Bishop Vaughan Catholic School

Key Stage 4 Pathways

2022 - 2024

KEY STAGE 4 PATHWAYS

Bishop Vaughan School's Key Stage 4 curriculum takes into account the 14-19 Pathways Agenda, a Welsh Government initiative which aims:

- to encourage pupils to take more responsibility for their learning
- to provide a programme of study – a pathway – designed to meet the needs of individuals and of groups of pupils
- to develop skills and aptitudes required for the 21st century economy
- to lay the basis for life-long learning

Bishop Vaughan provides the following pathways at Key Stage 4:

- Core subjects plus Triple Science at GCSE, plus a choice of two GCSE/BTEC options courses.
- Core subjects plus Double Science at GCSE, plus a choice of three GCSE/BTEC options courses.

If there are queries, please contact **Mrs Reed, Head of Year 9.**

Please note that pupils will be given guidance about which pathway is most suitable for them, based on their progress during Year 9.

The Pathway Choices form will be made available **online** using a Microsoft Form which will be circulated via your child's tutorial team later in March 2022.

CORE SUBJECTS

In Years 10 and 11, the following subjects are compulsory for all learners:

- English
- Mathematics
- Religious Studies
- Science
- Welsh (Second Language)
- Welsh Baccalaureate/ BTEC Sweet
- Physical Education

All pupils will study the following subjects for the number or periods per fortnight indicated:

English	7
Mathematics	7
Religious Studies	5
Physical Education	2
Science	9
Welsh	4
BTEC Sweet	1

Typically, pupils will gain a total of **12 GCSE** equivalent qualifications:

- Two GCSEs in the time allocated to English (English and English Literature)
- Two GCSEs in the time allocated to Mathematics (Mathematics and Numeracy)
- One GCSE in Religious Studies
- Two/ three GCSEs in Science, dependent on the options chosen
- One GCSE in Welsh Second Language (this is now compulsory across Wales)
- A Welsh Baccalaureate / BTEC Sweet qualification, equivalent to a GCSE
- Two/three further qualifications (GCSE, BTEC or a mixture of both) taken from the options columns.

The **actual** set of qualifications gained by each individual will be dependent on the learning pathway taken.

Pupils can follow:

Pathway 1

- **The core subjects** in the table on page 3 for the time allocation shown in each case
- **Triple Science** – three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics (14 lessons)
- **Two further subjects** from the options columns (5 lessons each)

Pathway 2

- **The core subjects** in the table on page 3 for the time allocation shown in each case
- **Double Science** – 2 GCSEs equivalent, with study of Biology, Chemistry and Physics within this (8 lessons)
- **Three further subjects** from the options columns (5 lessons each)

At this stage, pupils are asked to select Pathway 1 or Pathway 2 via the Microsoft Forms survey (which will be distributed at the end of March) by indicating **whether or not they wish to opt for Triple Science.** Guidance will be given regarding the appropriate pathway. Pupils may then select two or three further options subjects on the form depending on the Science choice made.

Key Stage 4 Courses

Art and Design GCSE 5
Computer Science GCSE 6
Design and Technology - Fashion and Textiles GCSE 7
Design and Technology - Product Design GCSE 9
Engineering BTEC - First Award Level 1/Level 2 11
English Language GCSE 12
English Literature GCSE 13
French GCSE 14
Geography GCSE 15
Health, Social Care and Childcare (Wales) GCSE 16
History GCSE 17
Hospitality and Catering - Level 1/2 Vocational Award 18
Information and Creative Technology BTEC 19
Mathematics GCSE 20
Mathematics - Numeracy GCSE 21
Performing Arts BTEC 22
Photography GCSE 23
Physical Education GCSE 24
Public Services BTEC - Extended Certificate in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community 25
Religious Studies GCSE 26
Science GCSEs 27
- Biology GCSE
- Chemistry GCSE
- Physics GCSE

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Sociology GCSE 32
Sport BTEC - Leadership in Sport 33
Sweet (Personal Growth and Wellbeing) BTEC 34
Welsh Second Language GCSE 35

Art and Design GCSE

The Art and Design course encompasses many interrelated art, craft and design activities from Fine Art, Applied Art and Design, Textile Design, Graphic Communication, Three-Dimensional Design and Photography.

Candidates will be engaging in critical, practical and theoretical study in art and design. They will build upon both traditional and contemporary methods of working whereby students are encouraged to develop a personal approach, thinking creatively, imaginatively with innovated ideas using a variety of media and processes. All coursework and examination work should consist of preparatory and research work which includes written and drawn research into other artists' work and annotations about their own work.

This course not only prepares pupils for the AS level course in Year 12 and a career in Art and Design, but it also aims to equip young people with the confidence and competence to express critical appreciation of the visual and cultural world.

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details:

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work	60%
Unit 2: Externally Set Task	40%

Contact: Mrs H Gwilliam in Room T10

Computer Science GCSE

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of computer science, including; abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs to do so
- think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science

Summary of Assessment

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science Written examination:
1 hour 45 minutes - 50% of the qualification

This unit investigates hardware, logical operations, communication, data representation and data types, operating systems, principles of programming, software engineering, program construction, security and data management and the impacts of digital technology on wider society.

Unit 2: Computational Thinking and Programming On-screen examination:
2 hours - 30% of the qualification

This unit investigates problem solving, algorithms and programming constructs, programming languages, data structures and data types and security and authentication.

