



St Francis of Assisi
Catholic College

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Options Booklet 2021

"For I know the plans I have for you", declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Proverbs 29.11



St Francis of Assisi Catholic College

Feb 2021

Dear Parents,

This booklet has been prepared to help you and your son/daughter consider the various courses available for Years 10 and 11. Each subject area has a brief synopsis of the course and other information related to it. There are videos available online to supplement all of this written information. A guide to the process will give you further detail as to the available courses and also the details as to the process itself. Links have been sent by e-mail to an online options form which must be completed by 3:30pm Monday 8th March 2021.

Students have to make a small number of choices as much of their KS4 curriculum is prescribed by the requirements of the National Curriculum to ensure we provide a broad and balanced education. Therefore, all students must study RE, English, Mathematics, Science and PE.

In addition, we are constantly updating our curriculum delivery to provide, wherever possible, pathways of personalised learning that are most appropriate to the needs and abilities of our students. As a consequence, you will see a large variety of subjects including applied learning options. In opting for any subject it is essential to note the demands of the subject are taken into account, along with the natural link to an individual's particular interests.

I look forward to working with you on and beyond 4th February. Hopefully the information available to you online will offer you some further insight and advice. Please remember that success depends upon a student's regular attendance, hard work and commitment during the five terms before most public examinations are taken. We appreciate your support and co-operation to ensure all our students reach their potential.

Yours sincerely,

A Mitchell
Assistant Headteacher

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Art & Design OCR

Why should I study Art & Design?

Students will be given the opportunity to develop their ideas and work, based on themes that build on skills learned during years 7, 8 and 9. The course will encourage personal growth, visual communication and presentation skills. Confidence in the use of materials is an integral part of this course, and it is expected that students will gain the knowledge and skills that will enable them to work with increasing independence. Visual language will be taught and students will be expected to use this terminology when discussing their own work and the work done by others. Students will experiment with a range of materials in order to develop artwork through the creative process. Students will also learn the process of creative development. This involves organising, selecting, refining, reflecting, synthesising and making connections to be able to produce a cohesive final piece of artwork. Students will generate a portfolio and a sketchbook of ideas, processes and investigations during the course.

What is the structure of Art & Design?

Art & Design Portfolio	Set Task
60% of total GCSE (9-1)	40% of the total GCSE
Students will produce a portfolio of practical work showing their personal response to a centre set theme. The student will then explore this further and produce a portfolio of work, considering the work of others and exploring media, finishing with a piece /pieces which celebrate their learning.	Students will be given a choice of themes in the January of Y11. They will be given time to plan and prepare for a 10 hour (two days) supervised examination. They will apply skills learnt throughout the course to produce an individual piece of art in response to one of the set themes.

Where will GCSE Art and Design take you?

This GCSE course provides the basis for further development at Post 16. The A Level courses in Fine Art and Photography allow for the creative skills developed at GCSE to become more refined and studied in more depth, in order to build a professional portfolio for university or college acceptance or future employment in the creative industries. Creative thinkers demonstrate their creative thinking by generating and exploring ideas, making original connections. Creativity is a transferable skill that many employers seek.

If you would like any further information about this course then speak with your Art & Design teacher, or contact:

Mr N Barratt

Head of Design Technology & Art

Email: nbarratt@stfrancis.cc

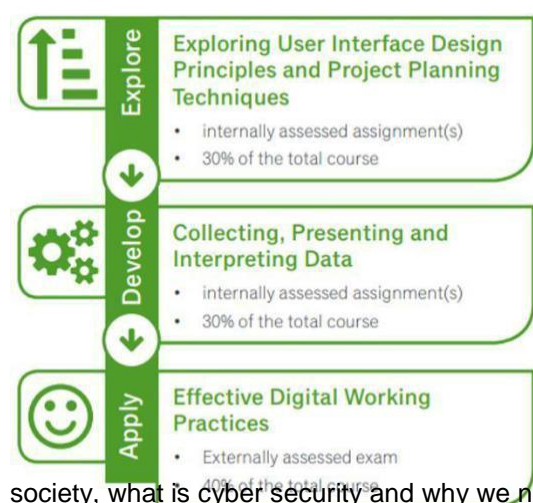


Information Technologies

Why Should I Study Choose This Course?

This is a new course developed to give you an understanding of modern IT. You will learn about how to use IT effectively in the world of work. It is designed to develop your practical skills and your understanding of where IT is now and how it is developing. It is a highly practical course allowing you to develop your skills over time.

What Will I Learn and How Will I Be Assessed?



The first module is all about how programs are designed to work on different devices and how to plan IT projects. You will look at how interface design and meeting user needs through good design principles. You will design a system for use in a stadium to give out visitor information. This is assessed via a portfolio of work you produce worth 30%

The second module is about finding information and making it work for you. You will have to find data, interrogate it and make recommendations. During this module you will create a quiz and set up a way of tracking the results of the people who take it. This is assessed via a portfolio of work and is worth 30%.

The final module looks at how to use IT to work effectively, how IT is developing and its effects on

society, what is cyber security and why we need to protect ourselves online. This is assessed through a written examination worth 40%.

What if I Am Not Very Good At It?

You will be given 1:1 tutorials, targeted feedback and opportunities to improve. There is a re-sit opportunity for each module.

Where Can IT Take Me?

IT is used in almost every job and this course has been designed to give you the skills needed in a modern workplace. It will support your learning in other subjects. After Year 11 you could study IT at Level 3 or move on to an Apprenticeship in IT. Your IT skills will be useful in any future studies or employment.


