

Campws Cymunedol Y Dwyrain
Eastern Community Campus



Dear Student

This is an exciting and very important stage in your education. As you move into Key Stage 4 (Years 10 & 11) you have the opportunity to take control over some aspects of your learning and follow programmes of study, which are of particular interest to you.

As with every other school in Wales, Eastern High will follow a core, compulsory curriculum, which is described in the "Your Questions Answered" section of this booklet. In addition to this you can also make some choices as to the subjects you would prefer to study. It is essential that you take the time to think about these choices, as you will be studying them during Years 10 and 11 and they might affect the qualifications you choose at Post 16 and your career path after that.

There are lots of ways you can gain information to help you choose. Talk to your teachers, pupils in Years 10 & 11 and your relatives; they can all help. The school has appointed a designated Careers & Aspirations Advisor, Mr Morgan who can provide support, advice and guidance with your option subject choices. There is a member of staff from Career's Wales regularly in school; ask them for help too or try the Careers Wales Website.

At the end of the day it is you that has to make the final decision. The most important thing is that you choose the subjects you think you will enjoy most. Don't forget your tutor is there to help and of course, read this booklet...It is the first step towards your future.

All the best in whatever it is you decide to do.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Morgan', written in a cursive style.

Head Teacher

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The Key Stage 4 curriculum is divided into compulsory subjects and optional subjects

Our KS4 Core, Compulsory Subjects	
<p>Everyone does the following subjects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English Language (Worth 1 GCSE) • English Literature (Worth 1 GCSE) - This course will start in Year 9 • Mathematics (Worth 1 GCSE) • Mathematics - Numeracy (Worth 1 GCSE) • Science Applied and Science Additional (Worth 2 GCSEs) • or • Science Triple Award (Worth 3 GCSE) • Welsh Second Language or Agored (Worth 1 GCSE) • Welsh Baccalaureate (Worth 1 GCSE grade 'C' and above if you gain 4 other C grades) • Equality and Diversity (Worth 1 or 2 GCSE) • Religious Education and PE (As core subjects these are not studied towards a GCSE but can be studied as an Option at GCSE level) 	

Optional Subjects Subjects are all GCSEs unless stated otherwise	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art • Art - Textiles • Business • Design and Technology - (<i>Product Design</i>) • Food Science and Nutrition • French • Geography • Health & Social Care • Automotive - Vehicle Inspection (L2) • Hair and Beauty Skills (L2) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History • ICT • Media Studies • BTEC Music • BTEC Performing Arts • Physical Education • Religious Education • Sociology • Construction and the built environment (Entry 3)

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YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED

Why do I have to make option choices?

Eastern High offers a wide range of options that you can follow. These options are provided to offer the opportunity to maximise your chances of gaining at least 9 qualifications. This will include a literacy qualification, a numeracy qualification, a science qualification and six other qualifications. Within each pathway there are a number of subject choices you can make.

Will my choices affect my career?

Not necessarily. Everyone in the country does a core curriculum which includes all the subjects you need to go on to further education or employment. Usually universities, colleges and employers want to know what your GCSE levels were, rather than what GCSEs you did. English and Mathematics GCSEs are the exceptions to this. You need English and Mathematics Grade C (or B in the case of teaching) and above to progress in many careers and especially if you aim to go on to university.

Apart from your core subjects, you usually do not have to choose a subject at Key Stage 4 in order to study it (or a related subject) at university. The exception might be Languages, where unless you are a native speaker of the language, it is advisable to continue studying the language otherwise you may forget what you have already learnt. If you intend studying Art in the future, it may also be advisable to choose the subject so that you can build your portfolio.

Is there any one subject more important than another?

English and Maths are the two subjects that employers and universities consider particularly important. Your choices all have equal importance.

In what way are vocational qualifications such as BTEC different to GCSEs?

A BTEC may be equivalent to one or two GCSEs depending on the course followed. The main difference is that the vocational qualifications study an area of work, such as Art and Design, Engineering or Construction. These not only develop your knowledge and understanding of how these areas operate, but give you the opportunity to develop skills which are relevant to this area of work. A GCSE on the other hand, develops your understanding and knowledge of the specific subject.

Does choosing a vocational qualification mean I have to follow a career in this area?

No, not if you do not want to. Remember it counts as equivalent to one or two GCSEs. Employers, universities and colleges want to know the grades you achieve rather than what courses you did.

How can I decide what subjects are best for me?

Ask yourself the following 2 questions:

‘What do I enjoy most?’

‘What am I best at?’

Who can help me decide what to choose?

Listen to advice from your parents or carers, teachers, friends, older brothers and sisters, but at the end of the day make sure **you** make the final decision.

