



**THE CASTLE ROCK  
SCHOOL**

Lionheart Educational Trust



Key Stage 4 Options Booklet

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# Welcome

Dear Students,

You are about to make some very important decisions about which courses to specialise in and we want to help you to make the best choices for you. These choices will be your GCSE courses starting in Year 10 and examined in Year 11.

Selecting subjects to specialise in is an opportunity to engage with subjects on a broader and increasingly advanced level; accelerate the acquisition of knowledge; expand your subject-specific vocabulary; and foster an excitement and enjoyment in domain specific skills.

This information provides details about all of the courses we offer. This is an extremely important but also a very exciting choice. You should talk about your options with your family, your tutor, subject teachers and school leaders. Think carefully about which subjects you are good at, which you enjoy and which subjects might be useful for your future aspirations.

Take time to read this booklet thoroughly, talk to the staff and your parents.

I wish you every success.

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Associate Headteacher, The Castle Rock School



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# Our Curriculum

Castle Rock's curriculum is designed to meet the needs and aspirations of our learners. There are three elements to the curriculum: core subjects, option subjects and essential non-accredited subjects.

## **Core Curriculum**

All students will follow the core curriculum which will contribute either 5 or 6 GCSEs dependant on their science course. The subjects included are as follows:

Mathematics

English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)

Science (The majority of students will take combined science which is equivalent to two GCSEs. Those students that demonstrate an aptitude for science will sit the individual science GCSEs of Biology, Chemistry and Physics worth three GCSEs. This would be recommended for any students wishing to study science at A Level.)



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# Our Curriculum

## Option Subjects

Castle Rock is able to offer a wide range of subjects for students to choose from. There are twenty-one subjects available, with three types of qualification available:

GCSEs – Seen by many as the traditional approach to learning. Students are assessed by an exam or series of exams at the end of the course. Grades are 1 to 9.

Cambridge Nationals (CNAT) - Increasingly popular vocational qualifications that are usually made up of a series of units alongside a terminal exam. Grades are Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.

BTEC Technical Awards – Similar to CNAT qualifications, BTEC Technical Awards are a new suite of qualifications that offer more practical learning opportunities. They are also assessed by a series of units alongside a terminal exam. Grades are Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.

Students will take four option subjects. All courses on offer are equivalent to one GCSE.

All students must choose History or Geography alongside three other choices. The choices are to be made online using our Options gateway. This can be accessed via the website where there is also a guide to completing the process.



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# Our Curriculum

## Non-accredited Subjects

These subjects are compulsory for all students. They are studied throughout Key Stage 4 but are not assessed at the end of the course and do not lead to a qualification. The subjects are:

- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Careers
- Personal, Social and Health Education (PHSE)
- Relationships and Sex Education (RSE)

## Qualification Levels

Throughout this process, subject documentation will refer to levels 1, 2 or 3.

Key Stage 4 subjects will be level 1 or 2. Level 1 is a Foundation level course leading to grades 1 to 5, Level 2 is a Higher-level qualification leading to grades 5 to 9.

GCSE subjects are graded 1 to 9 with 9 being the highest grade.

Level 3 refers to A level qualifications or equivalent.



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# Our Curriculum

There are six 50-minute lessons in a school day, with five days a week totalling 30 lessons per week. The table below shows how the 30 lessons are divided across the subjects.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<b>English</b>					<b>Maths</b>					<b>Science</b>						<b>PE</b>	<b>RE</b>	<b>History</b> or <b>Geography</b>			<b>Option subject</b>			<b>Option subject</b>			<b>Object subject</b>		
5 lessons per week Two double lessons and one single					5 lessons per week One double lesson and three singles					3 double lessons per week  Combined Science -2 GCSEs  Triple Science – 3 GCSEs Biology Chemistry Physics								3 lessons per week One double and one single			3 lessons per week One double and one single			3 lessons per week One double and one single			3 lessons per week One double and one single		
Two GCSEs English Language English Literature																													



# Key Dates

- Thursday 9 January Assembly for students to launch process
- Thursday 16 January Options Evening for parents and students
- Friday 7 February Deadline for completing online Options form
- Friday 16 May Confirmed Option Subject Letters
- Friday 6 June Appeal Deadline
- Friday 13 June Option Appeal Letters sent out
- Friday 19 September Final day for subject changes



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# Art

## Course Content and Assessment

The GCSE Course in Art and Design caters for students who are passionate about Art and enjoy using a broad range of art materials and techniques to create work that is creative and experimental. Students will work on a range of projects that allow them to grow in independence, researching the work of others.

