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THE Mosslands SCHOOL

Options Booklet
for 2015

A Technology College

Important Dates

Thursday 12th March	Year 9 Parents' Evening
Friday 13th March	Students return their Option Form



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Introduction

Welcome to our Key Stage 4 Advice Evening and to our Options Booklet for 2015, which I hope you find interesting and informative.

As you enter Years 10 and 11 (Key Stage 4), you have for the first time, some choice over the subjects you will study.



The purpose of this booklet is to:

- Present to you and your parents the curriculum and courses which are planned for September 2015
- Outline the **Pathways** and the subject choices available in each route
- Explain the syllabus content, course structure and assessment arrangements for these courses
- Help you to make decisions, which will be appropriate, relevant and lead to success in the next and subsequent stages of student life.

Our aim is to provide you with a broad and balanced curriculum, tailored to your individual needs which leads to a range of possibilities and opportunities post 16.

Since the National Curriculum continues until the end of Year 11, some of what is studied at Key Stage 4 is compulsory. These subjects are outlined on **The Core Programme** pages of this booklet. The rest of the Key Stage 4 curriculum is optional. You will need to spend some time discussing and selecting which subjects to study for the next two years.

For students, this is an exciting but often challenging time and I would urge you to talk with Subject Tutors, Form Tutors, House staff, Careers Advisors and myself at the forthcoming Parents' Evening in order to ensure that the right decisions are made, as changing courses in September is very difficult.

It is important that the Options Form is returned to your Form Tutor on the day following the Parents' Evening. The Option booklet contains a wealth of information about courses, examinations and coursework requirements and so should be kept safe so you can refer to it over the next two years. Please note, that although we aim to provide you with your first choice courses, we cannot guarantee this as some courses are limited in number by the need for specialist facilities, it is possible that some courses may not run due to lack of numbers and some combinations will prove impossible to timetable. This is why you asked to select reserve choices and these need just as careful consideration as your preferred choices.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff at Mosslands, I would like to wish you every success as you embark on this new and exciting phase of your education.

Mrs V M Lee (*Deputy Headteacher*)



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Guidance – Some Questions and Answers

What is my recommended Pathway?

Your recommended pathway is shown on the top of your individual option form. This pathway has been recommended for you having taken into consideration your strengths, your ability, your preferred working style and the courses you are following in Year 9.

Each pathway is colour coded throughout this booklet:

GCSE Route, Level 2 is **Yellow**



Applied Route, Level 2 is **Red**



Can I change my Pathway?

Yes – but first you must talk with your House Staff or Mrs Lee.

What subjects must I study?

All students must study English Language, English Literature, Maths, Science (which counts as 2 GCSEs or 3 GCSEs if you take Separate Sciences), ICT, PE, RE and Careers.

Can I take anything I want?

You already know that some subjects are compulsory.

If you are on the Yellow Pathway you need to make three options, **at least one** subject from Block A and the others from Block B.

If you are on the Red Pathway you need to make three options following the guidance on your form.

It is possible that some subjects will not run because of lack of numbers or that some courses will be oversubscribed. That is why you are asked to indicate a reserve choice, indicating it with a 'R', and you need to think about these as carefully as your preferred choices.

What is the 'English Baccalaureate'?

The 'English Baccalaureate' is not a qualification in its own right. It is a measure of achievement across a range of subjects. To achieve this, you must gain a GCSE at grades A* - C in English, Maths, two Sciences, a Modern Language (French) and a Humanity subject (History or Geography). It is possible that the subjects that contribute towards this measure will change.

Do I have to choose a language?

The short answer is no. However, as a result of the ever-increasing links with Europe, there is a strong demand for people with qualifications and proficiency in at least one modern language. If you enjoy languages, you should think carefully about studying French. Also be mindful that at the present time, a language is an essential component of the English Baccalaureate.

Will I be able to change my mind next year?

No – it will not be possible to move between subjects after the beginning of Year 10 so you are signing up now for a two year programme.



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Will I be able to cope with the work?

You will obviously choose some subjects because you have succeeded in them. Remember that a subject may be very useful even if you do not like it. However, it is wise to avoid any subject in which you have experienced real difficulty. You will get out of your courses what you put into them. This means that you must work steadily both in class and at home.

Independent Study is an essential part of all examination courses.

How do I choose?

Choosing the subjects you will study for the next two years is an important crossroad in your life. Although you do not have to decide upon your career now, and even though you will not be leaving school for at least another two years, it is important to realise that the subjects you choose could affect your future.

It is important to keep a balance of subjects in order to keep as many career doors open as possible as you will be guided in this.

Remember that:

- Your ideas about careers and jobs might change
- It is wise to have a general career direction in mind rather than one specific career
- If you think you know what you want to do as a career, check the subjects you need, but still keep an overall balance.