Don't pick a subject just because:

- your friend is doing it. You may not be in the same class and they are very likely to have different tastes to you.
- you like a teacher. You may not get the same teacher.
- your parents or carer tells you to. Sorry parents/carers, but it is important that a course is picked because the pupil enjoys the subject. If interested in the subject, your child will be motivated. Motivation is the key to success.

Am I guaranteed to get onto the subjects that I choose?

Unfortunately, if there are not enough pupils choosing a course, we cannot run it. Therefore, you may not get your first choice. Normally this doesn't happen to many pupils.

We could limit the number of subjects we offer and make sure they all run, but this would then limit your choice.

It may also be the case that two of the subjects you choose have to run on the timetable at the same time and this will mean you will have to choose between them. Again, this doesn't happen often.

Art & Design – Fine Art

Qualification: GCSE Art & Design

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

The coursework is worth 60% of the final grade and the main topic for this will be 'IDENTITY'. You will start with a 'self image' and then continue to choose an aspect of your identity which could be to do with your culture, family, background, hobbies or just a theme that you are influenced by such as nature, sport, film or music. Within this theme you will use a wide range of techniques and a variety of materials as well as taking photographs, looking at various artists, craft workers, art movements and cultural influences.

You will have the opportunity to work within printmaking and use three-dimensional materials such as clay and mod roc to create fine art sculptures and vessels. You will use other materials available to the department, as well as developing the most fundamental skills of drawing and painting.

You will prepare for and sit a 5 hour Year 10 and Year 11 mock exam where you will have the option to choose a theme of your choice and work through a variety of materials and ideas leading to a final creative 2D or 3D piece. This will lead to your final 10 hour exam which accounts for 40% of your final grade.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

COURSEWORK: 60%

EXTERNALLY SET TASK: 40%

Your work will be assessed by referring to the assessment objectives:

AO1 Contextual Understanding

AO2 Creative Making

AO3 Reflective Recording

AO4 Personal Presentation

Am I suited to Art GCSE?

If you have some creative ability, enjoy art and you are creatively committed to trying your best then Art is a great option for you to take.

Generally, if you have achieved a Level 5 or above at the end of Year 8 you will make a successful GCSE student who could achieve a grade C or above.

Hard work, independent learning, attendance to art clubs, homework and full commitment is required for this course.

What do current students say about this course?

'Art GCSE is one of the most interesting subjects you could possibly take! There's a lot of creativity and interesting things you could get into and learn about'

'GCSE art is fun and it can help me in life to do what I want to do. I want to be a tattoo artist when I leave school'

'I enjoy GCSE art because art speaks where words are unable to explain'

'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time'

'I enjoy GCSE art because I can express myself and do the things I love. Art is AMAZING'

Art - Textiles and Fashion

Qualification: GCSE Art & Design (Textiles)

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

Your coursework is worth 60% of your final grade and you will work on this from the start of the course in Year 9 until January when you are in Year 11.

You will be set one big project, which will revolve around the theme 'The Natural World' which could be to do with plants, trees, flowers, animals, insects, fish, butterflies etc. When working within this theme you will use a wide variety of textile techniques and materials. You will be looking at various Textile Artists, Fashion Designers, Craft Workers, Art Movements and Cultural Influences.

You will have the opportunity to work with a range of exciting textile techniques including machine embroidery, printing, dyeing, beading, heating, soldering, melting, pleating etc. You will create a range of experimental work, fashion accessories such as bags, hats and shoes, fabric jewellery, 3D structures and fashion garments. You will also be expected to research, record ideas and designs in a sketchbook that you will develop throughout the course.

Your exam is worth 40% of your final grade and you will work on exam preparation from January until March in Year 11. This will lead to your final 10 hour final practical exam which will be based on a question of your choice.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

COURSEWORK: 60%

EXTERNALLY SET TASK: 40%

Your work will be assessed by referring to the assessment objectives:

AO1 Contextual Understanding

AO2 Creative Making

AO3 Reflective Recording

AO4 Personal Presentation

Am I suited to Textiles GCSE?

If you have some creative ability, have an interest in Fashion and Textiles, enjoy designing and making and you are creatively committed to trying your best then Art Textiles is a great option for you to take.

Hard work, independent learning, attendance to Textile clubs and Clothes Show trips, homework and full commitment is required for this challenging and very successful course.

What do current students say about this course?

