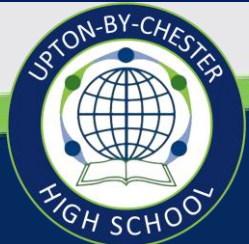


Upton by Chester High School

Key Stage 4 Options

For 2024-25



Upton-by-Chester High School
'Learning to shape the future'

Welcome to Upton-by-Chester Key Stage 4

For the first time in your education you are able to have some choice in the subjects that you will study in Years 10 and 11. Part of the curriculum is fixed; the remainder of your timetable will be made up of areas you can choose which could include GCSEs or vocational qualifications.

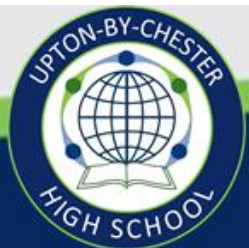
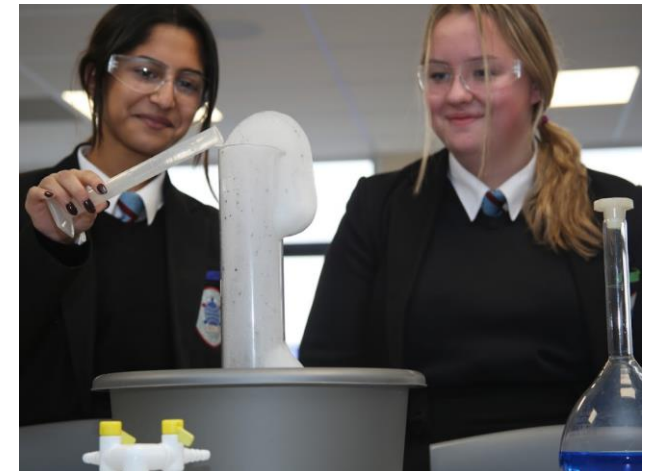
The aim of this booklet and the Year 9 GCSE Options Presentation is to help you decide the most appropriate choices for your future. It is important that you seek advice and talk to people who can help you with these decisions.

We are committed to ensuring that you enjoy your experience of learning in Years 10 and 11 and that you strive to achieve the best that you can. You should aim to choose courses that suit your needs, that will challenge you and help you to develop life skills to prepare you for your future.

With best wishes

Mr L. Cummins

Headteacher



Upton-by-Chester High School

'Learning to shape the future'



Key Stage 4 Curriculum

Learning to shape the future

Our offer:

Learners will have a curriculum made up of core subjects (60%) and optional subjects (40%).

The core curriculum, followed by all learners, comprises:

English

Mathematics

Science

Physical Education

Religious Education

PSHE (includes work related learning and careers advice and guidance).

We have two curriculum pathways:

Blue: Learners should choose to continue to study French or Spanish language options. They should also choose Geography or History and two other subjects from those listed in the booklet.

White: Learners should choose Geography or History and three other subjects from those listed in this booklet.

Options Subjects:

The purpose of selecting some option subjects is to give learners the chance to follow their interests, abilities and aptitudes by having some individual choice but not at the expense of losing breadth and balance.

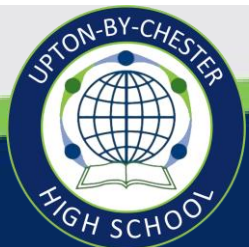
It is most important that the choices learners make give a balance to their curriculum. This is to avoid closing off future opportunities due to a biased subject selection. Therefore, we do not recommend that learners choose more than one subject from a departmental area.

Detailed information about each subject will be available from departments on Options Evening.

Fine Art	Dance	French	Information Technology	Physical Education
Art Photography	Design Technology – Product Design	Design Technology – Textiles	Media Studies	Triple Science
Business Studies	Drama	Health and Social Care	Music	Spanish
Computer Science	Design and Technology – Food and Nutrition	History	Philosophy and Ethics	
Design and Technology – Hospitality and Catering	Animal Care	Computer Science	Geography	

CURRICULUM

Core Subjects



Upton-by-Chester High School

'Learning to shape the future'

English Language and Literature

GCSE - AQA

The English Department at Upton-by-Chester High School takes pride in being at the forefront of a diverse and varied educational experience. With this in mind, we are constantly aware of issues such as citizenship, sustainable futures, gender, faith, class and social and economic awareness; these and other important matters related to our learners' moral, cultural and spiritual development inform the English curriculum and are dealt with in explicit and implicit ways.

Key Stage 4

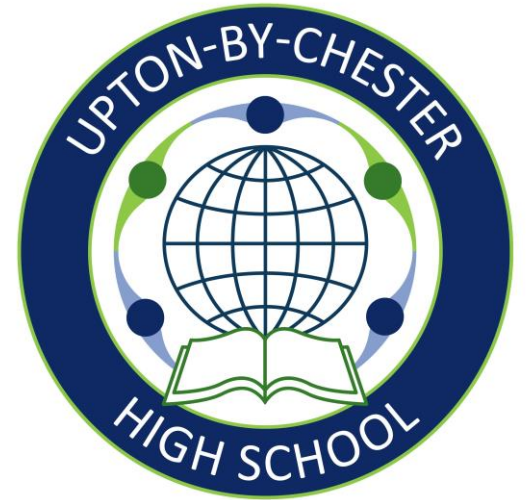
Learners will complete the GCSE AQA English Language and English Literature specification.

This specification is designed to inspire and motivate learners, providing appropriate stretch and challenge whilst ensuring that the assessment and texts are, as far as possible, accessible to all learners.

It enables learners to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.

For English Language, learners are assessed through two equally-balanced examination papers, each assessing reading and writing in an integrated way. This specification requires learners to be assessed at the end of Year 11 and is 100% examination based.

For English Literature, learners will be assessed through two examination papers. Paper 1 (40%) asks learners to respond to a play by William Shakespeare and a 19th Century Novel. Paper 2 (60%) asks learners to respond to a Modern Novel and Poetry.



Where this could lead you:

- Publishing, Editing and Copywriter
- Law
- Speech & Language Therapy
- Linguists, Translating & Interpreting
- Teaching & Lecturer
- Government
- Writer & Presenter
- Lexicography
- Marketing & Advertising
- Journalism & Media
- Forensics
- Public Relations

COURSES



Mathematics

GCSE (Edexcel)

Why you should study this subject?

All learners are required to study mathematics to GCSE.

Through the study of Mathematics our learners will have the opportunity to develop aspects of their character such as resilience, perseverance, confidence, curiosity and independence. They will develop skills such as: problem solving, reasoning, communicating mathematically, logical thinking and number sense. Learners will develop the capacity to apply their problem solving skills and mathematical knowledge in other subject areas and to their life beyond school.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

Learners at Key Stage 4 study in greater depth the same aspects of Mathematics that are taught at Key Stage 3. All learners are assessed against the Edexcel GCSE specification (grades 9 - 1). Assessment is by examination at the end of Year 11. Learners take three papers, each 1 hour 30 minutes. The first paper is a non-calculator paper, the second and third allow the use of a calculator. There are two tiers of entry: Higher (Grades 9-4) and Foundation (Grades 5-1).

Where this could lead you:

At Key Stage 5 you could study A level Mathematics and A level Further Maths

- Statistics & Data Analysis
- Engineering
- Actuarial Science
- Finance
- Computer Science
- Teaching & Lecturing
- Astronomer
- Civil Service
- Architecture
- Surveyor



COURSES



Combined Science

GCSE (Edexcel)

Why you should study this subject?

GCSE study in the Sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. All learners should learn essential aspects of the knowledge methods processes and uses of science. They should gain appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key items that relate to the sciences and that are both interlinked and of universal application.