Unit 3: Software Development Non-exam assessment:
20 hours - 20% of qualification

This unit requires learners to produce a programmed solution to a problem. They must analyse the problem, design a solution to the problem, develop a final programmed solution, test the solution and give suggestions for further development of the solution. Throughout the production of the solution learners are required to produce a refinement log that evidences the development of the solution.

Examination Board: WJEC

Contact: Mrs M Morgan in Room T13

Design and Technology - Fashion and Textiles GCSE

The specification content and assessment requirements are designed to ensure learners develop an appropriate breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding and skills in design and technology. The subject content is presented under two headings: *knowledge and understanding* and *skills*. The knowledge and understanding section and the skills section are divided into core content and in-depth content. The core content is to be studied by all learners, irrespective of their choice of endorsed area (in this case fashion and textiles). The in-depth content is to be studied with reference to one endorsed area. Each learner will therefore study four areas of content:

Module 1. Core knowledge and understanding; six distinct topic areas:

- impact of new and emerging technologies
- evaluation of new and emerging technologies
- Energy
- modern and smart materials
- ecological and social footprint
- investigating and analysing the work of others. This unit enables learners to make effective choices in relation to which materials, components and systems to utilise within design and make activities

Module 2. In-depth knowledge and understanding of Fashion and Textiles. This unit will cover:

- Materials, functions, properties, processes and specialist techniques such as knitting, weaving, embellishment, embroidery, surface pattern, seams, tailoring, pattern drafting and cutting.

Module 3. Core skills: The core skills that learners are required to develop and apply are presented in nine topic areas:

- understanding design and technology practice takes place within contexts
- identifying and understanding user needs
- writing a design brief and specifications
- investigating challenges
- developing ideas and using design strategies
- communicating design ideas
- developing a prototype
- making decisions

Module 4. In-depth skills for Fashion and Textiles:

- selecting and working with materials and components
- marking out
- using specialist techniques and processes
- using surface treatments and finishes

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment:

The subject content for GCSE Design and Technology will be assessed in the written examination and non-exam assessment (NEA).

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

Written examination: 2 hours - 50% of qualification

A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of product design.

Unit 2: Design and make task

Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours - 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing candidates' ability to:

- Identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose

For this coursework, pupils will have to produce a professional A3 portfolio body of work, an A4 Sketchbook of design development and the final product with supporting prototypes.

This linear qualification will be available for assessment in May/June each year.

Contact: Mrs N Hayes in Room T2

Design and Technology - Product Design GCSE

The specification content and assessment requirements are designed to ensure learners develop an appropriate breadth and depth of knowledge and understanding and skills in design and technology. The subject content is presented under two headings: knowledge and understanding and skills. The knowledge and understanding section and the skills section are divided into core content and in-depth content. The core content is to be studied by all learners, irrespective of their choice of endorsed area (in this case product design). The in-depth content is to be studied with reference to one endorsed area. Each learner will therefore study four areas of content:

Module 1. Core knowledge and understanding; six distinct topic areas:

- impact of new and emerging technologies
- evaluation of new and emerging technologies
- energy
- modern and smart materials
- ecological and social footprint
- investigating and analysing the work of others. This unit enables learners to make effective choices in relation to which materials, components and systems to utilise within design and make activities

Module 2. In-depth knowledge and understanding of Product Design. This unit will cover:

- materials, functions, properties, processes and specialist techniques such as joining, material finishes (varnishing, waxing, laminating), drilling, chiselling, soldering.

Module 3. Core skills: The core skills that learners are required to develop and apply are presented in nine topic areas:

- understanding design and technology practice takes place within contexts
- identifying and understanding user needs
- writing a design brief and specifications
- investigating challenges
- developing ideas and using design strategies
- communicating design ideas
- developing a prototype
- making decisions

Module 4. In-depth skills for Product Design:

- selecting and working with materials and components
- marking out
- using specialist techniques and processes
- using surface treatments and finishes

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment:

The subject content for GCSE Design and Technology will be assessed in the written examination and non-exam assessment (NEA).

Unit 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century
Written examination: 2 hours - 50% of qualification

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Unit 2: Design and make task
Non-exam assessment: approximately 35 hours - 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make task, based on a contextual challenge set by WJEC, assessing candidates' ability to:

- Identify, investigate, analyse and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes and evaluate their fitness for purpose

For this coursework, pupils will have to produce a professional A3 portfolio body of work, an A4 Sketchbook of design development and the final independent product with supporting prototypes.

This linear qualification will be available for assessment in May/June each year.

Pupils will need to supply their own A4 sketch book and materials for their final made prototype and will need to ensure they have the correct sketching and writing equipment to produce a quality portfolio.

Contact: Mr L John in Room T8

Engineering BTEC — First Award Level 1/Level 2

The BTEC First award in Engineering level 1 / 2 is aimed at learners who wish to progress in the world of engineering and gain roles within the engineering industry, or who wish to develop an understanding of engineering. The qualification will provide you with an understanding of the knowledge and competency needed for a successful career in the sector. Candidates study 4 units, one of the units is an external exam, the accreditation is awarded at Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction* grade.

The Units are:

1. The Engineered World Exam unit (core)
2. Investigating an Engineering Product (core)
3. Health and Safety in Engineering
4. Computer-Aided Engineering

Key features of this specification:

- Candidates are actively involved in the design, production and evaluation of products and the methods by which these products are engineered.
- It encourages candidates to explore the engineering world through experimentation and development in design and technology.
- Candidates can work in one or more material areas.
- Candidates are encouraged to use new technology and new / smart materials.

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Assessment Details: Examination is weighted at 25 per cent of the qualification that is externally assessed. Pearson sets and marks these assessments.

