

Saint Aidan's
CHURCH *of* ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL



YEAR 9 OPTIONS

2017

aspire • believe • succeed

CONTENTS

Contents	1
Introduction	2
Careers Education and Guidance	3
The Pathway Structure	4
Key Stage 4 Pathways	5
Sample Options Form	6
SUMMARIES OF COURSES	
Section A Core Compulsory Courses	
GCSE English Language	7
GCSE English Literature	8
GCSE Mathematics	9
GCSE Science	10
GCSE Religious Studies	11
GCSE Enterprise and Employability	12
Section B Compulsory Non-Examination Courses	
Physical Education	13
Section C Optional Subjects	
GCSE Art, Craft and Design	14
GCSE Computer Science	15
GCSE Drama	16
GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition	17
GCSE French and German	18
GCSE Geography	19
GCSE Graphic Communication	20
BTEC Health and Social Care	21
GCSE History	22
Technical Award Level 1-2 IT	23
GCSE Music	24
GCSE Physical Education	25
Technical Award Level 1-2 Fashion and Textiles	26
Technical Award Level 1-2 Materials Technology	27

NB The Information in this booklet concerning courses is correct at the time of going to print (December 2016)

Introduction

During Key Stage 3 at Saint Aidan's (Years 7 - 9) students follow a broadly based curriculum covering all subjects that are required as part of the National Curriculum. Students have no choice at all with regard to the subjects they take. At Key Stage 4 (Years 10 - 11) students have some limited choice about the subjects they take and it is important that they choose wisely.

It is the aim of this booklet to inform you about all those subjects that are compulsory and about those that you have some choice about.

Selecting the subjects about which you have some choice should not be undertaken lightly. You do need to think carefully about your interests and abilities. You also need to give some consideration to possible further study at Sixth Form College, Further Education College or School Sixth Form. A subject not taken to GCSE level may be very difficult, if not impossible, to take at a higher level.

You should not be influenced in your choice by what your friends do. They will make a decision, which is appropriate to them; the subjects that they choose may be totally inappropriate for you.

Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to talk to your teachers about the different subjects you can study. You will also have a personal interview with either your form tutor or another teacher. During this discussion your teacher will explain all of the options that are available to you and they will also go through how to complete the options form. Your teacher will also discuss which pathway is the most appropriate.

Remember that the most important task at Key Stage 4 is to work hard. The majority of your time at Saint Aidan's will be spent doing the core curriculum and only a small part of the time allocation is spent doing optional subjects. You should keep this in mind when making what limited choice you have.

New GCSE Grading System

All subject areas will be following either the new GCSE specifications or a vocational course (BTEC or Technical Award) leading to Level 1/2 qualifications. Alongside this is a new GCSE grading system with approximate equivalence as follows:

Old GCSE grades	Equivalent New GCSE grades
A	7
C	4
G	1

Level 1/2 grade	Approximate Equivalent GCSE grades
Level 2 Distinction*	8/9
Level 2 Distinction	7
Level 2 Merit	6
Level 2 Pass	4/5
Level 1 Pass	1/2/3

Technical Awards and BTEC courses are more practically based subjects and have a smaller examination element. There are clear progression routes in terms of the Level 2 and 3 courses available at post 16.

Careers Education and Guidance in Years 10-11

Various elements of careers education have been covered in Citizenship and tutorial periods in years 7 - 9 at Saint Aidan's. In Year 9 students work on choices for GCSE and investigate the breadth and balance needed for future careers. Particular emphasis has been placed on self-appraisal and the development of self-confidence and determination to make the most of one's own talent and opportunities.

In years 10 - 11 careers education and guidance will still be offered. Subject areas will also make a significant contribution to the development of skills and knowledge necessary for adult life.

A greater emphasis on vocational guidance develops during years 10 and 11. During Year 11 all students will have the opportunity to have an individual careers interview.

Colleges, sixth forms, armed forces and industry provide assemblies and 'drop-in' sessions throughout the year. A Careers Convention takes place each November. The school's careers library is continually being updated with the latest college and university prospectuses, information books and job sector updates as well as housing ICT facilities for careers based research.

The English Baccalaureate

The government has produced a list of subjects which it sees as the "academic core" which many students should be studying until they finish Year 11. This academic core consists of:

English

Maths

Science (combined award or separate Science GCSEs which can include Computing)

A foreign language

A "Humanity" subject. This means History or Geography

To encourage as many young people as possible to take these subjects the "English Baccalaureate" is now awarded to students who achieve a good GCSE grade in all of these. This is not a separate certificate but it does show the sorts of subjects you should be taking if you can reach a good grade in them. Many of the top universities have now published lists of A Level subjects which they encourage you to take after your GCSEs. Their list is very similar to this English Baccalaureate list, so these subjects may be important for those of you who might want to go on to university.

Saint Aidan's encourages all students with a good chance of reaching a grade 5 in all 5 subject areas to follow options which will lead to the English Baccalaureate, and this is built into our Pathways system.

Pathway Structure

At Key Stage 4 all students follow one of four curriculum pathways which is appropriate to their academic ability. Guidance as to which pathway is the most appropriate can be given to each student on an individual basis.

All pathways contain a 'core' of GCSE subjects including Mathematics, English, Science and Religious Studies. The students are then able to make decisions regarding the remainder of their curriculum in the form of optional subjects.

