



ST CHRISTOPHER'S

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY

GCSE OPTIONS

2026



That person is

like a tree

planted by streams of water, which

yields its fruit

in season and whose leaf
does not wither

*whatever they do
prospers.*

Psalm 1:3



INTRODUCTION

Dear Pupil,

During years 10 and 11, all pupils will follow a compulsory curriculum of English, mathematics, science, RE, PE and PSHE. We anticipate that most of you will want to add to this core with a complementary range of academic subjects leading to GCSE qualifications that will place you in the strongest position to compete with young people from all over the country. **This range should include the study of** either history or geography and a foreign language. The government describes this suite of traditional subjects as the English Baccalaureate and we share their ambition that most of you will opt for this route. We strongly recommend that those considering university study look to follow the English Baccalaureate.

The Option Process represents an important milestone in your future and this booklet is designed to support you with your informed choices. Within its pages you will find a variety of subjects and courses on offer to you for your next two years at St Christopher's.

Be mindful not simply to choose new subjects for their originality but look **carefully** at their suitability for you and try to consider your whole programme rather than looking at subjects in isolation. Some subjects complement one another, whereas others may be too close in content and might reduce your flexibility later in your educational/professional journey.

Decide positively | Expect to succeed | Take responsibility for your future

We all know that qualifications are not the only things needed for success in life: common sense, reliability, a willingness to learn, team spirit, communication skills, leadership qualities, time management, commitment, initiative, personal organisation, the list is endless, therefore, your KS4 curriculum is designed to give you opportunities to build on these important life skills.

Remember that your form teachers and class teachers, along with Mrs McCool, Mr McManus and myself, are here to support you. I wish you all the best at this exciting time.

Regards,
Mrs Spence

Options Preferences

Before making your requests you must consider:

- Getting a balanced range of learning experiences
- Possible career requirements
- Further study post 16
- Personal interests and preferences

As well as your teachers, you may be able to get help from the following people:

Mrs A Spence
Mrs L McCool
Miss W McManus
or your form teacher

The Options Process

Monday 23rd February 2026

Year 9 Options Booklet distributed in forms

Thursday 26th February 2026

Year 9 Communion Service and the Options process launched. Options Information and Year 9 Parents' Evening in school. The presentation will be made available via Synergy for parents unable to attend.

Friday 27th February

Option forms submission opens (online / MS Form)

Friday 6th March 2026

Deadline for option forms to be submitted (online / MS Form)

GCSE COURSES

You will need to make five choices in total from the following subjects, in your order of preference (options 4 and 5 will be reserve choices). All students must put in first place a Section A subject.

All students must choose **at least one subject** from Section A; students can choose up to three Section A subjects:

Examination Subjects - Section A Options	Periods Per Fortnight	Page
Computing	5	6
French	5	7
Spanish	5	7
Geography	5	8
History	5	9
Triple Science <i>(this will account for one of your 'Option' subjects)</i>	15	10

Two choices may also be made from the following subjects in Section B:

Examination Subjects - Section B Options	Periods Per Fortnight	Page
Art and Design	5	12
Music	5	13
Performing Arts (Level 2 Technical Award)	5	14
Business	5	15
Enterprise and Marketing (OCR Level 1/Level 2)	5	16
Physical Education	5	17
Sports Studies (OCR Level 1/Level 2)	5	18
Design Technology	5	19
Food Preparation and Nutrition	5	20
Graphic Communication (Art Specification)	5	21
Textile Design (Art Specification)	5	22

When you move into Year 10 in September 2025, you will study the following:

Examinations Subjects - Core	Periods Per Fortnight	Page
English Language and Literature	8	24
Mathematics	8	25
Religious Education	4	26
Combined Science <i>(if not doing triple science)</i>	10	27

SECTION A

- COMPUTING
- FRENCH
- SPANISH
- GEOGRAPHY
- HISTORY
- SCIENCE (TRIPLE AWARD)



Why study Computing?

This new and exciting qualification gives you an understanding of key computing concepts and the fundamentals of programming. It focuses on creating applications, such as mobile and web apps and computer games. This course creates an excellent bridge between GCSE and the study of computing at A-level.

In addition, it covers the range of key skills and knowledge required for employment in the computing sector. You will also have the opportunity to gain an understanding of the way computers work and to create and review several computer programming languages for real-life purposes based on your own interests.

What will

What will you study?

GCSE Computing is a highly practical course and you will be given the opportunity to demonstrate your understanding of a wide range of software applications and computer programming languages. You will be able to apply your knowledge of computer systems and programming to solve problems using rapid prototyping techniques to test out ideas and prove that they work. You will develop an appreciation of the range and power of computer applications and study systems analysis, algorithm design and programming concepts.

What skills will you develop?

Understand and applying the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation will allow you to do the following:

- Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- Apply mathematical skills relevant to computer science.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE Computing Science has two assessment components:

Paper-based assessment - An externally assessed written examination paper, duration two hours, worth 75% of the overall grade.

Controlled Assessment - An internally assessed controlled assessment task on practical programming, worth 25% of the overall grade.

Future Pathways

This course will provide a secure platform for access to higher level courses or set you on the path for a career in the IT industry. A good grade in GCSE Computing will enable you to move on to one of the specialist A-level or a Vocational A-level course in IT or Computing. Alternatively, you may wish to complete a vocationally related course such as HND in Computing.

Why study a Foreign Language?

It has never been more important to study a foreign language. 21st century technology means it is now far easier and cheaper to communicate with other countries, however there is a real gap in the skills market. Over the past few years not enough students in this country have studied a foreign language meaning that employers and universities are desperate to find people to fill that gap!

What will you study?

The GCSE courses in French, German and Spanish are based entirely on final exams. There are no controlled assessments or course work. During Years 10 and 11, you will practise and develop the four key skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing in a variety of topic areas under the following themes: Theme 1: Identity and culture Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest Theme 3: Current and future study and employment GCSE French, German and Spanish have a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9). Students must take all four question papers at the same tier. That is to say either all foundation or all higher. You cannot mix and match in different skill areas. Pupils may only opt for the language they are currently studying in Year 9.

What skills will you develop?