For the BTEC Certificate, the candidates must complete between **all** assignment tasks for each unit.

Contact: Mr A Smith in Room T9

English Language GCSE

The course covers reading, writing and Oracy. Pupils are encouraged to read widely and respond to a range of literary and non-literary texts, assessed through a range of structured questions. In addition, students have the opportunity to demonstrate creativity and flair through writing tasks as well as producing a range of non-fiction texts. Learners will also be required to complete a proofreading and editing task focusing on writing accurately.

The course requires the completion of two Oracy Non-Examination Assessments. Pupils will undertake an individual researched presentation as well as a group discussion based on a written and/or visual stimuli.

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details:

This course is split into 20% Non-Examination Assessment (Unit 1) and 80% external examination.

There are two examination papers:

- Unit 2 Reading and Writing: Description, Narration and Exposition
- Unit 3 Reading and Writing: Argumentation, Persuasion and Instructional

Contact: Miss M Foulkes in Room 25

English Literature GCSE

The course aims to foster the understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of literature.

Pupils will study three prescribed texts, a play and two novels in preparation for the examination. In addition, pupils will be required to compare and contrast two unseen poems.

Pupils are encouraged to develop their own personal responses to what they have read and to analyse the way in which writers achieve their effects.

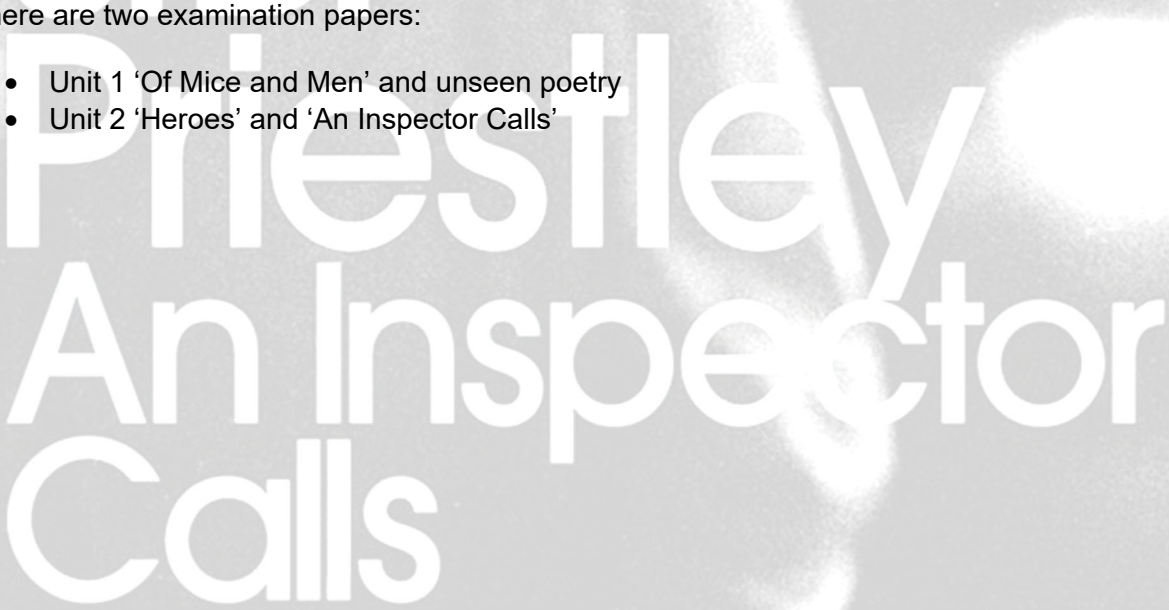
The course requires the completion of one Non-Examination assessment with two tasks one based on a play by Shakespeare and the other on a collection of poems.

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details: 25% Non-Examination Assessment and 75% external examination.

There are two examination papers:

- Unit 1 'Of Mice and Men' and unseen poetry
- Unit 2 'Heroes' and 'An Inspector Calls'



Contact: Miss M Foulkes in Room 25

French GCSE

A language GCSE is invaluable in marketing, business administration, printing, media and law to name but a few fields. Studying a language is a very rewarding experience and very advantageous in the world of work, where there is a great deal of competition and fewer job opportunities. Studies have shown that having a qualification in a foreign language can improve your employability and a higher salary. If you are looking for something to set you apart from the rest, then a language GCSE or two is the choice for you.

Pupils learn through games, videos, role-plays, drama, IT, communication activities in French, foreign language assistant lessons, and a trip to France where applicable. Topics include free time and leisure, holidays, careers, school, my family, the wider world and more.

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details: 25% Listening, 25% Reading, 25% Speaking, 25% Writing. Examinations in each of these components at the end of Year 11.

There is no controlled assessment.

No dictionaries are allowed.

You will take either Higher or Foundation tier papers, depending on your progress.

Pupils working at Level 6 at the end of Year 9 are already working at grade “C” equivalent.

Contact: Mrs L Richards in Room 13

Geography GCSE

Course Content:
Unit 1 (40% of Qualification) - Changing Physical and Human Landscapes: You will learn about the ever changing Physical and Human environments and cover topics such as Rivers, Coasts, Tectonics and Migration.

Unit 2 – (40% of Qualification) - **Environmental and Development Issues**: You will cover topics such as Weather, Climate, Ecosystems, Development Issues and Environmental Challenges.

Unit 3 - (20% of Qualification) - Fieldwork Enquiry: Pupils will participate in **two** fieldwork enquiries looking at Geographical issues in the local environment. Pupils will be required to provide analysis and judgements on their investigations under examination conditions.

