

Northolt High School

Your Key Stage 4 Options

2014



Excellence as a habit

Your choices – your future.



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Choosing your Options at Key Stage 4

Graduating from Key Stage 3 is an important event in your academic development. The choices you make now will have a direct effect on the rest of your life. The options you choose will have a bearing on what you do in the Sixth Form, at university and in your career.



Making the Right Choice

Making the correct choice is therefore very important. Before you select your options, you need to consider the following questions:

- What subjects am I good at?
- What subjects do I enjoy?
- What A levels do I want to do in the Sixth Form?
- What Degree do I want to do at university?
- What job do I want to do?
- Which combination of Option subjects will be best for me?

Getting Advice

Before you come to any decision you should talk to and get advice from:

- Your Form Tutor
- Connexions Personal Advisor
- Your parents / carers
- Your subject teachers
- Mr. Littler, Year Leader
- Ms. Pott, Assistant Headteacher
- Mr. Duffy, Deputy Headteacher.

Filling in the Form

When you are sure you have made the right choices, fill in the form that you were given at the Options Evening and give it to your Form Tutor. You must return the form by Friday 20th March 2015. If you don't return the form in time then we will allocate your options as we see fit. Please sign the form, and ask your parents to sign it as well so that we know you have discussed your choices with them.

Although you will have different options depending on the pathway you are on, we ask that you choose eight options. We will make every effort to give you your first choice in each option block, but if for any reason we can't we will let you and your parents know and allocate you your reserve choices.

Making the Wrong Choice

If you make the wrong choice it could damage your future and you may regret it. Here are some of the ways you could make the wrong decision:

- You choose a course because your friends are doing it
- You choose a course because you like your current teacher
- You do not get advice from anyone
- You did not read this document properly.

Thinking Ahead

When you choose your options, you should think carefully about what path you want to follow in the future in the Sixth Form, at university and in your career. For example, if you are interested in running your own business, you might think about choosing Business Studies. For a career in construction, then Graphics would be a good choice. If you are interested in working in a restaurant or hotel, then you could do Catering. If programming or web design is something you want to pursue then Computing and iMedia work well together.

These are just examples – there are too many different careers to list all of them. This is why it is very important that you spend some time thinking about where you want to be and that you take advice from people who have the knowledge and experience to help you.

Pathways

Platinum

You will be studying for the English Baccalaurate qualification, which will provide you with the best grounding for academic A levels and university. As well as the core subjects (see below) you will also do a humanity (Geography or History) and a language (French or German).

You will be able to choose two additional options if you are not doing Triple Science,

We encourage you to do both of the humanities and to choose academic options if you wish to go to a Russell Group university.

Gold

This pathway will give you the opportunity to achieve at least nine GCSE or equivalent qualifications including English and Mathematics at Grade C or better.

We suggest that you choose at least one of the following options: Geography; History; French; German or Computing, although we would encourage you to pick more than one of these. We suggest that you choose the one that you are performing best in (in terms of current levels) at the moment. We also suggest you select at least one more practical subject. You may then choose another two options.

Silver

You will follow a mixture of academic and practical subjects which will provide a pathway into the Sixth Form and into a job. As you are likely to be a more practical learner we would suggest you select mainly options from the following: Art, Photography, Graphics Products, Creative i-Media, Drama, PE or Catering. Students who need additional support with English Language in order to access other subjects will also be directed to select English for People Who Speak other Languages.

Your Choices

Core Subjects

You will study the following core subjects:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science (two qualifications)
- PE (games)
- RE, Citizenship and PSHE will be studied in form time, assemblies and in special sessions.

Science

Where students have appropriate achievement, they will study GCSE Core Science and GCSE Additional Science. Students on the Silver pathway will study GCSE Core Science.

Platinum students on target to achieve a level 7c or better by the end of Year 9 will also do GCSE Further Additional Science (equivalent to Triple Science).

English as an Additional Language

If you are not a native English speaker and would benefit from extra help, then one of your options will be English as an Additional Language. You will be advised of this by Miss Nayyar.

You will also be giving the opportunity to do an additional GCSE in your home language if one is available.

New Subjects, or Subjects That You Haven't Studied Before

Please take care if you are selecting subjects that you have not studied before. Remember, you have many more years of learning in some subjects. Bear in mind that when you choose a new subject, there is a great deal of new language and new skills to learn which can be quite challenging.

Options

You may then choose any four options from these subjects:

- GCSE Geography P12
- GCSE History P13
- GCSE French P14
- GCSE German P15
- GCSE Religious Studies & GCSE Citizenship (counts as one option choice) P16/P17
- GCSE Business Studies P18
- GCSE Further Additional Science P11
- GCSE Computer Science P19
- Creative iMedia P20
- GCSE Catering P21
- GCSE Design & Technology – Graphics Products P22
- GCSE Drama P23
- GCSE Physical Education P24
- GCSE Art & Design P25
- GCSE Photography P26
- English for Speakers of Other Languages P27

These optional subjects are in the following blocks. You must select one subject from each block:

<u>Option Block A</u>	<u>Option Block B</u>	<u>Option Block C</u>	<u>Option Block D</u>
History	French	History	Science Additional
Geography	German	Geography	Business
PE	Religious Studies (RE)	French	Art
Photography	Graphic Products	German	ESOL
	Creative i-Media	Drama	PE
	English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)	Computer Science	Creative i-Media
	Art		Catering

When you have decided which option subjects you would like to study for your GCSEs, please complete the options form on page 28 and return it to your form tutor.

Options forms must be returned to form tutors by Friday 20th March 2015.

GCSE ENGLISH LANGUAGE

All students will study English Language.

Why Study English Language?

