

Year 8

Key Stage 4 Options

2018

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Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

Welcome to your 2018 Year 8 options booklet. I hope that this booklet, along with the options evening and subject evening in March, will guide you effectively whilst you make some important decisions for the next three years at West Exe and beyond. Choosing what to study for Years 9, 10 and 11 is a fantastic opportunity for you to decide where your strengths and interests are, and to start to think about what you may want to study at College, University, and what you may want to do in your future career. The process of choosing your options is an excellent opportunity for you to take control and responsibility for your learning with the aim of getting the very best possible outcomes for when you leave West Exe.

While this is a very exciting time for all the Year group, it can be difficult and a little overwhelming to make decisions now that have an impact on what you are go on to study when you leave West Exe. As your Head of Year, I want to make sure that all of you feel fully supported and informed during the options process. It is important that you can discuss your ideas with those around you; your tutors and teachers, your parents/carers and myself as your Head of Year. It can also be very useful to talk to students that are currently in Years 9, 10 and 11 and studying the courses that you are interested in.

Please make sure that you read this booklet very carefully as it has a description of all the courses that are on offer at West Exe School. If you have any questions about which subjects are compulsory, which are optional and which combinations of subjects you can take please make sure that you ask someone!

The important dates for you are:

Tuesday, 27 February 2018 - Options assembly

Thursday, 1 March 2018 - Year 8 Options evening

Thursday, 8 March 2018 - Year 8 Subject evening

I hope that you find this an exciting time and I wish you every success with the decisions that you make.

Mr Hugh O'Shea
Head of Year 8



Year 8 Options 2018 – Key Dates

Tuesday, 27 February

Options Assembly and Options Booklet handed out to students.

KS4 Preference forms handed out.

Options Booklet, and link to School website, emailed to Parents/Carers.

Thursday, 1 March

Options Information Evening 5.30pm - 6.30pm.

Please remember to bring your Options Booklet and your KS4 Preference form with you!

The Options Information Evening will commence at 5.30pm with a talk in the Main School Hall on the options process and range of courses on offer to our students. A second talk will commence at 6pm.

Subject stands will be in the Dining Hall with further information and opportunity to ask questions.

There will be an opportunity to speak to our Careers Adviser.

Thursday, 8 March

Year 8 Parents Evening 4pm - 7pm, Main Hall.
There will be an opportunity to speak to your child's individual subject teachers, find out how they are progressing and which courses they are most suited to take in Year 9.

Thursday, 15 March

Final deadline for return of the KS4 Preference form to Student Reception.



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GCSE Reform 2015-2018

As I am sure you are aware, the past few years have seen significant changes both to the content and rules governing assessment of GCSEs in England. The Government's reforms to GCSE, which are intended to drive up standards and bring England into line with other high performing countries (as measured by international tests such as PISA) represent a significant change to the way in which, and the level at which, students are assessed at the end of Year 11.

Key features of the new reformed GCSEs include:

- Increased content and challenge
- Terminal linear assessment with exams as the default method of assessment
- Single tier exams in most subjects
- Greater emphasis upon literacy
- Grades 9-1 have replaced A*-G

For the current Year 8 this will mean that the old A*-G alphanumerical grades (legacy subjects) are now replaced by the new 9-1 grading system. By replacing the current A* with Grades 8 and 9, the new system allows for greater differentiation at the top end. Please also note that the bar has been raised in terms of what the government considers to be a 'good pass' – formerly a Grade C, now a Grade 5.

All subjects are now worth the same, as one GCSE 9-1 grade. The exceptions are Combined Science which is worth two GCSE 9-1 grades; and Triple Science which results in 3 separate GCSE 9-1 grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



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Section A: Core Subjects

All students in Years 9, 10 and 11 study the following subjects as part of their compulsory 'core' entitlement:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- IT Technical (8e band only)
- Core PE
- West Exe Way

Section B: Languages

If you currently study a Language (8w band) you will continue to study that Language.

- Spanish or French

Section C: Guided Options

Students choose between the following subjects:

- History or Geography

Section C: Open Choice

Students choose **two** subjects and **one** reserve choice.



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Section A: Core Subjects

English Language

English Literature

Mathematics

Science

IT Technical (8e band only)

Core PE

West Exe Way

What will I be studying?

The English Language GCSE is split equally between reading skills and writing skills. The writing skills you will develop focus on using a range of sentence structures, punctuation and vocabulary choices. You will practise writing in different forms and for different purposes based on various stimuli. The reading skills focus on selecting quotations and textual details and analysing language and structure

What other skills will I develop?

Alongside the essential reading and writing skills, you will develop your ability to communicate both orally and in the written form. Additionally, you will use your ability to empathise with others to explore texts and characters fully.

How will I be assessed?

There are two written exams. Paper one – Explorations in creative reading and writing - lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of your final grade. Paper two - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives - again, lasts for 1 hour 45 minutes and is worth 50% of your final grade. There is a separate certificate for Spoken Language which will be assessed in class during Year 11 as a prepared oral presentation.

What could I study Post 16?

English Language is an essential qualification for all post 16 studies.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

When applying for jobs, the formal and persuasive writing skills you have learnt will be critical in creating a successful letter of application and CV. Your Spoken Language component will also develop your confidence and presentation skills which will be crucial in any interview situation.

What possible careers could I have?

All employers and further education establishments will want to see English Language on your CV. It tells them you are fully literate and that you will be able to access all written materials. There are a huge range of jobs where English Language is essential: teacher, police officer, journalist, human resources manager, web designer etc.



What will I be studying?

You will read and explore a range of texts including a nineteenth century novel, a Shakespeare play, a modern drama and a poetry collection. Lessons will focus on discussing and writing about characters, themes, attitudes and contexts. Your aim will be to create arguments about the writers' craft using language and structure analysis to support your points.

What other skills will I develop?

As with the English Language qualification, alongside the essential reading and writing skills, you will develop your ability to communicate both orally and in the written form. Additionally, you will use your ability to empathise with others to explore texts and characters fully. You will develop an understanding of the history and politics surrounding the texts and how these impact on our reading of works from another era.

How will I be assessed?

