

Campws Cymunedol Y Dwyrain
Eastern Community Campus

Year 9
Options Booklet 2025

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 or career path you choose to follow after you have finished school.

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's Careers & Aspirations Advisor, Mr Morgan, can provide support, advice and guidance with your option subject choices. There is also a member of staff from Careers 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.

We wish you the very best of luck in whatever subjects you choose to do.

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) - This course will start in Year 11● English Literature (Worth 1 GCSE) - This course will start in Year 9 and be completed in Year 10 ● GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award (worth 2 GCSEs) ● Science Double Award (Worth 2 GCSEs) or● Science Triple Award (Worth 3 GCSE) or● A single science qualification (Worth 1 GCSE) ● Welsh Second Language (Worth 1 GCSE) or● Welsh Agored (worth 2x B grades at GCSE) ● Equality and Diversity (Worth 1 or 2 GCSEs) ● Health and Wellbeing and PE (As core subjects these are not studied towards a GCSE but PE can be studied as an Option at GCSE level) ● Skills Challenge (formerly Welsh Baccalaureate) (Level 2 qualification) *Some students will have the opportunity to complete this qualification.

Optional Subjects Subjects are all GCSEs unless stated otherwise	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Art - Fine Art● Art - Textiles● Computer Science● Digital Technology● Design and Technology - (<i>Product Design</i>)● Drama● Hospitality and Catering● French	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Geography● History● Media Studies● Music (BTEC)● Drama● Performing Arts (BTEC)● Physical Education● Sociology

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.

How many subjects can I choose?

You will be able to choose three subjects from three different options blocks that will be shared with you in plenty of time.

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.

Core Curriculum - English Literature

Qualification: GCSE English Literature (English Language to be completed in Yr 11)

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: kkennedydunn@easternhigh.org.uk



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

This GCSE specification in English Literature is based on the conviction that the study of literature should centre on an informed personal response and a critical understanding of a range of texts in the genres of prose, poetry, and drama. This qualification is made up of two externally assessed units, and one internally assessed unit. The two externally assessed units test learners' knowledge and understanding of prose from different cultures, contemporary unseen poetry and literary heritage and contemporary drama/prose. The internally assessed unit tests learners' knowledge and understanding of a play by Shakespeare and Welsh writing in English.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

2.1 Unit 1

External assessment - 35%

Unit 1: Prose (different cultures) and poetry (contemporary)

Section A 21% (individual texts in context)

Section A requires study of a prose text from a different culture. It will require candidates to answer **two** questions on the chosen prose text. The first question will require close reading of an extract. The second question will offer a choice of tasks relating to the text as a whole.

Section B 14% (comparative study)

Section B will consist of a question which asks candidates to explore, respond to and compare two contemporary unseen poems.

2.2 Unit 2

External assessment - 40%

Unit 2a: Literary heritage drama and contemporary prose (individual texts in context)

OR

Unit 2b: Contemporary drama and literary heritage prose (individual texts in context)

This paper requires study of a drama text from the English/Welsh/Irish literary heritage and a contemporary prose text. It will require candidates to answer two questions on each text.

2.3 Unit 3

Non-examination assessment - 25%

Section A: Shakespeare

Assessment will be based on a thematic essay question on a Shakespeare play. Candidates will be required to study a Shakespeare play in its entirety. Candidates may have up to 2 hours to complete this non-examination assessment.

Section B: Welsh writing in English

Assessment will be based on a group of 15 thematically linked poems taken from the Library of Wales anthology, Poetry 1900-2000: One Hundred Poets from Wales. Candidates will be required to study all the poems listed for the chosen theme. Candidates may have up to 2 hours to complete this non-examination assessment.

Important information

- Unit 3 Coursework component will be completed by the end of Year 9
- Year 10 focus is on the two exams outlined above. Texts to be studied are:
Unit 1 Exam (January 2025) - Of Mice and Men & Unseen Poetry
Unit 2a Exam (May/June 2025) - An Inspector Calls & Heroes
- Students will either be entered for Higher tier or Foundation Tier
- The English Literature GCSE qualification will be completed in Year 10. The English Language GCSE qualification will be delivered and completed in Year 11

What can I do at home to support my studies?