Learning a foreign language is exciting and interesting! Language lessons are fun places to be, where students are actively encouraged to share their opinions and feelings. It is not simply about learning how to understand and speak a particular language, but about appreciating and discovering how people in other countries act and feel. By developing curiosity and deepening understanding of both the world around you and your own language, you will learn many skills which are useful in a wide range of future careers. Chief amongst these are your communication and analytical skills. Finally, MFL is a facilitating subject. This means studying a language will keep your options open when choosing post-16 qualifications and you will be a preferred candidate for the top colleges, and in later years, leading universities.

How will you be assessed?

You will be assessed by the following four methods:

- **Paper 1:** Listening 25% of final marks. 35 minutes (Foundation Tier) or 45 minutes (Higher Tier) Both timings include 5 minutes' reading time of the question paper before the listening stimulus is played.
- **Paper 2:** Speaking 25% of final marks. 7-9 minutes (Foundation Tier) or 10-12 minutes (Higher Tier) The exam will consist of 3 sections: a role play card, a photo card stimulus and general conversation. It will be conducted by your languages teacher.
- **Paper 3:** Reading 25% of final marks. 45 minutes (Foundation Tier) or 1 hour (Higher Tier) The exam will consist of comprehension questions in English and the foreign language, and a translation from French into the foreign language.
- **Paper 4:** Writing 25% of final marks 1 hour (Foundation Tier) or 1 hour 15 minutes (Higher Tier). At Foundation Tier, the exam will consist of writing a message, a short passage, translation from English into the foreign language, and a structured writing task (choice of two questions). At Higher Tier, the exam will consist of a structured writing task (choice of two questions), an open-ended writing task (choice of two questions), and a translation from English into the foreign language.

Future Pathways

Students who opt for a language are highly valued for their resilience, creativity and, of course, their language skills. Languages graduates have gone on to work: As ambassadors, diplomats and civil servants; As journalists; As international business people; In marketing, teaching and social work; And even as spies!

Why study Geography?

GCSE geography will allow you to explore the world around you in exciting and meaningful ways. Geography will provide you with an understanding of physical environments, human societies, and the relationship between them. Not only will you develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, but you'll also gain a deeper understanding of global issues that impact on our lives, from environmental sustainability to international conflicts. Geography is a subject that links with many other areas, from science to history and economics. Geography is a subject that is both engaging and relevant to the world we live in, making it a great option for anyone who is curious about how our planet works.

What will you study?

- **Paper 1:** Living with the physical environment; natural hazards, ecosystems, tropical rainforest, cold environments, rivers and coasts
- **Paper 2:** Challenges in the human environment; urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, resource management with a focus on water.
- **Paper 3:** Geographical applications; questions relating to a pre-release resource booklet, fieldwork questions and general geographical skills.

Fieldwork is an essential and exciting aspect of geography. Pupils will undertake two days of fieldwork. One in a physical geography environment (usually a river study) and the other in a human geography environment (usually looking at urban change). It gives pupils a chance to see 'real geography' and take their learning beyond the classroom.

The geography department runs an exciting and educational trip to Barcelona which all GCSE students have an opportunity to go on. This is not a compulsory trip for the GCSE course.

What skills will you develop?

Pupils develop a variety of skills, both practical and analytical. For example: interpreting maps, planning and conducting fieldwork, collecting primary data and analysing it. As well as taking measurements or conducting surveys. You will learn how to present your data effectively and identify trends and patterns. Geography will equip you with critical thinking skills. You will be able to apply your knowledge to real-world problems, considering different viewpoints and forming reasoned arguments about geographical issues. Your teachers will develop your ability to write clear, concise and structured responses to questions. Using your mathematical skills, you will be able to interpret geographical data and use statistical techniques. These skills are essential not just for your geography exams but for further study and careers related to geography and other subjects.

How will you be assessed?

- **Paper 1:** Living with the physical environment. 1 hour 30 mins. 35% of GCSE.
- **Paper 2:** Challenges in the human environment. 1 hour 30 mins. 35% of GCSE.
- **Paper 3:** Geographical applications. 1 hour 30 mins. 30% of GCSE.
- **Question types:** multiple-choice (1 mark), short answer (2-3 marks), level response (4 or 6 marks) and extended prose (9 marks). 3 additional marks are awarded for spelling, punctuation and grammar for each 9 mark question. Most communication is through the written word, raising the importance of good literacy skills.

Future Pathways

Many students continue with geography beyond GCSE, possibly leading to careers in surveying, agriculture, estate management, education, town planning, tourism, meteorology, geology, hazard control and environmental management.

Why study History?

The study of history helps you to appreciate not only the past but the world in which you live in today. We offer a lively and stimulating course which gives you detailed knowledge of the recent past and helps you to understand modern events. To do well in History GCSE you need to be fascinated by the major events of the world during the last thousand years. If you are intrigued and curious about issues from the Battle of Hastings to the First World War, the Hitler Youth in Nazi Germany to Islamic Medicine in the Middle Ages, then this is the course for you.

What will you study?

The GCSE History course is comprised of the following examined units:

- **Unit 1:** Period study: Germany 1890-1945: Democracy and Dictatorship
- **Unit 2:** Wider world depth study: Conflict and tension: 1918-1939
- **Unit 3:** Thematic study: Britain: Health and the people, c1000 to the present day
- **Unit 4:** British depth study including the historic environment: Elizabethan England, c1568-1603

What skills will you develop?

The GCSE course also offers you an opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills and techniques which will assist you in other subjects and in the Sixth Form, ranging from analysis and extended writing to debate and personal research.

The subject should be particularly appealing to those who enjoy writing about their ideas, developing logical arguments and researching from a range of evidence. In an age of information overload, the ability to recognise and evaluate bias is a real skill and one which is uniquely developed in the history classroom.

How will you be assessed?

- **Paper 1:** Unit 1 & 2, 2 hours, 50% of your GCSE
- **Paper 2:** Unit 3 & 4, 2 hours, 50% of your GCSE

Future pathways

Studying History provides you with skills which are not confined to the study of the past. The skill of analysis is invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to assess and then prioritise information is vital to decision making. It is highly regarded by Colleges and Universities, helping you to progress into such careers as Law, Media and Politics.

Why study Triple Science?

All pupils will study the Combined Science course as a minimum. However, it is an option to take Triple Science whereby pupils will study GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics, gaining three Science GCSE's as opposed to the traditional two.