### Coursework:

Students create a 'portfolio' of work consisting of at least two distinct units of work which will be based on specific briefs or themes, one of which will be chosen by the student. These two coursework projects make up 60% of the GCSE grade.

### Exam:

Students respond to one starting point from the examination paper which will be issued in the January of the second year. Students have approx. twelve weeks to prepare for the final examination. The examination is a practical exam and lasts for 10 hours, this is typically carried out over two full days in school.

## Type of Qualification

GCSE Art and Design – Fine Art (AQA)

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/specification-at-a-glance>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

TV	Advertising
Film	Multimedia Industries
Illustration	Interior Design
Graphic Design	Teaching
Fashion	
Set Design	

## Progression to Sixth Form

Students can continue to study a range of Art and Design skills in the Sixth Form via the Art, Craft and Design A Level that we offer. The Fine Art GCSE, Textiles GCSE and Design Technology GCSE options would all allow students to make progress on to this course.



# Business Studies

## Course Content and Assessment

Business studies is an exciting and challenging subject which will introduce students to the dynamic world of business. It covers a broad range of topics that are designed to provide each individual with the knowledge and understanding that underpins modern businesses, as well as providing students with transferable skills which they will later utilise.

Students opting for GCSE Business will study the Edexcel 9-1 Specification. The course develops a detailed analysis of the different functions within Business, and is organised into two external examined themes:

### Theme 1: Investigating Small Business

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes  
50% of the qualification  
90 marks

### Theme 2: Building a Business

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes  
50% of the qualification  
90 marks

## Type of Qualification

### GCSE Business Studies (EDEXCEL)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/business-2017.html>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Business analyst	Sales manager
Financial adviser	Sales
Business development manager	Human resources Manager
Business project manager	Investment analyst
Customer services manager	Management consultant
Digital marketer	Market researcher
Estate agent	Accountancy
Retail merchandiser	Public relations officer
Retail buyer	Entrepreneur

## Progression to Sixth Form

A business qualification can lead onto further study of Business Studies at A level. Students will also develop the transferable skills of analysis and evaluation which could support them in their future choices studying a range of other subjects.



# Dance

## Course Content and Assessment

This qualification is for learners interested in taking a hands-on course that will offer them an insight into what it is like to work in the performing arts sector. This course enables learners to develop the foundational skills that are integral to a wide range of roles (from performing to designing and directing) across the creative industries. Learners will receive a general introduction to the dance sector, crammed with opportunities to learn and try out new skills, techniques, and styles.

### Component 1: Performance and Choreography

Learners will perform 2 set phrases through a solo performance as well as a duet or trio. They will also choreograph a solo or a group piece of three to three and a half minutes.

This is marked internally but moderated externally and in total is 60% of the course.

### Component 2: Dance Appreciation

This is where learners will watch and analyse professional works, gain knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills and have a critical appreciation of their own work.

This component is 40% and assessed through a written exam of 1.5 hours.

## Type of Qualification

AQA GCSE Dance

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/dance/gcse/dance-8236/specification-at-a-glance>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Actor	Theatre director
Dancer	Screenwriter
Musical theatre performer	Arts administrator
Dance-, music- or drama- therapist	Theatre stage manager

## Progression to Sixth Form

The course provides a solid foundation for studying dance at Sixth Form.



# Digital IT

## Course Content and Assessment

This qualification is a hands-on course that offers an insight into what it is like to work the Digital sector. Digital skills span all industries, and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. The BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology provides a broad introduction to several aspects of 'digital' – from UX and interface design to data management and IT systems.