There are two 'closed book' written exams. Paper One - Shakespeare and the 19th century novel - lasts for 1-hour 45minutes and is worth 40% of your final grade. The second paper is called 'Modern texts and poetry'. This lasts for 2 hours 15 minutes and is worth 60% of your English literature GCSE. This is an exam only qualification and, as such, there is no coursework element.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level English Literature, English Language, Drama, Media Studies, History, Law etc. This is a respected course at university and will support any application for further academic study.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

We are planning author visits, theatre trips and writers' workshops.

What possible careers could I have?

English Literature is a rigorous, well respected GCSE that will stand you in good stead for many future careers. The ability to read and write about a variety of texts will be useful for teaching, research-based careers, acting etc.



What will I be studying?

Maths is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping you with the right skills to reach your future destination, whatever that may be. The course is designed to allow you to recognise the importance of mathematics in your own life and to society and has been organised into broad topic areas as follows: number; algebra; ratio, proportion and rates of change; geometry and measures; probability and statistics.

What other skills will I develop?

The course should enable you to develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. You will acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems, reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions. You will learn to comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms in a range of different situations.

How will I be assessed?

The course is assessed entirely by examination. There are three separate exams each of 1½ hours duration: Paper 1 (non-calculator) and Papers 2 and 3 (calculator). Each paper counts as one third of the whole qualification.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Mathematics, Sciences, Electronics, Psychology, Environmental Studies or the International Baccalaureate. Level 3 Mathematical Studies (Core Maths) is a new qualification designed for students who have achieved a grade 4 or above at GCSE,

What possible careers could I have?

Every career you can think of will involve maths at some level. Careers where maths is used regularly include: financial management services; construction and engineering; scientific research and design.



What do other students think about the course?

"It is fun working on challenging tasks in groups"

"I get stuck sometimes but I enjoy working through problems"

"I found out that I am better at maths than I first thought"

What is it about?

This course results in 2 GCSEs in Combined Science. It enables students to have a wide enough breadth of knowledge to continue to study Science at College, be that A-Level or BTEC courses.

Biology includes Microbes, Photosynthesis; Cells; Respiration; Internal Conditions in Humans; Enzymes. **Chemistry** includes Atoms and Compounds; Structures of Compounds; Controlling Reactions; Energy of Reactions; Ions. **Physics** includes Linear Movement; Static and Current Electricity; Electrical Devices; Radioactivity; Light and Sound.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of scientific theories, but also your ability to apply that knowledge, analyse and evaluate information in practical and everyday scenarios. Some of the materials studied are traditional, although there is a great emphasis on applying concepts and skills.

How will I be assessed?

There is a total of six 60-minute exams (two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics), making 100% of the total marks. There are a series of required practical investigations completed during the course which are examined within the final assessments.

What is the course worth?

The course is worth two GCSE 9-1 grades.

What could I study Post 16?

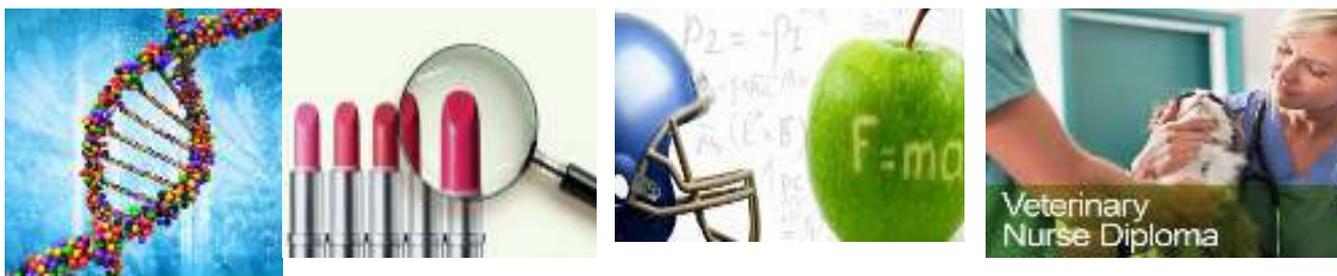
Students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Forensic Science, Human Biology, Environmental Studies or Animal Care. University STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) courses include Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Ocean Sciences, Veterinary Science or Zoology.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will meet and speak to a medical professional, a STEM Ambassador, and will complete a project looking at the recent developments in Science.

What possible careers could I have?

This course is a gateway into many different careers, be that within the STEM sector or Animal Care, Forensic Science, Sports Science, Cosmetic Science or Child Care to name but a few options. It gives you good life skills, regardless of the path you follow, which can be directly applied to many careers.



What do other students think about the course?

"It's a great balance between practical and theory."

"It is interesting yet challenging at the same time."

"I now want to pursue a career in Experimental Physics"

This course prepares students to study for 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students will begin studying the Triple Science pathway but may be advised to take the exams for Combined Science in Year 11 if this is felt a more secure route to achieve a higher grade.

What is it about?

It is suitable for those who wish to study science beyond 16 and to pursue a career that will be predominantly scientific. Some of the materials studied are traditional, although there is a great emphasis on applying concepts and skills. You investigate subject content in greater depth and have greater opportunity to develop practical skills.

Biology includes Microbes, Photosynthesis and the food chain; Cells; Respiration; Internal Conditions in Humans; Enzymes. **Chemistry** includes Atoms and Compounds; Structures of Compounds; Controlling Reactions; Energy of Reactions; Ions; Chemical Analysis. **Physics** includes Linear Movement; Circular Movement; Static and Current Electricity; Electrical Devices; Radioactivity; Light and Sound.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop the necessary problem solving, thinking and analytical skills through ICT-based research, hypothesis, discussion and experimentation.

How will I be assessed?

There is a total of six, 1¾ hour exams (two each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics), making 100% of the total marks.

What is the course worth?

The course results in 3 separate GCSE 9-1 grades, in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Forensic Science, Human Biology, Environmental Studies or the International Baccalaureate. University STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) courses include Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, Ocean Sciences, Veterinary Science, Zoology and Medicine.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will meet and speak to a variety of people employed within the Science sector such as, medical professionals, STEM ambassadors, researchers etc.

What possible careers could I have?

This course is designed for those whose careers will be in the STEM areas such as medicine, engineering, forensic science, sport science, marine science, further maths or ecology.



This is a core subject for students in the 8e band.

What will I be studying?