To help making choices, use the following:

This booklet

Your recommended pathway

Results of your recent assessments shown on your Option form

Comments and grades in your report

Advice from subject, House staff and Careers Advisors at the Parents' Evening

Our website – www.mosslands.co.uk

www.nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk

www.futuremorph.org

When do I have to choose?

You must make your decision by the day following the Parents' Evening. This is shown on the second page of this booklet. The Option form must be returned to your Form Tutor on time.

Do

- Select subjects which you enjoy studying and remember those that may be new to you
- Select subjects that you are good at
- Ask family, friends and teachers for advice
- Find out everything possible about a subject as you will be taking it for two years

Don't

- Select a subject because your friend is doing it: you probably won't be in the same class
- Select a subject because you like the teacher: you will probably have a different teacher at Key Stage 4
- Select subjects that are too similar: you should have a range of qualifications for your future and to vary your days.

The Qualifications You Can Get

All courses last two years.

GCSE

GCSE stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Most GCSE subjects require you to complete a final examination AND controlled assessment. The examination tests not only memory and orderly presentation of facts but also understanding, practical and other skills and the ability to apply knowledge. For example, it tests how well a student can conduct an experiment in Science, tests practical skills in Art and oral skills in English and Modern Languages.

GCSEs are graded from A* to G but students will not do exactly the same class work. In some subjects there will be a choice of papers or questions to suit their abilities. Students will be guided as to which papers and questions they will attempt and the work they will undertake during the course.

The new GCSEs in English and Maths are graded from 9 to 1, with 9 being the highest grade and grades 5 and above considered equivalent to a 'good' GCSE pass.



BTEC

BTECs are applied qualifications which fully engage students. They provide a more practical real – world approach to learning and skills development. The qualification could be in readiness for the workplace or continued study at the next level whether in an academic environment or a more specialist applied area.

The BTEC Level 2 First Awards are equivalent to one GCSEs graded A* - C.
Taking a BTEC does not prevent students from progressing to Level 3 courses post 16.

Level 1 Qualifications

On the National Qualifications Framework, these include:
GCSEs grades D – G

Level 2 Qualifications

On the National Qualifications Framework, these include:

- BTEC Level 2 First Awards
- GCSEs grades A* - C or in English & Maths, GCSE grades 9 to 5.



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THE KEY STAGE FOUR CURRICULUM

Firstly, the **Core Programme** is taken by every student. So you will study:

- English
- Maths
- Science
- ICT
- PE
- RE
- Careers (including Citizenship, Work Related Learning & Enterprise Education).

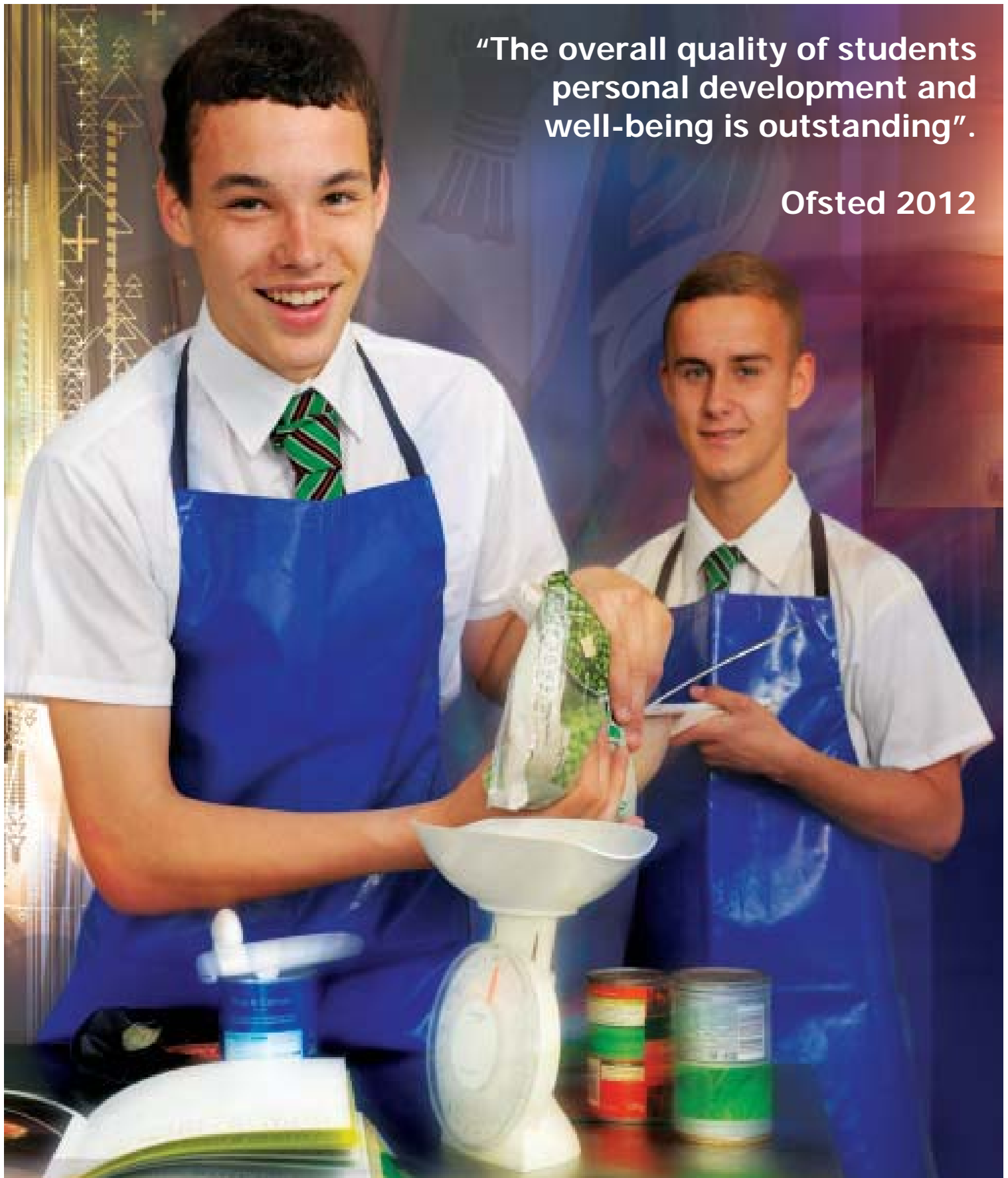
In total, you will need to make **three** options but remember, some subjects count as more than one option as shown in the table below.

