



Launceston College

Part of the Athena Learning Trust



Year 10 Curriculum Pathways

February 2025

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Introduction

This booklet is intended to give Year 9 students, and their parents, information to help them make an informed decision about the courses available in Years 10 and 11. Please read it carefully and discuss the changes together.

It is essential that at this stage no firm decisions are made as there are a number of stages in the process of choosing your courses.

1. Read the detailed information in this booklet which will help you understand the requirements of individual courses.
2. View the options information online presentations. This is intended to give more detail and advice to students and parents on the choices available.
3. On **Friday 31 January 2025** the curriculum pathways 'booklet' will be available on the College website. A hard copy of the booklet is available on request.
4. Final choices of curriculum pathways will be made on a Google form and will be issued to students on **Wednesday 12 February 2025**.
5. Attend the Year 9 Curriculum Pathways Information Evening on **Thursday 30 January 2025**.
- 5.. Attend the Year 9 Subject Parents' Evening on **Thursday 6 February 2025**. This will enable you to speak to the subject teachers about possible course choices.
7. Complete and submit the Options Google Form and return it by **Tuesday 25 February 2025**. Forms will not be collated before this date however, if your form arrives late, it may mean that you do not get your preferred choices!

Some advice for students on choosing courses

Talk through the various choices carefully with your teachers and your parents. Try to make sure that you understand what each course you are thinking about will require.

Think hard about those subjects you are likely to do well in. Read carefully the description of the subjects. It makes sense to choose:

- ✓ The courses you are good at
- ✓ The courses you will enjoy
- ✓ The courses you may need in the future

DO NOT choose a subject just because:

- ✗ A friend is doing it
- ✗ You like the teacher (the teacher may not be the one you are expecting!)

You will not be given your choices automatically. Your final curriculum pathway may depend on how well you have achieved in a particular subject at key stage 3, recommendation by a member of staff following discussion with your parents or group size.

It is important to use the resources that are available in the Careers Library and on the network to help inform your choices.

The careers website <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/> is also a valuable source of information. The Launceston College Careers Personal Adviser, Helen Pryor and the Work-Related Learning Co-Ordinator, Dawn Acaster, are also able to help you, along with your Tutor, Head of Year and your subject teachers.

Examination Entry Policy

It is an aim of the College to encourage students to gain recognition for their achievements. All students will follow courses appropriate to their abilities and which lead to certification. Entry fees for external examinations are paid by the College for students who have studied such a course and have satisfied the requirements for entry for the appropriate examination. Students may ask to be entered for other examinations, or to retake examinations to improve grades. In these cases, the entry fee will be payable. Students will also be invoiced for the costs involved when they fail to turn up for an examination without a suitable reason (as explained in the charging policy).

Individual Needs

Students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs, or an Education Health Care Plan, will continue to receive their additional support throughout the curriculum as before. Students with Statements may be entitled to extra time, a reader or an amanuensis (writer) in their examinations and the Individual Needs department will contact the relevant exam boards, submitting suitable evidence if needed.

The Individual Needs department is always available to answer queries from students, parents and staff with regard to curriculum or a special need.

Examination Grades

There is a great deal of information on how courses are graded for parents available at <https://ofqual.blog.gov.uk/2018/03/02/gcse-9-to-1-grades-a-brief-guide-for-parents/>.

However, in summary, OFQUAL has designed the grading so that there are comparable points at key grades. The bottom of a grade 7 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade A, the bottom of a new grade 4 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade C, and the bottom of the new grade 1 is comparable to the bottom of the old grade G. We have been clear to employers, universities and others that if they previously set entry requirements of at least a grade C, then the equivalent now would be to require at least grade 4.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	1
U	U

All of the courses offered to our key stage 4 students at Launceston College are Level 2 tiered courses, meaning they result in either a GCSE grade or a BTEC grade (please see information below for specifics).