This is a new and exciting course, developed specifically for the latest government guidelines, and has built upon an outstanding existing framework of topics in which students have been fully engaged. It is targeted at all students who have an interest in interactive media, design or animation. In addition, the course supports and develops students to be able to:

- Select, use and apply a range of 2D and 3D techniques, processes, media and materials to interactive applications
- Develop personal responses to artistic themes and design briefs
- Determine areas of interest and skill for progression to further courses of study or employment.

What other skills will I develop?

The course provides students with a diverse skill and knowledge base and a broad and comprehensive understanding of ICT and interactive media. Breaking this down into specific skill and knowledge areas, the course builds personal skills of communication, creativity, time management and problem-solving; and ICT skills including:

- An understanding of interactive media software packages, platforms and hardware
- An understanding of image types and file types
- An understanding of internet technologies and capabilities
- An understanding of project management strategies

How will I be studying?

Students in iMedia can benefit from an entirely digitised curriculum experience. Every aspect of the course has an online video tutorial, automated lesson testing and homework videos with automated testing (the last two assisting students with the self-diagnosis of their subject knowledge). For coursework students have strict deadlines and work is marked efficiently using the VLE allowing students to make exceptionally good progress and achieve very high grades. Students can access all of this, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days of the year, helping students take greater ownership of their learning. These are available now at www.tedwraggtrustmoodle.co.uk

How will I be assessed?

Three units are assessed using portfolios of coursework, which are built up from assignments completed during each unit. One unit is assessed externally in an examination and builds upon the previous three coursework units.

Homework is an important part of the process of building up a personal portfolio. It will be an advantage if students have access to a computer at home. This is not essential, but they will need to make efforts to use school's computing facilities during lunchtimes or after school hours.

Post 16 and future career pathways?

There are a huge range of career options available, to name a few: Multimedia, Information Systems, Game Design, Advertising, Graphic Design, Audio Engineer, Animator, Project Manager, Composer, Web Developer, Production Assistant, Creative Director, Web Content Manager, Computer Science, Computing and Networking, and Network Security.

West Exe Way

When you start Year 9, you will follow a course called the “West Exe Way”. This is a course specifically designed for students at West Exe School. It includes Personal Social Health and Economic education (to promote positive health, wellbeing and resilience), religious education (RE makes a distinctive contribution to the school curriculum by developing knowledge and understanding of religion, religious beliefs, practices, language and traditions and their influence on individuals, communities, societies and cultures), and Sex and Relationship Education (to help and support young people through their physical, emotional and moral development, and is essential if you are to make responsible and well informed decisions about your lives).

The West Exe Way is not an examined course, but it has close links to many of the subjects you will choose to study. The skills and knowledge you will gain in class will be transferable to these subjects; For example, your research skills will help you in History, and your knowledge of the world will help with in Geography. In a similar way, the skills of debating and public speaking will support you in English.

The West Exe Way is about preparing you for life after West Exe.

It focuses on six key areas:

- ‘The way I am as a person’;
- ‘The way I am as a West Exe student’;
- ‘The way I am a member of the community’;
- ‘The way I am as a British citizen’;
- ‘The way I am a citizen of the world’
- ‘The way I interact with the natural world’.

Within these areas you will learn about issues ranging from human rights to the rights of animals; from cultural diversity in the UK to how we choose a new government. It will play an important role, alongside other aspects of the curriculum and school life, in helping you deal with difficult moral and social questions.

Through studying the course, your knowledge and understanding of many important issues will be increased. You will also develop what are called ‘21st century future skills’. These are the skills that many employers, especially big, important companies, are looking for when they are deciding which people to give jobs to. As there will be lots of people competing for not many jobs in the future, if you can show you have these skills, you will be at an advantage. The West Exe Way will provide you with many opportunities to develop these, and many other practical skills such as how to open a bank account and first aid.

Core PE

The primary purpose of this module is to keep students involved in physical exercise and educate them about the need to be active and healthy. The range of activities will include some or all of the following:

- Netball
- Volleyball
- Hockey
- Rounders
- Badminton
- Basketball
- Health and fitness

There is no examination at the end of this course.



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Section B: Languages

If you currently study a Language (8w band)
you will continue to study that Language.

Spanish or French

If you currently study Spanish (8w band) you will continue to study this Language.

What will I be studying?

Learn the language of over 400 million people! This excellent GCSE course is as much an exploration of the Spanish speaking world as it is a rigorous training in how to learn and manipulate another language to communicate clearly and effectively.

The subject content is based on 3 themes divided into 4 topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 1 Topics: Me, my family and friends; Technology; Free-time activities; Customs and festivals in Spanish speaking-speaking communities.

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

Theme 2 Topics: Home, town, neighbourhood and region; Social issues; Global issues; Travel and tourism.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Theme 3 topics: My studies; Life at school; Education post-16; Jobs, career choices and ambitions.

What other skills will I develop?

The course will offer students the opportunity to develop the four language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will develop the necessary aptitude in concentration, memorising, communicating clearly and working with others. With the new GCSE promoting a strong emphasis on grammar and structures, you will also expand your grammatical understanding of the English language which will help you in all subjects.

How will I be assessed?

You will take exams in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, each worth 25% of the final grade. You will complete the exams at Foundation or Higher tier.

Listening: 1 exam of 35 minutes (Foundation) or 45 minutes (Higher)

Speaking: 1 speaking exam of 7-9 minutes (Foundation) or 10-12 minutes (Higher)

Reading: 1 exam of 45 minutes (Foundation) or 1 hour (Higher)

Writing: 1 exam of 1 hour (Foundation) or 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher)

Post 16 and future career pathways?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Spanish or the International Baccalaureate. University courses include Modern Foreign Languages and International Studies or a wide range of joint honours degrees, studying a language alongside History or Business, for example. Most non-language courses may also offer you a year studying abroad if you can show good achievement at GCSE or A-Level.

Employers love linguists and, being an optional subject, having a language will give you an advantage over other candidates. Language-specific careers include interpreter, international business manager, teacher and any role that requires contact with people who speak a language other than English. Languages are also invaluable for careers in a wide range of sectors including law, media, business and defence.