Design Technology OCR

Why should I study Design Technology?

Design Technology at St Francis of Assisi is a vibrant, popular and successful area of the school. This subject is at the cutting edge of technological learning with some of the most advanced equipment available. The very nature of designing and making products of your own design enables you to personal your learning and become passionate about developing a final outcome. A qualification in design and technology will prepare you to become a creative and critical thinker, developing skills to design and deliver prototypes that solve real and relevant problems.

During the two year course you will study a wide range of materials including papers and boards, timber, metals, polymers and textile fibres and fabrics, you will also develop an understanding of systems, programmable components and mechanisms to support any potential design solutions you may develop later on. You will also learn about wider design principles and the affect of design on users and the world we live in. You will then develop a deeper knowledge and understanding of specific materials and related techniques and processes, in order to construct working prototypes and achieve functioning design solutions; through the study of existing design solutions. You will complete an iterative design challenge where you will 'explore' real needs and contexts, 'create' solutions and 'evaluate' how well the needs have been met and the problem solved. "Explore, create, evaluate" is a process that occurs repeatedly as design iterations are developed to continually improve the outcome, building clearer needs and better solutions, meaning ideas and prototypes can be developed into successful products in the future. You are required to apply mathematical and scientific knowledge, understanding and skills. This content reflects the importance of Design & Technology as a pivotal STEM subject.

What is the structure of GCSE Design Technology (9-1)?

Principles of Design Technology	Iterative Design Challenge
<p>2 hour written paper 50% of total GCSE (9-1)</p>	<p>Non-examination assessment (coursework) 50% of total GCSE (9-1)</p>
<p>'Core' principles of Design Technology requires all learners regardless of their chosen material area to demonstrate fundamental knowledge and understanding of the subject. (60%) 'in-depth' knowledge allows learners to focus more directly on at least one of the following area: (40%)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product Design Graphics Design Engineering Textiles Technology <p>NB. You will opt for one of the four material areas which will become your teaching groups' preferred 'in-depth' focus.</p> 	<p>The 'iterative design challenge' requires students to independently produce a chronological e-portfolio and a practical outcome.</p> <p>The Iterative Design Challenge is a single task that is worth 50% of the qualification. OCR will release contextual challenges. There will be three open and real-world contexts for learners to interpret and explore, creating iterations when designing and making through the processes of 'explore, create and evaluate'.</p>

What are the benefits?

You will gain skills useful in a wide range of jobs, in further study of design or engineering and in your personal life develop decision making skills, including the planning and organisation of time and resources when managing a project

You will become an independent and critical thinker who can adapt your technical knowledge and understanding to different design situations

You will learn to be ambitious and open to explore and take design risks in order to stretch the development of design proposals

You will develop an awareness of implications of the costs, commercial viability and marketing of products.

Where can the qualification take me?

The study of design and technology can lead to future careers in product design, engineering, architecture, fashion and graphic design; it will develop your design and thinking skills that open up a world of possibility, providing the tools to create the future. You will build and develop your broad knowledge and understanding from KS3, whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of design and technology that most interest you. A variety of materials are studied and your skills will be developed through working with the appropriate materials and technologies for the task. This mirrors the world of real design and leads to further specialism at AS and A level through one of the endorsed titles on offer; Product Design, Fashion and Textiles or Design Engineering.

Can I continue to study Design Technology in the sixth form?

There are a number of choices post sixteen which have become extremely popular and rewarding. To ensure students have complete continuity in their learning we continue to use the OCR specification for the following A Level courses. These courses are all a natural progression from the 'in depth' study at GCSE level.

Design Technology (design engineering)

Design Technology (fashion/textiles)

Design Technology (product design)

Design Technology (graphics)

If you would like any further information about this course or would just like to discuss your suitability for your preferred material area then please do speak with your Design Technology teacher, or contact:

Mr N Barratt

Head of Design Technology & Art

Email: nbarratt@stfrancis.cc



Food Preparation & Nutrition AQA

Why should I study Food Preparation & Nutrition?

The new GCSE focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure that you develop greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At the heart of the qualification is a focus on developing practical cookery skills and a robust understanding of nutrition.



The new Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE will help you to develop a greater understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. You'll also learn about food from around the world, through the study of British and international culinary traditions as well as developing an understanding of where food comes from (food provenance) and the challenges surrounding food security. You'll master culinary skills and appreciate the science behind food and cooking. This is an exciting and creative course which will allow you to demonstrate your practical skills and make connections between theory and practice.

- This course embraces and emphasises understanding of and enjoyment of different cuisines. There will be significant focus on developing high level cooking skills. You will develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drink.

What is the structure of Food Preparation & Nutrition?

Food Preparation and Nutrition knowledge and understanding	Non-exam assessment (NEA) Task 1	Non-exam assessment (NEA) Task 2
1 hour, 45 minute written paper 50% of total GCSE (9-1)	Food Investigation (15%)	Food Preparation Assessment (35%)
There will be one exam for this qualification, which will assess your knowledge of the theory behind food preparation and nutrition.	You will carry out an investigation into the scientific principles that underpin the preparation and cooking of food. This task will provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your knowledge and practically apply your understanding of the science behind cooking. You'll practically investigate ingredients and explain how they work and why.	You will plan, prepare, cook and present a 3 course menu. This task will provide you with an opportunity to cook up a storm and showcase your creativity and cooking skills. You might make a street food menu, create delicious tapas dishes or cook up a menu for a student on a budget.