Science is a compulsory subject in Key Stage 4. All learners are required take a minimum of Combined Science which is worth 2 GCSEs. Some learners choose to take science as one of their options, if they make this choice they will follow the triple science course which is detailed on a separate page.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

Excel Combined Science is assessed across six exam papers at the end of year 11. The course is taught through three separate science areas: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Each of these areas have two exam papers assessing different topics. The final grade a learner is given is based upon an overall score across all six examinations. There are a number of practical experiments that all learners must complete as part of the course however they do not contribute towards the final exam grade.



Where this could lead you:

Combined Science allows learners to take Biology, Chemistry and Physics at A level. It also provides the necessary grounding for learners to start on Applied Science and more practical Science courses.

- Forensic Science
- Medicine and Pharmacy
- Environmental Consultancy
- Research and Development
- Clinical Science
- Biochemistry
- Geochemistry
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Engineering
- Toxicologist
- Higher education



Science - Synergy

GCSE(AQA)

Why you should study this subject?

GCSE study in the Sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. All learners should learn essential aspects of the knowledge methods processes and uses of science. They should gain appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key items that relate to the sciences and that are both interlinked and of universal application.

Science is a compulsory subject in Key Stage 4. All learners are required take a minimum of Combined Science which is worth 2 GCSEs. Some learners choose to take science as one of their options, if they make this choice they will follow the triple science course which is detailed on a separate page.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

AQA synergy science is taught across 2 subject areas:
Life and environmental sciences generally covers Biology topics.
Physical sciences links topics covered by Chemistry and Physics.

At the end of year 11 learners will sit four written exams with two papers on each of the above areas. The overall grade a learner will be awarded is based upon the overall mark they achieve across all four written papers.

There are a number of practical experiments that all learners must complete as part of the course however they do not contribute towards the final exam grade.



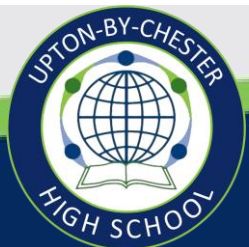
Where this could lead you:

- Further study of science

COURSES



Options Subjects



Upton-by-Chester High School

'Learning to shape the future'

GCSE Fine Art GCSE - AQA

COURSES



Do you enjoy art? Do you like exploring different materials and techniques? Do you enjoy working independently? Then Fine Art may be the subject for you. You don't have to be the best artist and neither do you need to be planning a career in art and design. We will help you develop and improve your skills throughout the course and most important thing to consider is whether you enjoy the subject.

GCSE Fine Art gives the opportunity to further explore areas of art, and design which you have developed an interest in throughout Key Stage 3. You will be able to work in a variety of art and design materials and processes producing practical and contextual work in 2 or more areas including; Applied Art, Fine Art, Graphic Communication, 3D Design and Photography. You may also choose to further explore areas of Textiles within Fine Art such as fashion and costume, printed and/or dyed fabrics and materials, domestic textiles, constructed and/or stitched and/or embellished textiles.

You will have the opportunity to use a wide range of materials including paint, print, clay, plaster, wood, ink, fabrics, and more. In fact – as your work becomes more independent, if you want to explore it, and we have the materials, you can do it.

Although you will initially be guided by your teacher, increasingly you will have the opportunity to develop your work more independently, eventually choosing your own starting points and producing projects which explore and develop ideas in a personal and creative way.

Fine art develops many skills which are transferable across the curriculum and in everyday life. Independence is a desirable skill in all careers as well as the ability to think creatively. Creative thinkers are usually good at problem solving as well as being able to generate ideas in whichever workplace you find yourself in.

If you enjoy the practical and creative aspects of art and design, drawing and exploring media, this may be the course for you.

Component 1:(Portfolio)

A portfolio that in total shows coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

Assessment:

- No time limit
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Component 2 (Externally set assignment - Issued January year 11):

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.

Assessment:

- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of GCSE

No written exam

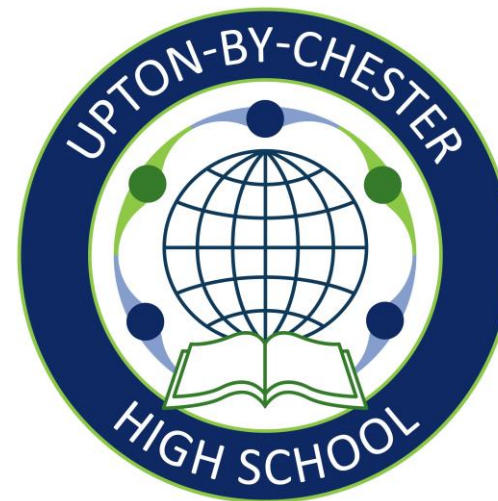
Where this could lead you:

- A Level Fine Art
- A Level Graphic Design
- A Level Photography
- BTEC/Level 3 courses.
- Level 3 Foundation course

In addition GCSE Fine art opens the door to a range of further possibilities such as:

- Degree level courses and Apprenticeships in a range of subjects including Fine Art, Fashion, Textile design, Sculpture, Theatre Design, Advertising, Architecture, Illustration, Game Design, Teacher and more.
- A range of careers where creative thinking skills are desirable.

GCSE Graphic Communication GCSE - AQA



If you enjoy graphic illustration and detailed drawing as well as working on a computer, this may be the course for you. In Graphic communication students will develop their creative skills whilst focussing on the process of designing visual material to convey information, ideas, meaning and emotions in response to a given brief.

Graphic communication combines the practical skills of the fine art course with the digital skills of the photography course. You will have the opportunity to develop your skills in areas such as illustration and typography and to develop designs for printing, product branding, exhibition graphics, music advertising, film promotion, game design and much, much more.

You will learn about different ways of analysing and responding to the work of others and you will be introduced to the main conventions used in graphic design, including layout, text and image.

You will have access to digital manipulation software such as Photoshop, Photopea, Animations, and many more. Your work will be presented both in a sketchbook and digitally on a website using the Google Sites website builder, so not only will you be developing your creative skills, but you will also be learning important skills in IT too.

If you like to use practical art skills, detailed drawings and the computer to generate and communicate ideas, this may be the course for you.

Component 1:(Portfolio)

A portfolio that in total shows coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

Assessment:

- No time limit
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Component 2 (Externally set assignment - Issued January year 11):

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.

Assessment:

- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of GCSE

No written exam

Where this could lead you:

- A Level Graphic Design
- A Level Fine Art
- A Level Photography
- BTEC/Level 3 courses.
- Level 3 Foundation course

In addition GCSE Graphic Communication opens the door to a range of further possibilities such as:

- Degree level courses and Apprenticeships in a range of subjects including Graphic Design, Illustration, Desktop Publishing, Web Design, Drafting, Industrial Design, UX Design, Web Development.
- A range of careers where creative thinking skills are desirable.

COURSES



GCSE Art Photography GCSE - AQA

Do you enjoy taking photographs? Do you like working on computers? Are you creative but find the practical side of art a little more challenging? Then perhaps GCSE photography may be the course for you. GCSE Photography allows you to further explore areas of Photographic and digital design which you have developed an interest in throughout Key Stage 3.

You will learn how to take a good photograph, applying rules of composition and lighting to help you improve your photographic skills. You will have the opportunity to develop your work in a variety of Photographic and Image Manipulation processes producing practical and contextual work using the Camera, Photoshop, Photopea, Animations, Pixlr and more. We have a mini suite of smart tablets as well as a suite of computers on which to explore different techniques.

Although you will initially be guided by your teacher, increasingly you will have the opportunity to develop your work more independently, eventually you will choose your own starting points and produce skilful projects which explore and develop ideas in a personal and creative way.

