



# PATHWAY

A guide to your options 2020-2021



# St Benedict's

Catholic High School, Alcester

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**St Benedict's**

Catholic High School, Alcester

# Your Pathway Introduction



## St Benedict's

Catholic High School, Alcester

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

The move from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 is an important step in your child's education as he/she embarks upon accredited examination courses. These courses include compulsory subjects and others which are option subjects within Guided Pathways.

### Compulsory subjects at Key Stage 4 include:

- \* English Language and English Literature
- \* Mathematics
- \* Science
- \* Religious Studies
- \* Core P.E.

Subjects within Guided Pathways are listed on your options online preference form and included in this booklet.

The way the Guided Pathways system works should become clear to you as you make your way through this booklet and the online options preference form.

The purpose of the booklet is to provide students in year 9 and their parents with information about the subjects and courses on offer and will indicate progression routes which are currently available at Post 16.

In addition to the information provided to you on the Parents' Evening/Options Evening on the **Thursday 13 February**, students will also be given support with selecting their option choices through a variety of activities during drop down day on the **Tuesday 11 February**. Students will receive a session with our Careers Advisor using an online careers advice package 'Fast Tomato', and have an opportunity to meet with St Benedict's Sixth Formers to discuss their experiences of studying at GCSE level. In addition, form tutors will provide advice and support and students who need more help will be able to have a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or our Careers Advisor; Mrs Holmes.

Students will be required to submit their online option preferences by **Wednesday 4 March** online. It is important to meet this deadline in order for the school to begin the significant task of organising the timetable and deciding which courses will run.

Please be aware that while every endeavour will be made to meet students' preferences, there may be occasions where this is not always possible due to the number of students selecting them and staffing constraints. It is therefore important that students also indicate online, two reserve choices.

Making the correct option choices is vitally important and we hope that students and parents have been provided with enough information to make the best choices for future study and career aspirations. Should a student commence study in year 10 and decide that they wish to change one of their option subjects, the deadline for making an application to change courses is **Thursday 15 October**. It is envisaged that this will only affect a small handful of students and that the vast majority of students will continue with the option choices selected in year 9.

**No applications to change options after this date will be considered as students will have missed too much of the course to be able to catch up and achieve their full potential.**

I know that parents will discuss these important decisions with their sons and daughters and I urge you to consult subject teachers, tutors, Heads of Department and Senior Staff if further guidance is needed.

**We wish all our students the very best as they commence this next important and exciting phase of their academic studies.**

Yours faithfully,

**Mr D Hughes**  
Headteacher

**Mrs C Eldridge**  
Assistant Headteacher



# Mathematics

core subject

## Why study Mathematics?

Maths is an important life skill essential to a wide variety of careers but also to everyday life. The word mathematics comes from ancient Greek, "learning" and from Hebrew "thinking". A good foundation in Maths gives us the ability to think logically and creatively.

The course builds on topics that you have studied at key stage 3 with an increased focus on applying mathematics in context, problem solving, reasoning and the functional element of the subject. This subject will provide you with a set of transferable skills that will prove invaluable for the rest of your life!

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

All students in years 9, 10 and 11 study a maths course which leads to GCSE entry at one of two different levels – Foundation or Higher.

**The course content is divided into eight broad areas of mathematics:**

**Number**

**Algebra**

**Ratio**

**Proportion**

**Rates Of Change**

**Geometry And Measures**

**Probability**

**Statistics**

## How will I be assessed?

Maths is assessed through three equally weighted written examinations taken at the end of year 11.

**\* Paper 1 – Non-Calculator (1hr 30mins exam)**

**\* Paper 2 – Calculator (1hr 30 mins exam)**

**\* Paper 3 – Calculator (1hr 30 mins exam)**

The papers will assess all elements of the GCSE curriculum. The examination has two different levels of entry: Higher level or Foundation level. The tier you are entered for will be determined by your class teacher and informed by the results of your class assessments and mock exams.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at higher level GCSE can continue their studies through A levels which can lead to study of a degree in a wide range of professions.

## Career examples:

**Actuary**

**Financial planner**

**Architecture,**

**Game Design**

**Cryptographer**

**Scientists**

**Economists**

**Engineering**

**Statistician**



### Famous Mathematician

**John Horton Conway.**

The Liverpoolian is best known for the serious maths that has come from his analyses of games and puzzles. In 1970, he came up with the rules for the Game of Life, a game in which you see how patterns of cells evolve in a grid. Early computer scientists adored playing Life, earning Conway star status.

He has made important contributions to many branches of pure maths, such as group theory, number theory and geometry and, with collaborators, has also come up with wonderful-sounding concepts like surreal numbers, the grand antiprism and monstrous moonshine.

**For further information, please contact Head of Maths Miss Green.**

# English Language

core subject

## Why study English

English is an essential skill for entry to Post-16 qualification but also for everyday life. How we communicate with others both verbally and in written form is a highly prized skill. English helps us to understand others as well as ourselves.

You will have the opportunity to study a wide variety of texts both fiction and non-fiction as well as being able to experiment with your writing in a range of genres literary and non-literary.

In English Language we study the AQA syllabus and you will study a wide range of texts from a variety of modern and 19th Century fiction and non-fiction sources.



This will be reported on your final GCSE certificate, but will not count towards your final grade. However, business leaders have frequently stated that they consider verbal presentation skills to be highly valuable, so earning a merit or distinction, would be beneficial for your CV.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

During the two year course you will develop analytical skills and a detailed understanding of how writers' choices influence the reader/audience. We will focus on developing your skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening.

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exams at the end of the course for English Language, which will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills in response to literary and non-literary texts.

In the summer term of year 10, you will research, plan and deliver a formal presentation which will include responding to questions from your audience.

