

Thornhill College



AS/A2 Subject Choices Booklet

2016-2017

CONTENTS

	Page
➤ The Year 12 Careers Programme	2
➤ Sixth Form Entrance Criteria Summary	3
➤ Other Relevant Information	4
➤ Enrichment Programme	5
➤ Applied Health & Social Care (Single Award)	6
➤ Applied Health & Social Care (Double Award)	7
➤ Applied Life and Health Science (Double Award)	8
➤ Art and Design	9
➤ Biology	10
➤ BTEC Engineering*	11
➤ Business Studies	12
➤ Chemistry	13
➤ Digital Technology	14
➤ Drama and Theatre Studies *	15
➤ English Literature	16
➤ French	17
➤ Geography	18
➤ Government and Politics	19
➤ History	20
➤ Irish	21
➤ Mathematics	22
➤ Music	23
➤ Physical Education	24
➤ Physics	25
➤ Psychology	26
➤ Religious Education	27
➤ Software Systems Development*	28
➤ Spanish	29
➤ Statistics	30
➤ Technology and Design*	31

*** may be offered through the Foyle Learning Community**

- Further Mathematics is available to A2 Mathematics students as a 5th AS.
- Only one new subject may be chosen. This rule is strictly adhered to.
- “New Subject” means a subject that you have not studied before.

NB While we will make every endeavour to facilitate your choices we cannot guarantee them as timetabling constraints/numbers may apply.

YEAR 12 CAREERS PROGRAMME

Dear Student

This booklet provides information on the subject choices available for study at AS/A level in Thornhill College. It is important that you take the time to study this information carefully and seek advice from parents, subject teachers and careers advisors before you make your final decision.

To help you in this process the following careers support is in place:

- Two careers units to be completed during pastoral period
- ICT packages for researching various careers
- Access to Careers Service NI advisors
- Careers Library
- Mentoring
- Target setting process
- Individual career guidance session
- Information session to introduce new subjects to be offered at A Level
- Parents Information Evening, February / March 2017

Mrs L Hunter
(Head of Careers)

SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE CRITERIA SUMMARY

Academic

- To study **3 AS** subjects, students must achieve a minimum of 12 points* over 7 subjects at GCSE.
- To study **4 AS** subjects, students must score a minimum of 15 points* over 5 subjects at GCSE.

(* Points are allocated as follows: A* = 4, A = 3, B = 2, C = 1).

- Students should choose their subjects with the intention of completing the subject to A2 level. Many top universities make course offers based on full A-levels as opposed to combined AS subjects.
- Having fulfilled the minimum entrance requirements, students are entitled to apply to study the subject at AS provided it is offered in the curriculum. Minimum GCSE entry requirement may be a grade B or in some cases, a grade A. (Further details can be found in this Subject Guide). Account will be taken of special circumstances that may have affected performance in examinations.

Attendance

Attendance, punctuality and work ethic will be seriously considered on application to Year 13. All prospective students should strive to achieve 100% attendance. We expect that successful applicants will have achieved an attendance rate of 95% in Year 12. Account will be taken of special circumstances that may have affected attendance.

OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION

- Students will generally attend university at the end of their A levels. Application to most universities in the UK is done through the UCAS system (www.ucas.com), and application to universities in the Republic of Ireland is done through CAO (www.cao.ie). *Students are advised to visit these websites because some university courses have specific GCSE, as well as A level requirements.*
- Many students study four AS subjects and some continue all four subjects through to A2 level. This may be an advantage when applying for university high demand courses. This applies also to those students who intend to study at university in ROI. *Eg. Trinity College Dublin* (You should consult individual university websites for further details).
- Students should be aware that Applied Subjects are not recognised by universities in ROI. However they are accepted by Institutes of Higher Education which offer many degree programmes.
- All subjects are offered on the condition that there are sufficient numbers to form a viable class.
- Students are advised to consult with the Careers Department or Careers Advisors from the Careers Service for further information.

UCAS Tariff

The following tables outline the UK university scoring system for A Level grades.

A level and Advanced VCE (Level 4 Qualification)

Official title: Advanced GCE and Advanced VCE Grade	Tariff points
A*	56
A	48
B	40
C	32
D	24
E	16

AS and AS VCE

Official title: Advanced Subsidiary GCE and Advanced Subsidiary VCE Grade	Tariff points
A	20
B	16
C	12
D	10
E	6

Details of other qualifications that score points by UCAS can be found on the UCAS website.

ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

All Year 13 students follow a modular Enrichment Programme. It is aimed at broadening the students' perspective on life and provides opportunities for them to sample experiences beyond the curricular subjects studied at AS level. The programme does not stand alone but rather, it enhances much of what is already happening in and outside of classrooms. The programme is made up of a number of six week mandatory modules taken by all Year 13 students plus other modules where students have a degree of choice. Some of the choice modules are certificated courses where students follow the course for the academic year. The modules are delivered in double periods on two days each week. Some of the choice modules presently offered may change as timetable demands vary from year to year.

Mandatory Modules

RSE

Choice Modules

Business Enterprise

Certificate of Personal Effectiveness

Computerised Accounts (City and Guilds Level 2)

Eco Schools Award

Faith Friends

First Aid

Food Hygiene

GCSE Astronomy

Primary School Programme

Pope John Paul 11 Award

Reach Across

Sport

Interview Skills

Careers Support

Philosophy

APPLIED HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (Single Award)

Why choose GCE Health and Social Care?

The health, social care and early years sectors are major employers in the public, voluntary and private sectors in Northern Ireland. This broad based qualification gives students the opportunity to study an eclectic range of subjects relevant to these sectors, including communication, physiology, social policy and psychology. The qualification will appeal to students with an interest in health and well-being and caring for others. It's likely to be attractive to students who enjoyed studying Health and Social Care, Home Economics, Child Development, Psychology or Sociology at GCSE, though none of these are a prerequisite.

Students acquire skills that are valued in further and higher education, as well as in the workplace. These include research, investigation, analysis, communication, problem solving and working with others.

Students typically study two or three other A' Level subjects along with the Single Award H&SC qualification.

Is the qualification structured like other GCEs?

AS is short for Advanced Subsidiary. This Applied Advanced GCE course continues over two years, with a total of six units. This equates to one full A Level.

You will study:

A Single Award Advanced GCE (6 units): Selection of 6 units out of a possible 7

What will I learn about on this course?

In the AS units you will learn about:

Subject Content

- 3.1 Unit AS 1: Promoting Quality Care
- 3.2 Unit AS 2: Communication in Care Settings
- 3.3 Unit AS 3: Health and Well-Being**
- 3.4 Unit AS 4: Safeguarding Children
- 3.5 Unit AS 5: Adult Service Users**
- 3.6 Unit AS 6: Holistic Therapies

How will I be assessed?

You will have a written examination in the form of a question and answer booklet in Units: 3 & 5. These examinations will last two hours. For all other units you will be assessed by coursework.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The GCE in Health and Social Care qualifies for UCAS points so if you complete it successfully you could move on to study for a degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma in related subjects. You could also go on to relevant employment within health and social care services.

