

Carrickfergus Grammar School



Praestantia A Quest for Excellence

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Carrickfergus Grammar School



GCSE Subject Choice Booklet For GCSE courses 2019 - 2021

Praestantia

5) Studying Science subjects at AS Level

For those who have studied Double Award— At AS Level, Science is studied as 3 separate subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Choosing and being accepted for an AS Chemistry or Physics class will be limited to those pupils who achieved **80%** (70% for Biology) **in the GCSE theory paper of the Science** they wish to study.

For those who have studied Core Science A and Additional Science— Given the variance in content of examination board GCSE specifications, choosing and being accepted for an AS Science class will be limited to those who have obtained grades AA.

Single Award Science is not a sufficient basis for study of an individual Science at AS /A level.

(6) Studying Spanish at AS Level

Will be limited to those pupils who have obtained an A grade at GCSE and who have been entered for Higher Tier in both the Listening and Reading papers in CCEA GCSE Spanish.

The following additional details apply to entry to AS Classes in September 2018: -

CLASS SIZE

1. AS/A Level classes will usually be no larger than 22 pupils. If a class is oversubscribed, students will be chosen on the basis of their GCSE performance in that subject or, if not studied at GCSE, performance in allied subject (s) as listed overleaf and in appendix 1 at the back of this booklet.
2. In each subject, if a tie exists after relevant criteria are employed, pupils with the highest % attendance in Year 12 will be admitted before those with lower and in the **exceptionally unlikely** event that a tie still exists, random selection will be employed.
3. If a class is undersubscribed it may not be offered.

Please Note

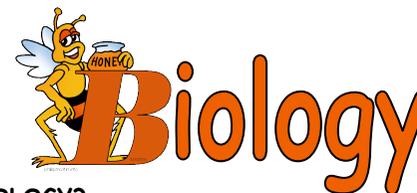
In addition to the academic criteria above we reserve the right to refuse admission to post GCSE study to any pupil whose past behaviour has been unacceptable.

Furthermore we assume that those choosing to return to school after GCSE pupils are indicating their willingness to accept and follow the rules and routines of the School.

Those applicants to Year 13 who have followed alternative qualifications shall be considered on the merits of those courses and their results profile.

SPECIAL CASES

With the support of medical evidence and/or a special recommendation by the appropriate teacher (s), careful consideration will be given to pupils who in the opinion of the school under-achieved in GCSE.



WHY STUDY BIOLOGY?

Biology is such an important subject and it is frequently featured in the news and media. Gene cloning, threats to conservation and our landscape and new advances in medical treatment are just a few of the issues which are current news headlines.

In Biology, we learn about the fascinating human body and how all its organ systems function. We study and do research on global issues of pollution and conservation, as well as learning about plants and why they are so important to world around us.

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

YEAR 11 - Unit 1: Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity - external written exam - 35%

YEAR 12 - Unit 2: Body Systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health - external written exam - 40%

Unit 3—PRACTICAL SKILLS - SECTION A: 2 practicals are carried out in year 12 (externally marked) - 7.5%)
SECTION B: Written exam on Practical Biology (externally marked) - 17.5%



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Studying Biology will help you develop a wide variety of skills in a fun and interesting way. Here are a few of the skills which you would develop:- Planning investigations, collecting and recording evidence, presenting information clearly, drawing conclusions from information, supporting arguments, working well in a group, and very importantly, appreciating the wider effects that Biology has on many aspects of our lives.

WHAT SORT OF CAREERS NEED A BIOLOGY QUALIFICATION?

Physiotherapists, teachers, nurses and midwives, doctors, dentists, vets, dieticians, forensic science, medical laboratory work, working for drug companies, study in human genetic diseases and cancer, development of new drugs, agriculture, journalism, nature conservation and many more!!

BUSINESS STUDIES

Business Studies is relevant to students regardless of the career they later pursue, since it is useful for everyone to have a basic understanding of the key operations and decision making processes of modern businesses. Pupils also learn about businesses' recruitment and selection procedures, including interviews, thereby enhancing their employability in the future.

We endeavour to utilise input from local businesses where relevant, to help bring to life the core topics of marketing, finance, operations and human resources. In the past students have visited local businesses such as Tayto, Ryobi and Chain Reaction amongst others.

What Will I be Studying?

The course is split into the following topics:

- Business Start Up
- Production
- Marketing
- Finance
- Managing People
- Business Growth
- Business Planning



What Skills Will I Develop?