You will:

- develop a knowledge and understanding of current events from the local area to the global.
- investigate the earth and its people.
- study the features of the earth - such as volcanoes, rivers and seas - and how they were formed.
- develop a range of useful skills such as map reading, data collection, ICT and problem solving.
- gain an understanding and appreciation of the cultures and backgrounds of people from all over the world.
- have an opportunity to carry out fieldwork to study Geography in action.

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details: One Tier paper: Grades **A*- G**
Three papers: Unit 1 (**40%**), Unit 2 (**40%**) & Unit 3 (**20%**)
All examinations are sat at the end of the course.

Contact: Mrs L Davies in Room B3

Health, Social Care and Childcare (Wales) GCSE

This GCSE equips learners with the knowledge and skills of the development and care of individuals throughout the lifecycle from conception to old age. Learners will gain an understanding of how service provision in Wales supports the development and wellbeing of individuals. Learners will be able to:

- Develop and apply knowledge, understanding and skills to contemporary issues in a range of health and social care, and childcare contexts
- Actively engage in the study of health and social care, and childcare to develop as effective and independent learners, and as critical and reflective thinkers with enquiring minds
- Appreciate a range of perspectives on the impacts of health and social care, and childcare services on wider society
- Consider how health and social care, and childcare practice should be ethical and support a sustainable health and care system
- Develop an awareness of career pathways available within health and social care, and childcare

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details:

Unit 1: **Human growth, development and well-being.** Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. An assessment (either taken on-screen or as a written paper), comprising of a range of question types to assess specification content related to human growth, development and well-being.

Unit 2: Promoting and maintaining health and well-being Non-exam assessment: approximately 25 hours.

Task 1: **Service Provision (approximately 10 hours)**
A service provision investigation which will assess the learner's knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to health and social care, and childcare service provision locally and nationally.

Task 2: Health Promotion (approximately 15 hours) An assessment of the learner's knowledge, understanding and skills in relation to promoting and maintaining health and well-being.

Contact: Mrs J Cook in Room T4

History GCSE

GCSE History is a very popular course at Bishop Vaughan. Large numbers go on to study History with us at A Level. The GCSE course provides an opportunity to understand major events in British and European history, including the development of Nazi Germany and the impact of WW2 on Britain. Pupils will develop their analytical skills through using sources and writing essays. GCSE students also have the opportunity to participate in trips to France and Belgium to support their learning and understanding.

In History we study:

- Year 10 Changes in Health and Medicine c.1340 – Present Day
- Year 11 Germany in Transition 1919-1939
- Year 11 Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-51
- NEA Unit WWI—Women on the Home Front and the Battle of the Somme

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details: The course is divided into three examinations and one controlled assessment. Currently, one examination takes place in Year 10 and two in Year 11.

Contact: Miss K Siddika in Room B4

Hospitality and Catering — Level 1/2 Vocational Award

The Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is designed for you to gain further understanding and skills linked to employment in hospitality and catering, which can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. All of these roles require further education and training and this qualification provides the grounding and understanding for this.

This structure has been designed to your knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to consider to be successful.

There is the opportunity for you to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. You will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

The qualification is made up of two mandatory units:

Unit 1 - The Hospitality and Catering Industry will be Externally Assessed over 90 minutes

Unit 1 is worth 40% of the final qualification

In this unit, you will learn about the different types of providers within the hospitality and catering industry, the legislation that needs to be adhered to and the personal safety of all of those involved in the business, whether staff or customers. You will learn about the operation of hospitality and catering establishments and the factors affecting their success. The knowledge and understanding you gain will enable you to respond to issues relating to all factors within the hospitality and catering section and provide you with the ability to propose a new provision that could be opened in a given location to benefit the owner and the local community.

Unit 2 Hospitality and Catering in Action will be an Internal Controlled Assessment

Unit 2 is worth 60% of the final qualification

In this unit you will gain knowledge of the nutritional needs of a range of client groups in order for you to plan nutritional dishes to go on a menu. You will learn and develop safe and hygienic food preparation, cooking and finishing skills required to produce nutritional dishes.

The qualification is graded L1 Pass, L2 Pass, L2 Merit, L2 Distinction, L2 Distinction*

Examination Board: WJEC

Contact: Mrs N Hayes in Room T2

Information and Creative Technology BTEC

The aims of all qualifications in the BTEC First suite in Information and Creative Technology are to inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the Information and Creative Technology sector giving them the opportunity to gain broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the Information and Creative Technology sector and give them opportunity to develop appropriate employability skills in the world of information and creative technology.

The qualification will equip you with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. Through the use of these skills, you will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose creative media products. The qualification is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction, Distinction*.

Unit 1: The Online World Externally Assessed Paper – 1 hour
This unit will help you understand the main technologies and processes behind the internet and investigate how they come together to let you view websites and send information across the world. The internet and web of tomorrow will be even more powerful, more connected, more intuitive and a more important part of our lives.

Unit 3: A Digital Portfolio Internally Assessed – 30 GLH
This unit is your chance to show off! A digital portfolio is an exciting onscreen way to showcase your achievements to potential employers or when applying for a course.
It is all about:

- the projects you have created and developed
- your use of communication and presentation skills
- your capabilities and potential .

Unit 6: Creating Digital Graphics Internally Assessed – 30 GLH
In this unit you will investigate a range of applications and features of existing graphic products and consider their audience and purpose. You will be able to apply some of what you discover to your own digital graphic products.