One of the main questions students ask is, do I need a camera? No, we can do GCSE Photography using the cameras on our smartphones and utilising Google Photos and Google drive to transfer our images. However, if you want to buy a camera, you will be able to take even better pictures. All our work is presented on a website builder called Google Sites so not only will you be developing your creative skills, but you will also be learning important skills in IT too.

If you like being creative and taking photographs and are good on a computer then this may well be the course for you.



Component 1:(Portfolio)

A portfolio that in total shows coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

Assessment:

- No time limit
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Component 2 (Externally set assignment - Issued January year 11):

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.

Assessment:

- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time
- 96 marks
- 40% of GCSE

No written exam

Where this could lead you:

- A Level Photography
- A Level Graphic Design
- BTEC/Level 3 courses.
- Level 3 Foundation course

In addition GCSE Photography opens the door to a range of further possibilities such as:

- Degree level courses and Apprenticeships in a range of subjects including Photography, Fashion photography, Fashion Director, Media and Advertising, Camera technician, Film, Marketing, Digital Media, Design, Forensic , Military , Food, Portrait and A Level Graphic Design and Wedding Photography.
- A range of careers where creative thinking skills are desirable.

COURSES



Business - A Level (Edexcel)

Why you should study this subject?

Business is a popular subject. The department strives to give their learners the best possible chance of progress, offering intervention where necessary as well as extra-curricular activities.

KS4

Edexcel GCSE Business 1-9 (Current Y10 onwards)

The course is assessed through 2 exams, Investigating Small Business and Building a Business. Both papers are 1 hour 45 mins and both are 50% of the available marks.

The course broadly covers:

Paper 1

Entrepreneurship and Starting a Business

Market research, Market Segmentation, the Marketing Mix

Business Objectives, Profit, Revenue and Costs

Cash Flow and Sources of Finance

Sole Traders, Partnerships, Private Limited Companies and Franchising

Location, Business Plans

The External Environment, Technology, Legislation and the Economy

Paper 2

Growth, Change in Objectives and Globalisation

Ethics

The Marketing Mix for Larger Businesses

Production Types, JIT, Quality, Procurement and the Sales Process

Business Calculations and the Interpretation of Graphs

HRM, Recruitment, Training, Structure and Motivation



Where this could lead you:

- Business Adviser
- Logistics and Distribution
- Business Analyst
- Marketing and Advertising
- Project Manager
- Human Resources Management
- Risk Management
- Finance and Accounting
- Insurance and Investment
- Planning & Resources
- Auditing

COURSES



Geography

GCSE - AQA

Why you should study this subject?

Geography is a broad based academic subject which will provide you with many options in the future. It will help you to develop skills and build up a vast knowledge about our world.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

Topics Studied:

Key Stage 4 - AQA Geography 8035

Paper 1 - 35% of GCSE - 1 hr 30 mins - 88 marks

In Physical Geography learners will study:

Tectonic, Weather and Climate Hazards, Ecosystems and Cold Environments, River and Coasts.

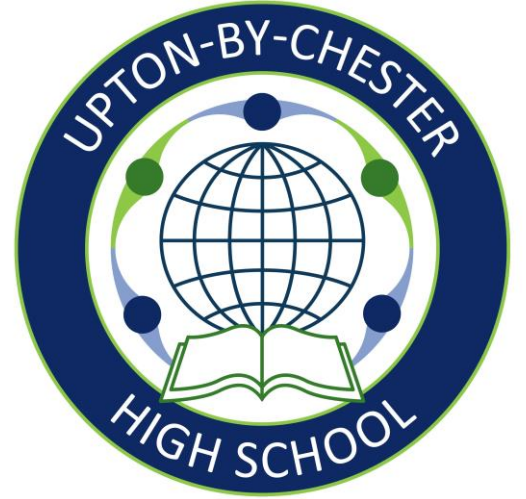
Paper 2 - 35% of GCSE - 1hr 30 mins - 88 marks

In Human Geography learners will study:

Changing Urban Environments, Changing Economic World, Resource Management Overview and Resource Management: Water.

Paper 3 - 30% of GCSE - 1 hr 15 mins - 76 marks

Learners will also complete fieldwork which will develop skills in data collection, analysis and presentation. This will prepare the learners for paper 3.



Where this could lead you:

At Key Stage 5 you could study A level Geography which could lead to a career in:

- Planning
- Environmental Management
- Surveying
- Conservation
- Travel Industry
- Teaching
- Geographical information Systems
- Politics
- Civil Service
- Green Economy

COURSES



History

GCSE - Edexcel

Why you should study this subject?

We want to equip our learners with the skills and knowledge to make sense of the world around them and their place in it. We teach a broad History curriculum in order to stimulate their interest.

We offer educational visits to the Battlefields of Belgium and France, Berlin as well as to Westminster amongst other places. We have a proud record of inviting speakers into school including Alastair Campbell, Natalie Bennett and Baroness Newlove.

Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11)

GCSE History EDEXCEL 1H10

Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment (*British Medicine and the British sector of the Western Front*)

Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes

30%* of the qualification

52 marks (16 for the historic environment, 36 for the thematic study)

Paper 2: Period study and British depth study (*The American West and Anglo Saxon and Norman England*)

Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes

40%* of the qualification

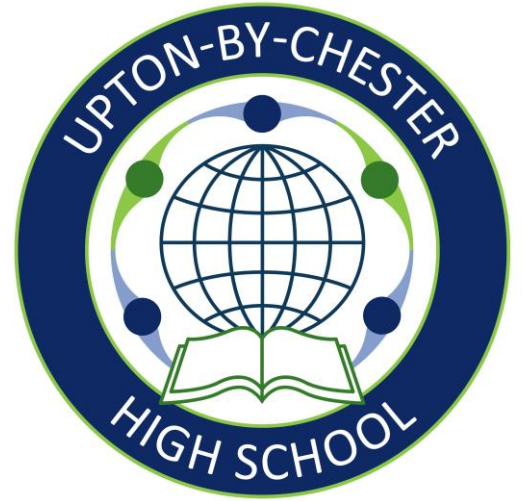
64 marks (32 for the period study and 32 for the British depth study)

Paper 3: Modern depth study (*Weimar and Nazi Germany*)

Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes

30%* of the qualification

52 marks



Where this could lead you:

- Law
- Politics
- Archivist
- Business Consultant
- Journalism
- Researcher
- Historical writing
- Preservation
- Teaching
- Analyst

COURSES



Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

GCSE (OCR)

Why you should study this subject?

The RS department is a vibrant, friendly, talented and enthusiastic place to be. Learners achieve excellent results and have the opportunity to investigate spiritual, moral, social and cultural aspects of life. We encourage our learners to broaden their mind and embrace the world in which they live, of which they are a significant part.

Key Stage 4

Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective

Learners will approach the study of religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world through a study of themes such as medical ethics, conflict and war, personal relationships, secular, humanist and religious viewpoints surrounding key ethical and legal issues.

You should be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different philosophical and ethical arguments
- Analyse, evaluate and discuss the issues raised by the topics
- Demonstrate the depth of your understanding of Christianity by referring to teachings, beliefs, views, attitudes and values and where appropriate consider similarities and differences within different Christian groups
- Refer to different philosophical, ethical or religious ideas
- Consider the issues raised for Christianity in Great Britain.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

Content and assessment Overview

Beliefs and teachings and Practices – 2 x 1 hour written papers each worth 25% of total GCSE

Learners are required to study two religions from:

- Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism

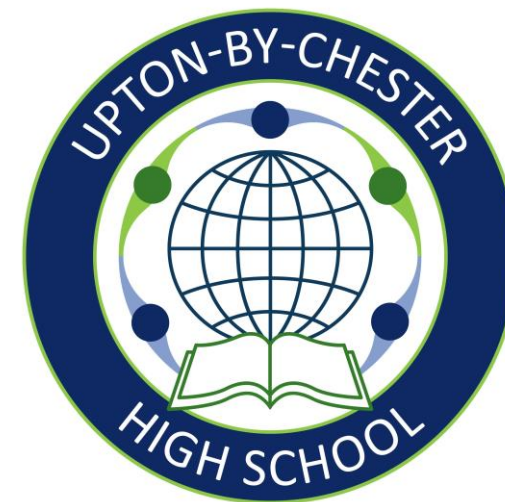
Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective – 1 x 2 hour written paper worth 50% of total GCSE

Learners are required to study this component from the perspective of one of the following religions:

- Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism

Four themes to be studied:

- Relationships and families
- The existence of God, gods and the ultimate reality
- Religion, Peace and conflict
- Dialogue between religious and non religious beliefs and attitudes.