What skills will I learn?

This is a GCSE course with a strong practical focus. You'll master a variety of technical skills and become proficient in the kitchen. In addition, you'll develop an in-depth knowledge of food science, food safety, food choice, nutrition and health. You'll also develop transferable skills such as: • analysis • evaluation • communication skills • working independently • time management • the ability to interpret information and data.

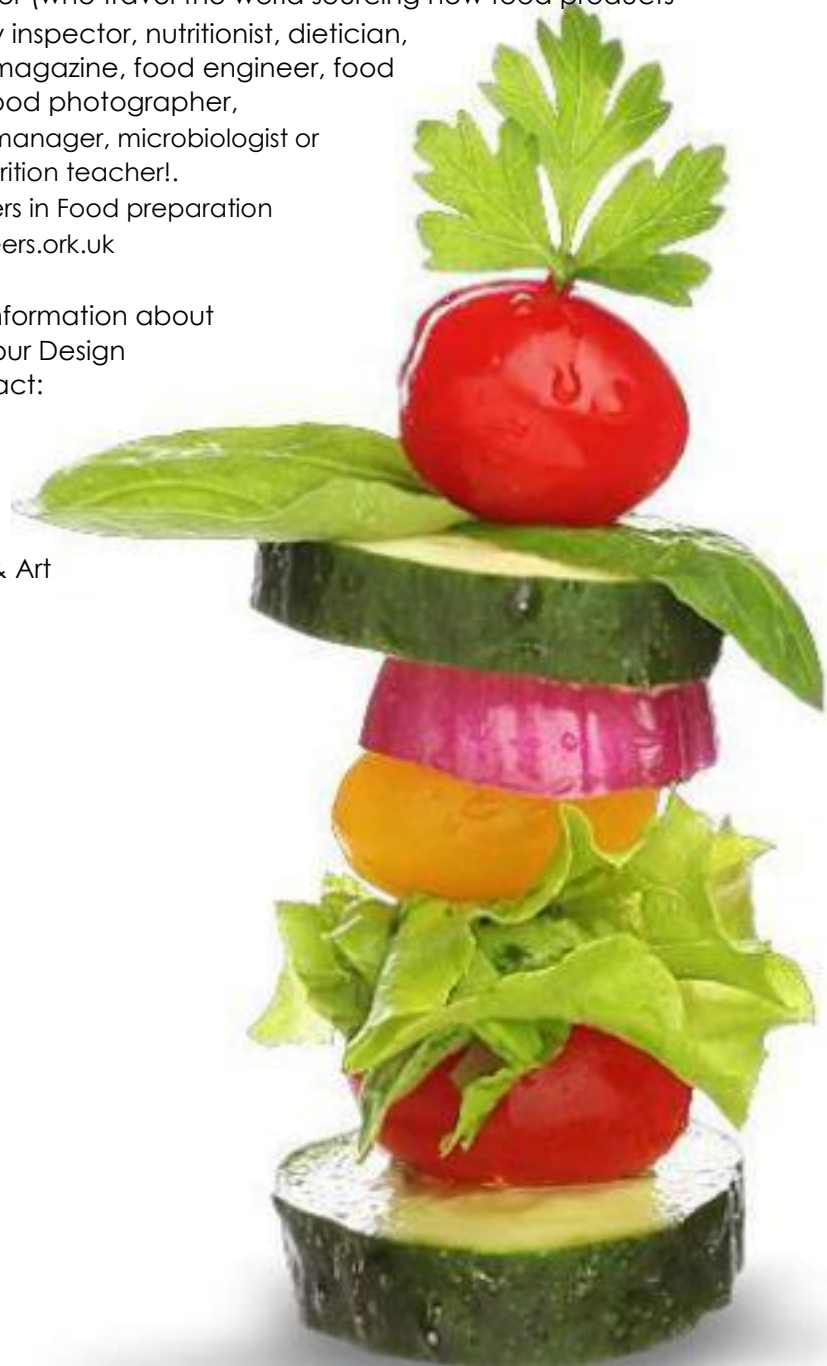
Where will GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition take you?

Studying food preparation and nutrition can lead to exciting and well paid career options. Consumers are increasingly reliant on the food industry to develop solutions for their nutritional needs. This course would be suitable for students interested in becoming a chef, food product developer, Buyer (who travel the world sourcing new food products for manufacture), food safety inspector, nutritionist, dietician, food quality manager, food magazine, food engineer, food scientist, food technologist, food photographer, food stylist, hotel & restaurant manager, microbiologist or even a food preparation & nutrition teacher!. A great place to look for careers in Food preparation and Nutrition is: www.tastycareers.ork.uk

If you would like any further information about this course then speak with your Design Technology teacher, or contact:

Mr N Barratt

Head of Design Technology & Art
Email: nbarratt@stfrancis.cc



SUBJECT: FRENCH

Why study French?

You may think that only French teachers use French in their job, or that "I will never go to France so I don't need to speak French". Nothing could be further from the truth! The learning of a modern foreign language enables people to work with others, share opinions and ideas and increase the chances of living together in harmony.

What sort of work will I be doing?

The course focuses on all four skills:- listening, speaking, reading and writing. For each theme you will be provided with a knowledge booklet which includes a range of tasks in order to prepare for speaking and writing independently. As these units of work have been devised by your class teacher they suit the needs of you as a learner. Your teacher will also suggest some online resources, video clips, podcasts and apps to support your language learning. Topics range from Identity and Culture, Local, National and Global Areas of Interest as well as Current and Future Study or Employment. The course is based on the AQA syllabus.