Business Studies helps us to develop analytical and evaluative skills, looking deeper into business situations to develop an understanding of the key operations and decision making processes of modern businesses. You will develop specific skills such as business analysis; marketing; research methods; sensitivity to organisational needs; and good quantitative skills. You will develop more general skills that are relevant to independent study; cross-cultural working; leadership and teamwork; communication and information technology. Good exam technique in Business Studies demands that pupils are able to express themselves eloquently and fluently in written English and much effort goes into developing this skill

What about Careers?

Many employers search hard for applicants with commercial awareness and business studies students should have the edge.

Business Studies graduates are found in almost every employment sector. Typically about 50% of our A-Level Business Studies pupils follow the theme of their subject and take university degrees in accounting, business, economics, finance, HR, law or management. After university commercial roles are found within: retail; manufacturing; utilities like electricity, gas and water supply; construction; distribution; hotel and catering; transport; ICT; and business services. Relevant accounting and finance opportunities include those in professional services (chartered accountancy, consultancy, law and tax); those with major industrial and manufacturing organisations and finance - banking, city markets or insurance.

A-Level Business Studies has also proven a useful preparation for pupils who have gone on to study courses as diverse as law, engineering and biomedical science at the country's top universities.

CURRENT ENTRY TO AS & A2 LEVEL COURSES

PLEASE NOTE—THIS INFORMATION IS SUBJECT TO AMENDMENT.

IT APPEARS HERE AS INTERIM GUIDANCE ONLY

The A Level course consists of two externally examined sections: AS in Year 13 and A2 in Year 14. Other than those who take a Mathematics and Further Mathematics combination it is only in exceptional cases that we would encourage or permit pupils to take on four subjects at AS level. Almost all Year 13 students study three subjects at AS. When choosing courses students should bear in mind the subjects that they enjoy, the subjects in which they attain the strongest grades, and, where known, their choice of career.

Academic requirements for AS study at Carrickfergus Grammar School

Our overriding concern is that students, staff and parents have clear evidence that the pupil is academically capable of benefiting from the courses of study that we offer. Appropriate evidence will be the results of the GCSE examinations.

(1) All students must achieve:

- Minimum of six GCSEs at Grade C or above (*to include Mathematics and English Language*)
- Using the figures in the table below, a **total score of 10 points**

GCSE Grade (CCEA qualifications)	GCSE Grade (Non-CCEA qualifications)	Return Points
A*-A	7-9	3
B	6	2
C	4-5	1

In their own best interests, students should have obtained at least a 'B' at GCSE in any subject they wish to study at AS/A2. However, In Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Spanish the minimum entry requirement is an A grade at GCSE.

(2) Some subjects may be taken at AS level without having first studied them at GCSE.

In these cases students should have obtained at least a 'B' at GCSE in an allied subject as listed below: -

SUBJECT

Accounting
Business Studies
Environmental Technology

Government and Politics
Geography

Life and Health Sciences
Music
Nutrition and Food Science
Photography
Physical Education
Religious Studies

ALLIED SUBJECT

Mathematics (in papers T4 & T6 or equivalent)
English Language
B in Physics (B in English Language or Geography is also desirable)
History or English Literature
Biology or Chemistry or Physics or Double Award Science **and** English Language
B in Chemistry
Musicianship of Grade 5 (not including Rock School)
Biology
Art
Biology
History or English Literature

(3) Studying Mathematics at AS Level

Will be limited to those pupils who have achieved an A at GCSE via the study of CCEA papers T4 and T6 (or equivalent)

(4) Studying Nutrition and Food Science at AS Level

Will be limited to those pupils who have achieved a B at GCSE in the theory (i.e. examined papers rather than controlled assessment/coursework) components of Nutrition and Food Science or Child Development.

TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

WHY STUDY TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN?

Technology & Design affords the opportunity to investigate real life problems, design solutions to those problems and make the product which has been designed. Technology and Design links naturally with, and complements, many other subjects. Designing activity has an important contribution to make to pupils' general education as part of preparation for living and working in a modern technological society.

WHAT WILL I BE STUDYING?

- Product/Graphic Design—Computer Aided Design, Perspective Drawing and Presentation Skills
- Energy & Control - Electronics, Computer & Microprocessor Control, Pneumatics & Mechanical Control Systems
- Manufacture - Material Awareness, Decision Making, Forming, Finishing & Fabrication Techniques and Computer Aided Manufacture



WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Technology is about developing an awareness of the world around us and how we live our everyday lives. As a subject it promotes the development of attitudes such as concern for the welfare and development of society, the preservation of the environment and adherence to safe working practices.

