



Co-op Academy  
Stoke-on-Trent

# Year 9 Option Choices 2026

---

Booklet:

**A**

9X1 & 9Y1

Headteacher Mr S. Richardson

Westport Road  
Stoke-on-Trent  
Staffordshire  
ST6 4LD



Co-op Academy  
Stoke-on-Trent

March 2026

Dear Year 9 Student,

This is a very exciting time in your life at the Academy. Your journey through Key Stage 3 has brought you to this key moment where you begin to make decisions for your future. You now have the opportunity to choose subjects that inspire, motivate and challenge you. This will be the first of many decisions you will make in deciding your future.

There are some subjects you will continue to study. These are English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science, PSHE and Practical P.E. These are essential for your next steps and will enhance the subject choices you do make.

You will now have responsibility to 'opt', with guidance, for 4 other subjects. Some subjects will be familiar to you whilst others may be new to you. However you choose, these subjects will continue to develop you academically and personally for the rest of your journey with us. Some students will be required to opt for specific subjects to ensure that you have a range of qualifications for the future.

You will complete your options online using Google Form. You are well placed to make an informed choice following presentations from staff explaining the subjects they offer; what they expect from you; what qualifications you will gain; and the potential courses and careers this subject can lead to.

This booklet details the course content for each subject; how it is assessed; the awarding body; related careers and additional information to help you make the right choices for you.

Please remember, this is **YOUR CHOICE**. Think about what you enjoy; what you are good at; what subjects will motivate you; and what your aspirations for your future may be.

After the Options Exhibition Evening on Wednesday 18th March 2026 you will be asked to submit a form online with your final choices. The deadline will be Monday 13th April 2026.

Remember, it is your future! So think about your choices carefully.

If you have any questions or concerns, please come and discuss these with me.

Yours sincerely

Miss C Evans  
Head of Year 9

Please scan the QR code here:

This will take you to Work Booklet A, where you'll find an overview of the subjects available at GCSE, along with examples of students' work.



# CORE SUBJECTS

---

English Language  
English Literature  
Mathematics  
Combined Science  
Practical PE  
PSHE

# English Language

## Course Content:

The GCSE English Language course requires students to study high quality unseen texts from 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries and will include a literature text, literary non-fiction, and non-fiction texts.

## Course Assessment:

Students will sit two un-tiered papers to gain a GCSE in English Language. Both papers assess reading and writing skills and will be graded on a scale of 9-1.

### Paper 1 - Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing

#### Section A: Reading

- one literature fiction text

#### Section B: Writing

- descriptive or narrative writing

This is a written exam that is 50% of the final GCSE grade.

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

### Paper 2 - Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives

#### Section A: Reading

- one non-fiction text and one literary non-fiction text

#### Section B: Writing

- writing to present a viewpoint

This is a written exam that is 50% of the final GCSE grade.

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

All students will study English Language and English Literature and gain two GCSE qualifications.

## Careers Information:

English is an essential requirement for most college and university courses and careers. Good literacy skills will help you significantly throughout your life.

## Awarding Body:

AQA

# English Literature

## Course Content:

The GCSE English Literature course requires students to study a range of pre-19th century and 20th century literature.

## Course Assessment:

Students will sit two un-tiered papers to gain a GCSE in English Literature. Both papers assess reading and writing skills and will be graded on a scale of 9-1. This is a closed book examination. Students are not allowed to have the texts with them in the examination.

### Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel

Section A: Shakespeare

Section B: Pre-19th century novel

This is a written exam and is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade.

Time allowed: 1 hour 45 minutes

### Paper 2 - Modern texts and poetry

Section A: Modern Texts

Section B: Poetry

Section C: Unseen Poetry

This is a written exam and is worth 60% of the final GCSE grade.

Time allowed: 2 hours 15 minutes

All students will study English Language and English Literature and gain two GCSE qualifications.

## Careers Information:

GCSE English Literature is a sound basis from which to develop skills needed to progress to studying English at Advanced and Degree level. An appreciation and understanding of literature enhances cultural awareness and general knowledge and will help you significantly throughout your life.

## Awarding Body:

AQA

# Maths

## Course Content:

The Edexcel GCSE Mathematics course offers two tiers.

Higher Level (GCSE Grade 9 to 4)

Candidates will study Number (15%); Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change (20%); Algebra (30%); Statistics & Probability (15%); Geometry and Measures (20%)

Foundation Level (GCSE Grade 5 to 1)

Candidates will study Number (25%); Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change (25%); Algebra (20%); Statistics & Probability (15%); Geometry and Measures (15%)

## Course Assessment:

The course comprises of 3 written examination papers that are taken at the end of the course. Each exam is worth equal weighting and has a duration of 1 hour 30 minutes.