APPLIED HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (Double Award)

Why choose GCE Health and Social Care?

The health, social care and early years sectors are major employers in the public, voluntary and private sectors in Northern Ireland. This broad based qualification gives students the opportunity to study an eclectic range of subjects relevant to these sectors, including communication, physiology, social policy and psychology. The qualification will appeal to students with an interest in health and well-being and caring for others. It's likely to be attractive to students who enjoyed studying Health and Social Care, Home Economics, Child Development, Psychology or Sociology at GCSE, though none of these are a prerequisite.

Students acquire skills that are valued in further and higher education, as well as in the workplace. These include research, investigation, analysis, communication, problem solving and working with others.

Is the qualification structured like other GCEs?

The qualification has an AS/A2 structure. AS is short for Advanced Subsidiary. This is the first half of the Advanced GCE course. This is the equivalent of two full A Levels.

You will study:

A Double Award Advanced GCE (12 units): Selection of 12 units out of a possible 14

What will I learn about on this course?

In the AS units you will learn about:

Subject Content

- 3.1 Unit AS 1: Promoting Quality Care
- 3.2 Unit AS 2: Communication in Care Settings
- 3.3 Unit AS 3: Health and Well-Being
- 3.4 Unit AS 4: Safeguarding Children
- 3.5 Unit AS 5: Adult Service Users
- 3.6 Unit AS 6: Holistic Therapies

In the A2 units you will learn about:

- 3.8 Unit A2 8: Applied Research
- 3.9 Unit A2 9: Body Systems and Physiological Disorders
- 3.10 Unit A2 10: Providing Services
- 3.11 Unit A2 11: Health Promotion
- 3.12 Unit A2 12: Supporting the Family
- 3.13 Unit A2 13: Understanding Human Behaviour

How will I be assessed?

You will have a written examination in the form of a question and answer booklet in Units: 3, 5, 7, & 10. Each examination will last two hours. For all other units you will be assessed by coursework.

What could I go on to do at the end of my course?

The GCE in Health and Social Care qualifies for UCAS points so if you complete it successfully you could move on to study for a degree or BTEC Higher National Diploma in related subjects. You could also go on to relevant employment within health and social care services.

APPLIED LIFE AND HEALTH SCIENCES (Double Award)

BACKGROUND

The fundamental philosophy of this course is that, in order to understand the nature of science, students must actively experience the science environment. This can be achieved through a variety of approaches including links with local employers, case studies and research. It is an ideal qualification for those students who want a broad background in science, which will allow them to progress to further or higher education, training or employment. Applied Life and Health Sciences is offered as a Double Award A Level.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Students study six units in year 13 and six in year 14. These units are assessed by a mixture of examination and portfolio work. Three units each year are delivered at Thornhill College and the other three at St Columb's College.

AS UNITS

- Laboratory Techniques
- Human Body Systems*
- Brain Science
- Inorganic and Physical Chemistry*
- Material Science and Biotechnology*
- Drugs, Medicines and Clinical trials

* examined units

A2 UNITS

Six from the following:

- Scientific Method
- Medical Physics*
- Microbiology
- The Physics of Sound and Light*
- Science of Dentistry and Oral Health
- Organic Chemistry*
- Histology and Pathology
- Genetics, Stem Cell Research and Cloning*
- Analytical Chemistry
- Enabling Technology

What skills/qualities would I need for Applied Science A Level ?

- Inquisitive/Curious
- Numerate
- Logical Thinker
- Tenacious
- Problem Solver
- Good Communication Skills
- Good Practical Skills

CAREERS/UNIVERSITY

- Physiotherapy
- Radiography
- Sports Science
- Biomedical Sciences
- Nursing
- Optometry
- Teaching

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- BB in Double Award Science

Not all universities accept Applied A Levels. If a pupil has a particular course/career in mind, they should check that Applied Life and Health Sciences satisfies the entry requirements for their course, at the particular institution that they would like to attend.

ART AND DESIGN

Learning through GCE Art and Design Why choose GCE Art and Design? The creative industries are a fast-growing area of the economy and are key to economic success. Northern Ireland and the UK have an established reputation in these industries. The study of Art and Design creates a pathway to a future career in a creative-industries related field. This specification is designed to broaden and deepen knowledge, skills and contextual understanding of a range of art, craft and design disciplines. It prepares students for further study in art and design or in a related field. This qualification is designed to promote and reward: • **independent learning**; • **personal development and motivation**; • **the ability to make creative connections, find alternative approaches and take risks in creating art and design work**; and • **aesthetic awareness and intellectual capabilities**.

Art and Design encourages students to make personal connections, explore their identity, and develop their philosophical and spiritual understanding. The study of Art and Design has an inherent capacity to develop key transferable skills and qualities which are highly sought after by employers.

Prior attainment this specification is designed to encourage students to progress from the study of GCSE Art and Design. This specification builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in Art and Design at GCSE and Key Stage 3 levels.

ENTRY REQUIRMENTS: The standard for a good grade in A Level Art is high; therefore an A* or A grade in GCSE is desirable. Pupils with no GCSE Art and Design may be accepted into the AS course at the discretion of the head of Art and Design. English Language, at least a grade B, is also desirable as an entry requirement for AS and A2 Art and Design courses.

TOWARDS HIGHER EDUCATION/CAREER: Obviously required for any areas in the art and design field, but also any career which requires a creative input e.g. primary school teaching, photography, TV, film, theatre, landscape architecture, design industry and multiple art forms such as design animation.

Content overview Unit AS 1 and Unit AS 2

In Unit AS 1, students explore through visual enquiry a broad range of contextual sources, skills, techniques and disciplines. This builds their confidence in working independently.

In Unit AS 2, students should bring their exploratory work to a completed personal outcome based on their response to a broad theme that CCEA set. Unit A2 1 and Unit A2 2 Students who continue to A2 pursue extended development of particular themes, ideas or issues. In Unit A2 1, they undertake further theoretical research. There is an increased requirement at A2 to demonstrate understanding through integrated practical and written pieces of work, and other means of communication.

Content	Assessments	Weightings
AS 1:Experimental Portfolio	Teachers assess students' work, and we moderate the results. Students develop, explore and record ideas. Assessment Objectives 1, 2, and 3 only	50% of AS 20% of A level
AS 2: Personal Response	Teachers assess the controlled task, and we moderate the results. Students present a personal outcome. Assessment Objective 4 more heavily weighted than Assessment Objectives 1,2 and 3	50% of AS 20% of A level

BIOLOGY

Entry Requirements:

Double Award at least grade AA is desirable.

Triple Award at least grade B is desirable.

Progression into A2 will be dependent on AS performance.

The need for A level Biology for university entry is NOT an acceptable entrance criterion without the appropriate GCSE grade.

Course Content: - CEA Examination Board – Subject Code 1010

The course covers a wide range of living systems and processes allowing students the opportunity to interpret data, perform simple calculations, interpret diagrams and photomicrographs and apply biological principles to familiar and unfamiliar situations. Plants, animals and microbes are examined physically and biochemically.

Assessment:

AS 1: Molecules and Cells - Comprises of compulsory questions and an essay – 1 hr 30min. 37.5% of AS (15% of A level). Available in June only.