For this you will choose an appropriate topic/task to work on. This presentation may be filmed.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

English Language gives you an excellent basis for further academic study at A level, but equally it is an essential qualification for all courses and professions.

English is good for any career that involves communication, writing and / or literary knowledge.

These include: advertising and marketing, writing and journalism, law, consultancy, business, teaching, performing arts, academia, government, linguistics, foreign languages, media and design.

You could even be a freelance writer, which we think is one of the world's best jobs!

Careers in the sciences, engineering, technology and maths also need more English than you think. Writing proposals, academic papers & articles and communicating with others is key to getting funding for projects and reaching people with your work. The benefits are endless.



“

**St Benedict's student  
Joe said...**

“English Language helps you to express yourself creatively and helps you progress in many other subjects.”

”

For further information, please contact Head of English Miss Cosnett

# English Literature

core subject

## Why study English Literature?

Studying English Literature is a highly valuable and enriching experience. It enables us to develop new ideas and have a window into the lives of different time periods and cultures. It allows you to understand and experience the different values and beliefs that writers bring to their texts.

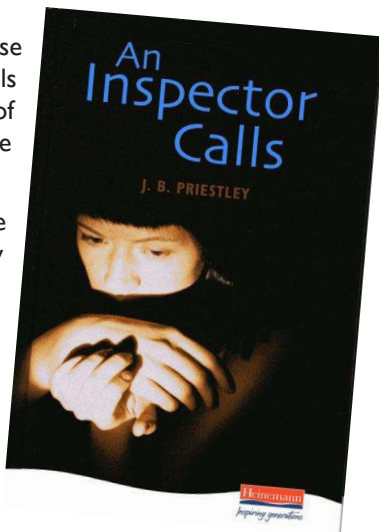
English Literature is a core subject and is taken by all key stage 4 pupils. In English Literature we study the AQA syllabus and you will study a wide range of texts from the Literary Canon as well as more contemporary texts.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

During the two year course you will develop analytical skills and a detailed understanding of how writers' choices influence the reader/audience.

You will be able to explore the effects of language and how writers shape meanings in their texts.

You will also practise the skill of formal, academic writing learning how to structure your ideas fluently and coherently.



Poetry

## You will study four set texts:

Shakespeare play, 19th century novel,

The modern play "An Inspector Calls"

A collection of poetry on the theme of Power and Conflict.

A nineteenth century novel either

"A Christmas Carol" or "Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde"

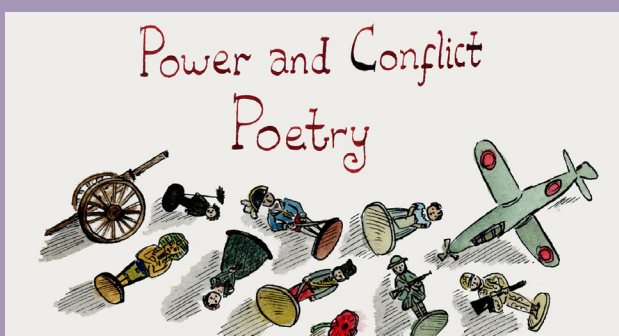
## How will I be assessed?

You will sit two exams at the end of the course for English Literature, which will allow you to demonstrate your knowledge, understanding and skills in response to your set texts as well as unseen poetry. These are closed book exams.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

English Literature gives you an excellent basis for further academic study at A level, but equally it is an essential qualification for all courses and professions.

English Literature is known as a facilitating subject which means that it is highly regarded by universities and is identified as being essential or desirable for particular under graduate courses.



“ St Benedict's student Courtney said...

English Literature leaves you on the edge of your seat as you learn about a wide variety of different and interesting characters and the times they lived in. ”

For further information, please contact Head of English Miss Cosnett

# Religious Education

core subject

## Why study Religious Education?

As a core GCSE for all students in a Catholic school, RE is a compulsory subject. Whether you are inquisitive and empathetic or analytical and argumentative, GCSE RE has something to offer all students. As a Catholic school with Christ at the centre of all that we do, we hope that studying religion will help every learner to deepen their own faith.

WJEC Eduqas GCSE Religious Studies provides opportunities for learners to understand more about the world, the religious challenges it faces and their place within it. This GCSE course will deepen your understanding of religions and their effect on society. It will develop learners' competence in a wide range of skills and approaches and enable young people to become religiously informed and thoughtful, engaged citizens.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

Students will study the 'big questions' concerning life and death, sin and forgiveness, good and evil and the foundations of religious belief. The study of religion engenders critical thinking, encourages philosophical thought, decision making skills, collaboration and independent working skills.

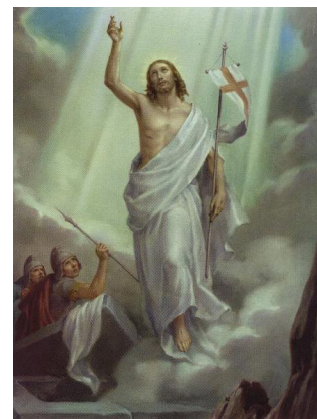
GCSE R.E. creates opportunities for young people to develop their skills of dialogue, interpretation and analysis in a coherent context. All these are vital skills in a modern workforce where communication, collaboration and cooperation are core skills.

## How will I be assessed?

**Component 1:** Foundational Catholic Theology Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 37.5% of qualification  
Theme 1: Origins and Meaning Theme 2: Good and Evil

**Component 2:** Applied Catholic Theology Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 37.5% of qualification  
Theme 1: Life and Death Theme 2: Sin and Forgiveness

**Component 3:** Study of Judaism Written examination: 1 hour 25% of qualification;  
The beliefs, teachings and practices of Judaism.



## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

The multitude of skills developed in this subject are so transferable that a GCSE in R.E. supports most Post 16 opportunities. A level Philosophy and Ethics are the logical Post 16 options for a student who thrives in RE.