## Careers Information:

GCSE Mathematics is a prerequisite when applying for most jobs and careers.

It is a requirement for entry onto all Science and Engineering based Higher Education courses. Good numeracy skills will help you significantly throughout your life.

## Additional Information:

You will learn how to solve problems in a range of contexts and use a variety of techniques and resources in order to do so. You will have considerable opportunity to use ICT in lessons.

## Awarding Body:

Edexcel

# Combined Science

## Course Content:

The Science course includes the following topic areas:

- Unit B1 - Biology topics 1–4: Cell Biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics
- Unit C1 - Chemistry topics 8–12: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry; Chemical changes; and Energy changes.
- Unit P1 - Physics topics 18–21: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.
- Unit B2 - Biology topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.
- Unit C2 - Chemistry topics 13–17: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.  
Questions in Paper 2 may draw on fundamental concepts and principles from Sections 5.1 to 5.3.
- Unit P2 - Physics topics 22–24: Forces; Waves; and Magnetism and electromagnetism

## Course Assessment:

All students will complete 6 externally examined papers. The papers are 1 hour and 15 minutes long and each worth an equal amount towards the overall grading.

Two tiers are offered within the single course (GCSE 9-1):

- Higher tier (4-9) / Foundation tier (1-5)

All examinations must be taken in the same tier and at the end of Year 11.

## Careers Information:

Virtually all Further Education courses require a balanced Science entry qualification. Health Care, Police, Technical and Engineering are just some of the careers that require a Science qualification. Good scientific knowledge will help you significantly throughout your life.

## Additional Information:

You will learn how to investigate and use problem solving skills. By applying thinking skills, you will acquire knowledge and understanding of why things happen the way that they do in the everyday world around us.

## Awarding Body:

AQA

# Practical PE

## Course Content:

Students tackle complex and demanding physical activities. They are involved in a range of activities that develop personal fitness and promote an active, healthy lifestyle.

## Course Assessment:

Students are taught to:

- Use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual games. For example, badminton, basketball, cricket, football, netball, rounders and tennis.
- Develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports. For example, athletics and gymnastics or other physical activities (for example, dance.)
- Take part in further outdoor and adventurous activities in a range of environments which present intellectual and physical challenges and which encourage pupils to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group.
- Evaluate their performances compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement across a range of physical activities to achieve their personal best.
- Continue to take part regularly in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs.

## Careers Information:

Practical Physical Education focuses on: Providing opportunities for those interested in working in the sport sector. Providing opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

## Additional Information:

The Health & Exercise course is designed to give students the confidence to get involved in exercise and activity out of school and in later life. Throughout this module, students will tackle demanding activities, applying their knowledge of skills, techniques and effective performance. The course is mainly focused on getting involved in physical activity through competing, promoting health & wellbeing and developing personal fitness. Students will also decide on which role suits them best including performer, coach, first-aider, choreographer, leader or official.

## Awarding Body:

N/A

# PSHE

## Course Content:

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education is a subject delivered at both KS3 and KS4 at our Academy as taught lessons during curriculum time. Year 10 and 11 receive 1 hour of taught PSHE a fortnight.

As an Academy, in partnership with parents, we have a vital role in preparing young people to negotiate the challenges and opportunities of an increasingly complex world. It supports pupils to be healthy (mentally and physically); safe (online and offline) and equipped to thrive in their relationships and careers. PSHE helps all children and young people — no matter what their social background or previous academic achievement — to achieve their full potential.

## Course Assessment:

Assessment in PSHE is coursework based. Students will be completing modules based on the PSHE Association guidelines and statutory requirements across Years 10 and 11. At the end of each completed unit they will review their learning with a self assessment and a debate. Lessons consist of discussion and debate around relative topics, research and learning new content, recording ideas and signposting support. Modules include; Emotional Wellbeing, Tobacco and Drugs, Sexual Health, Keeping Safe and Healthy, Respectful Relationships, Living in Modern Britain, Online Safety and the Law.

## Careers Information:

PSHE allows students to build on literacy and numeracy skills gained in other subjects across the Academy. Students take part in class discussions, building communication and oracy skills. PSHE encourages an interest in current affairs and what is happening in both the local community and in the world at large. Career opportunities include: Teacher, Health care professional, Journalist , Police Officer, Lawyer or Politician.