AS 2: Organisms and Biodiversity - Comprises of compulsory questions and an essay – 1 hr 30min. 37.5% of AS (15% of A level). Available in June only.

AS 3: Internal practical assessment (7 practical write-ups) and an external written exam (1 hr) assessing practical skills. 25% of AS (10% of A level). Available in June only.

A2 1: Physiology, Co-ordination and Control, and Ecosystems - Comprises of compulsory questions and an essay – 2 hrs 15mins. 24% of A level. Available in June only.

A2 2: Biochemistry, Genetics and Evolutionary Trends - Comprises of compulsory questions and an essay – 2 hrs 15mins. 24% of A level. Available in June only.

A2 3: Internal practical assessment (5 practical write-ups) and an external written exam (1 hr 15mins) assessing practical skills including skills used in researching information. (12% of A level). Available in June only.

Good Combination With:

Biology is an excellent subject choice in its own right but when chosen along with Chemistry, Physics or Mathematics it will provide you with a firm foundation for third level study in any Science field.

Any Special Comments:

We are currently living in a skills-based economy and A-Level Biology will provide our students with skills, such as, data analysis, independent research, communication, tenacity, decision-making, numeracy and literacy.

Towards Higher Education / Careers:

Science-based careers:

Biochemistry	Pharmacy	Dietetics
Biomedical Engineering	Physiotherapy	Veterinary Medicine
Medicine	Dentistry	Nursing

A-level Biology is also a stepping-stone to careers in non-Science fields, such as, Law, Accountancy and Journalism.

BTEC ENGINEERING (LEVEL 3 SUBSIDIARY)

“Engineers create that which has never been.” Albert Einstein

(If offered, this course will be delivered through the Foyle Learning Community)

Engineering is well respected, well paid and has plenty of job opportunities on offer. The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma offered ensures students can enter appropriate degree courses.

The final qualification is equivalent to one A-level and is accepted, for example, by Queen's University (grades permitting) in lieu of A-level Physics (Minimum grade C in Double Award Science at GCSE) with an A-level in Mathematics and one other A-level.

Specification: Edexcel

COURSE STRUCTURE

The BTEC Level 3 Subsidiary Diploma involves the delivery of six units over two academic years. Each unit is worth 10 credits – 60 credits in total.

Year One (13)

Unit 1 - Health and Safety in the Engineering Workplace;

Unit 4 - Mathematics for the Engineering Technician;

Unit 35 - Principles and Applications of Electronic Devices and Circuits.

Year Two (14)

Unit 10 - Mechanical Principles and Applications;

Unit 5 - Properties and Applications of Engineering Materials;

Unit 16 – Engineering Drawing for Technicians.

COURSE CONTENT

During the course, students will complete a range of unit assignment based tasks, each chosen to maximise their opportunities at higher and further education or in the workplace. An important element of the teaching and learning experience is the provision of industrial visits. These visits will provide invaluable first-hand knowledge and experiences that will assist students in the research and completion of various assignment tasks. In addition, guest speakers from a range of engineering disciplines will share relevant skills, knowledge and experience with students, focused on their needs.

ASSESSMENT PROCEDURES

Work is INTERNALLY assessed and final grades are processed by Edexcel.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Students must have as a minimum, grade B at GCSE Mathematics to cope with the mathematical content of the course.

CAREERS OPPORTUNITIES

Most pupils who choose to do an Engineering course will seek career opportunities in a related field. There are many disciplines open to those with suitable Engineering qualifications and experience, for example, Mechanical Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Engineering Project and Business Management.

BUSINESS STUDIES

GCE Business Studies engages students in the study of a range of business topics impacting on today's society. Students take a holistic approach to studying the diverse nature of business organisations. The qualification is underpinned by three core business issues: globalisation, digital technology and stakeholder influence. Business knowledge and skills are vital for a range of careers and relate to the real world of business outside the classroom. Business education is valuable for young people as it provides the skills that employers are looking for, and the knowledge that is essential in a modern economy. Students will be required to develop decision making skills and engage in critical thinking and analysis of core business functions which will equip them for further study and employment in a vast range of careers.

The delivery of this highly relevant and enjoyable course incorporates a variety of teaching and learning strategies to enhance the student learning experience. Business students are encouraged to read widely from online sources, newspapers and keep up-to-date with current changes in business and the economy. This helps them to understand the important business concepts they learn in the classroom and to apply these to the world around them.

Teaching and Learning strategies include the use of Essential Learning Notes, class discussions, interactive resources, case studies, presentations from invited speakers, past paper practice and exam technique, mark schemes, ICT and a variety of other teaching strategies to suit every type of learner and to support students in their study and learning. In addition, pupils get the opportunity to develop a range of valuable skills through investigation and research to develop independent learning in a fully supported environment.

Course Structure

GCE Business Studies is made up of two levels: AS and A2. Students can take the AS course as a final qualification without progressing to the A2 Level. However, those wanting to obtain the full Advanced GCE must complete both the AS and the A2 Level. Students study two units at AS and a further two at A2 Level. The individual units are listed below:

UNIT	TITLE	ASSESSMENT	ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING
AS 1	Introduction to Business	Exam	50% of AS 20% of A Level
AS 2	Growing the Business	Exam	50% of AS 20% of A Level
A2 1	Strategic Decision Making	Exam	30% of A Level
A2 2	The Competitive Business Environment	Exam	30% of A Level

How will I be assessed?

There is no coursework requirement for GCE Business Studies. Students complete four exams: two at AS and two at A2. In the first 3 exams students must answer compulsory, structured data response questions based on stimulus material. In the final exam A2 2 students are presented with an unseen case study and are required to produce a business report analysing problems, evaluating evidence and proposing/justifying solutions

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Knowledge gained in Business Studies can transcend a wide range of career areas and therefore is an extremely useful and versatile subject. Many of our students choose Business Studies because they want a career in a particular area of Business while others choose it because they know that in many careers they will need a level of business knowledge especially if they want to go into management.

Business Studies is a well established, highly regarded A-Level that is very beneficial to those planning to work in most industries including scientific, medical, educational, financial and government sectors to name a few and well as for prospective entrepreneurs. Becoming knowledgeable about how businesses operate increases your competitiveness in the job market and your understanding of how the business and governments drive our world economies. The study of Business will be highly beneficial when pursuing careers in both the private and public sectors. Business students go into Business, Economics, Marketing, Finance, Accountancy, Law, Project Management, Banking, Retail Management, Actuary, Operations Management, Human Resource Management, Management Information Systems, E Business and Entrepreneurship, Events Management, International Business, Fashion, Retail and Merchandising, Public Relations, Hospitality Management, Leisure and Tourism and many more career areas.

For further information log onto the Thornhill College Website and go to the Business Studies Department web pages including the Business Studies Careers page.

CHEMISTRY

Entry requirements: students should have at least AA in Double Award Science or A in GCSE Chemistry

Why choose GCE Chemistry?