'Religious studies makes us better students and better people.'

'It opens your eyes to ethical questions.'

For further information, please contact Head of RE Mrs O'Gara.

# DoubleScience

core subject

(Unless triple Science is selected as an option)

## Why study trilogy science?

You are already a natural scientist. As you grow you ask questions about the world around you: What makes my eyes blue? How does my phone know my location? How does my car contribute to global warming? So, in the name of science, start asking why and become a scientist yourself. Science is curiosity. It's learning about the world around us, asking questions and trying to find solutions to answer these questions.

Science has given us society as we know it: the biology of how you fight off that cold virus and how the chemistry of your make up, the perfumes and deodorants you wear and the physics of how your hair straighteners, beats headphones and other electronics work. Science, the big idea that seems so complex and far removed from everyday life, is in fact the framework supporting everything we do and it all begins with asking a question.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

Science teaches and develops really important transferable skills such as following instructions, analysing information, presentation and communication. It builds each students confidence and develops their skills in being able to problem solve, including finding answers to their own questions.

All these are vital to any future career, even if it is not science related. You will study 10 hours of science over a 2 week period, split between lessons of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## How will I be assessed?

Science has no coursework element and is assessed 100% by final exams. Students will sit 6 external exams in the summer of year 11. This will consist of 2 Biology, 2 Chemistry and 2 Physics exams, each being 1 hour 15 minutes. These marks will then be consolidated and two overall science GCSE grades will be awarded.



## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies at A level and BTEC as well as apprenticeships in a variety of areas such as electricians, engineering and social care. This can lead to a variety of different degree courses ranging from basic Biology, Chemistry and Physics to Forensics, Medical based degrees, Astronomy, Engineering, Nano-science and so many more.

The future is Science and there is a place for everyone who wants to be a part of driving our world and society forward.

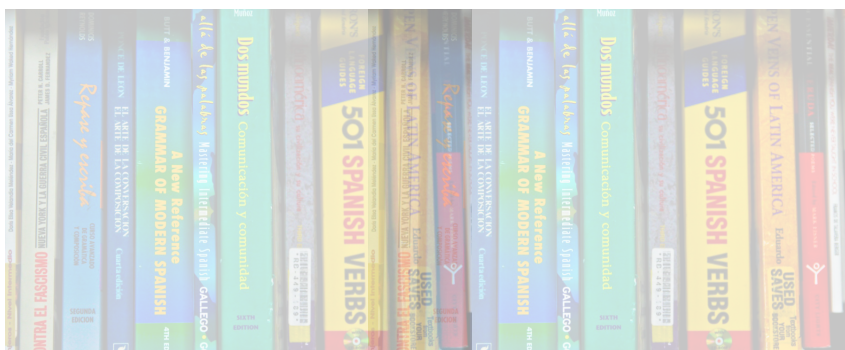


“ St Benedict’s student,  
Year 10 Amy said...

The practicals in all of the sciences are fun, interesting and help with our learning as we can properly understand the science behind what we are learning.

For further information, please contact Head of Science Miss Munro.





# Spanish

EBacc subject

## Why study Spanish?

Where can language learning take you? The possibilities are endless. Even a basic knowledge of a foreign language can open so many doors. In today's global economy language skills are highly valued and sought after.

By learning Spanish you will gain an insight into the culture of the Hispanic world which comprises of 20 countries and over 400 million native speakers.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

Learning a second language will help boost your memory and improve your listening skills. You will become a more effective communicator. You will gain a greater insight into how your own language works. You will be able to interact more confidently with people from different backgrounds and adjust more easily to new environments.

**You will learn Spanish by studying 5 different topic areas:**

Local area, holiday and travel;

School, identity and culture;

Future aspirations, study and work;

International and global dimension.

## How will I be assessed?

Spanish GCSE is assessed at the end of year 11 by 4 external examinations which are equally weighted: Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Pupils can be entered for either the Higher or Foundation Tier.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies at A Level. Many universities offer language modules, with an option to study abroad, through a variety of faculties, as well as a language degree.



“

Spanish has not just given me the grasp of a new language, but also an insight into Hispanic culture. I recommend it as a subject as you will learn skills useful to take forward into any career.

- Howard

”

For further information, please contact Head of MFL Ms McDermott



# History

EBacc subject

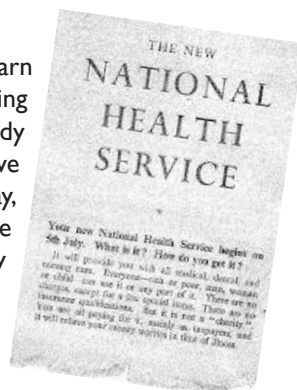
## Why study History?

Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it is at now and how it will continue to develop in the future. Studying History will also help you to answer questions about the world in which we live such as: Why do wars happen? Why do we have a welfare system? How have we come to live in a multi-cultural society?

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

History is a very diverse subject and you will develop a range of skills that will help you in further study, employment and real-life situations. Studying History provides students with skills which are not confined to the study of the past. Skills of analysis are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital to decision making. This not only provides a skill set for a student but it also keeps career options open.

The AQA specification allows you to learn a wide range of exciting and engaging aspects of History. These include a study of how medical developments have affected medicine and treatments today, Elizabethan England, American culture and society in the twentieth century and the Korean and Vietnam Wars.



## How will I be assessed?

Paper 1: 2 hour exam

Paper 2: 2 hour exam

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Studying history provides you with many transferable skills and is highly regarded by universities and employers. Studying history can lead on to some exciting career options, including: Journalism; Law; Business; Politics; Archaeology; Marketing and Teaching.



“

Neither the life of an individual nor the history of a society can be understood without understanding both.