Subject	Level	Pathway	
		GCSE Route Level 2	Applied Route Level 2
Art & Design	1 & 2		
Business Studies	1 & 2		
BTEC Construction & The Built Environment	1 & 2		
Drama	1 & 2		
Food	1 & 2		
French	2		
Geography	1 & 2		
History	1 & 2		
Humanities	1 & 2		
BTEC Music	2		
Physical Education	1 & 2		
Resistant Materials	1 & 2		
Separate Sciences	2		
BTEC Travel & Tourism	2		



“The overall quality of students personal development and well-being is outstanding”.

Ofsted 2012



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The Core Programme



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English Language

Qualification: GCSE English Language

QAN Code: 601/4292/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

You will:

- Demonstrate your understanding of fiction and non-fiction texts
- Develop close reading and analytical skills in evaluating specific texts
- Write descriptive and narrative pieces
- Write to present a viewpoint
- Develop communication skills through discussion and presentation.

Assessment:

This is two year course is assessed through external examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks
50% of GCSE

Paper 2: 1 hour 45 minutes
80 marks
50 % of GCSE

Spoken Language: This is set and marked by your English teacher. It is a compulsory part of the course and is certified separately.

Other Information:

It is a requirement that students study both English Language and English Literature.

English is an important requirement for many careers and Higher Education courses and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate.



Qualification: GCSE English Literature

QAN Code: 601/4447/6

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

You will:

- Develop close reading and analytical skills in evaluating specific texts
- Read and study a Shakespeare Text
- Read and study a 19th Century Novel
- Read and study a Modern Text
- Read and study a collection of poetry on the theme of power and conflict.

Assessment:

This is two year course is assessed through external examination at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th Century Novel

1 hour 45 minutes
64 marks
40% of GCSE

Paper 2: Modern Text and Poetry

2 hour 15 minutes
96 marks
60 % of GCSE

Other Information:

It is a requirement that students study both English Language and English Literature and therefore gaining two separate GCSEs in the English subjects.

English Literature

Miss Adley

Pathway



Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 601/4608/4

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

Maths GCSE is a core subject taught to all students in Year 10 and Year 11. It is an essential part of any student's education, with many employers and Universities requiring Maths GCSE as part of their entry criteria. The course also allows students to become numerate, think clearly and logically and analyse situations, all of which will help them in everyday life. The Higher course also provides a good grounding for those students who want to go on and study Maths A Level or Further Maths A Level, as students will have to devise solutions to more complex problems.

During the course students will study:

- Number – this includes money, decimals, fractions and percentages.
- Algebra – algebra allows students to solve more complex problems and study sequences, solving equations and formulae.
- Geometry and measures - studying shapes allows students to understand the world around them. They will look at problems involving angles, measures, 2-D and 3-d shapes. The higher course will also look at trigonometry and circle theorems.
- Ratio, proportion and rates of change – students will study the relationships between two or more variables. This area of mathematics has applications in science, engineering, business and economics. They have particular use in chemistry and physics where they can be applied to anything from rates of chemical reactions to the proportion of the gravitational pull of stars on planets.
- Probability – students will look at how likely events are to happen, Probability is used widely in maths, statistics, finance, science, artificial intelligence and computer science.
- Statistics – here students will learn how to collect and interpret data, how to construct a variety of graphs and how to calculate and interpret averages.