This could lead you to study A levels in:

- English
- Media
- History
- Geography
- Politics
- Sociology
- Psychology



French

GCSE (AQA)

Why you should study this subject?

We are an inclusive Languages Department whose motto is 'Achievement through Enjoyment'. As language lessons are so varied and include a range of different learning and teaching approaches, we believe that there is something for everyone. Classrooms are well equipped and the department is well resourced with a number of online learning platforms. Learners are encouraged to be interactive and explore different ways of learning. Staff are dedicated to keeping up to date with new and innovative techniques in the classroom and MFL pedagogy. French and Spanish are taught to KS5.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11)

We believe that in today's world, where the emphasis is on global communication, a qualification in a language is a valuable asset. As businesses and industries seek to forge stronger links overseas, there is an increasing demand for those who are able to communicate with others in their language and linguists are much sought-after in the job market. The language courses offered at Upton are designed to enable learners to develop their language skills to a degree where they are confident in communicating in the foreign language. Furthermore, the transferrable skills learners develop whilst learning a language are highly regarded in all industries.

Our learners sit the AQA examinations.

Learners are encouraged to explore a range of contexts, through the foreign language, relating to their own lifestyle and that of those people in the country of the foreign language. The course enables them to gain knowledge and understanding of the language and culture. The topics covered are relevant to the modern world and young people and include a wide spectrum of themes under the three broad themes: People and Lifestyle, Popular Culture and Communication and The World around us.

Methods of Assessment:

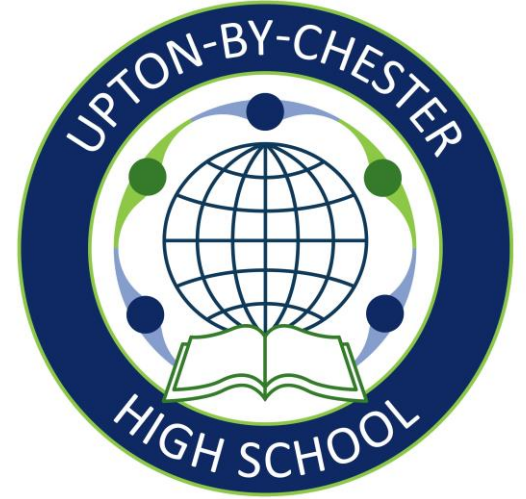
Listening paper, Foundation or Higher Tier (25%)

Reading paper, Foundation or Higher Tier (25%)

Writing paper, Foundation or Higher Tier (25%)

1 speaking exam at end of course, teacher conducted (25%)

Learners are entered for either Foundation or Higher Tier



Where this could lead you:

- Medicine
- Linguists
- Lecturing
- Teaching
- Interpreting
- Translating
- Journalism
- Diplomatic services
- Marketing
- Business
- Publishing
- Military

COURSES



Spanish

GCSE (AQA)

Why you should study this subject?

We are an inclusive Languages Department whose motto is 'Achievement through Enjoyment'. As language lessons are so varied and include a range of different learning and teaching approaches, we believe that there is something for everyone. Classrooms are well equipped and the department is well resourced with a number of online learning platforms. Learners are encouraged to be interactive and explore different ways of learning. Staff are dedicated to keeping up to date with new and innovative techniques in the classroom and MFL pedagogy. French and Spanish are taught to KS5.

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Methods of Assessment:

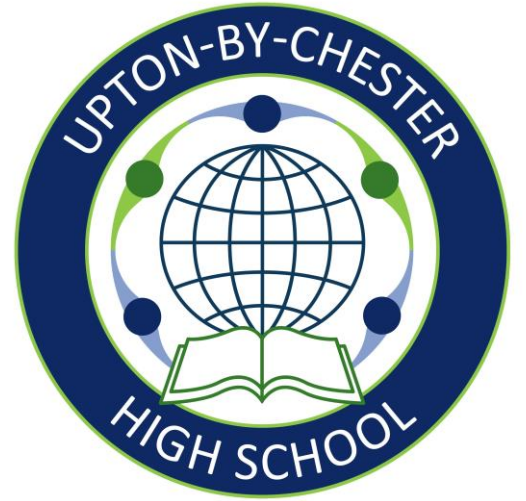
Listening paper, Foundation or Higher Tier (25%)

Reading paper, Foundation or Higher Tier (25%)

Writing paper, Foundation or Higher Tier (25%)

1 speaking exam at end of course, teacher conducted (25%)

Learners are entered for either Foundation or Higher Tier



Where this could lead you:

- Medicine
- Linguists
- Lecturing
- Teaching
- Interpreting
- Translating
- Journalism
- Diplomatic services
- Marketing
- Business
- Publishing
- Military



Computer Science

GCSE(AQA)

Many young people have high levels of computer literacy but not so many know how the computers they use work, or how to create software solutions to solve real world problems. The ability to understand what is happening under the cover, as well as invent and adapt new technologies, distinguishes computer science from computer literacy, which focuses more on using existing platforms (e.g. word processing, spreadsheets). However, it should be pointed out that the skills involved in a Computer Science GCSE, such as design, logical reasoning and problem solving, are all valuable well beyond the computer science classroom.

The computer science course has real relevance in our modern world, as computer science impacts on everything from scientific research, health, transport, banking and communications. It will give an understanding of how computer technology works and looks at what goes on "behind the scenes". Technology has made the world more connected, but only because people have studied computer science. Through the study of computer programming the course will help develop critical thinking, analysis and problem solving skills.

Throughout this Computer Science course learners will develop an in-depth understanding of computer systems and how they work. Learning to program is also a core component of this computer science course. During this course learners will learn how to design, read, write and debug programs. They will also learn how to apply their skills to solve real problems and produce readable, robust programs.

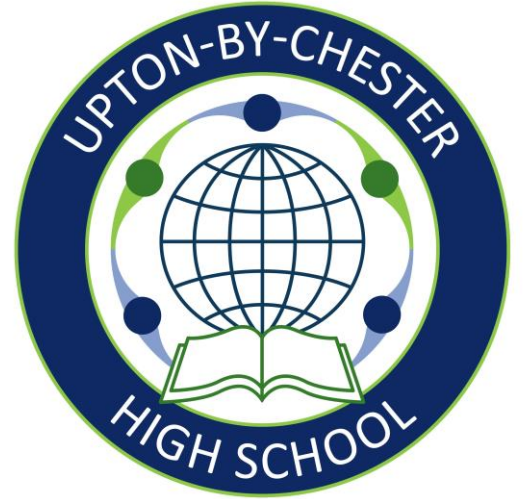
The topics covered in this course are:

1. Algorithms
2. Programming
3. Design Testing and Translation
4. Data Representation
5. Components of a Computer System
6. Networks and Issues

The course is assessed over two examination papers:

Paper 1: Computational thinking and problem solving, including Programming (50%)

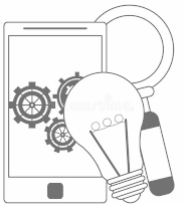
Paper 2: Computer Networks, Cyber Security, Ethical, Legal and Environmental impact of Digital technology (50%)



Where this could lead you:

- Game Designer
- Data Analyst
- Cyber Security
- Systems Analyst
- IT Consultant
- Forensic Computer Analyst
- Web Designer/Developer
- Information Systems Manager
- IT Trainer
- Programmer
- Network Engineer
- Nanotechnology

COURSES



National Certificate Information Technology GCSE (OCR)

IT offers essential skills for life beyond school. To quote the Marketing Director of one of the largest UK insurance companies as an employer we look for “a good mix of IT, Maths and English... communication, project management, data handling and analysis skills ... vital for digital growth”. The Government talk about a “Huge Digital Skills Gap”.