”

By C.Wright Mills

For further information, please contact Head of History Miss Dance

# Triple Science

optional subject

## Why study triple science?

Everyone has to take trilogy science but for some there will be the opportunity to select triple science as an option. These students will receive additional lessons to cover the extra content to give them a separate GCSE in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. There are many reasons why studying the sciences separately can be an advantage.

This includes a better knowledge foundation for further study in the field of science as well as more time to develop the transferable life skills science develops. They will develop excellent analytical skills with precision techniques. They will learn how to present their findings and breakdown complex ideas



to reveal answers to various problems. They will learn how to think logically and work independently as well as in a team.

## How will I be assessed?

A triple scientist will study 5 hours of Biology, 5 hours of Chemistry and 5 hours of Physics every 2 weeks. Science has no coursework element and is assessed 100% by final exams. Students will sit 2 external exams in the summer of year 11 for each subject, each exam being 1 hour 45 minutes. These marks will then be consolidated and an overall GCSE grade awarded for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

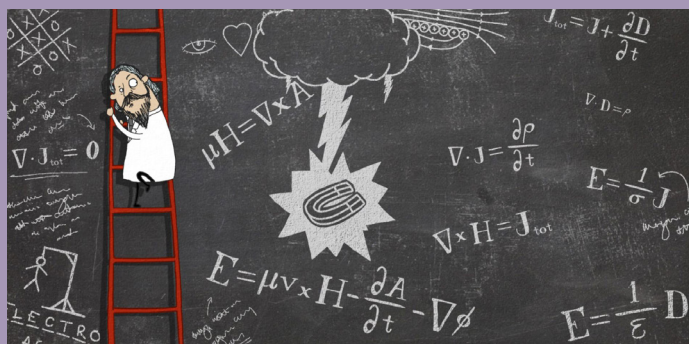
## BIOLOGY

### What will I study?

The study of biology connects us to the world we are living in and reminds us of our similarities with other life forms. It develops awareness of the significance of plants and animals and provides opportunities to learn about the processes of all living things. What students learn is directly relevant to everyday life and how we and other organisms function. By studying biology, students learn to make more informed decisions about their own health and about significant biological issues such as genetically modified crops and the use of antibiotics.

### What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving strong Biology grades could take their learning further by continuing Biology at A level. From here they could then complete a degree in a variety of different areas including medicine, forensics, marine biology, zoology, sport science, veterinarian science, nursing, midwifery, microbiology and natural science. You could embark on a future exploring the many continents of the world, educating us through the power of media, just like David Attenborough to developing pioneering surgical techniques and ways to treat diseases to helping solve murders and crimes. There is no such thing as a typical biologist; a career in biology can take you in almost any direction and anywhere in the world.



For further information, please contact Head of Science Miss Munro.

# The Periodic Table

1 H																	2 He
3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
55 Cs	56 Ba	57-71	72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
87 Fr	88 Ra	89-103	104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Nh	114 Fl	115 Mc	116 Lv	117 Ts	118 Og
		57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu	
		89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr	

## CHEMISTRY

### What will I study?

Chemistry has the power to explain innumerable phenomena in the world, from the ordinary to the bizarre. Why does iron rust? What makes propane such an efficient, clean-burning fuel? How can soot and diamond be so different in appearance yet so chemically similar? Chemistry has the answer to these questions and many more. Understanding chemistry is the key to understanding the world as we know it. Chemistry is sometimes called “the central science,” because it bridges physics with other natural sciences, such as geology and biology.

### What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving strong Chemistry grades could take their learning further by continuing Chemistry at A level. From here they could then complete a degree in a variety of different areas from medicine, pharmacology, forensics, biochemistry, environmental science, chemical engineering, toxicology and food science. You could be answering questions as to why certain foods make us smell more than others or how drug development can help cure some of the diseases around today. Chemists improve many products, from the food we eat, the clothing we wear to which materials we build our homes with. Chemistry helps to protect our environment and searches for new sources of energy, all of which are vital to our daily life.



## PHYSICS

### What will I study?

Briefly defined, physics is the science that tries to understand the laws of nature and the relationship between energy and matter. However, it might be more appropriate to define physics as a way of thinking rather than as a profession due to its diversity. Physics students explore concepts and methods of science that can be applied in many different professional areas, including electricity and engineering, and research topics, including space and developing much of today's technology.

### What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving strong Physics grades could take their learning further by continuing Physics at A level. From here they could then complete a degree in a variety of different areas from astrophysics, engineering, nuclear physics and astronomy. A physicist might spend their day designing materials for computer chips or smashing atomic particles. Physicists have orbited the Earth and explored the oceans. They have built instruments that diagnose disease; they have developed better and more efficient fuels for cars and homes; they have calculated the movement of Arctic glaciers. Physics is a dynamic and relevant field of study which can open many exciting prospects in the future.

**VETERINARIAN**

**CHEMISTS**

**ZOOLOGY**

**NURSING**

**ENGINEERING**

**FORENSICS**

**FOOD SCIENCE**

For further information, please contact Head of Science Miss Munro

# ComputerScience

**optional subject** (Also counts as an EBacc subject)

## Why study Computer Science?

Studying Computer Science develops your ability to solve complex, interesting and challenging problems. It encourages you to think laterally, deeply and focus on developing solutions to real life problems. It allows you to investigate how computers work and how they are used. Computer Science underpins a great deal of what we do and understanding this will enable you to study a wide variety of subjects, including Computer Science, in the future.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

You will learn to work independently and as part of a team. You will develop critical thinking skills and how to analyse problems. This will enable you to solve problems using real life examples. You will develop computer programming skills and learn to apply these to the problems you have been given. You will develop written and oral communication skills that are essential to communicating with a wide range of audiences and for different purposes.

