



**Consilium
Academies**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions



**Washington
Academy**
Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Year 9 Options booklet 2024



We are proud of our Washington values:

We have high expectations

We learn from our mistakes

**We treat each other with
respect**

We care about every child

Dear Year 9 student,

I welcome you to our Year 9 options guide at Washington Academy. This is a very exciting time in your education! The information found here will provide you with details on how you make important choices around the subjects you study in the next stage of your educational journey. It is very important that you make an informed choice focussing on what you will need to study for the Post-16 destination and course that you choose in Year 11. As a Professional Learner, your ability to make independent choices based on information given is a key skill - this needs to be used very carefully during this process.

In Years 10 and 11 you will study four compulsory GCSE subjects; English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Combined Science together with Core Physical Education (PE) and Personal Development. The Government decided that all students of your age must study these courses and there is no option about this.

You will also study three subjects, each equivalent to one GCSE, which you choose from those on offer through the options process at Washington Academy.

When you choose your option subjects make sure that you make an informed choice by reading the subject information in this booklet and speaking to the subject teachers during our Options Evening on Thursday 1st February. Using this information choose subjects which interest you most. The more a subject interests you the more engaged you will be with it. The more you are engaged with a subject, the more likely you are to achieve well and make good progress. Do not choose option subjects based on the teacher, as this may change, nor based on what your friends are choosing. **This is your choice for your future.**

Please note that the option choices you make are not guaranteed. Alongside the core courses we offer 16 courses for you to choose from, however some courses may not run from September 2024 if there are not sufficient pupils choosing them. The option subjects selected by pupils also determine how the subjects can be grouped together on the timetable. As a result, some option subject combinations will not be possible when timetabling begins. You are therefore asked not only to choose your three preferred option subjects, through steps one and two on the 'Option Choice Sheet', but to indicate two reserve subjects to help us to provide you with the options which fit closest to your wishes. Your completed *Option Choice Sheet* should be submitted to your form tutor the week commencing **Monday 5th February and no later than Friday 9th February.**

If you have any questions or queries about our options process, please contact washingtonoptions@consilium-at.com or speak to your Form Tutor; Head of Year 9, Mr Hogarth Willis or a member of the SLT .

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Carter

Headteacher

Key Stage 4 curriculum information and overview

Students in Years 10 and 11 are referred to as being in Key Stage 4. When students reach Key Stage 4 they start to study courses that result in qualifications. Our curriculum is made up of a range of Key Stage 4 qualifications. Details around all of our qualifications can be found in this booklet. Students are grouped at this stage into those who will qualify for The English Baccalaureate (EBACC) and those who will study a range of other courses.

Core courses and optional courses

All students in Year 10 and Year 11 study what are known as core courses. These are directed by Government that all students of this age must study these courses. There is no opting out of these courses. These courses are as follows:

- ✓ GCSE English Language
- ✓ GCSE English Literature
- ✓ GCSE Mathematics
- ✓ GCSE Combined Science
- ✓ Core PE
- ✓ Personal, Social Health Education

Then students will choose 2 option courses. All of the courses Washington have on offer are found in this booklet.

The curriculum model

Subject	Teaching periods per fortnight
English Language and Literature	9
Mathematics	9
Science	9
History or Geography	6
Option 1	6
Option 2	6
PE	3
PSHCE	2
Total	50

The English Baccalaureate (EBACC)

EBACC refers to a combination of subjects that the government encourage students to study. These subjects include English, Mathematics, two Sciences, a Modern Foreign Language, History or Geography. This is not an additional qualification, but is a recognition of the challenging combination of subjects that students have studied. Studying EBACC subjects has been proven to increase examination performance in English and Mathematics. The options sheet insert identifies whether your child should be choosing EBACC subjects.

Making a choice

We are asking you to make choices about which subjects you wish to study in Years 10 and 11. You may not have decided on a career path yet and you are finding your choices difficult. Do not worry about this; you are not alone. Even if you have a good idea now about a future career you may find that you change your mind in the months to come.

Washington helps you with this; firstly, we have introduced “taster sessions” as some courses may be brand new to what you have studied at Key Stage 3 and we provide you with ongoing careers advice.

You should choose a subject because you really want to do it, and not just because your friends have chosen it. Remember, you may not be put in the same class as they are and so you should not let this influence your

choices. Also be aware that we cannot guarantee your favourite teacher so do not pick an option because you like your current teacher. It is the subject itself that matters.

Types of Qualification – an Overview

GCSE

- GCSE qualifications are graded using the 9-1 system. Grade 9 being the highest grade you can achieve.
- Assessment is usually terminal examination papers; this means that you are assessed purely through written examination papers at the end of Year 11.
- In a small minority of subjects, there is a coursework component to the course. This coursework is usually completed under controlled conditions.
- The vast majority of GCSE courses require large bulks of knowledge to be recalled and understood.

Vocational – BTEC, NCFE, and Cambridge National

- Graded using the Level 1 and Level 2 system, with each level split into Distinction*, Distinction, Merit, Pass.
- One vocational qualification is equivalent to one GCSE qualification.
- Assessment of vocational courses is usually a combination of portfolio work (coursework) and terminal examination papers – this is outlined for each subject later in the booklet.
- Vocational courses are often work-related and are valued by further education institutions and colleges.