- Watch the film/TV adaptations of the set texts together;
- Look at the sample exam papers and become familiar with the types of texts and questions;
- Complete revision packs with your child, at home; and
- Set your child timed writing tasks, and give them feedback in terms of content and spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Core Curriculum- GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award

Qualification: GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy Double Award

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: lrees@easternhigh.org.uk

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

This GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award) qualification is underpinned by the Curriculum for Wales framework and has been designed to ensure that learners can continue to make progress towards the four purposes whilst studying for this qualification.

The content of GCSE Mathematics and Numeracy (Double Award) qualification is based on the following mathematical and numerical concepts that make up the Curriculum for Wales' statements of what matters for the Mathematics and Numeracy Area:

- number
- algebra
- geometry and measures
- statistics and probability

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There are 2 tiers of entry for this qualification.

Higher Tier: Grades A* – D Foundation Tier: Grades C– G

Unit 1: Calculator Written examination Higher: 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks) Foundation: 1 hour 30 minutes (65 marks) 30% of qualification.

Unit 2: Non-Calculator Written examination Higher: 1 hour 45 minutes (80 marks) Foundation: 1 hour 30 minutes (65 marks) 30% of qualification.

Unit 3: Calculator Written examination: Higher 2 hours (90 Marks) Foundation 1 hour 45 minutes (75 marks) 40% of qualification

What can I do at home to support my studies?

- Use exercise books to look over class work
- Make sure all homework is completed on time.
- *A scientific calculator is essential to the GCSE course.*
- Attend revision sessions
- Use Mathswatch/BBC bitesize to watch videos to support learning.
- Make sure you know basic maths number skills e.g. addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

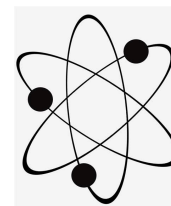
Core Curriculum - Science

Qualification: GCSE Science

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: rbassett@easternhigh.org.uk



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

UNIT 1 – BIOLOGY 1

- 1.1 CELLS AND MOVEMENT ACROSS CELL MEMBRANES
- 1.2 RESPIRATION AND THE RESPIRATORY SYSTEM IN HUMANS
- 1.3 DIGESTION AND THE DIGESTIVE SYSTEM IN HUMANS
- 1.4 CIRCULATORY SYSTEM IN HUMANS
- 1.5 PLANTS AND PHOTOSYNTHESIS
- 1.6 ECOSYSTEMS, NUTRIENT CYCLES AND HUMAN IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

UNIT 4 – BIOLOGY 2

- 4.1 CLASSIFICATION AND BIODIVERSITY
- 4.2 CELL DIVISION AND STEM CELLS
- 4.3 DNA AND INHERITANCE
- 4.4 VARIATION AND EVOLUTION
- 4.5 RESPONSE AND REGULATION
- 4.6 DISEASE, DEFENCE AND TREATMENT

UNIT 2 – CHEMISTRY 1

- 2.1 THE NATURE OF SUBSTANCES AND CHEMICAL REACTIONS
- 2.2 ATOMIC STRUCTURE AND THE PERIODIC TABLE
- 2.3 WATER
- 2.4 THE EVER-CHANGING EARTH
- 2.5 RATE OF CHEMICAL CHANGE

UNIT 5 – CHEMISTRY 2

- 5.1 BONDING, STRUCTURE AND PROPERTIES
- 5.2 ACIDS, BASES AND SALTS
- 5.3 METALS AND THEIR EXTRACTION
- 5.4 CHEMICAL REACTIONS AND ENERGY
- 5.5 CRUDE OIL, FUELS AND ORGANIC CHEMISTRY

UNIT 3 – PHYSICS 1

- 3.1 ELECTRIC CIRCUITS
- 3.2 GENERATING ELECTRICITY
- 3.3 MAKING USE OF ENERGY
- 3.4 DOMESTIC ELECTRICITY
- 3.5 FEATURES OF WAVES

UNIT 6 – PHYSICS 2

- 6.1 DISTANCE, SPEED AND ACCELERATION
- 6.2 NEWTON'S LAWS
- 6.3 WORK AND ENERGY
- 6.4 STARS AND PLANETS
- 6.5 TYPES OF RADIATION
- 6.6 HALF-LIFE

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There are 2 tiers for science.