Assessment:

The course is based entirely on exams. Students sitting the Higher Tier (Level 9 to 4) and the Foundation Tier (Level 5 to 1) will follow a Linear course.

The Linear course consists of three papers at the end of Year 11, a non-calculator and two calculator papers. Students will be targeted for a particular tier of entry at the beginning of Year 10 but this is not finalised until January of Year 11.

Other Information:

GCSE Maths is an important requirement for many careers and Higher Education courses and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate. The Higher course will prepare a student for A/AS Level Maths and Further Maths, which is also offered at the school. Maths is a requirement for many careers and opens up many doors. Careers involving Maths specifically include Engineering, Banking, Finance and many more.



Qualification: GCSE

Science QAN Code: 600/1357/6

Additional Science QAN Code:
600/1355/2

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: OCR



What you learn about:

The 21st Century Science Curriculum provides students with the knowledge and understanding they need to engage, as informed citizens, with science-based issues. The curriculum is contemporary and relevant to students and covers a breadth of contexts and ideas across the three science areas.

The Biology curriculum covers a range of topics investigating living things and their environment. It looks at topics as varied as Biotechnology, animal behaviour and inheritance.

Within the Chemistry course you will discover the many uses of elements and the industrial techniques used to extract them from the earth. Chemistry is a study of chemical reactions and the mechanisms behind them.

Physics is the science of how things work and throughout the physics course you will learn about topics such as forces, energy and also develop an understanding of electricity. You will learn about our planet and its place within our galaxy, and ultimately, the universe.

Assessment:

The Science and Additional Science specifications each consist of nine modules that are assessed through three exams at the end of year 11. There is also controlled assessment that consists of a Data Analysis and Case Study for Science and an Investigation for Additional Science. It is worth 25% of the final grade for each qualification. Those students who opt for separate Science will be taught seven modules for each of the science strands. This is assessed through nine exams at the end of year 11. The controlled assessment component consists of three practical Investigations and is worth 25% of the final grade for each qualification.

Other Information:

Science is a compulsory subject at key stage 4 and a contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate. Students will either take the Science or Separate Science pathway.

Students will be advised as to which course they are best suited to follow.

Science

Mrs Hood

Pathway



Qualification: BCS ECDL Certificate in IT Application Skills (QCF)

QAN Code: 600/6943/0

Level: 2

Exam Board: ECDL



What you learn about:

ECDL is the world's number one IT user qualification—and the benchmark for digital literacy in educational systems around the globe. ECDL equips students with the skills to use a computer confidently and effectively, building on existing knowledge and motivating further learning. The qualification builds a more productive and efficient learner. The course promotes e-learning and automated exam testing to give confidence to all participants. ECDL Level 2 in Application Skills is a qualification that employers recognise and look for in school graduates. The course also incorporates elements of Computer Science.

The course is split into the following four exam units which will be conducted online:

- Word processing
- Spreadsheet software
- Presentation software
- Improving productivity using IT.

Assessment:

This qualification is the equivalent of a GCSE and is offered at Level 2.

Level 2 enables students to gain grades A* to C.

The four tier grading structure gives learners appropriate recognition for their efforts:

Distinction* 58 points (A*)

Distinction 52 points (A)

Merit 46 points (B)

Pass 40 points (C).

All four units are Exam based, carried out online, are externally marked and there is no coursework element.

Other Information:

During the course you will have access to lunch and after school support to help you prepare for each unit exam. Your lessons will be used to teach you skills related to the unit topic and to practice exam techniques to help you develop the required knowledge for the course.

ICT



Optional Subjects



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Art & Design

Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/4536/2

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

This is a broad based Art and Design course that prepares students well for access to Post-16 study. Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences exploring a range of two and/or three-dimensional media, techniques and processes including both traditional and new technologies. This may include Fine Art (Drawing, Painting, Mixed media, Ceramics) and Graphic Communication with some use of computer software graphics packages.

Students will be expected to develop their practical work by exploring relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to an area of art, craft and design. This will require independent research and investigation into a particular theme, this may be from a period or aspect of Art or Design from the past or from recent times and could be from anywhere in the world. Their practical response to this research must show an understanding of different styles, genres and traditions investigated.

Assessment:

Unit 1: Portfolio of Work

Coursework consists of one extended or two projects that are set internally by the subject teacher. There will be coursework deadlines at the end of year 10 and mid-January of the second year of the course. It is this/these project/s that make up the student's portfolio of work. The Coursework Portfolio makes up 60% of the final assessment.

Unit 2: Externally Set Project

A Question paper, written by the Examination Board and issued from 1 January in the second year of the course, provides the starting point for a final project.

After an allocated period of preparation time, students must produce a final piece of work during a supervised controlled test period of 10 hours. The work produced during this time must be unaided.

The final Externally Set Project makes up 40% of the final assessment.

Other Information:

To meet the standards of a GCSE course in Art and Design, students will be required to complete work outside of lesson times- the department runs both lunchtime and evening sessions on set days.

