



Poltair School Key Stage 4 Options Guide



Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Contents

Welcome	3
An Ambitious Curriculum	4
An explanation of qualifications and exam boards	5
Options selection process	6
Booking your 1:1 Appointment with the Leadership Team.....	7
GCSE English Language	9
GCSE English Literature	10
GCSE Mathematics.....	11
GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy.....	12
Core PE.....	13
PSHE and Religious Education.....	14
GCSE Computer Science	16
GCSE Geography	17
GCSE History	18
GCSE Separate Sciences.....	19
GCSE Spanish	20
GCSE Art and Design	22
BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production.....	233
GCSE Design and Technology	244
BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise.....	255
BTEC Tech Award Health and Social Care	Error! Bookmark not defined.
WJEC Hospitality and Catering.....	27
BTEC Tech Award Music Practice	28
BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts	29
GCSE Religious Studies.....	30
BTEC Tech Award Sport	31

Welcome

This is an exciting time for Year 9 students as we prepare them for progressing to Key Stage 4. Over the last few weeks, students have participated in several activities planned to support them to learn about themselves, their strengths and how they will tailor their Key Stage 4 curriculum to help give them as many opportunities as possible in the future.

This **KS4 Options Guide** outlines the KS4 courses that students will study and the courses that they will be able to choose from.

Our ambition for students is simple. We want students to become confident, brave, and resilient young adults who embrace challenges and seek opportunities.

A key priority for our Key Stage 4 curriculum is to provide all learners with access to an ambitious and engaging curriculum that motivates them to achieve their best. At the core is a strong foundation in the basic skills of literacy and numeracy through GCSE English Language and Literature, GCSE Mathematics and GCSE Science (double or triple award). Alongside this, students will develop their understanding of what it means to be physically and mentally healthy through Core PE and Personal Development.

Students will have the opportunity to choose additional qualifications to complement their core studies and to provide them with a broad and balanced curriculum which will support their progression to post-16 learning and a solid foundation for future study and employment.

We want all our learners to gain qualifications that will give them as much flexibility and choice beyond secondary education and allow them to adapt to a rapidly changing world of work. Most importantly, we want all students to become confident and inspired life-long learners.

All Year 9 students have recently participated in Taster Lessons for all available Key Stage 4 option subjects which will have given them an idea of what to expect from each course.

When making decisions it is important that students ask lots of questions to help them to find out as much as they can about each course. They should also think about:

- A good balance of subjects so that they avoid narrowing future choices
- The subjects they show an interest in and enjoy the most. They will often be more successful at what they enjoy!

It is important that students **do not** choose courses because:

- Their friends have chosen it as they may not end up in the same class as their friends
- They like the teacher—they may have a teacher for KS4 that is new to them

This is clearly a very important time for our Year 9 students and we would urge students and their families to take full advantage of all the sources of advice available and to discuss the possibilities thoroughly. Our staff are here to support you in making the right choices to ensure future success.

Mrs J Kellow Assistant Headteacher (jkellow@poltair.cornwall.sch.uk)

An Ambitious Curriculum

All students will follow a curriculum at KS4 that is ambitious for them. We want every learner to be highly motivated by the courses that they are studying and have a clear ambition of what post-16 study and employment opportunities their curriculum will lead them to.

Every student has been given access to Career Pilot <https://www.careerpilot.org.uk/> which is a fantastic place to start for learning about different types of qualifications, the range of further and higher education and entry requirements to various jobs.



Studying the English Baccalaureate

The Government expects the majority of learners beginning Key Stage 4 in 2024 to follow a programme of study called the English Baccalaureate, or the EBacc. To gain the full EBacc, students must gain the equivalent of a Grade 5 or above in the following subject areas:

- **English (core)**
- **Mathematics (core)**
- **Science (core)**
- **a Humanities subject (Geography or History)**
- **a Modern Foreign Language (Spanish)**

These subjects give students a breadth of learning across the curriculum and are seen to give students the best opportunities for future study.

Many schools have chosen to reduce their options offer from four options to three options. We feel that it is important that students have a broad and balanced curriculum and have chosen to retain four options to ensure that **students can study a language and a humanities subject and can still select two further options.**

Why is studying a language important?

The benefits of **learning languages** are undeniable. People who speak more than one **language** have improved memory, problem-solving and critical-thinking skills, enhanced concentration, ability to multitask, and better listening skills. It helps students to become confident communicators, able to speak publicly and promote themselves effectively- important life skills. It helps with understanding other cultures and develops tolerance and understanding. All in all, it not only helps to improve students' performance in all subject areas, it provides many varied future education and employment opportunities, alongside developing rounded individuals.

An explanation of qualifications and exam boards

There are a wide variety of qualifications available to students and it is important that you and your child understand the difference between the qualifications so that they can make informed decisions about which style of learning is best for them.

GCSE	General Certificate Secondary Education: GCSEs will be graded 9–1, with grade 4 considered a pass, grade 5 considered a good pass and grade 9 being the highest.
BTEC	This stands for Business and Technology Council qualification. BTEC qualifications are vocational and include links to industry. We have selected BTEC qualifications that have excellent progression routes to local colleges and links to high levels of employment in Cornwall, nationally and globally.

Every subject follows a specification from a chosen exam board. Exam boards are chosen by subject leaders who consider the subject content and method of assessment to determine what is right for our students. The exam boards are linked on each subject page in this guide but for ease of reference, are also listed below. This guide provides a summary of each qualification, but we would encourage you to look at the exam board specification for full details.