Higher Tier A-E; Foundation Tier C-G*

Regardless of the tier you will sit 3 exams in Year 10 (45% of the overall qualification) and 3 exams in Year 11 (45% of the overall qualification) as well as coursework (non-tiered 10% of the overall qualification) in Year 11.

What can I do at home to support my studies?

- Ensure that you use your class notes to revise.
- Make use of resources posted on your Google Classroom
- Attend any revision sessions available

Core Curriculum - Welsh / Welsh Agored



Qualification: Welsh Agored

Examination board: Agored Cymru

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: jmontefusco@easternhigh.org.uk

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

This qualification includes a variety of cross-curricular studies that are taught through the medium of English. The subjects and topics focus on the connection they make to Wales and Welsh life, celebrating our Welsh heritage.

Areas of study include -

Tourism in Wales

Art in Wales

Flora and Fauna in Wales

Music and Musicians in Wales

Traditions and Customs of Wales

Physical Geography and Climate of Wales

In addition to classroom guidance, pupils conduct independent research throughout the studying process.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

This qualification is assessed through in-class coursework over the 2 years. You will study six individual units that are both formatively and summatively assessed throughout the process. Successful completion of all six units will be awarded as a Level 2 qualification, equivalent to 2 B grades at GCSE.

There is no exam for this qualification.

Important information

Agored Cymru uses innovative and flexible approaches to developing qualifications to meet skills needs in Wales. Agored Cymru focuses on the development of key skills, competencies and the experience of new cultures, whilst simultaneously promoting Wales and Welsh language and culture throughout the world.

Qualification: GCSE Welsh

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: jmontefusco@easternhigh.org.uk

Do you want to be able to understand and use Welsh, the language of Wales, confidently and spontaneously? Do you want to develop a valuable skill and use Welsh in further study, in the workplace and in your communities?

Do you want to be a part of the government's aim and be one of the million Welsh speakers by 2050? This is a qualification that can foster your curiosity, develop your language learning skills and strategies, and open doors to further study and future jobs.

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

You will study three broad themes of 'cynefin', identity and culture and within these themes you will learn:

about the value of the Welsh language socially and in the world of work

about its use in Wales and around the world how to understand and use Cymraeg with others in a spontaneous and confident way

how to develop skills for work and life and how to respond creatively to literature.

UNIT 1 (Responding to a Visual Stimulus) & UNIT 2

(Responding to Various Sources)

In these speaking and listening units you will learn how to understand and use Welsh with others in a spontaneous and confident way by: watching visual stimuli (Unit 1)

- looking at various sources for example, graph/ chart, facts and/or statistics and images (Unit 2)

UNIT 3 (Preparing for the Future) & UNIT 4 (Literature and Creative Writing)

In these units you will develop both skills, reading and writing, by responding to non-verbal reading and writing texts, practicing and responding to a variety of language forms, as well as:

- learn essential skills for the future such as translanguaging and translating (Unit 3)
- study short stories and set poems (Unit 4)

All units will be based on the three broad themes.

HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

EXAMINATION

There will be two written examinations:

Unit 3 - 1 hour 30 minutes; 100 marks; 25% of qualification.

Unit 4 - 1 hour 30 minutes; 100 marks; 25% of qualification.

There will be a variety of reading tasks with non-verbal and written responses in both units along with descriptive, persuasive, poetic writing and expressing opinions tasks (Unit 3) and creative writing tasks (Unit 4).

In Unit 3, translanguaging and translating tasks will be assessed in each series. In Unit 4, one set text (from the two poems and two short stories) will be assessed in each series. You will be told before the exam (Unit

4) which set text will be used in each series.

NON-EXAMINATION ASSESSMENT

There will be two non-examination assessments:

Unit 1 - one oral assessment for pairs (6-8 minutes) / group of three (8-10 minutes); 50 marks; 25% of qualification.

Unit 2 - one oral assessment for pairs (6-8 minutes) / group of three (8-10 minutes); 50 marks; 25% of qualification.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

Speaking and Listening Skills

You will develop your speaking and listening skills to be able to communicate, interact, express and justify opinions and ask and respond

effectively to questions.

Reading and Writing skills

You will develop your reading and writing skills to be able to understand and respond to different types of written language in various forms including work-related language and responding to literature.

Analysing skills

You will develop your analytical skills to respond critically, evaluate relevant points and develop ideas in texts and spoken communication.