'The textiles lessons are a great experience, we get to learn new skills and I really look forward to practical lessons every week.' *Holly Rudyj*

'I like textiles because you get to make fantastic pieces of work; it's really fun and a good practical subject to enjoy.' *Olivia Sullock*

'There is a lot of work but seeing the final product is amazing.' *Melissa Jenkins*

Business Studies

Qualification: GCSE Business Studies

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

Have you ever dreamed of being an entrepreneur and running your own business? The business studies course covers all of the key areas required to set up a business from types of ownership to marketing, finance, human resources and operations management. You will study about how big brands such as McDonald's, Nike and Starbucks keep ahead of the competition by developing new products and production techniques.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There are 2 exams to be taken in Year 11 which amounts to the final grade.

The first exam paper is directly linked to knowledge of the key topics covered in the course while the second exam relies on application of that knowledge applied to different scenarios

The students will also take a personal finance course which is worth an extra GCSE grade. This course provides students with knowledge about bank loans, credit cards and savings accounts which is vital in today's world.

Am I suited to GCSE Business Studies?

This is an interesting course which develops your understanding of real world situations. Every time you go into the supermarket you will recognise strategies you have learnt in class, used by companies to entice you to buy their products. As long as you are interested in the world around you and you are curious about how businesses are successful, you will enjoy this course.

What do current students say about this course?

This is a really good course if you wish to understand the Business World!

Design and Technology (Resistant Materials /Product Design/Engineering)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Design and Technology is a broad subject that appeals to pupils that are looking to pursue a career in the creative industry or skilled professions such as; Architect, Graphic Designer, Engineer, Carpenter, Plumber or Electrician.

In this subject you will work creatively when designing and making and apply technical and practical expertise, in order to:

- develop an appreciation of the importance of creativity and innovation to good design practice
- engage in the processes of design and technology to develop as effective and independent learners
- understand the key principles of designing and making
- use knowledge, skills and understanding to make design decisions in order to make quality products
- analyse existing products and produce practical solutions to meet needs, wants and opportunities, recognising their impact on quality of life
- critically analyse links between the principles of good design, existing solutions and technological knowledge
- understand the underlying technical principles within design and technology within a chosen focus area, with emphasis on emerging technologies, materials and practices.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

In the first years of your study, you will gain the knowledge and understanding of the different techniques, materials, processes and regulations that professionals have to work with to solve real life problems. You will be assessed on your ability to **recall**, **apply** and **evaluate** your knowledge and skills throughout each topic.

You will be expected to maintain and show good progress and attendance in Year 9 and 10 to be entered for the GCSE in Year 11.

In Year 11 there are 2 assessments consisting of:

A design and make task: (approximately 35 hours coursework) where you will have to investigate, design, make and evaluate a product based on a problem set by the WJEC.

A written examination: (2 hours) A mix of short answer, structured and extended writing questions assessing candidates' knowledge and understanding of one area selected from either engineering design or product design.

Am I suited to DT?

Career Paths

This course is suited to individuals that like:

- Making things out of different materials.
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Drawing and sketching.
- Model making
- Work with accuracy and precision.
- Drawing and designing on computers.

Architect	Advertising	Plumber
Gas Engineer	Magazine design	Carpenter
Quantity Surveyor	Designer	Electrician
Team and country planner	Printer	Builder
Plasterer	Marketing	Welder
Surveyor	Interior Design	Manufacturing
Gardener	Branding	Tiler
Site Manager	Copywriting	Scaffolding
Health and Safety Officer	Mechanic	Engineer
Project Manager	Product Designer	Bricklayer
Photographer	Designer	Roofier
CAD Technician	Kitchen Designer	Machine Operator
Alarm Fitter	Interior Designer	

This course is an ideal platform for those that wish to:

- Work in a design, media and skills industry.
- Further their studies in college through A-levels.

What do current students say about this course?

"I enjoy the making side of Design and Technology and using the different equipment to make something that I designed. I find the drawing a bit difficult but we use lots of ways to communicate my ideas like using a computer to draw. Some of the theory can be a bit hard, but it is important as you can make the right decisions on how to do something."

Food Science and Nutrition

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Food science and Nutrition is a brand new GCSE that helps young people into the Food Industry. The Food Industry is vast and there are many sectors that this course prepares you for. Whether you are interested in becoming a Caterer, Chef, Nutritionist, Dietician or working for companies such as Tesco, Asda, Nestle, or even Food Journalism, this course will provide you with all the fundamental skills needed to enter this massive industry. Everyone needs to eat, there will always be a job in food!

During this course you will:

- demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills by planning, preparing and cooking a variety of food whilst using different cooking techniques and equipment.
- 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
- investigate the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- investigate the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes, diet and health choices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and International) to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes.

The key areas of studies are:

1. Food commodities
2. Principles of nutrition
3. Diet and good health
4. The science of food
5. Where food comes from
6. Cooking and food preparation

How will I be assessed in this subject? Throughout the course you will be assessed on your learning progress and provided with feedback and support to help you reach or exceed your target grades. In year 11 you will predominantly be focussed on completing the following to achieve your GCSE grade.