It is a statutory requirement that all students follow a course of study that includes English in one of its many forms. It is about developing your skills of analysis, expanding your writing ability and preparing you for the future, whether in the workforce or with further study.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

All employers will ask about results in GCSE English and will use them as part of their recruitment procedures. It is a requirement to have at least five A*-C including English in order to go on to study A-levels.

You can also study English Literature, English Language or English Language and Literature at AS and A Level.



What Will I Learn?

Reading

- Critical Reading and Comprehension
- Summary and Synthesis
- Evaluation of a Writer's Choice of Vocabulary, Form, Grammatical and Structural Features
- Comparing Texts

Writing

- Producing Clear and Coherent Text
- Writing for Impact

Speaking

- Presenting Information and Ideas
- Responding to Spoken Language
- Spoken Standard English

How is it Assessed?

A combination of two terminal examinations.

GCSE ENGLISH LITERATURE

All students will study English Literature.

Why Study English Literature?

The course allows students to experience a range of literature with a wide variety of appeal drawn from contemporary and modern texts. The texts have had a significant influence on English and British literary and cultural heritage.

The course is based on a skills-based approach to the study of Literature.

This enables students to make fresh and individual responses to each element of assessment.



What Will I Learn?

Reading Comprehension and Reading Critically

- Literal and inferential comprehension.
- Critical reading.
- Evaluation of a writer's choice of vocabulary, grammatical and structural features.
- Comparing texts.

Writing

- Producing clear and coherent text.
- Accurate Standard English.

How is it Assessed?

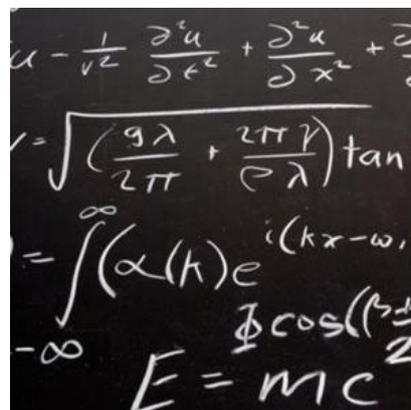
A combination of two terminal examinations.

GCSE MATHEMATICS

Why Study Mathematics?

A grade C or better in Mathematics is essential for whatever you want to do in life. This syllabus encourages you to see how mathematics can be used in everyday situations which you may face once you leave school.

Mathematics provides the oral, written and practical skills needed to solve everyday problems and to acquire knowledge in other subjects particularly Science and Technology. Mathematics is an important discipline; its power lies not only in the capacity to *explain* and *describe* but also to *predict* and *solve*. The subject itself offers many opportunities for wonder, satisfaction and pleasure. Willing pupils will find mathematics challenging but accessible, useful and enjoyable.



What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

GCSE Mathematics is vital for getting into Sixth Form, College or employment.

If you achieve a grade B or above you can also study it at A level, which will give you the opportunity to follow a number of different degree courses at top universities.

What Will I Learn?

The content of our GCSE Mathematics specifications has been grouped into the topic areas of Number, Algebra, Ratio Proportion and rates of change, Geometry and Measures, and Statistics.

What Skills Will I Acquire?

The secondary mathematics programme of study places an emphasis on problem-solving, functionality and mathematical thinking.

How is it Assessed?

The GCSE will be entirely assessed by written examination, which means that no coursework will be expected from any student. The Maths department currently teaches the Edexcel GCSE syllabus and pupils are entered for written papers appropriate to their ability.

Linear Specification includes:

- Three papers with terminal assessment at the end of the course
- Each paper is 1.5 hours in duration and 80 marks each
- These papers are both externally assessed

With a choice of two tiers – Foundation (Grades 1 to 5) and Higher (Grades 4 to 9), we will choose the course that best meets the needs of your child. We are keen to help pupils enjoy mathematics and to be successful in the examination.

GCSE CORE SCIENCE & GCSE ADDITIONAL SCIENCE (DOUBLE SCIENCE)

Why Study Double Science?

Double Science allows you to study Biology, Chemistry and Physics and combine them into two GCSE's. Double Science is not only a fun and engaging course which gives you the opportunity to take part in lots of exciting practical experiments but it also counts towards the English Baccalaureate.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

Students who achieve a minimum of a B in Double Science have the opportunity to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A level. Students who achieve a C grade or above have the opportunity to study our new Applied Science. An A*-C in Double Science will support application to universities and in the jobs market.

What Will I Learn?

Core Science

B1 - You and your genes

B2 - Keeping healthy

B3 - Life on Earth

C1 - Air quality

C2 - Material choice

C3 - Chemicals in our lives, risks and benefits

P1 - The Earth in the universe

P2 - Radiation and life

P3 - Sustainable energy

Additional Science

B4 - The processes of Life

B5 - Growth and development

B6 - Brain and mind

C4 - Chemical patterns

C5 - Chemicals of the natural environment

C6 - Chemical synthesis

P4 - Explaining motion

P5 - Electric circuits

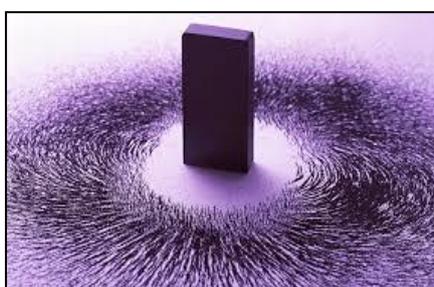
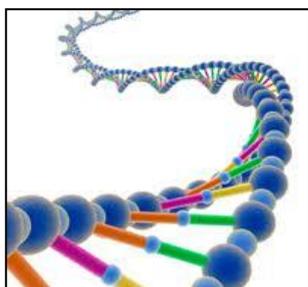
P6 - Radioactive material

What Skills Will I Acquire?