Unit 13: Website Development Internally Assessed – 30 GLH
In this unit, you will investigate the features and uses of websites by exploring what they are and how their integrated components and applications interact with each other. You will also learn how to design, develop and test a website for a brief. Once this is completed you will review your website, having obtained feedback from others.

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Contact: Mrs M Morgan in Room T13

Mathematics GCSE

Course Content:
All the content of GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy and Additional Algebra, Geometry and Probability. The assessment focus is the application of this content in context. Procedural skills in situations that are context-free or involve minimal context for all content.

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details:

Assessment for GCSE Mathematics is tiered, i.e. externally assessed papers are targeted at the grade ranges of A* - C (Higher Tier), B – E (Intermediate Tier) and D - G (Foundation Tier). Questions will be designed to enable candidates to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do.

Tier Grades Available

- Higher A*, A, B, C
- Intermediate B, C, D, E
- Foundation D, E, F, G

The scheme of assessment will consist of two written papers:

Unit 1 (Non-calculator) (50%)

Duration: Foundation Tier - 1½ hours; Intermediate Tier - 1¾ hours; Higher Tier 1¾ hours
Marks: Foundation Tier - 65 marks; Intermediate Tier – 80 marks; Higher Tier - 80 marks

Unit 2 (Calculator) (50%)

Duration: Foundation Tier - 1½ hours; Intermediate Tier - 1¾ hours; Higher Tier 1¾ hours
Marks: Foundation Tier - 65 marks; Intermediate Tier – 80 marks; Higher Tier - 80 marks

The written paper for each tier will comprise a number of short and longer, both structured and unstructured questions which may be set on any part of the subject content of the specification.

Candidates entered for GCSE Mathematics will be expected to be familiar with the knowledge, skills and understanding implicit in GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy.

Questions may be set on topics that are explicitly listed in the content of GCSE Mathematics – Numeracy. Some questions will use multiple-choice assessment.

Contact: Dr A Freemantle in Room A3

Mathematics - Numeracy GCSE

Course Content:
Number, Measure and Statistics plus some aspects of Algebra, Geometry and Probability. The assessment focus is the application of this content in context.

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details:

Assessment for GCSE Mathematics - Numeracy is tiered, i.e. externally assessed papers are targeted at the grade ranges of A* - C (Higher Tier), B – E (Intermediate Tier) and D - G (Foundation Tier). Questions will be designed to enable candidates to demonstrate what they know, understand and can do.

Tier Grades Available

- Higher A*, A, B, C
- Intermediate B, C, D, E
- Foundation D, E, F, G

The scheme of assessment will consist of two written papers:

Unit 1 (Non-calculator) (50%)

Duration: Foundation Tier - 1½ hours; Intermediate Tier - 1¾ hours; Higher Tier 1¾ hours
Marks: Foundation Tier - 65 marks; Intermediate Tier – 80 marks; Higher Tier - 80 marks

Unit 2 (Calculator) (50%)

Duration: Foundation Tier - 1½ hours; Intermediate Tier - 1¾ hours; Higher Tier 1¾ hours
Marks: Foundation Tier - 65 marks; Intermediate Tier – 80 marks; Higher Tier - 80 marks

The written paper for each tier will comprise a number of short and longer, both structured and unstructured questions which may be set on any part of the subject content of the specification. Some of these questions will involve different parts that assess different aspects of numeracy but in the same context. Part-questions may vary in level of demand. Some questions will use multiple-choice assessment.

Contact: Dr A Freemantle in Room A3

Performing Arts BTEC Level 2 Award

This course provides practical exploration of acting, singing or instrumental skills. All pupils are required to act in at least one unit. They will however, be able to develop others skills i.e singing/ instruments in the other units. Pupils do select drama and music for the practical performance elements of the course; therefore, this course provides provision for that. Pupils will also learn the theoretical elements of music/drama through practical exploration, unlike GCSE courses where teaching these elements can be very rigid.

This course should provide a sound and sufficiently broad educational base to enable each student to progress either to a Level 3 Performing Arts and/or A Level Theatre Studies/Drama/Music. It is a vocational course. The course is an alternative to GCSE Drama and Music. There should be a great demand at the start of the 21st century for suitably qualified personnel in this area. It is intended that the Performing Arts course will use each student's skills and enthusiasm in Performing Arts to develop an awareness and interest in the Performing Arts, which underpins much of the music, theatre and film industry.

All work is assessed through practical tasks and performances; as well as this students will be required to maintain a Logbook of their progress and development throughout the whole course. There are no examinations, however there are some controlled assessment aspects. This should give all pupils a chance to shine, be they academic or much more practical in their approach.

The course is taught in three units:

Unit	Name	Lessons	Taught	Assessment type	Overview
1	Individual showcase	30 hours	Year 11	External	You will complete a letter of application in exams condition and an 2 contrasting monologues/ Songs/Music pieces, etc. to a selected progression opportunity given by the exam board.
2	Preparation, performance and production	30 hours	Year 10	Internal	You will work as a whole group to research and prepare a devised or scripted piece in your chosen skill. You will then perform this in front of a live audience.
3	Acting skills Or Music Performance skills	60 hours	Year 10/11	Internal	You will explore and develop you own personal Skills in your chosen skills set. You will form part of an ensemble group and will take part in workshops on a weekly basis. You will have to keep a diary of each lesson and comment on the work you have done. You will perform in small groups.

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Contact: Mr A Eynon-Davies in the Music Block

Photography GCSE

Students undertaking this title must explore practical and relevant critical and contextual sources such as the work of historical and contemporary photographers and the different purposes, intentions and functions of photography as appropriate to their own work.