Life beyond Year 11

The choices you make will shape your future at Washington Academy for the next two years. However, they will also have an impact on the options available after Year 11. This may involve going to sixth form, college, doing an apprenticeship or employment with training. You should be aware of the following:

Level 2

If you achieve 5 GCSE's grade 1-4, you will be able to progress onto Level 2 training courses.

Level 3

If you wish to complete A levels or technical equivalents, you will need to have 5 GCSEs between grade 5-9. Most often, this includes English and Maths.

For level 3 vocational courses, such as BTEC Diplomas, BTEC Nationals etc, you will need an average of a grade 4 in all subjects.

What is next?

Read the course information.

Speak to teachers.

Sign up for your "taster sessions" through school.

Attend the parents/options evening on Thursday 1st February 2024.

Decide which subjects you wish to study and which courses you will have as 'reserves.'

Complete and return your options form.

The following pages show the correct information for each course.



English Language

Core subject

English Language

Examination Board: EDUQAS

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 100%

What will I learn?

You will learn to write to describe, narrate, entertain, persuade and argue in an effective way. You will read extracts from fiction and non-fiction and learn how to analyse these to show the writer's intentions and how they affect the reader.

How will I learn?

The course is essentially classroom based but you will be given the opportunity to develop your skills and knowledge through other media, such as the use of the internet, to conduct your own research on many of the elements studied.

You will also have plenty of opportunities to discuss your responses to the subject.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

All pupils have a variety of interests and there is scope within the Language course for you to write and share these interests with others. The course enables you to develop the skills you need to understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly. This course complements your English Literature GCSE and the skills taught are transferable across both courses. You will undertake a speaking and listening assessment, which will lead to a certificate to show how confident you are in speaking to others. This will help you to prepare for interviews in the future.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The development of language skills is a fundamental part of the education process for all individuals. Elements studied in this course will have an impact on all of your subjects which in turn opens the door to all sorts of opportunities. English Language GCSE is now an essential requirement for movement into further education and training.



English Literature

Core subject

English Literature

Examination Board: EDUQAS

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 100%

What will I learn?

You will study a range of texts including Shakespeare, a 19th century novel, post 1914 drama and a wide range of poetry. These texts give you a broad knowledge of literature through the ages and you will learn to understand, analyse and appreciate the authors and their methods of writing.

How will I learn?

GCSE English Literature offers the opportunity to explore texts from a personal perspective and offers an experience of Literature today as well as the English Literary Heritage. You will have opportunities to work with your class members to discuss your responses to key themes from the literature studied.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

All pupils have a variety of interests and there is scope within the Literature course for you to write and share these interests with others. A range of texts are included in the course to cater for all tastes. Some texts will be familiar, while others will inspire you as a reader.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The development of the skills of critically analysing texts complement the skills you develop when studying for English Language. Elements studied in this course will have an impact on all subjects which in turn opens the door to all sorts of opportunities.

"I enjoy English Literature lessons because it encourages me to look at the world differently and consider the deeper meaning beyond the words on the page."



Mathematics

Core subject

Mathematics

Examination board: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 100%

What will I learn?

GCSE Mathematics provides both a broad and coherent qualification. Students will be encouraged to develop confidence in, and a positive attitude towards, Mathematics and to recognise the importance of Mathematics in their own lives.

The content has been organised into broad topic areas:

Number

Algebra

Ratio, proportion and rates of change

Geometry and measures

Probability

Statistics

How will I learn?

You will learn how to use and apply knowledge, skills and understanding in practical tasks, in real-life problems and within mathematics itself. You will learn through demonstration, practice, questioning and discussion.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You need to be able to communicate your understanding to others. You will need to be able to work independently and with others. Come willing to learn and we will do the rest!

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

It is essential that everyone can demonstrate competence in Mathematics, both for continuing in education or for going into employment.

GCSE assessments are tiered within Mathematics into Foundation and Higher.

Foundation grade allows you to achieve grades 1 – 5.

Higher grade allows you to achieve grades 1 – 9.

There are 3 written papers. Each is worth 33.3% of the final grade. Paper 1 is completed without a calculator, Paper 2 and 3 are calculator papers.



Science

Core subject

All students will study Science. Students must study GCSE Science (Trilogy) unless they opt for Triple Science.

Science (Trilogy)

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Combined Science Trilogy

Assessment: Examination 100%

What will I learn in KS4?

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes

- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

Physics

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure

There are also 16 key practical experiments that students must study.

How will I be assessed?

Six papers: two biology, two chemistry and two physics. Each will assess different topics.

Duration: all the papers are 1 hour 15 minutes.

Tiers: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted.

Each is worth 16.7% of the grade and has 70 marks.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Demonstrate a good level of interest and ability in Science from year 7 and year 8 assessments.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A/S & A2 courses including Sciences.

Science GCSE is also required for some jobs as a 'core' subject (e.g. Teaching) even if it is not studied to a further level.

Combined Science draws much of its content from the single science qualifications. You'll explore exciting topics in biology, chemistry and physics and sit six exams – gaining the equivalent of two GCSEs. It's excellent preparation if you want to study science after Key Stage 4.

"Science has allowed me to answer questions that I have been curious about."

