

Year 9 Options Information



Welcome

The aim of this booklet is to provide you with all the information you need to successfully choose your options. It is a really important decision, so it is essential you have everything you need to make an informed decision. If at the end of reading it, you have any more questions, please email me.

Choosing the subjects you would like to study in years 10-11 is a really exciting time in your education. You may already know what you want to do when you are older so will have a really clear idea of the courses you wish to take and how they will help you towards your chosen career. Alternatively, you might not know exactly what you want to do in the future yet, and in which case you will need to consider courses that will offer you a wide range of skills and qualifications so that you can access as many different opportunities later on in life. It's also really important in both scenarios that you choose to study subjects that interest and challenge you so that you really enjoy your learning in years 10-11.

Alongside reading this booklet, you will hopefully have watched a number of videos in your assemblies (also available on your Options Google Classroom) on the core subjects you will continue to study in years 10-11 and on those subjects that you may choose to study. Please take the time now to read through the pages in this booklet on those subjects you are interested in studying at KS4.

We will share details with how to select your options on January 23rd, following the Options Evening on January 22nd. If you have any questions at all after reading this booklet and watching the videos, please email me.

GCSE courses

The vast majority of GCSEs are assessed by an exam(s) at the end of the course. In some subjects this is one final exam, in others it could be two or three exams. For a few of the more practical courses, for example, Sport, Food Preparation and Nutrition and Art, there is a coursework element that will be completed during the course. The exam will therefore be worth a majority % of the final mark, with the coursework making up the remainder %.

Vocational grading

Vocational courses are assessed differently. They comprise a number of coursework units and an exam unit. The coursework units together make up the majority % of the final mark, with the exam making up the remaining %. It is possible in vocational courses to take the exam during year 10 or year 11 and to resit the exam if needed. This is significantly different to GCSEs and can remove the pressure of a final exam in year 11.

In vocational courses, you can get Level 1 grades of pass, merit and distinction (equivalent to GCSE grades 1, 2 and 3) and Level 2 grades of pass, merit, distinction and distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 4, 5.5, 7.5 and 9). All vocational courses are directly linked to an industry so have a strong vocational context to prepare students for a career/employment. At Newton Abbot College, we have a very strong track record of our students achieving Level 2 grades.

The Year 10 Curriculum in September 2026

Are some subjects compulsory?

Yes – you are expected to study Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, Science, a Humanities subject (History or Geography), core Religion and Values, and core Physical Education. You will gain one GCSE in each of Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, and a Humanities subject (History or Geography). You will gain two GCSEs in Science, unless you study the Separate Sciences, in which case this is three GCSEs. Core Physical Education and core Religion and Values are statutory but non-examined.

How many option subjects should you take?

In addition to the compulsory subjects listed above, you will select four options, with your first, second and third choices being your preferred options followed by a back up fourth choice. We will aim to give you your first, second and third options. If this is not possible you will be given your fourth options. Some subjects are limited in number. Please note that courses will only run if there are sufficient numbers who wish to take them.

How will you be helped and guided at college?

Each of you will have a meeting with a member of the Senior Leadership Team or a Head of Learning. This will take place in college and you will discuss your options. It is helpful that you have also discussed this with your parents/carers prior to the meeting. In addition, you will have attended subject specific assemblies and will have begun to think about your options during tutor time. To support your discussions, we have created a Google Classroom for you to join, (which your parents/carers can view with you) where you can access the full suite of subject specific videos that were delivered during the assemblies.

What are the timescales for this process?

Key dates are provided below.

How much should anyone else influence your options?

While this is clearly about your future, you will inevitably need guidance and input from your family and the college. You need to be motivated and happy to study your subjects. It makes such a difference if you study subjects you are good at and enjoy learning about, as well as ones that support possible future careers. It is also important to make sure you are not unduly influenced by friends; of course it is nice to be in the same class but you are going to be studying for an examination. You should not base your decision on a specific teacher as staffing often changes. You will not be in the same classes as you have been at Key Stage 3. It is essential that you choose option subjects carefully as there may be no flexibility to amend choices in the early days where classes are full.

When will you know what your subjects will be?

You should be told what option subjects you will be studying by the middle of the summer term, usually after the May half term.

How can GCSE choices affect future education and career plans?

At this age, few teenagers will have their future career mapped out and their ideas might change frequently between now and adulthood. Studying a broad balance of subjects will stand you in good stead for a wide range of career choices. We do recognise that some of you, regardless of ability, may benefit from a more vocational, skill-based course that provides a range of more explicitly identified work related opportunities in the future. In support of this, we are offering a range of vocational courses.

In summary:

We encourage you to think about your future study or career plans. Perhaps there are subjects you are sure you want to study in our Sixth Form and that you therefore need to continue with now as a GCSE or alternative qualification.

Also consider what you enjoy and are good at. We will provide you with the best possible advice and guidance to support your future success at Key Stage 4 and beyond.

We will also do our very best to give you your subject options, but this may not be possible in every case.

Key Dates

8th January 2026

Options assembly and students receive invite to join the Options Google Classroom

12th – 22nd January 2026

Students watch a series of subject videos during tutor time; all uploaded to the Options Google Classroom

Thursday 22nd January 2026

Options Evening 5.00 - 7.00pm

23rd – 30th January 2026

1-1 appointments between students and a member of the Senior Leadership Team/ Head of Learning Team; parents of SEND students will be invited

23rd – 30th January 2026

Option choices to be submitted online during this week – deadline 30 January

Summer Term 2

Options to be confirmed with students and parents/ carers

Core Subjects



English Language and Literature

What units/topics will you study?

In your English lessons you will study both English Language and English Literature. These are two separate GCSE qualifications.

During the English Language course, you will learn how to analyse and produce creative and descriptive writing pieces. You will also learn how to analyse and produce a range of transactional texts such as letters, leaflets, articles, speeches, and opinion pieces. In English Literature, you will study a 19th century novel, a post 1914 text, a range of poems and a Shakespeare play.

What is the exam board/specification?

English Language - AQA

English Literature - AQA

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

English Language

There is a Spoken Language endorsement for this course. Students prepare a presentation in consultation with their teachers and must present this to their class. It is graded PASS/MERIT/DISTINCTION. This will take place either at the end of year 10 or beginning of year 11. The rest of the course is assessed through examinations which are sat at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 Language - Explorations in creative reading and writing - 50%

Paper 2 Language - Writers' viewpoints and perspectives - 50%

English Literature

Is assessed through examination only. These will be sat at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 - Shakespeare and the 19th Century novel - 50%

Paper 2 - Modern Drama and Poetry since 1789 - 50%

What resources will you be using?