You will not only learn the scientific content of Double Science but the skills to analyse and interpret data, identify correlations, draw graphs and create and conduct your own experiments. As well as this you will learn how to construct scientific discussions, identify and understand what is meant by reliable or biased evidence and use a number of sources of information to do regular research.

How is it Assessed?

Double Science is split into Core and Additional Science. Core Science has 3 exams and Additional Science has 3 exams, both are assessed at the end of year 11 (each exam is worth 25% of each qualification). You will also be asked to complete two controlled assessments between year 10 and 11 which is worth the final 25% of each qualification.



GCSE FURTHER ADDITIONAL SCIENCE (TRIPLE SCIENCE)

Why Study Triple Science?

Triple Science allows you to achieve an extra GCSE in Science. Triple Science gives you access to more practicals and a specialist teacher for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Doing Triple Science provides the foundation to study sciences in the Sixth Form.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

Our extra modules in Biology, Chemistry and Physics include many aspects of the AS Sciences, making the transition into the Sixth Form easier. Not only does it allow you to get an extra qualification, but Triple Science is highly regarded and recognised route in Science at GCSE which supports application to the top Russell group Universities to do medicine and pure Science. In the jobs market Triple Science helps with applications to the top jobs such as banking and consultancy.

What Will I Learn?

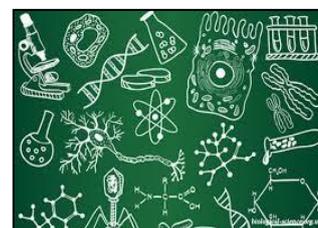
- B1 - You and your Genes
- B2 - Keeping healthy
- B3 - Life on Earth
- B4 - The processes of Life
- B5 - Growth and development
- B6 - Brain and mind
- B7 - Further Biology
- C1 - Air quality
- C2 - Material choice
- C3 - Chemicals in our lives, risks and benefits
- C4 - Chemical patterns
- C5 - Chemicals of the natural environment
- C6 - Chemical synthesis
- C7 - Further Chemistry
- P1 - The Earth in the universe
- P2 - Radiation and life
- P3 - Sustainable energy
- P4 - Explaining motion
- P5 - Electric circuits
- P6 - Radioactive material
- P7 - Further Physics

What Skills Will I Acquire?

You will not only learn the scientific content of Triple Science but the skills to analyse and interpret data, identify correlations, draw graphs and create and conduct your own experiments. As well as this you will learn how to construct scientific discussions, identify and understand what is meant by reliable or bias evidence and use a number of sources of information to do regular research.

How is it Assessed?

Triple Science is now assessed in 9 short module exams taken at the end of Year 11 - each exam is worth 25% of each qualification. You will also be asked to complete three controlled assessment between year 10 and 11 which is worth the final 25% of each qualification. A controlled assessment is a scientific investigation which you carry out yourself.



GCSE GEOGRAPHY

Why Study Geography?

This subject follows a topic-based approach combining case studies from both developed and developing countries, and investigates current issues that are globally, nationally and locally important. So many of the world's current issues – at a global scale and locally - boil down to Geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Many employers prize the knowledge and skills that studying Geography can provide. Statistics show that compared with other graduates, geographers are amongst the most employable in the working world.



What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

Skills used in Geography enable students to work in many different areas, and increase their employability. Therefore, this subject will be of interest to students considering a career in marketing, teaching, law, tourism, aid agencies, emergency services, forestry, town planning, architecture, journalism... the list is endless! The independent learning skills used in the controlled assessment project prepares pupils for the change in learning style used in further and higher education.

What Will I Learn?

Physical Geography

- The Restless Earth (earthquakes, volcanoes, super volcanoes and tsunamis)
- The Coastal Zone (coasts and their management)
- Water on the Land (rivers and floods)

Human Geography

- Population Change (migration, birth and death, impacts of rapid population growth)
- Development Gap (Global poverty, debt, trade, resources)
- Tourism (sustainability, tourism in extreme environments, eco-tourism)

Controlled Assessment

- Project/assignment based on an investigation of a popular tourist area

What Skills Will I Acquire?

Geography allows you to see why and how the world is changing. It is a subject which develops important key skills, such as communication, teamwork, self-management, ability to analyse and empathise, numeracy, literacy and a good understanding of technology

How is it Assessed?

Paper 1:	Written examination – Physical Geography	37.5%
Paper 2:	Written examination – Human Geography	37.5%
Controlled Assessment:	(2000 words) – Investigation	25.0%

GCSE HISTORY

Why Study History?

History tells us everything we need to know about who we are and how our world has developed. Understanding the past is quite simply the best way to make sense of the present and plan for the future. The study of History supports the development of a wide variety of vital skills such as analysing evidence, identifying differing interpretations and forming balanced judgements. The course we have chosen is interesting and engaging, giving you the chance to study the key developments of the 20th Century, particularly in international relations, which have shaped the world in which we live.



What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

The History GCSE will teach you to think carefully about the judgements you make, the evidence you use to support them and the way in which you communicate them. It prepares you for History A Level, but also develops skills that you will find useful in many other subjects. History forms part of the EBACC and is highly regarded by many universities. Students of history go on to careers in education, journalism, law and many other professions.

What Will I Learn?

Unit 1 – International Relations: Conflict and Peace in the 20th Century

Focus: Peacekeeping after the First World War, the origins of the Second World War and the development of the rivalry between the USA and the USSR after 1945

Unit 2 – Twentieth Century Depth Studies

Focus: Germany and the USA between the two world wars. This includes the rise to power of Hitler and life in Nazi Germany, as well as boom and bust in the USA and the Civil Rights Movement in America.