Internal Assessment 1: 8 Hours investigation and cooking task (20% of GCSE)

Food Investigation Assessment that will assess your knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to scientific principles underlying the preparation and cooking of food.

Internal Assessment 2: 12 Hours planning, preparation and cooking task (30% of GCSE)

Food Preparation Assessment that will assess your knowledge, skills and understanding of planning, preparation, cooking and presentation of food.

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes (50% of qualification)

An exam that consists of questions that will assess your knowledge and understanding of the six areas of study highlighted above.

Am I suited for this course

This course is suited to individuals that :

- are creative
- enjoys planning, preparing and cooking variety of foods
- have an interest in the functional and chemical characteristics of food
- enjoy learning about the relationship between diet, nutrition and good health
- would like to explore ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions

Career paths

Catering assistants

Chefs,

Catering/Functions

Food technologists Food safety office,
Dietician

Home Economist

Health care industry

French

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

French is spoken in 44 countries of the world by over 125 million people on all 5 continents!

- French and English are the only two global languages in the world.
- If you learn French you will be one step ahead in the race for the career you want, you will pick up other languages a lot easier in future and you will have fun practising!

The ability to speak a foreign language can enhance future career opportunities and is particularly relevant to careers in **Banking, Education, and Media, including Television, Translation, Tourism, Journalism, Law, Music, Fashion, Secret Service, Armed Forces, Government and Business.**

Study is always supported with extra-curricular activities, e.g. visits abroad

The emphasis is on COMMUNICATION. During the two-year course **4 areas** are explored:-

Personal and Social Life – self, family, friends, home, shopping, meals, healthy living, illness, free time, fashion, relationships.

Local Community – home town, school, education, environment, pollution, local facilities, weather and seasons.

The World of Work – work experience, part-time jobs, future careers, technology (e.g. sending e-mails).

The Wider World – travel and holidays, media, social issues (e.g. life of young people today, drugs, healthy living), life in countries where French is spoken.

How will I be assessed?: This draft summary provides an outline for the specification and sample assessment materials that are being developed for review by the regulator in Wales.

Skill	Exam Papers		Weighting
	Foundation Grades C - G	Higher Grades A* - D	
Listening and responding Listening tasks with non-verbal and written responses	35 minutes	40 minutes	25%
Reading and responding Reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses, including one translation task from French into English	60 minutes	75 minutes	25%

Writing Writing tasks including one translation task from English into French	75 minutes	90 minutes	25%
Speaking	1 task done over 2 years One role play, One photo card discussion One conversation		25%

Geography

Qualification: GCSE Geography

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years



There's more to geography than being concerned about climate change and locating places on a map! To prove it, here are some of the ways in which geography impacts on your daily life:

- Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram all use location services and maps
- Computer Games such as Fortnite, Minecraft and GTA (to name just a few) use maps, planning tools and iconic landmarks, all of which wouldn't be possible without the help of a geographer!
- McDonalds, Dominos, Coke, Nike - major brands like these as well as food from different cultures wouldn't be available to you if it wasn't for globalisation, a key topic when studying geography. Imagine how awful your life would be without your favourite meal, mobile phone or best trainers :(
- The weather - predicted by meteorologists so that you can prepare for a day at the beach or a day binge-watching Netflix. Geography helps you understand how to forecast the weather.

Learn skills and content that link to your life! The modules taught in GCSE Geography are interesting and are relevant to your life, they cover newsworthy topics that affect YOU and YOUR life.

What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

1. Landscapes and Physical Process (Rivers and Coasts)
2. Rural Urban Links
3. Tectonic Landscapes and Hazards (Volcanoes and Earthquakes)
4. Weather and Climate
5. Development and Resource Issues
6. Social Development Issues or Environmental Challenges - This will be decided as a class

At least **two** fieldwork opportunities in two contrasting environments

How will I be assessed in this subject?

- ☐ Unit 1- Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (40%) Summer Year 11
- ☐ Unit 2- Written Paper: 1 hour 30 minutes (40%) Summer Year 11
- ☐ Unit 3- Controlled Assessment- Field work (20%) Autumn Year 11

Am I suited to Geography GCSE? The course is broad and allows for insight into some of the key concepts in today's society. The course develops thinking skills and allows pupils to develop their decision making abilities on topics that are applicable to their lives and futures. Numeracy plays an important role in all of the topics studied at GCSE. Some of the key numeracy skills pupils must be able to demonstrate are; analysing graphs, the use of scale and distance on maps and interpreting information in tables. The skills learnt in geography make geography graduates some of the most employable across the whole of the job market. Jobs can vary from urban planning to engineering, from teaching to disaster mapping and emergency services. The opportunities are limitless.