CAREERS IN CORE CYMRAEG:

Jobs advertised in Wales often require the ability to speak Welsh as essential or desirable. If you have a GCSE Core Cymraeg qualification and if the other candidates applying for the post do not have this qualification, you have a head start.

The ability to speak Welsh is important and advantageous in all areas including education, health and care, the government, media and entertainment, sport, law, marketing and much more. You can even get a job in Patagonia in South America if you can speak Welsh!

Am I suited for this course?

This course is suited to individuals who:

Enjoy learning about Welsh culture and history – You're interested in exploring the rich traditions of Wales.

Want to improve their language skills – You like learning and using new words and phrases.

Are proud of their heritage – You want to celebrate and preserve the Welsh language.

Enjoy communicating – You like speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Want to keep career options open – You know that Welsh is important for jobs in Wales.

Love a challenge – You're ready to try something new and push yourself.

Plan to stay connected to Wales – You want to keep your language alive and useful in your community.



Core Curriculum - Skills Challenge (formerly Welsh Baccalaureate)

Qualification: Skills Challenge

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: cwright@easternhigh.org.uk

The qualification has changed from Welsh Baccalaureate to Skills Challenge.

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

The Skills Challenge Certificate consists of 3 components:

- Individual Project (50%)

Plus the below challenges at 25% each

- Global Citizen Challenge
- Community Challenge

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The Skills Challenge Certificate is 100% coursework. To achieve the qualification, learners must complete the Individual Project and two of the Challenge components. The combined outcomes of the three chosen components will determine whether the Skills Challenge Certificate is awarded at National or Foundation level.

Important information

The National/Foundation Skills Challenge provides a vehicle for learners to consolidate and develop integral and cross curricular skills. The qualification helps learners to prepare for their future by developing skills, attributes and behaviours valued by educators and potential employers. The emphasis in the skills challenge is on applied learning i.e. acquiring and applying a range of transferable skills. Learners will develop skills in the context of purposeful tasks and appropriate knowledge and understanding. It will encourage the learner to value skills development as a key aspect of education and life-long learning. It fully embraces and consolidates the core purposes of the Curriculum for Wales, supporting learners to become:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society.

What can I do at home to support my studies?

Keep up to date with recent issues within your local community and globally - discuss these with your parents and how you would make a difference if you were in the position to.

Core Curriculum

Equality & Diversity

Best point of contact: rnicholas@[easternhigh.org.uk](mailto:rnicholas@easternhigh.org.uk)



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

Students will cover a number of topics including the following:

Equality and Diversity in Society

Equality and Diversity in the Community

Equality and Diversity in the Workplace

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There is no formal examination and students are assessed by the work they complete in class. This qualification is equivalent to either one or two GCSE's.

Health and Wellbeing

Best point of contact: lkeyworth@[easternhigh.org.uk](mailto:lkeyworth@easternhigh.org.uk)



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

Students will cover a number of topics including the following:

-staying safe online

-healthy relationships

-Careers

-Healthy eating and looking after our bodies

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There is no formal assessment for this subject and students will not sit any examination.



Option Subjects

Art & Design – Fine Art

Qualification: GCSE Art & Design

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: lmurray@easternhigh.org.uk

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'. In Year 10 you will 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 as well as developing the most fundamental skills of drawing and painting.

You will prepare for and sit a 5 hour Year 10 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 are 'secure' or 'exceeding' in progression step 4 at the end of Year 9 you will make a successful GCSE student who could achieve a grade C or above at GCSE as we always notice creativity at an early stage of your experimental journey.

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

Best point of contact: lmurray@easternhigh.org.uk



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 10 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.

Generally, if you are 'secure' or 'exceeding' in progression step 4 at the end of Year 9 you will make a successful GCSE student who could achieve a grade C or above at GCSE as we always notice creativity at an early stage of your experimental journey.

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*

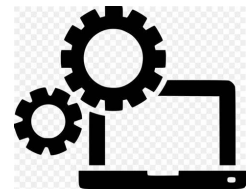
Computer Science

Qualification: GCSE Computer Science

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: mroberts@easternhigh.org.uk



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

In Computer Science, students explore fundamental principles such as abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. The curriculum emphasises problem-solving through practical programming experience, fostering creative, innovative, analytical, logical, and critical thinking. Students gain a comprehensive understanding of digital systems, their components, communication mechanisms, and societal impacts.