Unit 3 – The British People at War

Focus: Historical enquiry about the experiences of the British people during the First and Second World Wars. Recent enquiries have included studying the effects of bombing raids in both wars, the experiences of evacuation and the causes and effects of rationing.

What Skills Will I Acquire?

History students will demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of the key events and changes in 20th Century. They will study a variety of source materials, including text, pictures and statistical information. Students will demonstrate their ability to analyse and evaluate source material. They are also required to communicate effectively, including through extended pieces of writing.

How is it Assessed?

Students will sit two written examination papers, one each on Unit 1 and Unit 2. Each is 1hr 45mins long and is worth 37.5% of the final GCSE grade. Students will also complete a controlled assessment for Unit 3, worth 25% of the final grade.

GCSE FRENCH

Why Study French?

French is one of the major global languages and is spoken on five continents in over forty countries. Speaking French will open up the world to you for education, career and leisure opportunities.

- Leading universities such as University College London require a foreign language GCSE as part of their admission policy
- Enhance your employment opportunities in the global economy. French is widely spoken on five continents by around 130 million people. This opens the doors to many jobs.
- French is the official working language of the United Nations, UNESCO, NATO, The International Red Cross and The International Olympic Committee among others.
- Learning French together with History or Geography will help you gain the EBac qualification, which opens doors to the best sixth forms and colleges in the country.
- Graduates with a foreign language on their C.V. earn more money on average.
- 75% of employers want language skills!



What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

French can be continued at A Level in the Sixth Form, and then at University or College. There are numerous dual subject courses available at 18+, combining French with a wide variety of other subjects. Opportunities for employment exist within travel and tourism, commerce, secretarial, interpreting, translation and many other spheres. Good communication skills are highly valued by employers, and a qualification in French fulfils this criteria.

What Will I Learn?

In Year 10 we cover themes such as: discussing our lifestyle, health, diet, temptations with alcohol and smoking, relationships and choices, free time, media and holidays. In Year 11 we study the world of work, education, future plans and environmental issues.

What Skills will I Acquire?

The course will enable pupils to:-

- Develop their ability to use language effectively for purposes of communication.
- Form a sound basis of the skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure and to provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.
- Offer positive insights into the culture and civilisation of French speaking countries and to encourage a sympathetic approach to other nationalities.
- Promote learning skills of a more general application e.g. analysis, memorising, drawing of inferences, recognition of attitudes and emotions, summarising, reporting and explaining.
- Access reference materials including dictionaries and information technology to promote independence in language learning.

How is it Assessed?

- Controlled assessment 60% of final grade - made up of two speaking assessments (30%) and two writing assessments (30%)
- Listening exam 20% of final grade (foundation or higher)
- Reading exam 20% of final grade (foundation or higher)

GCSE GERMAN

Why Study German?

If you want to be a real player in the 21st century, learning German will give you the edge you need. Keep in mind: around 229 million people worldwide communicate in German.

- Leading universities such as University College London require a foreign language GCSE as part of their admission policy
- Enhance your employment opportunities in the global economy. German has the largest economy in the E.U. and the third largest economy in the world.
- German is still a leading language of science, literature, art, philosophy and history.
- Learning German together with History or Geography will help you gain the EBacc qualification, which opens doors to the best sixth forms and colleges in the country.
- Graduates with a foreign language on their C.V. earn more money on average.
- German is an amazing language, which is easy and rewarding to learn and easy to speak.
- 75% of employers want language skills!



What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

German can be continued at A Level in the Sixth Form, and then at University or College. There are numerous dual subject courses available at 18+, combining German with a wide variety of other subjects. Opportunities for employment exist within travel and tourism, commerce, secretarial, interpreting, translating and many other spheres. Good communication skills are highly valued by employers, and a qualification in German fulfils this criteria.

What Will I Learn?

In Year 10 we cover themes such as: discussing our lifestyle, health, diet, temptations with alcohol and smoking, relationships and choices, free time, media and holidays. In Year 11 we study the world of work, education, future plans and environmental issues.

What Skill Will I Acquire?

The course will enable pupils to:

- Develop their ability to use language effectively for purposes of communication.
- Form a sound basis of the skills, language and attitudes required for further study, work and leisure and to provide enjoyment and intellectual stimulation.
- Offer positive insights into the culture and civilisation of German speaking countries and to encourage a sympathetic approach to other nationalities.
- Promote learning skills of a more general application e.g. analysis, memorising, drawing of inferences, recognition of attitudes and emotions, summarising, reporting and explaining.
- Access reference materials including dictionaries and information technology to promote independence in language learning.

How is it Assessed?

- Controlled assessment 60% of final grade - made up of two speaking assessments (30%) and two writing assessments (30%)
- Listening exam 20% of final grade (foundation or higher)
- Reading exam 20% of final grade (foundation or higher)

GCSE RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Why Study RE?

Religious Studies is not about making you 'religious', it is about enabling you to think for yourself about religious and moral issues. It is about you, your life and the issues you will face when you leave school and go into the multi-ethnic, multi-faith society which is the UK.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

Religious Studies prepares you for life and gives you the skills you will need to make the decisions every adult faces. It is also an excellent preparation for: A Level Law, Sociology and Psychology, A Level Religious Studies, History and English. It will also benefit jobs such as, medicine, the police and the armed forces. RE is a Dual course, those students who choose to do RE, will also do Citizenship.

What Will I Learn?

Religious Studies covers a variety of interesting topics such as the different attitudes to human rights, genetic engineering, environmental problems, transplant surgery, infertility treatments, war, bullying, religious conflicts in families and crime and punishment.