What do current students say about this course? *'Geography has allowed me to look at things in a different way, the topics are interesting and there are always things on TV that relate to it, which makes it even more exciting to learn.'* *'I enjoyed the fieldwork it allowed me to get out of the classroom to collect my data and create my own investigation.'*

Health and Social Care, and Childcare

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

You will have the opportunity to develop your understanding of influences on human growth, development, behaviour and well-being. You will also gain an understanding of the social, physical, emotional, and cultural needs of people who use care and support services, and recognise that each individual has a unique blend of abilities and needs. Active learning and personalisation are promoted by giving you opportunities to investigate care issues and topics of your own choice.

Throughout the two year course you will study:

Unit 1 - Human development across the life cycle, including:

- Physical, social, emotional and intellectual milestones and the impacts on these such as illness, disease and disability, life experiences (to include ACE's) and living conditions.
- The interdependence between physical health and wellbeing and mental health and wellbeing.
- Early intervention and prevention to promote and support growth, development and well-being for a range of conditions and circumstances.

Unit 2 - Promoting and maintaining health and well-being, including:

- The range of Health and social care, and childcare provision in Wales aimed to promote and support health and well-being.
- The professionals that work within the Health and social care, and childcare sectors.
- The range of materials and campaigns available to try and help support and guide people in making healthy lifestyle choices.

Once you have studied all of that stated above you will then have the opportunity to choose an area of particular interest to you on which you will carry out your own independent research and investigation, using this to develop your Non Examination Portfolio. Depending on the pace and ability of the class, we may decide to complete the double award qualification (2 GCSE's), if this happens then the following will also be studied:

Unit 3 - Health and social care, and childcare in the 21st century, including:

- Equality, diversity and inclusion including Welsh language and culture
- Contemporary issues in health and social care, and childcare.

Unit 4 - Promoting and supporting health and well-being to achieve positive outcomes, including:

- How public health and social care, childcare and the National Health Service Wales (NHS Wales) have improved the health and well-being of the nation
- Meaningful activities to support and promote health, development and well-being



What do current students say about this course?

"I've found Health and Social Care to be really relevant to me and my life; watching the Jesy Nelson documentary made me think about the impact that social media has on me and my friends, and how the comments made can really affect people."

"I've really enjoyed learning about development across the life stages and linking milestones to what my baby brother is able to do, it makes it easy to link real life and school work"

History

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

At Key Stage 4, pupils studying History at Eastern High will complete four units.

Unit 1: This unit will consider a Welsh perspective within a British historical context.

Depression, War and Recovery, 1930-1951.

- The Impact of Depression
- Preparations for war against Hitler and the Nazis
- The experiences of World War Two e.g. the bombing of cities, rationing and evacuation
- Post war Wales and Britain.

Unit 2: This unit will consider history in a wider world context.

The USA: A Nation of Contrasts, 1910-1929.

- The Political and Social Challenges e.g. immigration, treatment of black Americans, the rise of the gangsters
- The rise and fall of the economy
- Popular entertainment e.g cinema, jazz and the speakeasy culture.

Unit 3: This unit will be a thematic study, covering an aspect of History.

Changes in Crime and Punishment, c.1500 to the present day.

Pupils will study crime & punishment from Tudor times to the growth of terrorism in the 21st Century.

- Causes of crime
- The nature of crime
- The enforcement of law and order.

Unit 4: Non-examination Assessment, with a focus on the First World War.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There will be three exams: an exam for units 1-3. Units 1 and 2 account for 25% of the qualification. Unit 3 accounts for 30% of the qualification.

You will also be required to complete two non-examination assessment pieces. These will make up the final 20%.

What do current students say about this course?

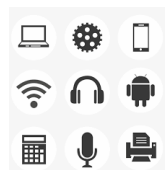
"History has helped me understand about things that have happened and why some things are the way they are now. It is a bit of a challenge, but it is a challenge worth taking and I thoroughly enjoy it." Year 9 pupil.

Information Communication Technology

Qualification: GCSE ICT

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?



In Years 9, 10 and 11, you will complete a Controlled Assessment until the Summer term of the first year. This puts a practical application to use IT in context given a scenario based set of questions. The theory element includes gaining an understanding of the uses of Data, security and convenience of Online Shopping, MIS, Applications Software, Networks, Legal and Ethical Issue, Health Issues. This element of the course will be assessed at the end of year external exams. Producing a webpage using serif plays a big part of the course.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

You will be assessed by completing two controlled assignments and two written examination papers. The assignments are worth 60% and the exam papers are worth 40% of the GCSE.

In Year 9 you will complete 1 Controlled Assessment and 1 examination.

