physical Processes, Landforms and Management. (24% of A level)

• Unit 2 – Processes in Human Geography (24% of A Level)

• Unit 3 – Decision Making in Geography (12% of A Level)

There is an examination for each unit and no coursework. Students are also required to attend a residential field trip, providing opportunities for the development of fieldwork skills and techniques.

**What other skills will I develop?**

A Level Geography encourages awareness and understanding of various global issues. It also encourages criticality and reflective thinking, as well as developing research skills and techniques.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

Geography may lead to a variety of university courses and is held in high regard by many employers due to the skills developed throughout the course which include: communication, decision making, enquiry, problem solving, research, data collection and the ability to work as part of a team.

A Level Geography also complements the study of science or humanities, therefore Geographers have pursued various careers, including engineering, environmental science, law, logistics, management, media, teaching and town planning. Essentially A Level Geography will keep doors open to a wide variety of career options, while encouraging the development of a range of vital, transferable skills.

**Head of Department:** Mrs Greenaway

Health and Social Care

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

The most important aspect is a lively andenquiring mind, an interest in health and social care issues, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively. It would be useful although not essential, to have completed GCSE Child Development.

At least a grade C in English is essential due to the high coursework demands but preferably a grade B, as well as a grade C in science.

**Students will be required to do a placement outside of school in order to complete the coursework. This is a CCEA requirement.**

**What will I learn?**

The course is split into six modules. Three modules are studied in Year 13 and three in Year 14. These are added together to give the final overall grade. 40% of the grade is awarded at the end of Year 13 and 60% at the end of Year 14. The modules are either assessed by an external examination and marked by CCEA, or coursework tasks.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Year 13 AS level** | **Year 14 A2 Level** |
| Unit 1 Promoting Quality Care  (Coursework – 25%) | Unit 10 Care Practice and Provision  (External Exam – 30%) |
| Unit 2 Communication in HSC and Early Years Settings  (Coursework – 25%) | Plus two further coursework modules - either  Health Promotion/Applied Research  Body Systems / Physiological Disorders  Supporting the family (70%) |
| Unit 3 Heath and Well Being  (External Exam – 50%) |

**What other skills will I develop?**

The course promotes **key transferable skills** (Communication, Using Mathematics, ICT, Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities). You will also be expected to be able to research independently and reference all work in order to complete assignment work to the standards needed at A Level.

This course will help you to develop a range of skills. You will be expected to communicate orally in class as well as in written coursework. All assignment work is completed using ICT skills.

**Head of Department:** Mrs Morrison

History

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

A grade C or above in GCSE English and a C\*or above in History is essential.

**What will I study?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **AS Level** | **A Level** |
| Unit 1: Germany 1919-1945  *(20% of A Level)*  1h30min exam including sources | Unit 1: Ireland under the Union 1800-1900  *(20% A Level)*  1hr exam |
| Unit 2: Russia 1914-1941  *(20% of A Level)*  1h30min exam | Unit 2: Partition of Ireland 1900-1925  *(40% of A Level)*  2hr30min exam including sources |

**What other skills will I develop?**

Through following this course, you will have the opportunity to develop skills that are valuable transferable skills. You will have the opportunity to develop your critical thinking skills through researching, organising information, evaluating evidence, arguing a case and reaching balanced conclusions. Furthermore, you will become skilled in writing in a clear and coherent way. You will appreciate different interpretations of the past, develop a better understanding of significant historical events and be better informed about current affairs. These are skills which are highly desired by employers and will help you in further education and to succeed in your chosen career as well as in everyday life.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

History can open up a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education and interesting and rewarding careers. If you wish to continue with your study of History at degree level, you will need to complete the full A Level course comprising the two units at AS together with the two at A2. Many History students go on to have interesting and challenging careers, for example in the media, politics, library or information work, writing or editorial work, teaching, lecturing, business or civil service. An interest in history may direct you to perhaps a more specialist career as an archaeologist, archivist working in a records office, historical researcher, solicitor, barrister, museum curator or genealogist.

**Head of Department:** Mrs Purvis

ICT

Exam Board: OCR

**What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

Students should have achieved a Grade C or above in GCSE English and GCSE Maths.

The course is open to students who may not have a GCSE in IT or who have no IT training but who are willing to work hard and apply themselves.

**What will I learn?**

This course consists of an extensive range of centre-assessed units with practical and wider project based assessment opportunities as well as examined units on the Fundamentals of IT, Global Information, Cyber Security and Cloud Technology. This award offers a broad-based introduction to IT.

**What other skills will I develop?**

This course teaches and encourages students to:

* Develop creativity and independent thought using IT
* Develop technical skills to enhance creativity
* Develop logical thinking and practical application of IT
* Express and enjoy exploring ideas for solutions to IT problems
* Communicate using a variety of methods, media, and programs
* Enhance document creation to professional standards
* Consistency in approach, diligence in work method and personal goals and development.