How are the classes organised?

The number of pupils opting for the subject will determine the number and form of classes but each class will contain a range of abilities.

How is the work assessed?

Your work will be assessed throughout the course with tasks similar to those in the examination. The final GCSE exams will all take place in year 11 but by then you would have had plenty of practice in all 4 skills and will be fully aware of the expectations of the course. Each skill is worth 25% and you will sit either foundation or higher in all 4 skills. You can no longer mix the levels of entry. All examinations will be marked by the exam board.

Your speaking exam is in 3 parts: part 1: role play, part 2: picture stimulus, part 3: general conversation. The exam will take up to 12 minutes long for higher level candidates.

What if I'm not very good at it?

Even if you don't think you are very good at French, by the end of the course you will be able to speak, understand and write French at a basic level. Lunchtime lessons are available for those who need extra practice in speaking and listening. The MFL staff also run a weekly lunchtime catch up session.

How can I use French Post-16?

There is a very successful and well-established Advanced level course which can lead to further study at university. Many students now combine French with Business Studies, reflecting the increasing importance of foreign languages in business and commerce. Many employers prefer a knowledge of French, so that you can deal with French customers, represent your company abroad, and even work in a French speaking country. There are 29 countries in the world, which have French as their official language, that's approximately 110 million native speakers. The growing influence of the EU and the ever-widening use of the Euro currency also creates a demand for workers with language skills. You could even find yourself working here for a French company (e.g. Peugeot). See below some of the names of French companies (most of which require some knowledge of French)!

So, whilst French is going to become increasingly useful, what specific careers will enable you to use it regularly? The many possibilities include teaching, interpreting, leisure, travel and tourism, finance, journalism, catering and commerce. **If you can speak ONE language, you are as useful as ONE person, but if you can speak TWO, you are as useful as TWO people!** In a competitive employment sector, having that one extra skill might just give you the edge!

But there is also another side to it. Millions of British people go to France on holiday each year. Most of them would agree that it is much more enjoyable if you can shop, get your petrol, accommodation, meals and drinks etc. in French.



(Computer Science) OCR



Why Study Computer Science?

We live in a changing world and computing will help to give you the invaluable skills needed to thrive in such an environment. Computer Science is a practical and dynamic area of study which will help to develop your problem-solving skills. It is highly creative and calls upon students to be creative and inventive when creating solutions. This course has a mixture of practical and theoretical areas and will help to keep you up to date with new technologies. Computing is a highly respected subject not to mention fun and challenging!

What sort of work will I be doing?

The course offers a wide variety of approaches with both practical and written tasks. You will learn the theory behind how computers work and how to create efficient programmes. In practical work you will learn how to create programmes to solve particular problems.



What Will I learn?

Component 1 – Computer Systems	Component 2 – Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming	A Programming Project
Study how processors work. Investigate computer memory and storage. Explore modern network layouts and how they function. Build skills in the ever important realm of cyber security. Investigate how types of software are used in computer systems. Stretch wider comprehension of how computers and computing affect ethical, moral, legal, cultural and environmental issues.	Study fundamental algorithms in Computer Science including common Sorting and Searching Algorithms. Build a firm foundation in programming techniques. Develop solutions to problems by producing flowcharts and pseudocode. Test programs to make them resistant to misuse. Explore Boolean algebra (AND, OR, NOT). Understand how data is stored in computers in binary form.	Use new-found programming skills on an independent coding project by solving a real-world program. Students will spend 20 classroom hours engaging with a programming project.



How will I be assessed?

GCSE Computer Science is assessed through two written papers at the end of Year 11. The papers are equally weighted at 50% each. Paper 1 looks at how Computer Systems are set up and is a mix of short, mid and long answer questions. Paper 2 tests problem solving and programming skills and will test if you can recognise what a program does, can you debug a program and can you design a solution to a given problem.



What Will I get out of this course?

Valuable thinking and programming skills which are extremely attractive in the modern workplace. A deep understanding of problem solving and experience in creating logical and efficient solutions. An ability to write down solutions in a format that other people can understand. A good grounding in mainstream computing.

How will classes be organised?

The number of pupils choosing this subject will determine class sizes and abilities. Setting procedure may be introduced dependent upon numbers.

What if I'm not very good at it?

There is always help available for students who find the work difficult. In Computing you will be required to take responsibility for your own work because there are many ways to solve problems; in Computing we look for working solutions so there is no "right" way. Pupils with good motivation and a good attitude to work who are most likely succeed in this subject.

Where Can Computer Science take me?

Computing is a course which develops transferable skills which will help you in every aspect from studying to work. The problem solving and technical skills that you will learn would be particularly useful if you wish to follow a career or further study in Engineering, Maths, Computing, Medicine, Science or Finance. ICT is in use in virtually all areas of employment and most school leavers will be expected to be familiar with computers and their capabilities with Computing you will get these skills and much more!

For more information speak to Mrs Jones, Mr Dawson or Mrs French.

SUBJECT: GEOGRAPHY



Why study Geography?

We have picked a syllabus (OCR B: Geography for Enquiring Minds) which will be enjoyable to study. You will not only develop a good understanding of the world we live in but the course will also help you to develop skills such as analysing evidence and decision making which are both very important in today's world of work. The course covers a range of both human and physical topics and will give you a clear understanding of the diversity of environments that exist in our world.

What sort of work will I be doing?