Mathematical skills relevant to computer science are also applied. The course integrates programming, system development (using Python Programming and Greenfoot), computer architecture, data, communication, and applications, promoting a broad skill set.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The course is split into three key assessment components. A piece of coursework will require students to create a computer programme using a variety of software and will account for 30% of the qualification. The remaining 70% will be assessed through the GCSE exams in June of Year 11. Work towards the examination begins from the moment students enter year 10.

Unit 1: Understanding Computer Science Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 50% of the qualification

- This unit investigates hardware, logical operations, communication, data representation and data types, operating systems, principles of programming, software engineering, program construction, security and data management and the impacts of digital technology on wider society

Unit 2: Computational Thinking and Programming On-screen examination: 2 hours 50% of the qualification

- This unit investigates problem solving, algorithms and programming constructs, programming languages, data structures and data types and security and authentication. Students will be given a brief that they have studied prior to the exam and be expected to live code and create a programme for their assessment.

Am I suited to Computer Science?

This course is suitable for individuals with an interest in technology, logic, and problem-solving. It is designed to cater to students who wish to understand and apply the principles and concepts of computer science. If you enjoy thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically, and critically, and have an interest in the impacts of digital technology on individuals and society, then you are likely well-suited to pursuing Computer Science at the GCSE level. Resilience, self-sufficiency and a drive to explore are prerequisites for the course, and a strong subject foundation of Mathematics is desirable!

What do current students say about this course?

The hands-on nature of the assessments allows students to showcase their problem-solving abilities, providing valuable practical experience. Overall, feedback from current students emphasises the course's alignment with the demands of modern technology and its engaging, skill-enriching content.

Digital Technology

Qualification: GCSE Digital Technology

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: mroberts@easternhigh.org.uk



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

Digital Technology offers a comprehensive exploration of digital skills, knowledge, and understanding applicable in both academic and everyday contexts. Students delve into the diverse landscape of digital technology systems, understanding their value, perspectives, and impact on organisations and individuals. The curriculum covers data, digital communications, securing data and systems, and evolving digital technologies.

Elements of the subject itself can be closely compared to marketing, advertising and digital communications. The course is not 'ICT' and requires a genuine interest in Game Development and technical subject knowledge.

Game creation, video creation and how to meet the needs of a target audience are subjects covered within the topic that goes to make this a great choice for students to express their creativity, logic and resilience.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

The course is split into three key topic areas. The subject is heavily weighted to coursework, with 30% dedicated to game creation and data cleansing, 30% dedicated to online marketing and the remaining 40% as an end of topic theoretical examination.

Unit 1 - "The Digital World" (Exam)

- on-screen examination focusing on digital technology systems
- Focussing on the value of digital technology, ethical perspectives and hardware/software components.

Unit 2 - "Digital Practices" (Coursework NEA)

- Non-exam assessment requiring learners to interrogate spreadsheet data and create a data-informed digital product
- Students will create a game from the ground up using industry leading software 'Gamemaker'

Unit 3 - "Communicating in the Digital World" (Coursework NEA)

- Non-exam assessment requiring learners to create a digital marketing campaign following a specific scenario
- An understanding of the value in social media, online marketing communications, creating a digital asset using industry leading software Adobe Premier Pro.

Am I suited to Digital Technology?

Digital Technology suits individuals seeking to develop into independent, confident, and knowledgeable users of various digital technologies. It is designed for those interested in understanding the impact of digital technologies on individuals and society, exploring different digital technology systems across occupational sectors, and developing skills in data organisation, analysis, and digital product creation. The course fosters creativity, problem-solving, and a comprehensive understanding of the systems development life cycle. Particularly, students wishing for a career involved in planning, advertising or marketing will benefit greatly from the course!

What do current students say about this course?

Students enjoy the opportunity to create digital products for authentic needs, developing transferable skills in hardware and software use. The course is seen as a pathway to careers involving digital technologies or further advanced learning in the field.

Drama

Qualification: GCSE Drama

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: ledwards@easternhigh.org.uk



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

There are 3 main units of study: Unit 1: Devising Theatre, Unit 2: Performing Theatre, and Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre.