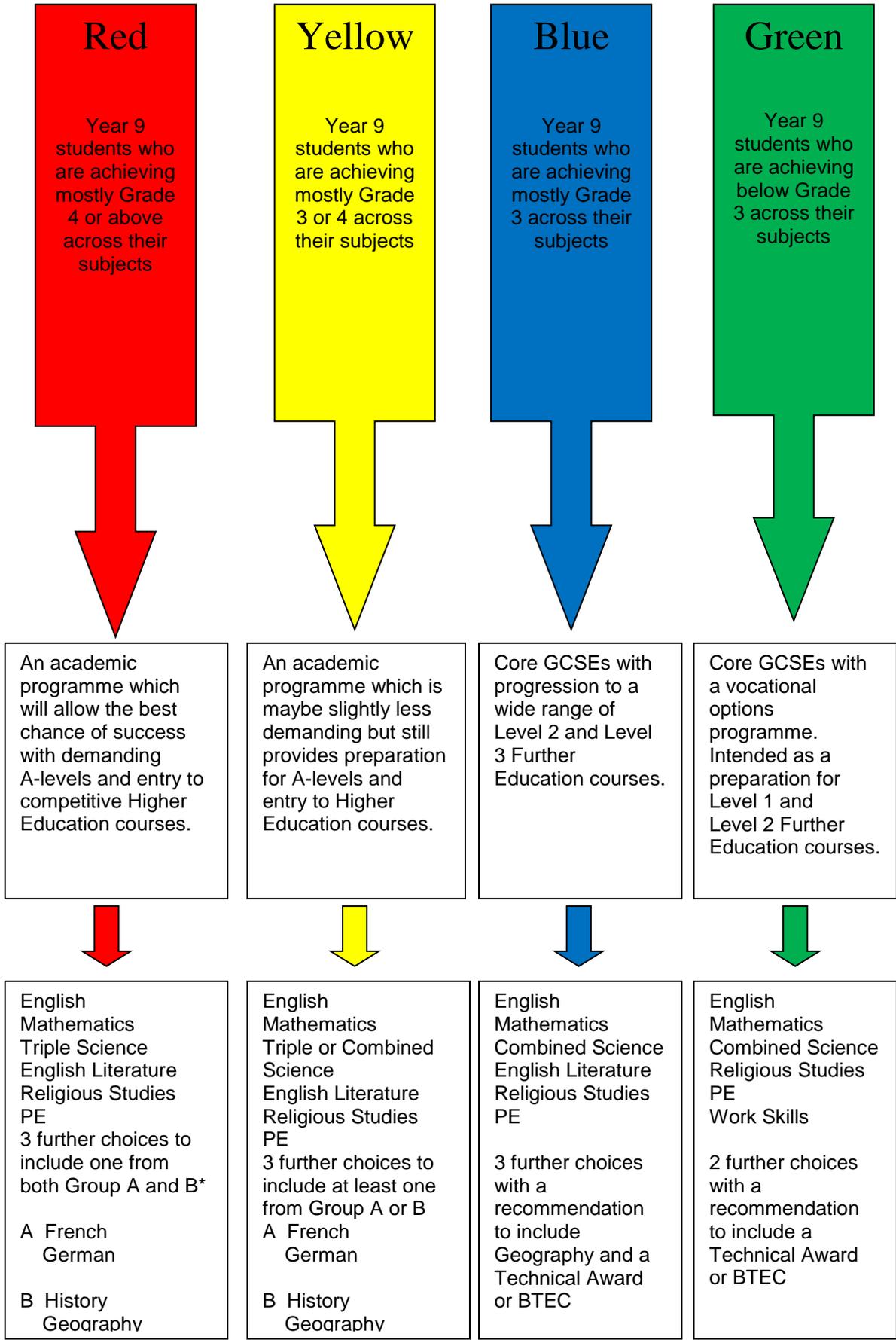
Full details of the pathways are available on the following page together with their associated option choices.

Once decisions have been made regarding pathways and subject choices each student is required to complete an options form, a sample of which appears on page 6. Form Tutors will issue the forms to students in Year 9 as part of the mentoring process during the week beginning Monday, 9th January 2017.

At the end of the form all students are expected to include a reserve choice option subject.

The deadline for the return of all options forms is Monday, 23rd January 2017.

Key Stage 4 Pathways



*under exceptional circumstances a student may opt to choose either a Language or Humanity

Name

Form

		Suitable for				Red Pathway	Yellow Pathway	Blue Pathway	Green Pathway
						Choose 1			
Science	Triple Award				✓				
	Combined Award						✓	✓	
					Choose 3 To include 1 from both A and B*	Choose 3 To include at least 1 from A or B	Choose 3 Recommended to include Geography and a Technical Award or BTEC	Choose 2 (+ Workskills) Recommended to include a Technical Award or BTEC	
					A French German B History Geography	A French German B History Geography			
Optional Subjects	Art, Craft and Design								
	Computing								
	Drama								
	French								
	Geography								
	German								
	Health & Social Care (BTEC)								
	History								
	Food Preparation and Nutrition								
	IT (Tech Award)								
	Music								
	PE (GCSE)								
	Graphic Communication								
	Materials Technology (Tech Award)								
	Fashion and Textiles (Tech Award)								
Reserve Choice									

* under exceptional circumstances a student may opt to choose either a Language or Humanity

SUMMARIES OF COURSES TO BE OFFERED

A CORE COMPULSORY EXAMINATION COURSES

English Language GCSE (AQA)

Overview of course content

The AQA specification offers a skills-based approach to the study of English Language. All students attempt the same examinations with questions designed to take students through lower tariff tasks to more extended responses.

Assessment

Paper 1 Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (1 hour 45 minutes)

Reading 25% - a range of short and long questions based on one text

Writing 25% - one extended writing question, either narrative or descriptive

Paper 2 Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (1 hour 45 minutes)

Reading 25% - a range of short and long questions based on two linked texts

Writing 25% - one extended writing task, presenting a viewpoint

Progression Routes

AS and A level English Language

All students will study English Language alongside English Literature and will achieve two separate GCSEs

**For more information please contact Miss C Fewson Director of English
at cathy-fewson@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

English Literature GCSE (AQA)

Overview of course content

The AQA specification takes a skills-based approach to the student of English Literature that is consistent across the genres.