Chemistry is the science most often required by universities and higher education establishments for students to embark on degrees in medicine, dentistry, pharmacy and pharmacology, forensic and veterinary science and chemical engineering. It fits in well with the study of the other sciences and there is significant use of mathematics throughout the two year course. As Chemistry is a practical subject, practical examinations form part of both the GCE AS and A level qualifications. Students will acquire skills that are valued in further and higher education, as well as in the workplace. These include research, investigation, analysis, communication, problem solving and working with others.

Specification:

Content	Assessment	Weighting
AS 1: Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	External written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes Students answer Section A containing 10 multiple choice questions (10 marks) and Section B containing a number of structured questions (80 marks).	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 2: Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and an Introduction to Organic Chemistry	External written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes Students answer Section A containing 10 multiple choice questions (10 marks) and Section B containing a number of structured questions (80 marks).	40% of AS 16% of A level
AS 3: Basic Practical Chemistry	Practical booklet A consists of a variety of practical tasks worth 25 marks. Students take the examination in the laboratory: 1 hour 15 minutes. Practical theory booklet B consists of a variety of questions testing knowledge of practical techniques, observations and calculations worth 55 marks. Students take the assessment in an examination hall: 1 hour 15 minutes.	20% of AS 8% of A level
A2 1: Further Physical and Organic Chemistry	External written examination: 2 hours. Students answer Section A containing 10 multiple-choice questions (10 marks) and Section B containing a number of structured questions (100 marks).	40% of A2 24% of A level
A2 2: Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry and Organic Nitrogen Chemistry	External written examination: 2 hours. Students answer Section A containing 10 multiple-choice questions (10 marks) and Section B containing a number of structured questions (100 marks).	40% of A2 24% of A level
A2 3: Further Practical Chemistry	Practical booklet A consists of a variety of practical tasks worth 30 marks. Students take the examination in the laboratory: 1 hour 15 minutes. Practical theory booklet B consists of a variety of questions testing knowledge of practical techniques, observations and calculations worth 60 marks. Students take the assessment in an examination hall: 1 hour 15 minutes.	20% of A2 12% of A level

In summary, Chemistry is

- A good subject combination with Biology, Physics and Maths.
- Essential for Medicine, Dentistry, Pharmacy and Veterinary Medicine.
- Challenging but rewarding and enjoyable.

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

The influence of ICT in nearly every aspect of our lives continues to accelerate, with current and emerging technologies, networks and services transforming the way we communicate with each other, how we work, and the way we learn. The ICT industry now accounts for a significant proportion of our economic output: almost every organisation will use ICT to conduct their daily operations. As a result, almost all organisations will value the knowledge, understanding and skills that GCE Digital Technology develops.

Year 13 – 40% of A Level

Unit AS 1: Approaches to System Development

(50% of AS)

External written examination – 1 hour 30 minutes

Unit AS 2: Fundamentals of ICT (50% of AS)

External written examination – 1 hour 30 minutes

Entrance Requirements

There are no specific entrance requirements though those who have studied ICT to GCSE would be at an advantage

Year 14 – 60% of A Level

Excellent Career Prospects

Latest research suggests that almost 40% of companies in this sector are struggling to recruit workers with the advanced and technical STEM skills needed, while only 15% of the STEM workforce are female.

Unit A2 1: Information Systems (40% of A Level)

External written examinations – 2 hours 30 minutes

Unit A2 2: Applications Development (20% of A Level)

Candidates will produce a relational database solution, using a wide range of advanced features and functionalities.

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES

(If offered, this course will be delivered through the Foyle Learning Community)

DRAMA AND THEATRE STUDIES (new Specification Edexcel 2016)

Entry Requirements: A*- B in GCSE English (Language and Literature). It is useful to have taken Drama at GCSE level but not essential, according to the Edexcel exam board.

What will I learn on this course?

You will develop your practical, creative and communication skills in almost equal measure. You will extend your ability to create drama and theatre, either in a performing or production role and how to write about drama. You will develop your powers of analysis to become an informed critic, and will take part in drama productions, as well as studying plays and playwrights.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

You need to be curious about issues and ideas and have a creative instinct for communicating your views through drama. You may be keen on acting, writing or on the visual and technical side of theatre and wish to develop your skills in some or all of these areas. Equally you will be interested in going to the theatre to see plays performed by different theatre companies.

Towards Higher Education/ Career:

Good Combination With: All subjects; the Sciences, Psychology, Sociology, History, Geography, Languages, Politics, Technology and Design, Art and Design, Music etc.

The practical coursework element combines very effectively with end-of-unit, examination-based A Levels.

The practical performance and production elements create a welcome contrast when combined with the more traditional, academic, theory-based A Levels subjects.

Summary of Examination Information (new draft spec 2016):

Content overview – coursework 60%

- A group performance/design realisation of **one key extract** from a performance text and informed by the methodology of **one influential practitioner**.
- A monologue or duologue performance/design realisation from one key extract from a different performance text.
- Internally assessed and externally moderated.

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes - 40% of the qualification

- Practical exploration and study of a **complete performance text**.
- Live theatre evaluation

Assessment overview

Section A: Live Theatre Evaluation

- Students answer one extended response question from a choice of two requiring them to analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance they have seen.
- Students are allowed to bring in theatre evaluation notes of up to a maximum of 500 words.

Section B: Page to Stage: Realising a Performance Text

- Students answer two extended response questions on how they might interpret and realise an extract in performance.

Head of Department:

Ms. F Pender Drama Rm

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Entry requirements

AA in GCSE English and English Literature is desirable. A/B, B/A or BB would be considered provided applicant has a strong recommendation from GCSE teacher.

Course Content

We follow the AQA A' Level syllabus. [Spec A].

The specification encourages the exploration of texts in a number of different ways:

- the study of a literary theme over time
- the study of literature through engaging with two of the main historicist perspectives, the diachronic (reading texts written across widely different time periods that explore the same theme) and synchronic (reading texts written within a narrower and clearly defined time period)
- the study of various texts, both singly and comparatively, chosen from a list of core set texts and a list of chosen comparative set texts
- writing about texts in a number of different ways.

Component	Section	Text Type	Genre Requirement	Text Requirement
Love through the ages	A	One core set text	One drama text	Shakespeare
	B	Two comparative set texts	One poetry and one prose text	One must be written pre-1900
Texts in shared contexts	A	One core set text	One drama, one poetry and one prose text	One must be written post-2000
	B	Two comparative set texts		
Texts across time		Two independently chosen texts	Choice of genre	One must be written pre-1900

Why study English?

English Literature is a flexible and adaptable subject that opens up a wide range of career choices. It enables students to develop skills in written and spoken communication, working independently and thinking critically, all of which are highly valued by employers. A student of English Literature needs to have a passionate interest in language, thought, and human relationships as well as the obvious compulsion to read.

Good combination with:

History, Politics, Modern languages, Sciences/Maths (popular with many universities for balance)

Towards Higher Education/ Career

English Literature will present the student with a wide range of career opportunities. It is a compulsory subject for those who wish to complete a degree in English Literature and these graduates are well suited to a career in any of the following: Accountancy, American Studies, Business Administration, Business Management, Drama, Film, ICT, Journalism, Law, Librarianship, Local Government, Multi-media, Personnel Management, Publishing, Social Work, Teaching, Television, Theatre.