There is a balance between theory and practical work. Through the Computer Systems unit you will learn about systems architecture, memory and storage, computer networks, connections and protocols, network security, system software and ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology.

Through the Computational thinking, algorithms and programming unit you will learn about algorithms, programming fundamentals, producing robust programs, boolean logic, programming languages and integrated development environments. You will be given opportunities to develop your programming skills by completing practical tasks, where you will develop a solution that solves a problem or meets a specification.

## How will I be assessed?

Computer Science is 100% externally assessed.

Paper 1 Computer systems. Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (80 marks)- 50% of GCSE.

Paper 2 Computational thinking, algorithms and programming. Written paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (80 marks)- 50% of GCSE.

## What are the post-16 opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE could choose to study A level Computer Science or ICT, BTEC courses and a wide variety of specialist courses including game design or app creation. This could lead to a career within computer science, computer aided design, programming, engineering, electrical engineering, IT or applied science.

This could be as a software developer, systems analyst, computer games tester, web designer, electrician, IT security co-ordinator, social media manager, medical illustrator, computer games developer, project manager or technician.



**St Benedict's year 11 student,  
Alex Said...**

“ I am enjoying coding and finding out about how computers are built. It's interesting to discuss the ways technology affects businesses and people. ”

**For further information, please contact Head of Computing Mrs Martin.**

# Psychology

optional subject

## Why study Psychology?

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and human behaviour. It is a popular and growing subject. The course aims to develop students understanding about how psychological research is conducted, including the role of scientific method and data analysis. Students will develop an understanding of psychological issues, the contribution of psychology to individual, social and cultural diversity, and how psychology contributes to society.

Topics covered: memory, perception, development, research methods, social influence, language and thought, the brain and neuropsychology and psychological problems.

It is strongly advised to get a firm understanding of what topics are covered on the course before opting for it. Psychology is a new subject at KS4 and sometimes students have misinformed preconceptions about what Psychology involves. Please visit <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/psychology/gcse/psychology-8182/specification-at-a-glance> for more information.

Psychology is a fascination and enjoyable subject but in order to be successful in the subject, it is imperative that students display a good work ethic throughout the course. There is a lot of new information for students to retain.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

Psychology is a popular subject which is attractive to students because it develops a range of valuable skills, including critical analysis, independent thinking and research.

These skills are particularly relevant to young people and are transferable to further study and the workplace.

## How will I be assessed?

Psychology is assessed through 100% external examination (AQA).

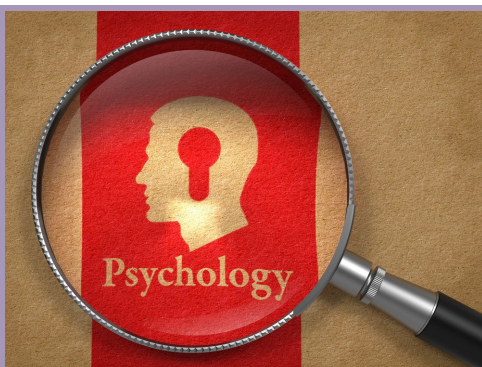
Paper 1: Cognition and behaviour. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (100 marks) - 50% of GCSE. Questions: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.

Paper 2: Social context and behaviour. Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (100 marks) - 50% of GCSE. Questions: multiple choice, short answer and extended writing.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

The GCSE sets a good foundation for a continuation of study for A-level Psychology or Sociology.

It is also useful for careers such as; Clinical/Counselling/Educational/Child Psychologist, Therapist, Mental Health Worker, Human Resources Officer and Social Worker.



**Albert Ellis - 1913-2007**

“

Rational beliefs bring us closer to getting good results in the real world.

”

For further information, please contact Miss Kruszyk.

# Business

optional subject

## Why study Business?

Studying Business encourages you to think carefully about and learn more about how businesses operate. This will be useful if you are interested in starting your own business but also enables you to understand more clearly how everyone has an impact on businesses and allows you a greater understanding of how the world's economies work.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

As well as subject content that is directly related to Business Studies you will develop transferable skills including developing the ability to make good decisions based on appropriate data. Your oral and written communication will be developed as well as refining your numeracy skills. As we will study how organisations adapt and change based on their markets you will also be encouraged to be more adaptable and solve problems.

As part of this qualification you will study businesses in the real world, influences on business, business operations, human resources, marketing and finance.

## How will I be assessed?

Business is 100% externally assessed (AQA).

Paper 1 Influences of operations, and HRM on business activity.  
Written paper: 1 hour 45 minutes (90 marks)- 50% of GCSE.

Paper 2 Influences of marketing and finance on business activity.  
Written paper: 1 hour 45 minutes (90 marks)- 50% of GCSE.



**“Having a vision is about using your imagination, it is about stretching your brain to think differently. It’s about training yourself to focus on where it is you want to go, what it is you want to achieve.” – Sir Alan Sugar**

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

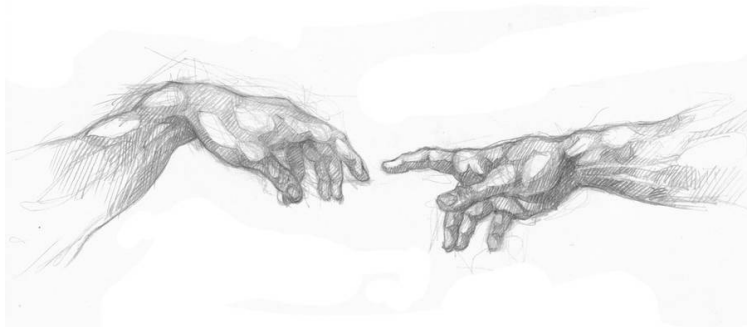
Students achieving a good grade at GCSE could study A level Business, or a related vocational qualification such as BTEC Business. There are also apprenticeships available. This could lead to a career within accounting, business, enterprise and entrepreneurship, business administration, IT, hospitality or travel and tourism. This could be as a human resources manager, retail buyer, accountant, auditor, digital marketing officer, estate agent, administrator, public relations officer, business person, franchise owner, bank manager, marketing executive, project manager or tax inspector.