Assessment

Paper 1 Shakespeare and the 19th century novel (1 hour 45 minutes)

Shakespeare play – students must answer one question based on an extract from the play. The second question is based on the whole text

19th century novel - students must answer one question based on an extract from the play. The second question is based on the whole text

Paper 2 Modern texts and poetry (2 hours 15 minutes)

Modern texts – prose or poetry – student will answer one question from a choice of two

Poetry – students will answer one comparative question on one named poem and one other poem from the anthology cluster

Unseen poetry – students will answer one question on an unseen poem comparing it with another unseen poem

Progression Routes

AS and A level English Literature

All students will study English Language alongside English Literature and will achieve two separate GCSEs

**For more information please contact Miss C Fewson Director of English
at cathy-fewson@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

Mathematics GCSE (AQA)

At Key Stage 4, all Saint Aidan's students will be entered for the AQA 8300 GCSE Mathematics qualification. This is a linear course which will be taught during four lessons a week and which assesses students in two distinct tiers.

The students are entered for the most appropriate tier according to their mathematical ability and the progress they have made during their first three years at Saint Aidan's.

Higher Tier GCSE	grades covered	9, 8, 7, 6, 5, 4
Foundation Tier GCSE	grades covered	5, 4, 3, 2, 1

Students will be rigorously assessed throughout Year 10 and Year 11 to make sure that they are aware of their progress towards the examination in the summer of Year 11. Formal internal mathematics examinations will take place in:

- December of Year 10
- March of Year 10
- December of Year 11
- March of Year 11

The examination in June 2019 will consist of three 1½ hour exam papers for all students:

Paper 1 (Non-calculator) worth 33⅓% of the overall mark

Paper 2 (Calculator) worth 33⅓% of the overall mark

Paper 3 (Calculator) worth 33⅓% of the overall mark

All students will require their own calculator throughout the two year course and this must be a scientific calculator (preferably a Casio fx83 or fx85).

Mathematics is without doubt an invaluable skill for life. With this in mind, all students should aim to develop and maintain a positive approach towards GCSE Mathematics in order to achieve their true potential in the subject.

If you require further information/details please contact Mr Brendan Coe the Director of Mathematics.

**For more information/details please contact Mr Brendan Coe
Director of Mathematics at brendan-coe@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

Science GCSE (AQA)

All students will study all three science subjects; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

There are two possible routes with AQA:

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy or



GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics



We encourage most of our students to take the latter.

The topic content is largely the same for both routes, with extra topics being covered by students studying the three separate sciences.

Science teachers will make the final decision as to which route a student takes, taking students' own preference into account, alongside the data we hold in school.

GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics.

This is the best option for the majority of students.

This option provides students with 3 GCSEs which carry weight with all employers and further educational establishments and not just those specifically science related.

Students can study each GCSE at either foundation or higher tier, depending upon ability. This makes these courses accessible for all abilities.

GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

This option provides students with 2 GCSEs. It is called 'Trilogy' because whilst Students study Biology, Chemistry and Physics separately, the marks from each exam are averaged in order to calculate the final GCSE grades.

We expect students who study this option to be those who would benefit from a somewhat slower pace in lessons to assist them to learn all of the topics in depth.

For more information please contact Mrs L Tilbury
at lisa-tilbury@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

Religious Studies GCSE (AQA)

Year Ten students will embark upon the compulsory AQA Full Course in Religious Studies. All will follow Specification A and will be examined at the end of Year 11.

This course is entirely assessed by 2 examinations and will not contain any coursework. Each examination will last for 1 hour 45 minutes.

Grades of 1-9 will be awarded.

Students will take assessments in the following two components in the same series:

- **Component 1 : The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices**
- **Component 2 : Thematic studies**

Component 1: The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices.	Component 2: Thematic studies
<p>What's assessed Beliefs, teachings and practices of the following religions: Christianity Islam</p>	<p>What's assessed Four religious, philosophical and ethical studies themes from the perspectives of the following religions: Christianity Islam Themes to be studied: Theme A: Relationships and families Theme B: Religion and life Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment</p>
<p>How it is assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)) • 50% of GCSE 	<p>How it is assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes • 96 marks (plus 5 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar (SPaG)) • 50% of GCSE

Students will be expected to do homework every week in this subject. This will either be a set written piece of work or an extensive piece of research.

For more information please contact Mrs D Cox
at diane-cox@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

Enterprise and Employability

Enterprise and Employability will be studied as a one year course in Year 11.

This exciting course encourages students to involve themselves creatively in a variety of risk based challenges and learning activities, in a business and employment based context.

In addition to providing greater depth to their education and broader understanding of the world of work, this will allow students to develop and apply a variety of key skills including ICT, communication, numeracy, leadership and team work.

All students studying this course will receive a Certificate of completion detailing the content of the course they have covered to support college, employment and apprenticeship applications.

Content includes:

- Enterprise Capability
- Promoting Personal Employability
- Enterprise and the World Wide Web.
- Personal Finance
- Practical Challenges

Additional Content

In keeping with our philosophy of making sure all our students are ready with the skills they may need in the future, the course embeds a wide range of skills throughout the theory and practical units.

The skills developed will include:

- Communication using ICT
- Research and presentations
- Use of spreadsheets
- APP/Game development
- Team work

Potential Progression Routes

In addition to providing a skills and capabilities suitable for employment and apprenticeships, students completing this course could use it as a solid foundation for preparation for sixth form or further education colleges.

**For more information please contact Mr Ireland at staffnai@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk
or Mr Tyson at staffpdt@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

B COMPULSORY NON-EXAMINATION COURSES

Physical Education

The Key Stage 4 programme is designed within the constraints of the new National Curriculum to reinforce and then add to the work done in previous Key Stages.

All students will study all the five Key Processes from the new National curriculum for one hour per week.

These are the essential skills and processes in PE that students need to learn to make progress.

Developing skills in physical activity

Students should be able to:

- Develop their technique and improve their performance in other competitive sports or other physical activities.