Some students may prefer to study separate GCSEs in Science. Choosing 'triple' science counts as one GCSE option. Students end up with three separate GCSEs from triple Science.

Science (Triple Award) – GCSE Biology

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Biology

Assessment: Examination – 100%

What will I learn in KS4?

Biology

- Cell biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

There are also 8 key practical experiments that students must study.

How will I be assessed?

Two papers: each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics.

Duration: both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Tier: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Demonstrate a good level of interest and ability in Science.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A level Biology

Science (Triple Award) – GCSE Chemistry

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Chemistry

Assessment: Examination – 100%

What will I learn?

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry

There are also 8 key practical experiments that students must study.

How will I be assessed?

Two papers: each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics.

Duration: both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Tier: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Demonstrate a good level of interest and ability in Science.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A level Chemistry

Science (Triple Award) – GCSE Physics

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE Physics

Assessment: Examination – 100%

What will I learn in KS4?

- Forces
- Energy
- Waves
- Electricity
- Magnetism and electromagnetism
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Space physics

There are also 8 key practical experiments that students must study over the 3 years which are assessed in their terminal exams.

How will I be assessed?

Two papers: each paper will assess knowledge and understanding from different topics.

Duration: both papers are 1 hour 45 minutes.

Tier: Foundation and Higher.

Weighting: the papers are equally weighted. Each is worth 50% of the grade and has 100 marks available.

Question types: multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Demonstrate a good level of interest and ability in Science.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

A level Physics

“Biology is wonderful because it is packed with information that gives you a greater insight on how you and the world around you works.”

“Chemistry is a beautiful and interesting field which gives you real answers to how parts of the world work.”

“Physics is my favourite out of all the sciences as it challenges me whilst keeping me interested at the same time. I am able to concentrate throughout the whole lesson.”



All students study History or Geography, or you can choose to do both!

GCSE Geography

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination –100%

What will I learn?

Paper 1 Living with the physical environment:

- The challenge of natural hazards
 - Topics include: natural hazards, tectonic hazards, weather hazards & climate change.
- The living world
 - Topics include: Ecosystems, tropical rainforests and hot deserts.
- Physical landscapes in the UK
 - Topics include: UK physical landscapes, coastal landscapes in the UK and river landscapes in the UK.

Paper 2 Challenges in the human environment:

- Urban issues and challenges.
- The changing economic world.
- The challenge of resource management
 - Resource management focusing on Global Water Management.

Paper 3 Geographical applications

- Issue evaluation.
- Fieldwork.
- Geographical skills.

How will I learn?

In GCSE Geography you will learn through mix of theory, practical investigations and field trips. You will have the chance to get hands on with Geography alongside classroom learning. Learning will be focused on the development of case study knowledge alongside practical and statistical skill.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

- Graphical and cartographical skills
- Technological skills, including ICT and GIS
- Problem solving skills

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE Geography is useful not only for future A-Level studies but the geographical applications unit studied can help with apprenticeships and work due to the skills element of the course, for example map skills, fieldwork and data analysis. GCSE Geography can also lead to a range of careers such as Environmental Scientist, Town Planner, outdoor activities, tour guide and many more.

“Geography allows you to gain a greater understanding of the world around you. It will open your eyes to new opportunities and challenges. Topics are always exciting, engaging and fun!”



GCSE History

Examination board: Edexcel

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 100%

What will I learn?

Paper 1 Thematic study and historic environment: Crime and Punishment:

- A thematic study (Crime and Punishment).
- Case study of Whitechapel.

Paper 2 Period Study and British Depth Study

- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88.
- The American West; 1835-1895.

Paper 3 Modern depth study

- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39.

How will I learn?

We believe in the importance of learning from History. That's why we have chosen a specification that enables students to study different aspects of the past, so they can engage with key issues such as conflict, understand what drives change and how this can influence the present. You will learn how to use and apply knowledge, skills and understanding in a variety of settings. You will learn through demonstration, practice, questioning and discussion. You will learn to make important connections and comparisons between different aspects of the events and themes studied. You will also learn to describe, analyse and evaluate the important causes and consequences of historical events and situations. You will be challenged to assess the significance of individuals, events, developments and ideas in the history studied and assessed on the use of your source analysis skills.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You need to be able to communicate your understanding to others. Key historical skills you will learn are change and continuity, cause and consequence, significance and being able to analyse evidence. You will need to be able to work independently and with others. Come with enthusiasm and willing to learn, we will do the rest.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE History is an excellent foundation for going onto study A levels in History and links well with subjects such as Sociology, Politics and Law. Historians are well respected in the job market. They pursue a very wide range of careers including lawyers, detectives and journalists, politicians from the Government front bench to the civil service, broadcasters and publishers. They work in marketing, advertising and public relations, and inevitably, historians make excellent managers, securing successful careers in businesses of all kinds from finance to retail.



If you want the EBACC qualification you must also study a Modern Foreign Language

GCSE Spanish

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 100%

Paper 1 – Listening – 25%

Paper 2 – Speaking – 25%

Paper 3 – Reading – 25%

Paper 4 – Writing – 25%

What will I learn?

Your learning will be broken down into 3 themes:

Theme 1: Identity and Culture -

- Me my family & friends
- Technology in everyday life
- Free-time activities
- Customs and festivals in Spanish speaking countries.