In Year 10 you will also complete 1 Controlled Assessment

In Year 11 you will review your assessments and complete the final exam

Am I suited to GCSE ICT?

The department are looking for enthusiastic, motivated young keyboard warriors to take on the challenge and become successful in the technological world we live in. being innovative and keen to develop your skills further is all you need to become part of a growing and successful department

What do current students say about this course?

This is a good course if you want to learn about a wide range of packages in ICT, it's very interesting with some tough bits which need explaining. I'm really enjoying the course learning new things.

Media Studies

Qualification: GCSE Media Studies

Examination board: WJEC

What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

In Media Studies, you will study media concepts such as audience, narrative, representation, genre and marketing. You will analyse and create a variety of exciting and contemporary media texts including: adverts, films, film trailers, film posters, radio programmes, newspapers, video games, music videos and websites. You will spend time in the classroom and the computer room; this will raise your awareness of the convergent nature of media, and improve your technical skills.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Coursework, which consists of creating a media product, makes up 40% of your overall grade.

There are two written examinations, which make up the other 60%. The first examination requires you to explore Media Language and Representation, whereas the second examination requires you to show understanding of Media Forms and Products.

Am I suited to Media Studies GCSE?

If you have an interest in modern media communication, you will enjoy this subject.

You will learn about media concepts such as representation, audience, genre and media industries.

You will study the following media forms:

- film
- newspapers
- radio news
- television
- advertising
- video games
- magazines
- music videos
- online and social media

Current media classes have also had the opportunity to visit the ITV studios and look at what goes on behind the scenes, as well as using technical equipment such as cameras. They also had the opportunity to present the news and weather.

Careers linked to media studies:

- Digital Marketer
- Media Planner
- Media Researcher
- Music Producer
- Runner, broadcasting/film/video
- Social Media Manager
- Television/Film/Video Producer

What do current students say about this course?

'I enjoy Media Studies because it is a fun educational experience. We have been learning about advertising campaigns, ranging from posters and television adverts.'

Music

Qualification: BTEC Level 1/2 First Award

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

There are 2 compulsory units - The Music Industry, which leads to an exam and Managing a Music Product, in which you will work in groups to design, record and promote your own CD.

You will also need to complete 2 optional units to make up the qualification. These will be chosen from Music Performance, Music Composition, Music Sequencing and The Development of Music.

Music Performance will focus on producing videos of you performing your choice of music, and developing your skills to improve in this area, including keeping a regular practice diary.

Music Composition will involve creating and developing your own musical ideas, maybe writing a song or a piece of music for film.

Music Sequencing will be about using computers to produce music, using the new IT equipment.

The Development of Music will take a look at how music has changed through time.

There may be an opportunity for some Students to complete a separate Music Technology course as well, which will lead to a further GCSE equivalent qualification.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Most of the course will be made up of assignments, which will be assessed by your teacher, and moderated by an external person. Some of these will be written, some will be practical. Most will be individual work but there will be some group work too. You will have strict deadlines to work to and will get feedback on how to improve your work. There will be one examination on the Music Industry, which you will take during Year 11.

Am I suited to BTEC Music?

Yes, if you have an interest in the way the Music Industry works – how a song gets from being just an idea in somebody's head to a recording played on the radio and downloaded from iTunes.

You also need to be interested in performing, including in front of other people, and making up your own music.

You don't need to play an instrument but if you don't, then you must be willing to sing.

There is a lot of independent work in this course, so you must be able to focus and concentrate on what needs to be done, especially if those around you are working on something else.

You will have homework and will also be expected to practice regularly for performances.

Don't forget that for a BTEC qualification there is written work (as in a GCSE) so do not assume that you will just spend 2 years playing on a keyboard. We are here to help you to achieve your best and will have high expectations.

This course will allow you to demonstrate a huge number of skills, which will be useful for you in the future. These include confidence, creativity, both team and individual work, perseverance and determination.

Performing Arts

Qualification BTEC Performing Arts

Examination board: Edexcel

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

You will study the following units:-

Exploring Performing Arts and Performing Arts Industry (single award)

Showcase a Performance (single award)

Developing understanding and knowledge of Performing Arts (double award)

Commissioned Performance (double award)

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There is a mixture of internally and externally marked work. All performances are coursework based.

Am I suited to GCSE Performing Arts?

The course requires hard work, dedication, excellent team work and enthusiasm. You must have a love for performing and must want to improve the three main areas of Dance, Drama and Music.

What do current students say about this course?