Making and applying decisions

Students should be able to:

- Use and develop a variety of tactics and strategies to overcome opponents in team and individual games.

Developing physical and mental capacity

Students should be able to:

- Take part in further outdoor and adventurous activities in a range of environments which present intellectual and physical challenges and which encourage pupils to work in a team, building on trust and developing skills to solve problems, either individually or as a group

Evaluating and improving

Students should be able to:

- Evaluate their performances compared to previous ones and demonstrate improvement across a range of physical activities to achieve their personal best

Making informed choices about healthy, active lifestyles

Students should be able to:

- Continue to take part regularly in competitive sports and activities outside school through community links or sports clubs

The study of PE will include activities that cover at least two of the following:

- a) Outwitting opponents, as in games activities
- b) Accurate replication of actions, phrases and sequences, as in gymnastic activities.
- c) Exploring and communicating ideas, concepts and emotions, as in dance and outdoor adventurous activities
- d) Performing at maximum levels in relation to speed, height, distance, strength or accuracy, as in athletic activities
- e) Exercising safely and effectively to improve health and wellbeing, as in fitness and health activities.

Activities - Key Stage 4

Girls	Boys
Aerobics	Athletics
Athletics	Basketball
Basketball	Cricket
Life Fitness	Football
Netball	Life Fitness
Rounders	Rugby

**For further information please contact Mr B Macleod
at bruce-macleod@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

C OPTION SUBJECTS

Art, Craft and Design GCSE (AQA)



The specification in this subject is offered by AQA. The course content follows the specification called Art and Design.

COURSE AIMS:

- The course encourages candidates to develop creativity using a variety of visual research and media. Candidates will be developing practical skills for communicating and expressing ideas, feelings and meanings in art, craft and design.
- Candidates will be expected to investigate, analyse, experiment and interpret aesthetic meanings in Art.
- Candidates will understand how to use a range of materials, techniques and equipment.
- Candidates will get the opportunity to study other artists, craftspeople, cultures and contemporary issues in society. Visits to local Art Galleries will form part of the course.

	ART AND DESIGN	
COMPONENT 1 (Coursework)	No time limit The coursework is completed over 2 years. Students will complete 3 projects from the following themes:- 1. SELF-PORTRAIT AND IDENTITY 2. SURREALISM 3. NATURAL FORM 4. GLASS 5. CERAMICS Since the new academic year begins in June, students will begin the self-image project and work on it over the summer. Coursework is centre-assessed and moderated by AQA.	60% of total marks
COMPONENT 2 (Exam)	10 hours Candidates MUST respond to ONE starting point. Candidates will receive their exam paper in the first week of January. From there they will have approximately 12 weeks to plan and prepare art work for the 10 hour supervised exam. This exam will happen over 2 full days. Set by AQA, centre-assessed and moderated by AQA.	40% of total marks

The candidates' Art work will be presented in the form of an exhibition in May of Year 11. It will be the responsibility of each candidate to complete all Art work, meet deadlines and safely store all finished outcomes for this exhibition.

For more information please contact Miss B Brannigan
at bernie-brannigan@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

Computer Science GCSE (AQA)



GCSE Computer Science (AQA) is an exciting and creative subject on offer to students in KS4.

Exam based assessment:

Students will complete two 1 hour 30 minute written exams contributing 80% of their final mark.

Exam Paper 1: Computer Systems

The first component is an exam focused on computer systems covering the physical elements of computer science and the associated theory.

- Computer system fundamentals – A look at the input, processes and outputs of a computer system.
- Computer hardware and software – Learn about the CPU, clock speeds, RAM and storage and how these have been developed over the years
- Networks – How computers communicate through the use of packets, IP addressing, protocols and network software.
- Database management – Creating and maintaining database management systems as well as looking at relationships and entity relationship diagrams.
- System security – Including common threats and preventative measures.
- Legal, Moral, Social and Environmental Impact – Exploring the impact of computer systems in society.

Exam Paper 2: Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming

This component is focused on the core theory of computer science and the application of computer science principles.

- Algorithms – looking at different algorithms for searching and sorting. Students will also be expected to write and debug their own.
- High and Low Level Programming techniques – this includes different languages and how to ensure robustness in solutions.
- Data representation – Explore the wide variety of ways data can be represented and manipulated, including computational logic.

Coursework: Programming Project

Students will also be expected to complete one coursework activity based on programming a solution to a problem. This will contribute to 20% of their final grade. Students will be expected to complete this under exam conditions in a controlled environment.

Students opting for GCSE Computer Science should:

- Be able to meet demanding coursework deadlines
- Have a willingness to learn independently
- Have a good level of mathematical ability

Potential Progression Routes

- AS/A Level Computer Science
- Professional qualifications in Networking or other similar certifications.
- Game Design and Programming

For more information please contact Mr Ireland at staffnai@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk
or Mr Tyson at staffpdt@staidans.lancs.sch.uk

Drama GCSE (WJEC)



Drama at GCSE is:

- Highly practical, though there is significant written work.
- A subject where practical skills are acquired, developed and perfected.
- An opportunity to develop work and then perform to an audience.
- Very rewarding but only if hard work and commitment are put in.

Over the two years of the course students in Drama will learn how to work with others to create meaningful and powerful theatre. They will need to be confident enough to try new experiences and willing to hone their verbal and non verbal skills.

You will get the chance to go to see at least two professional performances in regional theatres. You will also have the chance to work with professional actors on at least one occasion during the course.

This is how the course is structured:

Year 10

- An introduction to devising your own work. Preparation for performance.
- The study of several genres of theatre and theatre practitioners, creating a short pieces of drama in these styles.
- Study of a set play text.
- Learning about approaches to script work and presenting a short piece of prepared script work
- Preparation for the written paper.