**St Benedict’s Year 10 Student,  
Alex Said...**

“ I have enjoyed studying Business, particularly the case studies. I have learnt a lot about how businesses work in the outside world. ”

**For further information, please contact Head of Business Mrs Martin.**





# ART & DESIGN

optional subject

## Why study Art & Design?

If you're creative, imaginative and keen to express your ideas using a variety of materials, then a GCSE in Art and Design is an excellent choice. Art & Design is a great way to open the door to careers in the creative industries. This is a vibrant and dynamic subject with plenty of opportunity for you to undertake assignments in areas that interest you. This subject will provide you with a set of transferable skills that will prove invaluable for the rest of your life!



## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

Alongside the practice expertise that you will develop, you'll also learn key skills valued in both higher education and employment. Art enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem-solving skills, lateral thinking and complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, present and display material in a way that is aesthetically pleasing will always have an advantage.



## What do I need to provide?

You will need some art equipment to use at home when you continue with independent study plus an A2 folder for keeping it safe. It is important to be able to complete some independent research and print in colour your resources. To enhance your learning the art department will also organise an educational visit to an art gallery.

## How will I be assessed?

Art & Design is made up of coursework and an externally set assignment.

- Coursework (60%): Personal portfolio of Art & Design projects that you will complete in Years 10 & 11.
- Externally set assignment (40%): You will be given a range of starting points from which you will make a personal response using materials and processes of your choice.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue on to a foundation course in Art and/or a degree in various areas of Art and Design, for example; Architecture, Animation, Illustration, Product Design, Fashion, Textiles, Ceramics, Jewellery, Visual Media, Graphic Design, Sculptor, Painter, Game Design. New technologies are creating a whole new range of courses where Art is being used in innovative ways.

### St Benedict's student Zuzanna said...

“

I have always enjoyed art and taking it at GCSE gave me the opportunities to enhance my skills whilst producing a range of personal outcomes. My artistic confidence really developed which resulted in continuing with art into the sixth form. Everything I learnt has been invaluable including being able to work with initiative and greater independence as my art practice evolves. I would recommend GCSE Art for anyone who wants to be creative and express themselves.

”

For further information, please contact Head of Art Mrs Sylvester.

# Music

optional subject



## Why study Music?

If you're creative, imaginative and keen to express your ideas using a variety of musical ideas, then a GCSE in Music is an excellent choice. Music is a great way to open the door to careers in the creative industries. This is a vibrant and dynamic subject with plenty of opportunity for you to undertake assignments in areas that interest you. This subject will provide you with a set of transferable practical skills and listening skills that will prove invaluable for the rest of your life!

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

Alongside the practice expertise that you will develop as both a composer and performer, you'll also learn key skills valued in both higher education and employment.

Music enhances fine motor skills, hand-eye coordination, problem-solving skills, lateral thinking and complex analysis and critical thinking skills. No matter what career you choose, those who can arrange, compose, perform, present and show-case music in a way that is aesthetically pleasing will always have an advantage.

## How will I be assessed?

Music is made up of Performing and Composing coursework, and an externally set listening exam.

- Coursework (60%):

A portfolio of two compositions and group/solo performances that you work on during Years 10 & 11.

- Externally set Listening Exam (40%):

You will be given a range of starting points from which you will provide a personal response using listening excerpts set by the exam board Eduqas.

Two of the eight questions will connect with the two set works: Minuet & Trio from "Eine Kleine Nacht Musik" by Mozart and "Since you've been gone" by Rainbow.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies at A-level which can then lead to the study of Music or Music Technology at degree level in many different universities and music colleges, academies and conservatoires both in the UK and across the world. Music is a highly regarded qualification at every level, GCSE, A and degree level, because it combines multiple skill sets at once.

When performing in a group, band, orchestra or choir you are multi-tasking, continually adjusting what you play or sing to ensure that you fit in with everyone else. When composing you are being extremely creative, using your imagination and collaboration skills. You will be able to demonstrate tremendous manual dexterity, so a qualification in Music can help in many other career paths that require manual dexterity (ie: Doctor; Surgeon; Dentist etc.). Finally, new technologies are creating a whole new range of possibilities where Music is being used in innovative ways.



For further information, please contact Head of Music Mr Gee.

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

optional subject

## Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

Have you ever done everything correct in a recipe but still find the end result hasn't worked? The answers lie in this course. Explore the wonder of food science, looking into the properties which make food react and behave as it does. Broaden and develop your practical skills to excite the taste buds to instil in the consumer a sense of balance, health and nutrition.



## What skills will I develop?

- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the macro & micro nutrients and nutritional needs & health.
- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the cooking of food & heat transfer methods and the functional & chemical properties of food.
- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of food spoilage & contamination and key principles of food safety in the buying, preparing, cooking & storing of food.
- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors that affect food choice such as; health conditions, culture, food marketing and social & economical influences.
- To demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the environmental impact & sustainable food and food processing & production principles.

Within practical sessions technical skills are assessed on their complexity as well as the twelve technical skills below: 1. General practical skills, 2. Knife skills, 3. Preparing fruit & vegetables, 4. Use of the cooker, 5. Use of equipment, 6. Cooking methods, 7. Prepare, combine & shape, 8. Sauce making, 9. Tenderise & marinate, 10. Dough, 11. Raising agents and 12. Setting agents.