Studying Triple Science allows pupils to gain a greater breadth of understanding of the three Sciences. It also provides pupils the opportunity to study ideas in more depth than at Combined Science. It is, therefore, the most suitable option for pupils that have realistic ambitions of a career in Science or engineering, and it is the preferred pathway for Science study at A-level.

What will you study?

The course has both theoretical and practical elements, with practical work being taught throughout the course to enhance and consolidate the learning within each topic taught. In addition to the content covered in combined science, the following topics will also be taught.

- **Biology** - The inner workings of the brain, the structure and function of the eye, adult cell cloning and exciting cutting-edge biotechnology and sustainable food technology.
- **Chemistry** - Learn to identify unknown substances using chemical analysis techniques as seen in CSI, approach nanotechnology (the frontier of engineering) alongside solving the energy crisis through hydrogen fuel cells.
- **Physics** - Walk with Neil Armstrong as you explore the spectacular workings of the solar system and the beyond, delving further into pressure, electricity and into nuclear uses in medicine.

What skills will you develop?

Studying Triple Science will develop a broad range of transferable skills including the ability to:

- collect, present and analyse data and observations;
- use data collected to formulate conclusions and explanations;
- evaluate data and methods;
- put forward reasoned arguments and informed judgements;
- consider how Science impacts the world we live in, including ethical issues.

Studying Triple Science at GCSE, as opposed to Combined Science, will give pupils an opportunity to cover a wider range of required practicals and, therefore, develop the above practical skills further.

How will you be assessed?

Pupils will cover the AQA specification and will sit linear examinations at the end of Year 11. There are two 1 hour 45-minute papers for each of the three subjects, and each paper contributes 50% of the final GCSE grade in that subject. The examinations include multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses.

Each Science subject has a set of required practicals to enhance the teaching of each subject. By carrying out practical work pupils will enhance their critical thinking skills, master a variety of scientific techniques, and consolidate knowledge and understanding of key ideas taught. Questions linked to required practicals will appear on all examinations.

Future Pathways

Studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics at GCSE will provide pupils with the essential knowledge, understanding and skills required for A-level study of the three Sciences, which could then have the potential to lead onto careers such as: Cancer research; Medicine/Veterinary medicine/nursing; Engineering; Robotics; Astronomer.

SECTION B

- ART AND DESIGN
- MUSIC
- PERFORMING ARTS
- BUSINESS
- ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING
- PHYSICAL EDUCATION
- SPORTS STUDIES
- DESIGN TECHNOLOGY
- FOOD AND NUTRITION
- GRAPHIC COMMUNICATION
- TEXTILES



Why study Art and Design?

Are you creative and imaginative? Do you enjoy exploring ideas and looking at things in different ways? If so, you should consider an art and design course. Art is about looking, learning, thinking, and communicating. You will enjoy developing your understanding of the visual world, learning practical skills, and responding to ideas and issues in ways that are personal to you.

What will you study?

Art offers opportunities to use your creativity to express yourself. You will develop your understanding of creative processes, your ability to observe and to think, to solve problems and to communicate in a visual way. It will enable you to work independently and to make your own discoveries by exploring ideas, other artists' work and varied materials and techniques. Art gives you the skills and knowledge to create personal and imaginative work. If you have an adventurous, creative, and enquiring mind and are excited by shaping and determining the visual world around us, there is a career opportunity waiting for you.

What skills will you develop?

Art and design is a practical course in which you learn by doing, so you will be able to create imaginative work. You will find out about a whole range of media, techniques, and processes. You will develop your creativity and independent thought, learning to express yourself visually and let your imagination flourish.

Art is a great companion to all other subjects as creativity, imagination and problem solving skills can give you great ideas for your other subjects.

How will you be assessed?

The assessment objectives require students to research, experiment, analyse and apply their findings to create a personal and informed response.

Component 1: Portfolio - This will count for 60% of your total GCSE marks and must include one sustained project and a selection of additional work.

Component 2: Externally Set Task - You will produce personal work in response to one of eight exciting starting points which will count for 40% of your total GCSE marks.

Future Pathways

GCSE Art and Design supports the following career paths:

- Architecture
- Fashion and Textiles
- Fine Art
- Graphic Design
- Photography
- Product Design
- Web Design

Art is also useful for a career in teaching, retail, engineering, and the media. This course will result in a portfolio of artwork, preparing pupils well for all post 16 Art and Design courses

Why study Music?

If you enjoy performing music, listening to music of all genres and composing your own music then this is the GCSE for you! There is a big emphasis on performing and composing and you will refine and develop your skills in these areas. You need a passion for listening to music from classical to popular to jazz and you will learn how to analyse music and write about it. The course is academically challenging, yet interesting and varied with lots of musical fun along the way!

What will you study?

There are three main areas in the music curriculum and you will study the following:

- Performing
- Composition
- Listening to and appraising music

All the work that you have undertaken in years 7-9 prepares you for the GCSE course in Music. The examination at the end of the two-year course is mainly practical with 60% of the examination as coursework in performing and composing.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop skills in performance with your instrument or voice and will learn how to play and perform at a higher level. In composition you will learn how to create and develop your own music in a style you like to compose in and you will learn the skills required to analyse and comment on music that you listen to. Your in depth study of set-works will allow you to discuss music and its elements.

How will you be assessed?

Performing Music - 30%: You have to submit two performances to the exam board which must be recorded in year 11. One performance is a solo piece, which can be accompanied, on your main instrument or voice. Your second performance has to be an ensemble performance where you work with others and demonstrate good ensemble playing. You can also perform using music technology and DJ-ing.

Composing Music - 30%: You will submit a portfolio of two compositions to the exam board at the end of your GCSE course. The first composition is a free choice and you can compose music in any genre that you are comfortable with. The second composition is in response to an exam brief set by the exam board at the beginning of year 11.

Listening to and Appraising Music - 40%: This listening examination takes place at the end of the course and lasts for 1 hour and 30 minutes. It focuses on both unseen music and music you have studied.

Future Pathways

Studying music allows you to develop academic skills which are highly regarded and can be applied to many A-level courses and University degrees. It will help you progress to a variety of careers, apprenticeships and jobs.

LEVEL 2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN

PERFORMING ARTS

Why study Performing Arts?

Do you have a passion for performance? Are you a budding actor, dancer or musician? Do you want to discover more about the fantastic roles behind the scenes – from costume design and make-up, to set design and lighting? If so, it's time to uncover your potential and start to study performing arts!