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest -

- Home, town, neighbourhood and region
- Social issues (Charity / voluntary work, healthy / unhealthy living)
- Global issues (The environment, poverty / homelessness)
- Travel and tourism

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment -

- My studies
- Life at school / college
- Education post 16

Within each theme, you will expand each of your 4 key skills; listening, speaking, reading and writing.

How will I Learn?

By listening and responding to spoken Spanish.

By speaking in Spanish.

By reading and understanding authentic texts (stories, letters, articles etc).

By writing in the target language to communicate your ideas and opinions.

By learning new vocabulary.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

- An interest in the world around you
- A willingness to try
- Resilience to learn from mistakes

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Learning a foreign language opens up a whole new world of opportunities and experiences, from travelling to new places, to learning about how other people in the world live. What is more, you will widen your horizons by discovering new cultures and traditions.

Pupils who study languages can go on to a multitude of different pursuits, including, but certainly not limited to:

- AS/A level.
- University degree (can be combined with other subjects).
 - Including living abroad studying or working in industry / for the British Council as a language assistant in a school.
- Business.
- Engineering.
- Working abroad.
- Working in the government.
- Hospitality.
- Teaching.
- Translation / Interpreting.
- Flight attendant.
- Journalist.
- Diplomat.
- Speech and language therapy.



Art, Design and Craft

Art, Design and Craft

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 40% / Coursework 60%

What will I Learn?

An ability to express yourself in a variety of art materials. Skills, such as observational drawings. An understanding of the work of artists, architects, designers and craft persons. Your studies will include drawing, painting, sculpture, ceramics and mixed media. There is a requirement to complete critical written studies and sketchbook annotation throughout both the coursework and exam. You will develop a wide range of skills throughout the course progressing using drawing as a core foundation skill, you will also be required to use a camera to collect evidence relevant to your study.

How will I be taught?

The basic skills of drawing, painting, sculpting and printmaking will be taught as the core activities. It is an essential element of the course to study artists/designers to develop your own work. Much of this work will involve developing ideas in a sketchbook as well as written work.

In Year 10 you will complete two projects, you will be expected to work independently both in and out of lessons, researching a subject, learning about it through drawing with a variety of materials and tools, showing evidence of study and personal expression.

In Year 11 you will spend the first term experimenting, developing and refining your portfolio of work further. In January you will be given your ESA (Externally set Assessment) from AQA and will work on this project developing ideas for your exam, you will then create your final piece over two days.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Students should be able to use good technical art skills in a range of art materials.

You must be imaginative; you will need to develop personal ideas and an independent approach to work.

You should have strong visual awareness relating to your surroundings.

You need to be willing to take risks and be resilient.

You will need to be committed to working on your sketchbook and portfolio outside of lessons as well as in them.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Art is an important subject for future careers in Architecture, Design of all kinds, Illustration, Fashion, TV and Film, Animation, Computer Graphics, Teaching etc. Companies across the world look for creative problem-solvers which is a skill you will learn throughout the course. You can go on to study A levels in Art, Textiles, Graphic, 3D Design etc. Or choose to do a BTEC Level 3 in an Arts area.



Business and Enterprise

Examination board: Edexcel

Qualification: BTEC

Assessment: External assessment 60% / internal assessment 40%

What will I learn?

Understanding of how businesses operate. The units studied below outline the core content of each section of the course:

Component 1 - Exploring Enterprises. Learners will examine different enterprises to develop their knowledge and understanding of the characteristics and skills needed by entrepreneurs. Assessment for this unit is completed internally.

Component 2 - Planning for and running a business. Learners will select an enterprise idea to plan for. They will work in small groups to run a micro-enterprise activity. Assessment for this unit is completed internally.

Component 3 - Promotion and finance for enterprise. Learners will explore the different promotional methods used by enterprises and the factors that influence how they identify and target a market. Learners will explore key financial concepts needed to run a business. Assessment for this unit is a 2 hour external examination.

How will I learn?

You will receive a series of practical and theory lessons.

What skills do I need?

You should be able to use a computer with confidence.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

This course could lead to a successful career in various industries, It could also be a route to study A level/ Level 3 Business.



Computer Science

Examination board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment:

Unit 1 – Computer Systems - Written Paper 50% of the qualification

Unit 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms & programming - Written Paper 50% of the qualification

Why study GCSE Computer Science?

This GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills.

What will I learn?

The computer systems unit will teach you the theory about a wide range of issues such as hardware and software, databases, computer communications, networking and ethical issues.

The programming units will introduce you to algorithms, programming techniques and how data is represented in a computer. You will learn how to write computer programmes using code.

How will I learn?

This two-unit course is designed to give you an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. You will learn through a combination of theory and practical tasks, including writing code.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You must enjoy solving problems. There will be an expectation that you are willing to undertake tasks independently. You will need to be able to think logically.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

If you take a GCSE in Computer Science and then go on to study the subject at A Level. The increasing importance of Computer Science means there'll be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this field.

"I enjoy the puzzle of coding"



Performing Arts (Dance)

Performing Arts (Dance)

Examination board: Edexcel

Qualification: BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts Dance

Assessment: Examination 40% / Controlled assessment 60%

What will I learn?