## How will I be assessed?

- Exam (50%) 1 hour 45 minutes in length - multiple choice questions and five questions, each with a number of sub-questions.
- Non-exam assessment Food Investigation (15%) - testing the working characteristics, functional & chemical properties of ingredients.
- Non-exam assessment Food Preparation Task (35%) - you will complete a range of technical skill based practicals. You will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single 3 hour practical period.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies following the WJEC Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition; alternatively you could take the more vocational route in Catering and Hospitality at a specialist college. Careers such as; food technologist, food scientist, new product development, food styling, food packaging, food marketing, environmental health, dietitian, teaching and chef.



**St Benedict's student  
Ruben, Year 11 said...**

“

Food is not only an option at school but it also helps you in future life. It's fun and active. You're always learning.

”

For further information, please contact Head of FT Miss Smallbone

# Design

# Technology

optional subject

## Why study Design Technology?

This will prepare you to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. You will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors. You will receive the opportunity to work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise. You will study core technical and design making principles, including a broad range of design processes, materials techniques and equipment. You will also have the opportunity to study specialist technical principles in greater depth.



## What skills will I develop?

- An awareness of the wider influences on Design Technology including historical, social, cultural, environment and economic factors.
- New and emerging technologies
- Energy generation and storage
- Development of new materials
- Systems approach to designing
- Theory of mechanical devices

- Materials and their working properties such as paper and paperboard, timber based materials, metal based materials, polymers, electronic and mechanical systems.
- The opportunity to work creatively when designing and making your own products and apply technical and practical expertise.
- A deeper understanding of CAD CAM through the use of machinery and computer based programmes.

## How will I be assessed?

- Exam (50%) 2 hours in length – Section A: core technical principles, Section B: specialist technical principles and Section C: designing & making principles.
- Non-exam assessment (50%) – an extended design and make activity which is focused on a brief suitable for a specific customer.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies into A-Level Design Technology or complete vocational qualifications which can lead to many further levels of academic study at degree level. This could lead onto careers such as: Engineer, Architect, Manual work, Carpenter, Computer-aided technician, Royal Navy, Plumber, Electrician, Set designer, Innovative designer, Transport design, Teaching and many more.



**St Benedict's student  
Joe, year 11 said...**

“

In GCSE, I have enjoyed working with different materials and loved the more independent and problem solving aspects.

”

For further information, please contact; Miss Smallbone.

# Textile Design

optional subject

## Why study Textile Design?

Textile design is defined as the creation of designs and products for woven, knitted, stitched or printed fabrics and involves an understanding of fibres, yarns and fabrics.

If you wish to explore the wonders of fabric design drawing on your creativity and imagination then this course is for you.

This subject provides you with the opportunity to communicate to the examiner through sketchbook and project work, concluding in a practical exam.

## What skills will I develop?

- An ability to explore, acquire and develop skills, knowledge and understanding through the application of techniques and processes.
- To experiment in relevant critical and contextual sources such as the work of historical and contemporary textile designers and the different purposes, intentions and functions of textile design.
- A wide range of practical skills including; weaving, surface printing (block, scree or digital), pattern making, pattern cutting, embroidery (hand or machine), knitting, batik, appliqué and collage.
- To work in one or more area(s) of Textile Design such as those stated in combination or independent; constructive textiles, digital textiles, dyed fabric, printed fabric, fashion design, installed textiles, soft furnishings and stitch and/or embellishes textile techniques.



## How will I be assessed?

- Portfolio (60%) - A portfolio of sketchbooks and practical work showing your personal response to either a centre or learner set brief, scenario or stimulus.
- External set task (40%) - 10 hour practical exam. The early release paper will provide five themes (of which one is chosen), each with a range of written and visual starting points and stimuli.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies onto A-Level Design Technology (Fashion and Textile) or complete vocational qualifications which can lead to many further levels of academic study at degree level. This can lead to careers such as: Clothing/Textile technologist, Colour technologist, Interior and Spatial designer, Fashion designer, Textile designer, Graphic designer, Pattern maker, Product designer, Teacher, Retail buyer and Stylist.



**St Benedict's student,  
Sophie, year 10 said...**

“ I enjoy Textiles because it lets me express myself and show off my individual style, that represents me as a person. ”

**For further information, please contact; Miss Dale or Miss Smallbone.**

# Film Studies

optional subject



## Why study Film?

Film is an important part of many people's lives. It is a powerful medium which inspires a range of responses from the emotional to the reflective as we are drawn into characters and their narratives. With its striking cinematography, composition and locations as well as powerful music and sound, it is not surprising that many consider film to be the major art form of the last hundred years. If you're intrigued by this medium which has such a significant influence on the way people think and feel, Film Studies may be the right choice for you.

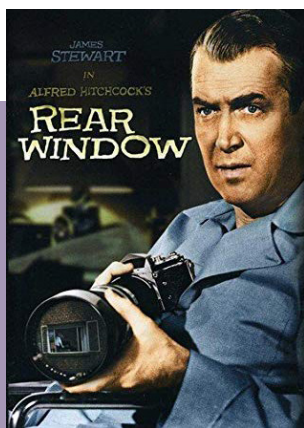
## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

You will study a diverse range of important films from across the globe, learning about how various contexts and technology shapes production. You'll build analytical and critical thinking skills as you learn to deconstruct and read the language of film and there will also be opportunity to develop practical filmmaking skills as part of the course.

## How will I be assessed?

Film is assessed through a mixture of examined units (70%) and practical coursework (30%).

- Examined units – You will sit two papers: one focussing on the development of US film and one exploring UK and global cinema.
- Coursework – You will create and evaluate an original film production (an extract from a film or a screenplay).



## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

Students achieving a good grade at GCSE can continue their studies at A Level, which can lead to a job, an apprenticeship or degree in film and/or production. The list of careers that could be pursued is huge and diverse; in 2016, the British Film Institute reported that around 80,000 people were working in the UK film industry. You could even combine different skills and subjects and become a historical consultant, or film accountant. The course also develops several transferable skills, from literacy and communication, to IT skills, to analysis and production.

“ **St Benedicts Year 10 Student, Cameron said...**

Pick up a camera. Shoot something. No matter how small, no matter how cheesy, no matter whether your friends and your sister star in it. Put your name on it as director. Now you're a director. Everything after that you're just negotiating your budget and your fee.

For further information, please contact careers advisor Mrs Holmes

# Physical Education

optional subject

## Why study GCSE Physical Education?

If you want to teach, coach, go into the fitness industry or be a physiotherapist, then this is the choice for you. You may also want to opt for this if you are not sure what you want to do but you enjoy PE and Biology.

## What skills will I develop and what will I study?

The GCSE Physical Education course offers students the opportunity to develop further their knowledge, understanding and performance of a wide range of practical sports. Students will be expected to –

- \* Develop and apply their knowledge, skills and understanding of physical education through selected practical activities.
- \* Develop their knowledge and understanding of the different factors that affect participation and performance and demonstrate their relationship.
- \* Develop an understanding of the body systems and how they influence sports performance.
- \* Analyse performance to take action to aid improvement both in own and others' performance.
- \* Show ability to understand and implement the rules of the sport.

\* Promote their understanding of the health benefits and risks associated with taking part in physical activity.

As part of their practical course work students are required to show knowledge and understanding of their ability to plan, perform and evaluate a health-related exercise/training programme designed to improve performance.

They will also be able to show development of their leadership skills in this or in other aspects of their practical work.

## How will I be assessed?

60% written exam split into two papers of 1hr15 (health and performance 24%) and 1hr45 (fitness and body systems 36%). 10% analysis of performance and personal exercise programme, 30% practical.

## What are the Post 16 Opportunities?

There will be opportunities to progress onto higher education courses such as a Level 3 BTEC Sport or A Level in Physical Education, an apprenticeship or a job in the sports sector. There are a range of careers that a Sport qualification can lead to.

### Careers Opportunities

Sports Coaching  
Sports Officiating  
Physiotherapy

Teaching  
Public Services  
Teaching Assistant



For further information, please contact Head of PE Mr Alford

## Please note key dates

- 11 Feb - Careers Information Session on drop down day for all year 9 students
- 13 Feb - 4:00pm - 6:30pm - Year 9 Parents' Evening & Options Information
- 04 Mar - Options Preferences deadline for submission
- 15 Oct - Final deadline for application to change course

# Frequently Asked Questions

### Q. How many subjects do I choose?

A. All students will choose three option choices from the ones outlined on their online Options Pathways form.

### Q. Why have I been placed on a particular pathway?

A. Students were first grouped onto a particular pathway based on data regarding their prior and current attainment. Heads of Department and Subject teachers were then consulted about each child's ability to do well in their subject and this information was used to produce the final pathways decision.

### Q. What do I do if I think I'm on the wrong pathway?

A. As indicated above, it is envisaged that the vast majority of pupils will be on the correct pathway based on their academic performance and feedback from their teachers. However, if you think your child should be on a different pathway, you should email Mrs Eldridge, Assistant Headteacher, with your reasons. [Eldridge.c@st-benedicts.org](mailto:Eldridge.c@st-benedicts.org). There is considerable choice available on each of the pathways so we feel confident that students will have plenty of options to select preferences regardless of the pathway for subjects that they enjoy and that will help them to make the next steps for their future study and career aspirations.

### Q. Will I get all of my first options?

A. Most students are able to study most of their chosen subjects. If this is not possible, it may be because the group is too large to include everyone or the options group is too small and has to be withdrawn. In this event, you would then be helped to choose an alternative subject (often the reserve preference).

### Q. Some subjects are new. How do I know whether to choose them?

A. As well as information available in this Options Pathways booklet, more information will be available during the drop down day and there will be opportunities provided where you can discuss the course with a teacher.

### Q. Can I change later?

A. You should not need to change if you choose carefully in the first place. If after trying your best and consulting with your subject teacher, you find that you are struggling with one of your options, you may apply to make a change of course. If you change courses, you must be aware that you will have missed out on a significant amount of work and it is your responsibility to catch up in your own time. In any event, the ultimate decision rests with the school and applications to change courses will not be considered if they arrive after the Thursday 15 October deadline.

### Q. Which examination will I take?

A. In the majority of cases, pupils will be entered for the GCSE (General Certificate of Secondary Education) or BTEC (Business and Technology Education Council) qualifications which are equivalent to a full GCSE. In some subjects, entry may be possible at different levels. The level at which you are entered will depend on what you have already achieved in that subject and what your teacher feels you are likely to achieve by the end of year 11.

### Q. What happens when I have filled in the Key Stage 4 online Options Preference Form?

A. All online Options Preference Forms must be completed by no later than Wednesday 04 March. After this date, it will be checked to make sure that your preferences match your abilities and interests and fulfil the requirements of a broad and balanced curriculum. You will receive notification of which options you will be studying in the summer term.

### English Baccalaureate - What is the English Baccalaureate?

The English Baccalaureate, or EBacc as it is commonly known, is a suite of subjects that the government are keen for young people to study as it can open doors to further study options and is highly regarded by universities. All students will study English Language and English Literature,

Maths, and Science (either Double or Triple Award). In addition to these subjects, and in order to achieve the EBacc qualification, students must also study a language (at St Benedict's we offer Spanish) and a humanities subject either History or Geography. If you wish to achieve the EBacc you must opt for these subjects on your online Options Preference Form.







# **St Benedict's**

Catholic High School

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