It provides opportunities to work with a range of constructional materials including plastics, metal and wood and where appropriate, other materials, hence developing decision making skills and investigating alternatives.

Through T&D we develop and understand the importance of quality in all aspects of our work. From taking an initial idea, through conceptualisation and into reality, key skills are evident in terms of organisation and determination to achieve a viable product / project outcome at all levels.

We recognise the need to maintain a safe and organised working environment and adopt safe working practices when using hand tools, machines and equipment focusing on school workshop situations but also building an understanding for industrial practices.

Ultimately, T&D encourages pupils to take pride in their achievements through setting targets and becoming disciplined in their approach to achieving the desired objective...

WHAT ABOUT CAREERS?

The course provides an important grounding in all aspects of Engineering and Design. The course is widely recognised as an excellent starting point for university courses in Electrical, Microelectronic (computer), Civil, Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering courses, as well as such courses as Architecture, Quantity Surveying, Advertising and Product Design & Manufacture. It is also an excellent stepping stone into a Technology & Design Teaching degree.

CHEMISTRY

Why should I choose Chemistry?

Chemistry is the central science. Without a detailed understanding of chemistry at a fundamental level, today's biologists, physicists, material scientists, Nano scientists and others would be able to do little worthwhile. Chemistry is the study of all materials and is vital to every aspect of life. It surrounds us from the moment we are born and throughout our lives.

We teach chemistry because:

- we want to produce future chemists
- it helps to develop important skills needed in today's world we want
- people to become effective citizens in an increasingly scientific and technological world
- There are many challenges facing us today. These include:

Medicine

Not only do chemical scientists need to develop more drugs for treatment but they also need to find cures for many serious diseases.

Materials

New body parts have to be developed which will not be rejected by the body.

Molecular biology

We need to work out the three dimensional structure of proteins and the conformations they can adopt, and without this we cannot treat many diseases.

Environmental chemistry

We need to develop cleaner energy sources to combat issues facing us today e.g. climate change

What will I be studying?

Unit 1: Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions/ Quantitative Chemistry and Analysis

Unit 2: Further Chemical Reactions, Rates and Equilibrium, Calculations and Organic Chemistry

You will sit an external exam at the end of Year 11 and Year 12.

Unit 3 will assess Practical Skills and will be carried out in centres in the final year of the course and marked externally.

What skills will I develop?

- problem solving
- analytical, decision-making and numerate skills
- interpersonal skills
- practical skills
- group work skills
- communication skills



Careers

Chemistry is a useful subject to have because it keeps your options open. The skills you will develop while studying chemistry can be used in many different careers. Remember, that if you want to work in medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, and a whole host of other health related fields, you will need Chemistry.

The following (small) list should give you some idea of where chemistry can take you!

Biochemist, Geologist, Biomedical scientist, Materials scientist, Biotechnologist, Pharmacist, Broadcasting (creative), Teacher, Chemical engineering, Vet, Dietician, Zoologist, Dentist, Doctor, Food scientist, Forensic scientist.

Child Development

Why do we study this subject?

This subject focuses on the study of the development of young children from conception to the age of five years. Pupils learn about how children develop physically, socially, intellectually and emotionally, and how they develop skills in communication.

Child Development GCSE aims to encourage an understanding of pregnancy, the responsibilities of parenthood and the overall needs of young children. Throughout the course, it emphasises the importance of a healthy lifestyle. The course will open gateways to a range of careers.



What will I be studying?

The course is divided into two sections –

- Parenthood, Pregnancy and the Newborn Baby (examined in Year 11)
- The Development of the Child (0-5 years) (examined in Year 12)

There are two exams, one taken each year of the GCSE and there is one piece of Controlled Assessment which is completed in Year 12.

What Skills will I develop?

This specification encourages students to adopt skills in decision-making and problem-solving. Pupils will explore a range of parenting skills aimed at providing quality care for an infant or young child, this would include the practical skills necessary for child care and food preparation. Students evaluate choices and decisions and become informed and discerning consumers equipped to provide a safe and stimulating environment for a young child. Skills in research will be developed and interpersonal skills will be a further acquisition. The Controlled Assessment task allows for the development of skills in research, data analysis and report writing.