“The course has improved my confidence not just in actually getting up and performing but going to College and getting interviewed for a place on a course I really want to do next year. I never would have been able to do it if I hadn’t taken Performing Arts” Chardelle Smith year 11

‘ This course has improved all my skills in Musical Theatre, especially my singing and acting. , I feel very comfortable with how I perform . It has also made my confidence as a performer and as a person much better and I’ve taken part in lots of activities and shows I would never have done if I wasn’t taking part in Performing Arts’ Laura Dawkes Year 11

“It has provided me with not only skills in dance, singing and acting, but it has allowed me to grow in confidence which I can apply to other subjects” Leah Bond Year 11

“I have developed as a singer and can now go on to study Performing Arts in College with more confidence and belief in the skills I have gained” Aisha Kigwalilo Year 11

“Before, I was really shy and nervous in front of people. Doing Performing Arts has not only ignited my passion for Drama, but has also allowed me to be a more confident person and to take that out into the wide world and channel it towards whatever I want to do with my future” Jonathan Borg Year 11

Physical Education

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

***What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?***

By choosing GCSE P.E. you will:

- Develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance
- Find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity
- Appreciate the benefits of promoting 'Sport for All'.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Unit 1 – Examination

50%

Unit 1 is externally assessed through a written examination paper of 2 hours. This will contribute a maximum of 50% towards your total marks.

Unit 2 – Controlled Assessment

50%

Three practical performances in the role of either player/participant as well as a written Personal Fitness Programme. You can achieve 50% of the marks from your three performances with one being your main area.

What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

By choosing GCSE P.E you will:

- Develop your knowledge and practical skills in a range of physical activities
- Examine the effects of exercise and how training can improve performance
- Find ways to improve your own performances in a variety of roles
- Identify ways to develop and maintain a healthy and active lifestyle through participation in physical activity
- Appreciate the benefits of promoting 'Sport for All'.

Am I suited to GCSE Physical Education?

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education.

It will give you exciting opportunities to be involved in a number of different physical activities, promoting an active and healthy lifestyle. As a GCSE PE pupil you will be expected to represent the school in a variety of different activities. You should have an interest in physical education and sport, enjoy being active and appreciate the benefits of keeping fit and healthy.

What do current students say about this course?

"It's really enjoyable but you need to be prepared to work hard - it's not all fun and games."

Rhys Sheldon Year 10 GCSE PE

Religious Studies

Qualification: WJEC GCSE Religious Studies

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years





What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes

Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Unit 1: Religion and Philosophical Themes

Written examination: 2 hours

50% of qualification

Unit 2: Religion and Ethical Themes

Written examination: 2 hours

50% of qualification

Am I suited to GCSE RE?

GCSE RE enables learners to:

- Deepen their understanding of the relationship between people
- Become informed about common and divergent views within traditions in the way beliefs and teachings are understood and expressed
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the fact that religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian
- Understand that religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse and include the following religions: Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, as well as non-religious beliefs, such as atheism and humanism
- Engage with questions of belief, value, meaning, purpose, truth, and their influence on human life
- Challenge learners to reflect on and develop their own values, beliefs and attitudes in the light of what they have learnt and contribute to their preparation for adult life in a pluralistic society and global community

Careers linked to RE:

- Chaplain
- Advice worker
- Teacher
- Counsellor
- Civil Service administrator
- Community development worker
- Newspaper journalist
- Police officer
- Youth worker

Sociology

Qualification: Sociology 9-1

Examination board: EDUQAS

What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

This component covers the following topic areas:

Key concepts and processes of cultural transmission, Families, Education, Sociological research methods

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures

This component covers the following topic areas:

Social differentiation and stratification, Crime and deviance, Applied methods of sociological enquiry

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Component 1: Understanding Social Processes

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of qualification

Component 2: Understanding Social Structures

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes

50% of qualification

Am I suited to GCSE Sociology?

Do you have an inquiring mind? Have you ever questioned the following:

- How do people learn the rules of their culture?
- How do children learn to act like a boy or a girl?
- Why are people allowed to marry more than one person in other countries?
- What happens to children who are neglected or brought up by wild animals?
- Why do people turn to a life of crime?
- Why are there more single parent families today compared to the 1950s?
- Why are the rich getting richer and some people live in poverty?
- What is the hidden curriculum in schools?
- What is an anti-school subculture?
- Why was homosexuality against the law in the 1960s but today same sex couples can legally marry in the UK?
- How does the media influence the way we think?
- How can racism, sexism, ageism, social class, sexuality and disability have a negative impact on a person's life-chances?

If you have a keen interest in life around you then sociology is for you.

While finding out about the world around you, sociologists will also develop the ability to show their knowledge and understanding of key concepts and issues in the context of sociological theory. Learners will also select, interpret, evaluate and apply their knowledge and understanding in a range of contexts. These are highly desirable skills required for college and university.