Year 11

- Component 1 assessment – Create a devised performance to be presented to an audience. You will need to keep a written/audio/video log during the process and then write an evaluation after performance. This component is 40% of the final mark.
- Component 2 assessment – Performance from a play text to an external examiner – 20% of the final mark.
- Component 3 assessment – written exam on a set play and a review of a professional performance seen during the course. This component is 40% of the final mark.

This is a very rewarding course but only for those prepared to work hard.

**For more information please contact Mr A Swindley
at andrew-swindley@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE (WJEC)



The GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition equips learners with the knowledge, understanding and skills required to cook and apply the principles of food science, nutrition and healthy eating. It encourages learners to cook, enables them to make informed decisions about food and nutrition and allows them to acquire knowledge in order to be able to feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously, now and later in life.

The course has been developed to maintain a balance between practical and theoretical knowledge and understanding. By studying food preparation and nutrition learners will be able to:-

- (a) demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food commodities whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.
- (b) develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical characteristics of food as well as a sound knowledge of the nutritional content of food and drinks.
- (c) understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- (d) understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- (e) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food.
- (f) understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

Assessment

Assessment will be via a written examination and a non-examined practical assessment, each area being worth 50% each of overall marks.

Examples of possible assessment:

Assessment 1

Task A

Shortcrust pastry should be crisp to the bite and crumbly in the mouth. It can be prepared using a range of different ingredients. Investigate the working characteristics and the functional and chemical properties where appropriate of the different ingredients needed to achieve a perfect shortcrust pastry. This assessment must be supported by investigational work.

Task B

There are a number of ways to thicken a sauce. Investigate the working characteristics and the functional and chemical properties where appropriate of the different methods used to thicken a sauce. This assessment must be supported by investigational work

Assessment 2

Task A

A local restaurant is holding an international week. Research, prepare and cook three dishes that could be served on a themed menu to promote the cuisine of a specific country or region. This assessment must be supported by investigational work.

Task B

Celebrity chefs have been promoting the importance of a healthy diet for children. Research, prepare and cook three dishes that could be served on an open day menu to encourage new pupils to eat in the school canteen. This assessment must be supported by investigational work.

**For more information please contact Mrs J Rossall
at joanne-rossall@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

French and German GCSE (AQA)



For those students who continue with their study of a Modern Foreign Language at Key Stage 4 there will be the choice of doing French, German or both languages. Students with a particular interest in Modern Foreign Languages are encouraged to follow both subjects at GCSE.

The Course (French and German)

The course aims to extend the students' skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing and will provide a sound and substantial basis for further study, be it academic or vocational. A GCSE in MFL will give students the confidence to stay in the foreign country and communicate successfully as well as confidently communicate in the business world. Students will continue to study everyday topics such as home, family, school, leisure, shopping and food and will be introduced to the wider world of careers, tourism, advertising, environment and the life and culture in another country.

There will be three main themes that we cover:

- 1) Identity and culture
- 2) Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- 3) Current study, future study and employment

Assessment

We follow the AQA specification and there is a Foundation tier (Grades 1 – 5) and a Higher tier (Grades 4 – 9)

Students must take all four question papers at the same tier.

- 25% Listening
- 25% Speaking
- 25% Reading
- 25% Writing

Paper 1 Listening exam

1 exam – Foundation tier 35 minutes and Higher tier 45 minutes. Pupils will answer questions in English and French/German.

Paper 2 Speaking exam

1 exam consisting of a role play, a photo card and a general conversation. Foundation tier will last 7-9 minutes and Higher tier will last 10-12 minutes.

Paper 3 Reading exam

1 exam – Foundation tier 45 minutes and Higher tier 1 hour. Questions in English, French/German and translation from French/German into English.

Paper 4 Writing exam

1 exam – Foundation tier 1 hour and Higher tier 1 hour 15 minutes. Questions will include a list task, a message, a translation into French/German and a structured writing task.

Languages are without doubt an invaluable skill for life. All students will be equipped with the communication skills and linguistic competence needed to succeed in the ever increasing global world of work.

**For more information please contact Mrs K Parkinson
at kelly-parkinson@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

Geography GCSE (AQA)



Why Choose GCSE Geography?

Are you interested in studying Geography at GCSE? You should be because:

- ✓ We teach an **exciting, up to date, relevant and interesting curriculum**
- ✓ Geography is an **academically rigorous subject** and will prepare you well for moving on to further education.
- ✓ Geography is included as an **Ebac subject**
- ✓ Geography helps you to develop a wide range of **transferable skills** – essential in the world of higher education and employment
- ✓ Geography provides opportunities for you to **understand what is going on in the world** right now

Which Syllabus do we follow?

The new specification (8035) recognises the vital role geography has in the 21st century curriculum enabling our students to appreciate the complexity of our world and the diversity of its environments, economies and cultures.

The course now comprises three papers; one physical, one human and one that is skills and fieldwork based. All three papers and the units we are most likely to be teaching within them are outlined in the table below. Some units are compulsory and some can be selected by teachers to best suit the students in their schools.

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment	Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment
How is it assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1hr 30min written exam (88 marks including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) • 35% of the GCSE 	How is it assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1hr 30min written exam (88 marks including 3 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) • 35% of the GCSE
Units studied <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: The challenge of natural hazards <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Natural hazards ▪ Tectonic hazards ▪ Tropical storms ▪ Extreme weather in the UK ▪ Climate change • Section B: Physical landscapes in the UK <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ UK physical landscapes ▪ Coastal landscapes in the UK ▪ Glacial landscapes in the UK • Section C: The living world <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ecosystems ▪ Tropical rainforests ▪ Hot environments 	Units studied <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: Urban issues and challenges • Section B: The changing economic world • Section C: The challenges of resources management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resources management ▪ Energy
Paper 3: Geographical applications	
How is it assessed? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1hr 15 mins written exam (76 marks including 6 marks for spelling, punctuation and grammar) • 30% of the GCSE • Pre-release resources will be made available 12 weeks before the exam 	
Units studied <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section A: Issue evaluation This section assesses students' geographical skills and applied knowledge by looking at a particular issue(s) taken from the course (using a pre-released resource). It will challenge students' critical thinking and problem solving skills. • Section B: Fieldwork Students need to undertake two geographical enquiries. Students will be examined using a range of questions that assesses their understanding of fieldwork design, data collection and analysis. 	