It is a creative, exciting course which requires you to produce documents for companies, learn knowledge and have an understanding of IT in the workplace and how IT affects the future, create a website for a company and create a multimedia (with video and audio) production. You can use skills from a part-time job to enhance this course and vice versa. This course provides a valuable opportunity for you to develop lifelong learning skills.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

This course can lead to further study in IT related areas in Higher Education, Higher National Diploma, Further Education or direct employment and apprenticeship/university placement through employers. It can also lead to a career in IT related industries and is a very useful and valuable subject for most workplaces. It is an essential modern literacy skill, in line with English and Maths that all employers wish to see.

**Head of Department:** Dr. Murphy

Life and Health Science

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking this course?**

Grade C or above in English and Maths at GCSE level. Minimum grade B in GCSE separate Sciences or Grade B in GCSE Double Award Science.

**What will I learn?**

**Year 13 AS Level (40% of A Level)**. Students study the following three units:

Unit 1 - Experimental Techniques

Unit 2 - Human Body Systems

Unit 3 - Aspects of Physical Chemistry in Industrial Processes

Unit 1 is internally assessed. Units 2 and 3 are each assessed by an external exam.

**Year 14 A Level (60% of A Level).** Students study the following three units:

Unit 1 - Scientific Method, Investigation, Analysis and Evaluation

Unit 2 - Organic Chemistry

Unit 5 - Genetics, Stem Cell Research and Cloning

Unit 1 is internally assessed. Units 2 and 5 are each assessed by an external exam.

**What other skills will I develop?**

A Level Health and Life Science encourages students to develop communication skills (talking and listening, reading and writing) as well as giving them the opportunity to work with others, develop self-management skills and problem solve.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

This Single Award Science qualification which when studied alongside another Science related qualification would provide students with a good foundation with which to study Health and Life Science related courses at a University or Higher Education. Students may embark on a career within the Pharmaceutical, Chemical industry or the National Health Service

**Head of Department:** Dr Fulcher

Maths

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

Students need to have achieved a grade A in GCSE Mathematics, following the CCEA M4/M8 module combination or equivalent. It is also highly desirable that students have completed a GCSE in Further Mathematics with at least grade C.

**What will I learn and what skills will I develop on this A level course?**

There are a mixture of purely algebraic topics as well as mechanics (investigating how objects move in different situations) and statistics (investigating patterns in data and how likely an event is to take place).

You will be trained to work through extended questions logically, providing a clearly structured answer which takes account of the information given and selecting the appropriate method to use. You will develop your use of mathematical language and symbols to condense your explanations. You will also be required to develop stronger problem-solving skills as different parts of the course are linked together to successfully answer questions.

**What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?**

There is no coursework, just examinations in the summer of Year 13 and Year 14.

Year 13 has two examinations (1 hour 45 minutes and 1 hour 15 minutes) worth 40% of the final A Level grade;

Year 14 has two examinations (2 hours 30 minutes and 1 hour 30 minutes) worth 60% of the final A Level grade.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

A Level Mathematics may lead to studying Mathematics at university but also a number of other courses where Mathematics is an important element, e.g. Engineering, Computing, Physics, Finance. Many employers will recognise an ability to solve problems and communicate your solutions clearly as an important transferable skill – a good grade in A Level Mathematics is strong evidence of this.

**Head of Department:** Mr Bellinger

Performing Arts

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

In order togetthe most out of this course it is recommended that you have achieved a Grade C or above in GCSE English.  For Performance candidates it is useful to have been successful in Drama, Dance, Music or Performing Arts at GCSE level; for Production candidates GCSE Art or Technology may be useful, but not essential. You will need to have the desire to be involved in extra rehearsal and extra-curricular activities.  Attending the theatre is a compulsory aspect as this course. This course is entirely coursework based and has no written exams.

**What will I learn?**

This specification aims to encourage students to develop knowledge and understanding of:

* The techniques and approaches required in one or more performing arts areas of study
* Working methods linked to industry practice
* How their own skills and aptitudes could be best employed in further study and/or work within related sectors
* The breadth of the sector through exploring its products and processes
* The outcomes of industry practice in terms of people, products, services and contexts; and
* The social, historical and cultural influences

**What other skills will I develop?**

You will develop your oral and written communication skills, as well as your self-confidence in presenting to an audience.  You will also develop your skills of self-management, decision-making and working with other students towards agreed goals. You will also be encouraged to approach tasks creatively, looking for new and unusual solutions to challenges, all skills which are essential in a range of careers.  This course complements study in a range of other subject areas.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

This course can lead to further study in the fields of Performing Arts courses in Higher Education at Degree or HND level.  It can also lead to a career in the performing arts industries, television or the media. The skills are also applicable to many other professions such as teaching, business and social work.