What about Careers?

This subject will appeal to those interested in working with children. Many health professionals will value the knowledge, understanding and skills adopted during the study of this G.C.S.E. Midwifery, Social Work or Early Years Education may appeal to some; others may be interested in Child Psychology. This subject is an excellent companion subject to both Biology and Food & Nutrition.

SPANISH

Why should I choose Spanish?

Spanish is the world's third most widely spoken language, the first language of over twenty countries across the globe. As such it is a major vehicle for international commerce and trade, as well as the doorway into a variety of vibrant and fascinating cultures.

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into 3 topics which cover:

- Identity, Lifestyle and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global areas of Interest
- School Life, Studies and the World of Work



What skills will I develop?

The study of Modern Languages helps us to appreciate other cultures and traditions and develop our skills of communication.

A GCSE Modern Language consists of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Not only will you improve your ability in Spanish, but your English will also improve! Having studied a language travel becomes more interesting and you will have a better understanding of the world around you.

What about careers?

If you are thinking about a career using language skills there are many exciting and interesting opportunities. People often tend to only consider the obvious careers in languages such as translation, interpreting or teaching. There are many other careers which can require language skills. There are a number of occupations where language skills are currently in demand, including:

- ◆ Marketing and Public Relations
- ◆ Finance and banking
- ◆ Media
- ◆ Travel and Tourism
- ◆ Event Organiser
- ◆ International Sales Manager
- ◆ Customer Relations
- ◆ Technology Engineering

The increasing popularity of Spain as a holiday destination makes Spanish a very useful, relevant and enriching choice.

Growing commercial ties with Latin America mean more work for translators, interpreters, and business people who can fend for themselves in these countries.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Why should I choose Religious Studies?

In a world that is becoming increasingly pluralistic it is important that we have an understanding of our own beliefs and the beliefs of others. When it comes to religion, gaining knowledge of Christianity and other world faiths will only serve to encourage debate and promote tolerance. GCSE Religious Studies provides an opportunity for students to engage with philosophical questions and current ethical issues that are at the forefront of our society, in order that they may develop informed opinions and be aware of the views of others.

Religious Studies is compulsory for all pupils at Carrickfergus Grammar School. The GCSE course will afford an opportunity to ask the important questions about faith and the nature of religion as well as gaining valuable GCSE points for returning to school to study at A-level.

What will I be studying?

Philosophy of Religion and Christian Ethics make up the two components of the CCEA Full Course.

Philosophy of Religion:

- **The Existence of God**—an overview of a range of arguments, including the religion/science debate.
- **The Nature of God**—an exploration of the characteristics of God as evidenced by a range of religious traditions.
- **Evil & Suffering**—the problem posed to religious faith by the existence of evil and suffering in the world, including the origin of evil.
- **Experiencing God**—an analysis of what various religions suggest about how God can be experienced.
- **Life After Death**—an exploration of key religious beliefs on life after death and near-death experiences.



An Introduction to Christian Ethics:

- **Personal and Family Issues**—Christian views on the meaning and purpose of sexual relationships, the benefits and challenges of marriage and divorce and alternatives to heterosexual marriage.
- **Matters of Life and Death**—social, political, biblical views on the ethical issues of abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment.
- **Developments in Bioethics**—the nature of human infertility and the means to overcome it, the role of IVF, issues surrounding human surrogacy and the role of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.
- **Contemporary issues in Christianity**—the issue of social justice including responsibility towards people in need and causes and types of prejudice and discrimination.
- **Modern Warfare**—the causes of war, cost of war, the ethics of modern warfare and the debate on pacifism and the Just War Theory.

What skills will I develop?

Religious Studies will help you develop a range of invaluable skills. Debating and communication skills are foundational to the subject. You will learn the correct vocabulary for discussing religious and ethical issues. You will be given the opportunity to evaluate and analyse a range of opinions and theories on many philosophical and ethical topics. You will learn how to research effectively and how to compose a strong argument, taking into consideration a range of viewpoints. You will also have an opportunity to improve your written communication skills.

What about careers?

Those who study Religious Studies find themselves in a variety of careers. Many go on to study Theology or Education. Others take on careers in social work, youth work, administration, publishing and in the legal profession. While an Arts Subject, the Ethics course of study means that Religious Studies complements **STEM** subjects which can lead into a further range of careers.