All GCSE Geography students at Saint Aidan's follow the AQA GCSE Geography A (4030) syllabus. Further information about the full exam specification can be found at (<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/geography/gcse/geography-a-9030>).

**For more information please contact Mr D Eccles
at david-eccles@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

Graphic Communication GCSE (AQA)



The Graphic Communication GCSE course is designed for students to firstly learn about graphic conventions, how advertising works, understanding the needs of the client and the design process – then to creatively design and develop a range of design solutions for different projects. These are key skills which can be applied to a huge range of jobs within the creative industry, including;

Illustration, animation, graphic design, product design, marketing and advertising, computer games design, project management and many more.

In the first part of the course in Year 10, students learn a variety of technical and creative drawing skills, design principles and CAD/CAM skills which are then applied to mini-projects followed by two extended projects which follow into Year 11. Students learn to work analytically and independently with an emphasis on managing their time effectively. Students are encouraged to create their own design briefs in Year 11 which play to their strengths.

Assessment.

Component 1 Controlled Assessment (Coursework) 60% of the total marks

Students will complete a series of short projects related to:

- Typography
- Corporate Identity
- Graph Design
- Advertising
- Editorial illustration
- Packaging

Students will then complete 2 extended projects which will be led predominantly by the student in negotiation with the teacher. Students will be expected to use a range of media in the development of their work including hand drawn designs, photography, digital software as well as hardware like the laser cutter and 3D printer. Students study a range of design styles and designers which will influence their own work.

Component 2 Exam 40% of the total marks

Students will choose one of several starting points provided by AQA. They will investigate appropriate ideas, designers and methods before developing and improving a range of ideas culminating in a final design solution. Students will have around 12 weeks to prepare their ideas before spending 10 supervised hours in school producing their final designs. The exam project follows the same pattern as the Controlled Assessment project, meaning there is no formal written exam.

Note; Graphic Communication is a specialism within the AQA Art and Design specification and cannot be taken alongside GCSE Art, Craft & Design.

**For more information please contact Mr D Elwell
at darren-elwell@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

BTEC Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care



EDEXCEL BTEC LEVEL 1/ LEVEL 2 FIRST AWARD IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

The health and social care sector employs some of the most talented and brilliant people the country has to offer. The NHS, as the main employer, has a continual need for doctors, nurses, ambulance staff and support staff, and there are further opportunities to work for the NHS in social care, in hospitals, educational settings and residential homes. When you combine the magnitude of the NHS with the sizeable private and voluntary care sectors, you have a huge and diverse range of progressive career opportunities. BTEC Health and Social Care offers a practical and relevant start to any young person interested in a career in the caring professions.

QUALIFICATION STRUCTURE

The Edexcel BTEC Level 1/Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care is taught over 120 guided learning hours (GLH). It has core and optional specialist units. Learners must complete the two core units, and a choice of optional units to reach a total of 120 GLH. This BTEC First Award consists of internally assessed units that and an externally assessed unit in the form of a 1 hour examination during the first year of study and completed as either a paper exercise or electronically.

Edexcel BTEC Level 1/ Level 2 Award in Health and Social Care				
Unit	Core units	Assessment Method	GLH	Level
1	Human Lifespan Development	External	30	2
2	Health and Social Care Values	Internal	30	2
Unit	Specialist Optional units	Assessment Method	GLH	Level
3	Effective Communication in Health and Social Care	Internal	30	2
4	Social Influences on Health and Wellbeing	Internal	30	2
5	Promoting Health and Wellbeing	Internal	30	2
6	The Impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing	Internal	30	2
7	Equality and Diversity in Health and Social Care	Internal	30	2
8	Individual Rights in Health and Social Care	Internal	30	2

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Each unit has a series of levelled grading criteria which need to be met. A summative unit grade is awarded after all opportunities for achievement are given. A learner must meet **ALL** the assessment criteria for that grade. Therefore:

- ◆ to achieve a Level 2 Pass a learner must have satisfied all the pass criteria
- ◆ to achieve a Level 2 Merit a learner must additionally have satisfied all the merit criteria
- ◆ to achieve a Level 2 Distinction a learner must additionally have satisfied all the distinction criteria.

These final grades will equate to 1 GCSE

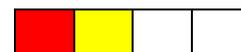
PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

The Edexcel BTEC Level 2 First Award in Health and Social Care provides a good foundation for learners in post-16 education, or to entry level job roles within the sector.

Achievement at Level 2 provides a suitable foundation for further study within the sector through progression on to other vocational qualifications at level 3, such as Edexcel BTEC Level 3 Nationals in Health and Social Care.