This may take the form of independent research and investigation into a particular theme or may require the completion of practical work.

It is important that students enjoy and feel confident in their ability in the practical aspect of this subject.

A basic range of art materials and access to the internet at home would be useful but is not compulsory- sketch-books and other materials can be purchased at a discounted rate from the department.



Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/4576/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



What you learn about:

It doesn't matter if you haven't studied business prior to taking this course. You might have an interest in business, and want to start your own business one day. You may have an enquiring mind and be interested in learning about the world around you, how businesses are set up, and what it is that makes someone a great entrepreneur. This course will help you to understand all this and more.

You will be introduced to:

- The world of small businesses
- What makes someone a successful business person
- How to develop an idea and spot an opportunity, and turn that into a successful business
- How to make a business effective
- How to manage money
- How the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

Assessment:

This is a GCSE qualification and you can achieve a grade ranging from A* - G.

There are three units of study over the two years:

- **Unit 1** is externally assessed through a 45-minute paper - Multiple-choice and objective test questions.
- **Unit 2** is internally assessed under controlled conditions - The task is internally marked by teachers and moderated by Edexcel.
- **Unit 3** is externally assessed through a 1 hour 30 minutes paper - Questions will comprise of a combination of multiple-choice, short- and extended-answer, data response and scenario-based questions.

Other Information:

This course can help you prepare for further and higher education such as AS/A2 Levels and BTEC and NVQ courses. You will become skilled in making decisions, being creative, solving problems, understanding finance, dealing with data, communicating and working as part of team. A GCSE Business qualification could lead to work in a business-related profession such as accountancy, law, marketing or the leisure, travel and tourism industry.

Business Studies



Qualification: Award in Constructing the Built Environment

QAN Code: 601/0543/4

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC



What you learn about:

This hands on and very practical based qualification is a new course designed to offer learners the opportunity to learn about the world of construction. The qualification is based around 'plan, do review' concept of learning and will allow learners the opportunity to learn and develop a wide range of construction based skills including joinery, decorating and plumbing.

The course is structured into 3 units. These are:

1. Safety and security in construction
2. Practical construction skills
3. Planning construction projects.

The units provide learners with 'real world' experiences in this field to prepare them for further learning at A Level, an apprenticeship or a work based college course.

Assessment:

Unit 1 will be assessed by an online 60 minute examination.

Units 2 and 3 are assessed via a range of project work and practical tasks completed during the two year course.

Other Information:

You will be expected to learn a range of new skills throughout the duration of the course. This is a real life course that is taught in a real life situation, to enrich and reinforce the skills required to embark upon a career within Construction.



Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/4578/7

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



What you learn about:

GCSE Drama is all about understanding what it is like to put yourself in somebody else's shoes. You will play many parts in different imaginary situations.

- You will have the opportunity to create your own work as well as look at plays written by other people.
- You will develop your improvisation and acting skills to a higher level; using a wide range of drama techniques to create stylised performance work.
- You will also be able to acquire skills in working with others, problem solving and communication.
- Drama will make you feel more confident, preparing you to deal with a range of different situations and people.

Drama

Assessment:

Unit 1: Drama Exploration (30%)

You will use drama to express your feelings and ideas about a range of issues. You will take part in an assessed practical workshop, exploring your responses to a range of stimulus material.

Unit 2: Exploring Play Texts (30%)

You will look at a play to see how a playwright expresses their ideas about a theme or topic and explore ways of making the play work on stage. You will see a piece of Live Theatre which you will evaluate as part of your documentary response.

Unit 3: Drama Performance (40%)

You will create your own performance piece from a provided stimulus which is performed to an audience including an external examiner.

Other Information:

The Drama Department has high expectations of its students. This is a practical and creative subject which requires you to act and behave in a mature and responsible manner

Theatre trips are organised to influence your practical work and to support the evaluation of a piece of live theatre.



Food & Nutrition

Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/4399/7

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC



What you learn about:

It is the aim of the Food Technology Department to encourage and develop a passion, knowledge and understanding about the food we all prepare and eat. We endeavour to give students a grounding in this key life skill. We also consider it is important to make students aware of the health and social effects that derive from their own choice of food products. In the last 3 years, the Department has recently been fully refurbished and can now boast having a professional catering quality level of equipment throughout its rooms.

All of our KS4 students will undertake a Food Technology GCSE. This allows them to draw on all the theory they have studied in KS3 as well as augmenting this with a deeper level of the theory that is taught in Years 10 and 11. The students will have the opportunity to create a wide variety of individual dishes that incorporate many different cooking techniques. They will be taught about how different dietary conditions affect the food ingredients that can be used for any particular market and/or client, and will be expected to develop food products that are marketable and fully realistic.

This GCSE has the potential to lead to students taking further Key Stage 5 and Higher Education Programmes.

Assessment:

This specification requires one 10 hour and one 20 hour controlled assessment projects to be completed.