## Additional Information

PSHE helps students to develop the knowledge, skills and attributes they need to manage their lives, now and in the future. These skills and attributes help pupils to stay healthy, safe and prepare them for life and work in modern Britain.

## Awarding Body:

No formal exams taken.

# OPTIONS

---

Art & Design  
Business Studies  
Computer Science  
Design & Technology  
Engineering  
Food & Cookery  
Geography  
Health & Social Care  
History  
IT  
Music  
Performing Arts  
RE  
Spanish  
Sport  
Triple Science

# Art & Design

## Course Content:

The GCSE Art & Design Fine Art is all about skill, creativity and imagination. Students will create separate projects in response to 3 project themes: Architecture, Natural Forms and their chosen exam question which concludes with a 10 hour examination (Year 11).

GCSE Art and Design comprises: Creating a portfolio of evidence showing a variety of artwork including a supporting project, a major project and an externally set project which concludes with an examination of 10 hours (Year 11). Students will study practical, critical and contextual work in Students must demonstrate the ability to work creatively with processes and techniques appropriate to the chosen area study such as: painting (various media); drawing (various media); printing (e.g. screen printing; etching; aquatint; lithography; block printing); stencils; carving; modelling; constructing; mosaic; light based media; digital media; mixed media.

## Course Assessment:

Your final grade is based on two main components. Both are marked out of **96** and then weighted.

Component	Weighting	What is it?
Component 1: Portfolio	60%	A collection of work produced during the course consisting of: Collection of own photographs, Artist research pages, observational drawings, final piece designs and mocks. Concluded with a final piece.
Component 2: Externally Set Portfolio	40%	A project based on a theme set by AQA. Includes a "prep period" and a <b>10-hour</b> supervised exam.

## Careers Information:

A good GCSE in Art and Design gains entry to A level and BTEC qualifications or onto a number of specialist Art Foundation Courses at local colleges. Potential career paths include:

- **Design:** Architecture, Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Interior Design, Game Design
- **Media:** Animation, Photography, Film/TV Set Design, Illustration
- **Fine Art:** Professional Artist, Printmaker, Sculptor, Art Gallery Curator
- **Therapy & Education:** Art Therapist, Teacher, Community Arts Worker
- **Technical:** Product Design, UX/UI Designer, Special Effects (SFX) Makeup

## Additional Information:

Excellent attendance will be needed as well as the ability to work independently. You will be expected to work to your maximum at all times and to meet all deadlines for the work set.

## Awarding Body:

AQA GCSE Art & Design Fine Art

# Business Studies

## Course Content:

The GCSE Business qualification gives students an introduction to the world of Business and equips students with skills and knowledge that are vital in running a business and are applicable to the wider world.

### Paper 1 - 1 hour 45 minute written exam 50% of the qualification

1.1 Enterprise and entrepreneurship	1.2 Spotting a business opportunity
1.3 Putting a business idea into practice	1.4 Making the business effective
1.5 Understanding external influences on business	

### Paper 2 - 1 hour 45 minute written exam 50% of the qualification

2.1 Growing the business	2.2 Making marketing decisions
2.3 Making operational decisions	2.4 Making financial decisions
2.5 Making human resource decisions	

## Course Assessment:

The course comprises of:

- 2 externally examined papers made up of multiple choice, short answer and extended writing questions.

## Careers Information:

This qualification will be beneficial for future careers in Accounting, Law, management positions and when running your own business. The skills you develop include: teamwork, leadership, money management and communication which are vital parts of careers in Education, Public Services and Engineering.

## Additional Information:

Excellent attendance will be needed as well as the ability to work independently and as part of a small group. You will be expected to work to your maximum at all times and to meet all deadlines for the work set.

## Awarding Body:

Pearson

# Computer Science

## Course Content:

The course comprises of two elements:

### 1. Computer Systems

Applying academic principles from the classroom into real-world systems in an exciting and engaging way.

2. Computational Thinking - Algorithms and Programming Trends in computing, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence.

The aims of the GCSE Computer Science are to enable learners to develop knowledge and understanding of the concepts of Computer Science and apply computational thinking skills to analyse problems and design solutions across a range of contexts. Students will gain practical experience of designing, writing, and testing computer programs that accomplish specific goals. They will also develop the ability to reason, explain and evaluate computing solutions.

## Course Assessment:

Principles of computer systems, computational thinking and trends in computing are examined in 2 x 90 minute examinations.