What will you study?

This qualification is made of up of 3 units:

Unit 1: Performing - You will learn the skills and techniques needed to produce a successful performance of an existing work, such as a piece of music or an extract from a play or show. This unit can be completed through any of the following disciplines: Drama, Music, Music Technology or Musical Theatre (which may incorporate dance).

Unit 2: Creating - You will learn how to create and refine your own original work in performing arts, such as choreography, designing costumes or composing music. This unit can be completed through any one of the following disciplines: Devised drama, Choreography, Composition, Composition using technology, Costume design, Lighting design, Make-up and hair design, Set design, Sound design.

Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice - You will learn about areas of the performing arts industry that need to be considered when responding to a commission, and will consider these when coming up with and pitching your own idea.

What skills will you develop?

You will develop a range of skills which are attractive to employers, colleges and universities including: communication, confidence, learning independently, organisation, problem solving, research, self-discipline, stamina, taking on responsibility and time management. All of these skills are transferable across a wide range of subjects and valuable skills to learn and develop.

How will you be assessed?

You will be assessed through project work.

For Units 1 and 2 you will undertake projects (not exams) in response to briefs. The project for each Unit will take 10 hours and be worth 30% of your qualification. For each one you will be given a scenario and will need to undertake a number of tasks.

In Unit 3 you will undertake another project (no exam) in response to a brief, which will take 20 hours and be worth 40% of your qualification. You will be given a scenario and will need to undertake a number of tasks.

Future Pathways

The performing arts industry offers you a wide range of exciting opportunities which includes: Actor, Arts administrator, community arts worker, choreographer composer, dancer, designer, director, drama / music therapist, front of house manager, lighting / sound technician musician, musical theatre performer, teacher, stage manager.

Why study Business?

Business Studies gives great foundational knowledge of what it's like to work in a business and the factors that go into making a business successful or not. The great thing about business studies is that it's universal - the terms and concepts don't differ depending on who or where you are! You'll also learn a lot of transferable skills, like leadership or how to be a team player.

Doing a Business Studies GCSE is also a great way to improve your employability skills. In every business there will be different departments doing wildly different things, but having a good understanding of how a business functions means you can look at the business as a whole. This perspective is rarer than you think and it can help you bring new ideas to the table that benefit the business.

What will you study?

You'll start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? You'll learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Then you'll move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? You'll learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions you need to make when growing a business and working in a global business. You'll learn about meeting customer needs, making marketing, operational, financial and human resourcing decisions and you'll explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows.

What skills will you develop?

- Understand key business functions such as marketing, HR, finance and operations
- Construct reasoned arguments and question assumptions
- Draw together, analyse and critically evaluate information
- Recognise types of leadership skills and behaviours used within organisations
- Become ICT literate with specific focus on communication, presentation and distribution
- Manage time and take on responsibility for your own development.

How will you be assessed?

Theme 1: Investigating small business

Written examination: 1hr 45mins. 50% of qualification. **Total marks: 90**

Theme 2: Building a business

Written examination: 1hr 45mins. 50% of qualification. **Total marks: 90**

Future Pathways

The course will provide a basis for pupils wishing to progress to an AS, A-level or a Vocational A-level in Business. A GCSE in Business could also lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing, finance or the leisure and tourism industry.

ENTERPRISE AND MARKETING

Why study Enterprise and Marketing?

Studying enterprise and marketing can help you develop skills that are useful in business and in the world of work. These skills can include research, planning, communication, and creativity. Students explore the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract and retain customers.

What will you study?

By completing this qualification, learners will understand the main activities that will need to happen to support a start-up business and what the key factors are to consider when starting up a business. Learners will understand how and why customer segmentation is used and how to target a customer market. They will also develop an understanding of how to attract and retain customers, and the techniques to start up a new business.

In order to gain the award which is the equivalent to one GCSE, 3 mandatory units are studied; Enterprise and Marketing Concepts is exam based, accounting for 40% of the final mark. This unit will be taught throughout year 10 and 11. The other 2 units are worth 60% of the final grade; Design a Business Proposal and Market & Pitch a Business Proposal. They are Centre assessed and are based on Board set assignments by OCR.

What skills will you develop?

This course encourages students to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Enterprise and Marketing including characteristics of successful entrepreneurs, market research, financial viability, the marketing mix and factors to consider when starting up and running an enterprise.
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the business and enterprise sector.
- Become ICT literate with specific focus on communication, presentation and distribution.
- Manage time and take on responsibility for your own development.

How will you be assessed?

Unit R067: Enterprise and Marketing concepts (exam): Students explore the techniques businesses use to understand their market and develop products, investigate what makes a product viable and understand how businesses attract and retain customers.

Unit R068: Design a business proposal (coursework): Students are presented with a business challenge from which they create a researched and costed business proposal. They will carry out market research, present data, use idea generation tools, seek and act on feedback, and cost their proposals. In their work on this unit they will develop their self-assessment, collaborative working, creativity, numeracy, research and evaluative skills.

Unit R069: Market and pitch a business proposal (coursework): Students prepare for and pitch the business proposal that they developed in the previous unit. They develop a brand identity and investigate how best to promote their product and then plan, practise and finally deliver their pitch. Afterwards they review both their performance and their business proposal. This will help develop their analysis and self-evaluative skills as well as those relating to self-presentation.

Future Pathways

Business leads to a wide range of courses, such as A level Business and several vocational courses including BTEC and T level courses. Business provides a firm basis for most careers. It may be of particular interest to those who would like to set up their own business or may be interested in careers in Finance, Insurance, Marketing, IT or Management.

Why study Physical Education?

The study of Physical Education enables you to explore all aspects of physical activity and sport. You will gain greater understanding of how the body works and the impact that physical activity has on each body system. This knowledge will provide you with the expertise to design and implement your own training programme to improve your performance. You will also gain an understanding of why people participate in sport and evaluate why some sports are more popular than others. You will also explore how the mind works and strategies that are used to mentally prepare for physical activity. It is truly a fascinating course that covers all aspects of physical activity and sport. To do well in this course you must have an avid interest in sport, both in PE lessons, and outside of school

What will you study?