- Develop physical, technical and expressive skills through which students are able to communicate choreographic intention and develop their individual qualities as performers.
- Develop skills, knowledge and understanding of choreography through which they are able to communicate ideas, thoughts and meaning drawn from a range of dance styles.
- Develop a critical appreciation of dance in its physical, artistic, aesthetic and cultural contexts.

How will I learn?

You will learn through the following 3 components:

Component 1 – Exploring the performing arts. In this component you will develop a practical understanding of how performing arts work is created. You will look at elements such as roles, responsibilities and the application of relevant skills and techniques. You will have the chance to explore practically the work of different professionals to develop an appreciation of the methods they use to explore a theme and communicate to audiences through their work.

Assessment – Written report in exam conditions.

Component 2 – Developing skills and techniques. In this unit you will take part in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. You will work from existing performing arts repertoire, applying skills and techniques to reproduce performance and reflect on your progress and how you could improve.

Assessment – Video recording of performance and an evaluation report.

Component 3 – Performing to a brief. In this unit you will be given a brief which you need to create a dance around. It asks you to consider your target audience and to start the creative process by using the stimulus included in the brief. Working as part of a group, you will develop your ideas to create a dance to perform which communicates your creative intentions to your audience.

Assessment – Video recording of performance for external moderation with Exam Board. 3 accompanying essays related to your ideas, how you developed those ideas and evaluating your dance.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The course provides a solid foundation for further studies in Dance or Performing Arts.



Performing Arts (Drama)

Performing Arts (Drama)

Examination board: Edexcel

Qualification: BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts Drama

Assessment: Examination 40% / Controlled assessment 60%

What will I learn?

Students will learn to perform in drama. However, they will also learn to understand the roles, responsibilities and skills needed within the performance arts industry. Students will learn how to plan, design and create a play including stage setting, lighting, sound and costume.

How will I learn?

You will learn through the following 3 components:

Component 1 – Exploring the performing arts. In this component you will develop a practical understanding of how performing arts work is created. You will look at elements such as roles, responsibilities and the application of relevant skills and techniques. You will have the chance to explore practically the work of different professionals to develop an appreciation of the methods they use to explore a theme and communicate to audiences through their work.

Assessment – Written report in exam conditions.

Component 2 – Developing skills and techniques. In this unit you will take part in workshops and classes where you will develop technical, practical and interpretative skills through the rehearsal and performance process. You will work from existing performing arts repertoire, applying skills and techniques to reproduce performance and reflect on your progress and how you could improve.

Assessment – Video recording of performance and an evaluation report.

Component 3 – Performing to a brief. In this unit you will be given a brief which you need to create a play around. It asks you to consider your target audience and to start the creative process by using the stimulus included in the brief. Working as part of a group, you will develop your ideas to create a play to perform which communicates your creative intentions to your audience.

Assessment – Video recording of performance for external moderation with Exam Board. 3 accompanying essays related to your ideas, how you developed those ideas and evaluating your play.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The course provides a solid foundation for further studies in Drama or Performing Arts.



Design and Technology

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 50% / Controlled Assessment 50%

What will I learn?

- How to design real solutions to design problems in a range of different materials and media.
- How to understand and appreciate the design and manufacture of existing products.
- How to communicate realistic design proposals using different media and techniques.
- How to combine your design and making skills with knowledge and understanding.
- The opportunity to apply skills, knowledge and understanding from other subjects such as Art, ICT, Humanities, Maths and Science.
- How to develop your graphical capability through activities which involve a range of themes, materials and processes.
- Opportunities to develop practical abilities and the confidence to design, make and modify products and systems for different purposes and selecting and using materials effectively.
- How to develop ICT design skills to use CAD/CAM during designing and making.

How will I learn?

You will learn how to design solutions to real life design problems in an industrial context by developing skills that are required to design and make, through task based projects using a combination of materials as well as theoretical components.

Essential Information on the course: *(Current Assessment)*

- Unit 1: Written Paper -2 hours -50% of the total marks.
- Unit 2: Controlled Assessment – A Design and make portfolio based around solving a real world design problem - 50% of the total marks.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

To succeed you will be expected to:

- Have an interest in finding out how things are designed and manufactured.
- Enjoy designing products, modelling prototypes and manufacturing in materials.
- Enjoy using CAD/ CAM or ICT based software programmes used to develop products.
- Have an interest in designers and their influence on society.
- Solving real world design problems.
- Investigating how designers and manufacturers operate on an industrial scale.

This course offers you the opportunity to develop these skills as well as evaluating products currently available to the consumer.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

- To continue in further education such as A Level and Degree level Product Design
- Take an apprenticeship or career in; Advertising, Architecture, Automotive Design, Graphic Design and Illustration, Engineering, Fashion Designer, Furniture and related products, Industrial Design, Interior Design, Product Design, Research and Software Engineer.



Construction and the Built Environment

Construction and the Built Environment

Examination board: Eduqas

Qualification: Level 1/2 Technical award (equivalent to one GCSE)

Assessment: Examination 40% / NEA 60%

What will I learn?

The construction industry employs about 10% of the UK workforce and creates the buildings in which we work, live, study and enjoy our leisure time. It also creates the roads, railways, airports and seaports we use to help us travel to those buildings. If someone wants to add an extension to their home, add new office buildings on their land or turn a field into a sports centre, they need to:

- Make sure they meet planning requirements.
- Use materials and structures that deliver a safe and efficient building.
- Provide access by road, rail or water.
- Ensure it can be built within budget.