Digital Technology



This specification aims to encourage students to:

- Become independent and discerning users of digital technology;
- Acquire and apply knowledge and understanding of digital technology in a range of contexts;
- Acquire creative and technical digital technology skills and apply these in a range of contexts;
- Develop and evaluate digital technology-based solutions to solve problems;
- Develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and the social and commercial impact of these technologies;
- Develop their understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental impact of digital technology;
- Recognise potential risks when using digital technology and develop safe, secure and responsible practice; and
- Develop the skills needed to work collaboratively.

What will I be studying?

This qualification is available as:

A digital authoring qualification focusing on multimedia, GCSE Digital Technology (Multimedia).

All students study:

Unit 1: Digital Technology

Unit 2: Digital Authoring Concepts

Unit 3: Digital Authoring Practice

The content relates directly to current software development trends and the study of modern technology-based systems. The content is well balanced between knowledge and application. The specification develops practical skills using a range of generic software tools. It provides a sound basis for further study in GCE Digital Technology.

What Skills will I develop?

Pupils are encouraged to:

- ◆ Become independent and discerning users of Digital Technology who can make informed decisions about its use and are aware of its implications for individuals, organisations and society.
- ◆ Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of Digital Technology in a range of contexts.
- ◆ Develop Digital Technology based solutions to solve problems.
- ◆ Develop their understanding of current and emerging technologies and the social and commercial impact of these technologies.
- ◆ Develop their understanding of the legal, social, economic, ethical and environmental issues raised by Digital Technology.
- ◆ Recognise potential risks when using Digital Technology and develop safe, secure and responsible practice.
- ◆ Develop the skills needed for work.

What about Careers?

The study of Digital Technology can lead to careers such as computer programming, database management, website design, website management or graphic design.

Drama

The GCSE in Drama is your gateway to a wide range of careers, not just those related to the entertainment industry. It is important for pupils to keep a creative channel open in the high stress environment of GCSEs.

Drama offers a springboard to all careers and will develop self-confidence, presentation skills and effective communication.

N. Ireland has never had so many flourishing opportunities in TV and film, especially in Design and Technical roles. This GCSE offers opportunities to gain skills in Design and Technical elements such as Costume, Lighting, Set, Sound or Multimedia.

The course is flexible to allow pupils to tailor the optional elements to suit their strengths and passions.

For those who are keen to pursue Performance the GCSE offers a grounding in the skills used by trained Actors.

There are **THREE** components to the GCSE in DRAMA:

- 1) Devised Performance
- 2) Scripted Performance
- 3) Written Exam—90 minutes—Open Book on a set text and rehearsal work.

For Components 1 & 2 pupils will choose a Performance or Design pathway.

The Performance pathway will be:

- Acting

The Design pathway will be a choice of ONE of the following:

- Costume
- Lighting
- Set
- Sound
- Multimedia

So, why not allow your creative side to blossom and choose GCSE Drama.

Whether you are interested in the entertainment industry or another career path, the thinking skills and personal capabilities gained through GCSE Drama are useful in all careers.



PHYSICS

Why choose Physics?

Physics lies at the heart of all Science and Technology; it deals with how and why things behave as they do. Physics is used to solve all types of problems - environmental, health, technological, engineering and many more. It tries to explain things in our world and helps discover lots more beyond our world that we do not understand. Physics has numerous practical applications in industry and at home. Much of the technology which we take for granted was only made possible by the discoveries of Physicists. DVDs, CDs, MP3 players, mobile phones, the internet, MRI scanners, X-ray machines, radiotherapy and laser surgery are just some of them. If you are interested in the world around you and you would like to learn more about it, then Physics is for you!

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into a number of key topics which include:

Unit 1: Motion, Force, Moments, Energy, Density, Kinetic Theory, Radioactivity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion

Unit 2: Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism, Space Physics

Unit 3: Practical Skills Assessment comprising a practical exam and a written exam. These include extended writing and calculations set in a practical context.

What skills will I develop?

If you decide to become a Physicist you will develop:

- ◆ a logical and numerate mind
- ◆ the ability to solve problems
- ◆ communication skills in report-writing and oral presentations



What about Careers?

Studying Physics can lead to a variety of careers. These include astronomy, education, engineering, medicine, nanotechnology, scientific research, space exploration, telecommunications and many more.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why should I choose Physical Education?

If you have a genuine interest in Physical Education and prove this through regular participation in a variety of activities and represent the school in at least one activity, then GCSE Physical Education is the ideal subject for you. Physical Education will give you the chance to excel in your chosen activities, and give you the opportunity to try new activities and exercises.