People with a knowledge of **Cyber Security, Big Data, Project Management** and **Emerging Technologies** are in demand. Information Technology careers are **fast-moving** with plenty of chances of promotion, and **demand for IT professionals is surging**. In this digital age, the ability to use IT is paramount. In every walk of life, the way we **work, learn** and **socialise** has been affected by the **digital revolution**. Whichever path you decide to follow when you leave school, you will need IT skills; further education, universities and employers will expect this.

This will help you to develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the IT sector. The qualification will also help you to develop learning and skills that can be used in other life and work situations.

The course is assessed through three units

R050 IT in a Digital World - Examination (40%) taken in Summer of Year 11

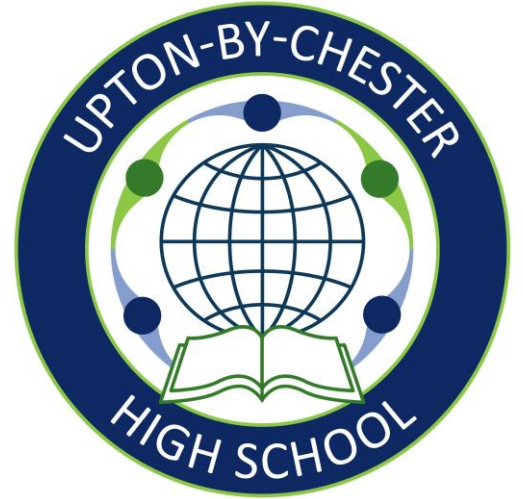
In this unit you will learn about design and testing concepts for creating an IT solution or product, and the uses of IT in the digital world.

R060 Data Manipulation - NEA Coursework (30%) completed in Year 10

In this unit you will learn how to plan, design, create, test and evaluate a solution to meet client's requirements.

R070 Using Augmented reality (AR) - NEA Coursework (30%) completed in Year 10/11

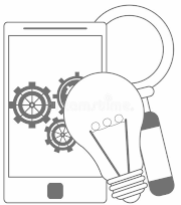
In this unit you will learn how to design, create, test and review an Augmented Reality model prototype to meet a client's requirements.



Where this could lead you:

- Advertising
- Journalism
- Media & communications
- Marketing & PR
- Digital marketing
- Broadcasting
- Social media manager
- Editorial assistant
- Event manager
- Television producer
- Market researcher

COURSES



Media Studies GCSE (OCR)

Why you should study this subject?

Learners in media studies learn to be analytical and critical thinkers across a range of platforms from traditional print, film and television to developing new media technologies. We have a strong emphasis on creativity and originality within the department and 30% of the academic course involves learners creating their own authentic media texts.

Media learners need to be enthusiastic consumers of a range of current media platforms. We want learners who like to visit the cinema, keep up to date with current affairs, view a range of television shows and read a variety of newspapers and magazines.

We hope that learners who choose to study the media do so with an open mind and have a thirst for knowledge that extends outside of the classroom.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

The media curriculum is underpinned by engagement with the four key concepts: media language, representation, audience & industry. Learners study examples of both historical and contemporary media and will explore a series of Close Study Products during the course.

Learners are assessed with two written examinations:

Paper 1: Television & Promoting Media (35% of course)

Set topics include television shows from the 1960s and 2010s as well as film franchises, gaming, merchandise and advertising.

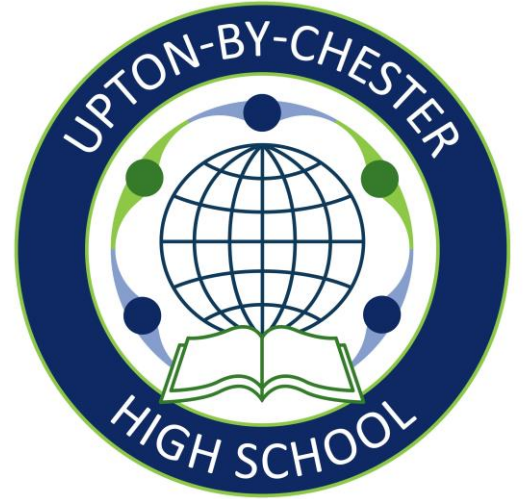
Paper 2: Music & News (35% of course)

Set topics include music magazines, music videos, radio as well as contemporary and 1960s news media.

Learners are also assessed on a production piece:

NEA (30% of course)

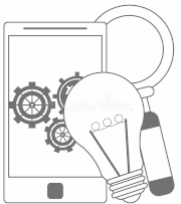
Set tasks include magazine production, music video, television drama & documentary plus website creation.



Where this could lead you:

- Producer/ Editor/ Director
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Public Relations
- Digital Marketer
- Social media manager
- Event manager
- Market researcher
- Media & communications
- GCSE Media is a great foundation for A Level Media and BTEC Film. It isn't a necessity to have studied GCSE Media Studies to apply for either of those courses at 6th form. GCSE Media is complementary to Art, Photography, Drama, Business and English Literature as well as Social Sciences and Politics at A Level.

COURSES



Drama GCSE (Eduqas)

Why you should study this subject?

The department is an inclusive, stimulating environment, in which learners are encouraged to fulfil their potential by way of acquiring and developing new skills and experiences within the framework of explaining, improvisation, rehearsal and performance.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

Year 10: Eduqas GCSE Drama

Year 10 Drama learners have five, 1-hour lessons of Drama over the fortnightly timetable. Year 10 is about experiencing the demands of the full Eduqas assessment process and closely mirrors what learners will do in Y11. Learners continue to develop their understanding of the Component 3 Set text, expand their understanding of Theatre Practitioners such as Augusto Boal, Stephen Berkoff and Antonin Artaud. Learners also look at Theatre Companies such as Splendid Productions and Kneehigh Theatre Company. Learners will decide if they are studying Acting Option or Technical Theatre Option by December of Year 10. Learners begin to hone their analytical writing skills through Live Theatre Reviews and practice questions from the Component 3 Set text questions.

Learners engage in termly performances to an audience based on Devising scenes, scripted scenes and their Component 3 Set Text. Learners fully utilise online streaming platforms such as National Theatre Live and Digital Theatre Plus. Learners will also have the opportunity to experience Live Theatre at a varied selection of Theatres.

Year 11: Eduqas GCSE Drama

Year 11 Drama learners have five, 1-hour lessons of Drama over the fortnightly timetable. Learners will follow the Acting Option or the Technical Theatre Option.

Learners complete the Component 1 Devising Theatre section worth 40% of the entire GCSE between September and December of Y11. Learners perform these scenes to a selected audience in December of Y11 and complete the evaluation and Creative Log shortly after their final performance.

Learners start their Component 2 Performing from a Text worth 20% in the December of Y11. Learners are then directed by their teacher ready for an external assessment performance with a visiting Eduqas examiner in March of Year 11.