You will also investigate why some people believe in God and some people don't, why some people believe in life after death and some people don't. You will also look at different attitudes towards issues such as abortion, euthanasia, sex, marriage, divorce, homosexuality, contraception and family life.

What Skills Will I Acquire?

RE will give you the skills to think deeply about society, relationships and important questions of our times. You will discuss, analyse and form opinions on the key issues, and communicate those opinions both orally and in writing,

How is it Assessed?

Your GCSE in Religious Studies will be assessed by two 1½ hour examinations that will draw on your ability to describe, give your opinion, explain and evaluate a variety of the issues covered.



GCSE CITIZENSHIP

Why Study Citizenship?

Citizenship helps you to develop the skills you need to decide for yourself. You will investigate issues that really matter and work out what can be done about them. You will also learn skills in taking action and presenting cases. If you are interested in the world and people around you, this is the subject for you.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

Citizenship will help you to see the world from other people's points of view and understand what's going on around you. The range of activities you will be involved in will help you to work with others and see the benefits of being part of a team – and even leading a team. There are lots of opportunities to put these skills to work when you reach 16. Citizenship is a Dual course, those students who choose to do RE, will also do RE.

What Will I Learn?

Citizenship will help you to understand how an individual can change things, so it explores how we make laws, our place within the economy, what pressure groups do, and how we all relate to the rest of the world.

The media are also important because they influence how we think – so we need to work out what their messages really mean. There is also a focus on communities, how we all live together, and our similarities and differences. The aim is to help you to understand and play a part in the world locally, nationally and internationally.

What Skills Will I Acquire?

This subject will give you the skills to think deeply about society, relationships and important questions of our times. You will discuss, analyse and form opinions on the key issues, and communicate those opinions both orally and in writing,

How is it Assessed?

Your GCSE in Citizenship will be assessed by two 45 minute 'short answer' exams and 2 pieces of controlled assessment. The controlled assessment will require you take part in a 'campaign for change' in our local area.



GCSE BUSINESS STUDIES

Do you want to...

- Work in Customer Service?
- Work in Marketing?
- Manage your finances better?
- Be able to communicate more effectively?
- Understand your rights at work?



Why Study Business Studies?

Have you ever wondered...

- What Tesco is doing selling electronics?
- Why McDonalds, the home of the hamburger and high fat foods, now sell salads?
- Why Coca-Cola is being kicked out of most vending machines in schools and replaced by water or other products?
- Why footballers get paid so much?
- What prompts a business to take over another?
- Why it is so complicated to work out the 'best' mobile phone tariff?

Business Studies considers real-life businesses and the way in which they operate by studying the theory and applying it to the real world you will be able to better understand how decisions are made and can then make informed judgments and conclusions.

The GCSE in Business Studies is an established course which has been offered to students at Northolt High School for a number of years. It is a well known and well respected qualification with both academic institutions and employers alike.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future

Because of the nature of the course the GCSE in Business Studies is an ideal entry into a wide range of career opportunities and many of our students have gone on to Sixth Form and University or are currently in a variety of successful careers.

After successful completion you may choose to move up to A Level, or you may choose to get a job or train in the workplace.

At Northolt High School we ensure that you develop skills suitable for the workplace as well.

What Will I Learn?

- Starting your own business
- Marketing a business
- People in business
- Creativity in business
- Producing goods and services
- The economic environment
- Business finance
- Customer need
- Communication
- Employee rights
- Business law

What Skills Will I Acquire?

At Northolt High School we ensure that you develop skills suitable for the workplace as well.

How is it Assessed?

Unit 1: External Exam worth 25 % of final grade.

Unit 2: Controlled Assessment worth 25% of final grade.

Unit 3: Final External Exam worth 50% of final grade

GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE

Why Study Computing?

Did you know that Sir Tim Berners-Lee was the inventor of the World Wide Web – and that he is British? Britain is seen as the talent hot-spot for technological advance. This course will teach you how computer hardware functions and how to write computer programs – giving you a sound starting point for going on to play a key role in future technological advance.



What Does it Prepare Me for in the Future?

The course would open the door to A Level Computing and the pathway to a career in creating the technology of the future, for example as a programmer. Universities are increasingly investing in developing Computing degree courses that will give you the opportunity to compete in the very challenging and rewarding computing job market.

What Will I Learn?

You will;

- Develop your understanding of current and emerging technologies, including understanding how they work and applying this knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts.
- Acquire and apply technical skills and an understanding of the use of algorithms in computer programs to solve problems using programming.
- Use your knowledge and understanding of computer technology to become an independent and discerning user of IT, and be able to make informed decisions about the use of different technologies.
- Understand the implications of these technologies on the user.
- Acquire and apply creative and technical skills, knowledge and understanding of IT in a range of contexts.
- Develop computer programs to solve problems.
- Develop the skills to work collaboratively.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of computer programs/solutions and the impact of, and issues related to the use of computer technology in society.

What skills will I acquire?

- Technical skills relating to computer hardware and operating systems.
- Skills to successfully complete investigations a variety of computer technologies.
- Computing problem-solving skills.
- An understanding of computer programming languages such as, Java, C++ or Python.

How is it assessed?

Three units;

- Unit A451 – Examined unit (Externally assessed)
- Unit A452 – Controlled assessment unit – Practical Investigation (externally set and moderated)
- Unit A453 – Controlled assessment unit – Programming Project (externally set and moderated)

CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL CERTIFICATE IN CREATIVE iMEDIA

Why Study Creative iMedia?

iMedia is one of the most exciting courses available to young people. The range of skills developed open many doors for students either wishing to continue studies at university or thinking of starting a career in the field.