Since 2017, GCSEs have operated a numerical rather than letter-based GCSE system (see above). However, the new Level 2 equivalents for BTECs would roughly be as follows:

BTEC Distinction * (D*)	=	8 or 9 at GCSE
BTEC Distinction (D)	=	7 or 8 at GCSE
BTEC Merit (M)	=	5 or 6 at GCSE
BTEC Pass (P)	=	4 or 5 at GCSE

Message from the Head of Year:

It has been an absolute pleasure to lead Year 9 this term and see them thriving in lessons and embracing their learning with such commitment and enthusiasm. I am proud of the way they conduct themselves every day, of their focus and hard work and of their ambitions for the future. I know that making choices about next steps and pathways can feel daunting and want to reassure you that myself and the Year 9 team will be here every step of the way to support you and your child in making the best choices for them. This is a significant step but also an exciting one; students are not expected to know exactly what they want to do in the future but this is an opportunity to refine their subject offer and channel their energies into the subjects they love the most. We know that when students leave us at the end of Year 11, the set of qualifications they have gained will serve as the launch-pad into the rest of their lives; we know that the better the qualifications, the more doors are open to them, and I want, more than anything, for all of Year 9 to be able to fulfil all of their ambitions in the future. This step is the first in the important journey to their futures and I can't wait to be with them along the way.

Miss Davey – Head of Year 9

Year 10 Curriculum (commencing September 2025)

All students at Launceston College will study a curriculum pathway that is best suited to their individual ability, need and career aim. We would like students to be aspirational in their choices and be successful in all they do. We believe in a broad and balanced curriculum for all.

At Launceston College, we seek to develop adventurous students, who have the character, resilience and self-awareness required to be successful. We have exceptionally high aspirations for our students, and seek to support them to be happy, successful and responsible young people, no matter what their background or circumstances. We offer a distinctively broad, personalised, and academically rigorous curriculum across our primary and secondary schools, and aspire to the highest standards of teaching and learning. Launceston College offers expert guidance and advice to students to help them shape and achieve their future goals without limitation. At Launceston College, we believe that all students are entitled to benefit from these opportunities, and we want to equip every student with the knowledge, skills and values they need to achieve the very best that they can.

Curriculum Pathways

There are two curriculum pathways available to students at Launceston College; **BLUE** and **GREEN**. As we have got to know our students over the last 3 years we have been able to assign a student a curriculum pathway based upon reading ages following NGRT tests, SATS and CATS scores, information from primary and secondary school teachers and in some circumstances using external professionals.

Both **BLUE** and **GREEN** curriculum pathways consist of compulsory courses which every student will study. These are;

- ✓ English Language and Literature
- ✓ Mathematics
- ✓ Science
- ✓ Geography or History
- ✓ Physical Education (PE)
- ✓ Character Lessons

Students, once allocated their curriculum pathway must then follow the criteria and choices below;

BLUE curriculum pathway	GREEN curriculum pathway
✓ Compulsory courses (listed above)	✓ Compulsory courses (listed above)
✓ French or Spanish	✓ 2 free options from list below
✓ 1 free option from list below	

There is a wide range of subjects available to choose from, as outlined in this booklet.

Contact Details

If you have any specific questions regarding the content of the subjects, please contact the faculty lead directly.

If you have any questions about the options process, please contact Mr M Adams on madams@launcestoncollege.uk

Compulsory courses for all pathways

Subject	CHARACTER LESSONS
Time needed	Part of Compulsory Core - 1 hour per fortnight
Course Description	All students will have the opportunity to study issues such as careers guidance, financial awareness, sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol, and exam planning. In Year 10 this also includes preparation for work experience.

Subject	PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)
Time needed	Part of Compulsory Core - 3 hours a fortnight
Course Description	<p>During Years 10 and 11 you will have three compulsory PE lessons a fortnight. The difference with this and what you were used to at key stage 3 is that you are now able to choose what activities suit you best based upon your interests.</p> <p>Full PE kit will still have to be brought to every lesson and full participation in each lesson is required, even if injured, as the role of leader, coach, official or choreographer become even more important during this stage of the school.</p> <p>In addition to the PE lessons, Performance Academy clubs, College events and house tournaments in many sports continue throughout the year.</p>

Subject	ENGLISH LANGUAGE and LITERATURE
Qualification Title	AQA English Language GCSE (code 8700) AQA Literature GCSE (code 8702)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	Part of Compulsory Core – (10 hours a fortnight in Year 10, 12 hours a fortnight in Year 11).
Core Units	<p>Language Examination Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing. 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks. 50% of GCSE. Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives. 1 hour 45 minutes, 80 marks. 50% of GCSE.</p> <p>Spoken language (non-examination assessment)</p> <p>Literature Examination Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel. 1 hour 45 minutes, 64 marks. 40% of GCSE. Paper 2: Modern texts and Poetry. 2 hours 15 minutes, 96 marks. 60% of GCSE.</p>
Course Description	<p>English language enables students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of texts covering the 19th – 21st Century. Also, students have the opportunity to improve writing skills, communicating through a range of genres.</p> <p>English literature allows students to explore a range of genres over time. Responses take the form of essays in response to extracts and theme or character based questions.</p> <p>GCSE English and English literature are both graded (separately) 9-1. All examinations are sat at the end of the course in Year 11.</p>
Faculty Lead	Mrs K Prouse