Visualisers - to model excellent work and examples
Curriculum booklets

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

None required.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Where possible, you will have the opportunity to attend theatre trips to see productions of the plays and texts you are studying.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

We offer three A Level courses which will expand upon your knowledge from GCSE:

A Level English Language

A Level English Literature

A Level Media Studies

What possible career paths could you follow?

Future career opportunities are numerous but could include teaching, journalism, media, public relations and publishing.

What else should you know about the subject?

English is an exciting, important and constantly changing subject. Regardless of the path you choose to take with your further education and career, studying English and developing your analytical skills will be highly useful. We want to encourage you to have a love of reading, to work effectively with others and develop the confidence to convey your opinion on a subject you feel strongly about.

A grade 5 in English Language is needed to study any Level 3 course in Sixth Form.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Miss L Newton

Mathematics

What units/topics will you study?

The qualification covers a variety of topics that develop the skills that you are learning in KS3. The topics can all be categorised as algebra, number skills, geometry and statistics.

What is the exam board/specification?

Edexcel for GCSE (code 1MA1).

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

All students sit three exams at the end of Year 11. Two of the exams allow the use of a calculator, the other does not.

What resources will you be using?

GCSE textbooks, Sparx, scientific calculators.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

You will need a scientific calculator. Be warned that sometimes cheaper calculators lack some of the applications that we use in lessons. Ask your Mathematics teacher if you are unsure what calculator to get.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Individual and team Maths challenges. Further Maths club-for those grade 7+ mathematicians. You will also be invited to join a study group that works towards the Further Maths Level 2 qualification offered by AQA. This is the perfect additional qualification, especially if you are looking to take A Level Maths and to support your grade 7/8/9 GCSE content.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

At NAC students have the opportunity to study A levels in both Mathematics and Further Mathematics. A level Mathematics is a great course for students wishing to develop their understanding of the concepts that they study in their GCSE. It is highly regarded by employers and many universities value Mathematics as a pre-requisite subject for a large number of degrees. Students who are passionate about mathematics and want to pursue a mathematics based career should consider studying both Mathematics and Further Mathematics. Studying both courses together allows students to explore many new topics, which really starts to bring the subject to life.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Most professional qualifications require a good knowledge of Mathematics. There are a wide variety of careers that link directly to Mathematics such as an engineer, an accountant and an actuary.

What else should you know about the subject?

Mathematics is a skill that can only be acquired through practice. Students who use their own time to practise the ideas that they have learnt in class can expect to meet or exceed their target grades. A grade 5 in Mathematics is needed to study any Level 3 course in Sixth Form.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mr R Butterworth

Combined Science

What units/topics will you study?

Combined Science covers a mixture of topics from Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Biology

- Cells & control, genetics, natural selection, health & disease, plants, coordination, control & homeostasis, exchange & transport, ecosystems

Chemistry

- States of matter, mixtures & separation, atomic structure, periodic table & groups, bonding & structure, acids & alkalis, electrolysis, oxidation & equilibrium, rates of reaction, fuels, atmospheric science

Physics

- Motion & forces, conservation of energy, waves, electromagnetic spectrum, radioactivity, electricity, magnetism & electromagnetic induction, particle model, forces and matter

What is the exam board/specification?

Edexcel 1SCO Combined Science specification

What qualification will I get?

Combined Science is a double award and students will receive two 9-1 GCSE grades.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment will be six terminal exams, each 70 minutes long. There are two exam papers for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What resources will you be using?

We use a wide range of resources to help our students understand the concepts and ideas covered by the course. Students will experience a wide selection of practical activities that include extracting DNA from peas, neutralising acids and using the principle of refraction to manipulate light. We follow a scheme of work based on the Edexcel specification and use resources from this. As well as course specific textbooks we also use the 'Biology, Physics and Chemistry for you' series.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

None required.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular support to students. We have an open door policy and encourage students to come for help when they need it. We also run a Science Ambassadors programme.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

A Level Biology, A Level Chemistry, A Level Physics and BTEC in Applied Biology.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Science is a core subject as it is an essential requirement for many college and university courses and professions. The skills and content covered in science span a huge range of careers including medicine, veterinary, midwifery, engineering, research, food science, mechanics, architecture, zoology, conservation, renewable energies, as well as teaching.

What else should you know about the subject?

Science is an exciting subject that introduces you to the secrets of the universe. The discoveries of science have, and continue to, revolutionise the way we live. However, the study of science inevitably requires the learning and understanding of many complex ideas and facts. To do well at science you need to be committed to hard work and be persistent when faced by challenges.

Please see 'Separate Science' in the preference subject section of this booklet for those wishing to study Science as three GCSEs. Students wishing to take Separate Sciences should be on track to achieve a grade 6 or above.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs S Malone

Geography

What units/topics will you study?

Unit 1 – Living with the physical environment

Topics covered: natural hazards, climate change, ecosystems, tropical rainforests, cold environments, coasts, rivers

Unit 2 – Challenges in the human environment

Topics covered: population, urban change, economic development, resource management, water, food, energy

Unit 3 – Geographical applications

Topics covered: geographical enquiry, coastal fieldwork, urban fieldwork

What is the exam board/specification?

AQA 8035 GCSE Geography

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE geography is 100% assessed through examinations at the end of year 11.

What resources will you be using?

We use a variety of resources to keep our study of geography relevant in an ever-changing world. This includes documentaries, newsclips, maps, GIS and a variety of visual resources.

All students are loaned a CGP revision guide for the duration of the course.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

None required.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Geography is not just something you can study in the classroom. We go out into the 'field' to study geography in action. There are two days of fieldwork investigating coastal processes at Dawlish Warren and urban change in Plymouth.

Students opting for Geography will be given priority on the Summer 2025 year 9 trip to London.

If there is sufficient uptake an Iceland trip is planned for 2026.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

In the Sixth Form you could go on to study Geography A level.

Geography is often called a bridging subject that complements both the arts as well as science subjects.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Geography provides students with a wide range of transferable skills that are attractive to employers. Possible careers include: Conservation Worker, Environmental Health Officer, Architect, Environmental Engineer, Landscape Architect, Recycling Officer and Teacher.

What else should you know about the subject?

Studying Geography enables young people to understand the world that they live in. The AQA GCSE course investigates a wide range of contemporary global issues that are important for all young people to be aware of.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs L Rowe

History

What course units/topics will you study?