Ideal for: Level 2 students, students who are new to computing topics, students who want to experience Computer Science at an 'intermediate' level, students who are thinking of a computing career.

## Careers Information:

Computing offers rewarding and challenging possibilities for a wide range of people regardless of their range of interests. Computing jobs are among the highest paid and have the highest job satisfaction. Computing is very often associated with innovation, and developments in computing tend to drive it. Computing drives innovation in the sciences (human genome project, vaccine research, environmental monitoring and protection just to mention a few). Computing is often about being part of a team that requires people with many different kinds of skills, yet there is also plenty of space for individual flair and imagination.

## Additional Information:

Computer Science is a practical subject where learners can apply the knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to real-world problems. It is an intensely creative subject that involves invention and excitement.

Much of the curriculum is delivered online so is available at home to enable students to study independently.

Awarding Body: OCR

# Design & Technology

## Course Content:

Learners will build and develop their broad knowledge and understanding from Key Stage 3, whilst also having the freedom to focus in more depth on areas of Design and Technology that most interest them.

This qualification will give learners an opportunity to engage with creativity and innovation and understand how they can be enhanced by the application of knowledge from other disciplines across the curriculum such as mathematics, science, art and design, computing and humanities, as well as the practical and technical knowledge and understanding they will learn from Design and Technology.

## Course Assessment:

The course comprises of:

GCSE Design & Technology			
Component	Assessment	Weighting	Assessment Time
Principles of design and technology	External	50% (15% maths)	2 hrs
Iterative Design Challenge	Internal	50%	40 hrs

## Careers Information:

The course leads on to AS and A2 Level and subsequently a University Degree. Design and technology can set you up for a career in a wide variety of industries such as fashion, engineering, architecture, information technology, and even education.

## Additional Information:

Design and Technology is changing fast and new materials and techniques are always explored which makes for exciting project work. The students will learn to use modern manufacturing equipment such as the laser cutter and 3D printing techniques.

Possible careers include: Electrical Engineer, Fashion designer, Games designer, Civil Engineering, Product designer, Architect, Carpenter, Automotive Engineering/designer, Software Engineer.

## Awarding Body:

OCR

# Engineering

## Course Content:

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in engineering. It will provide learners with experience of using different tools and materials to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of what engineering may involve.

Students will spend 120 hours gaining a broad understanding of Engineering including the following 9 content areas:

1. engineering disciplines
2. the science and mathematics applied in engineering
3. how to read engineering drawings
4. properties and characteristics of engineering materials and know why specific materials are selected for engineering applications
5. engineering tools, equipment and machines
6. hand drawn engineering drawing techniques
7. CAD (computer aided design) engineering drawing production methods
8. production planning techniques
9. processing skills and techniques applied to materials for a manufacturing task equipment

## Course Assessment:

This qualification aims to:

- focus on the study of the engineering sector
- offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge
- provide opportunities to acquire a number of practical and technical skills

### NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Engineering

Assessment Title	Assessment	Assessment Time	Weighting
EA - Examined Assessment	Externally Marked	1 hr 30 min	40%
NEA - Non-Examined Assessment	Internally Marked	18 hrs	60%

## Careers Information

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress onto other qualifications such as:  
Level 3 in Engineering (including T Level)

A Level Engineering

A Level Design & Technology

Possible careers include: Electrical Engineering, Fabrication Engineering, Gas engineering, Civil Engineering and Automotive Engineering.

Awarding Body:

NCFE

# Food & Cookery

## Course Content:

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery is designed for learners who want an introduction to food and cookery that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the food industry or progress onto further study.

Students will gain a broad understanding of Food and Cookery including the following:

- health and safety relating to food, nutrition and the cooking environment
- legislation in the food industry
- food provenance
- the main food groups, key nutrients and what is required for a balanced diet
- factors that affect food choice
- recipe development and how recipes may be adapted
- applying practical cooking skills and techniques
- the importance of planning a menu and action planning
- catering for people who have specific dietary requirements
- evaluating completed dishes

## Course Assessment:

The objectives of this qualification are to help learners to:

- Focus on the study of food and cookery.
- Offer breadth and depth of study, incorporating a key core of knowledge.
- Provide opportunities to acquire a range of practical and technical skills.

NCFE Level 1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery			
Unit Number	Unit Title	Assessment	Weighting
Non Exam NEA	Synoptic Project	Externally set, internally marked.	60%
Examined Assessment	Written Exam	External	40%

## Careers Information

Learners who achieve this qualification could progress onto other qualifications such as:

Level 3 in Hospitality and Catering

Certificate/Diploma in Culinary Skills

NVQ Diploma in Food Production and Cooking

Possible careers include: Restaurateur,  
Sous Chef, Cater, Event Management and  
Chef.