	Subject	Exam Board	Link to specification
Core	English Language	AQA	is.gd/englishlanguagepoltair
	English Literature	AQA	is.gd/englishliteraturepoltair
	Mathematics	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/mathematicspoltair
	Separate Sciences	AQA	is.gd/separatesciencespoltair
	Combined Science	AQA	is.gd/combinedsciencepoltair
EBaCC	Computer Science	OCR	is.gd/computersciencepoltair
	Geography	AQA	is.gd/geographypoltair
	History	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/historypoltair
	Spanish	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/spanishpoltair
Open	Art and Design	AQA	is.gd/artpoltair
	Creative Media Production	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/mediapoltair
	Design Technology	AQA	is.gd/dtpoltair
	Enterprise	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/EnterprisePoltair
	Health and Social Care	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/healthandsocialcarepoltair
	Hospitality and Catering	WJEC	is.gd/hospitalityandcateringpoltair
	Music	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/musicpoltair
	Performing Arts (Acting)	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/performingartsactingpoltair
	Religious Studies	AQA	https://is.gd/REPoltair
	Sport	Pearson Edexcel	is.gd/sportpoltair

Options selection process

1.

- **Year 9 Options Evening**

- Attend the Year 9 Options Evening 4.30pm - 6.30pm Thursday, 7th March (no need to book for this event)
- Option to talk to all subject leads and discuss the process in more detail with Mr McNally, Head of Year 9

2.

- **Students and parents**

- KS4 Options Guide live on the website Friday, 8th March
- 1:1 appointments with a member of the leadership team for every student and a parent/carer (weeks beginning 11th and 18th March)
- Students are to bring along their draft option forms to the meeting
- In the appointment, we will listen to the ideas that your child has about their option subjects and give advice before submitting their final choices.
- You will need to book an appointment for this event - see details on the next page.

3.

- **Start of the summer term**

- Review of options selections
- Identification of which courses will be running
- Follow up meetings with a member of the leadership team to discuss option choices for any student requiring it
- Confirmation given to students during the summer term, usually early June

Booking your 1:1 Appointment with the Leadership Team

Please use our online booking system which can be accessed via the Parents Evenings page on the school website or the following link: <https://poltair.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Complete the details on the home page using your child's preferred name and click 'Log In'.

Once you have logged in, you will be able to see the available dates and times for the 1:1 appointments with a member of the Leadership team. These appointments will take approximately 10 minutes.

Please note that you only need to book one appointment with one member of the leadership team, who will be able to discuss the option choices with you and answer any questions you may have. They will also be able to submit your final option choices at this 1:1 appointment.

Core Curriculum

(Studied by all)

GCSE English Language

(Exam Board: AQA <https://is.gd/englishlanguagepoltair>)



Overview

English Language is a powerful subject, where we hope our students become lifelong literary explorers who will take delight in reading, writing and thinking. English Language is a subject that fosters creativity - not just in the texts we, and our students read, but also in how we teach our students to respond, think and change in relation to them.

What will you study?

You will develop the skills you need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of fiction and non-fiction texts spanning the 19th century to the present day. You will also be taught how to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures. Having read and analysed the linguistic and structural features of a range of text, you will then produce your own fiction and non-fiction texts. You will also develop the skills required to be a confident and coherent speaker as part of the course non-examined assessment (NEA), where you will prepare and present a speech on a topic of your choice.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE English Language is assessed through end of course examinations. You will sit two 1hr and 45 min examinations at the end of Year 11.

Paper One: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

- Section A - Reading and Responding to Fiction
- Section B - Creative Writing

Paper Two: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

- Section A - Reading and Responding to Non-Fiction
- Section B - Transactional Writing

NEA Spoken Language presentation – internally assessed by teachers of English.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

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| ▪ Written and verbal communication skills. | ▪ Interpretive abilities, and an understanding of how language works. | ▪ Close analysis skills, and the ability to construct a well-argued case. |
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Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

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|--|---|--|
| ▪ Solicitor
▪ Primary Teacher
▪ Secondary Teacher
▪ Marketing / PR
▪ Corporate Blogger | ▪ Doctor
▪ Vet
▪ Journalist / News Reporter
▪ Social Media Manager | ▪ Event Planner
▪ English Teaching Abroad
▪ Writer
▪ Editor / Publisher |
|--|---|--|

GCSE English Literature

(Exam Board: AQA [is.gd/englishliteraturepolfair](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/gcse/english-literature))



Overview

Through our study of English Literature, students will read a rich range of novels, poems, plays, works of history, philosophy, theory and more! Study of Literature from Shakespeare to more contemporary writers enable our students to grow into compassionate adults who are capable of reflecting upon their life's experiences with exceptional empathy and humility.

What will you study?

You will develop the skills you need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of literary texts covering many time periods. The set texts for the exams, include:

- A Shakespeare play;
- A C19th novel;
- A modern drama;
- A selection of poetry from the late C18th all the way to the present day.

In addition, you will read around the set texts, exploring the social and historical context of these works.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE English Literature is assessed through end of course examinations

Paper One: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (1hr 45 min – 40% of GCSE)

- Section A – Reading Shakespeare
- Extract analysis – then links across the play.
- Section B – Reading 19th-century novel
- Extract analysis – then links across the novel.

Paper Two: Modern texts and poetry (2hrs 15 min – 60% of GCSE)

- Section A – Modern drama text
- Section B – Poetry Anthology comparison
- Section C – Two unseen poems

What skills will you gain from this subject?

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|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| ▪ Empathy and compassion for others. | ▪ Research, analysis and critical skills, with an eye for detail. | ▪ Written communication and a creative mind. |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| ▪ Digital copywriter | ▪ Magazine journalist | ▪ Web content manager |
| ▪ Editorial assistant. | ▪ Newspaper journalist | ▪ Writer |
| ▪ English as a foreign language teacher | ▪ Publishing copy-editor/proof-reader | ▪ Academic librarian |
| ▪ Advertising | ▪ Arts administrator | ▪ Primary school teacher |
| ▪ Law | | |
| ▪ Politics | | |

GCSE Mathematics

(Exam Board: Edexcel [is.gd/mathematicspoltair](https://www.is.gd/mathematicspoltair))



Overview

Just as languages provide the building blocks and rules we need to communicate, Mathematics uses its own language, made up of numbers, symbols and formulas, to explore the rules we need to measure or identify essential problems like distance, speed, time, space, change, force and quantities.

Studying mathematics helps us find patterns and structure in our lives. Practically, mathematics helps us put a price on things, create graphics, build websites, build skyscrapers and generally understand how things work or predict how they might change over time and under different conditions.