Spanish is the official language of 21 countries and is the 2nd most spoken language in the world with 400 million speakers, even more than English. The United States of America, where Spanish is not even the official language, is still the second largest Spanish-speaking country in the world. As a linguist, you will be able to show that you are able to think and communicate on a global level and, with Spanish, the world will be able to communicate with you.

If you currently study French (8w band) you will continue to study this Language.

What will I be studying?

Learn a language spoken on all 5 continents! This excellent GCSE course is as much an exploration of the French speaking world as it is a rigorous training in how to learn and manipulate another language to communicate clearly and effectively.

The subject content is based on 3 themes divided into 4 topics:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 1 Topics: Me, my family and friends; Technology; Free-time activities; Customs and festivals in French speaking-speaking communities.

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

Theme 2 Topics: Home, town, neighbourhood and region; Social issues; Global issues; Travel and tourism.

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

Theme 3 topics: My studies; Life at school; Education post-16; Jobs, career choices and ambitions.

What other skills will I develop?

The course will offer students the opportunity to develop the four language skills - listening, speaking, reading and writing. You will develop the necessary aptitude in concentration, memorising, communicating clearly and working with others. With over half of modern English coming directly from French, you will also expand your vocabulary and understanding of the English language which will help you in all subjects.

How will I be assessed?

You will take exams in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing, each worth 25% of the final grade. You will complete the exams at Foundation or Higher tier.

Listening: 1 exam of 35 minutes (Foundation) or 45 minutes (Higher)

Speaking: 1 speaking exam of 7-9 minutes (Foundation) or 10-12 minutes (Higher)

Reading: 1 exam of 45 minutes (Foundation) or 1 hour (Higher)

Writing; 1 exam of 1 hour (Foundation) or 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher)

Post 16 and future career pathways?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level French or the International Baccalaureate. University courses include Modern Foreign Languages and International Studies or a wide range of joint honours degrees, studying a language alongside History or Business, for example. Most non-language courses may also offer you a year studying abroad if you can show good achievement at GCSE or A-Level.

Employers love linguists and, being an optional subject, having a language will give you an advantage over other candidates. Language-specific careers include interpreter, international business manager, teacher and any role that requires contact with people who speak a language other than English. Languages are also invaluable for careers in a wide range of sectors including law, media, business and defence.

French is the official language of 29 countries and is spoken in all 5 continents of the world. It is the 6th most spoken language and, after English, is considered to be the 2nd most influential language in terms of cultural dissemination. As a linguist, you will be able to show that you are able to think and communicate on a global level and, with French, the world will be able to communicate with you.



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Section C: Guided Options

Students choose between the following subjects:

History or Geography

What will I be studying?

This course looks at a wide range of events from history in several different ways. The course is geared to giving easier access at A-Level History. You will learn the history of *Medicine in Britain* from c.1250 to the present day and the story of *Germany, 1918-1939*. You will be reviewing the history of *The American West* (c.1835-c.1895), and *Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588*.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop the necessary problem solving, thinking and literacy skills through, discussion and extended writing. There will be some focus on ICT-based research skills. You will also have a greater awareness of different political systems and societies. You will be involved in your own historical enquiry and will be able to develop an understanding of your own role as a responsible citizen in society.

How will I be assessed?

GCSE History is assessed through 3 exam papers, all taken at the end of Year 11. They are:

Paper 1: Medicine Through Time (1hr 15mins)

Paper 2: The American West & Elizabethan England (1hr 45mins)

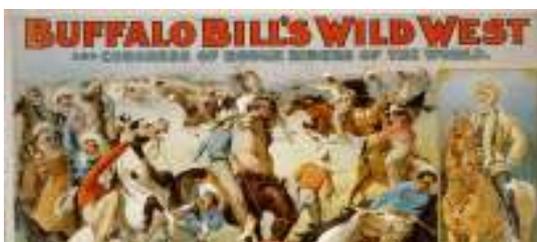
Paper 3: Germany, 1918-1939 (1hr 20 mins)

Post 16 and future career pathways:

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level History, Sociology, Psychology, Politics, Law or World Development. University courses include History, Law, Journalism and Archaeology.

You will develop a broad range of skills that will help you in the world of work. These include independent study, analysing evidence, forming arguments, making cases for and against issues and developing a world-wide perspective of history and the world we live in today.

GCSE History will help with any job that requires an active mind and research skills which includes journalism, TV researching, teaching, politics, broadcasting, police, detective work, and the law; solicitor, court clerks. Areas of work connected directly to the past also include tourism and conservation and archaeology.



What will I be studying?

You will learn about your place in your world and how it is changing – quickly. You will learn about the physical landscape, discovering how glaciers have shaped the UK and explore what is happening to our coastline. The built environment has a huge impact on our lives and understanding how it is changing can help us make decisions for our future. Geography is about place and you will learn about our interaction with it from deforestation in the rainforests to the impacts of climate change. Some people in our world have a better quality of life than others, you will investigate why and what others can do about it. You will also learn through practical experiences how fieldwork can help us understand our world.

What other skills will I develop?

Your organisational and planning skills will develop alongside your ability to interpret information, handle data and communicate your findings through writing. You will be involved in problem solving activities and geographical enquiries about people and place. The course will allow you to learn skills required for future academic study at A-Level and for university degrees in a range of subjects.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 written exams

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (1 hour 30 minutes) 35%

Paper 2: Challenge of the human environment (1 hour 30 minutes) 35%

Paper 3: Geographical applications with a pre-released booklet (1 hour 15 minutes) 30%

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Geography, Geology, Sociology or World Development. University courses include Environmental Science, Geography, Geology, Land Management, Leisure Management and Travel, Urban planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering.

What possible careers could I have?

Many employers like to see Geography on your CV. It tells them you can investigate issues, research problems and come up with evidence-based solutions. There are a huge range of jobs where Geography will help; expedition leader, travel agent, TV researcher, conservation officer, architect, urban planner, forestry manager, environmental engineer, aid worker, human rights officer, retail manager, insurance, surveyor, advertising and marketing.





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Section C: Open Choice

Students choose two subjects and one reserve choice

Students will choose either Fine Art or Graphic Communication.

What is it about?