Awarding Body:

NCFE

# Geography

## Course Content:

The course consists of 3 distinct topics which will be: Living with the physical environment (35%), Challenges in the human environment (35%) and Geographical applications (30%). Within the first two topics, there will be opportunities for fieldwork and the last topic is a decision making exercise paper which also tests the fieldwork completed. All students will sit the same examination and will be graded from 9 -1.

### Topics include:

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK
- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management
- Fieldwork

### Fieldwork

There will be two fieldwork trips: one looking at a physical landscape and one looking at human influences on an area.

## Course Assessment:

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The challenge of natural hazards</li><li>- The living world</li><li>- Physical landscapes in the UK</li><li>- Geographical Skills</li></ul>	Living with the physical environment (01) 88 Marks 1 hr 30 mins - written paper	35% of total GCSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Urban issues and challenges</li><li>- The changing economic world</li><li>- the challenge of resource management</li><li>- Geographical Skills</li></ul>	Challenges in the human environment (02) 88 Marks 1 hr 30 mins - written paper	35% of total GCSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Geographical applications</li><li>- Decision Making Exercise</li><li>- Fieldwork</li></ul>	Geographical Exploration (02) 60 Marks 1 hr 30 mins - written paper	30% of total GCSE

## Careers Information:

Colleges and universities look very favourably on a geography GCSE for all further qualifications, as do employers. This is due to the range of disciplines it uses (maths, science, English etc), along with the way it encourages reasoned debate and investigation.

USEFUL IN ALMOST EVERY CAREER but especially if you want to be a...

Town Planner	Civil Servant	Courier	Travel Agent	Conservationist
Meteorologist	Holiday Rep	Wildlife Warden	Tour Guide	Soldier/Armed Forces
Reporter	Teacher			

## Additional Information:

This course will require 2 days of fieldwork. The location is to be arranged. Data will be collected in order to complete a part of the coursework element. Attendance is essential for the arranged fieldwork as this makes up 15% of the exam. 10% of the exam will be awarded for maths based questions.

## Awarding Body:

AQA

# Health & Social Care

## Course Content:

The BTEC course consists of 3 components (2 internal and 1 external):

Component 1 - Human Lifespan Development (internally assessed assignment 30% of total course)

Component 2 - Health and Social Care Service and Values (internally assessed assignment 30% of total course)

Component 3 - Health and Wellbeing (externally assessed exam 40% of total course)

## Course Assessment:

Component 1 - You will write a report which assesses the changing impact of different factors on the growth and development of a person across three life stages. You will explore how individuals develop physically, emotionally, socially and intellectually over time. You will investigate how various factors, events and choices impact individuals' growth and development. You will discover how people adapt to life events and cope with making changes.

Component 2 - You will carry out a review on how the Health and Social Care services meet the specific needs of individuals. You will discover who's involved in providing these services. You will explore what might stop people from accessing the services they need. You will look at the care values the sector has to make to ensure people get the care and protection they need.

Component 3 - You will complete an externally assessed task, in which you will create a health and wellbeing improvement plan for an individual, based on a case study. You will be asked to assess the health and wellbeing of an individual, responding to short-answer questions. You will then be asked to create a health and wellbeing improvement plan for this individual.

## Careers Information:

This subject is ideal for students who want to follow a career in a caring profession in a Health or Social Care setting. Level 2 Health and Social Care BTEC can help you take your first steps towards a career caring for people and communities. You'll learn the essential skills needed to support people with a wide range of needs, from babies and toddlers to adults and the elderly.

Possible careers include: Midwife, Nurse Practitioner, Social Worker, Career, Nursery Nurse and Therapist and many more.

## Awarding Body:

Pearson

# History

History teaches us to ask two very important questions: why? and how? This is key to sharpening your critical thinking abilities. No other subject can give you such a rich knowledge of society, culture, religion, business, economics and politics from around the world. Our knowledge of the past has a huge impact on our decisions for the future. Even now, politicians and economists use their knowledge of historical events to form the policies of the present day.