Subject	MATHEMATICS
Qualification Title	Edexcel Mathematics GCSE (code 1MA1)
Level of Award	1-2
Time needed	Part of Compulsory Core – (10 hours a fortnight in Year 10, 10 hours a fortnight in Year 11, of which 2 are during period 6 lessons).
Core Units	<p>Paper 1: Non-Calculator, 1hour 30 minutes paper, 33.3% of assessment.</p> <p>Paper 2: Calculator, 1hour 30 minutes paper, 33.3% of assessment.</p> <p>Paper 3: Calculator, 1hour 30 minutes paper, 33.3% of assessment.</p>
Course Description	<p>GCSE Mathematics is a vital subject for all students, equipping them with essential skills for success in all aspects of life. Building upon Key Stage 3 learning, the course deepens understanding of key areas such as number, algebra, ratio and proportion, geometry and measures, and probability and statistics.</p> <p>Students will sit three examination papers at the end of Year 11, choosing between the Foundation Tier (grades 1-5) or Higher Tier (grades 4-9). A scientific calculator, such as the Casio Fx-83GT, is essential. Compulsory homework includes 60 minutes per week on the Sparx platform, as the course progresses a weekly practice exam paper will also be set.</p> <p>Optional support includes XP Boost and Target sessions on Sparx. Independent learning is encouraged through the platform, allowing students to focus on specific areas.</p> <p>A revision guide will be available to buy from the Mathematics Department in Year 10 or 11. All students should aim for at least a grade 4 to unlock the best future opportunities. High-achieving students will have the opportunity to undertake a challenging Level 2 Extended Maths Qualification alongside the GCSE course.</p> <p>This program builds upon GCSE content, covering more advanced topics and developing deeper mathematical understanding. The Extended Maths Qualification is graded from Pass(Equivalent to grade 7) to Distinction*(Above the GCSE grade 9).</p>
Faculty Lead	Miss L Whitehouse

Science

All students in Year 9 have followed a course containing modules of biology, chemistry and physics. All students in Year 10 will follow AQA GCSE Combined Science (trilogy) which leads to 2 GCSE grades in Science. Students study GCSE content in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students who achieve high grades in GCSE will be able to progress to A-levels in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geology and Applied Science.

Subject	GCSE COMBINED SCIENCE
Qualification Title	AQA Combined Science GCSE (Trilogy) (code 8464)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	Part of Compulsory Core – 10 hours a fortnight
Core Units	This will be 100% terminally examined.
Course Description	<p>This is a linear course with examination being at the end of the 2 years. Students will study units of chemistry, biology and physics throughout the years and have two exams in each science at the end of Year 11.</p> <p>Students will carry out required practical investigations throughout the course, and will then be assessed on their practical skills in the exams with at least 15% of the marks coming from questions relating to those practical investigations.</p> <p>Students wishing to go on to A Levels will be able to do so if they achieve high grades in this award.</p>
Faculty Lead	Mr C Ryan

Humanities

Subject	GEOGRAPHY
Qualification Title	AQA Geography GCSE (code 8035)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	Part of compulsory core – 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes Content: Hazards, rainforests, deserts, coasts and glaciers Marks: 88 Weighting: 35% of GCSE</p> <p>Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes Content: Time: urban, changing economic world, resources, energy Marks: 88 Weighting: 35% of GCSE</p> <p>Paper 3: Geographical applications Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes Topics: Issue evaluation, skills, fieldwork Marks: 76 Weighting: 30% of GCSE</p>
Course Description	<p>Geography will help you to gain a clear overall view of the world in the first part of the 21st century and will allow you to fully appreciate and learn from the world around you. You will be looking at the way people live in and use their environment using a variety of different techniques including; fieldwork and analysing a wide range of sources.</p> <p>Geography will provide you with a sound foundation if you intend to continue to study the subject to a higher level, but also is a subject that will support others, including both English and mathematics. It also allows you the chance to come and learn within a very successful department.</p>
Department Lead	Mr J Benney