What will you study?

Numbers: Integers, negative numbers, number properties, decimals, fractions, percentages, indices and standard index form.

Algebra: Use of symbols, equations, sequences, formulae, graphs and proof.

Ratio: Sharing amounts in a ratio, similarity, proportion and rates of change.

Geometry: Area, perimeter and volume, angles, properties of shapes, transformations, constructions, measures, Pythagoras' theorem, trigonometry and vectors.

Probability & Statistics: Probability, Venn diagrams, frequency trees, data collections, statistical measures, representing data, interpreting data.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three question papers at the same tier. All question papers must be taken in the same series.

The information in the table below is the same for both Foundation and Higher tiers.

The Subject content section shows the content that is assessed in each tier.

Paper 1: non-calculator	+	Paper 2: calculator	+	Paper 3: calculator
What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed		What's assessed Content from any part of the specification may be assessed
How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks non-calculator 33½% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment 		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks calculator allowed 33½% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment 		How it's assessed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes 80 marks calculator allowed 33½% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment
Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.		Questions A mix of question styles, from short, single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

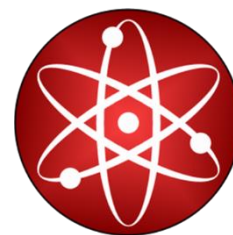
- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Problem Solving Data Analysis Communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical Thinking Attention to detail Resilience | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Numerical Awareness Teamwork Presentation |
|---|---|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

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|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Actuary Special Effects Director Business Analyst Cryptanalyst | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Software Engineer Forensic Scientist Astronaut Technology Analyst | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engineer Architect Speech technology Maths Teacher |
|---|--|---|

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

(Exam Board: AQA [is.gd/combinedsciencepoltair](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/combined-science-trilogy))



Overview

Through the study of science, we encourage students to show a curiosity for learning and a desire to know and understand the world in which they live. Through the delivery of knowledge and practical work from Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics, we are able to intrigue learners, inspire them and enable them to become capable of making sense of and improving the world in which they live.

What will you study?

Students will be taught the **knowledge, skills and understanding** of how science works through the study of the three disciplines: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

During year 10, students will study ecology; atomic structure and bonding; energy; organic chemistry; biodiversity; atomic structure; homeostasis and forces.

During Year 11, students will study, rates of reaction; chemical analysis; waves; forces; magnetism as well as inheritance, variation and evolution.

The course includes 21 required practical investigations.

Students will:

- develop their interest in, and enthusiasm for, science
- develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods
- develop their understanding of how science works and its role in society
- acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding for progression to further learning.
- learn about careers in science

How will you be assessed?

There are six exam papers, completed at the end of Year 11: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas and is worth 70 marks. Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Use of appropriate apparatus and techniques for the observation and measurement of biological and chemical changes and/or processes.▪ Evaluate data and communicate results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Application and rearranging of mathematical equations. Conversion of scientific units. How to recognise and handle hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Manipulating and analysing data. Problem solving. Identifying and controlling variables. Use a variety of models. Make predictions and develop scientific explanations.
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Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Doctor▪ Research scientist▪ Dentist▪ Radiographer▪ Botanist▪ Marine biologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Geologist▪ Engineer▪ Nuclear physicist▪ Frogman▪ Pharmacist▪ Nurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Midwife▪ Vet▪ Hairdresser▪ Astronaut▪ Laboratory technician▪ Dietician and nutritionist
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Core PE



Overview

Core PE uses the passion and power of sport to improve the health benefits of the next generation through an inclusive curriculum that caters for all.

What will you study?

Students will study a broad and balanced physical education curriculum, offering students the opportunity to take part in both team and individual sports. Students will be placed on a pathway and take part in traditional games activities including football, rugby, netball, cricket and rounders. This will also be complemented by other activities including tennis, basketball, orienteering, fitness and athletics.

How will you be assessed?

Students will be assessed in a variety of sports depending on their pathway. Students will also be assessed by Engagement with Learning Grades. With the Core PE curriculum being focused on promoting a healthy active lifestyle, a large focus will be on students' attitudes and effort made in lessons.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Physical Fitness• Sportsmanship | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication• Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Teamwork• Social Interactions |
|--|--|--|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ PE Teacher▪ Fitness Instructor▪ Personal Trainer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Health Care Worker▪ Physio Therapist▪ Sports Therapy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sports Coach▪ Referee / official▪ Leisure Assistant |
|--|--|---|

PSHE and Religious Education



Overview

PSHE and Religious Education focuses on preparing you for a happy, healthy adulthood with a focus on the relationship you have with yourself and other people.

What will you study?

This is a non-examined subject that covers Religious Education, Citizenship, Mental Health, Sex and Relationships, Drugs and Alcohol Awareness and other topics to help prepare you for a happy and healthy adulthood.

The PSHE Curriculum joins closely with other subjects across the school on a variety of topics, such as being safe online, the dangers of Drugs and Alcohol, and the development and the importance of Democracy. Lessons focus on debate, discussion, reading for understanding, and forming judgements and opinions about important issues.

In Year 10, we study:

- People and Protest Movements
- Christianity
- Staying safe with a focus on healthy and unhealthy relationships
- Islam
- Religion and the big Questions
- Democracy and the Rule of Law

In Year 11 we study

- Mental Health and Pressure with a focus on revision techniques
- Religion and the big life questions: Religion, peace and conflict with a focus on Christianity
- Respectful relationships with a focus on safe sexual relationships
- Religion and the big life questions: Relationships and Families with a focus on Islam
- Finances and preparing for adulthood

How will you be assessed?