Learners will not only acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills but also the processes and attitudes that underpin the sector. Using realistic vocational contexts, learners will explore, develop and apply highly sought-after key skills such as data management and data protection, project planning, and the design of user interfaces and dashboards as a way to present and interpret data. They'll learn about the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, codes of conduct, and legal and ethical issues.

BTEC Digital IT consists of three compulsory components. Two are internal whilst one is an externally set exam.

- **Component 1: Exploring User interface design principles and project planning techniques 30% (Internal PSA)**
- **Component 2: Collecting, presenting and interpreting data. 30% (Internal PSA)**
- **Component 3: Effective digital working practices. 40% (External synoptic exam)**

## Type of Qualification

### BTEC L1/2 Tech Award in Digital IT

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/digital-information-technology.html>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Mobile Application Development	Web Development and Design
Graphic Design	Animation Development
IT Support	Network Management
Teacher	Cyber Security
Game Development	Digital Forensics

## Progression to Sixth Form

Ideal for learners who want a career in information technology and want to get a broad taste of digital skills. This is a stepping stone to careers such as IT Project management, Technical Support and Cyber Security. BTEC Digital IT and the problem solving and IT skills it develops can be valuable in many different future study routes, including BTEC National L3 IT, A-Level Computer Science and other Level 3 courses (e.g. IT, Media Studies, Graphic Design, and Web design).



# Drama

## Course Content and Assessment

This acting course is suitable for students who have demonstrated a level of enthusiasm, motivation and dedication to performing arts and in particular drama. Students choosing this course must be willing to perform. Students gain a practical understanding of drama and apply this knowledge to their performances as they develop their practical skills. Students can choose to be a performer or can take on the role of designer in lighting, sound, set or costume. Students must choose one role throughout the component but can choose different roles.

There are 3 assessed components:

**Component 01/02: Devising drama**—Students research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama. They complete a portfolio of evidence during the devising process, give a final performance of their drama, and write an evaluation of their own work. This is an internal assessment 30%

**Component 03: Presenting and performing texts**—Students develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. This is an internal assessment 30%

**Component 04: Drama: Performance and response**—Students explore practically a whole performance text and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed, performed and responded to. They also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance throughout the course. This is a written external exam worth 40%.

## Type of Qualification

OCR GCSE DRAMA

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/drama-j316-from-2016/>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Actor/Director

Stage Manager

Lighting Designer

Fight Director

Uniformed Services

Law

Producer

Sales/Marketing Manager

Arts Administrator

Social Worker

## Progression to Sixth Form

GCSE Drama provides a solid foundation for further study in the Sixth Form.



# Design and Technology

## Course Content and Assessment

The course allows students to actively engage in Design and Technology. Students are encouraged to examine the world of products and devise their own. Students are expected to conduct primary and secondary research to understand users allowing them to design, develop and create products that solve real-world problems.

Students are expected to apply their understanding of materials and processes from theory lessons into their practical outcomes.

The course focuses on developing an understanding of key questions concerning product design to create thoughtful and conscientious designers. Why do products look the way they do? What makes people want to buy products? How do products affect the environment? What are products made from and why was the material chosen? What is the source of different materials? What impact do they have on the global environment? During the course, students will have the opportunity to manufacture their own prototype.

GCSE Design and Technology is assessed through a combination of written examination and coursework.

Paper 1: (50% of the GCSE) 2 hours

Non-Examined Assessment (NEA): (50% of the GCSE) Students will produce a working prototype and a portfolio of evidence based on a short brief from the exam board

## Type of Qualification

GCSE Design and Technology (AQA)

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Product Designer  
Architect  
Engineer

Manufacture  
Builders  
Electrician

## Progression to Sixth Form

Students can continue to study Design and Technology through Art, Craft and Design for A-Level at The Castle Rock School.



# French

## Course Content and Assessment

Students will learn to communicate in a variety of real- life situations, from booking a hotel to eating out in a restaurant, as well as deepening their knowledge of the culture and civilization of the countries where French is spoken. GCSE French places a strong emphasis on grammatical accuracy and understanding the culture of France.