The emphasis of this course is on you "doing". Teachers are developing work to make your role as active as possible. You may be asked to prepare work in small groups for display or presentation to the rest of the class. You will build up your own notes with guidance from a variety of sources. Information is gathered from a range of textbooks and videos as well as maps and satellite imagery.

How are classes organised?

The teaching classes are usually mixed ability. Where appropriate, work is organised into core, extension and mastery tasks to ensure everyone in the group progresses at a speed which is best for them.

How is the work assessed?

The final grade you will achieve depends on your performance on:

- 1 **A physical geography examination.** This section of the course requires you to sit a 1 hour 15 minute examination based upon the physical section of the course. This includes topics such as hazards, weather, rivers, coasts, ecosystems and fieldwork. This examination will be sat in the summer of Year 11. It will contribute 35% of your final grade.
- 2 **A human geography examination.** This section of the course requires you to sit a 1 hour 15 minute examination based upon the human section of the course. This includes topics such as urban futures, the UK in the C21st and fieldwork. This examination will be sat in the summer of Year 11. It will contribute 35% of your final grade.
- 3 **Geographical explorations examination.** This tests your knowledge of geographical skills. There will also be a decision making exercise based upon geographical issues. This examination will be sat in the summer of year 11. It contributes 30% of your final grade.



Fieldwork



in Walsall



What if I'm not any good at it?

Think hard before choosing. There is a lot of support available but make sure you want to study the subject and are prepared for the work. Ask your teacher what they think.

How can I use Geography when I leave school?

You may not decide to leave! This GCSE is important if you want to study 'A' level in the future. When you do leave school you will find that a large number of jobs use the skills of gathering information, considering alternatives and making decisions which are important components of Geography. The knowledge and understanding gained are important if you are considering working in the fields of leisure and tourism, environmental conservation or town or traffic planning. With the wide range of skills and topics offered and the huge number of careers where it is useful Geography is a good GCSE if you want to keep your future options open.



SUBJECT: GERMAN

Why study German?

Learning German will give you the advantage of being able to communicate with millions of new people in business, on holiday or socially, even more so since Brexit, British companies are in need of people with language skills so that they remain competitive.

You will learn to appreciate cultural differences whilst acquiring new skills through a wide variety of materials. You will, for example, learn to work with others, sharing opinions and ideas as well as planning work long term.

What sort of work will I be doing?

The course focuses on all four skills:- listening, speaking, reading and writing. For each theme you will be provided with a knowledge booklet which includes a range of tasks in order to prepare for speaking and writing independently. As these units of work have been devised by your class teacher they suit the needs of you as a learner. Your teacher will also suggest some online resources, video clips, podcasts and apps to support your language learning. Topics range from Identity and Culture, Local, National and Global Areas of Interest as well as Current and Future Study or Employment. The course is based on the AQA syllabus.

How are the classes organised?

The number of pupils opting for the subject will determine the number and form of classes but each class will contain a range of abilities.

How is the work assessed?

Your work will be assessed throughout the course with tasks similar to those in the examination. The final GCSE exams will all take place in year 11 but by then you would have had plenty of practice in all 4 skills and will be fully aware of the expectations of the course. Each skill is worth 25% and you will sit either foundation or higher in all 4 skills. You can no longer mix the levels of entry. All examinations will be marked by the exam board.

Your speaking exam is in 3 parts: part 1: role play, part 2: picture stimulus, part 3: general conversation. The exam will take up to 12 minutes long for higher level candidates.

What if I'm not very good at it?

Lunchtime lessons are available for those who need extra practice in any of the 4 skills. The MFL staff also run a weekly lunchtime catch up session. You will be provided with study packs which will support your learning of vocabulary throughout the course.

How can I use German Post-16?

Germany is Britain's largest trading partner within the EU and if you have any interests in Business or Engineering, then a basic knowledge of German could be helpful in a future career. There are approximately 98 million speakers of German worldwide, making it in the top ten of most widely spoken languages.

If you have a gift for languages, then you should consider doing A' Level German at St Francis. The importance of learning a language is increasing. Many employers today regard languages as a vital skill for their business. See the map for some of the names of German companies (most of which require a knowledge of German)!

Knowledge of German will also enable you to have access to a wide variety of EU initiatives post-18. **If you can speak ONE language, you are as useful as ONE person, but if you can speak TWO, you are as useful as TWO people!** In a competitive employment sector, having that one extra skill might just give you the edge!



SUBJECT: HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



Why study Health & Social Care?

If you are interested in people - their rights, their needs and the society we live in; this subject may be for you.

You will study 3 separate components over a two year period – three sessions per week. You will achieve a Level 1 or 2 award, Pass, Merit, Distinction or Distinction* grade in BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care. The Tech Award is equivalent to 1 GCSE at Level 9 to 2.

If you choose this course you will gain confidence, communication skills, empathy and insight, and an appreciation of a multi-cultural society. This exciting and challenging course will introduce you to the Health and Social Care sector.

BTEC recommend a sound knowledge and ability in literacy. Your personal qualities should include: a desire to learn, an interest in people, self-respect and respect for others. This course is not for individuals who are time-wasters. You will be potential carers of the future: dedication to your learning is important.

Will there be work experience?

There is no requirement to obtain formal work experience.

What sort of work will I be doing?

The three components studied are: Human Growth and Development, Health and Social Care Values, and Health and Wellbeing. You will study anti-discriminatory practice and the laws governing Health & Social Care.

How are the classes organised?