PSHE and RE are non-examined subjects. Instead, we use a number of different techniques to develop and assess your knowledge and understanding of the subject. These include:

- Debates and discussions
- Reaching and justifying conclusions
- Asking and answering challenging questions to help you to extend and justify ideas
- Arguing from a different point of view from your own
- Reading for understanding and summarising key arguments and points of view

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Debating ▪ Researching a point of view different from your own | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creating questions ▪ Empathy and the importance of supporting others | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Justifying conclusions ▪ Structuring an argument and agreeing to disagree |
|---|---|--|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Solicitor ▪ Researcher ▪ Doctor | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Youth Worker ▪ Politician ▪ Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial Advisor ▪ Civil Servant ▪ Public Services |
|---|---|---|

EBACC Curriculum

GCSE Computer Science



(Exam Board: OCR <https://is.gd/computersciencepolfair>)

Overview

Computer Science is part of everything we do. Studying the subject can open the door to many different careers and give you an opportunity to make a positive difference in the world. The course is a mixture of practical programming, which draws on creative and mathematical skills, and the theory and ethics of computers.

What will you study?

- Computer Programming (planning, coding and troubleshooting programs)
- Problem Solving (Simplifying a problem into logical steps)
- How data is encoded on a computer (images, sounds & text)
- How data is stored on different media (DVDs, HDDs, Flash Memory)
- How computers communicate via Networks including the Internet
- Computer system threats and cyber security
- Ethical, Legal and Environmental Concerns

How will you be assessed?

- 2 x Written Exams in Year 11
- Computational Thinking, Algorithms & Programming Exam 50%
- Computer Systems Exam 50%

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Problem-solving, critical thinking and complex analytical skills. Experience of meeting particular end-user requirements. Team working. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Coding skills using Python – an industry recognised coding language.▪ Resilience through developing and testing applications. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Creativity – the ability to shape the future of how people interact with technology.▪ Ability to reflect on the impact of technology in society. |
|---|--|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Software Developer▪ Database Administrator▪ Computer Network Architect▪ Aerospace Industries▪ Systems Engineer▪ Police Force Digital Crime Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Network Manager▪ Information Systems Manager▪ Architectural Consultant▪ Transport Planning▪ Cyber Crime Lawyer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Web Developer▪ Computer Programmer▪ Computer Games developer▪ Animation Designer▪ Sound and Lighting Engineer |
|---|--|---|

GCSE Geography

(Exam Board: AQA [is.gd/geographypoltair](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-poltair))



Overview

GCSE Geography is a 21st century subject that will provide you with a wide range of knowledge and understanding of the world you live in. Employers recognise the wide range of skills developed in the study of Geography, for example, numeracy, literacy, statistics, geo-politics and environmental issues. It provides a foundation for further study at a range of levels.

What will you study?

The geography course will give you the chance to explore some of the big questions which affect our world and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our planet. This course offers students the opportunity to study elements of human and physical geography as well as gaining real life field work experience in urban and natural environments. Students immerse themselves in global issues such as climate change, weather hazards and changing global trade patterns.

How will you be assessed?

This course is graded using the 9-1 marking system and is assessed through 3 examinations which make up 100% of the qualification:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment - Written exam-1hr 30mins 35% of GCSE

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment - Written exam-1hr 30mins 35% of GCSE

Paper 3: Geographical applications - Written exam-1hr 30mins 30% of GCSE

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Map workEnquiryNumeracyLiteracy | <ul style="list-style-type: none">TeamworkDecision-makingStatisticsGraph interpretation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Creative thinkingFieldworkICTCartography |
|--|--|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">ArchitectTown plannerCivil engineerArmed forcesEnvironmental consultantQuantity surveyor | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Nature conservation officerPolitical advisorCartographerStatisticianClimatologistTeam leader | <ul style="list-style-type: none">Travel agentEstate agentEcotourism managerScientistFarm managerResearcherJournalist |
|---|---|---|

GCSE History

(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel [is.gd/historypolitair](https://www.pearson.com/uk/qualifications/gcse/history))



Overview

History is a subject that focuses on people, and the actions they take. Learning about past events and the people who've influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the future. Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you'll learn a range of important skills that will help you with post 16 options and future work.

What will you study?

We will be studying:

- **Paper 1: Medicine Through Time with Depth Study of Medicine in WWI** – How has medicine changed from medieval times to now? How did the First World War develop the understanding and practice of medicine?
- **Paper 2: Elizabethan England** – How successful was England's first long reigning Queen Regent? What was life like for people in the 'Golden Age' of Elizabeth?
- **Paper 3: American West** – How hard was it to live in America in the 1800s? What happened to the Native Americans? How was the 'West won'?
- **Paper 4: Weimar and Nazi Germany**- How did Hitler get elected to be leader of Germany? Why did people vote for him?

How will you be assessed?

There are 3 exam papers in History, focusing on knowledge recall, source work and interpretations.

- **Assessment Objective 1** – Knowledge -35% of marks
- **Assessment Objective 2** – Second order Concepts (Cause and Consequence, Change and Continuity, Significance) - 35% of marks
- **Assessment Objective 3** – Source Analysis – 15% of marks
- **Assessment Objective 4** – Historian's Interpretations – 15% of marks

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Analysis▪ Evaluation▪ Retention of knowledge | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Provenance▪ Making links between topics▪ Decision making | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Argumentation▪ Literacy▪ Dealing with factors and how they influence decisions |
|--|--|--|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Journalist▪ Politician▪ Architect▪ Lawyer▪ Police Officer▪ Teacher | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Archaeologist▪ Lecturer▪ Museum Officer▪ Business owner▪ Writer▪ Solicitor | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Working in finance▪ Broadcaster▪ Project Manager |
|---|---|--|

GCSE Separate Sciences



(Exam Board: AQA [is.gd/separatesciencespoltair](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/science/gcse/separate-sciences))

Overview

Science underpins our world. By studying Separate Science, learners will develop fundamental scientific ideas as well as promote curiosity about our world and beyond. Students will acquire life-long skills that will enable them to investigate, question, problem solve and critically think across a wide range of applications. The course embeds crucial literacy and numeracy skills through data handling and reciprocal reading of Scientific literature to enable them to be successful, independent learners.

What will you study?

GCSE Biology

During the course, students will be taught the **knowledge, skills and understanding** of how science works through the study of cell biology; organisation; infection and response; ecology; bioenergetics; homeostasis and inheritance, variation and evolution.