Students sit four exams at the end of year 11 in listening, reading, speaking and writing. There is no coursework element to the examination.

The speaking exam will be a terminal exam conducted by the class teacher and sent to the exam board for marking.

Paper 1: Listening & Understanding in French (25% of GCSE)

Paper 2: Speaking in French (25% of GCSE)

Paper 3: Reading & Understanding in French (25% of GCSE)

Paper 4: Writing in French (25% of GCSE)

## Type of Qualification

GCSE French (Pearson - Edexcel)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/french-2024.html>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Leisure and Tourism

Teaching and Translating

Marketing and Recruitment

Diplomatic Service / Aid Sector

Exports

Journalism

Academic Research

International Law

With increasing use of new technologies (i.e. the internet and faster travel) many companies are looking to employ people with good language qualifications. Having a language qualification is a real asset and gives students an edge when applying for a job or seeking promotion within their chosen career.

## Progression to Sixth Form

French is a highly valued academic qualification which, as an EBacc subject, will provide an ideal platform for A-Level study. Students can go on to study A-Level French.



# Geography

## Course Content and Assessment

GCSE Geography enables students to develop their geographical skills alongside investigative, mathematic and statistic skills. Fieldwork will be carried out as part of the course, and this will feed in to the written exams.

Key topics within the specification include:

- Global Hazards
- Changing Climate
- Distinctive Landscapes
- Sustaining Ecosystems
- Urban Futures
- Dynamic Development
- UK in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century
- Resource Reliance

The course is assessed through three exam papers:

- Paper 1: Our Natural World (35% of GCSE) 1 hr 15 minutes
- Paper 2: People and Society (35% of GCSE) 1 hr 15 minutes
- Paper 3: Geographical Exploration (30% of GCSE) 1 hr 30 minutes

## Type of Qualification

GCSE Geography (OCR B)

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/gcse/geography-b-geography-for-enquiring-minds-j384-from-2016/>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

- Local Government
- Environmental Consultants
- Accountant
- Meteorologist
- Geologist
- Scientist
- Logistics

- Town Planner
- Ministry of Defence - Analysts
- Climatologist
- Teaching
- Police – Intelligence Analysis
- Civil Service
- GIS Analysts
- Digital Cartography

## Progression to Sixth Form

Geography is a highly valued academic qualification which, as an EBacc subject, will provide an ideal platform for A-Level study in a wide range of subjects, including A Level Geography.





# Hair & Beauty

## Course Content and Assessment

This qualification allows students to explore the exciting world of hair and beauty and the environment in which its industries operate. Students will look back in time to explore changing trends and developments within the hair and beauty sector, find out how science is used to create products, and understand why we create images for business use.

Students will study how hair and beauty has developed from ancient times to the present day: ranging from ancient Egypt to 20th century eras, including the Flappers of the 1920's. Students will develop hair styling, make-up and manicure technical skills to produce their own recreations of the looks and photographic image. A programme of basic practical hair and beauty skills will be followed consisting of, shampooing, blow-drying, thermal styling, hair up, skin care, make up application including concealing and contouring and nail art and manicure. You will explore ethics of product testing, the anatomy of the hair, skin and nails and explore how disorders of the hair and skin can affect services.

This qualification has three units:

- Exploring the world of hair and beauty
- Science of hair and beauty
- Design in the hair and beauty sector

Assessment: One externally set assignment and one externally set exam.

## Type of Qualification

City and Guilds - L2 Technical Award: Hair and Beauty Studies (3038 – 21)

<https://www.cityandguilds.com/qualifications-and-apprenticeships/beauty-and-complementary-therapies/beauty/3038-technical-in-hair-and-beauty>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Make-Up Artist  
Beautician  
Hairdresser

Nail Technician  
Salon/Spa Manager

## Progression to Sixth Form

Students can progress onto Level 2 or Level 3 City and Guilds qualifications.