Learners will continuously work on their Component 3 Interpreting Theatre throughout Year 11 and this will include intervention sessions when required. Learners will complete numerous Past Papers under exam conditions as they prepare for the written assessment worth 40% of the entire GCSE.



Where this could lead you:

At Key Stage 5 you could study A Level Drama/ Theatre Studies where you would explore:

- Reinterpretation of a text
- A devised and scripted performance
- 3 set texts

This could lead to a career as:

- Performer
- Stage Manager
- Director/ producer
- Writer
- Education
- Broadcasting and presenting
- Advertising
- Marketing
- Law
- Politics
- Journalism
- Creative Media

COURSES



Performing Arts Technical Award (Music) (EDUQAS)

Why you should study this subject?

This qualification is the equivalent to a GCSE you can choose from the following pathways: Music, Musical Theatre, Drama or Production.

There are 3 units.

Unit 1 Performing

Unit 2 Creating

Unit 3 Performing Arts in Practice.

Both Units 1 and 2 are internally assessed and externally moderated. Work will be assessed using the published marking schemes.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

UNIT 1

For this unit you need to choose an existing piece of music, drama or musical theatre and perform it to an audience. You will be given a brief to work to.

- A song or piece of music performed on an instrument or voice (can be done solo or in a group)
- A song or piece of music created using a computer program (does not need to be performed live)
- A piece of drama (solo or group)
- A piece of musical theatre which includes at least two out of acting/singing/dance (solo or group)

UNIT 2

For this unit you will get a stimulus from the exam board and you will need to create a piece of original work to this.

- A music composition
- A music composition using technology
- A piece of drama
- A piece of choreography

Your piece (or pieces) need to last between 3 and 10 minutes.

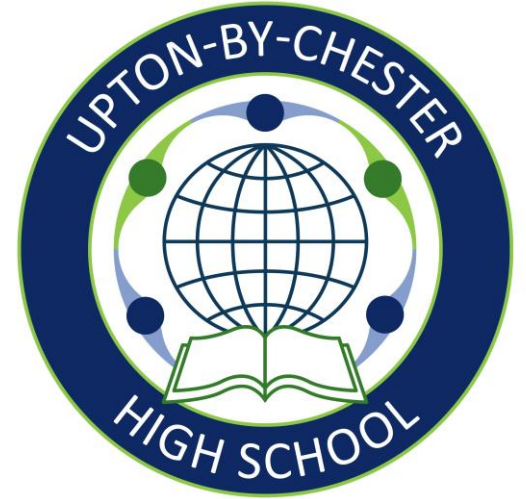
You can work individually or in a group. You will only gain credit for your contribution to the work. Two learners cannot be assessed on the same piece of work.

UNIT 3 (externally assessed)

For this unit you will receive a brief then have to come up with a performance idea for an event.

You will need to plan this thoroughly, taking a range of industry factors into consideration, and pitch your idea to a panel.

Your pitch will include some practical work.



This could lead to a BTEC level 3 National in Music – Pearson. Extended Diploma.

COURSES



Physical Education GCSE (AQA)

COURSES

Why you should study this subject?

We follow the AQA GCSE PE course here at Upton, which we believe provides learners with accurate and relevant knowledge and understanding of factors that underpin performance and involvement in physical activity. The GCSE builds upon some concepts covered in KS3 and it also provides the foundations and compliments the teaching and learning of A-level.

The theoretical content covers relevant and engaging sporting issues and allows learners to cover a wide range of topics from how the anatomy and physiology of the human body impacts performance, to fitness and training processes that maximise success, to athlete psychology to socio-cultural influences that shape sport today.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

Component 1 - Written exam - 75 minutes, 78 marks = 30% of GCSE

Applied anatomy and physiology

Movement analysis

Physical training

Use of data

Component 2 - Written exam - 75 minutes, 78 marks = 30% of GCSE

Sports psychology

Socio-cultural influences

Health, fitness & well-being

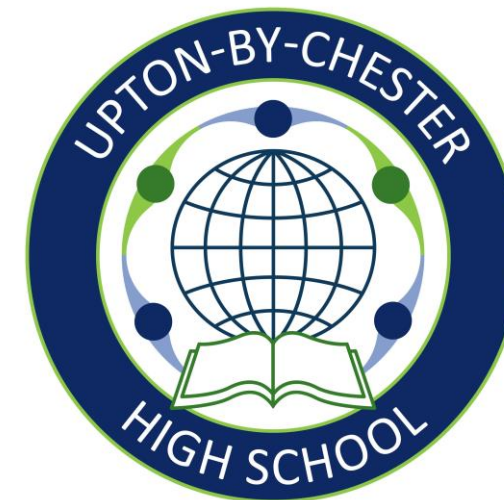
Use of data

The course provides learners with the opportunity to develop and demonstrate their abilities in practical activities as well as the chance to analyse and evaluate performance.

Component 3 - Non-examined assessment, 100 marks = 40% of GCSE

Practical performance in 3 different physical activities (1 in a team, 1 in an individual activity and a third in either a team or an individual activity). For each of their 3 activities, learners will be assessed in skills in progressive drills (10 marks per activity) and in full context (15 marks per activity).

Analysis and evaluation of performance to bring about improvement in 1 activity. Learners will be assessed on their analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) of performance to bring about improvement in one activity.



Where this could lead you:

A level PE at Upton and careers in:

- Physiotherapist
- Sport therapist
- Sport psychologist
- PE teacher
- Personal trainer
- Coach
- Sports development and science
- Researcher
- Leisure manager
- Sport media
- Clinical biomechanist
- Dietician



Performing Arts with a Dance Approach

BTEC (EDEXCEL)

Do you love to dance? Would you like to develop your performance and choreography skills in a variety of styles? Do you like to analyse dance pieces and understand the choreographer's themes and intentions? If so then this course is for you!!

Here at Upton we follow the BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts with a Dance approach. This is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through a vocational setting. The qualification, which is 120 GLH, is the same size and level as a GCSE. There are 3 components that Learners will study on this course. All components contain both practical and theoretical aspects.

Component 1 – Exploring the Performing Arts

(internally assessed) 30%

Learners will develop an understanding of the performing arts including practitioners' work and the processes used to create performance.

Learners will study up to three professional works both theoretically and practically focusing on two learning aims:

A. Investigate how professional performance or production work is created **B.** Demonstrate understanding of the skills, techniques and approaches used by professionals to create performance/production work.

Learners will be given a theme by the exam board (such as conflict for example). Learners will then have to choose which work that they feel best fits the theme and produce a piece of coursework in supervised conditions explaining the links to the theme in all aspects of the work

Component 2 - Developing Skills and techniques in the Performing Arts

(Internally Assessed) 30%

Learners will develop their performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of dance repertoire as a performer.

There are three learning aims in this section: **A.** Use rehearsal or production **B.** Apply skills and techniques in performance **C.** Review own development and application of performance skills.

Learners will review the technical and expressive skills that a dancer needs and conduct a skills audit on themselves. From this they will set themselves targets to work on over the component. They will then undertake several workshops in different styles focusing on technique and performance.

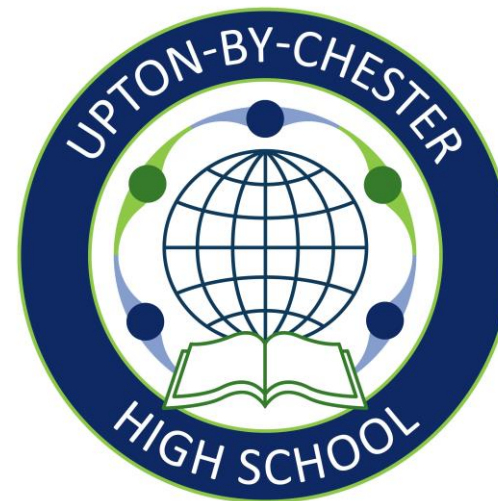
Finally, the exam board will again set a theme and learners will have to reproduce a professional repertoire that showcases that theme and then perform this to an audience.