Art and Design will offer you the opportunity for visual, tactile and intellectual forms of expression. You will learn to observe, select and interpret art with imagination, feeling and understanding to the highest standard. You will participate in a range of practical activities and develop the knowledge to improve your own abilities. If you enjoy drawing, painting, 3D sculpturing, graphics and textiles you will love this course.

What other skills will I develop?

All forms of artistic expressions will fully develop your ability to communicate and you will gain confidence in your own self-expression.

How will I be assessed?

You will sit a two-day exam at the end of your GCSE course which is worth 40% of your final grade. It will test your ability to observe, review, modify and refine your work making connections with artists and designers. Your portfolio is worth 60% of your final grade with two practical assessments and two historical study projects with critical written evaluations of artists' work and your own work.

What could I study Post 16?

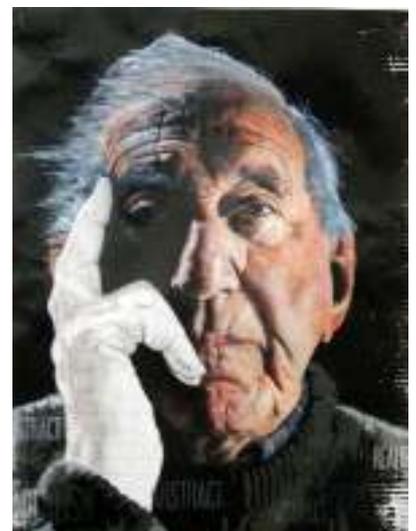
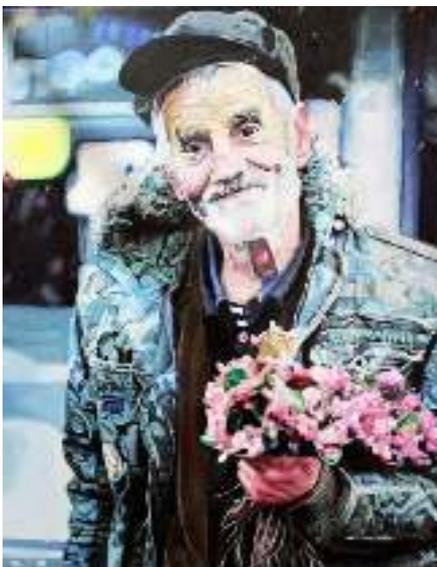
Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A Level Fine Art, Graphic Design, Photography, 3D Design or an Art & Design Foundation course. University courses include Fine Art, Sculpture, 3D Design, Fashion, Textiles, Architecture and Product Design.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will have the opportunity to speak to a practicing commercial artist, visit the Royal Albert Memorial Museum and local galleries. You will also be commissioned to produce artwork for a school installation.

What possible careers could I have?

Skills developed will enable you to undertake careers in architecture, graphics, illustrations, the fine arts, fashion design, jewellery design and creative employment such as hairdressing, shop front displays and theatre design.



What is it about?

You will develop the knowledge and understanding required in the Childcare sectors. If you are interested in working in this area when you leave education, and are interested in a career working with children, then this course will interest you. There will be practical aspects as well as written tasks, outside speakers will come in and contribute to your learning, and you may have the opportunity to work alongside childcare professionals during the course.

What other skills will I develop?

You will learn to work in a team, and to get on well with different kinds of people as well as developing a variety of communication skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of three units: one examined and two internally assessed and externally moderated, comprising of 50% for the exam and 25% for the other two units.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study an Extended Level 3 Diploma in Children's Care & Learning Development, Health & Social Care and Public Services. University courses include Paediatric Care, Nursing and Education. Apprenticeships are also available

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

Possible opportunities during the course range from visiting a nursery to observe children at play, working with local primary schools, a visit from professionals who work at the West Exe Children's Centre come and share their work experience with the class to deliver 'real life' experience and careers advice. Further work-related learning experience will be achieved during the coursework element when students will need to observe a child of their choice in a family or nursery setting.

What possible careers could I have?

Progression routes to careers and employment include nursery nurse, playgroup leader, nanny, teacher, learning support assistant, midwife and paediatric nurse.



What will I be studying?

Citizenship is the ideal course for students who are interested in a career in politics, law or the public services, such as a police officer. It is also the course for all students who are interested in current affairs and want to learn and understand more about these national and global issues that affect us all. The course is divided into three main sections. The first is concerned with human rights and the law. This is an interesting area where you will learn about what human rights people should have and investigate what happens when these rights are taken away – you may even agree that some people should not have some rights! The law module examines crime and punishment and the English legal system, particularly in the light of Brexit. A key question to be examined is, “Should the UK reintroduce the death penalty?” Section two covers a wide range of topics from democracy through taxation to the rights of the media. Using real-life case studies, you will examine these issues and consider questions such as “Should 16-year olds be allowed to vote?” and “Should the Government be able to stop the media broadcasting certain stories?” The final section looks at the role Britain plays in the world. In this section, you will learn more about the United Nations and NATO and have the opportunity to compete in conferences against other schools.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop the important life skills that will help you in whatever career you choose in the future. You will use **research** and **communication** skills as you prepare for and taking part in debates on issues ranging from capital punishment to Britain’s role in the world and abolishing the Human Rights Act! As you examine real-life case studies, you will develop your skills of **analysis** and **evaluation**. You will work with other students on various projects, so your **teamwork** skills will also improve. Many leading and international companies, such as Barclays, are publicly stating that they are looking to employ students with ‘future’ skills such as **listening, problem solving** and **resilience**. As it is a course that covers so many topics in such a variety of ways, Citizenship also helps you to develop the skills you will use in other subjects such as English and History.

How will I be assessed?

There are three exams which you will sit in Year 11. The first is multiple choice covering all three sections of the course and is worth 25% of your final mark. The second is longer and is worth 50%. It covers the first two sections and your Citizenship activity. In this paper you will use sources to answer some of the questions, but also need to show your own knowledge and understanding. The third covers sections 1 and 3 and is worth 25% of the final mark. It assesses your ability to use sources and to communicate your views on key issues.

Post 16 and future career pathways?

The knowledge, skills and understanding you will gain through studying Citizenship will help prepare you for virtually any course you will want to study when you leave West Exe. Exeter College run courses that are linked with the uniformed services, such as the police. Citizenship and its links with the law and the legal system will provide you with an excellent foundation for this course. In terms of A-Levels, Citizenship links to the Law, Philosophy and Politics courses. Studying the Media module will also benefit those students who are interested in joining the College’s Journalism Academy. Citizenship also has strong links to popular degree courses such as History, Law and Politics.