# Health and Social Care

## Course Content and Assessment

Offering an effective introduction to the health and social care sector, this qualification looks at the role the sector plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals. It also introduces students to knowledge and skills needed to work in various care settings. Underpinning the qualification is a focus on person-centered values, rights of individuals, communicating effectively and protecting individuals. In addition, students will focus on supporting individuals through life events and the option to plan and deliver a creative activity.

The qualification is designed to help students learn practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations, to think creatively, analytically, logically and critically and develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the health and social care sector and more widely.

The Cambridge National Certificate in Health and Social Care consists of three units, which are both externally and internally assessed:

- Principles of care in health and social care settings – externally assessed unit (40%)
- Supporting individuals through life events – internally assessed unit (30%)
- Creative and therapeutic activities – internally assessed unit (30%)

## Type of Qualification

OCR Level 1 / 2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care

[ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835](http://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/health-and-social-care-level-1-2-j835)

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Counsellor	Charity Officer
Social Worker	Health Promotion Specialist
Case Worker	Nursery Nurse
National Health Service	Residential Care
Nurse	Paramedic

## Progression to Sixth Form

The qualification can lead to further study relating to a variety of health and social care industries and occupations:

Health and Social Care  
Child care  
Diploma in Education and Early Years Services



# History

## Course Content and Assessment

GCSE History enables students to develop analytical, evaluation and debating skills, whilst gaining confidence in interpreting source materials and interpretations.

### Key topics within the specification include:

- Medicine through time c1250 - present, including the historic environment of the British sector of the trenches on the Western Front, 1914-18.
- Early Elizabethan England 1558 - 88
- Superpower relations and the Cold War 1941 - 91
- Weimar and Nazi Germany 1918 - 39

### The course is assessed through three exam papers:

- Paper 1 (30% of the GCSE) 1 hour 15 minutes
- Paper 2 (40% of the GCSE) 1 hour 45 minutes
- Paper 3 (30% of the GCSE) 1 hour 20 minutes

## Type of Qualification

GCSE History (Pearson - Edexcel)

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/history2016.html>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

A qualification in history is valuable in any career that requires an understanding of the world we live in and the past that has shaped it. Some examples include:

Journalism	Sales and Marketing
Broadcast Media	Advertising
Publishing	Law
International Relations	Human Resources
Teaching	Television and film
Politics	Civil Service

## Progression to Sixth Form

A Level history is offered by our 6th Form and is one of our most successful subjects.



# Hospitality and Catering

## Course Content and Assessment

This is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food safety and the hospitality and catering industry.

Year 10: Students' cookery skills will be nurtured with an emphasis on developing high level practical skills shown through a range of dishes. They will explore nutrition through theory related to practical lessons and undertake a range of practical lessons utilising a range of equipment and processes. They will develop a strong understanding of nutrition and food choice alongside food safety. Practice assessments will ensure students are prepared for Year 11.

Year 11: Students will work through the non-examined assessment tasks and preparation for the written exam. There will be some opportunity for further development of high-level practical skills.

Written Exam (1 hour 20 minutes) 80 marks - 40% of qualification The Hospitality and Catering Industry Unit 1

Non-exam assessment (NEA) Controlled assessment (approximately 12 hours) 120 marks - 60% of qualification Hospitality and Catering in Action Unit 2 enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn how to prepare, cook, present dishes and how to review their work effectively. An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC which will include a scenario and several tasks available.

## Type of Qualification

Level 2 Hospitality and Catering (WJEC)

[https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.wjec.co.uk/qualifications/level-1-2-vocational-award-in-hospitality-and-catering/#tab_keydocuments)

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Restaurant Manager  
Chef  
Food Journalism  
Dietician

Community Health Worker  
Environmental Health Officer  
Personal Trainer  
Nutritionist

## Progression to Sixth Form

The qualification can lead to further study at A-Level or can enable students to embark on apprenticeships in the catering and food industries.



# iMedia

## Course Content and Assessment

This qualification will provide students with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools with the aims of enhancing their employability when they leave education. The qualification will encourage independence, creativity and awareness of the digital media sector.