The GCSE Physical Education is comprised of the following examined units:

- **Unit 1:** Applied anatomy and physiology
- **Unit 2:** Physical Training
- **Unit 3:** Socio-cultural influences
- **Unit 4:** Sport Psychology
- **Unit 5:** Health fitness and Well being

You will also study and perform a wide range of practical sports including football, netball, table tennis, badminton, athletics and trampolining.

What skills will you develop?

The subject will provide you the opportunity to develop your analytical skills that can be transferred to a wide range of subjects. You will develop your practical skills in a variety of sports that encourages you to be a lifelong participant in sport.

How will you be assessed?

- **Paper 1:** Units 1 and 2 (30%)
- **Paper 2:** Units 3, 4 and 5 (30%)
- Three practical sports (30%)
- Analysis and Evaluation coursework (10%)

Future Pathways

Studying GCSE PE will enable you to take your first steps to a career in sport. The skills developed will allow you to study A-Level Physical Education. There are many sport related courses in universities that will allow you to specialise in areas such as coaching, physiotherapy, sports science and sports psychology.

OCR LEVEL 1/LEVEL 2 CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL SPORTS STUDIES

Why study Cambridge National Sports Studies?

The Cambridge National Sports Studies will develop knowledge, understanding and practical skills that can be used in Exercise, Physical Activity, Sport and Health. The course will provide opportunities to apply your skills as both a performer and as a leader. Learners will also experience practical skills in a natural setting which will help develop independence and confidence. You will gain an understanding of contemporary issues in sport and how it impacts on participation levels.

What will you study?

The Cambridge National Sports Studies is comprised of the following examined units:

- **Unit R184:** Contemporary issues of sport
- **Unit R185:** Performance and Leadership in sports activities
- **Unit R187:** Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities

What skills will you develop?

Learners will develop skills to produce work that is complete, coherent, demonstrating independence and understanding. Each unit will require each learner to recall, select and apply knowledge, using practical sporting examples. Each learner will identify, plan and carry out a range of activities and exercises to prepare for, and recover from, sporting activities.

How will you be assessed?

- **Unit R184:** Contemporary issues of sport is assessed by an external examination (40%)
- **Unit R185:** Performance and Leadership in sports activities is assessed by a set assignment (30%)
- **Unit R187:** Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities is assessed by a set assignment (30%)

Future Pathways

The skills developed will allow you to study A-Level Physical Education, Cambridge Technicals and apprenticeships. There are many sport related courses in universities that will allow you to specialise in areas such as coaching, physiotherapy, sports science and sports psychology.



Why study Design and Technology?

Design Technology is all about solving problems through the development of products. Think of the world before the invention of the washing machine when people spent hours washing clothes by hand, whereas now the same clothes can be washed by pushing a button. This was made possible as designers used their knowledge and skills to produce the initial idea for the washing machine and then developing a working prototype. This is exactly what this course will equip you to do; solve problems through the design and development of innovative products. These products won't be limited to a single material group either. A range of materials including woods, metals, plastics, electronics and textiles will be available to suit the needs and wants of the person who will ultimately use the products you design. Do you want to have a positive impact on the world around you, do you want to invent new products that will potentially have a global impact, do you want to use cutting edge technologies to bring your creations to life? If the answer to these questions is yes, then Design Technology is the course for you.

What will you study?

GCSE Design and Technology is an academic qualification leading onto a wide range of careers in the creative, engineering and manufacturing industries as well as supporting careers in many other fields e.g. medicine, law and computer science. The areas of study are broad and varied but each topic you study will be practically applicable to the development of innovative products. Fundamentally, the course will introduce you to a broad and deep foundation of subject knowledge for each material group and the design process itself.

What skills will you develop?

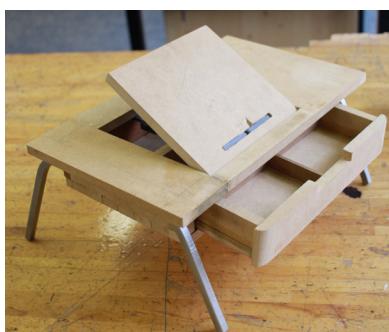
You will learn how to research and develop product ideas through analysis of existing products. You will also learn how to present these design ideas effectively using hand-drawn techniques and cutting-edge industry standard 3D modelling software. Your practical skills will also improve as you produce models and working prototypes using a wide variety of materials and processes. The knowledge and skills you learn, particularly those concerned with rapidly developing technologies, will be extremely valuable and you will also develop your project and time management skills which are highly prized by employers.

How will you be assessed?

In Year 10 you will undertake a series of practice projects, learning how to design, study theory and acquire new practical skills. In Year 11 you will complete a single design and make project worth 50% of the total marks for the GCSE. The remaining 50% will be assessed via a single written exam.

Future Pathways

- A-Level study of Design Technology/Product Design leading to degree courses in Architecture, Product Design, Robotics and various Engineering disciplines e.g. Civil, Mechanical and Aerospace
- Apprenticeships such as: Computer Aided Design and Engineering
- Technical and Applied vocational qualifications such as: Product Design and Manufacturing





Why study Food Preparation and Nutrition?

This is an exciting GCSE that will help you, make more informed choices about food nutrition and health, improve your practical food skills, understand the scientific principles behind the ingredients and methods used and consider world food supply issues. This can help to facilitate a wide range of possible career paths as well as equipping you with valuable life skills.

What will you study?

You will learn about food ingredients (cereals, fruit and vegetables, sugars, dairy, fats, meat, fish and vegetarian alternatives): where they come from, their nutritional value in the diet and their working characteristics. We will conduct edible investigations to understand the changes that occur during their preparation and cooking. You will also study the main nutrients in our diet, their sources, function, excess and deficiency diseases (Obesity, Coronary Heart Disease, Diabetes, Anaemia, etc). You will learn to safely and skilfully create wide range of delicious, quality dishes and understand the scientific principles behind the recipes. You will be taught to make informed decisions about ingredients and food choices both for yourself and others, so food is affordable and nutritious. Finally, your studies should help you to understand the huge challenges that we face globally to supply the whole world with nutritious safe food, whilst protecting our environment.

What skills will you develop?

This course will develop many skills highly prized by employers such as; problem solving, independent study, creativity, communication, appropriate risk taking, teamwork, innovation and time management, along with your practical food skills. They teach pupils to apply IT, numeracy, and literacy and science skills to real world problems and develop useful life skills.

How will you be assessed?

In Year 11 you will sit a single written paper worth 50% of your grade.