GCSE History will give you the chance to study topics between 1100 and the present day. The course covers a broad range of content that encapsulates both British and World history. Students will study a period of the American West, c1835 – c1895 which covers westward expansion, the conflicts between white settlers and the Native Americans and the impact of the American Civil War. Students will also explore the reign of Elizabeth I, 1558-1588, through the British In Depth Study which looks at the problems Elizabeth I faced as queen as well as what it was like to live in Early Elizabethan England. The very popular thematic study on Medicine Through Time, c1250-present, is also covered along with a depth study of Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939. Students who study History enjoy the range, as well as the challenge, of the topics that we cover at GCSE

What is the exam board/specification?

You will be following the Edexcel Specification.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE History is 100% assessed through examinations at the end of Year 11.

Which resources will you be using?

The topics are taught using a range of books (both textbooks and the works of historians), plus a wide range of source material – including cartoons, portraits, artefacts, films and posters.

What equipment resources will you need to purchase?

Revision guides will be available to purchase near the end of Year 10 in preparation for the Year 11 mocks / end of GCSE examinations.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

If there is sufficient uptake, students will be offered the opportunity to visit the First World War Battlefields as part of the Medicine Through Time topic. This trip is directly linked to the historic environment part of the GCSE course as students will be studying the impact of the war on medical practices and specifically conditions in the trenches. This trip will be a fantastic opportunity to see these first-hand and for learning in the classroom to come to life.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

In the Sixth Form you could go on to study History at A-Level. GCSE History also complements the further study of subjects such as Politics, English, Philosophy, Drama and Art.

What possible career paths could you follow?

History GCSE is a well-respected academic subject that serves as excellent preparation for employment or Further Education. History will help you gather the skills needed for many careers, but particularly those in Law, Journalism, Archaeology, Research and Teaching.

What else should you know about the subject?

The study of History does involve quite a lot of independent reading and written work! However, as it helps you to develop such a lot of transferable skills (critical thinking, the use of evidence and the ability to form supported arguments) it is well worth taking on the challenge that History presents.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs C McDuff

Option Subjects



Art

What course units/topics will you study?

The Fine Art GCSE course is made up of two units of work:

Unit 1 Coursework (60%): a portfolio of work that contains at least one project based on a theme that students investigate in a sketchbook, folder work and a final piece. Other art work includes observational studies and learning new skills, i.e. printmaking or stone carving.

Unit 2 Examination (40%).

What is the Board and Specification

Art and Design: Fine Art/AQA 8202.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

All coursework units of work are marked by your teacher and moderated by an AQA examiner.

Which resources will you be using?

Digital camera, Photoshop editing software, iPad, pencil, soft pastel, oil pastel, ink, watercolour, acrylic paint, monoprinting, linoprinting, papier mache, wire, wood carving tools, stone carving tools and textiles.

What resources will you need to purchase?

Sketchbook, watercolours, drawing pencils, oil pastels. The Art Department sell these necessary items in an Art Pack or separately.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

- Art clubs
- Silver Arts Award (equivalent to Short Course GCSE)
- Artists' workshops

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

A Level Art and Design, Fine Art.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Art director, fine artist – painter; sculptor; printmaker, illustrator, graphic designer, fashion designer, milliner, commercial designer, industrial designer, animator, food photographer, fashion photographer, forensic photographer, art teacher, videographer, cosmetic designer, stylist, interior designer, architect, art therapist, web designer, stage designer, gallery assistant, antique restorer, model maker, silversmith, medical illustrator, signmaker, toymaker, wallpaper designer.

What else should you know about the subject?

Many students continue to study Art and Design courses in the Sixth Form and by applying for A Level Fine Art and A Level Photography.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs J Payne

BTEC Sport

What units/topics will you study?

Students will be studying the following components as part of the course to achieve this Level 2 qualification:

- Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity
- Component 2: Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance
- Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity

What is the exam board/specification?

Pearson Level 2 BTEC Tech Award in Sport.

What qualification will I get?

BTEC Level 2.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1 and 2 are assessed internally through coursework and are worth 30% of the overall qualification.

Component 3 is externally assessed through a 1.5 hour written exam and is worth 60% of the overall qualification.

What resources will you be using?

Students will be based in a mixture of classrooms and computer rooms as well as using the practical facilities on the college site.

Due to the nature of the course, which is predominately coursework based, the students will spend a significant percentage of their lesson time in a classroom learning the theoretical course content with occasional practicals to support their learning and apply the theoretical content.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

Students will be encouraged to purchase the recommended revision guide and workbook for this course, which will support them with their exam preparation.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Students will be encouraged to attend and support a wide range of the college extra-curricular clubs which will help them to develop their leadership skills.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

Level 3 BTEC National Diploma Sport.

Level 3 BTEC National Diploma Sports Coaching and Development.

What possible career paths could you follow?

This course can lead to a whole variety of career opportunities in the sport and active leisure industry, as well as sports coaching and teaching. It can provide a platform for careers in personal training and sports development.

What else should you know about the subject?

This course assesses you in a wide range of skills, such as written, practical and leadership skills.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs K Swan and Mr C Briant

Business

What units/topics will you study?

The Business GCSE is made up of the following units:

- Business in the real world
- Influences on business
- Business operations
- Human resources
- Marketing
- Finance

What is the exam board/specification?

AQA Business (8132)

What qualification will I get?

GCSE in Business.

How will you be assessed?

Paper 1: Influences of operations and HRM on business activity

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE

Paper 2: Influences of marketing and finance on business activity

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

- 90 marks
- 50% of GCSE

What resources will you be using?

Lesson booklets

Google Classroom: lesson content and revision material

E-Revision: homework and revision

Quizlet: quiz website

Tutor2U: revision materials

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

You do not need to purchase anything essential to the course however a range of revision guides, flashcards are available to purchase via ParentPay.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

We have selected outreach events run by Plymouth University and the University of Exeter Business Schools aimed at Key Stage 4 Business students. We also aim to invite guest speakers to the college to talk about elements of business.

What can I study at NAC sixth form?

A Level Business

What possible career paths could you follow?

Business ownership and entrepreneurship, marketing, accountancy, law, financial management, human resources or operations and logistics.

What else should you know about the subject?

It doesn't matter if you have not studied Business prior to taking this course. You might have an interest in business and want to start your own one day. You may be interested in learning about how new product ideas are developed, costed, financed and marketed and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. It will also enable you to develop important life-skills such as managing your finances, researching and decision-making and presenting to an audience.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs A Davies

Computer Science

What units/topics will you study?