Learning will involve a mixture of theory, role-play and case study scenarios. Guest speakers will occasionally be arranged.

How is the work assessed?

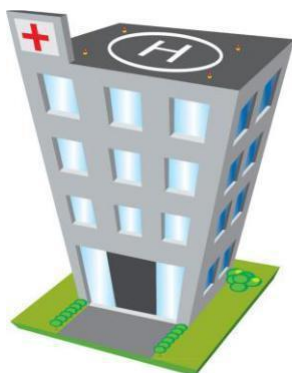
BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care is coursework-assessed for two of the three units. There is a single external examination for one component: 'Health and Wellbeing'. Students need to achieve a Pass in all three components to pass the qualification.

What if I am not very good at it?

You will be given 1:1 tutorials, targeted feedback and opportunities to improve. If unsuccessful in the examination, there will be opportunity to re-sit.

How can I use Health & Social Care Post-16?

You will be able to study Health and Social Care at Level 3. If you are interested in a profession within Health or Social Care, this subject will be a stepping stone to employment or further training in a variety of assistant care roles. It is anticipated that you will require Level 3 Education to access Nursing; as this profession now trains and educates registered nurses to degree level.



SUBJECT: HISTORY**Why study History?**

We live in a world that has been shaped by the past and so we should study History to understand our own life and times. History is not only about the past, it is about the present and the future. History GCSE includes elements of both British history and world history, which helps explain the present day both in our own country and in the wider world. Life is always changing and this creates problems and opportunities. It is interesting and useful to see how people faced changing times in the past. In examining the past you will also develop a wide variety of skills including the ability to select, organise and use your knowledge, and the ability to evaluate sources and judge how far they can be trusted.

What sort of work will I be doing?

We are following the **OCR Explaining the Modern World** History specification. This (like all History courses) involves a mixture of both British and non British history, and of modern and older history. In Year 10, you will complete the Depth Study of the USA from 1945 to 1975 that you begin at the end of Year 9. Then you will study world History from 1919 to 2001, with a particular focus on the periods just before and after WW2. In Year 11, you will do a themed study of War and its impact on British history, combined with an in depth study of the period of the English Civil War for our British history element.

**How are the classes organised?**

We usually expect to have three groups in each year, although there have been four classes at times in the past. History is available in each option block, so the class you are in depends on which option block you chose for History.

How is the work assessed?

Under the new examination system, there are three examination papers, all of which are examined at the end of Year 11. There is no longer any controlled assessment in subjects like History. The first exam paper is on European / world history, and makes up 50% of the total mark. The other two exam papers are on Britain. These make up the other 50% of the total mark. Both sides of the course include studying some aspects in depth, and other aspects across a broader range of time.

**What if I'm not very good at it?**

If you find the subject difficult we will give you all the help that you need. It is more important that you enjoy history and are committed to working hard. All students sit the same exams – so every student has an equal opportunity to be successful. We have had people from all teaching sets who have been successful in History at GCSE and have gone on to do A Level History in the Sixth Form.

How can I use History Post-16?

Get the best grade you can and History will be as valuable as any other GCSE. This particular GCSE however, is a valuable part of your preparation for work or further study. History is a popular choice at 'A' Level and it opens up a broad range of career prospects especially in areas dealing with information and communication including law, industry, commerce, broadcasting and the service and public sectors.



SUBJECT: MEDIA STUDIES

Why study Media Studies?

The media is an integral part of our everyday life and can influence the decisions we make, views we uphold and emotions we experience. This is an ideal subject for someone who has an interest in film, television, online media, newspapers and magazines, and wants to understand how the media can shape attitudes and influence through its power.

What sort of work will I be doing?

The course offers a wide variety of approaches with both practical and written tasks. You will have the opportunity to analyse a variety of media products, including print-based products, popular music, film, television and online media. These will be studied to ensure you can interpret, analyse and understand the production skills employed. In addition, you will use media technology to create media products, including print products and broadcasting.



How are the classes organised?

Media Studies only appears in one option block and will provide about 20 places, with 3 lessons a week. Due to the proportion of practical work, you must be able to commit to lunchtime and after school sessions; this will ensure your productions are produced to a high standard.

How is the work assessed?

The work is assessed through a Non-Exam Assessment (30%) and two, 1½hour written exams (35% each). For the NEA you will have a choice of creating print or broadcasting products. In addition, there will be a Statement of Intent to accompany this. The written exam is based upon your knowledge and understanding of Media Concepts and Close Study Products, as directed by the exam board. In the exam you will demonstrate your knowledge and understanding of the CSPs, work studied throughout the course and evaluation of media products.



What if I'm not very good at it?

Due to the variety of areas studied you will find some aspects harder than others. However, if you are willing to persevere and ask for help when necessary, opportunities for success will follow. Support and advice will be offered at every stage and 100% effort is essential. Media Studies requires strong commitment and you must approach the subject with maturity and have a focused attitude.

How can I use Media Studies Post-16?

Media Studies offers you the opportunity to produce a portfolio of both practical and written work. Subsequently it complements English and will aid parts of your English study. The GCSE allows natural progression to A Level Media Studies where you can pursue your passion for the media further. As the media is central to all our lives, opportunities within media industries are ever increasing. The course will enable you to demonstrate to employers your critical awareness of media influences and debates, giving you the edge in the interview situation.





Why should I study Music at GCSE?

At St Francis we aim to provide an environment where musicians can blossom and develop their particular strengths and talents. We encourage students to appreciate a variety of styles of music at a deeper level. We believe it is important to provide the basis a life-long love for music through a course which is varied, challenging and above all, enjoyable.