These qualifications will assess the application of creative media skills through their practical use. They will provide you with essential knowledge, transferable skills and tools to improve your learning in other subjects with the aims of enhancing your employability when you leave education, contributing to your personal development and future economic well-being.

The qualifications will encourage independence, creativity and awareness of the digital media sector. The Cambridge Nationals in Creative iMedia will equip you with a range of creative media skills and provide opportunities to develop in context those desirable, transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

Through the use of these skills, you will ultimately be creating fit-for-purpose innovative media products. They will also be very challenging, since it introduces you to demanding material and techniques.

The hands on approach that will be required to successfully complete this course has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media. The qualification design, including the range of units available, will allow you the freedom to explore the areas of Creative Media that interest you most, as well as providing good opportunities to enhance your learning in a range of curriculum areas.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

This course is ideal for students wishing to deepen their knowledge and expertise in ICT by enabling them to enrol on the BTEC Level 3 course selecting units based on the student's strengths in ICT and personal preference.

What Will I Learn?

The course is modular consisting of a total 4 out of 10 units. The first unit is mandatory and covers aspects of pre-production in ICT projects. You will learn a range of techniques used to plan and prepare an ICT solution to achieve the best and most professional outcome. In addition to this you will need to successfully complete a second mandatory unit on digital graphics before selecting two more units from a range of 10. A typical example of skills areas that may be developed in this course is listed below.

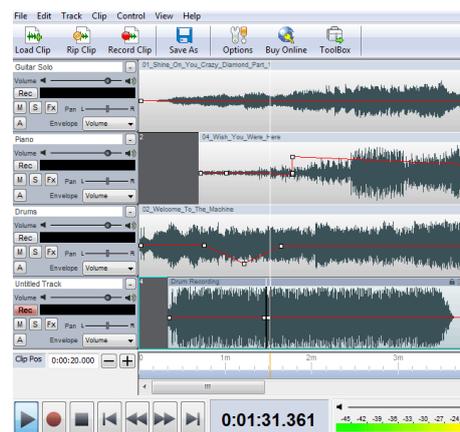
What Skills Will I Acquire?

- Digital graphic editing
- Computer animation
- Sound editing
- Games planning
- Game design
- Web design
- Pre-production techniques

How is it Assessed?

Unit R081 is an externally assessed exam unit on Pre-Production Skills. Unit R082 (Digital Graphic editing) is a mandatory coursework unit which is assessed by the school and moderated externally.

The remaining two units are chosen from a range of 8 and are therefore optional. These are all assessed internally by the school and moderated externally by the exam board.



GCSE CATERING

Why Study Catering?

GCSE Catering will enable pupils to gain a practical catering qualification which means pupils will be taught the whole range of food preparation skills. The emphasis of the course is on pupils gaining practical skills to prepare them to work in a commercial catering environment as well as give them valuable life skills.

The course is designed to give pupils an opportunity to learn about the catering industry through a variety of projects. It will give pupils a chance to complete projects that have a direct impact on the lifestyle and environment of all people. It will provide opportunities to learn about the catering industry and to recognise the influence of current trends. The course will concentrate on the main areas of food production and food service as an introduction to the catering industry.

The course is designed to give pupils a basic understanding of the food and beverage industry and will allow them to work both individually and as members of a team. The Catering course is intended to interest pupils who want to learn more about food preparation, presentation and the food service industry.

Some costs are likely to be incurred during the course for the purchase of food ingredients.



What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

Career/further education opportunities include:

- Manufacturing/Leisure
- Tourism/Hospitality
- Catering and Modern Training
- Apprenticeships.
- Academic and Vocational courses e.g. GNVQ Intermediate and Advanced

What will I learn?

The course is divided into four areas of study:

- The Catering Industry
- Nutrition and Menu Planning
- Food Production
- Technological Developments

What skills will I acquire?

- Planning
- Organising
- Teamwork
- Independent learning
- Use of equipment
- Hygiene
- Health & safety

How is it Assessed?

Coursework: 60%

- Two practical assessments, which also involve written elements such as research, reasons for choice, time planning and nutrition and costing analysis as well as evaluating.
- Year 10 = 20% Year 11 = 40%

Theory: 40%

- One 2 hour written paper.

GCSE DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – GRAPHICS PRODUCTS

Why Study Graphics?

This area of study covers the range of knowledge and skills that are needed for the communication of ideas and solutions through drawings, diagrams and models. Information will be communicated using a range of presentation techniques, these techniques being linked to business and industrial practices. It will involve the designing, making and marketing of quality products with commercial potential. The making of products will be predominately one-off items but will also include knowledge of batch and mass production.

The 'design process' is used throughout the course in order to complete the tasks, assignments and projects. Research, investigation and design are a very important part of the course and must take place before any modelling or prototyping takes place.

Compliant materials are predominantly used for modelling and prototyping designs, these materials usually being card, corrugated card, modelling foam, foam board, paper and plastics.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

Career/further education opportunities include:

- Product Design and Manufacture
- Graphical Design
- The Printing Industry
- Window Display
- Exhibitions
- Interior Design
- Advertising
- Teaching
- Illustration
- Architecture
- Film/Photography/Video
- Industrial Design



What Will I Learn?

- Specification and design of a product aimed at a target market
- Research and analysis of existing products and markets
- Develop creative, imaginative and original ideas
- Development of the product (using computer aided design where appropriate)
- Manufacturing the product
- Social and environmental issues

What Skills Will I Acquire?

- accuracy
- planning
- organising
- teamwork
- independent learning
- use of tools and equipment
- designing
- modelling
- use of colour

How is it assessed?

Coursework: 60%

- A coursework project to include both a design folder and practical outcomes.