Photography and other light and lens-based media are frequently used to document, record and to provide a visual source of information for other areas of study. The course requires specialist computer hardware, printers and software or what is now more commonly known as the 'digital darkroom'.

Students must demonstrate the ability to work creatively with processes and techniques appropriate to the chosen area study such as: photograms; pinhole cameras; film (chemical) processes; digital processes; time-lapse photography; stop-frame animation; installation; film; video; animation; photomontage; digital manipulation of images.

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details:

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work	60%
Unit 2: Externally Set Task	40%

Contact: Mrs H Gwilliam in Room T10

Physical Education GCSE

Course content

- Health, training and exercise
- Exercise physiology
- Movement analysis
- Psychology of sport and physical activity
- Socio-cultural issues in sport and physical activity

Examination Board: WJEC

Assessment Details:

Unit 1: Written paper
2 hours - 50% of qualification

- Questions based on audio visual and other sources

Unit 2: Non exam assessment
50% of qualification

- Assessed in three different activities as a performer (one individual, one team plus one other) – 42%
- Personal fitness Programme – 8%

Contact: Miss K Mainwaring in the PE Department

Public Services BTEC - Level 2 Extended Certificate in Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community

This qualification has been developed to ensure learners develop the skills and behaviours that will give them the best opportunity to be successful when applying for work in public services.

The qualification contains both mandatory and optional units which relate directly to the skills, knowledge and behaviours expected by employers in the public services sector.

The areas covered include:

- Employment in the Uniformed Public Services
- Health and Fitness for Entry to the Uniformed Public Services
- Expedition and Land Navigation Skills
- Impact of Law on Public Services
- Crime and its Effects on Society
- Community and Cultural Awareness
- Attending Emergency Incidents in the Public Services
- Security Procedures in the Public Services
- Cyber Security & Crime.

In addition, learners will develop transferable and practical skills in communication, professional behaviours in the workplace, reflective practice and preparing for interviews to secure employment.

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Assessment Details: This course is a 1 GCSE equivalent qualification that contains no exams i.e. it is entirely assessed through coursework.

Contact: Mrs R Pinch in Room M1

Religious Studies GCSE

Course Content: GCSE in Religious Studies following WJEC specification 'Catholic Christianity', Unit 1 and Unit 3.

There will be two 2 hour examinations which qualify candidates for a full course in GCSE.

Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes

- **Part A**: All candidates must study the two specified core beliefs/teachings and the two specified practices of Catholic Christianity. Candidates studying Catholic Christianity must also study a further two specified beliefs/teachings and two specified practices from the Jewish perspective only.

- **Part B**: All candidates must study the two philosophical themes (below) from the perspective of Catholic Christianity.

    i. Life and Death
    ii. Good and Evil

Candidates studying Catholic Christianity must also study the two philosophical themes from the Jewish perspective only.

All candidates must also consider non-religious beliefs, such as those held by Humanists and Atheists.

Unit 3: Catholic Christianity and Ethical Themes

- **Part A**: Candidates must study the four specified core beliefs/teachings and the four specified practices of Catholic Christianity.

- **Part B**: Candidates must study the two ethical themes (below) from the perspective of Catholic Christianity only.

    i. Relationships
    ii. Human Rights

Examination Board: WJEC

Contact: Mrs H Hansen in Room G5

Science Courses GCSE

The GCSE science courses are split into a series of unit exams and practical exams whilst studying the three subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. It is designed to allow pupils to take different pathways in Science.

- GCSE Biology
- GCSE Chemistry
- GCSE Physics

} Triple Award - three separate GCSE qualifications

- GCSE Core Science
- GCSE Additional Science

} Double Award - two GCSE qualifications

- GCSE Applied Science
- Entry Level Science

} Single Award - one GCSE and one Entry Level qualification

All Year 9 pupils will have already embarked upon the WJEC Science courses (which overlap) and will be studying the three science subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. During Year 9 pupils will make the choice as to which set of qualifications they will continue studying in Year 10, either the **Double Award** or **Triple Award** pathway.

Pathways 1 – Triple Award - Three separate GCSE Qualifications

Pathways 1 will involve **14 lessons** each fortnight studying science which will be split, over the course of the two years, equally between the three science subjects.

In the summer of Year 10 pupils will then sit three unit exams **Biol unit 1**, **Chem unit 1** and **Phys unit 1**. The natural progression is then for pupils to sit the next set of unit exams in the summer of Year 11 i.e. **Biol unit 2**, **Chem unit 2** and **Phys unit 2**. The Practical exam will take place during Year 11 in January/February. The units in each individual subject will be combined together including any resits of unit 1 to give a GCSE qualification in each separate science.

Note: The three grades (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are **independent of each other**.

Biology Units	Chemistry Units	Physics Units
Biol Unit 1 (45%)	Chem Unit 1 (45%)	Phys Unit 1 (45%)
Biol Unit 2 (45%)	Chem Unit 2 (45%)	Phys Unit 2 (45%)
Biology Practical Exam (10%)	Chemistry Practical Exam (10%)	Physics Practical Exam (10%)
GCSE Biology	GCSE Chemistry	GCSE Physics

Pathways 2 – Double Award - Two Separate GCSE Qualifications

Pathways 2 will involve **9 lessons** each fortnight studying science which will be split between the three science subjects.