Increasingly, society wants construction to be:

- Sustainable through using materials that are sourced sustainably and sustainable energy sources.
- Design conscious; providing buildings that are pleasant to look at and use.

These needs and wants are met through the design of the construction project. You will learn the skills and knowledge required to deliver these needs.

How will I learn?

A Level 1/2 Award in Construction and the Built Environment is designed to mainly support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about the construction industry from the design, construction and planning perspective. It provides learners with a broad introduction to the design sector of the construction industry and the types of career opportunities available. It is mainly suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study could provide learners with the awareness of the work of different types of job roles in the sector such as architects, construction managers, design engineers, surveyors and planning officers. As a result, they may wish to start an apprenticeship or continue with their studies into higher education in order to pursue those job roles.

Essential Information on the course: *(Current Assessment)*

The qualification is taught through the following units:

- Unit 1: Introduction to the Built Environment On-screen examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 40% of qualification
- Unit 2: Designing the Built Environment Controlled assessment: 30 hours 60% of qualification.
OR
- Unit 3: Constructing the Built Environment Controlled assessment: 30 hours 60% of qualification.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

This structure has been designed to allow learners to develop the understanding and skills related to a range of functional roles in the construction design sector. The units provide an overview of roles such as planning officers, design engineers and architect technicians and how these roles work together to produce construction designs that are fit for purpose.

You will need the following skills required for independent learning and development:

- A range of generic and transferable skills
- The ability to solve problems
- The skills of project-based research, development and presentation

- The fundamental ability to work alongside other professionals in a professional environment.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

The successful completion of this qualification, together with other equivalent qualifications, such as maths and sciences, could provide the learner with opportunities to access a range of qualifications including GCE, apprenticeships, vocationally related and occupational qualifications. These include:

- GCEs in Physics or Environmental Studies.
- Diplomas in Sustainable Construction and Built Environment Design.
- Apprenticeships in the various Design, Surveying and Civil Engineering careers of construction.



Film Studies

Examination board: EDUQAS

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 70% / Coursework 30%

What will I learn?

Component 1: Key Developments in US Film

- Integrated Study of Film, including Genre: Comparative US Film Study.
- Key Developments in Film and Film Technology.

Component 2: Narrative, Representation and Film Style

- Contemporary British Film: The study of how the film's aesthetic – a mix of sci-fi, horror and dystopian urban Britain - is created.
- Global English Language Film: The study of narrative, context, and representation.
- Global non-English Language Film: The study of representation of characters or country or society or culture.

Component 3: Production

A practical production where students have the choice of making a short film extract (one and half to two minutes long) or a screenplay extract (800–1000 words) from a list of specified genres. Their production will be informed by the knowledge of cinema acquired during the rest of the course. The screenplay will be accompanied by a shooting script to note details of cinematography, editing, timing and sound to match one minute of the screenplay. Both will require a written evaluation of 750 – 850 words.

How will I learn?

During lessons you will use the transferable skills you have developed from the study of English Language, Literature and History to analyse the structure and intended impact of a variety of film genres from across the globe applying this knowledge to the creation of your own short film production.

At the end of the course, you will use this knowledge to complete two final written examinations:

Component One: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Component Two: 1 hour and 30 minutes

Component Three: Coursework Production Element

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

To succeed in this course, you must have a love or interest in film and how they are produced.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Students in Film Studies are encouraged to develop excellent intellectual, communicative, writing and research skills, providing the foundation for a wide range of career opportunities as well as for careers directly connected with cinema. These include film distribution and production. arts administration.

As well as opportunities to study Film and Media at A level, the analytical skills and historical and cultural perspectives that will be further developed during this course are transferable and enhanced across a range of other subjects including English and History. The studying of the aesthetic elements of film and production are linked to the skill required of Art, Design and Textiles courses enabling these areas to be easier to access at A level.

Beyond A level, many universities offer a Film degree including Sunderland which is currently ranked within the top ten universities to study Film in the country.



Health and Social Care

Examination board: Pearson

Qualification: BTEC Level 1/2 tech award

Assessment: Examination 40% / Controlled Assessment 60%

What will I learn?

This course gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age, and the factors that may affect this, such as major life changing events like marriage or parenthood. You will learn how people adapt to these changes as well as the types of support available to help them. You will also learn about the different health and social care services, and about 'care values' and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need. You will be able to demonstrate these care values practically. You will develop skills in interpreting data about someone's state of health in order to design a plan that will allow them to improve their health and wellbeing. This new qualification is the same size and level as a GCSE and is aimed at everyone who wants to find out more about health and social care. This course will give you the opportunity to develop skills, knowledge and techniques, and to review your own performance in demonstrating 'care values'.

How will I learn?

You will learn through the following 3 components:

Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development. In this component you will study how people grow and develop over the course of their life, from infancy to adulthood, this includes physical, intellectual, emotional and social (PIES) development and the different factors that may affect this.

Assessment – 5 extended pieces of writing in exam conditions.

Component 2 – Health & Social Care Services and Values. This unit will give you an understanding of health and social care services and will help you to understand the skills, attributes and values that are common across the sector (some of which are transferable to other sectors that involve interactions with clients or customers).