**Head of Department**: Mrs Turnbull

Public Services (Single Award)

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

This course is entirely coursework based with 3 units completed in Year 13 and a further 3 in Year 14. Therefore, there are no written examinations. All students will be considered for this course.

**What will I learn and what skills will I develop on this A Level course?**

The BTEC Level 3 in Public Services examines the role of the public services (such as Police, Fire Service and the Government / Civil Service) in the UK. The course covers topics such as leadership, teamwork, and understanding discipline in the public services. It also looks at the command structure in public services and how the public services plan and manage major incidents, as well as UK citizenship and diversity.

Time management skills will be developed as this course depends on consistent steady work to complete the assignments. Group work is utilised during the course, so teamwork and collaboration skills are developed throughout.

**What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?**

BTEC Qualifications are generally assessed through a range of coursework tasks. These are vocationally based and allow pupils to understand what working in the public services would look like.

The BTEC qualifications in this specification are designed to provide highly specialist work-related qualifications in a range of vocational sectors. They give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment. These qualifications accredit the achievement for courses and programmes of study for school based learning.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

Public Services, in addition to other complementary A Levels could lead to Higher Education courses in university in the following areas:

* Public Services
* Uniformed and Public Services
* Public Services and the Community
* Leadership and Management

Alternatively, this subject will provide an insight into a career in the Public Services, Immigration or the Civil Services.

**Head of Department:** Mr Coffey

Public Services (Double Award)

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

This course is equivalent to two A-Level qualifications and is designed to support pupils who want to study Public Services as the main element alongside another area of complementary or contrasting study.

The Double Award Diploma broadens and expands the specialist work-related focus from the Single Award Diploma. There is potential for the qualification to prepare learners for employment in the appropriate vocational sector and it is suitable for those who have decided that they wish to enter a particular area of work. It is broadly equivalent to two GCE A Levels.

**What will I learn and what skills will I develop on this A level course?**

This qualification in Public Services is targeted at learners who would like to gain employment in the public services sector and have been developed to provide further training and education and progression opportunities within this sector. The qualification will develop learners’ abilities through the knowledge and skills gained in the programme and are suitable for learners who would like to know more about employment in uniformed or non-uniformed public services.

**What examinations will I have to take to get my qualification?**

BTEC Qualifications are generally assessed through a range of coursework tasks. These are vocationally based and allow pupils to understand what working in the public services would look like.

The BTEC qualifications in this specification are designed to provide highly specialist work-related qualifications in a range of vocational sectors. They give learners the knowledge, understanding and skills that they need to prepare for employment. These qualifications accredit the achievement for courses and programmes of study for school based learning.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

Public Services, in addition to other complementary A Levels could lead to Higher Education courses in university in the following areas:

* Public Services
* Uniformed and Public Services
* Public Services and the Community
* Leadership and Management

Alternatively, this subject will provide an insight into a career in the Public Services, Immigration, or the Civil Services.

**Head of Department:** Mr Coffey

Religious Studies

Exam Board: CCEA

**What do I need to know, or be able to do, before taking this course?**

A Grade C or above in CCEA GCSE Religious Education, either full course or short course rather than OCN. A Grade C or above at GCSE English would also be recommended for students considering this course due to the literacy requirements for the course.

**What will I learn?**

Two modules of the course will be studied in Year 13, with examinations at the end of the year worth 50% each of the AS Level. This AS contributes to 40% of the A Level.

In the first module students will study The Celtic Church in Ireland. They will look at the historical evidence of St. Patrick, explore how Christianity arrived on these shores and the impact it had on the people and landscape. The students will also look at monasteries and their features as well as the impact the Irish Church had on Britain and further afield.

In the second module students will study aspects of the New Testament exploring the development of the Acts of the Apostles, the beginning of the Christian Church with a particular focus on the role and preaching of Peter and Paul. These modules have linked themes and complement each other.

Two further modules will be studied during Year 14 with examinations at the end of the year comprising 60% of the final A Level. One module will involve an exploration of the major themes which arise through a study of Galatians, Corinthians and Ephesians. A second module will examine the expansion of the Irish Church and famous monastic founders in Europe as well as the Protestant Reformation and its origins in mainland Europe. The students will study particular characters from the Celtic Church Period.

There is no coursework component in this subject. There will however be work on synoptic essays, bringing both courses of study together as one.

**What other skills will I develop?**

Your communication, research and thinking skills will be promoted and developed during this course through the learning and teaching in the classroom. There is a major essay writing element to this course also and so your literacy and grammar skills will be tested and developed. There is a strong interactive dimension to the teaching of this course and students will be encouraged to contribute openly in class as an individual and within a group setting. The use of ICT is important and necessary as a means of research, group and individual presentations.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

This subject will be of interest to those of you who are considering careers in teaching, health professions, social services and any of the caring professions. Other professions like Policing, Law and the Armed Forces are also enabled with the study of Religious Studies. It also combines well with other A Level courses.