Head of Department Ms H Minnis English Rm 7

FRENCH

Entry requirements

Grades A*/A in GCSE French. Pupils who achieve a Grade B would be considered if supported by a strong recommendation from GCSE teacher.

Why choose A Level French?

More than 220 million people on all five continents speak French. It is a major language of international communication. French is the second most widely learned language after English and the sixth most widely spoken language in the world. French is also the second most widely taught language, after English, and is taught on every continent.

The ability to speak French is an advantage when looking for a job. Many multinational companies use French as their working language in sectors such as retail, automotive, luxury goods and aeronautics.

Learning a language and studying another culture broadens the mind and widens horizons.

We live in an interconnected world where international and cross-cultural working relationships are commonplace and a key aspect of the global workplace. Being able to speak another language, understand another culture and empathise with colleagues who are working in a second language are valuable skills for students with a range of future career plans.

Learning a language also gives students opportunities to develop confidence, independence, communication and presentation techniques, IT competence, as well as skills in research, evaluation and analysis that universities and employers value highly.

AS Contexts	Content
Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • different family structures; • roles, responsibilities and relationships within families; • challenges for families; • intergenerational issues; and • influences on young people (e.g. peers, family and friends)
Culture and Lifestyle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • physical well-being, for example diet or exercise; • risk-taking behaviour (e.g. smoking, alcohol, drugs, extreme sports) • dealing with stress and challenges (e.g. school or examinations) • hobbies and interests, for example sport or music; • the arts, film, fashion and design; • social media and new technology; and • holidays, festivals and tourism.
A2 Contexts	Content
Young People in Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • part-time jobs; • education and employment; • career planning – aspirations or intentions; • young people and democracy; • European citizenship – advantages, disadvantages and opportunities; • societal attitudes and young people.
Our Place in a Changing World	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • equality/inequality and discrimination/prejudice; • poverty at home and abroad – causes, consequences and measures to combat it; • immigration and emigration – causes, benefits and related issues; • multicultural society and cultural identity – benefits and challenges; • causes, consequences and resolution of conflict; • sustainable living and environmental issues

GEOGRAPHY

Entry Requirements: (B - A* in GCSE Geography)

Geography involves an awareness of the physical world and the people who live in it. Therefore prospective students need an abiding interest in people and in places. The scope of the subject is wide and provides students with an extensive and balanced educational base. It provides them with skills in observation, measurement, recording, analysis and interpretation of data, together with skills in decision-making, communication, empathy and essay writing.

Summary of Course Content:

For further details see: www.ccea.org.uk/geography

<i>Assessment Unit</i>	<i>Topics</i>	<i>Nature of Assessment</i>	<i>Assessment Weighting (%)</i>
AS Module 1: Physical Geography	- Fluvial Environments - Ecosystems - Atmospheric Systems	1 hr 15 min Exam	40% of AS 16% of A-Level
AS Module 2: Human Geography	- Population - Settlement - Development	1 hr 15 min Exam	40% of AS 16% of A-Level
AS Module 3: Fieldwork Skills & Techniques	- Fieldwork - Data Collection Skills - Data Processing Techniques	1 hr Exam	20% of AS 8% of A-Level
A2 Module 1: Physical Processes & Human Interactions	- Plate Tectonics - Tropical Ecosystems	1 hr 45 min Exam	24% of A-Level
A2 Module 2: Processes & Issues in Human Geography	- Planning for Sustainable Settlements - Tourism	1 hr 45 min Exam	24% of A-Level
AS Module 3: Decision Making in Human Geography	- Decision Making Exercise	1 hr 30 min Exam	12% of A-Level

Good Combination With:

All subjects – as Geography is unique in that it is an interdisciplinary discipline that unites the humanities / social sciences and natural sciences. It links in particularly well with the study of Biology. However its content and acquisition of skills can compliment a range of other subject areas including: English, History, Religious Studies, Politics, Psychology, Business Studies, Mathematics and Physics.

Careers:

Past students who have studied A-level Geography at Thornhill College are following career paths in a wide variety of fields including: Medicine, Dentistry, Law, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Radiography, Pharmacy, Architecture, Civil Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, Criminology, International Politics, Marine Biology, Geography, Geology, Environmental Planning, Environmental Health, Town & Country Planning, Teaching etc. Many of our students study Geography at A-Level to follow specific career paths in environmentally related fields, however many students simply study Geography because they enjoy it and they are good at it and this will allow them to achieve a top grade to gain entry into the course they want to follow at university. For further Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance regarding Geography see the careers notice boards in the Geography corridor or speak to your Geography teacher.

Exam Results:

The A-Level exam results in the Geography Department in Thornhill College are excellent, with students being regularly placed in the top 10 achievers in Geography in N. Ireland.

Head of Department – Mr H McSorley (Geography Room 2)

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS

Entry Requirements AS Politics is not taught at GCSE there are no subject specific related requirements. However a grade B in English Language is desirable as is a good grade in GCSE History and an interest in current affairs.

Course Content

There are two AS modules and two A2 modules.

AS

- Module 1, *The Government and Politics of NI*, is a study of contemporary politics of Northern Ireland. It is an exciting module which utilises sources in order to establish how and why the current peace process came about. It involves knowledge of the political parties, the Assembly etc
- Module 2, *The British Political Process*, is a study of the various institutions of government including the Executive/Government (Prime Minister and Cabinet), Parliament and the Judiciary. Students will also examine the work of political parties, MPs and members of the House of Lords.

A2

- Module 1, *Comparative Government: The UK and USA compared*. This unit involves a comparison of the main institutions of government in Britain with those in the USA including Parliament, Congress, The Prime Minister, The President, The US Constitution etc.
- Module 2, *Political Power*. This module involves the study of themes such as Marxism, Elitism, Pluralism and Feminism. It also includes examining the nature of Power, Authority and Coercion. It is a module which is very challenging but equally enjoyable. It introduces students to many interesting concepts.

Assessment

Assessment is by examination alone and there is no coursework. Students will sit two exams for AS and two for A2. Students will sit their exams in the summer of each year of entry. Students may re-sit an exam to improve a grade.

Good Combination

Government and Politics can be combined with many different subjects. As Politics is a literary subject it combines well with English, Languages and RE. Also, because of the content of the Politics course, it combines with Business Studies, History and Geography. However, because of the skills taught in Politics -analysis, evaluation, argument etc. - it has also been combined with Science subjects such as Physics and Chemistry.

Special Comments

This is a subject that provides students with a very broad knowledge of the world around them. It arms them with the skills and capabilities to make informed choices and shape the world for themselves and others.

Careers

Politics is offered by most universities as a free standing degree, or it may be combined with a variety of other subjects. Career paths include: the Media, Journalism, Law, Social Work, Youth and Community Work, the Civil Service, Marketing, Public Relations, the Diplomatic Service, Economics, Business, Town and Country Planning, Political Lobbying, Working with an NGO to name but a few.

HISTORY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade B in GCSE History. Grade B in English is also required because of the literary nature of the subject.