In the summer of Year 10 pupils will sit three end of unit exams B1, C1 and P1. The natural progression is then for pupils to sit the next set of unit exams in the summer of Year 11. The practical exam will take place in Year 11 January-February.

Unlike the triple qualification, unit marks are combined together differently to gain the science qualification.

The DA qualification is achieved by combining together **B1**, **B2, C1, C2, P1** and **P2** together with the practical exam at the end of the course. An overall double grade will be awarded e.g. A*A*, AA, BB, CC etc.

Note: The Double grade is dependent upon the performance in each of the **three subjects.**

Biology Unit	**Chemistry** Unit	**Physics** Unit	
B1 (15%)	**C1 (15%)**	**P1 (15%)**	**Practical Exam (10%)**
B2 (15%)	**C2 (15%)**	**P2 (15%)**	

Examination Board: WJEC

Contact: Dr K Page in Room 9

Biology GCSE

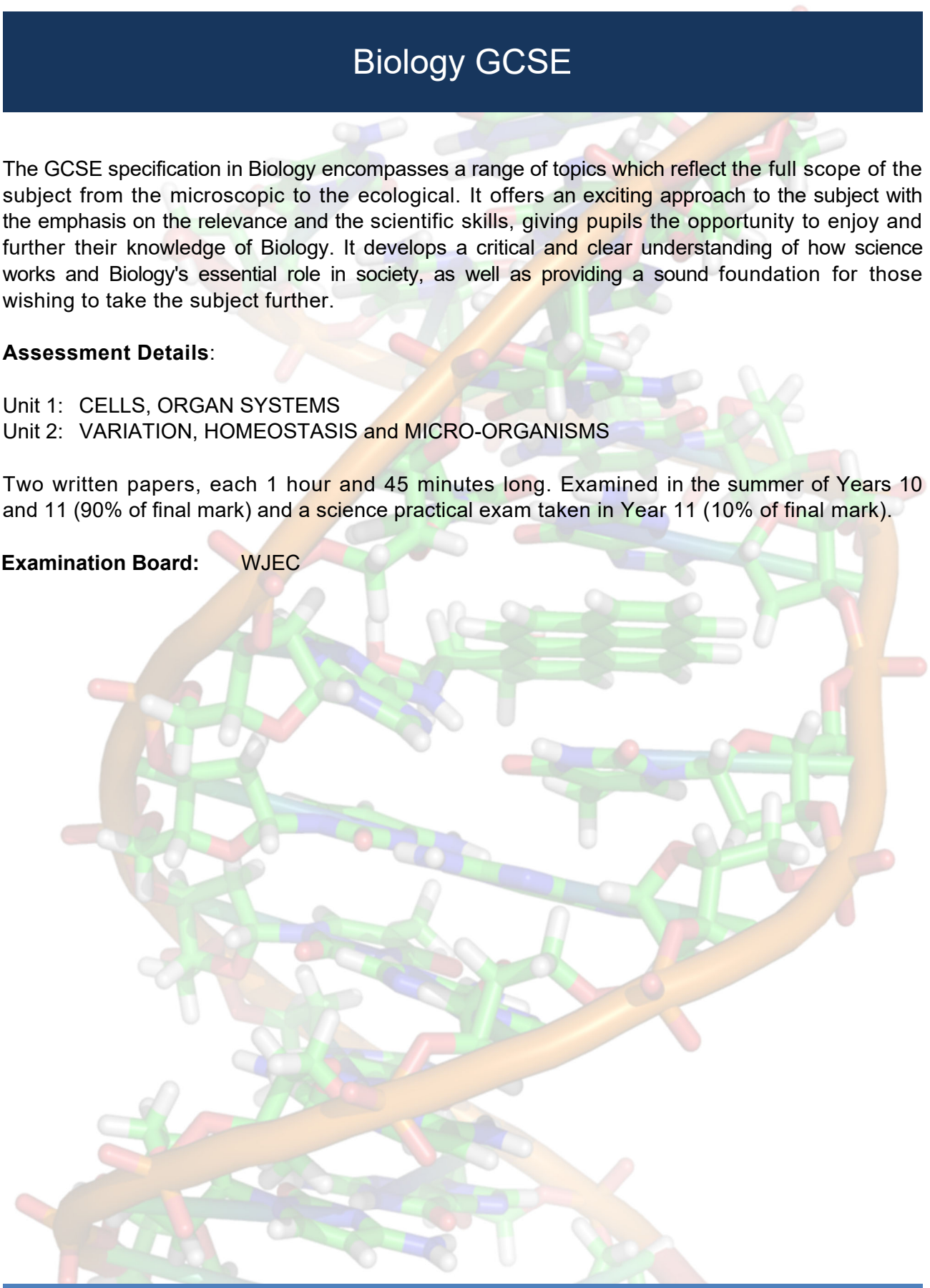
The GCSE specification in Biology encompasses a range of topics which reflect the full scope of the subject from the microscopic to the ecological. It offers an exciting approach to the subject with the emphasis on the relevance and the scientific skills, giving pupils the opportunity to enjoy and further their knowledge of Biology. It develops a critical and clear understanding of how science works and Biology's essential role in society, as well as providing a sound foundation for those wishing to take the subject further.

Assessment Details:

Unit 1: CELLS, ORGAN SYSTEMS
Unit 2: VARIATION, HOMEOSTASIS and MICRO-ORGANISMS

Two written papers, each 1 hour and 45 minutes long. Examined in the summer of Years 10 and 11 (90% of final mark) and a science practical exam taken in Year 11 (10% of final mark).