Principles of Computer Science

Topic 1: Computational thinking

Topic 2: Data

Topic 3: Computers

Topic 4: Networks

Topic 5: Issues and impact

Application of Computational Thinking

Topic 6: Problem solving with programming.

What is the exam board/specification?

Edexcel GCSE Computer Science (9-1) 1CP2

What qualification will I get?

GCSE Level 9-1 in Computer Science

How will you be assessed?

50% of GCSE - Paper 1 Principles of Computer Science

1 hour 30 minutes written paper

50% of GCSE - Paper 2 Application of Computational Thinking

2 hour on screen programming

Both exams are taken at the end of Year 11

What resources will you be using?

You will use a range of different software including Microsoft Office and the Google Suite alongside Python in Pieces to write code. Online revision platforms used are Know it All Ninja and E-Revise.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

None required although revision guides are available if you choose to purchase them.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

The course will be supported by additional computer programming sessions alongside after school revision sessions.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in IT.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Every career now involves some form of using computers. Cyber Security (where it is estimated we have over 100,000 roles unfilled in the UK), Computer programmer, Network manager, Database designer, Web developer, Software engineer, Game designer or AI related jobs such as Machine learning engineer - the list is almost endless.

What else should you know about the subject?

You need to enjoy coding to choose this course, however, not all work is completed on screen; in theory lessons you will use a book to make notes. This is a challenging subject, be prepared to work hard, have a look at the salaries for jobs in this field, you have to be prepared to work hard to earn that much!

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Miss C Fellows

Design and Technology

What units/topics will you study?

Areas of study are in two sections:

1. Technical principles (Core and Specialist): materials (paper and board, timber, polymers & metals). Ethical implications, engineering elements, manufacturing processes and techniques.
2. Designing and making principles: Research and designing skills, modelling and manufacturing skills.

All students completing this course are expected to have a basic knowledge of a complete range of materials which will be covered in the core technical principles.

The course will be taught through a range of practical (designing and making) and theory lessons. Learning about the design process through design and make projects, learning skills and techniques through focused practical tasks, research and theory activities. Students can specialise in a material group through their independent NEA projects which they start in June of year 10.

What is the exam board/specification?

AQA 8552 GCSE Design and Technology.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

50% Non-Exam Assessment (NEA). This is started in the summer term of year 10.

50% 2 hour written exam paper in the Summer of Year 11.

What resources will you be using?

Students will continue to develop their workshop based practical skills using hand tools and machines where necessary to create prototypes and models.

Students will be expected to develop, communicate, record and justify design ideas and apply suitable techniques, for example: formal and informal 2D and 3D drawings; annotated sketches; 3D models.

Students will develop their use and understanding of CAD (computer aided design) and CAM (computer aided manufacture) to model and create accurate and high-quality prototypes.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

Students can purchase the D&T CGP revision guide. Other materials will be shared with students through Google Classroom. If there are bespoke materials or components required for their NEA and the school does not stock it, they may need to purchase these themselves.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Students will have the chance to participate in design and STEM competitions and activities run in college. Attending the 3d computer design club, Design and Technology support sessions and being a subject ambassador.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

Product Design A Level leads on from the GCSE.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Taking this subject could lead to a career in project management, the design industry including architecture, product design and development, many areas of engineering, product manufacture, town planning, set designer, interior designer, furniture designer, automotive engineer, graphic designer, packaging designer and working in fashion design.

What else should you know about the subject?

The study of Design and Technology will prepare you to a designer and maker in an increasingly technological world. It will help develop skills enabling you to see an idea through to a final outcome. Design and Technology encourages the practical application of Maths and Science to create solutions to problems.

Where can I find out more?

<https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/design-and-technology/gcse/design-and-technology-8552/specification/specification-at-a-glance>

Head of Department: Mrs A Calder

Drama

What units/topics will you study?

Component 1: Devising Theatre

You will participate in the creation, development and performance of a piece of devised theatre. You will produce:

- A portfolio of supporting evidence based on the rehearsal process
- A performance lasting between 5-16 minutes (depending on the number of actors in your group)
- An evaluation of the final performance or design.

Component 2: Performing from a Text

You will study two extracts from the same text chosen by you or your teacher. You can choose to be assessed on acting or design. You will produce:

- A performance lasting between 5-14 minutes using sections of text from both extracts.

Component 3: Interpreting Theatre

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes. You will answer:

- Section A: Set Text - a series of questions based on the set text that you have studied.
- Section B: Live Theatre Review - one question from a choice of two, analysing and evaluating a given aspect of a live theatre production seen during the course.

What is the exam board/specification?

WJEC Eduqas.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

You will be assessed on both practical exploration and performance and written documentation that supports your understanding of the practical work explored. Component 1 is an internal assessment and externally moderated. Component 2 and 3 are external assessments.

What resources will you be using?

Departmental support materials, theatre lights, projections and sound, technical support from a trained technician, different sets and staging, year 12/13 expert support, professional agencies including theatre groups and educational establishments.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

None required.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Extra-curricular clubs in Drama for both the written and acting aspect of the course, performances and showcasing work, creating work for the whole college community, working alongside theatre companies, universities and other local arts initiatives and attending performances both inside and outside of college.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

A Level Drama and Theatre Studies.

BTEC Level 3 in Performing Arts.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Some students go on to study Drama in some of the most recognised Drama colleges and conservatoires in Britain such as RADA or the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Many also choose to study Drama as degree courses at university. A number of students forge successful careers as actors, directors, lighting or sound designers, costume, hair and make-up designers or stage designers. There are many other career paths including stage managers, press and PR managers and producers. Others go on to various universities (including Russell Group) to train in a broad range of careers including teaching, law, publishing, politics, translation, science, occupational therapy and journalism.

What else should you know about the subject?

Drama is an academic, analytical and investigative subject, which builds leadership and team skills and confidence - all transferable skills that are essential in the world of work. When business leaders were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace capability to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Drama, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed - whatever your ambitions!

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs C Ballard

Food Preparation & Nutrition

What units/topics will you study?

Food Preparation skills
Food Nutrition and Health
Food Science
Food Safety
Food Choice and Food Provenance

What is the exam board/specification?

AQA Food Preparation and Nutrition 8585.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

EXAM: 1 Paper: Food preparation and nutrition (50%) Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes (20 multiple choice questions worth 20 marks and 5 questions each with a number of sub questions worth 80 marks.)

NON- EXAM ASSESSMENT (NEA): Task 1: Food investigation (15%)
Written Report showing students' understanding of the working characteristics and functional and chemical properties of ingredients. Students will submit a written report (1,500–2,000 words) including photographic evidence of the practical investigation.