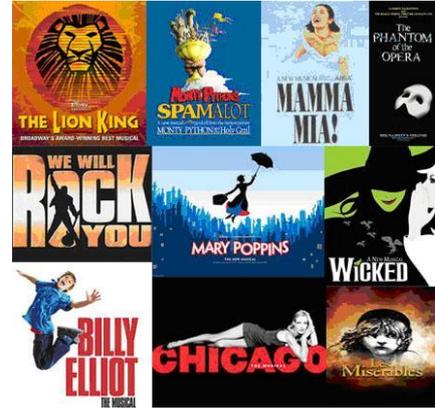
Theory: 40%

- One 2 hour written paper.

GCSE DRAMA

Why Study Drama?

GCSE Drama is a largely practical course and builds on the skills from KS3. It requires students to be effective, independent learners and team workers. Students should study drama if they like working in groups to discuss drama, explore drama, create and perform drama. GCSE drama will provide students with many opportunities to take part in workshops and visits to the theatre.



What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

GCSE Drama allows the development of many life, technical, performance and strong communication skills. These skills are transferable to a wide range of jobs and further studies. Strong problem solving and communication skills are becoming ever more important for employers. This GCSE course prepares students for careers in Performing Arts, theatre, related sectors, Further Education and numerous customer service jobs where relating to a range of people confidently is an essential requirement.

What Will I Learn?

We offer the Edexcel GCSE Drama Course. Year 10 will be used to develop the range of drama skills and working methods needed in readiness for coursework controlled assessment at the end of the year. Year 11 continues with coursework controlled assessment and developing a performance which is marked by an external visiting examiner. Examination results in previous years have been very high at GCSE, reflecting the positive commitment students have made to the subject. The syllabus builds on practical skills developed at Key Stage 3 and students opting for GCSE Drama should already have a strong interest in and commitment to the subject.

There is an extra-curricular element to this course and students will take part in public performances which will require them to stay after school in order to rehearse for their shows and to come back some evenings for the performances.

What Skills Will I Acquire?

Success in this immensely enjoyable and rewarding subject demands maturity and commitment to a common group cause. Students will regularly be required to work positively and supportively with others. Group work, collective responsibility and independent learning are strong features of the course. During the course, students will have many opportunities to develop and refine their skills by performing to different audiences and attending theatre trips.

How is it Assessed?

- Unit 1: Drama Exploration (5DR01): 30% of GCSE
- Unit 2: Exploring Play Texts: (5DR02) - 30% of GCSE plus Theatre visit and review.
- Unit 3: Drama Performance: (5DR03) - 40% of GCSE

Units 1 and 2 are internally assessed by the teacher and then moderated by Edexcel. These are both controlled assessments.

Unit 3 is assessed by a visiting examiner.

GCSE PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Why study PE?

For those students who enjoy physical activity/exercise this course will provide a well-rounded and balanced education. As well as having four games lessons every two weeks, the advantage of taking a GCSE course will be that you will benefit from an additional five lessons. You will need to have reached a National curriculum minimum level 5 grade by the end of year 9 and have brought kit regularly.

Naturally the health benefits of regular participation are well known. 'We are the second fattest nation on earth behind America'.



What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

Research shows that individual fitness is increasingly important in gaining employment and presenting a positive image. Success at GCSE level will greatly help your presentation. It will suggest high levels of fitness; indicate a commitment to team success as well as individual success. It will also imply that you accept challenges and are prepared to show resilience, perseverance, creativity, self management and be reflective. Overall you will be considered as an extremely efficient participator in sport in which you have displayed both mental and physical prowess. Therefore you will have a qualification which may set you apart from others and provide real opportunities. This qualification would benefit everyone but even more so those who are considering a career in the sport and leisure industry. Naturally it is hoped that the 'Olympic legacy,' will increase participation in sport and with that employment opportunities.

Year on year the sport sector outperforms the rest of the UK economy. This has been the case since the end of the economic recession of the late 1990s, and researchers predict will continue to be the case for years to come, long after this Summer's Olympics, and Paralympics.

GCSE will give you a good introduction to further study and in particular BTEC Sport in Years 12 and 13 which is vocational and can lead directly into employment or assist in gaining placements at University.

What will I learn?

This course involves both practical and written work. It builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education. It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. You can perform in one or all of the following roles: player/participant, leader or official.

What skills will I acquire?

In theory lessons students study areas such as the reasons for taking part in sport, methods of training, diet, health, hygiene, prevention of injury, sports injuries, the circulatory system, the respiratory system, the skeleton, joints, muscles and how to plan a personal exercise programme.

Practical work involves performance and assessment in four activities such as soccer, athletics, rounders, basketball, volleyball, badminton, netball, and hockey. In addition students who have undertaken pursuits outside school have been able to offer these as activity options. For example there have been assessments in martial arts, golf, trampolining, dance, horse riding and swimming.

All candidates will be assessed on their fitness in one of the four activities.

Analysis of performance is also an essential part of the course. This involves observing a particular sport with some evaluation of the performance of either a team or an individual. Students then will then offer suggestions for improvement in the role of the coach.

How is it assessed?

- 50% practical
- 10% analysis of performance
- 40% theory

GCSE ART & DESIGN

Why Study Art & Design?

This subject allows students to be creative and gives learners a rounded exposure to different aspects of art and design, allowing them to display their abilities in a variety of artistic disciplines and demonstrate their understanding of these contexts. Art and Design is traditionally a popular subject, where lessons are undertaken in a very calm and relaxed environment.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

The majority of students who study GCSE Art & Design go on to follow the subject at A Level. From there they tend to go on to study foundation and degree courses at places such as Central St. Martins, Surrey Institute of Art & Design or as far afield as places like Leeds, Nottingham or Manchester.