Unit 1: Devising Theatre. Pupils create their own piece of theatre in the style of a theatre practitioner/genre in response to a given stimulus e.g. a quote, song, picture. This can be completed as a performer or a designer.

Unit 2: Performing Theatre. Pupils will perform an extract from two different theatrical texts. This can be completed as a performer or a designer.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre. Pupils will complete a written exam. The exam is split into section A and Section B. Section A is based on a set text that pupils will explore in lessons from the perspective of an actor, designer, and director. Section B is a Live Theatre Review based on a live performance they have seen over their course of study.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

Unit 1: Devising Theatre is 40% of the qualification. Pupils will be assessed internally. They are assessed on their rehearsal logs, performance, and evaluation.

Unit 2: Performing Theatre is 20% of the qualification. Pupils' performances/designs will be assessed by a visiting external examiner.

Unit 3: Interpreting Theatre is 40% of the qualification. Pupils will be assessed in a written exam based on their responses to a series of questions based on their set text and a live performance they have watched.

Am I suited to Drama?

As a subject, Drama provides some of the most transferable skills that you will use in your adult life:

- Drama teaches you to work as part of a team. In Drama you will learn to balance ideas, work with and listen to others, evaluate your work and develop your organisational skills.
- Drama gives you the confidence to perform and present in front of others. When you go for job, college or university interviews, or lead a presentation at work, studying Drama will provide you with the required skills to communicate and deliver confidently in front of others.

Drama GCSE is absolutely for you if:

- You have an interest in performing
- You want to develop your confidence
- You enjoy working as part of a team
- You have an interest in watching performances
- You are interested in other roles within theatre, such as directing or designing
- You like working practically
- You are committed and enthusiastic about Drama

If you wish to continue studying Drama at a higher level, then studying GCSE Drama will prepare you for higher education such as A Level Drama. If you wish to pursue Drama as a career option then there are a number of routes that you can take such as acting, directing, teaching, stage management, costume design, set construction, lighting and sound technical work.

Product Design (Design and Technology)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Point of contact: cjohnson@easternhigh.org.uk



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.

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

Design Process: Understanding the stages of design, from initial idea generation to final product evaluation.

Materials and Properties: Learning about different materials and their properties.

Manufacturing Processes: Exploring various manufacturing methods such as injection molding, casting, machining, and 3D printing.

Health and Safety: Understanding health and safety considerations when designing and manufacturing products.

Computer-Aided Design: Introduction to CAD software for creating product designs.

Prototyping: Creating prototypes using different materials and techniques to test and refine designs.

Ergonomics and Anthropometrics: Considering human factors in design, such as sizes and human comfort.

Sustainability: Exploring sustainable design practices and considering environmental impacts throughout the design process.

Commercial Manufacturing: Understanding how products are manufactured on a larger scale.

Product Analysis: Analysing existing products to understand design features, functionality, and user experience.

Design Influences and Trends: Studying historical and contemporary design movements.

Evaluation and Iteration: Evaluating finished products against design specifications and user feedback.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

In the first year 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 in product design throughout each topic.

You will be expected to maintain and show good progress and attendance in Year 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 your knowledge and understanding of product design.

Am I suited to DT?

This course is suited to individuals that like:

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

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.

Architect	Engineer	Plumber
Gas Engineer	Designer	Carpenter
Builder	Printer	Electrician
Town and country planner	Interior Design	Welder
Plasterer	Branding	Manufacturing
Surveyor	Mechanic	Tiler
Gardener	Product Designer	Scaffolder
Site Manager	inventor	Bricklayer
Health and Safety Officer	Kitchen Designer	Roofer
Project Manager	Interior Designer	
CAD Technician		

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."

Hospitality and Catering (Food Technology)

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: cjohnson@easternhigh.org.uk



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

The ability to plan, prepare and present food is an essential skill within the hospitality and catering industry. The course equips you with theoretical knowledge about the industry as well as enabling you to develop practical skills in planning, preparing and cooking a variety of dishes. 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!

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

- Food safety and hygiene regulations
- Nutrition and dietary requirements
- Culinary techniques and skills (e.g., chopping, baking, grilling)
- Menu planning and design
- Food presentation and garnishing
- Kitchen equipment and its uses
- Understanding different cooking methods
- Food preparation and cooking processes
- Hospitality industry sectors and career opportunities
- Customer service skills and techniques
- Health and safety in the kitchen and hospitality environments
- Sustainability and ethical considerations in food production and service
- Marketing and promotion in the hospitality industry
- Cultural influences on food and dining experiences

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.