This will allow learners to apply fundamental principles and concepts of digital media such as (video games, online publishing e.g. websites, books, interactive media etc. The course will focus on product design the use of media, planning techniques and creation, publishing and distribution considerations.

The course is split into three modules:

**Module 1 - Creative iMedia in the media industry.** Assessed by exam. You will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences.

**Module 2 - Visual identity and digital graphics.** Assessed by coursework. You will learn to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences.

**Module 3 is known as Interactive Digital Media.** Assessed by coursework. You will learn how to plan, create and review interactive digital media.

## Type of Qualification

This is a Vocational Qualification. For more information visit:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/creative-i-media-level-1-2-award-certificate-j807-j817/>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Graphic Designer  
Website Designer  
Games Designer  
Digital Assistants  
Social Media Specialists  
Advertising Specialists

Animators  
Creative Directors  
Photo Editors  
Multimedia Artist  
Video & Film Editor

## Progression to Sixth Form

Students will be able to use their ICT skills to assist other A Level subjects. Students wishing to go to Sixth Form/College will be able to use their ICT skills to assist whichever course they pursue. Students going into Apprenticeships will clearly be able to show employers and trainers the level of their ICT competence using a recognised qualification, especially in the areas covered by the modules outlined above.



# Media

## Course Content and Assessment

GCSE Media Studies engages students in the in-depth study of media products in relation to the four areas of the theoretical framework:

- media language
- media representation
- media industries
- media audiences.

Students are required to study media products from all of the following media forms:

- television
- film
- radio
- newspapers
- magazines
- advertising and marketing
- online, social and participatory media
- video games
- music video

## Type of Qualification

Two written exams of 1 hour 30 minutes each (35% each)  
Non-exam Assessment – Creating a Media Project (30%) based on one of five annually changing briefs, set by Edexcel worth 60 marks. Assessed by teachers, moderated by Edexcel.

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Film-making  
Magazines  
Photography  
Advertising

## Progression to Sixth Form

Media can be studied further in 6th form but will also provide the skills for other courses as aspects of Sociology, Politics, Business and History run throughout the course.



# Music

## Course Content and Assessment

BTEC Music is suitable for students who have demonstrated a level of enthusiasm, motivation and dedication in Music. All students are expected to play an active role in the musical life of the school. The course allows students to choose to develop their performance, production or composing skills.

The course is 100% coursework. For each component, students will build a portfolio of evidence through research, assignments and practical tasks. These are verified by an exam board moderator.

**Component 1:** Exploring Musical Products and Styles – Learners will explore through a series of practical workshops the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.

**Component 2:** Music Skills Development – Learners will develop two musical disciplines of their choice— live performance, production or composing—through engagement in practical tasks, whilst documenting their progress.

**Component 3:** Responding to a Music Brief (Externally moderated) – Learners will develop and present music in response to a given brief, where they will create a performance or produce a sequence using a DAW of a given song in a new style.

## Type of Qualification

**BTEC Tech Award Music Practice (Pearson - Edexcel)**

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/btec-tech-awards/music-practice-2022.html>

The qualification is equivalent to and compliments GCSEs to help develop work-related skills in the music sector.

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Music producer  
Music therapist  
Performer  
Sound designer—computer gaming or film and TV  
Sound technician - broadcasting/film/video  
Arts administrator  
Community arts worker

Event manager  
Marketing executive  
Private tutor  
Radio producer  
Talent agent  
Music management  
Legal work within the music industry  
Uniform services

## Progression to Sixth Form

Following study of either BTEC/GCSE Music or BTEC Performing arts – both course pathways provide a solid foundation for studying these subjects further.



# Psychology

## Course Content and Assessment

### Topics:

Development- How did you develop?

Memory- How does your memory work?

The brain and neuropsychology- How does your brain affect you?

Social Influence- How do others affect you?

Psychological Problems- How would Psychological Problems affect you?

Criminal Psychology- Why do people become criminals?

Sleep and Dreaming- Why do you need to sleep and dream?

Research Methods- How do you carry out psychological research?