Component 3 Responding to a Brief

Year 11 Spring Term (Externally Assessed) 40%

Learners will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to contribute to a workshop performance as a performer in response to a brief and stimulus.

The exam board will set a theme for the learners to choreograph a group piece to. They will perform this to an audience. At various stages of the choreography process learners will have to write individual logs about how their piece fits the brief, what they have contributed, what skills they have used and who has influenced them.



Where this could lead you:

At Key Stage 5 you could study A level Dance, BTEC level 3 in Performing Arts (with a Dance Approach)

Careers:

- Dance Education/ Dance Teacher
- Choreographer
- Dancer
- Costume/ set/ lighting designer
- Dance Movement Therapist
- Pilates/ yoga Instructor
- Personal Trainer
- Physiotherapist

COURSES



Triple Science

GCSE (EDEXCEL)

Why you should study this subject?

GCSE study in the Sciences provides the foundation for understanding the material world.

Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity.

All learners should learn essential aspects of the knowledge methods processes and uses of science. They should gain appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key items that relate to the sciences and that are both interlinked and of universal application.

Science is a compulsory subject in Key Stage 4. All learners are required take a minimum of Combined Science which is worth 2 GCSEs.

This option takes the basic material that is covered in the Combined Science course and adds other topics and more “in-depth” study of the areas covered in the Combined Science course.

Learners will need to opt for this course as one of their options – this extra lesson time allows the increased Science work to be covered. We recommend the triple science option for learners with a keen interest in science and who plan to continue studying science to A level and beyond.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

In this choice the three sciences are assessed individually and learners will receive separate grades for Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Each of the three subjects have two final examinations, both papers will cover the combined Science content and the additional work added for the Triple Science course.

There are a number of practical experiments that all learners must complete as part of the course however they do not contribute towards the final exam grade.

Where this could lead you:

In Key Stage 5 Triple Sciences provides a clear start on to the Biology, Chemistry and Physics A Level Courses. Some of the A level topics are covered at a lower level on the Trilogy GCSE courses but are not part of the Combined Science course – these will be covered during the relevant A level courses.

- Forensic Science
- Medicine and Pharmacy
- Environmental Consultancy
- Research and Development
- Clinical Science
- Biochemistry
- Geochemistry
- Dentistry
- Nursing
- Engineering
- Toxicologist
- Higher education

COURSES



Science – Animal Care

BTEC (EDEXCEL)

In 2019 the animal care sector was worth approximately £1 billion to the UK economy. This sector covers 20,000 businesses, 78,000 employees and many volunteers. Career opportunities range from working in veterinary care, zoological collections, animal welfare charities, retail work, and agriculture.

The BTEC Animal care course is recognised and respected by employers, professional institutions and higher education establishments. A qualification in Animal Care can lead to many further education options, from academic A-levels to Level 3 qualifications.

Learners are entered for the BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Animal Care. This is equivalent to 1 GCSE

The course is graded at Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*, Level 1 and Unclassified.

Learners study 3 components.

Components 1 and 2 will be assessed internally through several assignments. These coursework assignments will have a range of tasks including written reflections, posters, leaflets, and photographs of learners carrying out practical work.

Component 3 is assessed through an external exam at the end of the course.

Component 1: Animal Handling

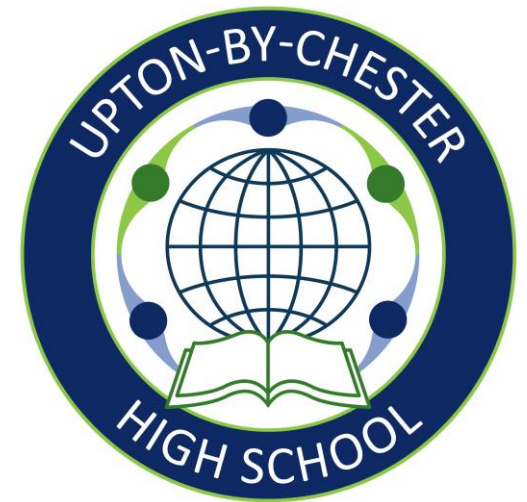
This component covers understanding animal behaviours, behaviour impacts on how animals are handled and restrained, and preparing for, and demonstrating safe animal handling and restraint.

Component 2: Animal Housing and Accommodation

This component covers understanding factors affecting the selection of animal accommodation, and preparing, checking, and cleaning out animal accommodation.

Component 3: Animal Health and Welfare

This component covers understanding of the characteristics of good and ill health, and common diseases and disorders. The component also covers the welfare of animals and the moral and legal responsibilities of the animal owner to ensure high standards of welfare for all animals in their care.



Where this could lead you:

In Key Stage 5 you could study for a T Level in Animal Care and Management, A levels in Sciences or an apprenticeship in the animal sector. This could lead to a career in:

- Veterinary science
- Zoo Keeper
- Ecologist
- Zoologist
- RSPCA inspector
- Farm worker
- Dog handler
- Pet behaviour specialist

COURSES



Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE (AQA)

Why you should study this subject?

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition AQA

This GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure learners develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing learners' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition. Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics: • Food, nutrition and health • Food science • Food safety • Food choice • Food provenance.

Assessment-

GCSE Food Preparation & Nutrition AQA - 50% theory examination 50% 2 NEA tasks

Task 1 30 marks - Food investigation - a written electronic report 1.500 - 2000 words

Task 2 - Food Preparation assessment 70 marks - Written or electronic portfolio including photographic evidence. Photographic evidence of the three final dishes must be included



Where this could lead you:

At Key Stage Five you could study:

- Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition
- A Level Chemistry
- A Level Biology

This could lead to a career in:

- Catering Manager
- Chef
- Dietician
- Health Service Manager
- Nutritionalist
- Personal Trainer
- Product/ Process Development Scientist

COURSES



Hospitality and Catering

Level 2 (EDUQAS)

Why you should study this subject?

Ever wondered what it takes to work in a top hotel or restaurant? Does food and discovering new flavours in the kitchen inspire you? Maybe you're interested in developing the skills you need to work front of house? If so, it's time to – find out more about this exciting qualification today!

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

This qualification is made up of 2 units,

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering industry you will:

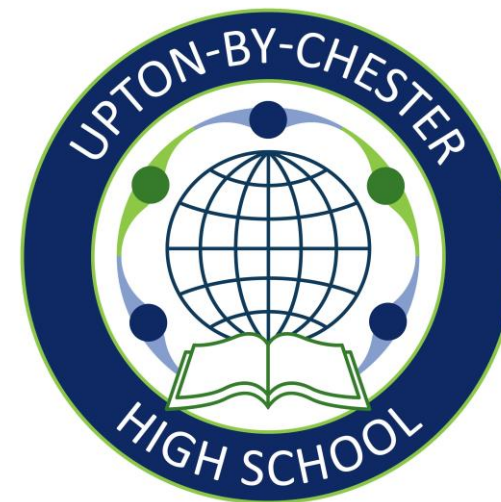
Learn about the hospitality and catering industry, the types of hospitality and catering providers and about working in the industry. Learn about health and safety, and food safety in hospitality and catering, as well as food related causes of ill health.