Prior to this however in class and for homework, you will have been asked to conduct a scientific food investigation and report, worth a further 15%. You will also be set a task to plan, prepare, cook, and present 3 dishes in 3 hours, worth the remaining 35%.

Future Pathways

The food industry is one of the biggest, expanding, multinational employment sectors. This qualification is an excellent preparation for A level and degree study leading to professions such as Food Technologist/Scientist, Teacher, Food Journalist/Critic, or Dietitian etc. It is also good preparation for vocational college courses or apprenticeships in Hospitality and Catering and management and can be useful for related study in health care, sport science, environmental science, and child development.





Why study Graphic Communication?

This course can be a great starting point into a future career in Graphic design and the skills learnt are transferable to many other jobs. This is an ideal course to develop your inventive, creative and imaginative skills as you build up a quality portfolio of work.

Am I suitable?

Do you enjoy coming up creative solutions to design problems? Do you like sketching designs and investigating different media? Do you enjoy computer aided design? Do you enjoy creative and experimental hands-on learning in Graphics? You must be committed to push yourself both in class and through independent home learning.

What will you study?

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of creative processes through, experimentation with a broad range of media and the refinement of your practical skills. You will experiment with a wide variety of creative applications and research into the work of artists and graphic designers, whilst developing your personal ideas. There is a wide range of projects to stimulate interest in many fields of graphic design.

What skills will you develop?

You will explore and experiment with drawing and media techniques by hand and using computer software. You will build on your ability to work independently on your own personal projects. Meeting deadlines and organisation skills are an important aspect of the course and skills that would be applied to future career aspirations.

How will you be assessed?

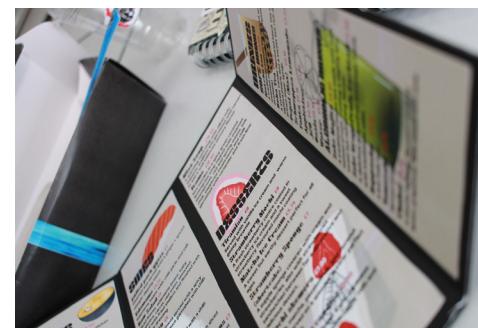
Unit 1: Personal portfolio 60% - This covers several mini and one major project chosen from a variety of starting points. You will explore and analyse the work of other artists and designers, making critical and contextual links. This will allow a greater level of understanding and refinement of your own work, leading to complete, personally informed, and meaningful practical outcomes.

Unit 2: Exam 40% - The theme for the exam unit is externally set and you initiate and extend your own ideas more independently. The final outcome is produced over a 10 hour exam period.

Projects will be assessed throughout the coursework period and students will be given the opportunity to work on feedback given from the teacher to improve their grade.

Future Pathways

From this course you could go on to A-level or a specialist college course and later degree study or an apprenticeship. Possible career paths include: Advertising Artist, Logo Designer, Animator, Desktop Publishing, Digital Photographer, Graphic Designer, Illustrator, Multimedia Specialist, Print Specialist, Teacher, Web Designer, Brand Identity Developer, Packaging Designer, Photography and Visual Journalist.





Why study Textile Design?

If you enjoy being creative, want to develop your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, Textile Design is a great choice. You need to be hardworking and enjoy creative and experimental hands-on learning. You will develop many skills through experimentation with a range of textile media. You must be committed to your own development both in class and through independent home learning.

What will you study?

You will develop your knowledge and understanding of creative processes through experimentation with a broad range of media, refining your practical skills. You will experiment with a wide variety of textile surface and fabric manipulation techniques, whilst developing your personal ideas, and research into the work of historical and contemporary fashion and textile artists and designers.

What skills will you develop?

Textile Design is your chance to design products for woven, knitted, stitched, printed or decorative textiles. Areas of study include fashion design and illustration, costume design, constructed textiles, printed and dyed textiles and digital textile work. This GCSE will provide students with the necessary textile and fashion skills that can lead to a greater understanding and successful completion of the A Level Textiles Fashion course available at Sixth Form.

How will you be assessed?

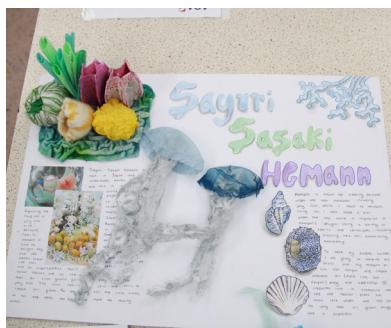
Component 1: Personal portfolio 60% - This personal portfolio covers two projects where you will take part in workshop sessions to develop your theme through the understanding of textile materials, techniques and processes. You will explore and analyse the work of other artists and designers, making critical and contextual links with your own work enabling further development and understanding. You will refine your work to complete a personally informed and meaningful practical outcome.

Component 2: Exam 40% - In the exam you will initiate and extend your own ideas and work more independently. This has an externally set theme. The final outcome will be produced over a 10 hour period.