GCSE Chemistry

During the course, students will be taught the **knowledge, skills and understanding** of how science works through the study of atomic structure; bonding; organic chemistry; chemical and energy changes; rates of reaction; quantitative chemistry; chemistry of the atmosphere; using resources and chemical analysis.

GCSE Physics

During the course students will be taught the **knowledge, skills and understanding** of how science works through the study of particle model of matter; electricity; energy; atomic structure; forces; waves and magnetism.

Each subject includes 8-10 required practical investigations.

How will you be assessed?

There are six exam papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each of the papers will assess knowledge and understanding from distinct topic areas and is worth 100 marks. Questions consist of multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use of appropriate apparatus and techniques for the observation and measurement of biological and chemical changes and/or processes.Evaluate data and communicate results.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Application and rearranging of mathematical equations. Conversion of scientific units. How to recognise and handle hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Manipulating and analysing data. Problem solving. Identifying and controlling variables. Use a variety of models. Make predictions and develop scientific explanations.
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Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

<ul style="list-style-type: none">DoctorResearch scientistDentistRadiographerBotanistMarine biologist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">GeologistEngineerNuclear physicistFrogmanPharmacistNurse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">MidwifeVetHairdresserAstronautLaboratory technicianDietician and nutritionist
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GCSE Spanish

(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel [is.gd/spanishpoltair](https://www.pearson.com/uk/qualifications/gcse/gcse-spanish))



Overview

Taking Spanish at GCSE offers an invaluable opportunity for students to expand their language skills and become confident Spanish speakers. Over the next two years, you will have the chance to immerse yourself in both the language and culture of Spain and Spanish-speaking countries around the world, building on your current knowledge and discovering a wealth of new skills.

All lessons focus on natural and spontaneous language use, enabling students to adapt to a range of scenarios from everyday conversations and holiday exchanges, to writing articles on the issues that concern you the most.

What will you study?

Throughout years 10 and 11 you will broaden your understanding of Spanish culture and language, consolidating prior learning and covering a wide range of linguistic and grammatical structures to ensure you become confident communicators, who are fully prepared for the GCSE and future Spanish study.

By the end of Year 11, you will have thoroughly explored the 6 key themes included in the GCSE exams - My Personal World, Lifestyle and Wellbeing, My Neighbourhood, Media and Technology, Studying and My Future, Travel and Tourism.

All lessons focus on building your confidence in using the language for a wide range of purposes incorporating the key skills that you will need when using Spanish abroad, taking the GCSE and in preparing for further study at A-level.

How will you be assessed?

- Paper 1: Speaking (Higher or Foundation)
- Paper 2: Listening (Higher or Foundation)
- Paper 3: Reading (Higher or Foundation)
- Paper 4: Writing (Higher or Foundation)

All the papers are externally set and marked by Edexcel. Each paper is worth 25% of the course.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Spanish is an integral part of the EBACC route and as such is highly valued by all colleges and universities around the world▪ You can communicate confidently when travelling abroad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ It is also essential if you wish to go on to study the International Baccalaureate at the colleges of Truro, Callywith or Plymouth▪ Learning a language always opens doors!	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Language students develop a greater understanding of other cultures and ways of life▪ You gain a deeper understanding of your own language
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Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Broadcast journalist▪ Translator▪ Flight Attendant▪ International aid/development worker▪ Broadcast journalist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Teacher▪ Interpreter▪ Proof-reader▪ Digital marketing▪ Political risk analyst▪ English as a foreign language teacher	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Diplomat▪ Tour Guide▪ Holiday Rep▪ Marketing executive▪ Diplomatic service officer▪ And many more!
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Options Curriculum

(In alphabetical order)

GCSE Art and Design



(Exam Board: AQA [is.gd/artpoltair](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design))

Overview

GCSE Art & Design will provide students with the opportunity to explore and generate ideas through research, observation, perception, and aspiration. Demonstrating and extending knowledge that reflects greater depth, context and understanding of the world around us. Experimenting with a range of materials, techniques and processes that inform final outcomes. Evaluating and reflecting on their work and the work of others to create independence. Preparing pupils for further education through experience and knowledge.

What will you study?

We will introduce students to a range of materials and techniques. Exploring how we see and how we learn and developing and enhancing drawing and painting skills. We will then move onto a design brief. The design industry accounts for 80% of all creative jobs in the UK. Students will be introduced to 5 different strands of design (5 main further education courses) Graphics, Fashion, Textiles, Contemporary Crafts & Architecture. They will then explore and develop their own ideas and realise their designs. In year 11 we will focus on individual independent work that will enable the exploration of their ideas and interests.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE Art & Design has two components:

- Component 1 is the coursework folder of work that accounts for 60% of the final grade. This is all the work undertaken in class over the duration of the course.
- Component 2 is the externally set exam which accounts for 40% of the final grade. Pupils will be required to sit a 10-hour exam as part of the externally set exam (component 2).

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Problem solving▪ Creative thinking▪ Idea development▪ Time management▪ Resilience▪ Planning skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Independent thinking▪ Independent working▪ Communication▪ Decision making▪ Perseverance▪ Research skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Analyses▪ Contextualisation▪ Empathy▪ Cultural understanding▪ Enquiry▪ 3D & modelling |
|---|---|--|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fashion Designer▪ Games Designer▪ Architect▪ Hairdresser▪ Graphic Designer▪ Illustrator▪ Car designer▪ Education▪ Community Arts▪ Health Arts▪ Engineering | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Fashion buyer▪ Fashion marketing▪ Milliner▪ Cobbler▪ Set Design▪ Costume Design▪ Hair for stage and Film▪ Digital Arts▪ Web Design▪ Props Designer▪ Product Design | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Textiles designer▪ Garden Designer▪ Town Planner▪ Furniture Designer▪ Advertising▪ Marketing▪ Toy Design▪ Media Arts▪ CGI Film▪ Animation |
|--|--|--|

BTEC Tech Award in Creative Media Production



(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel <https://is.gd/cmpPoltair>)

Overview

As technology, creativity, and competition increases on a global scale, in the world of media, IT and design, studying a subject like Creative Media will **equip you with the communication and technology skills needed to succeed in the modern workplace, whether in the media industry or not.**

What will you study?