What will I be studying?

Theory topics covered include:

Health, fitness and skilled performance
Factors affecting participation
Diet and nutrition
Body composition
Rest and sleep
The effects of tobacco and alcohol on performance
Benefits of exercise (weight control, self-confidence, posture etc)
Components of fitness and how they are measured
Training methods and training principles
The effects of exercise on the different body systems
Health and safety considerations



P.E theory classes have strong cross-curricular links with other areas of the curriculum such as Biology and Home Economics, allowing linked up learning to take place, giving a more holistic picture of how our bodies work.

Assessment Summary:

Practical: 3 practical activities and an Analysis of performance with plan to improve ~ 50%

Exam paper 1: Factors underpinning health (sat in summer of Year 12) ~ 25%

Exam paper 2: Factors underpinning performance ~ 25%

What Skills will I develop?

Physical Education helps us to analyse our lifestyles and that of others. It will enable us to think independently and analyse and process information. Other skills that will be developed include problem solving and decision making through both practical and theoretical elements of the course. We can also develop interpersonal skills, communication skills, and improve team work, perseverance, fair play and self-discipline.

What about careers?

Given the skills you will develop through P.E at GCSE, employers of all kinds will be interested in you. With the current concerns about health and fitness of society, more jobs are likely to be created in the health and leisure industry. Other occupations that may be pursued are P.E teaching, Coaching, Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine and within the Media.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

These subjects are the keystone on which learning develops. The study of English allows us to articulate, comprehend and effectively express in written form our views, ideas and beliefs. We will study all three literature genres and develop an understanding of a diverse range of social and historical contexts from a variety of cultures.

What will I be studying?

English Language

The course includes :

- Literary and non-literary texts
- Writing for a variety of audiences
- Speaking and listening situations

English Literature

The course includes:

Close study of poetry, prose and drama from Shakespeare to the present day.



What skills will I develop?

English Language and Literature develop a myriad of skills integral to success both inside and outside the classroom. Essential skills such as the ability to reflect, reason and express critical responses are fostered throughout the course. Speaking and listening scenarios develop the ability to work meaningfully with others and encourage pupils to have the confidence to articulate and present their views appropriately and effectively. Literature study allows us to empathise, relate and critically analyse the views and action of others.

What about careers?

A GCSE qualification in English is imperative for virtually any further course of study and the list of possible career options are endless. Careers which draw directly from the subject include journalism, teaching and the Arts. While careers in areas such as the media, librarianship, law, PR and speech therapy will undoubtedly benefit from close study of English.

Food and Nutrition

Why should I choose Food and Nutrition?

The Food and Nutrition course aims to develop an interest in the diverse range of food now available and to develop skills in food preparation. The subject content allows pupils to make effective choices for their health and wellbeing and to practise skills in effective resource management. Pupils are encouraged to develop an understanding of human needs within our multicultural society, taking account of technological and scientific developments affecting consumers. This academic content is relevant to the lives of pupils now and when they leave school and provides scope for a wide range of potential careers in Northern Ireland's booming agri-food industry. Pupils will study human nutrition, diet and health in detail. They consider how dietary needs change through the lifecycle and study special dietary requirements.

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into 2 key areas:

- ◆ Food and Nutrition
- ◆ Practical Food and Nutrition



What skills will I develop?

Food and Nutrition helps develop skills to plan, sequence and present meals to take account of individual needs, situations and budgets. The course teaches pupils how to implement safe and hygienic practices in the storage, preparation and cooking of food. The practical skills associated with Food and Nutrition activities will develop resource management, teamwork and communication skills. Through a range of contexts, pupils will develop a critical and analytical approach to decision making and problem solving and so improve the quality of life for themselves and others.

What about careers?

In choosing Food and Nutrition, you will not be limiting your choices after GCSE. No matter what career you choose, the communication, analytical, planning and management skills you will develop through Food and Nutrition at GCSE, means employers will be interested in you. A wide variety of careers are open to graduates of Food and Nutrition. Those who have studied this subject often find themselves with a career in nutrition, dietetics, medicine, nursing or health promotion. Careers in food preparation, product development and retail are further options. The subject can also be valuable to Sports Scientists, Biochemists and Environmental Health Practitioners.

MUSIC

Why Study Music?