NON- EXAM ASSESSMENT (NEA): Task 2: Food preparation assessment (35%)
Written Portfolio showing students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task. Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved. Students submit a written portfolio (15 A4 pages) including photographic evidence.

What resources will you be using?

Practical lessons will develop a wide range of skills, while theory will be taught through real life scenarios. Students will use a wide range of resources from books, video clips, food sampling and product analysis. Scientific experiments will also be completed as part of the course.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

Ingredients for practical lessons will have to be purchased. There is a recommended revision guide that students will find useful when learning and revising.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Opportunity to enter locally organised competitions: Rotary chef/ Springboard.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

This course prepares you well for WJEC Level 3 Food Science and Nutrition.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Consumers are becoming increasingly reliant on the food industry to develop solutions for their nutritional needs. This course could lead to roles such as a food product developer, buyer (who travels the world sourcing new food products for manufacturers), food safety inspectors, nutritionists, dieticians, quality managers, teacher, food engineer, food scientist, food technologist, food photographer, food stylist, home economist, chef, hotel and restaurant manager, microbiologist, working in food magazines, radio and television – for more information on food careers please visit [www. http://tastycareers.org.uk/](http://tastycareers.org.uk/).

What else should you know about the subject?

This is a subject that focuses on learning through doing so practical work is an important aspect. If you have an interest in food product development, food science, molecular gastronomy or the catering industry this is the subject for you.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs A Calder

French

What units/topics will you study?

The AQA French course is based on 3 key themes: People and lifestyle (identity and relationships, healthy living, education and work)
Popular culture (free time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations, celebrity culture)
Communication and the world around us (travel and tourism, media and technology, the environment and where people live)

You will continue to study a range of grammar and vocabulary to enable you to discuss the topics above confidently and with fluency. You will also have the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of different cultures in the French-speaking world.

The option to study both languages is possible, depending on the cohort uptake, so you could continue with the language you have studied since year 7 as well as studying a new language.

What is the exam board/specification?

AQA GCSE French

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

All exams will take place at the end of Year 11.
Listening paper (25%)
Reading paper (25%)
Writing paper (25%)
Speaking exam with teacher (25% - externally marked)

What resources will you be using?

The French course uses a range of engaging resources and a digital textbook supported by Active Hub. This is designed specifically to support the GCSE specification. We also encourage students to use Quizlet and Duolingo to support their language learning at home.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

Revision guides will be available to purchase in Year 10 and 11 but there are also lots of excellent, free resources and apps online.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

You may have the opportunity to travel to France on a language immersion trip. The trip aims to develop language skills, as well as cultural understanding. We run Duolingo competitions throughout years 10 and 11 and aim to develop links with local universities. We also offer revision sessions in Year 11.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

We offer A Level French

What possible career paths could you follow?

With a GCSE in French, you could pursue a career in travel, international business, law, media and communication or a more traditional route such as journalism, translation or teaching. In a global market, employers value and need people with foreign language skills.

What else should you know about the subject?

A GCSE in French is a real asset to anyone hoping to go on to further education. Regardless of your chosen career path, studying a language also develops a wide range of transferable skills such as communication, problem solving and critical thinking. Students will also gain confidence and a wider appreciation of other cultures.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs C Pollard

Geography

What units/topics will you study?

Unit 1 – Living with the physical environment

Topics covered: natural hazards, climate change, ecosystems, tropical rainforests, cold environments, coasts, rivers

Unit 2 – Challenges in the human environment

Topics covered: population, urban change, economic development, resource management, water, food, energy

Unit 3 – Geographical applications

Topics covered: geographical enquiry, coastal fieldwork, urban fieldwork

What is the exam board/specification?

AQA 8035 Title???

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1 – Living with the physical environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation, grammar and specialist terminology (SPaG))35% of GCSE

Unit 2 – Challenges in the human environment

Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes

88 marks (including 3 marks for SPaG)35% of GCSE

Unit 3 – Geographical applications

Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes

76 marks (including 6 marks for SPaG)30% of GCSE

Pre-release resources booklet is made available 12 weeks before Unit 3 exam

What resources will you be using?

Computers, websites, textbooks, atlas, video clips, maps, fieldwork equipment.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

None required.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Revision workshops

Coursework catch-up sessions

Fieldwork visits

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

A Level Geography.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Geography provides students with a wide range of transferable skills that are attractive to employers. Possible careers include: Conservation Worker, Environmental Health Officer, Architect, Environmental Engineer, Landscape Architect, Recycling Officer and Teacher.

What else should you know about the subject?

Studying Geography enables young people to understand the world that they live in. The AQA GCSE course investigates a wide range of contemporary global issues that are important for all young people to be aware of.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs L Rowe

Hair

What units/topics will you study?

The Level 2 Extended Certificate in Hairdressing will enable students to develop skills, techniques and knowledge enabling them to progress further within this sector. Each of the units covered will provide a foundation for further study in Hairdressing. The units that will be studied are:

- Health & safety UCO9
- Shampooing and treating hair UHB8
- Blow-dry and finish hair Uhb3
- Basic plaiting and twisting hair UHB10
- Creating an image based on a theme UCO6
- Promote yourself and prepare for a job interview UCO16

What is the exam board/specification?

VTCT - CO2C2 Level 2 Extended Certificate in Hairdressing (QN-601/5793/8).

What qualification will I get?

Level 2 Extended Certificate in Hairdressing

How will you be assessed?

By providing written and practical evidence for the assessment criteria within the qualification.

Units you will be assessed on include:

- Creating an image based on a theme
- Blow-dry and finish hair
- Health and safety
- Shampooing and treating hair
- Basic plaiting and twisting hair
- Promoting yourself and preparing for a job interview

Assessments are ongoing and completed by trainers/assessors on site.

Twice a year external IQA assessors will assess students' final units.

Knowledge questions are completed at the end of each unit. Units will be marked as a Pass, Merit and Distinction throughout the year when a unit has been completed.

What resources will you be using?

On site fully stocked hairdressing salon for practical assessments and classroom for theory lessons.

What equipment/resources will you be using?

All equipment will be provided.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Hairdresser, salon owner, self employed hairdresser, bridal hair stylist, cruise ship hairdresser, trainer/assessor.

What else should you know about this subject?

You will need to perform practical elements of the course on others and have them performed on you. Excellent communication skills are needed to be able to communicate with clients.

Where can I find out more?

Hair: Mrs J Reid (in Sixth Form House)

Health and Social Care

What course units/topics will you study?

Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development (assignment based): students will investigate how, in real situations, human development is affected by different factors and how people deal differently with life events.

Component 2 – Health and Social Care Services and Values (assignment based):

students study and, practically explore, health and social care services, barriers to accessing them, and how they meet the needs of real service users. They also develop skills in applying care values and reviewing their own practice.

Component 3 – Health and Wellbeing (two hour exam):

students will study the factors that affect health and wellbeing, learning about physiological and lifestyle indicators, and how to design a health and wellbeing improvement plan.

Skills required:

To be successful on this course, students will need to apply themselves both intellectually and practically as we complete assignments, exam content and put learning in to practice when visiting different care sectors such as care homes. Additional skills and qualities needed are organisation, commitment and determination to achieve the most from this course as possible.

What is the exam board/specification?

Edexcel.

What qualification will I get?

BTEC Tech Award Level 2 (D*2).

How will you be assessed?

Students complete four assignments on this course and sit one two hour exam.

Component 1 – Human Lifespan Development – two assignments (30% towards overall grade)

Component 2 – Health and Social Care Services and Values – two assignments (30% towards overall grade)

Component 3 – Health and Wellbeing - External exam – two hours (40% towards overall grade)

Students complete their assignments during lesson time and submit them on deadline dates. Their teacher will then mark their assignment, return their assignment to the student with which the student then has 15 days to make any changes to their assignment and resubmit it to receive their final grade.

Which resources will you be using?

Online learning platforms that support learning in this subject: All assignments are completed on computers/chrome books at school and typed up using google classroom. This allows students to be able to access their assignments during lesson time and at home. When completing assignments or the exam unit all PowerPoints and support information is placed on the google classroom for students to be able to access when writing assignments or revising for the exam.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

Level 3 National Diploma in Health and Social Care.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Future career roles include doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants, while social care roles include care assistants, occupational therapists, counsellors and administrators.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs K Swan and Mr C Briant

History

What course units/topics will you study?

GCSE History will give you the chance to study topics between 1100 and the present day. The course covers a broad range of content that encapsulates both British and World history. Students will study a period of the American West, c1835 – c1895 which covers westward expansion, the conflicts between white settlers and the Native Americans and the impact of the American Civil War. Students will also explore the reign of Elizabeth I, 1558-1588, through the British In Depth Study which looks at the problems Elizabeth I faced as queen as well as what it was like to live in Early Elizabethan England. The very popular thematic study on Medicine Through Time, c1250-present, is also covered along with a depth study of Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939. Students who study History enjoy the range, as well as the challenge, of the topics that we cover at GCSE

What is the exam board/specification?

You will be following the Edexcel Specification.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

GCSE History is 100% assessed through examinations at the end of Year 11.

Which resources will you be using?

The topics are taught using a range of books (both textbooks and the works of historians), plus a wide range of source material – including cartoons, portraits, artefacts, films and posters.

What equipment resources will you need to purchase?

Revision guides will be available to purchase near the end of Year 10 in preparation for the Year 11 mocks / end of GCSE examinations.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

If there is sufficient uptake, students will be offered the opportunity to visit the First World War Battlefields as part of the Medicine Through Time topic. This trip is directly linked to the historic environment part of the GCSE course as students will be studying the impact of the war on medical practices and specifically conditions in the trenches. This trip will be a fantastic opportunity to see these first-hand and for learning in the classroom to come to life.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

In the Sixth Form you could go on to study History at A-Level. GCSE History also complements the further study of subjects such as Politics, English, Philosophy, Drama and Art.

What possible career paths could you follow?

History GCSE is a well-respected academic subject that serves as excellent preparation for employment or Further Education. History will help you gather the skills needed for many careers, but particularly those in Law, Journalism, Archaeology, Research and Teaching.

What else should you know about the subject?

The study of History does involve quite a lot of independent reading and written work! However, as it helps you to develop such a lot of transferable skills (critical thinking, the use of evidence and the ability to form supported arguments) it is well worth taking on the challenge that History presents.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs C McDuff

Media Studies

What units/topics will you study?

The Media Studies GCSE uses the framework of media language, representation, media industries and audiences to study media forms.

In Component 1 of the course you will study the media forms of newspapers, advertising and marketing, magazines, radio, video games and film.

In Component 2 you will study television, music video and online media. In Component 3 you create a media product that will either be a television sequence, a music video, a film poster or magazine.

What is the exam board/specification?

Eduqas GCSE Media Studies.

What qualification will you get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

Component 1: Exploring the Media

Written Examination – 40%

Component 2: Understanding Media Forms and Products

Written Examination – 30%

Component 3: Creating Media Products

Coursework / Non-Exam Assessment – 30%

What resources will you be using?

Digital camera, Adobe Creative Suite software, lighting and video camera equipment.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

All equipment will be provided.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

Where possible, you may have the opportunity to visit university campuses and gain an insight into training in media industries or visit advertising agencies and local media outlets to see media professionals in practice.

What can you study at NAC Sixth Form?

We offer A Level Media Studies.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Journalism, marketing and advertising, content creation and vlogging, graphic design, film and television production, broadcasting, game design and marketing.

What else should you know about the subject?

Media Studies is a modern, exciting new subject that is at the forefront of message and meaning analysis in our increasingly digitally connected world. Studying media gives you an insight into how and why the media produce the messages they do and how we as audiences are influenced by them. The course gives you practical skills on how to create media products but also requires writing skills to the same standard as the English GCSEs.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs A Davies

Music

What units/topics will you study?

Performance (30%)

You will be required to perform two pieces using either an instrument, vocals, or music technology. One of these must be an individual performance, the other a group piece (both performances will be recorded).

Composition (30%)

You will create two pieces of music. These can be written in any form (notation/tab/chord sheet and lyrics) and performed live or recorded using music technology. One of your compositions will be to a brief set by the exam board.

Listening and Appraising Music (40%)

You will sit a one and a half hour listening paper where you will recognise key features of Music such as keys, rhythmic devices, instrumentation and melodic devices.

What is the exam board/specification?

Eduqas GCSE Music.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

30% Performance

30% Composition

40% Listening and Appraising

What resources will you be using?

You will have the opportunity to use a variety of instruments / voice and music technology to complete your coursework.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

We recommend having instrumental/vocal lessons.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

It is vital that you demonstrate your commitment to Music by attending extra-curricular activities. You will be given the opportunity to perform at a range of high-profile events in college, such as our Winter, Spring and Summer concerts, our Ivy Trust Music event and our Year 6 Transition Events. We also offer workshops, visiting musicians, practice room space for music students and peripatetic lessons alongside Key Stage 4 Band, Orchestra, Choir, Composition Club and our College Production.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Music Performing

What possible career paths could you follow?