This assessment accounts for 60% of the final GCSE grade, with the remaining 40% being made up from the examination at the end of Year 11.

Other Information:

The Food Technology department commits itself to teaching students to prepare and cook food products in a safe and hygienic manner.

We aim to bring out the full potential of each student, allowing them to discover and develop their own style and culinary tastes.



Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/4569/6

Level: 2

Exam Board: WJEC



What you learn about:

The GCSE French course is designed to build on the basic skills acquired during Key Stage 3. The course gives students the opportunity to learn the French language within the context of a number of relevant and interesting settings.

These include:

- Lifestyle: health and relationships
- Leisure: free time, new technology, shopping, the media and holidays
- Home & Environment: home, local area and the environment
- Work & Education: school and future plans

The four skills will be developed in a lively and up-to-date manner using a wide range of resources. Students will develop the ability to communicate effectively in French through both the spoken and written word as well as to develop an understanding of the spoken and written forms of the language and its grammar. They will also develop a knowledge and understanding of France and other French-speaking countries.

French

Assessment:

The GCSE course is assessed in the four skills that have been assessed at Key Stage 3, namely Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing.

Listening and Reading exams are at the end of Year 11 and are based on the knowledge of key vocabulary and other language structures.

Assessment is at two tiers: Foundation and Higher with the opportunity to mix tiers across the four skill areas. 60% is controlled assessment of speaking and writing (completed during Years 10 and 11) and 40%, listening and reading exams.

Other Information:

This course will provide a suitable foundation for further study, whilst allowing practical use of French.

As part of their studies, students may be offered the opportunity to participate in a study trip to France.

They will also have the opportunity to work closely with a French-speaking Assistant.

A language is recognized as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate.



Geography

Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 600/5143/7

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC



What you learn about:

Geography is the world subject. It helps us make sense of the world and it gives us powerful knowledge. It even helps you understand some of the other subjects that you are studying too.

Geography is current and topical, making use of the latest technologies: GIS, Google Earth and Mapping tools, combined with digital video and images bringing the world into the classroom.

Year 10:

- Water
- Climate Change
- Living in a hazardous environment
- Changing populations
- Interdependence
- Development

Year 11:

- Tourism
- Retail
- Coasts
- Ecosystems
- Other skills include enquiry skills, developing a working knowledge of the world around us, generating presentations and adapting to change with ideas and Coursework will include a trip to North Wales to conduct a river study on the River Alyn looking at data collection and analysis.

Assessment:

Unit 1-Six short data response questions on Core topics (40%)

Unit 2-Three in depth structured questions on Options topics (35%)

Unit 3-Geographical Enquiry Controlled Assessment Enquiry based fieldwork (10%) and Problem solving activity (15%).

Other Information:

Geography is recognised as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate.

- Enquiry—gathering data in fieldwork, testing hypothesis and problem solving
- Knowledge—places near and far
- Presentation—present ideas to groups of people
- Mapping and GIS—from paper maps and atlases to digital maps and GIS.



Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 600/9907/0

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC



What you learn about:

The course concentrates on Modern World History and is split into 4 units.

Unit 1: A study in depth focusing on the evaluation of historical sources and interpretations of the past.

- The USA : A Nation of Contrasts (topics include, The Roaring Twenties, Prohibition, Ku Klux Klan and Wall Street Crash)

Unit 2: A further study in depth focusing on key features and key concepts of History.

- Russia in Transition, 1905-24 (topics include, Lenin + The Bolsheviks, The First World War and Russian Revolution)

Unit 3: An outline study focusing on change and continuity in the twentieth century. The development of Germany 1919-1991 (topics include, Rise of Hitler, Division of Germany, Cold War, Fall of the Berlin Wall)

Unit 4: Historical Enquiry

Controlled assessment based on Britain and the First World War.

History

Assessment:

Unit 1: A written paper (1¼ hrs) worth 25% of the final grade – End of Year 11

Unit 2: A written paper (1¼ hrs) worth 25% of the final grade – End of Year 11

Unit 3: A written paper (1¼ hrs) worth 25% of the final grade – End of Year 11

Unit 4: A controlled assessment which is worth 25% of the final grade.

Other Information:

During the course, there are opportunities for:

- Intervention groups for both A-A* and C/D students
- Residential and day trips

History is recognised as an important element and contributing subject to the English Baccalaureate.



Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/4573/8

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: WJEC



Humanities

What you learn about:

The course is split into the following four units:

- **Human Perspectives on the Environment (Geography)**
People and Their Environments (Flooding, Farming & Rainforests) **or** Patterns and Places (Population, Cities and Climate Change)
- **Human Perspectives on the Past (History)**
Change in Society in the UK 1939-1974 **or** Change in American Society 1945-1975
- **Human Perspectives on Belief and Rights (RE)**
A study of Christianity and **either**; Judaism, Hinduism, Islam or Contemporary Lifestyles
- **Contemporary Themes and Issues (Citizenship and Careers)**
One of these topics will be selected;
Tourism, Travel and Leisure
Conflict and Co-operation
Rights and Responsibilities
The World of Work.