Subject	HISTORY
Qualification Title	AQA History GCSE (code 8145)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	Part of compulsory core – 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>1. America 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality. This period study focuses on the turbulent half century of change in the USA. From Boom to Bust, the American Dream to racial tension.</p> <p>2. Conflict and Tension 1918-1939. This wider world depth study focuses on the inter war years and the causes of the Second World War.</p> <p>3. Britain –Health and People: Medieval Medicine to Modern Day. This thematic study enables students to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over time.</p> <p>4. Elizabethan England 1568-1603. This option allows students to study the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign.</p>
Course Description	<p style="text-align: center;">“We are not makers of history. We are made by history.” <i>Martin Luther King</i></p> <p>For those who have enjoyed history at Year 9 and would like to discover more about the events that have shaped the world today they should opt for AQA History at GCSE. By studying GCSE History you will develop the necessary skills that can be applied to a wide number of other subjects. History is a well-respected and academic subject that will give you the necessary foundation to go on to study at A' level, working with a dedicated and enthusiastic team of History teachers.</p> <p>You will be able to use an individual text book in the course. Books you may find useful:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mastering Modern World History - Macmillan N. Lowe 2. Mini Dictionary of 20th Century History – Oxford 3. The Life of Elizabeth I - Alison Weir
Department Lead	Mrs E Gough

Subject	FRENCH / SPANISH
Qualification Title	Pearson GCSE (2025) French and Spanish qualifications
Level of Award	2
Time needed	Part of compulsory core – 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>The course is divided into the four skill areas of listening (25%) reading (25%), speaking (25 %), and writing (25%). All four skills will be assessed at either foundation or higher level at the end of Year 11.</p> <p>The themes covered include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● My personal world (family, friends, relationships and equality) ● Lifestyle and wellbeing (mental and physical well-being, food and drinks and sports) ● My neighbourhood (places in town, shopping, transport, the natural world and environmental issues) ● Media and technology (Music, TV and film, social media and gaming) ● Studying and my future (school and future opportunities of work) ● Travel and tourism (tourist attractions, accommodation and future opportunities of travel)
Course Description	<p>This course aims to give students the means to communicate in the target language on a variety of topic areas, providing a sound springboard to increase social and career opportunities as employers value the transferrable skills acquired by language learners.</p> <p>The content covered is engaging, contemporary and builds on existing KS3 knowledge.</p> <p>The vocabulary list for this new examination has been developed using a frequency-led approach in line with requirements set out by the Department for Education. It focuses heavily on the top 2,000 most frequently used words in each language.</p> <p>Independent study forms an integral part of the course and students will be expected to complete homework weekly, to learn the verb paradigms when new tenses are covered and to revise vocabulary on a regular basis to be able to meet the demands of the course.</p>
Faculty Lead	Mrs E Chudleigh

Optional Subjects

Design & Enterprise

Subject	BUSINESS ENTERPRISE & MARKETING
Qualification Title	OCR Cambridge National in Enterprise and Marketing
Level of Award	1 and 2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>The course is made up of three components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unit R067 - Enterprise and Marketing Concepts – controlled assessment (exam) • Unit R068 - Design a Business Proposal – controlled assessment • Unit R069 – Market and Pitch a Business Proposal – controlled assessment
Course Description	<p>Weighting - 60% coursework; 40% external assessment</p> <p>This qualification gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and understanding through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and skills in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge that underpins an effective use of skills, such as the activities, skills and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs, and the internal and external factors that can affect the success of an enterprise; in addition, the process of developing a business plan and using and applying marketing and finance knowledge • development of key skills that prove aptitude in planning an enterprise idea, including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attitudes and ways of working that are considered most important for enterprise, including monitoring and reflecting on the performance of an enterprise idea and own use of skills.
Course Coordinator	Mr M Smith
Faculty Lead	Mr A Sandford

Subject	COMPUTER SCIENCE
Qualification Title	AQA GCSE Computer Science (8525)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	Written Exam 100%
Course Description	<p>This is a new course relevant to the modern, changing world of computing, it's designed to boost computing skills essential for 21st century. It builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established through the Computer Science elements of the Key Stage 3 programme of study developing valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace alongside a deep understanding of computational thinking and how to apply it through a programming language.</p> <p>The GCSE in Computer Science encourages students to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation • Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs • Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically • Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems • Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society • Apply mathematical skills relevant to computer programming <p>The course assessment is broken down into two components, both requiring students to demonstrate practical programming skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Component 1 – Computational thinking, algorithms and programming - 50% Written Exam • Component 2 Computer Systems – 50% Written Exam
Course Coordinator	Mr W Kettle
Faculty Lead	Mr A Sandford