### Assessment:

2 exam papers:

Paper 1- 98 marks 1hr 45mins

Paper 2- 79 marks 1 hr 20 mins

## Type of Qualification

### AQA GCSE Psychology

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182/specification-at-a-glance>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Psychiatry

Educational Psychology

Forensic Psychology

Health Psychology

Clinical Psychology

Counselling Psychology

Nursing

Teaching

Social Work

Police

Armed Forces

Media and Broadcasting Advertising

Sales Marketing

Law Nursery Nursing

Medicine Retail

## Progression to Sixth Form

Psychology is an incredibly popular subject at A level. Students who have studied GCSE Psychology beforehand get a head start and do well but many students also take the subject up at A Level having not taken it at GCSE. We also have increasing numbers choosing to study psychology based subjects at university.





# Religious Studies

## Philosophy & Ethics

### Course Content and Assessment

Component 1: Religious, Philosophical and Ethical Studies in the Modern World

(Written examination: 2 hours - 50% of qualification)

Theme 1: Issues of Relationships

Theme 2: Issues of Life and Death

Theme 3: Issues of Good and Evil

Theme 4: Issues of Human Rights

Component 2: Study of Christianity (Written examination: 1 hour - 25% of qualification)

Component 3: Study of Buddhism (Written examination: 1 hour - 25% of qualification)

### Type of Qualification

GCSE Religious Studies (Eduqas)

<https://www.eduqas.co.uk/media/wpojvjm0/eduqas-gcse-rs-spec-full-from-2016-e-14-05-2020.pdf>

### Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

A qualification in RS / Philosophy and Ethics is valuable in any career that requires an understanding of people and an appreciation of the diverse world we live in. Some examples include:

Law

Medicine

Social / Youth work

Retail / Hospitality

Business / HR

Journalism

Teaching / Education

Public Services

Marketing

### Progression to Sixth Form

A-level Philosophy; A-level Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)  
Related subjects include health and social care, geography, law, history, classical civilisation, sociology, philosophy, psychology, government and politics, communication and culture.



# Sociology

## Course Content and Assessment

GCSE Sociology helps students to gain knowledge and understanding of key social structures, processes and issues through the study of families, education, crime and deviance and social stratification.

Students will develop their analytical, assimilation and communication skills by comparing and contrasting perspectives on a variety of social issues, constructing reasoned arguments, making substantiated judgements and drawing reasoned conclusions.

By studying sociology, students will develop transferable skills including how to:

- investigate facts and debate social issues
- develop opinions and new ideas on social issues
- analyse and better understand the social world

The course is assessed with two written papers at the end of the course, each contributing 50% of the grade. Each paper lasts 1 hour 45 mins.

## Type of Qualification

EDUQAS/WJEC GCSE

[https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab\\_keydocuments](https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/sociology-gcse/#tab_keydocuments)

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Crime analyst  
Lawyer  
Paralegal  
Journalism  
Police officer

Probation officer  
Domestic violence victim advocate  
Social service case worker  
Teacher  
Local / national government

## Progression to Sixth Form

A Level Sociology is offered by our 6<sup>th</sup> Form and is one of our most popular and successful subjects.



# Sports Studies

## Course Content and Assessment

This aim of this course is to encourage students to think for themselves about the study of sport and the application to real life practical sport, leadership and evaluation of the skills required. Students will study topics affecting sport through the contemporary issues' unit, both play and lead sporting activities, as well as having the chance to either explore the world of outdoor sport or sport in the media.

Students must complete three units:

1. One mandatory externally assessed unit (exam)
2. One mandatory centre-assessed unit (NEA) - 80 marks
3. One optional centre-assessed unit (NEA) from a choice of two - 40 marks
  - R184: Contemporary Issues in Sport - EXAM
  - R185: Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities – MANDATORY
  - R186: Sport and the media OPTIONAL
  - R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities OPTIONAL

For this one a trip to Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre takes place at the end of year 10 and this does come at a cost, however as a PE department and school we will subsidise as much as possible.