Future Pathways

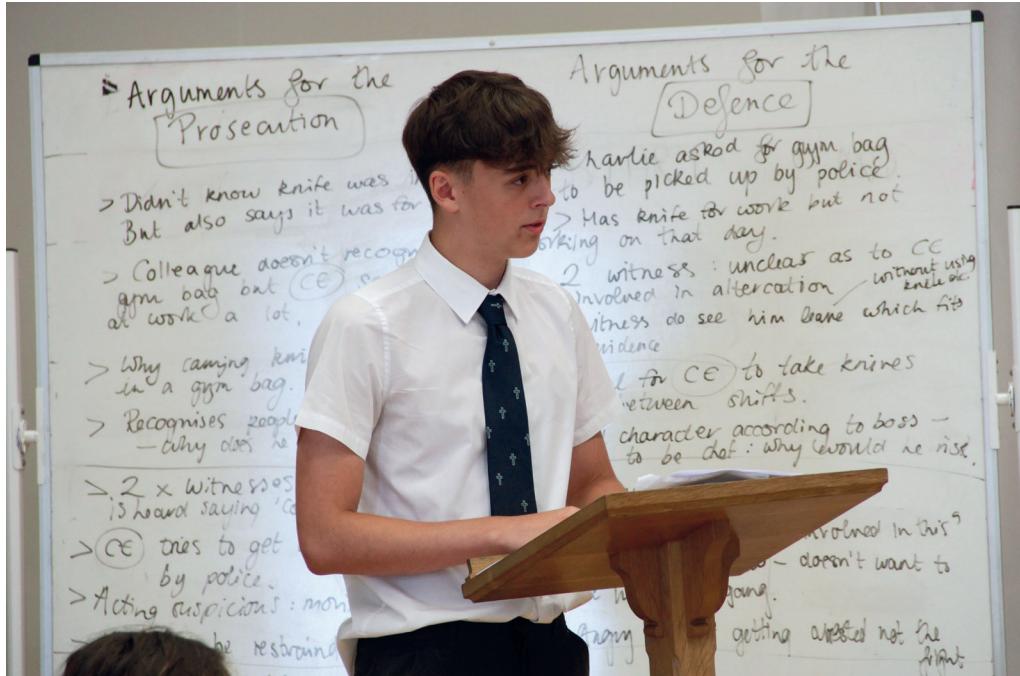
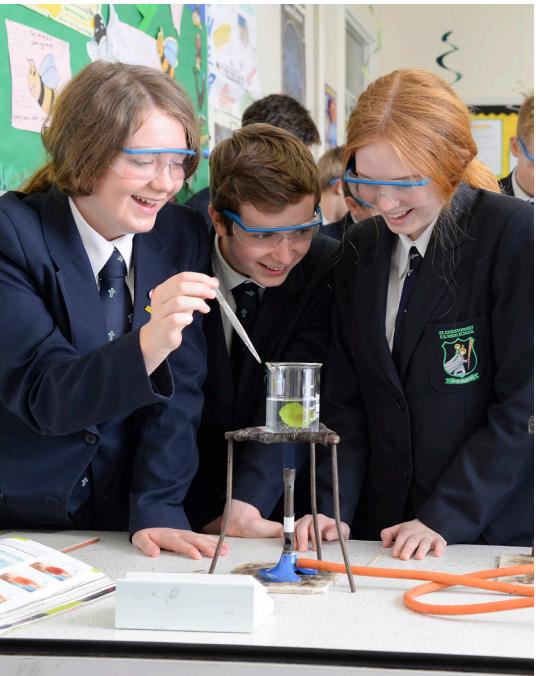
From this course you could go on to study A-level textiles at our 6th form or other local FE colleges. Then to university to study for a degree or related Level 3 vocational courses or apprenticeships.

Possible career paths include: Fashion designer, Tailor, Dress maker, Garment technician, Interior designer, Costume designer, Children toys designer, Manufacturer, Buyer, Visual merchandiser, Stylist, Teacher, Marketer, Footwear designer, Sports wear designer, Textiles designer, Fashion illustrator, Journalist, Photographer and Surface decoration designer.



CORE SUBJECTS

- ENGLISH LANGUAGE
- ENGLISH LITERATURE
- MATHEMATICS
- RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
- SCIENCE (COMBINED AWARD)



ENGLISH LANGUAGE

What will you study?

GCSE English Language provides you with a useful foundation for any post-16 course that will require you to: read a wide range of fiction or non-fiction texts; communicate verbally with others; and complete written assessments.

What skills will you develop?

The study of English Language is essential in building vital skills for life and is valued highly by employers and further education establishments. The skills and knowledge developed whilst studying English Language will support students in all further education and career pathways, helping them communicate clearly, think critically, and understand the world around them.

How will you be assessed?

The Component 1 examination will assess comprehension of fiction texts as well as creative writing.

The Component 2 examination will assess reading and comparison of 19th and 21st century non-fiction texts as well as students' abilities to write transactional and persuasive pieces, such as articles, letters and speeches.

Future Pathways

Achievement in English at all levels is advantageous and often essential for a wide variety of academic, business and vocational courses and careers. Universities, higher education colleges and apprenticeship schemes often specify a minimum standard of GCSE English Language as an entrance requirement.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

What will you study?

Every pupil follows the GCSE English Literature course as well as the English Language course. These are two separate GCSE qualifications which will be studied simultaneously in Year 10 and 11 English lessons. The final assessment of GCSE English Literature will be by examination. Pupils will sit two papers at the end of Year 11.

What skills will you develop?

English Literature is a compulsory subject, studied by every pupil. The study of English Literature helps build vital skills for life and is valued highly by employers and further education establishments.

How will you be assessed?

The Component 1 examination will assess pupils' knowledge, understanding and analysis of a studied Shakespeare play and a Poetry Anthology made up of 15 poems.

The Component 2 examination will assess pupils' knowledge, understanding and analysis of a 20th century play, a 19th century novel and two unseen poems.

Future Pathways

GCSE English Literature provides you with valuable analytical and critical skills, and so achievement in English Literature will be highly regarded for a wide variety of academic, business and vocational courses and careers, including: Combined English, Law, Politics, History, Religious Studies, Theology, Philosophy, History, Critical Studies as well as many more.

What will you study?

The GCSE Mathematics course covers a wealth of essential processes, including algebra, ratio, geometry, probability, and statistics. By learning these topics, you will become confident in using Maths skills in everyday life. Plus, this knowledge will propel you towards further study, should you choose to take this route.

What skills will you develop?

There are numerous skills that you will develop during your study of GCSE Maths these include:

- Communication – being able to articulate your reasoning behind a particular method or calculation.
- Working with others – there are lots of opportunities for discussions to take place amongst peers and there will be time spent working collaboratively to solve problems.
- Use of technology - you can only use a calculator, spreadsheet or computer program successfully if you have a good understanding of the maths involved. Lots of people make mistakes using calculators, simply because they don't understand the underlying maths. As the real world becomes more digital – there will be a bigger need for maths skills.
- Resilience - You might have times when maths feels really tough for you – and this can be really difficult, especially when you know that you need your GCSE to get where you want. However, maths is a bit like athletics – the more hours you put it, the better you get, and many maths difficulties can be overcome by hard work and the right teaching and help. Solving a difficult problem is really enjoyable – much more enjoyable than solving an easy problem.

There will be topics in GCSE maths where many adults can say that they have genuinely never used it again. However, mathematics builds up many 'soft skills' – such as problem solving, critical thinking and numerical awareness. Many employers will ask for a good grade in GCSE maths, even if their daily business doesn't involve a lot of maths. This is because employers value these skills. Being able to solve an equation in algebra can help employees think in a certain way and become better at solving other problems in real life.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE Mathematics has a Foundation tier (grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (grades 4 – 9). Students must take three question papers at the same tier.