Careers linked to sociology:

- ☐ *The Police*
- ☐ *Research*
- ☐ *Social Work and the 'Caring Professions'*
- ☐ *Teaching Civil Service and Local Government*
- ☐ *Lawyer*

What do current students say about this course?

'I now see life from a different perspective.' *'Sociology has made me think about how my life is influenced by society.'*

Vehicle Inspection

Qualification: Vehicle inspection level 2

Examination board: IMI

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

It provides learners with the opportunity to study both the theory and practical aspects of a range of routine vehicle inspection, fitting and maintenance procedures:

- Routine light vehicle maintenance, including engine systems.
- Inspecting, repairing and replacing light vehicle: standard and high performance tyres.
- Carrying out light vehicle four wheel alignment.
- Inspecting and replacing light vehicle: exhaust components, suspension dampers & springs, vehicle batteries and braking systems & components.
- Learners also gain a broad knowledge and understanding of health and safety in the workplace, agreeing customer vehicle needs and other skills associated with working in a garage.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The assessment is made up of two components:

- *Practical tasks*
- *Online testing - multiple choice examination*

Am I suited to Vehicle inspection Level 2?

This knowledge and skills qualification (VRQ) is primarily designed to meet the needs of the young apprentice. It suits school & college students (and leavers) who wish to join the automotive industry. You need to be happy doing hand on activities and occasionally getting dirty.

What do current students say about this course?

As this is a brand new course at Eastern High you will be the first students to give us feedback. We look forward to it!

Hair and Beauty

Qualification: Hair and Beauty Services Level 2

Examination board: VTCT

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

- - Understanding the hair and beauty sector (mandatory) - in this unit learners will develop an understanding of the structure and importance of the hair and beauty sector. They will also learn about the products used, and services and treatments provided throughout the sector as well as career opportunities.
- - Hair and beauty research project (mandatory) - in this unit learners learn how to plan a hair and beauty research project. Learners will then produce a research proposal and conduct their research into a particular topic area of the hair and beauty sector.
- - Business enterprise in hair and beauty (optional) - in this unit learners will research and develop new ideas for a business enterprise in hair or beauty.
- - Marketing and promotions in hair and beauty (optional) - in this unit learners will look at a hair or beauty business and then develop their own marketing materials and activities to support a product or service.
- - Hair and beauty science (optional) - in this unit learners will develop an understanding of the chemistry of hair and beauty products. They will also learn about the anatomy of the skin and hair and produce a formulation for a hair and beauty product.
- - Responding to a hair and beauty design brief (optional) - in this unit learners will develop an understanding of design briefs throughout the hair and beauty sector. They will then be set a specific design brief to which they have to respond by researching the area, presenting their ideas and justifying their choices.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

25% of this qualification is subject to external written exam on – Understanding the hair and beauty sector
75% internal assessment

Am I suited to Hair and Beauty skills level 2?

The VTCT Level 2 Certificate in Hairdressing and Beauty Therapy (VRQ) is a Technical Award specifically for 14-16 year olds. This qualification aims to support young people to:

- develop a broad and comprehensive understanding of the hair and beauty sector
- develop knowledge which spans the entire vocational sector and related industries
- develop academic study and transferable skills that will support progression within the hair and beauty sector and more broadly

It is well suited to people who enjoy working with their hands and are interested in hair and beauty.

What do current students say about this course?

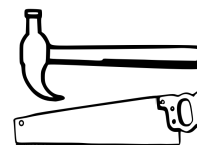
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Construction

Qualification: Construction & the Built Environment Entry 3

Examination board: C&G

Duration: 2 years



What are the main topics I will study for this qualification?

This level is an introduction to the types of hand skills that are involved in the construction industry.

The phases cover the following trade areas:

Phase 1: Generic Units, Bricklaying, Joinery

Phase 2: Wall & Floor Tiling, Construction, Operations, Painting & Decorating

Phase 3: Carpentry

Phase 4: Plastering, Plumbing, Electrical

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Candidates must:

- *successfully complete one assignment for each mandatory unit*
- *successfully complete one assignment for each chosen optional unit*

Am I suited to Construction and the built environment entry 3?

These qualifications provide the ideal introduction to the construction industry and cover essential skills in the following construction trades: bricklaying, carpentry and joinery, plastering, painting and decorating, construction operations, wall and floor tiling, electrical and plumbing.

These qualifications are suitable for 14-19 year olds, or for individuals of any age wanting an introduction to the variety of construction trades, to gain skills in those areas and perhaps to decide which trade is the right one to pursue a career in.

No previous knowledge or experience is required.

What do current students say about this course?

As this is a brand new course at Eastern High you will be the first students to give us feedback. We look forward to it!