You could progress into art related jobs in architecture, interior design, web design, video games design, fashion, graphic design or illustration.



Nine Reasons to Study Art & Design

1. The internet has created an explosion of opportunity for digital designers and multimedia artists.
2. Fine artists can reach a worldwide market at the click of a button.
3. High school students can achieve RECOGNITION while studying.
4. Those with a wide skill set have an advantage, in any career.
5. Studying Art improves performance in other subjects .
6. Good marks impress, no matter what.
7. Art marks are not solely dependent on an exam.
8. Coursework teaches you self-discipline.
9. Art makes you happy.

"A surge in demand for multimedia artists, animators, and illustrators—especially those who are computer – and technology-savvy—is projected for 2018, due to companies' demand for advertising in online and digital formats."

The National Endowment for the Arts, USA

What Will I Learn?

You will explore a wide variety of disciplines including Fine Art, Graphic Design, Textiles, 3D Design and/or Photography.

The course involves educational visits to places such as Tate Modern and other galleries and exhibitions in London.

What Skills Will I Acquire?

- Enables students to work with a broad range of media, including traditional and new media.
- Gives an understanding of the interrelationships between art, craft and design.
- Provides knowledge, understanding and application in contemporary and past societies and cultures.
- Gives an awareness of different roles, functions, audiences and consumers of art, craft.
- Encourages students to express opinions about the work of other artists.

How is it Assessed?

- Unit 1: Art & Design Portfolio (60%)
- Unit 2: Controlled Assignment (40%)

GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Why Study Photography?

This subject allows students to be creative and gives learners a focused exposure to the production of still images and/or moving images through the lens-based approach

Photography is traditionally a popular subject, where lessons are undertaken in a very calm and relaxed environment.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future

The majority of students who study GCSE Photography go on to follow the subject at A Level. From there they tend to go on to study foundation and degree courses at places such as Central St. Martins, Surrey Institute of Art & Design or as far afield as places like Leeds, Nottingham or Manchester.

You could progress into art related jobs in architecture, interior design, web design, video games design, fashion, graphic design or illustration.



Nine Reasons to Study Photography

1. The internet has created an explosion of opportunity for digital designers and multimedia artists.
2. Photographers can reach a worldwide market at the click of a button.
3. High school students can achieve recognition while studying.
4. Those with a wide skill set have an advantage, in any career.
5. Studying artistic improves performance in other subjects.
6. Good marks impress, no matter what.
7. Photography marks are not solely dependent on an exam.
8. Coursework teaches you self-discipline.
9. Artistic subjects make you happy.

"A surge in demand for multimedia artists, animators, and illustrators—especially those who are computer – and technology-savvy—is projected for 2018, due to companies' demand for advertising in online and digital formats."

The National Endowment for the Arts, USA

What Will I Learn?

You will explore a wide variety of Photography and Film.

The course involves educational visits to places such as Photographer's Gallery and other galleries and exhibitions in London.

What Skills Will I Acquire?

- Traditional chemical technology, printing and developing films.
- Digital technology to print photographic images, including Photoshop.
- Traditional and experimental chemical darkroom processes.
- Lighting and exposure techniques.

How is it Assessed?

- Unit 1: Photography Portfolio (60%)
- Unit 2: Controlled Assignment (40%)

ENGLISH FOR SPEAKERS OF OTHER LANGUAGES

Cambridge IGCSE – English as a Second Language

Why Study IGCSE – E2L?

Cambridge IGCSE English as a Second Language offers the opportunity to gain lifelong skills and knowledge including:

- Improved communication skills in English.
- Improved ability to understand English in a range of everyday situations and in a variety of social registers and styles.
- Greater awareness of the nature of language and language learning skills.

What Does it Prepare Me For in the Future?

This programme and qualification are designed to support you in becoming:

- **Confident** in working with information and ideas –my own and those of others.
- **Responsible** for myself, responsive to and respectful of others.
- **Reflective** as a learner, developing my ability to learn.
- **Innovative** and equipped for new and future challenges.
- **Engaged** intellectually and socially, ready to make a difference.

What Will I Learn?

I will be taking three exams – Reading (70%) , Listening (15%) and Speaking (15%)

What Skills Will I Acquire?

- Develop your ability to use English effectively for the purpose of practical communication.
- Form a solid foundation for the skills required for further study or employment using English as the medium
- Develop greater awareness of the nature of language and language-learning skills

How is it Assessed?

The exam is, externally assessed, marked by Cambridge International Examinations.



Selecting Your Options

You may now choose four options subjects that you will study for the next two years for GCSE. You form tutors will have already discussed different pathways with you, for further information look at the pathways descriptions on page 5. Please be aware of these pathways as some of them require you to choose a particular option. For example, if you are on the Platinum pathway, you must choose a language and either History or Geography.

You must select one option from each block, ie.. one subject from Option Block A, one from Option Block B, One from Option Block C, and one subject from Option Block D. You must also choose a reserve (back-up) option from each block in case we cannot offer you your first choice.

<u>Option Block A</u>	<u>Option Block B</u>	<u>Option Block C</u>	<u>Option Block D</u>
History Geography PE Photography	French German Religious Studies (RE) & Citizenship Graphic Products Creative i-Media English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) Art	History Geography French German Drama Computer Science	Science Additional Business Art ESOL PE Creative i-Media Catering

Your First Choices

Write the name of each subject that you would like to choose in the blocks below. Remember to choose one subject from each block.

<u>Option Block A</u>	<u>Option Block B</u>	<u>Option Block C</u>	<u>Option Block D</u>
↓	↓	↓	↓
<u>Second Choices</u>			

Student Name: _____

Student Form Group: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent Signature: _____