- Development of key skills in creative media production such as investigating and developing ideas through pre-production, production, and post-production of media products.
- Responding to briefs and feedback, planning and generating ideas
- Developing Digital Media production skills, within applications such as Adobe Photoshop, Premiere Pro and After Effects.
- Learning how to effectively develop research skills and stylistic and technical skills.

How will you be assessed?

BTEC Creative Media Production is split over three components.

Component 1 Exploring Media Products

Students will develop their understanding of how media products create meaning for their audiences. Students will examine existing products and explore media production techniques.

Component 2 Developing Digital Media Production Skills

Students will develop and apply skills and techniques in media production processes by creating a media product from one of the following sectors: audio/moving image, print or interactive design.

Component 3 Create a Media Product in Response to a Brief

Students will apply and develop their planning and production skills and techniques to create a media product in response to a client brief.

BTEC Creative Media Production is 100% coursework. The first two components are assessed internally, and the third component is assessed externally.

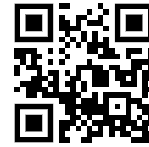
What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning Skills • Research Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time Management • Critical Thinking | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-Motivation • Digital Skills |
|--|--|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Producer/video Editor • Graphic Designer • Advertising • Multimedia Specialist • Researcher | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online/Print Editor • Visual Design Consultant • Press industry • Web Content Manager • Media Planner | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brand Manager • Music Industry • Social Media • Runner • broadcasting/film/video • Public Relations Officer |
|---|---|--|

GCSE Design and Technology



(Exam Board: AQA [is.gd/dtpollfair](https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology))

Overview

Design is vital occupation with a growing number of well-paid opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally. The skill of designing will allow you to enter fields that are technical, such as green energy or digital interface design or development of sports equipment. Or fields that want broader creativity such as furniture design, production jewellery design, product design or architecture. The skills you develop in this subject are in massive demand and they will allow you to create a portfolio that shows off your amazing physical, digital and technical capabilities. This qualification will help to prepare you for apprenticeships, A levels and a huge range of degree level qualifications before going on to employment or freelance work.

What will you study?

Students will learn to become a successful designer and manufacturer of unique products using wood, metal and plastics, including mechanisms and electronics. You will learn to use both CAD/CAM and traditional tools to make quality products which meet the needs of specific customers or problems. Pupils may specialise in their own material area once they experience a range of materials and processes which include:

- Using computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing to create and test ideas and concepts.
- Using a range of sketching and technical drawing skills to communicate the details of your design ideas.
- Using a range of hand tools and equipment to mark out and shape components for their own products.

How will you be assessed?

This GCSE will the opportunity to develop your own ideas in a series of short tasks as well as completing a major design and make project as the NEA assessment.

- **Unit 1: Written Assessment - 50%** which will test your knowledge of materials, processes, mechanisms, electronics, smart and modern materials, sustainability, and the design process. This is a two-hour written exam.
- **Unit 2: Non-Examination Assessment - 50%** A single coursework task in which students investigate a specific need and come up with a product that solves the problem and is suitable for manufacturing. This will require hand sketching and Computer Aided Design (CAD) skills.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Computer Aided design.▪ 3D drawing▪ Problem solving▪ Sketching▪ Modelmaking | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Computer Aided Manufacturing such as laser engraving and 3D Printing▪ Presentation and communication | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Marking out, cutting and shaping a range of materials with hand tools and machines. |
|---|---|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Furniture Design▪ Industrial Design▪ 3-Dimensional Design | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Yacht/vehicle design▪ Architecture▪ Jewellery design | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Interior Design▪ CAD Developer▪ CAM Technician |
|---|--|--|

BTEC Tech Award in Enterprise



(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel <https://is.gd/EnterprisePoltair>)

Overview

Have you ever thought about being an entrepreneur? Do you have a great business idea but not sure how to make it happen? Then this is the right course for you! The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Enterprise (603/1916/1), is for students who wish to acquire knowledge and skills through vocational contexts by studying the knowledge, behaviours and skills related to researching, planning, pitching and reviewing an enterprise idea.

What will you study?

The Award gives students the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. The main focus includes:

- development of key skills that prove aptitude in planning an enterprise activity, including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving
- knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, such as the features and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs, and the internal and external factors that can affect the performance of an enterprise
- attitudes and ways of working that are considered most important for enterprise, including monitoring and reflecting on performance of an enterprise idea and own use of skills.

How will you be assessed?

BTEC Enterprise is split over three components.

Component 1 Exploring Enterprises

Students will examine different local enterprises to develop their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of enterprises and the skills needed by entrepreneurs.

Component 2 Planning for and Pitching an Enterprise Activity

Students will individually select an idea for a micro-enterprise activity to plan and pitch. They will individually pitch their business plan for their idea to an audience and then use the feedback to review their plan and pitch.

Component 3 Promotion and Finance for Enterprise

Students will explore the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how enterprises identify and target their market. Learners will explore financial documents and how to use them to monitor and improve the performance of an enterprise in order to make decisions and recommend strategies for success.

BTEC Enterprise is 100% coursework. The first two components are assessed internally, and the third component is assessed externally.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Planning Skills• Research Skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communication Skills• Time Management• Critical Thinking | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Self-Motivation• Business Acumen |
|---|--|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project Manger• Business Analyst• Human Resources Officer | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Financial Advisor• Investment Analyst• Sales Manager | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Media Manager• Digital Marketer |
|---|--|---|

BTEC Tech Award Health and Social Care



(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel [is.gd/healthandsocialcarepolfair](https://www.is.gd/healthandsocialcarepolfair))

Overview

Health and Social Care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with the demand in the UK for both health and social care employees continuously rising. This Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop applied knowledge across various areas such as life stages, life events, support, barriers and obstacles and how these can be overcome along with a person-centred approach. Digging deep into real life situations from imprisonment, bereavement, starting a family, marriage and much more.