Subject	Creative iMEDIA
Qualification Title	CREATIVE iMEDIA (OCR CAMBRIDGE NATIONAL)
Level of Award	1 and 2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>The course is made up of three components:</p> <p>Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry (Mandatory Examined Unit)</p> <p>Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics (Mandatory Coursework Unit)</p> <p>Unit R095: Characters and comics (Coursework Unit)</p> <p>Weighting - 60% coursework; 40% external assessment</p>
Course Description	<p>Creative iMedia is suitable for everyone who is passionate about creative media. This suite offers vocationally-related, high quality, industry-recognised qualifications that develop skills and techniques for using digital media. Qualifications enable learners to gain relevant workplace skills and techniques, keeping them one step ahead in a highly competitive market.</p> <p>This course is designed to provide candidates with an understanding of the types and uses of digital graphics. Candidates will explore the equipment and settings required to take photographs and source digital images. They will be able to develop competencies in using digital image manipulation software to edit digital images to a particular specification and will be able to save these in different formats for different purposes such as digital animation.</p> <p>Lessons are primarily skills focused, allowing students to demonstrate creativity and software skills working through a set of pre-determined tasks. A scenario is given at the start of each coursework unit, this includes the client and work required. These scenarios are set by the exam board and changed annually. This course allows students to set and work at their own pace, whilst learning about pre-production skills used in industry.</p>
Course Coordinator	Mr W Kettle
Faculty Lead	Mr A Sandford

Subject	DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY
Qualification Title	WJEC/EDUCAS GCSE Design and Technology (Qual code C600QS QN 603/1121/6)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	Written Exam 50% NEA 50%
Course Description	<p>Are you the next big designer? Fancy yourself as a problem solver? Would you like to explore a creative industry that could take you all over the world?</p> <p>Look around you...almost everything you own and use has been designed and manufactured, using traditional skills or new technologies.</p> <p>Whether you want to work with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • timbers • metal • graphics • plastics <p>then this is the course for you.</p> <p>You will have the opportunity to explore and experiment with a range of materials and processes to create exciting and innovative products. This will allow you to build up a range of skills and knowledge throughout Year 10.</p> <p>Within Year 11 you will have hands on experience of developing your own product which will count for 50% of your final grade.</p> <p>This course will allow you to pursue a wide range of exciting career opportunities in an ever-growing creative industry.</p> <p>What will you design?</p>
Design Technology Lead	Mr A Sandford
Faculty Lead	Mr A Sandford

Subject	HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE
Qualification Title	BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech award in Health and Social Care
Level of Award	1/2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>Assessment: Two internally marked assignments and one externally marked set task.</p> <p><u>Component 1 - Human Lifespan Development</u> internal assessment - 30 % coursework</p> <p><u>Component 2 - Health and social care services and values</u> internal assessment - 30% coursework</p> <p><u>Component 3 - Health and wellbeing</u> External Exam – 40% Written examination</p>
Course Description	<p>Are you interested in becoming a Nurse, Midwife, Paramedic, Physiotherapist, Occupational therapist, Social worker, Teacher or working in mental health?</p> <p>Do you want to learn more about how to improve your own health and wellbeing?</p> <p>If so this course, which is equivalent to a GCSE, could be the first step towards a career in the Health or Social care sector.</p> <p>What does the qualification cover? The Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific knowledge and skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Interpreting data to assess an individual's health, and designing a plan to improve their health and wellbeing. ● Investigating care values, that are vitally important in the sector with the opportunity to practise applying them ● Developing your knowledge that underpins the effective use of skills, processes and attitudes, including human growth and development, health and social care services, and factors affecting people's health and wellbeing.
Course Coordinator	Miss C Cole
Faculty Lead	Mr A Sandford