**For further information contact Mrs L Morrison
at lynn-morrison@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

History GCSE (Edexcel)



History or Geography is required for the English Baccalaureate. At Saint Aidan's students study the following course: **Edexcel Examination Board**

Students opting for GCSE History should:

- ✓ **Be able to meet the demands of GCSE History which includes:**
 - An ability and willingness to learn a very large amount of work.
 - A willingness to work independently, manage the workload and meet deadlines.
 - Having excellent literacy skills—there is a considerable amount of reading and essay writing in GCSE History (literacy is assessed in all History examination papers)

<p><u>Exam Paper 1: Thematic study and the historic environment</u></p> <p><i>Unit 1: Medicine in Britain, c1250–present day</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p><i>Unit 2: The British sector of the Western Front, 1914–18: injuries, treatment and the trenches</i></p>	<p>Written examination: 1 hour and 15 minutes and worth 30% of the final grade. Exam is taken in the summer term of Year 11</p> <p><u>Assessment overview</u></p> <p><u>Section A: historic environment</u> Students answer a question that assesses knowledge plus a two-part question based on two provided sources.</p> <p><u>Section B: thematic study</u> Students answer three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding. The first two questions are compulsory. For the third question, students answer one from a choice of two questions</p>
<p><u>Exam Paper 2: Period study and British depth study</u></p> <p><i>Unit 3: The American West, c1835–c1895</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">AND</p> <p><i>Unit 4: Anglo-Saxon and Norman England, c1060–88</i></p>	<p>Written examination: 1 hour and 45 minutes and worth 40% of the final grade. Exam is taken in the Summer term of Year 11</p> <p><u>Assessment overview</u></p> <p><u>Section A: Period study</u> Students answer three questions that assess their knowledge and understanding. The first two questions are compulsory. For the third question, students select two out of three parts.</p> <p><u>Section B: British depth study</u> Students answer a single three-part question that assesses their knowledge and understanding. The first two parts are compulsory. For the third part, students select one from a choice of two.</p>
<p><u>Exam Paper 3: Modern depth study</u></p> <p><i>Unit 5: Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39</i></p>	<p>Written examination: 1 hour and 20 minutes and worth 30% of the final grade. Exam is taken in the summer term of Year 11</p> <p><u>Assessment overview</u></p> <p><u>Section A</u> Students answer a question based on a provided source and a question that assesses their knowledge and understanding.</p> <p><u>Section B</u> Students answer a single four-part question, based on two provided sources and two provided interpretations (a type of source)</p>

Why should I choose GCSE History?

History develops the following skills which are vital life-skills and are highly valued by colleges and employers.

- ✓ Independent critical thinking and being open minded
- ✓ Independent and collaborative problem solving
- ✓ Researching and being able to select relevant and unbiased information.
- ✓ Self-discipline, resilience and time management
- ✓ The ability to communicate a clear, coherent and evidence based arguments, both orally and in writing
- ✓ The ability to empathise with others through understanding how and why people acted as they did in the past and how this helps us to understand the modern world
- ✓ History GCSE is an excellent foundation for the study of History at A level, as well as subjects such as English Language and Literature, Law, Religious Studies and Classical Civilisations.

**For more information please contact Miss J Nicholls
at julia-nicholls@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

IT Technical Award (AQA)



Our new Technical Award in IT is equivalent to a single GCSE award. It builds on key concepts from Key Stage 3 by exploring the everyday practical use and impact of Information Technology alongside a deeper understanding of how it functions.

This course will suit students interested in IT and computers but without the rigorous challenges associated with the Computer Science GCSE, or who may not meet the more exacting requirements for that course.

Topics studied and assessed include:

- IT systems
- Hardware
- Software
- Networks
- Securing IT systems
- Data and information
- Emerging technologies.

Students' understanding of these topics will be assessed using a 1 hour 30 minute written exam contributing 40% of their final mark.

Coursework

Students will also be expected to complete 2 pieces of coursework.

- **Unit 1 – 30%**

Students will be expected to complete a series of tasks from 3 different areas of IT:

- Creative (Animation, video, sound and image manipulation and media)
- Data (Using Database software, using Spreadsheet software)
- Technical (Creating and securing networks, installing expansion cards)

- **Unit 2 – 30%**

Students will be expected to decide on an area they would like to specialise in from one of the following;

- Web and game development
- Data manipulation (Spreadsheet modelling, Database management systems)
- Technical (Build a small office network and build and configure a PC)

Students will complete a portfolio of their work to be submitted in Year 11.

Potential Progression Routes

In addition to providing a solid foundation for employment and apprenticeships, students completing this can move on to a number of options at sixth form or further education colleges:

- BTEC ICT Level 3
- Media Studies
- Web, App & Games development
- PC maintenance

**For more information please contact Mr Ireland at neil-ireland@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk
or Mr Tyson at paul-tyson@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

Music GCSE (OCR)



Requirements: Pupils must be currently taking, or willing to start, private music lessons on an instrument of their choice. Additionally, being able to read musical notation or TAB is an advantage.

In addition to performing and composing, there will be a significant amount of theoretical and contextual study.

You will study: GCSE (OCR)

From September 2016 the GCSE course is made up of three mandatory units, two of which offer Controlled Assessment, and one of which is externally assessed.	<u>Integrated Portfolio</u> (30% of GCSE non exam assessment) Performance on the learner's chosen instrument. Composition to a brief set by the learner.	<u>Practical Component</u> (30% of GCSE non exam assessment) Ensemble performance. Composition to an OCR set brief	<u>Listening & Appraising</u> (40% of GCSE 1 hour 30 minutes written paper) A written paper, with CD. Aural recognition and context Unheard/unfamiliar music from within the areas of Study 2, 3, 4 & 5.
--	--	--	---

Area of Study 1: My Music (Spotlight on my Instrument)

Learners will study their instrument, which can be any of the following:

- any instrument
- voice – this can include styles such as rapping or beatboxing
- DJ-ing
- sequencing – realisation using ICT

Area of Study 2: The Concerto through Time

Learners should study The Concerto and its development from 1650 to 1910.

Area of Study 3: Rhythms of the World

Learners will study the traditional rhythmic roots from four geographical regions of the world:

Area of Study 4: Film Music

Learners will study how film composers exploit compositional techniques and devices to create emotion.

Area of Study 5: Conventions of Pop

Learners should study a range of popular music from the 1950s to the present day.

For more information please contact Mr P Dalton
at phil-dalton@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk

Physical Education GCSE (AQA)



This is an AQA academic course and as much time is spent on the theoretical aspects of sport (60%) as on practical performances of sport (40%). It is aimed at students who are strong sporting performers i.e. at least school team performers. It is also aimed at those students who have an interest in:

The physiological effects of exercise on the body; How the body biomechanically produces movements, and; the impact sport has on society as a whole both nationally and internationally.