Examination Board: WJEC



Contact: Dr K Page in Room 9

Chemistry GCSE

This course is designed to stimulate the pupil's interest and awareness of the role of Chemistry in the modern world. Pupils will gain an understanding of *how science works* by relating theoretical concepts to industrial processes and everyday situations. During the course pupils will develop scientific skills such as problem solving, analysing, interpreting, applying and questioning scientific information or ideas. We hope that pupils will develop and maintain a fascination for Chemistry, which will continue beyond GCSE.

Assessment Details:

Unit 1: CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES, REACTIONS and ESSENTIAL RESOURCES
Unit 2: CHEMICAL BONDING, APPLICATION OF CHEMICAL REACTIONS and ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

Two written papers, each 1 hour and 45 minutes long. Examined in the summer of Years 10 and 11 (90% of final mark) and a science practical exam taken in Year 11 (10% of final mark).

Examination Board: WJEC

Contact: Dr K Page in Room 9

Physics GCSE

Physics is an important part of all our lives. Without Physics many everyday activities which we take for granted would not be possible. The aim of the course is to provide pupils with the opportunity to develop their interest and enthusiasm for Physics, as well as appreciate how Physics works and understand its essential role in society. All pupils will study modules covering energy, electro-magnetic radiation and the Universe, forces, radioactivity and electricity

Assessment Details:

Unit 1: ELECTRICITY, ENERGY and WAVES
Unit 2: FORCES, SPACE and RADIOACTIVITY

Two written papers, each 1 hour and 45 minutes long. Examined in the summer of Years 10 and 11 (90% of final mark) and a science practical exam taken in Year 11 (10% of final mark).

Examination Board: WJEC

Contact: Mr H Davies in Room 23

Sociology GCSE

The GCSE syllabus is an attempt to understand the different relationships between individuals, groups, social institutions, and society. This includes examining culture and how we learn our culture. Pupils will learn about inequalities within society based on class, gender, ethnicity, age, and disability. The specification will develop learners' ability to think sociologically in relation to their experience of the social world around them so that they are able to play an active, positive, and informed role in society.

Assessment Details:

The course is assessed via two examinations:

Component 1 Written Examination Paper – 50% of the final mark
Understanding Social Processes (1 hour 45 minutes)

This component covers the following topic areas:

- Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission
- Families
- Education
- Sociological research methods

Component 2 Written Examination Paper – 50% of the final mark
Understanding Social Structures (1 hour 45 minutes)

This component covers the following topic areas:

- Social differentiation and stratification
- Crime and deviance
- Applied research methods

Examination Board: WJEC Eduqas

Contact: Mrs R Pinch in Room M1 or
Miss D Davies in Room C4

Sport BTEC - Leadership in Sport

Course Content:

- Planning and leading sports activities
- Injury in sport
- Technical skills and tactical awareness for sport
- Psychology and nutrition for sports performance
- Lifestyle and the sports performer
- Planning and running a sports event

This course gives pupils the opportunity to develop their knowledge in sports leadership and learn key aspects of leadership such as dealing with injuries, sports psychology and nutrition as well as how to plan and run a sports event.

Assessment Details:

All units are internally assessed. There are no exams for this course

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Contact: Miss K Mainwaring in the PE Department

Sweet (Personal Growth and Wellbeing) BTEC

Course Content:

Pupils follow a common learning programme with a Personal Growth and Wellbeing focus. The course consists of a core programme with the following structure:

Booklet 1: This is Me

Booklet 2: Fitter, Healthier and Happier

Booklet 3: I've Got a Feeling (Appreciating Emotional Wellbeing)

Booklet 4: Skills for Social Success

Booklet 5: Let's Talk about….. (RSE link)

Booklet 6: Our World, Our Future

Booklet 7: Making Money Work for Me

Booklet 8: Future Roles and Setting Goals

Assessment Details:

All components must be completed and passed in order to achieve the qualification. In completing all components, pupils gain a level 2 qualification (equivalent to a GCSE). Assessment is through the completion of practical and written coursework elements within the designated booklets.

The programme of study supports the new Curriculum for Wales Framework, the Four Key Purposes and the RSE framework. Throughout the programme, pupils develop essential skills and gain an enhanced understanding of themselves, the importance of personal growth and wellbeing, as well as their role in the world and the consideration of future career options.

Examination Board: Pearson Edexcel

Contact: Ms F Mainwaring in Room G6

Welsh Second Language GCSE

Course Content:
GCSE full course Welsh is compulsory for all pupils from September 2017. This brand new course is designed for all pupils to gain a deep understanding of how the language works and will enable pupils to read, write, understand and speak Welsh to a very good standard - a very useful detail for your CV and advantageous skill for the work place. The course is designed to build on the language skills and vocabulary already acquired in years 7, 8 and 9, develop your knowledge and understanding and add sophistication to your written and spoken Welsh by studying topical and relevant issues to young people today.

Assessment Details:

The course is made up of 4 modules worth 25% each.

Unit 1 and Unit 2 - Speaking and Listening Tasks:

- **Unit 1:** You will watch a video clip provided by the WJEC in groups of 3 and discuss the content in Welsh. This assessment will take place in the April of Year 10.

- **Unit 2:** The WJEC will provide you with visual prompts on a topic studied, you will discuss the visual aids in a group of three. This assessment will take place in the April of Year 11.

Unit 3 and 4 - External Examinations (1 hr 30 minutes each):

- You will sit external examinations and be assessed on your reading and writing skills. Both these assessments will take in May/June of Year 11.

Examination Board: WJEC

Contact: Mrs L Northey in Room 41