Assessment – 5 extended pieces of writing in exam conditions.

Component 3 – Health & Wellbeing. In this unit you will explore the factors that can have a positive or negative influence on a person's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators and what they mean for a person's state of health. You will learn how this information is used to recommend appropriate actions for improving a person's health and wellbeing. Additionally, you will explore the difficulties an individual may face when trying to make these changes.

Assessment – External exam in the summer of year 11.

Essential Information on the course: *(Current Assessment)*

- Unit 1 & 2: Controlled Assessment – 60% of the total marks.
- Unit 1: Written Paper – 2 hours – 40% of the total marks.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

After you have finished this course, you may want to go on to further study, such as A levels, BTECs or a mixture of both. Alternatively, you might want to find work in the health and social care sector as a trainee or apprentice. Which option is best for you will depend on the grades you achieve both in this qualification and in other qualifications you have taken, what you enjoy doing and any advice you can access about the further learning and training opportunities available in your area.



Hospitality and Catering

Hospitality and Catering

Examination board: Eduqas

Qualification: Level 1/2

Assessment: Examination 40% / NEA 60%

What will I Learn?

- How chefs produce food for functions.
- How to cater for different customer needs.
- How to make healthy balanced meals.
- How to cost and shop for ingredients.
- How to produce restaurant quality food.
- You will learn about the catering environment, and the role of individual staff.
- You will also be taught health and safety and food hygiene.

Essential information on the course.

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry. Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes 40% of qualification

Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action. Controlled assessment: approximately 12 hours 60% of qualification

How will I learn?

You will learn by researching, planning and carrying out practical tasks. You will practice high level cooking skills and understanding the theory behind the cooking methods.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

To succeed you will be expected to:

- Enjoy a challenge and be prepared to work on your own initiative.
- Show flair for high volume fast paced catering.
- Planning and organisational skills.
- Provide your own ingredients for many different practical tasks.
- Work independently and sensibly. Be prepared to work independently and show initiative.
- Enjoy the subject and be creative.
- Have a keen interest in food and service.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

- Continue in full time education e.g. Catering / Hospitality Diploma
- Train as a chef/ apprenticeship course.
- Work in the catering or hospitality industry.
- Excellent practical skills.



Music Practice

Examination board: Pearsons

Qualification: BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

Assessment: Three Components (two internal, one external)

What will I learn during the two-year course?

This course provides students the opportunity to gain self-confidence and team-working skills through performing, composing and appraising music.

The course covers 3 Areas of Study:

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

Component 2: Music Skills Development

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief

The course will extend students' creative skills through composing and performing music and encourages the understanding of the importance of continuous evaluation and refinement in any process.

It also provides a solid foundation for progression to music related courses, including A-level Music, and a career in music professions.

How will I learn?

You will receive lessons on your chosen instrument.

You will be taught the skills needed to perform as a soloist and an ensemble musician and you will produce a minimum of two musical recordings.

You will be taught the skills needed to compose your own music and you will produce two compositions, one in Year 10 and one in Year 11.

You will listen critically to a range of music from different times and places.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

You must enjoy making music; performing on an instrument; composing music; listening to a wide range of musical styles and have an interest in the technical/production side of music. You must be able to play an instrument or sing to a commendable standard.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

Music is a highly regarded subject for college/university entrance and plays a significant part in all aspects of the Performing Arts, Television, Radio, Theatre, Film and Music Technology.

“I love my Music lessons, the practical side of lessons are great when I learn about notation and rhythm, and perform as part of a group”.



Physical Education (PE - GCSE)

GCSE Physical Education

Examination board: OCR

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: 2 written exams in Year 11, 1 practical moderation and fitness testing moderation

What will I Learn? The qualification is made up of 4 units, these are;

Component 1 Fitness and Body Systems

In this unit you will:

- A) Topic 1: Applied anatomy and.
- B) Topic 2: Movement analysis
- C) Topic 3: Physical training
- D) Topic 4: Use of data

Assessment - a 1hour 45min yr 11 final exam 36% of the overall course. There is no resit allowed

*Both Component 1
and Component 2
make up 60% of the
entire course through
a final Year 11
written exam*

Component 2 Health and Performance

In this unit you will:

- A) Topic 1: Health, fitness and well-being
- B) Topic 2: Sport psychology
- C) Topic 3: Socio-cultural influences
- D) Topic 4: Use of data

Assessment – a 1hour 45min yr 11 final exam 24% of the overall course. There is no resit allowed

Component 3 Practical Performance

In this unit you will:

- A) One team activity, one individual activity and a free choice from the list published by the Exam Board
- B) Perform Skills in isolation
- C) Perform Skills in a competitive/ formal situation
- D) Review Skills with Questions from the Exam Board for analysis of performance

Assessment – Internally marked and externally moderated by examiner practical performances worth 30% of final grade

Component 4 Personal Exercise Programme (PEP)

In this unit you will:

- A) Aim and planning analysis
- B) Carrying out and monitoring the PEP
- C) Evaluation of the PEP

Assessment – Internally marked and externally moderated by examiner practical performances worth 10% of final grade

How will I Learn?