GCSE PE can lead into many Post 16 courses such as 'A' level P.E., Vocational Sports Studies at Level 3 and 4, and Sports Coaching and Leadership Awards.

At the end of the course students will be awarded a grade 1 - 9 based upon their practical performances and two written examination papers.

Assessment

Practical assessment

- Practical Areas of work worth **40%**
- These are internal assessments completed under the scrutiny of the teacher assessor. Each student will enter **3 assessments**.
- Each area is assessed out of 25 marks, 10 for developing skills and 15 marks for full context. (25 x3 = 75 marks).
- Added onto the practical marks are analysis (15 marks) and evaluation (10 marks) which focus on bringing about an improvement in one activity.
- Final practical grade will be out of **100 marks**.
- Students are required to be assessed in three different activities in the role of player/performer only. There is a much reduced 'pool' of activities to choose from compared with previous GCSE's with activities such as Rounders' and Circuit Training having been removed from the list.
- **One of these assessments must be in a team activity; one assessment must be in an individual activity, with the third assessment being in either a team or individual activity** e.g. Your selection would come from (1) Team activity, one from; Netball/ Association Football/ Rugby Union or League/ Basketball/ Cricket/ Doubles Badminton or Tennis : (2) Individual activity, one from; Athletics/ Rock Climbing (Tower Wood)/ Singles Badminton or Tennis/ Equestrian/ Dance/ Golf/ Artistic Gymnastics : (3) Any activity not selected in (1) or (2).
- Practical assessment is continual so attendance at every lesson is very important. Some assessments will be completed during school fixtures or at extra-curricular clubs and some in Core Games Lessons. Students do not opt to do certain activities, they study all areas and those they achieve most marks in are put forward.

Theory Assessment, Knowledge and Understanding

External Assessment in the form of **two written exams**.

Paper 1: The human body and movement in physical activity and sport.

What's assessed: Applied anatomy and physiology • Movement analysis • Physical training • Use of data.

How it's assessed Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 78 marks • 30% of GCSE.

Paper 2: Socio – cultural influences and well-being in physical activity and sport.

What's assessed: Sports psychology • Socio-cultural influences • Health, fitness and well-being • Use of data

How it's assessed Written exam: 1 hour 15 minutes • 78 marks • 30% of GCSE.

Questions A mixture of multiple choice/objective test questions, short answer questions and extended answer questions.

There is now **no coursework**.

Who is best suited to this course?

Highly motivated students inside and outside the classroom.

- This course would suit students who are capable performers in a variety of practical activities.
- It is essential that students are at a competent level as a practical performer and have involvement in school teams or sports outside school.
- It also helps candidates if they are committed to our extra-curricular programme in school or they are involved in sport at a good level outside school on a regular basis.
- Candidates who are only competent in a couple of areas will struggle on the course.

**For more information please contact Mr B Macleod
at bruce-macleod@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

Technical Award Level 1-2 Materials (AQA)



The Technical Award in Materials Technology is a vocational qualification equivalent to a GCSE qualification and gives young learners a hands-on, practical approach to learning. It equips them with the practical, transferable skills and core knowledge, including team-working and communication, they need to progress to further general or vocational study, including level 3 qualifications, employment or apprenticeships.

Students will have the opportunity to develop skills in making high quality products using woods, metal and polymers (plastics). They will be expected to make a range of products, prototypes and samples, applying technical and practical expertise to ensure that the product is fit for purpose. Students will have the opportunity to use traditional skills and modern technologies.

How will the course be assessed?

Unit 1: Skills demonstration (30% of overall qualification, internally assessed)

Students undertake a number of mini projects that will allow them to be assessed against 12 practical skills, including the transferable skill of teamwork.

Unit 2: Extended making project (30% of overall qualification, internally assessed)

Students will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills they have developed in Unit 1 and the knowledge they have developed through Unit 3.

Learners will produce a made outcome in addition to a small portfolio to evidence the planning and development and testing and evaluation stages and the transferable skill of communication.

Unit 3: Fundamentals of Materials Technology (40% of overall qualification)

Externally assessed written exam lasting 1 hour 30 minutes, where students will be assessed on their knowledge and understanding of the following;

- Materials and their working properties
- Processes and manufacture
- Joining, components, adhesives and finishes
- Product specification
- Commercial practice
- Careers opportunities

**For more information please contact Mr L Charnock
at len-charnock@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk**

Technical Award Level 1-2 Fashion and Textiles (AQA)



This course is aimed at students who are interested in using textiles in a practical way within the context of the fashion industry and wish to develop skills and knowledge that will prepare them for further study and employment within the fashion industry.

The Technical Award in Fashion and Textiles will give students the opportunity to develop an understanding of:

- Materials, components and technologies and the ability to select these appropriately
- How to read, interpret and work from drawings, plans and instructions
- Quality and how this can be achieved by making to fine tolerances
- Key technical terminology related to materials and properties
- Commercial and industrial practices within the Fashion and Textiles industries
- Career opportunities in the sector.

How will the course be assessed?

Unit 1: Skills demonstration (internally assessed)

Students will create a number of small practical outcomes to demonstrate their competency in 12 core skills. This will include the transferable skill of teamwork.

Unit 2: Extended making project (internally assessed)

Students will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills they have developed in Unit 1 and the knowledge and understanding they have acquired in Unit 3. Students will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing and evaluation and the transferable skill of communication.

Unit 3: Fundamentals of Fashion and Textiles (externally assessed)

Students will study the fundamentals of fashion and textiles including:

- Materials and components
- Processes and techniques
- Tools and equipment
- Industrial processes
- ICT and CAD/CAM
- Commercial practice
- Career opportunities.

For more information please contact Mrs L Salmon
at lisa-salmon@st-aidans.lancs.sch.uk