Each paper carries a third of the overall grade and are all 1h30 minutes long and each paper is out of 80. Paper 1 is non-calculator and both Papers 2 and 3 are calculator.

Future Pathways

Maths will improve your earning power. Good maths skills help open up more career options which are often better paid. If you can combine good soft skills such as teamwork and presentation skills with good maths skills then you will be highly sought after by employers. For many people, GCSE maths will be a gatekeeper – if you want to do a certain job, then you will need a good grade in GCSE maths.

What will you study?

At our Church school, we expect all pupils to gain a GCSE RE qualification. We follow the examination board AQA's Specification A. The first of two papers will involve an in-depth study of the beliefs and practices of two world religions, one of which will be Christianity. The second religion studied will be either Islam, very relevant to life in and around Accrington in the 21st century, or Judaism, which itself is fascinating, and is closely linked to the Christian faith. Individual RE teachers, and their own areas of expertise and strength will determine whether the second world religion studied is Islam or Judaism. Preparation for the second paper will involve a systematic study of four 'themes' centred around moral issues, including content such as 'Religion and human rights,' 'Religion and life issues;' and 'Religion, conflict and peace.'

What skills will you develop?

To do well in RE, pupils need to understand moral, religious and spiritual issues. They have got to be able to develop reasons and arguments to support their own views and beliefs, but also to understand the counter-reasons and arguments of people with different views to their own. Secondly, they have to be able to understand religious beliefs about moral, religious and spiritual issues. They have to be able to explain Christian beliefs and will gain a sound grasp of controversial moral issues like war, abortion, drugs and the treatment of animals.

It must be clearly understood that the RE Department operates within the strong Christian ethos of our Church school. The delivery of the specification content will therefore be quite unlike that in community secondary schools.

How will you be assessed?

Pupils will sit two, one-and-three-quarter hour long papers, which are each equally weighted, each carrying 50% of the final mark.

Future Pathways

RE is highly valued in any job that involves working with people. (Apart from a lighthouse keeper, try thinking of a job that does not involve working with people!) This is particularly true of the caring professions, such as nursing, teaching and the police.

SCIENCE (COMBINED AWARD)

Why study Combined Science?

All pupils will study the Combined Science course as a minimum. However, it is an option to take Triple Science whereby pupils will study GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics, gaining three Science GCSE's as opposed to the traditional two.

Science touches all our lives, whether we are looking into the furthest reaches of space; at the microorganisms that damage our health; huge moral issues such as climate change, energy production, food and overpopulation or how we can better use our dwindling resources.

Having an understanding of Science will enable pupils to make sense of and adapt to a rapidly changing world. Almost all careers need some foundation scientific knowledge.

What will you study?

The course has both theoretical and practical elements, with practical work being taught throughout the course to enhance and consolidate the learning within each topic taught.

- **Biology** - Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics. Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
- **Chemistry** - Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes. The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.
- **Physics** - Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure. Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism.

What skills will you develop?

Studying Combined Science will develop a broad range of transferable skills including the ability to:

- collect, present and analyse data and observations;
- use data collected to formulate conclusions and explanations;
- evaluate data and methods;
- put forward reasoned arguments and informed judgements;
- consider how Science impacts the world we live in, including ethical issues.

How will you be assessed?

Pupils will cover the AQA Combined Science Trilogy specification and will sit six linear examinations at the end of Year 11.

There are two 1 hour 15-minute papers for each of the three Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), and each paper contributes 16.7% of the final GCSE grades for Combined Science. The examinations include multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open responses.

There are a set of required practicals to enhance the teaching Combined Science. By carrying out practical work, pupils will enhance their critical thinking skills, develop scientific techniques, and consolidate knowledge and understanding of key ideas taught. Questions linked to required practicals will appear on all examinations.

Future Pathways

Many of our pupils will go on to study A-levels or pursue further education. Some gain apprenticeships in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) careers. Others go into full time work. The achievement of good grades in this option is viewed very positively by colleges and employers alike.

ALUMNI CAREER PATHWAYS

Find out more about career paths and further education experiences from our Alumni by visiting the page below. Scan the QR code to be directed straight to the page.

ST CHRISTOPHER'S
C.E. HIGH SCHOOL

Introduction > Term Dates > Correspondence > COVID-19 Info > Calendar & Events > Extra-Curricular > Quest Award > Parent Support > FOSC > School Catering > Uniform
Year Focus | Year 6 Transition > Year 7 > Year 8 > Year 9 > Year 10 > Year 11

ALUMNI CAREER PATHWAYS

St Christopher's alumni talk about their educational experience and career pathways.

We hope that hearing from former students will inspire pupils to think about the choices they are making in Year 9 and Year 11 and where this might lead them, in particular the link between hard work and high achievement, and future success. Our aim at St Christopher's is to encourage pupils to really raise their aspirations and aim higher to achieve their full potential.

If you would like information about possible career paths then please contact Miss Sutton via [email](#).

 <p>Erin Archer Upper Sixth Student at St Christopher's Sixth Form</p> <p>Video relevant to: Studying A-Levels at St Christopher's in English, Government & Politics, Textiles</p>	 <p>Chris Arkley Creative Director at Out of the Ark Productions</p> <p>Video relevant to: Studying Design, Photography, Videography and Marketing</p>	 <p>Katie Aspin First Year Undergraduate studying Psychology at Lancaster University</p> <p>Video relevant to: Studying Psychology at University</p>
 <p>Sophie Day-Riley Post-graduate student</p> <p>Video relevant to: Studying Science at University, Post-</p>	 <p>Eilish Dingle Teaching (PGCE) Student</p> <p>Video relevant to: Studying Languages at University, Careers in Teaching</p>	 <p>Lauren McFadyen General Manager of Service, AMF Bakery Systems</p> <p>Video relevant to: Studying Business Management</p>



OPTIONS FORM

Options forms can be submitted from **9am on Friday 27th February** and the deadline for submission is **9am on Friday 6th March.**

When you are ready to submit your options form, please do so online following either of these links:



<https://forms.office.com/e/iXmtTyBbvU>

The final deadline for this form to be submitted is **Friday 6th March..**



ST CHRISTOPHER'S CE HIGH SCHOOL
A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



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