A career in the music industry can allow for many exciting opportunities. These include:

- Performer – solo artist, band member, pit bands
- Composer – writing music to all scales, film music, songs, music for purpose
- Promoter/A & R representative/music marketing – event management
- Song writer – writing your own chords and lyrics, working with other musicians
- Educator – teaching, youth work, instrumental tuition, workshops
- Studio engineer – recording artists, mixing and mastering tracks
- Sound engineer – managing sound at gigs/festivals, building sets and stages
- Music Journalism – Articles and review writing

What else should you know about the subject?

Our course is fun; lots of performing, composing and listening to great music whilst analysing its key features. You must have a passion for music and be prepared to engage fully with Music at NAC. Experience with an instrument(s) or vocals is preferred. Instrumental grade 3/4 standard is expected by the end of year 11, on at least one instrument/ or voice and we ask all students to consider taking instrumental lessons, if they don't already. We will always support you in your chosen instrument and encourage you to progress as much as possible. We aim to improve your ability as a musician and help you develop confidence throughout the course as well as looking at taking the subject further in Sixth Form.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mr M Simm

Performing Arts

What units/topics will you study?

- Technical and interpretive skills development in dance, drama and musical theatre
- Choreographic and devising skills
- Analysing various professional practitioners in the dance, drama and musical theatre industry
- Performance preparation
- Working in the Performing Arts industry
- Production features

What is the exam board/specification?

WJEC Performing Arts.

What qualification will I get?

Technical Award Level 2.

How will you be assessed?

Unit 1: Performing

You will research, rehearse and perform an existing piece of work or repertoire. For example, a dance and section of dialogue from a musical or a song and dance from a musical.

Unit 2: Creating

You will choreograph or devise an original piece of work based on a stimulus.

Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice

You will be given a brief by the exam board and will plan, promote, pitch and evaluate your performance.

What resources will you be using?

D1 Theatre, PA1/dance studio, full public address (PA) system, lighting systems for production, tablets and speakers.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

You can purchase a Performing Arts t-shirt for a small fee. This isn't compulsory. There is also a sweatshirt available but this is not essential. Black leggings or joggers are to be worn alongside the Performing Arts t-shirt or PE top.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

- A place in the Senior Dance Company and the Musical Theatre Company
- The annual College production
- 'Dimensions' dance and musical theatre showcase
- Theatre trips to a variety of venues
- Performance opportunities; both inside and outside of college hours
- Workshops with professionals
- Dance room rehearsal space/PA1

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

BTEC Performing Arts, Drama A Level and BTEC Music Performance

What possible career paths could you follow?

Within the Arts: performer (dancer, singer, actor), stage manager, events manager, director/choreographer, producer, writer, technician, musician, teacher (secondary school or dance/theatre school), designer, theatre marketing.

Performing Arts is a subject that provides a broad education that transcends many subjects and interests because of its academic approach and practical work.

What else should you know about the subject?

You must have a love for performing and want to improve your skills. It is a very active subject that develops key skills in communication, collaboration, listening and leading.

You will have lots of performance opportunities, so must be comfortable performing on stage.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Performing Arts: Mrs Bellamy

Head of Drama: Mrs Ballard

Photography

What course units/topics will you study?

The Photography GCSE course is made up of two units of work:

Unit 1 Coursework (60%): a portfolio of work that contains at least one project based on a theme that students investigate in a sketchbook, folder work and final pieces. Other photography work includes learning new skills and techniques, i.e. studio lighting, moving images, pin-hole cameras.

Unit 2 Examination (40%).

What is the exam board/specification?

Art and Design: Photography AQA 8206.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

All coursework units of work are marked by your teacher and moderated by an AQA examiner.

Which resources will you be using?

Digital camera, Photoshop editing software, iPad, drawing materials, studio lighting and back drops.

What resources will I need to purchase?

We recommend that you have a digital DSLR or Bridge Camera with fully manual controls, but it is not essential. You could use your phone to take photos for homeworks.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

- Art clubs
- Silver Arts Award (equivalent to Short Course GCSE)
- Artists' workshops

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

A Level Photography.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Art director, fine artist – painter; sculptor; printmaker, illustrator, graphic designer, fashion designer, milliner, commercial designer, industrial designer, animator, food photographer, fashion photographer, forensic photographer, art teacher, videographer, cosmetic designer, stylist, interior designer, architect, art therapist, web designer, stage designer, gallery assistant, antique restorer, model maker, silversmith, medical illustrator, signmaker, toymaker, wallpaper designer.

What else should you know about the subject?

Many students continue to study Art and Design courses in the Sixth Form by applying for A Level Fine Art and A Level Photography.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs J Payne

Public Services

What units/topics will you study?

Core Units (compulsory):

- The Role and Work of the Public Services
- Working Skills in the Public service Sector
- Public Services and Community Protection
- Health, Fitness and Lifestyle for the Public Services

What is the exam board/specification?

Pearson BTEC

What qualification will I get?

Level 1/ 2 First Award. This is a Level 2 qualification; the grades range from Level 1 P (Pass) to Level 2 D* (Distinction*). Learners who do not achieve at Level 2 may be graded at a Level 1. Learners whose level of achievement is below a Level 1 will receive an unclassified (U) result.

How will you be assessed?

You will be assessed through a mixture of core and optional units. There is one externally assessed unit worth 25% of the course and this is assessed through an hour long (60 minutes) exam/ written assessment. The remaining assessments are assessed internally through portfolio work. There are two core units that are compulsory and further optional specialist units where you will choose to study two out of three of the available units. No prior knowledge or qualification is needed to access the First Award course. Learners will have the opportunity to develop their personal, learning and thinking skills. English and mathematics skills are embedded in the assessment criteria.

What resources will you be using?

You will use desktop computers and IT systems to build your portfolios. You will use revision materials, notes and workbooks.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

None required.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

You may have the chance to get involved in some local community projects, including talks and opportunities with different public service personnel.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

Learners who achieve a Level 2 may be able to access other level 2 or 3 qualifications.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Future career opportunities are numerous but could include the Armed forces, border force officer, police officer, health service manager, civil service careers, fire and rescue service, prison officer, probation officer, paramedic, social services.

What else should you know about the subject?