Career-wise, Citizenship can help with any career that involves the media, or the law; particularly if you have an interest in human rights law. The knowledge and understanding you will gain through studying democracy and politics means that one day you could even be the Prime Minister!



What will I be studying?

This new and exciting GCSE gives students an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work and how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. They will also do some fascinating in-depth research and practical work. For example, some of the current investigations look at JavaScript, encryption and assembly language programming.

This two-unit course is designed to give students an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on "behind the scenes". They will have already studied what are widely considered to be the 'toughest' aspects of the course in Year 8 (CPU architecture). All students should be able to use this as a springboard to go on to learn about computer programming and computational thinking. This not only develops students' understanding of Computer Science but very much feeds into wider skills, helping improve their mathematical and scientific reasoning and application.

What other skills will I develop?

The course will help students learn about computational thinking, analysis and problem solving. Students will also gain a good understanding of the physical components which form the core of all computers in the 21st century, their storage and memory types, as well as range of other new physical technologies. We hope that students will find it a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can also be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life.

How will I be studying?

Students in Computer Science can benefit from an entirely digitised curriculum experience. Every aspect of the course has an online video tutorial, automated lesson testing and homework videos with automated testing (the last two assisting students with the self-diagnosis of their subject knowledge). This is all available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and 365 days of the year, helping students take greater ownership of their learning. These are available now at www.tedwraggtrustmoodle.co.uk

How will I be assessed?

Very recent changes to the qualification now mean that there will be no controlled assessment which contributes to the students' final grade. The course now comprises of two units:

Component 1 – Computer Systems (50%). This unit will cover the theory about a wide range of issues including the Central Processing Unit (CPU), computer memory and storage, wired and wireless networks, network topologies, system security and system software.

Component 2 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (50%). This unit is hugely practical – using the world-renowned Code Academy resources – and covers algorithms and programming, learning about programming techniques, how to produce robust programs, computational logic, translators and facilities of computing languages and data representation.

Post 16 and future career pathways?

In recent years the importance of computer science has been recognised by the government and industry across the UK and is highly sought after by employers and post 16 educators. There are a huge range of career options available, many of which have very competitive wages and salaries. To name a few careers: IT consultant, Computer Engineer, Software Engineer, Analyst, Data Modeller, Systems Administrator, Network Administrator, Software Applications Developer, IT technician, Programmer, Hardware specialist, Software and Network Security, and Telecommunications.



About the course

This Award in Performing Arts is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, students can explore the sector while:

- Developing specific skills and techniques
- Devising and delivering a workshop performance
- Analysing, evaluating and enhancing their skills.

These components build on each other to motivate your students by helping them put what they've learned into practice and grow in confidence. This Award complements the learning in other Key Stage 4 subjects by broadening experience and skills participation in different types of performance activities, with the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills practically, through project work such as developing ideas and performing for specific audiences.



How will I be assessed?

Assessment is continuous, and students must complete a series of projects and assignments. Students complete 3 Components, Component 1 and 2 which are internally assessed and Component 3 which is externally assessed.

What can the qualification lead to?

Study of the qualification will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that a learner can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A-Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects
- Study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Performing Arts, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the performing arts or production arts areas.

Learners who generally achieve at Level 1 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- Study at Level 2 post-16 in a range of technical routes designed to lead to work, to progression to employment, apprenticeships or to further study at Level 3. For these learners, the attitudes and the reflective and communication skills covered in the qualification will help them achieve
- Study of performing arts post-16 through a technical certificate. Learners who perform strongly in this qualification compared to their overall performance should strongly consider this progression route as it can lead to employment in the performing arts sector.

***This course has specific entry criteria**

You must have an interest and a passion for dance. You will be expected to perform to small and large audiences and have the ability and confidence to lead and work independently is highly desirable.

What is it about?

This is a highly practical course which gives you opportunities to develop your acting skills, watch, explore and create theatre and devise performances. It is essentially an active course, which provides many opportunities to explore relationships, ideas and themes, but you will be expected to create Power point presentations as a record of what you have learnt; and keep drama logs to reflect on the work you have done and the choices you have made, as well as writing reviews of performances that you have seen. If you are creative, enjoy working with others, willing to perform in front of others, are committed to rehearsing after school and are willing to work as part of a production team, this is the course for you.

What other skills will I develop?

Drama is noted for improving confidence, concentration and communication. It will help you develop into a well-rounded individual with good interpersonal skills, to be able to work well with others.

How will I be assessed?

There are three components:

1. Exploring the performing arts which is internally assessed through student presentation (30% of total qualification)
2. Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts which is internally assessed through research, rehearsal and performance evidence (30% of total qualification)
3. Performing to a Brief which is externally assessed through research, rehearsal and performance evidence (40% of total qualification)

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study A-Level Drama or BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Performing Arts. University courses include Drama, Film Studies and Theatrical Studies.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

There are many work-related learning opportunities available; performing at and visiting theatres, such as The Bike Shed Theatre in Exeter, to TR2, the Theatre Royal, Plymouth's rehearsal and costume making space; working with professional theatre companies, such as Exeter based Le Navet Bete, and London based, Rhum and Clay, and finding out from them what the real theatre world is like. There are also opportunities to form your own company and perform at the Edinburgh Fringe.

What possible careers could I have?

You could study Drama just because you enjoy it with no thought of taking it further. Being very physical it is certainly a good contrast for those students with a very full academic curriculum. This could then lead on to University and a Drama degree or to Stage School and then, for the very fortunate/committed, to a career on the stage. The caring/service professions, such as nursing, teaching, police force, also favour it as it encourages the ability to empathise with others.

***This course has specific entry criteria**

An excellent attendance and additional commitment is required for this subject as there are many after school rehearsals for some projects.

What will I be studying?



In short, Economics is about money. Where it comes from, where it goes, how we can get more of it. The economy is, basically, all the money in the country. In Economics you will learn about how people and businesses make money and how they make decisions about how to spend that money. You will also learn about how the Government makes, and spends, its money. Economics is a very practical course that prepares students for the real world. Everyone in the world is affected by economics and this course helps students understand the factors that affect wealth creation and spending.