Subject	HOSPITALITY AND CATERING
Qualification Title	WJEC Hospitality and Catering Technical Award.
Level of Award	Level 1/2 vocational Technical Award
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>This qualification has 2 units:</p> <p>Unit 1 enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety. Unit 2 enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook and present dishes.</p>
Course Description	<p>If you are interested in exploring what is hospitality, what kinds of technologies are used within the industry, changing trends and developments within and beyond the United Kingdom, what makes someone a vegan or gluten free, what skills are needed to prepare you for industry.....then this qualification is for you.</p> <p><i>Summary Assessment</i></p> <p>Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry Written examination: 1 hour 20 minutes 40% of qualification</p> <p>Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action Controlled practical assessment: approximately 12 hours 60% of qualification</p>
Department Lead	Mr S Pidgeon
Faculty Lead	Mr A Sandford

Expressive Arts

Subject	ART
Qualification Title	OCR Art & Design GCSE (code J171)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	Areas covered in GCSE Art: Drawing, painting, ceramics, paper sculpture mixed media. Artists work reviewed and used to inspire coursework Jan Vermeer, Da Vinci Banksy, Street Art, Dali, Surrealists, Mexican day of the dead, Jan Svankmayer, T.S. Abe, G O’Keffee, Peter Randal-Page, Grenville Davey
Course Description	60% coursework created throughout Years 10 and 11. The work consists of drawing, painting, mixed media and ceramics work. The final coursework will be selected and completed in the first half of the spring term in Year 11. 40% final examination is an eight week practical project responding to a selected question and inspired by an artist. This is completed in a 10 hour practical examination in the second half of the spring term in Year 11. Students from this school have gone to the best art colleges, and are employed in companies with world-wide reputations. Some have set up their own successful businesses; others have won top international prizes for their work.
Course Coordinator	Mrs E Pears
Faculty Lead	Mrs L Rose

Subject	DRAMA
Qualification Title	Edexcel Drama (code 1DRO)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	Component 1 – Devising. 40% of your GCSE (60 marks) Component 2 – Performance from a text. 20% of your GCSE (48 marks) Component 3 – Theatre Makers in Practice. 40% of your GCSE (60 marks)
Course Description	<p>If you enjoy any aspect of theatre – reading plays, watching performances and performing – GCSE Drama could be the option for you. There are lots of in-lesson opportunities to develop your performance skills, both individually through monologues and as a group, where you both learn set pieces and create original pieces. However, the drama course is far more than performance and you can actually choose a route that requires no assessed performances at all. With each component, you can choose to be a performer or a designer, choosing to act or specialising in the production elements of theatre – costume, sound, lighting or set.</p> <p>It is important that you know a lot of the assessed work is written work but the exploratory work that leads up to written assessments is largely practical. For example, for the devised piece (40% of the course) you will work in groups to create an entirely original piece of theatre from a set of stimuli. The written work is an evaluative portfolio that reflects on the success of your piece. The written work is worth more in terms of marks but the practical work really matters most because you need this as a basis for your writing.</p> <p>Theatre evaluation is also key and we will visit the theatre as part of the course, as well as watching performances by professional actors in some of our most celebrated plays. This course offers a skills-set that opens up opportunities far beyond acting. Those wishing to pursue a career in theatre and the arts will gain a firm foundation of how theatre is created as well as just what we do on stage. Those pursuing careers outside of the theatre will learn to express themselves with clarity and purpose in a way that would serve any path through their lives well.</p>
Course Coordinator	Mrs S Ray
Faculty Lead	Mrs S Ray

Subject	MUSIC (BTEC)
Qualification Title	BTEC (Pearson)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	Listening Examination 40% Coursework (Performing 30%, Composing 30%) 60%
Course Description	<p>The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is a specialist music industry vocational qualification with a practical focus. The aim of this qualification is to provide you with the knowledge and range of skills needed to become a successful music performer and producer. The course is equivalent to GCSE and fully accredited by OfQual and DfES.</p> <p>This course is 100% coursework. Component 3 takes the form of a timed assessment under controlled conditions based on an assignment set and marked by Pearson.</p> <p>COMPONENT 1 – EXPLORING MUSIC PRODUCTS AND STYLES 30% (internally assessed) COMPONENT 2 – MUSIC SKILLS DEVELOPMENT 30% (internally assessed) COMPONENT 3 – RESPONDING TO A COMMERCIAL MUSIC BRIEF 40% (externally assessed)</p> <p>Music is both a highly academic and highly creative subject. It is recommended that you take formal instrumental lessons with a qualified teacher on your instrument or voice. You should be passionate about learning an instrument or singing, and open to writing your own music and performing in front of others.</p> <p>The BTEC Music Qualification allows you to progress to, Level 3 BTEC and RSL courses, A Level Music and Music Technology courses, and higher education courses such as degrees in Music, Popular Music, Music Technology and Music Business.</p>
Course Coordinator	Mr R Strike
Faculty Lead	Mrs S Ray