CONTENT AND ASSESSMENT:

AS History consists of two modules:

AS 1 *The Nazis and Germany, 1919 – 1945.*

This module is assessed by means of source questions and an essay in a written examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes, sat at the end of Year 13.

AS 2 *Russia, 1914 – 1941 or Italy, 1871 - 1943.*

This module is assessed by means of a number of questions in a written examination lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes, sat at the end of Year 13.

THERE IS NO CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT FOR A LEVEL HISTORY.

A2 History consists of two modules:

A2 1 *Clash of Ideologies in Europe, 1900 – 2000.*

This module is assessed by means of a one hour examination. There will be one essay, sat at the end of Year 14.

2.] *Partition of Ireland, 1905 – 1923.*

This module is assessed by means of a two hours and thirty minutes examination. There will be two source questions and an essay, sat at the end of Year 14.

GOOD COMBINATION WITH:

Politics, English, R.E., Psychology and Modern Languages, but is often popular with Science students with wider interests.

SPECIAL COMMENTS:

History requires the ability to deal with substantial amounts of information, and demands commitment and determination and a logical mind. Students are required to read set texts, and are encouraged to read beyond them. Written work is at the heart of the study of History so students are expected to have a good facility in writing.

HIGHER EDUCATION/CAREERS:

History is particularly useful for students who intend to pursue careers in Teaching, Law, History, Politics, the media, Archaeology, Library work, museums or conservation. However, the analytical skills it develops are valued by employers in a wide range of careers which involve handling and processing information, as in Business and Personnel Management.

IRISH

Below are some pointers as to why Irish at AS/A2 *may* be a good choice for you:

- If you have achieved highly at GCSE, Irish may be a good choice for you at AS/A2. Your GCSE Irish teacher can advise you.
- 100% of A2 Irish students achieved an A-C grade in the last **10** years, 71% achieved an A*- A grade in 2016; 88% an A* - B grade. Irish is a very popular AS/A2 choice in Thornhill. 51 students currently study Irish at this level.
- If you wish to study Irish at third level.

Entry Requirements:

- A* or A at GCSE. Students with a B grade may find Irish at AS, and in particular at A2, too challenging however very committed pupils will improve. Students should discuss suitability for AS/A2 with their GCSE Irish teacher.

Course Content/Assessment:

AS [40% weighting]	A2 [60% weighting]
Module 1: [30% of AS; 12% of A2] Speaking.	Module 1: [18% of A level] Speaking.
Module 2: [40% of AS; 16% of A2] Listening, Reading, Translation [Irish to English], Use of Language.	Module 2: [24% of A level] Listening, Reading, Summary, Translation [English to Irish].
Module 3: [30% of AS; 12% of A2] Short Film [essay].	Module 3: [18% of A level] Poetry [essay].

The Irish Department will ensure that:

- Pupils are stimulated and highly motivated to build on their positive learning experience and skills base from Key Stage 4.
- Pupils are encouraged and advised to attend the Donegal Gaeltacht at Easter and/or Summer to improve their ability to understand and in particular speak the language.
- Irish students benefit from a weekly timetabled conversation class with the Language Assistant.
- Pupils are given many opportunities to be involved in Irish Language learning extra-curricular activities organised by Department.

Employability: In recent years there has been a very significant increase in the employment opportunities available with Irish, in particular the continued growth of Irish Medium Education, the success of TG4 and associated programme production and most recently the status given to Irish as an official language of the European Union. Therefore Irish now offers a wider career choice than ever before; another skill which can lead to employment in areas such as Education, Technology, Media [TV and Radio], Publishing, Childcare, Government, Community and Cultural Development, Cultural Tourism. The Booklets **Irish – opening doors to employment** and **Taking the next step with Irish** may be borrowed from the Irish Department.

MATHEMATICS

Entry Requirements:

Grades A/A* in GCSE Maths is expected, having completed the T4 and T6 modules. A student who has obtained a grade B overall, with a grade A in the T4 module, may be permitted to enter A-level on the recommendation of their GCSE teacher.

Preferably a student will have undertaken the Further Maths GCSE course but this is not an essential requirement. Those students who have not studied Further Maths will be required to complete extra work to practise essential mathematical techniques required for success at A'level.

Course Content:

The course covers concepts in Pure Maths such as techniques for factorisation, differentiation, integration and curve sketching. In addition the basic principles of Mechanics and Statistics are studied.

Assessment:

The course is split into 6 equally weighted modules, three at AS level and three at A2 level, all of which are assessed by written examinations lasting 1½ hours. Calculators are not permitted in the first Module Core 1 but are required for the other 5 modules. There is no coursework in A-level Maths.

Good Combination With:

An A-level in Maths indicates a good ability to solve problems in a logical manner which is useful in a wide range of subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Business Studies and Geography.

Any Special Comments:

An A-level in Maths helps a student develop their ability to work independently, to think abstractly and present convincing arguments to support their conclusions.

Towards Higher Education / Career:

The skills that a student develops in their A-level Maths course are valued in many careers such as: Law, Medicine, Science Degrees, Engineering Degrees, Architecture and the Financial Sector.

Mathematicians generally define their work as solving theoretical and practical problems concerned with Engineering, Economics, Marketing, Physical Sciences, Computing and Statistics. As a result, they are much in demand, particularly in Actuarial Work, and in Finance. There is also a substantial and increasing demand for mathematicians to work in the Science and Electronics based industries. If none of those appeals, the UK is desperately short of Mathematics Teachers both in schools and in further education. For the brightest academics, university and research council-inspired projects are other areas of employment.

FURTHER MATHEMATICS

A student who achieves an A* grade in both GCSE Maths and GCSE Further Maths will be offered the opportunity to study Further Maths AS.

MUSIC

Entry Requirements: In order to do AS/A Level Music candidates must have obtained a B or higher in Music for GCSE. They must have a good performance level on their instrument/voice minimum level grade 4.

Music is a moral law. It gives soul to the universe, wings to the mind, and life to everything... Without music, life would be an error. (Plato)

Content	Assessment	Weightings
AS 1: Performing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo performance • Viva voce 	35% of AS 14% of A level
AS 2: Composing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Composition task or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B: Composition with technology task • Written commentary 	35% of AS 14% of A level
AS 3: Responding to Music	Two external written examinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test of aural perception 1 hour <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written examination 2 hours	30% of AS 12% of A level
A2 1: Performing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solo performance • Viva voce 	21% of A level
A2 2: Composing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A: Composition task or <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B: Composition with technology task • Written commentary 	21% of A level
A2 3: Responding to Music	Two external written examinations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Test of aural perception 1 hour 15 mins <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written Examination 2 hours	18% of A level

Careers Associated with Music

- Professional musician/recording artist/member of a band or Orchestra
- Teaching (Subject and instrument)
- Primary teaching
- Recording technician
- Sound/Studio technician
- Film industry
- Music technology industry
- Gaming industry
- Music Therapy
- Composer
- Music critic
- Manager

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

A grade A or better in GCSE PE is desirable. Students must be involved in one performance role as a competent player or Coach.

COURSE CONTENT:

Paper 1: Factors affecting participation in physical activity and sport

What's assessed?