What will the course involve?

You will improve your skills in performing and composing in a range of styles and will listen to a wide variety of music and develop a more informed appreciation of how and why music was written and performed.

There are three units: Performing, Composition and Listening and Appraising.

You can sing or perform on any musical instrument and you will have the opportunity to take part in ensemble and solo performances.

You will learn the craft of notated composition, orchestration and harmony skills as well as imaginative detail are developed. You will be expected to develop and improve listening and analytical skills through the study of 8 set works.

Lessons will cover the set works, composition and listening.

How will I be assessed?

You will be recorded in school usually in your instrumental lesson. A combination of solo and ensemble performances are sent to the exam board.

Compositions are submitted in early May of the second year of the course Listening

and Appraising is an exam. This is the only formal written examination.

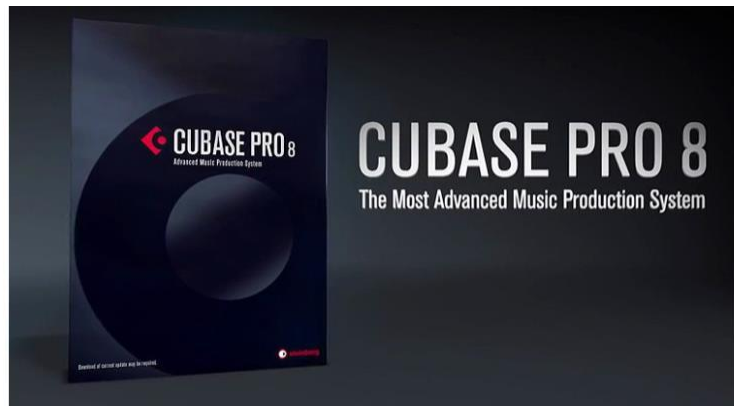
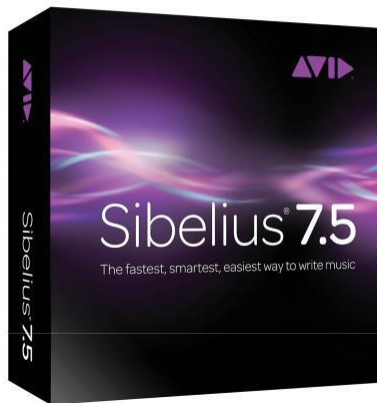
Where could the course lead?

Clearly A level Music or Music Technology is the next step in a musician's academic life. Some students prepare to go to Music College or University to study Music; others see Music as an academic qualification recognised by all universities as part of the entry requirements for almost any degree course.

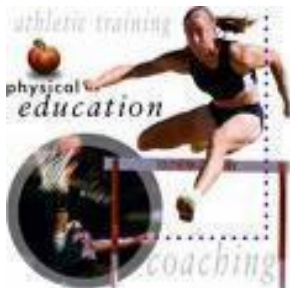
GCSE Music and Music Technology Requirements

You need to be inspired by Music ~ ideally you will already play a musical instrument/ sing or have shown to your music teacher a desire to achieve well in music classes.

You do have to perform using a musical instrument (or you may sing). You will be expected to commit to taking lessons in your chosen instrument and practise regularly. You will need to achieve Grade 4 standard by Year 11 in your chosen instrument/ voice.



SUBJECT: PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Why study GCSE Physical Education?

GCSE Physical Education is an interesting course with a wide range of topic areas. It is of benefit to students who wish to pursue a career in sport, or who have a genuine interest in learning detailed techniques and tactics in sports they have already covered in PE lessons, as well as covering new areas. There is also a link studied, between sport, and how the body copes with performance. There is a strong academic focus within the new specification, with an emphasis upon anatomy and physiology, as well as movement analysis. This information could be useful for a wide range of courses or careers. If you are a good sports performer, can cope with high academic demands and have an interest in the study of sport, this course could be for you.

What sort of work will I be doing?

The course follows the Edexcel syllabus. During Years 10 and 11 you will be doing both practical and theoretical work. In practical lessons, each block will cover a different sport, which will be pursued for a period of approximately half a term. In these lessons tactics and personal performances will be developed. There is a definite need to have a genuine interest in all sports and not just a limited range, as the course expects full participation in all areas. Participation in extra-curricular activities is expected in order to meet the practical demands of the course.



There will also be a theoretical aspect of the course, which will examine healthy lifestyles, how fitness is tested and measured and the different components of both health and skill related fitness. It requires detailed knowledge of the body systems, with a major emphasis on how this links into a sporting environment. There is a strong academic emphasis in GCSE PE with a renewed focus upon anatomy and physiology, sports psychology and movement analysis.

How are the classes organised?

Classes are mixed for theory lessons, although practical lessons are taught in single sex groups where possible. All students will take part in all activities. Staffing will be dependent on numbers. Students will have three lessons per week, the number of practical and theory lessons will depend upon progress made and the topics being covered at the time.



How is the work assessed?

With the new specification, only **30%** of the course is practically based. Students must offer 3 activities, one individual activity, one team activity and a free choice activity. This can only be in the role of a performer and they must come from the DFE prescribed list of activities. Another **10%** is made up from students demonstrating the ability to analyse and improve performance. This includes planning, performing and evaluating a Personal Exercise Programme. The remaining **60%** is made up from **2 written examinations** (one that is 1 hour 45 minutes in duration and a second that is 1 hour 15 minutes in duration). It is therefore imperative that students are keen to learn about the theory work, which is covered in considerable depth, and are able to demonstrate their knowledge through the examination environment, as this is the main means of assessment.