The Creative Industry, with Music at its heart, is the fastest growing industry in the UK and the 2nd greatest contributor to the economy. With the East Coast of Northern Ireland being the 4th largest cluster area for jobs in this industry it makes sense to study Music to at least GCSE Level. It is also enjoyable, something a bit different and encourages you to be independent, confident and creative at every opportunity.

What will I be Studying?

You will learn to know and recognise a wide range of musical styles. As part of the course you will be able to be part of a vocal and an instrumental ensemble taking your musical experiences far beyond the classroom.

Composing (30%)

Pupils submit two compositions, one of which will be in response to a stimulus and the other is completely up to you! We often use Music Technology to assist you. You can compose for any instrument or style; your teacher will mark this component and CCEA will moderate it.

Performing and Appraising (35%)

Pupils present a solo (2 minutes) and an ensemble performances of up to a combined total of six minutes duration. The expected standard is around Grade 3. You will also be able to discuss one of the performances you have given with the friendly, visiting examiner.

Listening and Appraising (35%)

You will sit 1 listening paper which will cover familiar and unfamiliar music from the following areas of study:

- ♪ Western Classical Music, 1600 to 1910
- ♪ Film Music
- ♪ Musical Traditions of Ireland
- ♪ Popular Music, 1980 to Present Day



What Skills will I develop?

Studying Music develops numerous skills—from teamwork to discipline, originality and obviously creativity as well as building up your confidence to be in front of a listening audience.

Some career opportunities with a music qualification

In a world in which people are becoming more able to have a variety of leisure interests, being able to provide a musical service is increasingly popular. The music industry is the second biggest in the UK. The career options are endless, but they include – Virtual Reality Sound Environments; Music Therapist; Recording Editor; Music arranging; Film Scoring; Teaching/Lecturing; Performer; Tuner; Technician; Instrument repair; Church Musician; Music Librarian; Recording Engineering; Publisher/Editor; Copyright administrator; Post-production scoring; Advertising Jingles; Acoustical Engineer; Producer; Arts Administrator; Manager/Booking Agent; Audio Engineering; Promotions and marketing; Music Dealer; Music software developer and programmer; Newspaper critic/Reporter; Importer and wholesaler: for instruments, accessories, electronics, recordings, software; Orchestral/Band player. But even if you are not going towards a career focused on music, a basic music qualification can give you the edge over others in applying for jobs as often short listing will include simply, “possess a music qualification” without stating a specific level.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a compulsory subject at GCSE level. However, at Carrickfergus Grammar School we also seek to create an interest in the subject so that all students will ultimately find it rewarding and build on skills and knowledge gained in years 8 to 10.

Course Details

Pupils are streamed according to their exam results at the end of year 10 into 5 classes. The top 2 classes are put into an accelerated scheme and will complete GCSE Higher Mathematics at the end of Year 11. This enables them to study GCSE Further Mathematics in Year 12. The remaining three classes study Higher Mathematics over two years, sitting either modules M3 & M7, targeting a B grade, or M4 & M8 targeting an A or A* grade.

The course is divided into three main sections with functional mathematics embedded within this, which provides opportunities for candidates to develop and apply these mathematical skills to real-life contexts.

Number and Algebra Including -	Shape, Space & Measure Including -	Handling Data Including -
Fractions, decimals & percentages	Circle Geometry	Statistics
Financial capability	Polygons	Probability
Graphs	Trigonometry (2D & 3D)	
Algebraic methods	Similarity	
Equations and Inequations	Transformations	
Linear Programming	Vectors	
Indices	Area and Volume	

Pupils hoping to study AS Level Mathematics must complete modules M4 & M8 and should aim to complete Further Mathematics as well.



What skills will I develop?

Throughout the course you will continue to develop your numeracy skills, including the ability to use mathematical equipment. You will have the opportunity to investigate many different aspects of Mathematics and develop your investigative and problem solving skills.

Career Opportunities

There are very few jobs for which a grade C or above in GCSE Mathematics is not one of the criteria for application. It is also an essential qualification for entry to any course in third level education. If you enjoy Mathematics and have shown ability at KS3 level, you must work hard to try to get into one of the accelerated classes and have the opportunity to study Further Mathematics GCSE.

FRENCH

Why should I choose French?

French is one of the major languages of global trade and of international relations-it is one of the languages most in demand by UK businesses. It is one of the two official languages of the European Union, and is the first or second language in over 45 countries or regions world-wide. Studying French therefore offers an insight into the language, culture and society of metropolitan France, and opens onto an exciting spectrum of cultures throughout the world. Don't forget...it is the language of love!