Through studying real-life examples and issues, you will develop a good understanding of the world of finance and money. Economics is an ideal course for anyone who might one day want to run their own business as it gives guidance on what makes a company successful, and the things that cause businesses to fail. It is also a course that should be studied by students who are considering any career that involves working with finance.

What other skills will I develop?

Through studying Economics, you will develop important life skills. You will use **communication** skills as you present your ideas for a new business and try to persuade your teacher to invest in your company! As you examine real-life case studies, you will develop your skills of **analysis** and **evaluation**. You will work with other students on various projects, so your **teamwork** skills will also improve. Many companies are looking to employ students with what are known as '21st century future skills' such as **listening**, **problem solving** and **resilience**. Economics is a course that will certainly help develop these skills.

How will I be assessed?

Economics is assessed through two exams, sat at the end of Year 11. Both exams are worth 50% of your final mark and include a range of questions including multiple choice, calculation questions and response questions.

Post 16 and future career pathways?

When you leave West Exe, a GCSE in Economics can lead to a wide range of post-16 qualifications. There are A-Levels in Accounting, Business or Economics. Exeter college runs an apprenticeship in Accountancy which will develop your knowledge and understanding and could lead to full time employment when you complete the course. Alternatively, you could go down the business route where you can choose from an A-Level, a BTEC or an apprenticeship. The College also offers a BTEC in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. You could then go to university and study a wide-range of degree courses.



In terms of career; you could become an accountant and make loads of money or set up a business and become the next Bill Gates! There are also many opportunities to get a job working in the finance industry which can lead to a job that takes you all over the world. Whatever career you end up doing, the skills you gain through GCSE Economics will help you succeed.



What is it about?

Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this Technical sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing.

What other skills will I develop?

You will improve your problem solving and analytical skills. You will also improve your communication skills, organisational skills and increase your use of ICT. You will also develop a practical understanding of food and the hospitality industry.

How will I be assessed?

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

- 40% (90 Marks) are thorough assessment by an online written examination – 1 hour 30mins

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

- 60% Non-examination assessment: internally assessed, externally moderated.
- Practical exam is a two-course meal for two people with accompaniments.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study Level 3 qualification in Professional Cookery or to the Michael Caines Academy. University courses include Food Technology, Nutrition, Food & Beverage Studies and Agriculture.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will meet and speak to a local food product tester, visit local hospitality businesses, and will complete a catering project with the brief that will reflect the local hospitality industry.

What possible careers could I have?

Careers that use skills in Food Technology include being a chef, catering management, food technologist, nutritionist and dietician.



What is it about?

You will develop the knowledge and understanding required in the health and social care sectors. If you are interested in working in this area when you leave education, and are interested in a career working with people, then this course will interest you. There will be practical aspects as well as written tasks, outside speakers will come in and contribute to your learning, and you may have the opportunity to work alongside professional health carers during the course.

What other skills will I develop?

You will learn to work in a team, and to get on well with different kinds of people as well as developing a variety of communication skills.

How will I be assessed?

The course consists of four units: one examination and three coursework based which are internally assessed and externally moderated. Each unit is worth 25%.

What could I study Post 16?

Many students successful in this course have gone on to study an Extended Level 3 Diploma in Health & Social Care, Children's Care & Learning Development and Public Services. University courses include Paediatric Care, Nursing and Medicine.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will listen to a presentation from a local health care worker, work in a practical setting with elderly people from the Friends of St Thomas group, host a Christmas and Easter party for the elderly, and be asked to feed another student their lunchtime meal during one of the lessons to replicate real life care.

What possible careers could I have?

This could provide a suitable qualification as well as others that would open up the world of communication and people employment – in other words, if you choose a career in the health and social care industry, such as doctor, nurse, care assistant, then this is a course that will be eminently useful as well as practical.



What is it about?

GCSE Music will offer you the opportunity to develop performing, composing, appraising and listening skills through five areas of study including; My Music, The Concerto Through Time, Rhythms of the World, Film Music and Conventions of Pop. You will explore your instrument/voice in more depth and will learn about a wide variety of musical styles and genres such as: Western Classical music, Bhangra, African music, Samba, Calypso, soundtracks for video games, film music, Rock 'n' Roll, Pop ballads and Rock music.

What other skills will I develop?

You will need to develop Music Technology skills to help you produce your composition coursework. You will also need to develop listening and appraising skills by listening widely to different styles of music.

How will I be assessed?

There is one listening and appraising exam at the end of the course that is worth 40% of your final grade, lasting 90 minutes. The exam tests your ability to recognise musical features that have been learned over the three years of the course. Performing a piece of music on your own and in a group (you and at least two other people) forms 30% of your final grade. The other 30% is made up of two compositions; one of which is a composition of your choice that features your instrument; the other which is a composition in response to a brief set by the examiners.

What could I study Post 16?

Students successful in this course could go on to study A-Level Music or a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music Technology. University courses include Music Technology, Sound Recording and Performance Art.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

There are many work-related learning opportunities available including: performing in concerts such as the school charity concert, Christmas carol service and Summer Showcase; performing as part of an ensemble both during class and outside of lessons; the chance to work with other organisations such as The Academy of Music and Sound.

What possible careers could I have?

Skills developed would help in careers in recording, sound engineering, media, entertainment, teaching, music therapy and many more. You could study advanced courses such as A-Level Music, A-Level Music Technology or BTEC in Popular Music or Jazz.



What do other students think about the course?

"I'm able to express myself through different activities in the subject."

"I love the composition work."

"I get to play the piano which is a hobby of mine."

* **This course has specific entry criteria**

The ability to play an instrument or sing is desirable. The ability to read music is useful but not essential. Students who make the most progress often learn an instrument with a tutor in addition to subject lessons.

What is it about? This course aims to provide students with a practical appreciation of what the music industry entails and provides students with the opportunity to further their musical skills in a practical way. The course is designed to inspire and enthuse learners to consider a career in the music industry, rather than to participate in music only recreationally.