Section A: Applied anatomy and physiology

Section B: Skill acquisition

Section C: Sport and society

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A-level

Paper 2: Factors affecting optimal performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed?

Section A: Exercise physiology and biomechanics

Section B: Sport psychology

Section C: Sport and society and technology in sport

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 105 marks
- 35% of A-level

PRACTICAL CONTENT activity and sport

Non-exam assessment: Practical performance in physical activity and sport

What's assessed?

Students assessed as a performer or coach in the full sided version of one activity.

Plus: written/verbal analysis of performance.

How it's assessed

- Internal assessment, external moderation
- 90 marks
- 30% of A-level

GOOD COMBINATION WITH:

The subject sits well with any combination of subjects especially Sciences and Health and Social Care.

POTENTIAL CAREER PATHWAYS:

Sports Therapy Fitness Instruction Sports Coaching Youth Work
Sports Psychology Physiotherapy Refereeing PE Teaching
Sports Development Exercise Science Outdoor Pursuits Exercise Science
Personal Training Firefighter Sports Nutrition Sports Massage Leisure
Attendant

PHYSICS

Entry Requirements:

An AA grade in GCSE Double Award Science or a minimum of a B grade in Triple Award GCSE Physics. An A grade in GCSE Maths is also expected. A good overall GCSE points total is also beneficial.

Course Content:

Topics covered on the AS/A2 level courses include: Forces, Energy, Electricity, Waves, Photons, Astronomy, Atomic and Nuclear Physics and Particle Physics.

Assessment:

The AS course contains three modules, AS1, AS2 and AS3.

AS1 and AS2 are each assessed by written papers lasting 1 hour 45 minutes.

AS3 consists of a 1 hour investigative skills practical paper in which you will complete four very short experiments and a separate 1 hour paper requiring the analysis of experimental results.

Pupils progressing to study for the A2 level will study a further 3 modules in Year 14.

A2 1 and A2 2 are each assessed by written papers lasting 2 hours.

A2 3 consists of a 1 hour investigative skills practical paper in which you will complete 2 experiments and a separate 1 hour paper requiring the analysis of experimental results.

Good Combination With:

Mathematics would be an excellent subject to study in conjunction with Physics as the two are very closely related. Other subjects that would be a good combination with Physics are: Chemistry, Biology, Geography and ICT.

Any Special Comments:

The study of Physics is essential in our modern world. Physics holds the answer to many of the biggest questions of our time. There has never been a more exciting time to be involved in physics; it is a period of huge innovation and discovery. In the study of Physics you will develop your practical skills, your problem solving skills and your skills of analysis and investigation. You will also gain valuable experience in research and mathematical skills. If you are interested in the world around you, if you like solving problems and have enjoyed Physics so far, you will benefit from deeper investigation into this subject.

Towards Higher Education:

Beyond its obvious requirement for a career in Physics/Astronomy or one of the many highly paid Engineering disciplines, Physics is also a highly regarded subject which develops many higher order skills keenly sought after by higher education and employers. This qualification is best suited to students who aspire to University level education. Physics opens doors to many careers including; Science, Mathematics, Optometry, Medicine and many Finance related degrees.

PSYCHOLOGY

WHAT IS PSYCHOLOGY?

Psychology is the scientific study of how people behave and how their minds work. It is concerned with understanding the experience and behaviour of humans.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Those who have indicated Psychology as a **preference** will have priority provided they have a **good GCSE profile** with a **Grade A** in **English Language** and **Grade AA** in **DA Science**.

COURSE CONTENT

Psychology is a **linear course** and A- Level students will be examined at **the end of their two year course**. However, students will also have the opportunity to sit an AS Psychology examination at the end of Year 13 which will provide an extra AS Level.

AS PSYCHOLOGY - YEAR 13

	UNIT 1	UNIT 2
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Social Influence: conformity; obedience to authority, independent behaviour, minority influence• Memory: - Memory: short term and long term memory; models of memory; forgetting, EWT• Attachment: stages, early social development; deprivation and privation; daycare.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Approaches in psychology: learning, cognitive, biological: BioPsychology: Stress: factors affecting stress; managing stress.• Psychopathology: Abnormality: defining abnormality; approaches and therapies• Research Methods
Assessment	1hr 30min - Structured questions	1hr 30min - Structured questions

N.b. Please note the AS is a stand alone(separate from A-level qualification).

A-LEVEL PSYCHOLOGY

	UNIT 1	UNIT 2	UNIT 4
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Social</i>• <i>Memory</i>• <i>Attachment</i>• <i>Psychopathology</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Approaches</i>• <i>Biopsychology</i>• <i>Research Methods</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Issues and Debates</i>• <i>Relationships</i>• <i>Eating Behaviour/ Stress</i>• <i>Aggression/ Addiction</i>
Assessment	2 hour examination	2 hour examination	2 hour examination

The A Level course has **three** Units examined only at the end of two years.

PSYCHOLOGY COMBINATIONS

Psychology can be combined with various subjects, in particular Biology, English, Mathematics (Statistics), Health & Social Care, Religious Studies.

CAREERS

Various careers, e.g. *Teaching, Educational/ Clinical/ Sports/ Health/ Forensic/ Occupational Psychology, Art/Music/Speech Therapy, Counselling, Psychiatric/Mental Health Nursing, Social Work, HR Management, and many more.*

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Entry Requirements:

Most students who opt to study AS Religious Studies usually have a grade A* or A grade at GCSE, however students with a grade B are often accepted onto the course. This is a very popular AS subject choice and currently there are 4 Year 13 AS classes.

Course Content:

At Thornhill College we study the **CCEA revised (2016) AS/A2 Religious Studies** specification.

The units of study are:

AS/A2: Textual Studies – Gospel of Luke
Religion and Ethics

ASSESSMENT	DURATION	WEIGHTING
AS EXAMINATION	2 EXTERNAL WRITTEN PAPERS 1 HOUR 20 MINUTES	EACH PAPER IS WORTH 50% OF AS LEVEL 40% OF A LEVEL
A2 EXAMINATION	2 EXTERNAL WRITTEN PAPERS EACH 2 HOURS IN DURATION	EACH A2 PAPER IS 50% OF A2 60% OF A LEVEL

There is no coursework component with this area of study

Good Combination With:

Any study of humanities, such as English, History and Geography. There is some overlap of course content with Psychology and Health and Social Care.

Why choose GCE Religious Studies:

Religion plays an important role in our society and can influence what people think, feel, and believe. Through studying Religious Studies, students reflect on how religion and spirituality form the basis of a culture. Religious Studies also helps students develop marketable skills and aptitudes including:

- analytical and strategic thinking;
- research skills;
- critical evaluation;
- the ability to work with abstract, conceptual ideas;
- an ability to 'understand both sides' and negotiate and resolve conflict;
- problem-solving skills;
- leadership skills;
- understanding of the impact of conflicting ideologies; and
- an appreciation of human diversity, belief systems, cultural and spiritual experiences.