What will I be studying?

The course is divided into 3 Context for Learning covering a range of topics under the headings:

- Identity, Lifestyle and Culture
- Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- School Life, Studies and the World of Work.

What skills will I develop?

The study of Modern Languages helps us to appreciate other cultures and traditions and develop our skills of communication and powers of analysis. It also boosts your confidence and improves your memory.

A GCSE Modern Language consists of the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. Not only will you improve your ability in French, but your English will also improve! Having studied a language travel becomes more interesting and you will have a better understanding of the world around you.

What about careers?

If you are thinking about a career using language skills there are many exciting and interesting opportunities. People often tend to only consider the obvious careers in languages such as translation, interpreting or teaching. There are many other careers which can require language skills. There are a number of occupations where language skills are currently in demand, including:

- Marketing and Public Relations
- Finance and banking
- Media
- Travel and Tourism
- Event Organiser
- International Sales Manager
- Customer Relations
- Technology
- Engineering



When thinking about a career in languages you also need to consider which languages would be most useful, for example, French is important for engineering.

The proximity of France and its popularity as a holiday destination make French a useful, relevant and enriching choice.

GEOGRAPHY

Is Geography a good subject choice at GCSE?

Most students enjoy the scope of the material they cover in Geography, the insights it can provide into understanding the world around us and the sheer contemporary nature of the issues it tackles.

This year has proven (yet again) the need for Geography in schools. Bad weather? Rivers that flood? Storm surges? Earthquakes? Tropical Cyclones? Cities that are expanding? Farming catastrophes? Ice caps that are melting? Climate Change?

These are the things of Geography. The news is filled with Geography from start to finish. At GCSE we make sure that our students understand the implications of these issues - the things that are behind the news.

At GCSE pupils revisit many of the topics studied at key stage 3 and enhance their knowledge and understanding of people and places through the study of 8 geographical themes:

Year 11

- A River Environments
- B Coastal Environments
- C Our changing weather and climate
- D The Restless Earth

Year 12

- A Population & Migration
- B Changing urban areas.
- C Contrasts in world development
- D Managing our Environment.



Geography Fieldwork collects data which is then used in Unit 3 Fieldwork exam. This is a one hour paper worth 20%. The fieldwork involves a day trip to Colin Glen Forest.

Careers with Geography

Geography is about 50% Arts based and 50% Science based so it blends well with most subject choices, particularly if you wish to keep your career options open.

Geographers are very employable. The choice of careers includes some areas in which their studies are put to direct use, such as environmental agencies and consultancy, GIS applications, planning, civil engineering, conservation, Law and teaching.

The transferable skills that students acquire in Geography can reap employment dividends in many other fields – computing, financial services, management, marketing, the media, tourism, public administration, transport, and so on, across the alphabet of careers.

- Selling and Marketing
- Transport and Communications
- Armed Forces
- Regional Development workers for Charities
- Estate Agency
- Leisure Industry & Travel and Tourism
- Conservation & Environmental Management
- Surveying & Town and Country Planning

HISTORY

Why should I choose History?

History helps us understand how and why today's world has evolved the way it has. Studying GCSE History gives us an insight into the origins of modern political and social problems. By studying History we also learn to appreciate that people in the past were not just 'good' or 'bad' but motivated in complex and inconsistent ways, just like us. In short, the study of History is the study of humanity- if you are interested in people, then you will be interested in History!

What will I be studying?

We will study the new CCEA specification which is divided into 2 Units, each focusing on 20th Century History.

Unit 1 (Studied and Examined in Year 11):

Life in Nazi Germany 1933-1939

and

Northern Ireland and its neighbours 1965-1998

(60%)

Unit 2: (Studied and Examined in Year 12):

International Relations

(40%)



What skills will I develop?

History helps us develop the skills to look beyond the headlines, to question, to think independently and to express our own opinions. History teaches how to process information, how to write clearly and how to analyse and interpret evidence. Through History we also develop interpersonal skills, learning how to communicate, understand and empathise with alternative viewpoints.

What about Careers?

Given the skills you will develop through History at GCSE, employers of all kinds will be interested in you. Those who have studied History regularly enter occupations in law, management and consultancy work, publishing, media, journalism, teaching, the Civil Service and other branches of public life such as local politics.