With public service employment having risen to 5.77 million (Office for National Statistics, September 2022), it is growing sector that teaches you to problem solve and find solutions. The course covers a wide range of public services and you study things such as how the different public services are structured; the purpose of each public service; how they are funded; how to work as a team; and using working skills in the sector.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs K Swan and Mr C Briant

Religious Studies (RS)

What units/topics will you study?

Component 1 – The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices in Christianity and Islam

Component 2 – Thematic studies: religious and ethical studies of a range of contemporary issues including:

- **Religion and Life** – consideration of different beliefs about abortion, euthanasia and the afterlife
- **Religion, Peace and Conflict** – evaluation of the rules of Just War, pacifism, the use of weapons of mass destruction
- **Religion, Crime and Punishment** – evaluation of the purpose of punishment, corporal punishment and the death penalty
- **Religion, Relationships and Families** – consideration of different attitudes to divorce, premarital and extramarital sex and same-sex relationships.

What is the exam board/specification?

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A.

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

There will be two examinations at the end of Year 11, each 1 hour and 45 minutes long.

What resources will you be using?

The topics are taught using a range of resources including news articles, textbooks, guest speakers, visual resources and religious artefacts.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

Revision guides will be available to purchase in preparation for GCSE examinations.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

We offer an open-door policy encouraging students to seek additional support. The course will also be supported with extra revisions workshops. We also provide opportunities for students to become subject ambassadors.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

Many students who study Religious Studies at GCSE continue their studies in Philosophy and Ethics at A Level. Religious Studies also provides an excellent foundation for A Level Psychology, Sociology, English and History.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Religious Studies is a highly regarded academic subject that provides excellent preparation for employment or Further Education. Religious Studies will help you acquire the skills needed for many career paths particularly in Law, Medicine, Social Care and Teaching.

What else should you know about the subject?

Religious Studies is a fascinating subject that is constantly evolving to reflect the diverse world we live in. It allows students to study religious and non-religious worldviews through the lenses of Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology and Theology and to develop their own, reasoned perspectives on a range of topics that shape the world we live in.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Ms C Cowan

Separate Sciences

What units/topics will you study?

Separate Sciences is three separate GCSEs in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Biology

- cells & control, genetics, natural selection, health & disease, plants, coordination, control & homeostasis, exchange & transport, ecosystems

Chemistry

- states of matter, mixtures & separation, atomic structure, periodic table & groups, bonding & structure, acids & alkalis, electrolysis, oxidation & equilibrium, transition metals, rates of reaction, fuels & hydrocarbons, alcohols & carboxylic acids, atmospheric science, quantitative analysis, qualitative analysis

Physics

- motion & forces, conservation of energy, waves, electromagnetic spectrum, radioactivity, electricity & static electricity, astronomy, magnetism & electromagnetic induction, particle model, forces and matter

What is the exam board/specification?

We follow the Edexcel 1BIO, 1CHO and 1PHO specifications.

What qualification will I get?

A GCSE 9-1 in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

How will you be assessed?

Assessment will be six terminal exams, each 105 minutes long. There are two exam papers for each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

What resources will you be using?

We use a wide range of resources to help our students understand the concepts and ideas covered by the course. Students will experience a wide selection of practical activities that include extracting DNA from peas, neutralising acids and using the principle of refraction to manipulate light. We follow a scheme of work based on the Edexcel specification and use resources from this. As well as course specific textbooks we also use the 'Biology, Physics and Chemistry for you' series.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

None required.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

We offer a wide range of extra-curricular support to students. We have an open door policy and encourage students to come for help when they need it. We also run a Science Ambassadors programme.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

A Level Biology, A Level Chemistry, A Level Physics and BTEC in Applied Biology.

What possible career paths could you follow?

Science is a core subject as it is an essential requirement for many college and university courses and professions. The skills and content covered in science span a huge range of careers including medicine, veterinary, midwifery, engineering, research, food science, mechanics, architecture, zoology, conservation, renewable energies, as well as teaching.

What else should you know about the subject?

Science is an exciting subject that introduces you to the secrets of the universe. The discoveries of science have and continue to revolutionise the way we live. However, the study of science inevitably requires the learning and understanding of many complex ideas and facts. To do well at science you need to be committed to hard work and be persistent when faced by challenges.

Please see 'Combined Science' in the core subject section of this booklet for those wishing to study Science as two GCSEs. Students wishing to take Separate Sciences should be on track to achieve a grade 6 or above.

Where can I find out more?

Head of Department: Mrs S Malone

Spanish

What units/topics will you study?

The AQA Spanish course is based on 3 key themes: People and lifestyle (identity and relationships, healthy living, education and work)

Popular culture (free time activities, customs, festivals and celebrations, celebrity culture)

Communication and the world around us (travel and tourism, media and technology, the environment and where people live)

You will continue to study a range of grammar and vocabulary to enable you to discuss the topics above confidently and with fluency. You will also have the opportunity to develop your knowledge and understanding of different cultures in the Spanish-speaking world.

The option to study both languages is possible, depending on the cohort uptake, so you could continue with the language you have studied since year 7 as well as studying a new language.

What is the exam board/specification?

AQA GCSE Spanish

What qualification will I get?

GCSE 9-1.

How will you be assessed?

All exams will take place at the end of Year 11.

Listening paper (25%)

Reading paper (25%)

Writing paper (25%)

Speaking exam with teacher (25% - externally marked)

What resources will you be using?

The Spanish course uses a range of engaging resources and a digital textbook supported by Active Hub. This is designed specifically to support the GCSE specification. We also encourage students to use Quizlet and Duolingo to support their language learning at home.

What equipment/resources will you need to purchase?

Revision guides will be available to purchase in Year 10 and 11 but there are also lots of excellent, free resources and apps online.

What extra-curricular opportunities will be on offer?

You may have the opportunity to travel to Spain on a language immersion trip. The trip aims to develop language skills, as well as cultural understanding. We run Duolingo competitions throughout years 10 and 11 and aim to develop links with local universities. We also offer revision sessions in Year 11.

What can I study at NAC Sixth Form?

We offer A Level Spanish.

What possible career paths could you follow?

With a GCSE in Spanish, you could pursue a career in travel, international business, law, media and communication or a more traditional route such as journalism, translation or teaching. In a global market, employers value and need people with foreign language skills.

What else should you know about the subject?

A GCSE in Spanish is a real asset to anyone hoping to go on to further education. Regardless of your chosen career path, studying a language also develops a wide range of transferable skills such as communication, problem solving and critical thinking. Students will also gain confidence and a wider appreciation of other cultures.

Where can I find out more?

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