What will you study?

Health and Social Care aims to develop an understanding of the health and social care sectors. It is a practical, work-related course that will allow students to get to know the core care values, develop valuable skills, and explore potential careers.

Component 1- Human Lifespan Development (30%) – explore different aspects of growth and development and the factors that can affect this across the life stages. They will explore the different events that can impact on individuals' physical, intellectual, emotional and social development and how they can cope and be supported through changes.

(Two internally assessed assignments)

Component 2- Health and Social Care services and values (30%) – explore health and social care services and how they meet the needs of service users. They will also study the skills, attributes and values required when giving care.

(Two internally assessed assignments)

Component 3- Health & wellbeing (40%) – explore the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, person centred approaches to make recommendations to improve an individuals' health and wellbeing plan.

(Externally Assessed Exam)

How will you be assessed?

- The course is assessed 60% through coursework and 40% through external examination. The final grade will be from a Level 1 Pass through to Level 2 Distinction*
- You will be assessed through evidence that you produce to meet individual unit criteria which will be in the form of written reports, case studies, role plays, demonstrating skills, making health and wellbeing improvement plans.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------|---------------------------|
| ▪ Independence | ▪ Empathy | ▪ Organisational know how |
|----------------|-----------|---------------------------|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| ▪ Nursing | ▪ Midwifery | ▪ Counsellor |
| ▪ Social Worker | ▪ Occupational therapist | ▪ Youth Worker |
| ▪ Personal Trainer | ▪ General Practitioner | ▪ Paramedic |

WJEC Hospitality and Catering



(Exam Board: WJEC [is.gd/hospitalityandcateringpoltair](https://www.wjec.co.uk))

Overview

The hospitality and catering industry is a truly worldwide employment sector with everything from managing luxurious hotels to catering to guests needs on cruise ships. Organising food from local suppliers and planning menus to meet the nutritional needs of the elderly. Wherever your passion takes you, there will be a range of employment in the hospitality industry.

Your own biggest skills may lie in the food preparation aspect, and you will have plenty of chances to plan and cook a wide range of sweet and savoury dishes. If your interests lie more in the food provenance and business structure you will be interested to learn about our many local suppliers. You may want to develop your career into hospitality management, in which case looking at job roles and business structures and supply chains will appeal to you. Wherever your ambitions lie the hospitality and catering course will have something for you.

What will you study?

You will have the chance to look at how food preparation and customer service provides employment and career opportunities locally and internationally. You will learn to cook a wide range of high skilled dishes and develop your ability to provide nutritious food that is also presented to the highest standard. You will also look at job roles and the way employers and employees work together to create a thriving hospitality sector that ranges from pubs and restaurants to cruise ships, hotels, and airlines. You will also develop your personal organisation and leadership skills to help you prepare for possible management of venues and events.

How will you be assessed?

Students are assessed through two units over the two years:

▪ Unit 1 – The Hospitality and Catering Industry (40% assessed by a written exam paper)

You will complete an exam paper that is 1 hour and 20 minutes. There will be a mixture of questions requiring short and extended answers, based around applied situations within the hospitality and catering industry. You will develop your knowledge of the industry over time for this course.

▪ Unit 2 – Hospitality and Catering in Action (60% assessed internally)

An assignment brief will be provided by the exam board where they include a scenario and several practical tasks for you to complete. You will typically plan to create four exciting dishes with accompaniments that show off a range of high-skills, nutritional value, cooking methods and much more.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Food Hygiene processes.▪ Food preparation techniques.▪ Nutritional analysis.▪ Dietary knowledge.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Menu planning.▪ Hospitality skills.▪ Understanding of job roles and responsibilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Staffing organisation.▪ How to deal with suppliers.▪ Hospitality business organisation.
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Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Nutritionist▪ Manager of a food business▪ Restaurant manager▪ Research chef	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Teacher▪ Events management▪ Chef/Sous chef▪ Food scientist▪ Food lawyer	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Cruise ship caterer▪ Confectioner▪ Wedding caterer▪ Hotel Manager▪ Marketing manager
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BTEC Tech Award Music Practice



(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel [is.gd/musicpoltair](https://www.pearson.com/uk/qualifications/btec/tech-award/music-practice))

Overview

The Music Tech Award is a really exciting course that takes you on a journey around lots of different styles of music and what makes them interesting. You learn about the different features of music and what makes them tick! You get the opportunity to really hone an instrument of your choice where you can explore, perform, and compose music for it. This course will give you the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills that you have learned so far through the exploration of different techniques and styles.

Ideally, you will need to be able to play an instrument or sing – or be willing to learn quite quickly to take part in this course. Having instrument lessons is strongly recommended, but not required; just the enthusiasm and willingness to learn.

What will you study?

The Music Tech Award is largely a practical work-related course, but there are many elements that will involve written theory-based work as well. Within the course you will be able to develop key skills that prove and improve your instrumental skill, as well as learn knowledge that underpins many different styles of music and how to recreate them. You will be expected to play an active role in the musical life of the school and develop your musicianship as you progress through the course.

How will you be assessed?

The course is 100% coursework based. For each component, students will build a portfolio of evidence through research, assignments, and practical tasks. The components that you will study are:

- **Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles** (30% assessed internally)
You 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** (30% assessed internally)
You will have the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines of their choice – live performance, production or composing – through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting your progress and planning for further improvement.
- **Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief** (40% assessed externally)
You will be given the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given music brief, where you will choose to create a performance, or produce a sequence using a computer with music software (DAW/Digital Audio Workstation) of a given song in a new style.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self-discipline ▪ Critical thinking skills ▪ Aural recognition skills ▪ Musical ability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Self-esteem/confidence ▪ Personal management skills ▪ Communication skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Creative and expressive skills ▪ Understanding of musical skills and styles ▪ Aptitude in playing an instrument |
|--|--|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Musician ▪ Session Musician ▪ Recording Artists ▪ Event Manager ▪ Music Teacher ▪ Radio Producer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Music Critic ▪ Music Therapist ▪ Composer ▪ Singer/Songwriter ▪ Live Sound Technician ▪ Musical Director | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Producer ▪ Sound Engineer ▪ Lighting Engineer ▪ Psychologist ▪ Tour Manager ▪ DJ |
|---|---|---|

BTEC Tech Award Performing Arts



(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel [is.gd/performingartsactingpoltair](https://www.pearson.com/uk/qualifications/btec/performing-arts))

Overview

The BTEC Tech Performing Arts course is an exciting, practical course for students who enjoy performing and would like to develop their communication and social skills. The skills developed throughout the course are integral to roles across the creative industry, including film and TV, theatre, games and advertising.