Teaching will be predominately classroom based, with a lesser focus on the Practical due to the weighting of the elements on the overall grade. Most lessons will be Theory and classroom based to learn the syllabus for the yr11 exam. However there is also a practical element which allows you to study the skills and requirements for performance in 1 individual and 1 team sport. There is very little course work for the PEP, which also has a practical element with it as you will carry out your planned fitness session.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Level 5 or 6 at key stage three is expected. You will need to arrive to each lesson with the correct kit and equipment (pens etc.) Failure to bring kit to lessons could result in your losing marks from your final grade. You should be a motivated person who has a keen interest in sport. Attendance at extra-curricular clubs is an advantage.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

This course can be a starting point to a career in the sporting and leisure industry as well as a prerequisite to further education sporting opportunities. It has a high Biological and Anatomy/physiology aspect to it which can be linked directly to A levels



Religious Studies

Examination board: AQA

Qualification: GCSE

Assessment: Examination 100%

What will I learn?

Paper 1 - The study of religions: Beliefs, teachings and practices

- Christianity.
- Islam.

Written paper 1hr 45 min - 96 marks (48 marks for Christianity and 48 marks for Islam, plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)) - 50% of GCSE.

Each question has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

Paper 2 - Thematic studies

- Religion and Life.
- Religion, peace and conflict
- Religion, crime and punishment.
- Religion and family life.

Written paper 1hr 45 min - 96 marks (24 marks for each theme, plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)) - 50% of GCSE.

Each question has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.

How will I learn?

- You will learn the skill of analysis to develop your own personal critical thinking skills.
- You will learn the ability to work with abstract ideas and develop your research skills.
- You will learn through questioning and discussion of your own and other beliefs; exploring the reasons why people hold the beliefs that they do and how this impacts their lives.

What the students say:

I enjoy studying RE at GCSE because I get to discuss and debate many topics.

RE is a very opinionated subject where we learn about controversial topics from crime and punishment to euthanasia. Kristy L Year 10

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

- Religious studies challenges your questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling you to develop your attitudes to religious issues.
- Religious Studies allows you to appreciate how religion, philosophy and ethics is the basis of our culture.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

GCSE Religious Studies is an excellent foundation for going onto study A levels in Religious Studies, Sociology and links well with subjects such as History and Politics. Religious Studies can open doors for possible careers such as teaching, the police, counselling, nursing, social work and many more.



Sport Studies

Examination board: OCR

Qualification: Cambridge National Level 2 in Sport Studies

Assessment: External exam and written coursework

Assessment: Examination 75% / Controlled assessment 25% exam

What will I Learn? The qualification is made up of 3 units, these are;

Unit R051 - Contemporary Issues in Sport

In this unit you will cover:

LO1 - The issues which affect participation in sport

LO2 - The role of sport in promoting values

LO3 - The importance of hosting major sporting events

Assessment – Externally marked exam out of 60 marks (40% of overall grade)

R185 – Developing Sports Skills

In this unit you will cover:

LO1 - Know the personal qualities, styles, roles and responsibilities associated with effective sports leadership

LO2: Be able to plan a sports activity session

LO3: Be able to deliver a sports activity session

LO4: Be able to evaluate own performance in delivering a sports activity session

Assessment – Video recording of performance in two sports and as an official alongside a coursework booklet

R187 – Developing Knowledge and Skills in Outdoor Activities & Sports Leadership

In this unit you will:

LO1.1 - Know about different types of outdoor activities and their provision

LO1.2 - Understand the value of participating in outdoor activities

LO1.3 – Be able to plan an outdoor activity

LO2.1 - Know the personal qualities, styles, roles and responsibilities associated with effective sports leadership.

LO2.2 - Be able to plan sports activity sessions

LO2.3 - Be able to deliver sports activity session

LO2.4 -Be able to evaluate own performance in delivering a sports activity session.

Assessment – Video recording of performance in outdoor activities & sports leadership sessions in conjunction with a coursework booklet

How will I Learn?

Teaching will be both Practical as well as classroom based. You will be expected to work independently at times as well as working in groups. Assessment will be a combination of presentation work, modular tests and ongoing practical assessment. A part of your assessment will involve your understanding and application of rules and regulations, including the ability to umpire or referee.

What abilities, aptitudes, skills and interests will I need?

Level 5 at key stage three is expected. You will need to arrive to each lesson with the correct kit and equipment (pens etc.) Failure to bring kit to lessons could result in your losing marks from your final grade. You should be a motivated person who has a keen interest in sport. Attendance at extra-curricular clubs is an advantage.

What opportunities can this course and qualification lead to?

This course can be a starting point to a career in the sporting and leisure industry as well as a prerequisite to further education sporting opportunities.

The following areas of our curriculum do not lead to a qualification but are important and statutory parts of the curriculum:

- PE
- Personal Development

If you have any questions or queries about our options process, please contact washingtonoptions@consilium-at.com or speak to your Form Tutor; Head of Y9, Mr Hogarth Willis or a member of the SLT .

Key dates in the option process:

Wednesday 24th January

Assembly Launch to students, option booklet shared, options website information live

Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st January

Year 9 taster sessions. Students can sign up to two taster sessions for new courses

Thursday 1st February

Year 9 Parents evening and Options evening 3.30pm-5.30pm

Monday 5th February

Students start to return option forms

Half term 4

Students will be given updates