**Head of Department:** Mr Kelly

Sport

Exam Board: Edexcel

**Course Requirements**

Standard 6th Form entry requirements apply. A Grade C in science and English as essential. Although not essential, BTEC Sport or GCSE PE is desirable.

**Course Content**

Candidates will study 4 units. Three of these are mandatory covering the following areas:

Unit 1 – Anatomy and Physiology

Unit 2 – Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being

Unit 3 – Professional Development in the Sports Industry

Optional units – One unit is chosen from the following:

Unit 4 – Sports Leadership

Unit 5 – Application of Fitness Testing

Unit 6 – Sports Psychology

Unit 7 - Practical Sports Performance

Units 1 and 2 are externally assessed and worth two thirds of the award. Unit 3 and the optional units are internally assessed and worth one third of the award.

**Key transferable skills**

Throughout the Award, within both participation in and assessment of practical delivery and classroom participation, a wide range of transferable skills are obtained and developed, to include; communication skills, team work, self-discipline, time management and motivational skills.

IT skills will be developed through research and coursework submission.

A wide range of skills desirable to both potential employer and university will be introduced and nurtured throughout the duration of the Award.

Units are assessed using a grading scale of Distinction (D), Merit (M), Pass (P), Near Pass (N) and Unclassified (U).

Qualifications in the suite are graded using a scale of P to D\*.

The BTEC Nationals attract UCAS points.

Students who have chosen this course have gone on to pursue a foundation degree at SERC gaining entry into Sports Science or Sports Studies degrees in the University of Ulster, Loughborough College as well as many other universities. Many occupations use the skills gained from this sporting qualification, such as PE teaching, physiotherapy, fitness instruction, sports coaching, sports development, the Armed forces, nursing, firefighting, the PSNI and sports nutrition.

**Head of Department:** Mrs Gibson

Travel and Tourism (Single Award)

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

All students will be considered for this course, however, those who have studied GCSE Geography or Business Studies in particular will be able to apply their knowledge to the study of Travel and Tourism. *It is also necessary to have achieved at least a C in English Language at GCSE.*

**What will I learn and what skills will I develop on this A Level Course?**

This qualification gives learners the opportunity to cover the Travel and Tourism sector and develop geographical and business knowledge and skills through the extensive common core complemented by a selection of optional units.

The following are compulsory units:

* Investigating the Travel and Tourism sector
* The business of Travel and Tourism
* The UK as a destination
* Customer service in Travel and Tourism

The following options will also be studied:

* Preparation for employment in Travel and Tourism
* Retail travel operations

**What examination will I have to take to get my qualification?**

The course is assessed entirely by portfolio work. There are no examinations for this course.

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

This course may lead on to the Higher or Further Education study of:

• Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism • Marketing

• Business Studies •International Tourism Management

• Business Management with Accounting and Finance • Geography and Tourism

• Geography and Environmental Management.

Learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with specific higher education providers.

**Head of Department:** Mr Coffey

Travel and Tourism (Double Award)

Exam Board: Edexcel

**What do I need to know or be able to do before taking the course?**

This course is equivalent to two A-Level qualifications and is designed to support pupils who want to study Travel and Tourism as the main element alongside another area of complementary or contrasting study.

All students will be considered for this course, however, those who have studied GCSE Geography or Business Studies in particular will be able to apply their knowledge to the study of Travel and Tourism. It is also necessary to have achieved at least a C in English Language at GCSE.

**What will I learn and what skills will I develop on this A Level Course?**

This qualification gives learners the opportunity to cover the Travel and Tourism sector and develop geographical and business knowledge and skills through the extensive common core complemented by a selection of optional units.

**What examination will I have to take to get my qualification?**

Learners will complete 8 units of which 6 are mandatory and 2 are external.

Mandatory content (83%). External assessment (29%).

This qualification includes six mandatory units covering the following content areas:

1. The travel and tourism industry
2. Different types of destinations and their importance
3. Marketing
4. Customer service
5. Enterprise and entrepreneurship
6. Research

Learners are also required to study at least two specialist units in the following areas:

• specialist tourism • the airport experience • sustainable tourism

• visitor attractions • events, conferences and exhibitions • passenger transport

• working overseas • the cruise industry • recruitment and selection

• work experience in the travel and tourism sector

**What can I do after I have completed the course?**

Learners can progress to degree courses such as:

• Hospitality, Leisure, Sport and Tourism • Marketing

• Business Studies •International Tourism Management

• Business Management with Accounting and Finance • Geography and Tourism

• Geography and Environmental Management.

Learners should always check the entry requirements for degree programmes with specific higher education providers.

**Head of Department:** Mr Coffey