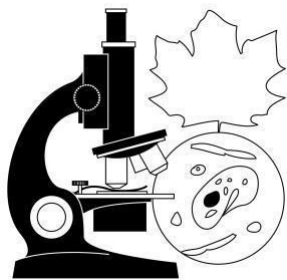
How can I use Physical Education Post-16?

A good grade in GCSE Physical Education provides an excellent grounding should you wish to take up the 'A' level Physical Education course. It will also help provide the necessary skills required for success in a range of A Levels, as well as other post 16 qualification types. Learning about how to be fit and healthy, whilst at the same time improving your own personal skills is useful to everybody, no matter what you intend on doing!



With the growth of the leisure industry and an increasing interest in personal fitness and sports science there are many career opportunities available. You may even get the chance to become a PE teacher!

SUBJECT: SCIENCE



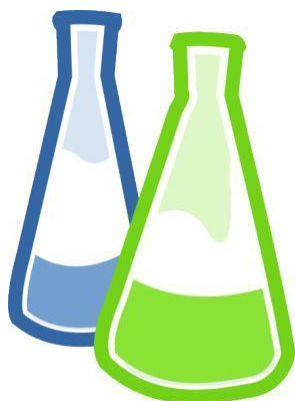
Why study Science?

Science shapes our understanding of the world. It helps us to appreciate the order and beauty of the created world. Science is about testing ideas and weighing up evidence. Training in science will equip you directly or indirectly for your future career.

What sort of work will I be doing?

Science combines mathematical skills with practical work and the ability to explain what you have seen by supporting it with established scientific theory.

If you follow the Combined Science Pathway, you will study aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics in 33 different topics such as waves, fuels, cells, forces, elements and plants. If you choose to take Triple Science, you will study 9 Biology topics, ranging from microscopic cells to whole ecosystems. You would study plant structures and functions as well as diseases and genetic modification. There are 21 Chemistry topics ranging from the periodic table to the science of the Earth's Atmosphere. You would study a variety of different fuels, polymers, hydrocarbons and nanoparticles. There are 14 Physics topics, ranging from electricity to astronomy. You would study electricity, radioactivity, waves and forces. Triple science takes students further and deeper than the Combined Science Pathway, and learning Physics, Chemistry and Biology as separate subjects makes clear the separate identity of each, which can be important when choosing A Levels.



How are the classes organised?

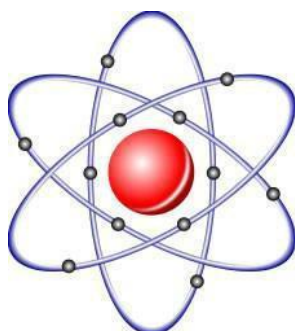
Class groupings for the Combined Science pathway are based on performance in assessments during Year 9. Pupils will follow the Edexcel GCSE syllabus for Combined Science

If you opt to do triple, you will follow the Edexcel GCSE syllabus for Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate GCSEs.

How is the work assessed?

If you are on the Combined Science pathway, you will sit six exams at the end of Year 11. Each exam is worth 16.67% of the overall qualification (worth 2 full GCSEs). There is no coursework that counts toward your final grade in Combined Science. There are a variety of types of question, including multiple choice, calculations and open-response. All exams are 1 hour 10 minutes in duration.

If you opt to do triple science, you will sit two exams in each science at the end of Year 11 that will make up 50% of your final grade. There is no coursework element in GCSE Biology, Chemistry or Physics that counts towards the final grade. There are a variety of types of question, including multiple choice, calculations and open-response. All exams are 1 hour 45 minutes in duration.



How can I use Science Post-16?

Studying science gives you access to a variety of pathways Post-16. Good Grades in Combined Science would allow you to study A-level sciences if you wished. Students who performed particularly well would have the option to take all 3 at A-Level.

SUBJECT: Travel and Tourism BTEC

Why study Travel and Tourism?

The Travel and Tourism course provides an engaging and stimulating introduction to the world of travel and tourism, giving you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will explore some of the key areas within the sector, including accommodation, tourism development and promotion, transport, and visitor attractions. You will investigate the importance of the travel and tourism sector to the UK, and investigate different types of customer and UK destinations.

What sort of work will I be doing?

You will study the following three units, covering the underpinning knowledge and practical skills required to work in the industry:

- Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations
- Influences on Global Travel and Tourism
- Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism

How are the classes organised?

The number of pupils choosing this subject will determine class sizes and abilities.

How is the work assessed?

The qualification consists of three components that give you the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the travel and tourism sector, and specialist skills and techniques in research and communication. Components 1 and 3 are assessed through internal assignment assessment. There is one external examination that requires you to apply your knowledge and understanding of the factors influencing tourism, the impact of tourism on destinations and destination management to travel and tourism contexts.

What if I'm not very good at it?

You will be surprised by how much Travel and Tourism you know already. This comes from your own experience and from TV programmes! After all, you are a customer of the travel and tourism industry; you see adverts all the time and you see travel mentioned all the time on the news.

How can I use Travel and Tourism Post-16?

The sector-specific skills and knowledge will provide a sound basis for progression to further study at level 3, particularly Business Studies, or an apprenticeship in either Travel and Tourism or Hospitality. For further information please see Mrs Arnold in the Business Studies room or Mrs Derrer in Media Studies (sderrer@stfrancis.cc).