The course consists of three components that allow students opportunities to develop new and existing musical skills:

- *Component 1: Exploring the Music Industry* – This provides an opportunity to explore musical styles and techniques, and to gain an understanding of roles in the industry. Students will take part in practical workshops to understand the music creation process, learn about the different roles within the music industry and investigate relationships between different areas of the music industry.
- *Component 2: Developing Music Skills* – This enables students to develop musical knowledge, skills, and techniques and apply them to a music product. Students will reflect on their progress, and on areas for improvement, choose a job role and explore the skills needed to fulfil it, develop a range of skills and apply skills and techniques in a music performance, creation or production.
- *Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief* – This enables students to put skills into practice by responding to a brief as a composer, performer or producer. Students will choose an area of the industry that excites them (composer, performer, or producer), explore the brief and come up with possible responses and ideas, use relevant resources, skills and techniques to develop and refine musical material, present their final response (solo or in a group) and review and reflect their approach to the brief and their final outcome.

What other skills will I develop? It will give learners the opportunity to gain a broad knowledge and understanding of, and develop skills in, the music industry, e.g. the live sound industry, solo or group professional performance, music technology, music recording and music promotion and publishing.

How will I be assessed? This qualification is designed to meet the needs of students who prefer coursework to exams. Assessment is 100% coursework, of which 60% is assessed internally and 40% externally.

What could I study Post 16? Students successful in this course could go on to study a Level 3 Extended Diploma in Music or Music Technology. University courses include Music, Music Technology, Sound Recording and Performance Art.

What work-related opportunities will I experience? There are many work-related learning opportunities available including: performing in concerts such as the school charity concert, Christmas carol service and Summer Showcase; performing as part of an ensemble both during class and outside of lessons; the chance to work with other organisations such as The Academy of Music and Sound.

What possible careers could I have? Skills developed would help in careers in performing, recording, sound engineering, media, entertainment, teaching, music therapy and many more

* **This course has specific entry criteria**

An enthusiasm for practical work and an ability to work independently and manage your work is important. You will need to rehearse on your own or as part of an ensemble, as well as researching and providing written documentation as evidence. To succeed in this course, determination and hard work is needed. Students who enjoy performing and/or music technology and can express themselves creatively enjoy this subject immensely.



What is it about?

You will be encouraged to develop your individual creativity through being introduced to portraiture, landscape, still-life, and narrative photography. You will develop knowledge and understanding of how ideas, feelings and meanings are conveyed and interpreted in images, how images relate to social, historical, Technical and cultural contexts and a working vocabulary and knowledge of specialist terms within the subject. You will be taught using the industry/media standard software which is Adobe Photoshop.

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop analytical, critical, interpersonal and investigative skills. You will be able to work independently and become self-motivated. Most importantly, you will be encouraged to always think creatively.

How will I be assessed?

There is one set task which is worth 40% of your final grade and one portfolio of work worth 60% of your final grade.

What work related opportunities will I experience?

You will have opportunities to be a part of projects which will benefit the immediate community, visit London art galleries to gain first-hand experience of the impact of the medium and you will also have a visit from at least one creative/artist Photographer.

What could I study Post 16?

Students successful in this course go on to study A-Level Photography, Graphic Design or an Art/Photography & Design Foundation course. University courses include Photography, Journalism, Media, Film Studies and Film production.

What possible careers could I have?

Careers include Commercial/Industrial Photography, Social Photography, Journalism, Print/Non-Print Media, Graphic Design and Archiving.



What is it about?

GCSE Design and Technology will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain awareness and learn from wider influences on Design and Technology including historical, social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.

What other skills will I develop?

You will improve your problem solving and analytical skills. You will also improve your organisational skills and increase your use of ICT and Computer Aided Design (CAD). You will also increase your drawing skills and develop a practical understanding of materials and making.

How will I be assessed?

Written Examination – 2 hours – 100 marks – 50% of the GCSE

Non-exam assessment (NEA) – Approximately 30-35 hours – 100 marks – 50% of GCSE

What could I study Post 16?

There are opportunities to embark on a diverse array of Post 16 studies and careers, these include, engineering, architecture, fashion, biomedical, video gaming platforms, product /industrial design, graphic design, illustration, advertising and interior design.

What work-related opportunities will I experience?

You will meet and speak to a local skilled craftsperson, visit the Design Museum in London, and will complete a design and make project with the brief set by a local lighting design company.

What possible careers could I have?

Careers that use skills in Design and Technology include structural engineering, race engineering, car design, carpentry and boat building, textiles technology and systems and control.



What will I be studying?

Students who opt for the PE option will follow a course which focuses on the theoretical aspects of health and fitness and their application. You will learn about the components of fitness and the principles of training; explore different training methods and investigate fitness testing to determine fitness levels. You will also develop and improve your own practical sports performance through active participation in practical activities, together with observational analysis and reflection on sports performance and application of skills, techniques and tactics. You will be required to understand the rules, regulations and scoring and be able to apply these through different roles. You will also design and implement personal fitness training programmes and understand strategies for training success. You will also undertake sports leadership and put these skills into practice by undertaking a project to plan and lead an activity

What other skills will I develop?

You will develop a wide range of valuable skills such as the ability to communicate effectively in a variety of situations and using a wide range of techniques, to work well with others – individuals or teams – target setting and planning skills and to manage your own development. You will use numeracy and ICT in a range of applications in the work place. Personal fitness, problem solving and building confidence will be a focus for all students. The Sports Leadership opportunities will strengthen your coaching skills through practical experience of working with other students at West Exe school and its feeder primary schools. The course offers you real vocational opportunities which will help you develop the necessary skills for anyone wishing to work in the sports industry and beyond.

What could I study Post 16?

There are a range of post 16 courses at Exeter College such as Level 3 BTEC Nationals in Sport and Sport & Exercise Sciences or Advanced VCE in Leisure and Recreation. Some possible University courses include Sports Science, Leisure and Tourism, and Teaching Degrees.

What possible careers could I have?

The course develops the transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities. This can include further training in areas such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry, the armed forces and the Civil Service. Students could use this programme as good preparation for teaching, coaching, professional sport, leisure centre work, youth work, physiotherapy, sports management and outdoor education.

***This course has specific entry criteria**

The course constantly draws on sporting experience and knowledge, so you must have an interest and passion for sport and look forward to your PE lessons. You must have a proven track record in PE. An ability or confidence to lead or officiate is highly desirable.

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