## Topics Include

- Methods of execution
- British politics
- Battle of Hastings
- William the Conqueror's control of Norman England
- Treat of Versailles
- Great Depression
- Nazi terror inc. Gestapo
- Germany during WW2
- Holocaust

## Course Content:

Every student entered will sit 3 examination papers ranging from grades 9-1. Students will cover five main areas within the course including:

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
<b>Thematic Study:</b> <b>Britain Power and the people</b> History of power in Britain from 1170 until the present day	Paper 1	20%
<b>British Depth Study:</b> <b>Norman Conquest 1066-1100</b> How can people look at the same facts and yet come up with completely different interpretations. Through studying the battles, slaughter and control of William the Conqueror in England; how do we question and interpret our history and identity through time.		20%
<b>Local area study</b> Focus on the White tower. A fortification within the tower of London.	Paper 1	20%
<b>Period Study:</b> <b>Conflict and Tension</b> How did the country go from 'a war to end all wars' to another World war 20 years later.	Paper 2	20%
<b>World Depth Study:</b> <b>Germany 1890-1945</b> What was it like to live under Hitler's Third Reich and how did the Nazi regime control people's lives?		20%

## Careers Information:

History provides students with the opportunity to build upon and develop analytical skills, research methods and empathy – all highly sought after attributes for managerial positions. The high literacy standards and essay technique skills gained will also benefit those wishing to go to university.

Career opportunities include:

Television & radio broadcasters      Law firms      Banking      Local & National Government  
Accountancy      Education      Publishing      Journalism      Management Consultancies

## Awarding Body:

AQA

# Information Technology

## Course Content:

The ICT Cambridge National Certificate in iMedia will help students develop specific and transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts. It will also challenge all learners by introducing them to demanding ICT material and skills; encouraging independence and creativity. This qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in creating digital media products.

## Course Assessment:

Level 1/2 ICT Cambridge Certificate in Creative iMedia consists of three units, one externally assessed exam and two NEA coursework units.

### Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry

This unit is assessed by taking an exam. In this unit you will learn about the media industry, digital media products, how they are planned, and the media codes which are used to convey meaning, create impact and engage audiences. Topics include:

- o The media industry
- o Factors influencing product design
- o Pre-production planning
- o Distribution considerations

### Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics

This is assessed by completing a set assignment. In this unit you will learn to how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Topics include:

- o Develop visual identity
- o Plan digital graphics for products
- o Create visual identity and digital graphics

### Unit R095: Characters and comics

This is assessed by completing a set assignment. In this unit you will learn how to plan, create and review comics which contain original characters. Topics include:

- o Plan characters and comics
- o Create characters and comics
- o Review characters and comics

## Careers Information:

Cambridge Nationals provide a strong base for progression to Further Education, whether it is on to the Level 3 Cambridge Technicals or A Levels, apprenticeship or work. The knowledge and skills gained will lead to a wide range of general and vocational qualifications and will provide many ICT career options. ICT qualifications could also provide alternative careers e.g. in the media (broadcast engineer, multimedia broadcaster, sound technician) military (armed forces technical officer, intelligence officer, satellite technician) or finance (credit analyst, commodity broker, financial risk analyst.) How's that for choice?

## Additional Information:

The course involves a high degree of concentration and independent learning and you will be expected to work to your maximum at all times. Excellent attendance is needed and homework is set regularly, which is to be completed on time.

Awarding Body: OCR

# BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice

## Course Content:

As the BTEC Tech Award in Music is a practical introduction to life and work in the industry, students can explore the sector while:

- developing skills, including teamwork, leadership and communication
- developing and presenting music to a brief
- analysing, evaluating and enhancing their learning.

## Course Assessment:

The course is made up of three components. Two are internally assessed components, and one is externally assessed:

Component one: Exploring the Music Industry

Component two: Music skills development

Component three: Responding to a music brief

## Careers Information:

With a BTEC Tech Award in Music, students are able to explore, challenge and realise their potential. During the course, students can see whether the industry is one they want to be in, where they could go, and gain the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in their next steps. After completing the course, students can continue on to further vocational and academic study at level 2 and level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships. What's more, the transferable skills students master during their studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support future progress.

## Additional Information

Students will need to commit to musical clubs, musical tuition, rehearsals sessions outside of lesson times. Various assignments are set throughout the course. Assessment is based on evidence such as computer based compositions, recordings of live performance, written logbook, research and detailed musical analysis.

## Awarding Body

Edexcel

# BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

This course is recognised by colleges as the equivalent of a GCSE.

## Course Content:

Students will study three units:

### Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts (30% of grade)

Learners will develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining and analysing a live theatre show. Students will learn how different components combine to create a theatre production including stylistic qualities, themes, roles and responsibilities and processes.