## Type of Qualification

Level 1 / 2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies (OCR)

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/cambridge-nationals/sport-studies-level-1-2-j829/>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Armed Forces	Coach
Physiotherapist	Athlete
Police	Personal Trainer
Fire Service	Nutritionist

## Progression to Sixth Form

Students can continue to study sports or go into an industry apprenticeship. This course allows study to go on to a wide range of post 16 options, one being the CTEC Level 3 Sports and Physical Activity Course.



# Statistics

## Course Content and Assessment

Statistics is a course targeted at those students with a secure understanding of mathematics; there is an overlap with the GCSE Mathematics syllabus which will benefit both courses. Statistics are everywhere and this course gives students the opportunity to scrutinise and assess the reliability of statistics, applying Statistics to real world issues. Students taking GCSE Statistics will also gain an advantage in other subjects that require statistical analysis, such as Science, Geography, Social Sciences, Business Studies and PE, due to the vast cross curricula links.

The course is assessed with two written papers at the end of the course, each contributing 50% of the grade. Each paper lasts 1 hour 30 mins.

## Type of Qualification

Edexcel GCSE

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcses/statistics-2017.html>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Agriculture  
Computer Science  
Health Science  
Pharmaceutical  
Data analyst

Data scientist  
Financial risk analyst  
Investment analyst  
Market researcher

## Progression to Sixth Form

GCSE Statistics feeds into many A Level courses including Maths, Further Maths, Geography and the Sciences.



# Textiles

## Course Content and Assessment

### Unit 1: Portfolio of Coursework = 60%

The GCSE Course in Art and Design caters for students of all abilities but is particularly suitable for students who have demonstrated an ability for and enjoy art and design. Students create a 'portfolio' of work which is an extended collection of coursework consisting of at least two distinct units of work which will be based on specific briefs or themes, one of which will be chosen by the student.

### Unit 2: Practical Examination unit = 40%

Students respond to one starting point from the examination paper which will be issued in the January of the second year. Students have twelve weeks to prepare for the final examination.

Students respond to the project brief or theme by:

- Researching by gathering images through drawing, photography and textile samples.
- Developing ideas by experimenting with textile media, textile techniques and design work.
- Critical & Contextual, studying the work of textile and fashion designers from around the world to influence and inform students' development.
- Realisation creating final outcome(s) as a fashion garment or creative textile.

## Type of Qualification

GCSE Art and Design – Textile Design (AQA)

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse/art-and-design-8201-8206/specification-at-a-glance>

## Possible Careers Associated with this Subject

Interior Design  
Costume Design  
Fashion Design  
Textiles Industry

Theatre Design  
Fashion Buying  
Fashion Merchandising  
Clothing Design  
Teaching

## Progression to Sixth Form

Students can continue to study a range of Art and Design skills in the Sixth Form via the Art, Craft and Design A Level that we offer. The Textiles GCSE option would all allow students to make progress on to this course.



# Frequently Asked Questions

Can I choose the same subject twice? No, the system should not allow this to happen as you can only receive one award per subject.

I want to do two subjects in the same box? Unfortunately, that is not possible and you will have to make a choice. Students will take one subject per box.

What happens if I miss the deadline? Try not to, as this will may mean that you will not receive the subjects that you want. The classes may already be full.

I don't want to do any of the subjects in box B. Unfortunately, you will need to pick one, as you cannot have blanks on your timetable. Start by giving each subject in the box a score out of 5 and rank the subjects against each other.

What are core subjects? These are the subjects that all students must study. They consist of English, Maths and Science, in addition to several non-accredited subjects.

Will I get all of my first choices? Hopefully but realistically not all students will. There are over 200 students in the year group and some subjects may only have 20 places so it depends on how popular they are.

Do any subjects take up more than one choice? No, all of the subjects are single award.

Do any subjects have entry requirements? Yes. Please Read the Options booklet carefully as several subjects require a high level of numeracy or literacy.

If I have a question, who do I contact? If it is about a subject, contact the subject teacher directly. If it is a question about the process, contact Mr Cooling via email [phil.cooling@castlerock.org.uk](mailto:phil.cooling@castlerock.org.uk)



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