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action you Will:

Learn about the importance of nutrition and how cooking methods can impact on nutritional value. Learn how to plan nutritious menus as well as factors which affect menu planning. You will learn the skills and techniques needed to prepare, cook and present dishes as well as learning how to review your work effectively.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

You will be assessed through a written examination and an assignment. Unit 1 will be assessed through an exam, which is worth 40% of your qualification. In Unit 2 you will complete an assignment where you will plan and prepare a menu in response to a brief. This will be worth 60% of your qualification and will take 12 hours.



Where this could lead you:

In Key Stage 5 you could study:

- Hospitality and Catering Level 3
- Catering Courses
- Hospitality Supervision and Leadership

This could lead to a career as:

- Chef de Partie
- Commis Chef
- Concierge
- Hotel Manager
- Baker
- Sous Chef
- Receptionist
- Restaurant Manager
- Housekeeper



Health and Social Care BTEC(Pearson)

Why you should study this subject?

Health and social care is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK with demand for both health and social care employees continuously rising. In 2019/20, the adult social care sector contributed approximately £41.2 billion a year to the UK economy. Social care employees such as care assistants and social workers work with individuals to support them to be as independent as possible in their own homes, in care homes or nursing homes. Healthcare employees, such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and physiotherapists, work with individuals to enhance their quality of life by improving their health. Approximately 3 million people are currently employed in the sector. In 2019, it was estimated that by 2035 approximately 2.17 million health and social care job vacancies will need to be filled.

Learners are entered for the Edexcel BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care. This is equivalent to 1 GCSE.

It is a Level 2 qualification; however, it is graded at Level 2 Pass, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Distinction*, Level 1 and Unclassified.

Learners study 3 Units.

Two of the units will be internally assessed NEA's (each 6 hours long) moderated by the exam board in which learners will be awarded with a Level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction. If Level 2 criteria are not met a Level 1 may be awarded.

Component 3 is an externally assessed component completed in supervised exam conditions for 2 hours.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

Everyone taking this qualification will study three components, covering the following content areas:

- **Component 1 -Human Lifespan and Development** gives you the opportunity to study how people grow and develop over the course of their lives, from infancy to old age. You will also look at the factors that may affect growth and development throughout the lifespan, such as life changing events like marriage or death of a partner. You will explore how individuals cope with these changes, as well as investigate the types of support available to help them.
- **Component 2- Health and Social Care Services** you will investigate common services as well as those for specific needs, and consider how they may work together to meet individual's needs. You will examine the barriers to individuals accessing services and how they may be overcome. You will explore the skills, attributes and values that are required in health and social care, and their importance in making sure that the people who use these services get the care they need.
- **Component 3 - Health and Wellbeing** explores the factors that can have a positive or negative influence on an individual's health and wellbeing. You will learn to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators, and what they mean for someone's state of health. You will learn how to use this information to design an appropriate plan for improving someone's health and wellbeing, including short- and long-term targets. Additionally, you will explore the difficulties an individual may face when trying to make these changes.



Where this could lead you:

In Key Stage 5 you could study:

- Health and Social Care
- Psychology
- Philosophy and Ethics
- Biology
- Apprenticeship in Healthcare

This could lead to a career in:

- Medical profession e.g. nurse/ paramedic
- Social care professions e.g. social worker/ care worker
- Nanny
- Youth Worker
- Educational Welfare Officer

COURSES



Design and Technology

Product Design GCSE(Eduqas)

Why you should study this subject?

By studying Product Design, it will enable you to develop a wide range of transferrable skills for further education, work and life. The GCSE in Product Design specialises in natural and manufactured timber, ferrous and non-ferrous metals, and thermoforming and thermosetting polymers. Product Design is an innovative practical subject promoting and encouraging independence, resourcefulness and imagination. You will look at a range of materials to develop practical and design skills, promoting self-motivated learning.

This course will offer you the opportunity to solve real problems by designing and making products or systems. By studying Design and Technology it will enable you to develop a wide range of transferrable skills for further education, work and life. These include being creative and innovative, developing the ability to critique and refine your own ideas, building knowledge and understanding of all design and technological activity and influence, build your decision-making skills and be able to develop high quality imaginative and functional prototypes.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

- In depth knowledge of natural and manufactured timber
- The concepts of innovation and iterative design
- The process of “explore> create> evaluate”

You will study the following components:

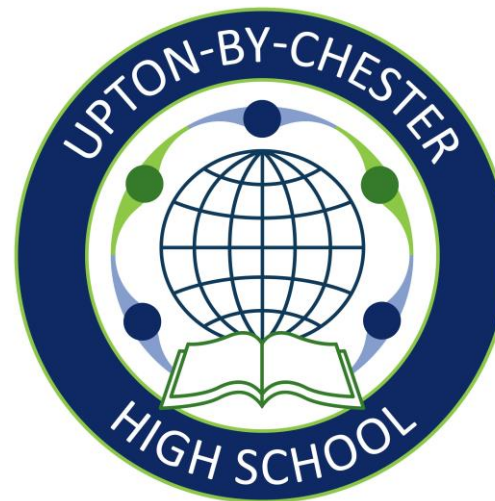
- **Developing** a range of practical skills
- **Applying** design knowledge
- Looking at STEM subjects and their interaction with Design Technology
- **Undertaking** trips to industries
- **Exploring** the manufacturing world
- **Investigating** and **working** with smart and modern materials
- Looking at new and upcoming technologies
- **Researching** and **analysing** designers old and new

Assessment

Year 10 is the building ground for Year 11. In Year 11, learners will be expected to sit a written exam and complete one task (NEA) set by the exam board.

Component 1 – 2 hour written examination worth 50% of the qualification

Component 2 – NEA Design and Make task worth 50% of the qualification.



Where this could lead you:

At Key Stage 5 you could study:

- A level Product Design
- Subjects that support this option are “STEM” related subjects such as maths, physics and chemistry.

This could lead to a career as:

- Community arts worker
- Conservator
- Furniture Designer
- Further Education Teacher
- Graphic Designer
- Jewellery Designer
- Product Designer
- Retail Buyer
- Secondary School Teacher
- Stylist
- Visual Merchandiser

COURSES



Design and Technology Textiles

GCSE(Eduqas)

Why you should study this subject?

This course will offer you the opportunity to solve real problems by designing and making fashion and textiles products. The GCSE in Textiles follows the same structure as the Product Design GCSE; in this course the material specialism is Textiles. Textiles is a creative, practical subject promoting and encouraging independence, resourcefulness and imagination. You will look at Textiles through fashion and textile processes to develop practical outcomes and design skills, promoting self-motivated learning.

By studying Textiles it will enable you to develop a wide range of transferrable skills for further education, work and life. These include being creative and innovative, developing the ability to critique and refine your own ideas, building knowledge and understanding of all design and technological activity and influence, build your decision-making skills be able to develop high quality imaginative and functional prototypes.

What will you learn and how are you assessed?

- In depth knowledge of fibres and textiles
- The concepts of innovation and iterative design
- The process of “explore> create> evaluate”

You will study the following components:

- **Developing** a range of practical skills
- **Applying** design knowledge
- Looking at STEM subjects and their interaction with Design Technology
- **Undertaking** trips to industries
- **Exploring** the manufacturing world
- **Investigating** and **working** with smart and modern materials
- Looking at new and upcoming technologies
- **Researching** and **analysing** designers old and new

Assessment

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Component 1 – 2 hour written examination worth 50% of the qualification

Component 2 – NEA Design and Make task worth 50% of the qualification.



Where this could lead you:

At Key Stage 5 you could study:

- Level 3 BTEC National extended certificate in Fashion and Textiles Design

This could lead to a career as:

- Community arts worker
- Conservator
- Furniture Designer
- Further Education Teacher
- Graphic Designer
- Jewellery Designer
- Product Designer
- Retail Buyer
- Secondary School Teacher
- Stylist
- Visual Merchandiser

COURSES