To pass this component students must write an in depth report about the set show and participate in practical lessons where they will replicate the skills used by the shows' performers.

### Component 2: Developing skills and techniques in the Performing Arts (30% of grade)

Learners will develop their acting ability through the performance of a 'showcase scene'. In this unit, students will review their ability and identify target skills to improve. They will then work in a group to rehearse and perform their scene showing development and improvement.

To pass this component students must perform their extract scene for a video recording. They will be expected to learn lines, work independently and write a diary of their progress including an evaluation.

### Component 3: Performing to a Brief (40% of grade)

This is the final exam in which students work in groups to devise and perform a play based on a given brief. Students must learn to work as a team, utilise their knowledge and skills learnt throughout the course to create a piece of work that is engaging and entertaining and hits the brief!

To pass this exam students must create and perform a 7-15 play as part of a group. They must also write 3, 800 word essays throughout the exam period: an ideas log, a skills log and an evaluation.

## Course Assessment:

See details above.

Students take the Component 1 in Year 10 (Spring Term), Component 2 in Year 10 (Spring Term) and the Component 3 exam in Year 11 (Spring Term). The course is complete by early May, usually a few weeks before GCSEs begin, there is no written test exam.

## Careers Information:

This course is ideal for any students interested in pursuing a career in Performing Arts or those who have a love of acting. It is also suitable for those who wish to improve their communication and teamwork skills or those who need help building their confidence. A qualification in drama can lead to a variety of career paths in the Performing Arts Industry and be a helpful tool in a variety of professions, such as teaching, law, management, as well as any creative industries.

## Awarding Body:

Pearson/Edexcel.

# RE

## Course Content:

All students will be examined within a single tier, GCSE Grades 1-9

## Course Assessment:

The course comprises: 2 x 1 hour 45 minutes written exam papers (no coursework or controlled assessment)

### Component 1A.

Examined in Year 11 - Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes

This unit allows candidates to explore key beliefs, teaching and practices of Christianity and Islam.

### Component 2A.

Examined in Year 11 - Written exam 1 hour 45 minutes

The course examines the response of Christianity, Islam and the students' own opinions on four of the following issues:

Religion and Life (abortion, animal rights, assisted suicide)

Religion and peace and conflict (war, terrorism, pacifism)

Religion, crime and punishment (the death penalty, crime, rehabilitation of offenders)

Religion, human rights and social justice (wealth and poverty, sexism, racism)

## Careers Information:

Many employers are looking for someone with an enquiring mind and an interest in other people's point of view. They want people who can make clear and informed decisions and who can work with and understand other people's motivations. You will learn all these skills in R.E.

Possible job opportunities could be: The Police, Journalism, Nursing, The Armed Forces, Community Work, Hospital Work, Travel and Tourism, Medicine, The Prison Service, Religious and Church Work, Social Work, Teaching (Primary & Secondary), Youth Work and Law.

## Additional Information:

This is a valuable qualification, which will show a rounded and informed view of people and the world in all areas of life. In the modern world, this is an essential attitude for fostering a peaceful and tolerant society.

## Awarding Body:

AQA (Specification A)

# Spanish

## Why choose a language?

Studying languages complements a whole range of other subjects and having a language qualification on your CV can set you above the competition when it comes to applying for colleges, universities and jobs. The language skills you gain, along with other transferable skills are especially sought-after in: Retail, Sport, Law, Tourism, Business, Education, Translation, Manufacturing, Engineering and much more..

## Course Content:

The course gives you the opportunity to use your Spanish in a variety of exciting and engaging contexts which give you an excellent basis for continuing at A-Level or using your Spanish in the real world, including:

### 1. People and lifestyle

- Identity and relationships with others
- Healthy living and lifestyle
- Education and work

### 2. Popular culture

- Free-time activities
- Customs, festivals and celebrations
- Celebrity culture

### 3. Communication and the world around us

- Travel and tourism, including places of interest
- Media and technology
- The environment and where people live

## Course Assessment:

We will follow the AQA exam syllabus. The assessments are balanced across the main 4 skill areas:

Paper 1 - Listening 25%

Paper 2 - Speaking 25%

Paper 3 - Reading 25%

Paper 4 - Writing 25%

A GCSE in MFL would contribute to the EBacc award.

# Cambridge National - Sports Studies

## Course Content:

Subject Units. You will study:

- 1) Contemporary Issues in Sport
- 2) Performance and Leadership in Sports Activities
- 3) Sport and the Media

## Course Assessment:

The qualification has 3 assessments externally set by OCR:

Exam is worth 40%. This is an externally assessed written assessment

Coursework is worth 60%. These are 2 internally assessed practical and written assessments that are externally moderated

## Careers Information:

Learners could progress into employment or onto an apprenticeship.