Towards Higher Education/Career

This course appeals to students who:

- enjoy stimulating and lively discussion;
- enjoy finding out answers, not just being told them;
- want to develop an enquiring mind; and/or
- want to research and develop independent learning.
- Enjoy wider reading and contemporary awareness of moral issues

These skills are particularly useful for future careers in law, education, social work, politics, medicine, nursing, working for NGOs, administration or the media.

SOFTWARE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

(If offered, this course will be delivered through the Foyle Learning Community)

GCE Systems Software Development is a new GCE A Level qualification. It is designed to help students to develop the knowledge, understanding and skills required to work in software development. The focus is on developing programming skills. These skills are much sought after in today's labour market.

Any student hoping to pursue this course of study should have achieved at least an A grade in GCSE Mathematics.

Specification: CCEA

Content	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unit AS 1 Introduction to Object Oriented Development• Unit AS 2 Event Driven Programming• Unit A2 1 Systems Approaches and Database Concepts• Unit A2 2 Implementing Solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• External paper - 2 hours• Portfolio of Event Driven application<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internally assessed• Externally moderated• External paper - 2 hours• Portfolio of Implementing Software Solutions<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Internally assessed• Externally moderated

This specification aims to help students to:

- develop a genuine interest in programming in software systems development;
- develop an understanding of systems approaches and modelling techniques;
- develop skills that will prepare them for work in today's software industry;
- participate in developing a software project using a complete software development process;
- apply their skills to work-related scenarios;
- research, develop and present their findings in a variety of formats;
- develop advanced study skills to prepare for third level education; and
- demonstrate their understanding and application of key concepts through assessments.

Further details are available on the CCEA website www.ccea.org.uk

SPANISH

Entry Requirements

- Pupils taking up Spanish at AS level will need to have achieved a **high** standard at GCSE (Grade **A*/A** is desirable) or at a similar examination.
- Those pupils who have achieved a B grade **must** consult with their Year 12 Spanish teacher, the Head of Spanish and if necessary their Careers Advisor before acceptance into the AS course.
- N.B. Continuation towards A2 level will normally require a **high** level of performance at AS level.

Course Content:

- The AS / A2 courses are intended to extend and perfect the language skills of Speaking, Listening Reading and Writing, beyond Grade A at GCSE level.
- As well as textbooks there will be constant use of more authentic materials such as magazines, newspapers, CD's, television and the internet to enhance language skills.
- Pupils studying Spanish at AS / A2 level will also study the language through four prescribed contexts, a film and Literature.
- All students of Spanish at AS / A2 level are encouraged to actively broaden their experience the Spanish language and culture beyond the classroom/exchanges with Spain, awareness of Spanish media / current affairs).
- In addition to normal class: all pupils will have one conversation lesson per week in small groups with the Spanish assistant (a native speaker).

Assessment Structure

- The course assessments are divided into the two components. Firstly, the oral (30% of the examination) consists of a three-minute presentation and a conversation lasting approximately eight minutes. Secondly, the examination tests the skills of Listening, Reading and Writing and make up the remaining 65% of the exam.

AS

- 1) Oral (30% of AS level) and (12% of A Level)
- 2) Listening, Reading and Use of Language (40% of AS) and 16% of A Level
- 3) Extended Writing (30% of AS) and 12 % of A Level

AS: 40% of A Level

A2

- 1) Oral (18% of A Level)
- 2) Listening, Reading (24% of A Level)
- 3) Extended Writing (18% of A Level)

A2: 60% of A Level

Good Combination With:

Spanish is a subject which can combine well, with many other areas. In addition to traditional language courses, Spanish is now offered as an integral element of Higher education courses and careers in areas such as European Studies, Business Studies, Law, Engineering and Science, Secretarial Work, Travel and Tourism and Accountancy. Spanish is also viewed as a very useful subject to offer for university entrance along with Science subjects.

Towards Higher Education / Career:

Learning a language will bring you a wide range of skills and attributes. Not only will you be able to communicate in another language but you will have opportunities to improve communication and interpersonal skills, all of which are highly sought after by employers and universities alike. A qualification in GCE Spanish will offer you a range of employment opportunities and not just in the traditional fields of teaching, tourism, government and marketing. GCE Spanish will also benefit you in areas such as financial services, IT, journalism, law and engineering.

STATISTICS

Entry Requirements:

At least a B in GCSE Maths. It is not necessary to have undertaken the GCSE Statistics course in order to study A-Level Statistics

Course Content:

The course studies basic presentation and collection of data and probability theory. Special distributions such as the Normal distribution, the Binomial distribution and the Poisson distribution are studied in depth as well as various techniques for hypothesis testing.

Assessment:

The course is split into 6 equally weighted modules, three at AS level and three at A2 level, all of which are assessed by written examinations lasting 1½ hours. Coursework is not required.

Good Combination With:

An A-level in Statistics displays a good ability to manipulate data which is useful in Biology, Geography, Business Studies, History, Sociology and Psychology.

Any Special Comments:

A statistician needs to be able to collect and process data, fit the appropriate theoretical distribution and test their results. They need to be able to think logically and present their findings in the appropriate manner.

Towards Higher Education / Career:

The ability to process data is a fundamental component of most professions and so A level Statistics provides a sound basis for many courses at university. It is especially useful for any degree course which requires mathematical ability but can also be acceptable for such subjects as Law and Medicine.

Warning:

If you want to do a degree in Statistics at University you must do A level Mathematics, not A level Statistics.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

(If offered, this course will be delivered through the Foyle Learning Community)

Technology and Design Curriculum: AS and A2 Level

Background

The Technology and Design Department provides sixth form students with the opportunity to study the Edexcel Product Design Specification at AS and A2 level with a focus on Resistant Materials. This is a very exciting and interesting specification to study offering you every opportunity to develop skill, knowledge and understanding of the world of Technology and Design.

Course Structure

The course structure of this GCE is similar at AS and A2. At each level there are two units. There is a theory exam and a design portfolio/realisation unit at each level. The theory units are both assessed through a single exam in May/June and are weighted at 40% of the qualification. The design portfolio/realisation unit are assessed in school and moderated by Edexcel, each of these units has a weighting of 60%. The department operates an open brief policy giving students the opportunity to design and manufacture a product of their own choice for assessment in Unit 4, the A2 design portfolio. As a result pupils are able to achieve a considerable level of their attainment through the production of their design portfolio in this qualification.

Good combination with:

Design and Technology could be combined with Mathematics and Physics to provide a very good foundation for a Science or Engineering degree. In addition to Mathematics and Science, Technology and Design is a suitable subject for combination with other A Levels to pursue degree courses in the following disciplines:

- Architecture (Development of presentation skills)
- Town & Country Planning (Ability to read and interpret plans)
- Product Design (Develop and present concepts to clients and markets)
- A wide range of Engineering courses (Designing and Presentation skills developed)
- Teaching (any discipline)
- Trainee Management courses (development of evaluative and presentation skills)
- Technician level employment (including Forensic Science).

To study this subject at A-level it is desirable that students have an A or B grade in GCSE Design and Technology. Important factors for candidates to consider when wishing to achieve their full potential at AS and A2 level are hard work, commitment, self-motivation, interest in your studies and an enquiring mind. All characteristics which serve Technology and Design students well in the profession they decide to build a career.