What will you study?

Students will have a taste of what it is like to be a professional theatre practitioner working in the performing arts industry.

- They will explore a wide range of theatre styles, creative intentions and purposes.
- They will investigate how practitioners create and influence what's performed and discover performance roles, skills, techniques and processes.
- They will also develop their performance skills through performing a range of scripted plays and devised pieces of theatre.

How will you be assessed?

While the course is very practical and focuses on practical performance skills, written work is combined with it. This will include workshops, portfolios, presentations, and skills audits. Practical work will include taking part in acting workshops, as well as group performances in response to a brief.

▪ **Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts Industry** (30% assessed internally)

You will study 3 styles of theatre and produce a portfolio of evidence to show your understanding of the genre, the creative intentions and creative processes within one play.

▪ **Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in Performing Arts** (30% assessed internally)

You will rehearse an extract from a published play and perform it to a live audience. You will also produce a portfolio of evidence to show your understanding of the creative process as well as develop your ability to evaluate a performance.

▪ **Component 3: Performing a Brief** (40% assessed externally)

You will devise your own piece of theatre in response to a brief. You will produce a written log that shows your understanding of the style, influences and skills and techniques within the piece and your ability to reflect on the work you have devised.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve your acting skills▪ Develop language and communication skills | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Speak clearly and with expression to an audience▪ Improve your self esteem | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Improve your confidence▪ Develop your creative thinking skills |
|--|---|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Actor▪ Playwright▪ Director | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Theatre/Film Critic▪ Stage Manager▪ Backstage Crew | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Producer▪ Events Manager▪ Youth & Community Worker |
|---|--|--|

GCSE Religious Studies



(Exam Board: AQA <https://is.gd/religiousstudiesPoltair>)

Overview

Students will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. Students will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. They will develop analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills. All these skills will help prepare them for further study.

What will you study?

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices.
We study in-depth about Christianity and Islam.

Component 2: Religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes

Theme A: Relationships and families

Theme B: Religion and life

Theme C: The existence of God and revelation

Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices s: beliefs, teachings and practices

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

96 marks, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

50% of GCSE

Component 2: Thematic Studies

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

96 marks, plus 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)

50% of GCSE

What skills will you gain from this subject?

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Learning to debate and discuss challenging topics with care and respect▪ Interpretations of texts and sources of authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Developing analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Understanding how different people view the world, and how they act. This is vital in a multicultural society where you need to act respectfully towards everyone.▪ Using sources of authority and quotations to structure written responses to complex questions.▪ Time management and developing written skills.
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Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Author▪ Community worker▪ Diplomat	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Foreign Aid Worker▪ Historian▪ Human Rights Activist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Journalist▪ Minister▪ Researcher▪ Social Worker▪ Teacher
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BTEC Tech Award Sport



(Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel <https://is.gd/sportPoltair>)

Overview

This course provides an engaging and relevant introduction to the world of sport. It incorporates important aspects of the industry, focusing on investigating provisions in sport, planning and delivery of sport drills and fitness for sport including fitness testing.

The course is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about the sport industry. You will study three mandatory components covering and underpinning knowledge and skills required for the sports sector.

What will you study?

- **Component 1** – Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity **(30% of overall grade - coursework)**
- **Component 2** – Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance **(30% of overall grade - coursework)**
- **Component 3** - Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity **(40% of overall grade)**

The delivery of this course will be through a mixture of practical and classroom-based episodes.

How will you be assessed?

Each unit is graded at Level 1 Pass, Merit and Distinction and at Level 2 Pass, Merit and Distinction. The overall qualification grade gained can be a Level 2 Distinction * if high grades are achieved in all units.

What skills will you gain from this subject?

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Independence▪ Confidence | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Leadership▪ Teamwork | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Organisation▪ Co-operation |
|---|---|---|

Examples of careers that make use of the skills and knowledge learned

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sports Psychologist▪ Athletic Trainer▪ Physical Therapist | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sporting Event Planner▪ Sports Massage Therapist▪ Fitness Instructor | <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Sports Nutritionist▪ Physical Therapy Assistant▪ PE teacher |
|---|--|---|

Options Selection Form

Name	
Tutor Group	

Please use this form to help record your option choices. This needs to be handed to a member of SLT during your one-to-one meeting by Wednesday 27th March.

Every student will study the following subjects:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science (double or triple)
- Core PE (non-examined)
- Religious Education (non-examined)
- Personal Development (non-examined)

- ✓ Students must select **at least** two from: Geography, History and Spanish
- ✓ Students can only select one BTEC course

	Option A	Option B	Option C	Option D
Subjects to select from	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Geography • GCSE History • GCSE Spanish • GCSE Religious Studies • BTEC Health & Social Care • BTEC Sport 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Geography • GCSE History • GCSE Spanish • GCSE Computer Science • BTEC Health & Social Care • BTEC Music Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Geography • GCSE History • GCSE Spanish • GCSE Art & Design • GCSE Design Technology • BTEC Creative Media Production • BTEC Enterprise • BTEC Performing Arts (Acting) • WJEC Hospitality & Catering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCSE Geography • GCSE History • GCSE Separate Sciences • GCSE Art & Design • BTEC Sport • WJEC Hospitality & Catering
1st choice				
Reserve choice				