The understanding and skills gained through this qualification could be useful to progress onto an apprenticeship in the health and fitness sector through a variety of occupations that are available within the sector, such as medical professionals, health assistants, sports coaches, fitness instructors or personal trainers.

Learners who achieve at level 2 might consider progression to level 3 qualifications post-16, such as:

- Level 3 Applied Generals
- Level 3 Technical Levels
- A Level in Physical Education and Sport (this will support progression to higher education)

## Additional Information:

You may be interested in this if you want an engaging qualification where you will use your learning in practical, real-life situations, such as:

Understanding contemporary issues in sport and how they impact on different sporting activities

Applying your skills as both a performer in two different sporting activities and as a leader in one sporting activity

How to be a sports leader, through using your initiative to solve problems and making decisions when dealing with rapidly changing conditions and situations

## Skills Required

It is highly desirable that you have an interest in Sports Studies, Coaching and Media in Sport. An ability to be self organised, confident and self motivated is a prerequisite for this course.

## Awarding Body:

OCR

# Triple Science

## Course Content:

The Science course includes the following topic areas:

### Biology:

Unit B1– Topics 1–4: Cell biology; Organisation; Infection and response; and Bioenergetics

Unit B2– Topics 5–7: Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, variation and evolution; and Ecology.

### Chemistry:

Unit C1 - Topics 1–5: Atomic structure and the periodic table; Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter; Quantitative chemistry, Chemical changes; and Energy changes.

Unit C2 – Topics 6–10: The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis, Chemistry of the atmosphere; and Using resources.

Questions in Paper 2 may draw on fundamental concepts and principles from sections 4.1 to 4.3.

### Physics:

Unit P1 - Topics 1-4: Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; and Atomic structure.

Unit P2 - Topics 5-8: Forces; Waves; Magnetism and electromagnetism; and Space physics.

Questions in paper 2 may draw on an understanding of energy changes and transfers due to heating, mechanical and electrical work and the concept of energy conservation from Energy and Electricity

## Course Assessment:

The marks for the course are awarded as follows:

During Year 10 and 11 students will complete units for chemistry, biology and physics. Science GCSE exams are based on 1 hour 45 minute exams for each unit. These will consist of 2 separate exams for Chemistry, Physics and Biology modules and each exam is worth an equal amount towards the overall grading.

Two tiers are offered within the single course (GCSE 9-1):

Higher tier (4-9) and Foundation tier (1-5)

All examinations must be taken in the same tier and at the end of Year 11.

## Careers Information:

The Triple Science qualification allows students to gain great depth and understanding ready for A Level Science. It is an advantage to students who wish to continue to study science at further education, as they have completed modules allowing them to specialise in subject areas beyond the Combined Science course. This qualification offers many opportunities for any scientific career.

## Additional Information:

This syllabus branches into independent separate sciences which focus on higher-order thinking skills and scientific concepts. It is a demanding course that enhances analytical skills through practical activities alongside fundamental knowledge. It is ideal for students who wish to further develop scientific understanding and have a great passion and enthusiasm for the subjects.

## Awarding Body

AQA

# So, what options can you choose?

Students are only allowed to choose ONE subject from each option block  
They need to choose different subjects in each block.

## 9X1 - 9Y1

OPTION 1 - Choose only 1	OPTION 2 - Choose only 1
Business Studies	Business Studies
Computer Science	Computer Science
Engineering	Engineering
Geography	Geography
History	Health & Social Care
IT	History
RE	Performing Arts
Sport	RE
	Spanish
	Sport

OPTION 3 - Choose only 1	OPTION 4 - Choose only 1
Art & Design	Art & Design
Business Studies	Design & Technology
Design & Technology	Food & Cookery
Food & Cookery	Geography
Geography	History
History	IT
IT	RE
Music	Sport
RE	Triple Science
Spanish	
Sport	

All students must opt for a minimum of one shaded subject (in yellow).  
Students in X1 and Y1 for all three core subjects (English, Maths and Science) **MUST** opt for Spanish as one of their shaded subjects.

To select your options you will need to visit the link below or scan the QR code: <https://www.stokeontrent.coopacademies.co.uk/ks4options>  
click on Options Booklet A - and complete your option form.

If you have any concerns, please email:  
Courtney.evans@coopacademies.co.uk