Subject	SPORT
Qualification Title	Pearson BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2 in Sport (code 4779)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	Unit 1: Preparing Participants to Take Part in Sport and Physical Activity Unit 2: Taking Part and Improving Other Participants Sporting Performance Unit 3: Developing Fitness to Improve Other Participants Performance in Sport and Physical Activity
Course Description	<p>The BTEC Sport qualification is a varied and interesting course suitable for those students who have a strong interest in sport and want to learn more about sport, fitness and the human body.</p> <p>The BTEC Sport is 60% coursework and 40% exam. Students complete 3 components, of which one is a written paper that will be sat in the Summer term of Y11. The other two units are coursework based which are marked internally and moderated externally by the exam board.</p> <p>Coursework components include a range of tasks including, written assignments, practical performance, video evidence, presentations and leading sports events.</p> <p>Students will have six BTEC Sport lessons a fortnight, in addition to the three mandatory core PE lessons accessed by all students at KS4.</p> <p>At the end of the course students will achieve a Pass, Merit or Distinction or Distinction * grade, which are equivalent to GCSE level grades.</p>
Course Coordinator	Mrs L Rose
Faculty Lead	Mrs L Rose

Humanities

Subject	GEOGRAPHY
Qualification Title	AQA Geography GCSE (code 8035)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>Paper 1: Living with the physical environment Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes Content: Hazards, rainforests, deserts, coasts and glaciers Marks: 88 Weighting: 35% of GCSE</p> <p>Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment Time: 1 hour and 30 minutes Content: Time: urban, changing economic world, resources, energy Marks: 88 Weighting: 35% of GCSE</p> <p>Paper 3: Geographical applications Time: 1 hour and 15 minutes Topics: Issue evaluation, skills, fieldwork Marks: 76 Weighting: 30% of GCSE</p>
Course Description	<p>Geography will help you to gain a clear overall view of the world in the first part of the 21st century and will allow you to fully appreciate and learn from the world around you. You will be looking at the way people live in and use their environment using a variety of different techniques including; fieldwork and analysing a wide range of sources.</p> <p>Geography will provide you with a sound foundation if you intend to continue to study the subject to a higher level, but also is a subject that will support others, including both English and mathematics. It also allows you the chance to come and learn within a very successful department.</p>
Course Coordinator	Mr J Benney

Subject	HISTORY
Qualification Title	AQA History GCSE (code 8145)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>1. America 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality. This period study focuses on the turbulent half century of change in the USA. From Boom to Bust, the American Dream to racial tension.</p> <p>2. Conflict and Tension 1918-1939. This wider world depth study focuses on the inter war years and the causes of the Second World War.</p> <p>3. Britain –Health and People: Medieval Medicine to Modern Day. This thematic study enables students to gain an understanding of how medicine and public health developed in Britain over time.</p> <p>4. Elizabethan England 1568-1603. This option allows students to study the last 35 years of Elizabeth I’s reign.</p>
Course Description	<p style="text-align: center;">“We are not makers of history. We are made by history.” <i>Martin Luther King</i></p> <p>For those who have enjoyed history at Year 9 and would like to discover more about the events that have shaped the world today they should opt for AQA History at GCSE. By studying GCSE History you will develop the necessary skills that can be applied to a wide number of other subjects. History is a well-respected and academic subject that will give you the necessary foundation to go on to study at A’ level, working with a dedicated and enthusiastic team of History teachers.</p> <p>You will be able to use an individual text book in the course. Books you may find useful:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mastering Modern World History - Macmillan N. Lowe 2. Mini Dictionary of 20th Century History – Oxford 3. The Life of Elizabeth I - Alison Weir
Course Coordinator	Mrs E Gough