Assessment:

Human Perspectives on the Environment
1 hour exam 25%
Human Perspectives on the Past (History)
1 hour exam 25%
Human Perspectives on Belief and Rights (RE)
1 hour exam 25%
Contemporary Themes and Issues (Citizenship and Careers)
Controlled Assessment Project 25%

Other Information:

The Humanities GCSE is suited to students with a general interest in all of the Humanities subjects; Geography, History, RE and Citizenship.

With assessment through three short exams and one controlled assessment project it enables students to focus on individual topics when preparing for exams.



Qualification: BTEC First Award in Music

QAN Code: 600/6818/8

Level: 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



Music

What you learn about:

- The Music Industry and it's types of organisations and understanding Job roles within the industry
- Planning, developing, promoting, managing and reviewing a music event, CD or radio station
- Performing Music
 - ◇ develop your music performance skills and review your own practice
 - ◇ use your music performance skills within rehearsal and performance.
- Composing music
 - ◇ explore creative stimuli to meet a brief
 - ◇ develop, extend and shape music for performances
 - ◇ present compositions appropriately.

The course is split into the following four units:

- The Music Industry Externally assessed, 1 hour exam paper
- Managing a Music Product Internally assessed coursework
- Introducing Music Composition Internally assessed coursework
- Introducing Music Performance Internally assessed coursework.

Assessment:

This qualification is the equivalent of a GCSE and is offered at Level 2. Level 2 enables students to gain A* to C.

The four tier grading structure gives learners appropriate recognition for their efforts: Distinction* (A*) 58 points; Distinction (A) 52 points; Merit (B) 46 points; Pass (C) 40 points.

One unit is Exam based carried out in a 1 hour externally marked exam and there are 3 coursework elements internally assessed.

Other Information:

During the course you will have access to lunch and after school support to help you prepare for each unit.

Your lessons will be used to teach you skills and knowledge related to the unit and to practice exam techniques to help you develop the required knowledge for the course.



Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/4676/7

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



What you learn about:

The GCSE PE course has both a practical and theoretical element to it.

Practical GCSE PE (60%)

Students are given the opportunity to improve their personal levels of fitness and develop their technical ability in a variety of sports and activities.

Theoretical GCSE PE (40%)

The theoretical part of the course is divided into two main areas. The first area focuses on fitness as part of a healthy active lifestyle. The second area examines sport physiology which includes learning about the body systems and how they impact on performance.

Assessment:

The practical part of the course is assessed on four selected activities. These final four areas are assessed during internal controlled assessment and along with an analysis of performance make up 60% of the GCSE PE course.

The theoretical part is assessed through an external written examination and is worth a total of 40%.

Other Information:

Activities and sports

Students will experience a mixture of activities and sports before specialising in four of their choice. Activities include; Mountain Biking, golf, football, rugby, tennis, badminton, fitness, athletics, cricket, table tennis, hockey, swimming.

Resources

A variety of resources are used during the course to maximise student attainment and enjoyment. Fitness Suite, astro-turf, sports fields, 2 sports halls, Thorndale Tennis Centre, Leasowe Swimming Pool, Moreton Driving Range, Bidston Golf Club, Underground Fitness Centre, Soccer Dome.

Opportunities

Students are able to continue their study of Physical Education into the Sixth Form where they have a choice of two Level 3 courses - BTEC Sport or A Level Physical Education.



Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/4609/3

Level: 1 & 2

Exam Board: AQA



What you learn about:

Resistant Materials is taught within specialist workshop environments that embrace traditional and modern tools, machines and processes. Students will work with a variety of materials to design, manufacture, test and evaluate the products of tomorrow, allowing them to develop practical ability as well as their problem solving skills. Students will use ICT and Computer Aided Design and Manufacture to both develop and enhance their work within the subject.

This qualification allows students a much more hands on approach to Design and Technology. Learning is through practical experience rather than taught theory lessons. Projects range from traditional furniture to the use of more modern technologies and allow the pupils to engage with tools and materials that prepare them for further education with design or careers in manufacturing, carpentry or construction.

Assessment:

The course requires a 45 hour coursework project to be completed during the later stages of Year 10 and throughout Year 11.

This project accounts for 60% of the final GCSE grade, with the remaining 40% being made up from the examination at the end of Year 11.

Other Information:

The Resistant Materials department aims to prepare students for the ever changing world in which they live.

Technological advancements mean that society is moving forwards at a faster rate than ever before and students will learn to appreciate the ways in which good design enhances the way in which they live.