Subject	Religious Studies
Qualification Title	AQA Religious Studies GCSE (code 8062)
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 option block. 6 hours a fortnight
Core Units	<p>Paper 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices Time: 1 hour and 45 minutes Content: This is a systematic study of Christianity and Islam. Marks: 96, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG). Each religion is marked out of 48 Weighting: 50% of GCSE Questions: Each religion has a common structure of two five-part questions of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.</p> <p>Paper 2: Thematic studies Time: 1 hour and 45 minutes Content: This is a thematic study which explores the following four themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Theme A- Relationships and families. ● Theme B- Religion and life. ● Theme D-Religion, peace and conflict. ● Theme E- Religion, crime and punishment. <p>Marks: 96, plus 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG). Each theme is marked out of 24 Weighting: 50% of GCSE Questions: Each theme has a common structure of one five-part question of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12 marks.</p>
Course Description	<p>Religious Studies through the systematic study of Christianity and Islam will help you to gain a clear overall view of the lived experiences of religious believers in the 21st century. You will be looking at the way belief practices and teachings influence believers' lives. The Thematic Studies provides you with the opportunities to become confident to scrutinise, evaluate and challenge those contemporary complex issues, that exist in the 21st century.</p> <p>Religious Studies will provide you with a sound foundation if you intend to continue to study the subject to a higher level, in the form of philosophy. Religious Studies is also a subject that will support others, including English, psychology, history, and geography.</p>
Course Coordinator	Mr M Mitcheson

Extra Opportunities

Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh Award

Ten Tors

In Year 10 you have the opportunity to represent the school and take part in the annual Ten Tors event, we look to year 10 to provide our 35-mile team. Over the course of two days a team of six students have to navigate themselves across Dartmoor carrying all their equipment and being completely self-sufficient.

In October there will be a Ten Tors taster day where you can come along and ask questions to find out more about this challenge as well as try out some of the skills you will need to complete it.

You then start a training programme which consists of walks on the weekends and classroom sessions after school to gain the skills needed to take on this challenge. This requires a lot of commitment, but is a great challenge to be involved with.

More information is available via www.tentors.org.uk

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

The D of E scheme is the ideal opportunity for the students of Launceston College to widen their experience and challenge themselves alongside their academic studies.

You will be expected to be committed, enthusiastic and organised to overcome your volunteering, physical and skill sections for your Bronze D of E and demonstrating leadership, determination and resilience to overcome the 2-day expedition with your team mate.

It is the perfect opportunity for you to put yourself out of your comfort zone and develop team work and leadership throughout. The main thing is to have fun and develop your friendship further with your peers as a part of the outdoor learning opportunities we offer at Launceston College.

More information is available via www.dofe.org

Launceston Sixth

Whilst the majority of pupils in Year 9 may not know what they want to do as a career when they leave school, before selecting their final combination of Year 10 Options it is worth thinking ahead as to what choices will fit well with Post 16 courses. The Sixth Form at Launceston College has a broad range of subjects on offer, many of which will be new subjects that are not offered in key stage 4.

The College website has a detailed Sixth Form section with outline course descriptions that include advice about what prior learning would be advantageous or necessary for each course offered. Indeed, many courses at Post 16 will require pupils to have achieved at least a grade 6 at GCSE in the subject that they wish to study in the Sixth Form, or in a closely related subject.

In addition, for those students who do have firm ideas about where their futures may lie or have aspirations to attend university, the University Admissions Service website, www.ucas.co.uk has a vast amount of information about what qualifications are necessary for individual degree programmes.

The Sixth Form Leadership Team are more than happy to offer any advice and guidance to Year 9 pupils or their parents/carers about their options and how they might fit with potential Post 16 choices.

Mr S Rush – Assistant Principal

The next course is run after school as an additional opportunity, and is completed over two years. It does not count as one of the option choices and students wishing to study this should register their interest directly with Mr Piper before 1st July 2025.

Subject	ASTRONOMY
Qualification Title	Edexcel GCSE Astronomy
Level of Award	2
Time needed	1 hour per week after College
Core Units	2 Written Exams (75%) 2 Controlled Assessments (25%)
Course Description	<p>This after school optional class involves pupils making observations of the constellations and the moon. Students will have the opportunity to make a simple telescope and learn how to estimate their longitude using a stick and a watch.</p> <p>Students will study the formation of stars and the universe and explore the ways in which we observe planets, stars and galaxies. They will be able to use their mathematical skills in a variety of calculations.</p> <p>This course gives a deeper understanding of the principles of astronomy and complements both GCSE and A Level physics.</p>
Course Coordinator	Mr T Piper
Faculty Lead	Mr C Ryan