Resistant Materials



Separate Sciences

Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code Biology: 600/1167/1

QAN Code Chemistry: 600/1356/4

QAN Code Physics: 600/1072/1

Level: 2

Exam Board: OCR



What you learn about:

The Separate Science option allows students with an interest and aptitude in Science to access three separate GCSE qualifications in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

For GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics students gain an insight into what is involved in being a practitioner of science, how scientists develop scientific understanding of ourselves and the world we inhabit and how these understandings can be applied to the benefit of humanity.

All three qualifications consist of 7 taught modules, each of which provides an opportunity for further developing an understanding of science explanations, how science works and the study of elements of applied science, with particular relevance to professional scientists.

Opting for separate sciences at GCSE provides the breadth of knowledge necessary to study Biology, Chemistry or Physics at A-level.

Assessment:

Subject content and ideas about science for each specification is assessed through 3 unit examinations. Units 1 and 2 assess modules 1 – 3 and 4 – 6 respectively and are both worth 25% of the final qualifications. Unit 3 assesses module 7 of the specifications and is worth 25% of the final qualifications.

The practical component for Biology, Chemistry and Physics is worth 25% of each qualification and is carried out under controlled conditions in school time.

Other Information:

Science is a compulsory subject at key stage 4. Students with either take the Science or Separate Science pathway. For students on the Separate Science pathway, they will complete 3 separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.



Qualification: BTEC First Award

QAN:600/6512/6

Level: 2

Exam Board: Edexcel



Travel & Tourism

What you learn about:

This is an exciting course which will give you the skills that will be vital in gaining employments in the Wirral over the next 20 years.

The Travel & Tourism industry is one of the fastest growing industries in the world! Topics will be studied through classwork, research, visiting speakers and visits to local tourism destinations and places of interest.

If you complete this course it will allow you to progress to:
Level 3 qualifications e.g. BTEC Level 3 in Travel & Tourism
Other related academic qualifications.

Employment within the travel & tourism industry as many of the tasks you need to complete allow you to develop a range of employability skills.

What will you study?

The proposed units of study are:

Core Units	Optional Units
The UK Travel & Tourism Sector	International Travel & Tourism Destinations.
UK Travel & Tourism Destinations	The Travel & Tourism Customer Experience.

Assessment:

1 x 1-hour examination (worth 25%)

The remaining 75% of the work is assessed internally through a range of activities, including assignment and project work, case studies, workplace assessment, role plays, presentations and group work.

You will receive feedback on your progress throughout the course as you provide evidence for the assessment criteria

Other Information:

This course gives you the opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding of the travel & tourism sector.

With the development of new hotels in the area and the proposed golfing developments in Hoylake there will be literally thousands of jobs coming to the Wirral area in the Travel & Tourism industry.

This course prepares you for a career in the leisure, travel & tourism industry.

Jobs in this sector include travel agent, flight attendant, hotel managers, holiday rep, hotel receptionist and many, many more.



Computer Science

Qualification: GCSE

QAN Code: 500/8291/7

Level: 2

Exam Board: OCR
(Oxford, Cambridge and RSA)



What you learn about:

Fundamentals of Computer Systems: An overview of what a computer system is to form the foundational understanding for the rest of the course

Computing Hardware: Students will learn about the CPU, Binary Logic, Input & Output Devices, Memory and different types of secondary storage

Software: Students learn about operating systems and utility programs, as well as custom and off the shelf software applications.

Representation of Data in Computer Systems: Students learn about the different types of data that are stored on Computers—such as sound, images, numbers, characters and instructions

Databases: Students learn about the concept of what a database is, as well as the specifics of database management and how to create and use a relational database.

Computer Communication and Networking: Students learn about the different types of network that can be used, the hardware required and the differences between them. They also learn about the internet, understanding how data is package and transmitted for the World Wide Web.

Programming: Students learn about the different types of programming languages, as well as understanding different algorithms. They demonstrate how to apply those algorithms to solve problems and deliver a fully programmed and tested solution.

Assessment:

Computer systems and programming: (40%): Assessed by a written paper, which has a mixture of short- and long answer questions, some of which require students to write program code.

Practical investigation (30%): On a topic chosen from a set of options (controlled assessment).

Programming project (30%): Students create solutions to computing tasks chosen from a set of options (controlled assessment).

[Scan the QR Code for more information](#)



Other Information:

During the course you will have access to lunch and after school support sessions to help you complete the controlled assessment o the expected standard.

Your lessons will be made up of theory and practical sessions. You will be expected to catch up on any work that you have missed in your own time.

There is an online MOOC to assist and support your learning where you need additional support and flexibility.





"The curriculum is highly personalised and has a positive impact on behaviour, motivation and achievement." Ofsted 2012

“ the difference
between ordinary and
extraordinary is just
that little bit extra ”

Jimmy Johnson

THE Mosslands SCHOOL

A Technology College

Mosslands Drive | Wallasey | Wirral | CH45 8PJ

tel: 0151 638 8131

fax: 0151 639 1317

email: admin@mosslands.wirral.sch.uk

web: www.mosslands.co.uk



care commitment challenge