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry will be externally assessed (90 Marks)

You will focus on learning about different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the sector.

- Written assessment is 90 mins in length
- 40% of qualification

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action is internally assessed

You will develop practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting nutritional dishes to meet specific client's needs. This assessment will allow you to showcase the food preparation skills you have developed through your practical lessons.

- 60% of qualification
- 9 hours allocated for this assessment

Am I suited for this course

This course is suited to individuals who :

- are creative
- enjoy 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
Best point of contact: jmontefusco@easternhigh.org.uk



Why study in GCSE French?

The WJEC GCSE in French has been designed to enable you to use languages in meaningful ways. You will learn how to understand the language and communicate in both speaking and writing in realistic settings. You will also develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where the language is spoken and make connections with your own language and culture.

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

The course has 4 units. Two are assessed in examinations in the final year of study. The other two units are completed as non-examination assessments in the classroom, also in your final year of study. You will learn useful language that you could use in situations relating to leisure and wellbeing, travel and study or work.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

UNIT 1 - Oracy

Unit 1 is a non-examination assessment of speaking and listening and will be conducted by your teacher.

Firstly, you will read aloud a short sentence to show your understanding of French/German/Spanish pronunciation. You will then take part in a role play.

After this, you will give a short one-minute presentation that you will have prepared in advance and have a short discussion with your teacher about your presentation. Finally, you will take part in a short conversation with your teacher. This unit is worth 30% of the qualification.

UNIT 2 - Reading and Writing

Unit 2 is also a non-examination assessment that you will complete in your classroom. With your classmates, you will study a short work (either a graphic novel, short story, film script or novel) in French. You will then write a written response (up to 200 words) in French about the short story/graphic novel or film script you have studied.

This unit is worth 15% of the qualification

Unit 3 - Listening

Unit 3 is a listening examination worth 20% of the qualification. You will listen to a range of speakers in French and will demonstrate your understanding of what you have heard by for example, answering multiple choice questions or questions in English/Cymraeg.

Unit 4 - Reading and Writing

Unit 4 is a written examination worth 35% of the qualification. For this assessment, you will read texts in French and answer questions on them in English/Cymraeg. You will also be required to complete a translation into English/Cymraeg. Finally, you will be able to demonstrate your written language skills by writing up to 120 words in French from a choice of 3 questions.

WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

You will learn how to communicate clearly and accurately in speaking and writing.

You will develop your understanding of the language by reading and listening to items in French.

You will learn how to contribute to discussions and conversations.

You will develop an awareness of the culture and society of the countries and communities where French is spoken.

You will make connections with your own language.

CAREERS IN FRENCH:

A GCSE in French can open up a world of opportunities to you. There are a wide range of career paths that you could follow with a GCSE in languages, including within the more traditionally linked tourist industry, armed forces, language services such as translation and interpreting, teaching and social services. However, the great advantage of having skills in another language is that they can serve you throughout your life and career; not only useful for travel, making friends and developing a general appreciation and understanding of others' identity and culture, but also potentially useful for ANY chosen career. A qualification in International Languages shows that you are a good communicator, are willing to learn, adapt and step out of your "comfort zone" - highly desirable for any prospective employer. It may also interest you to know that in today's global business world, employees with skills in international languages are known to attract higher salaries! What's not to like?

Am I suited for this course?

This course is suited to individuals who are:

Interested in other cultures – You love learning about different countries and traditions.

Curious about languages – You enjoy trying out new words and phrases.

A good communicator – You like speaking, listening, and expressing your ideas.

Willing to work hard – You're ready to practice and improve your skills.

Open to challenges – You're not afraid to try something new or step out of your comfort zone.

Ambitious – You want skills that will help in travel, careers, and meeting new people

Geography

Qualification: GCSE Geography

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years



Best point of contact: Emeyrick@easternhigh.org.uk

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. Drainage Basins and Rivers
2. Changing Coastlines
3. Migration
4. Settlement Change
5. Inequality
6. Weather and Climate
7. Climate Change
8. Settlement Change

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

How will I be assessed in this subject?

- Unit 1: Our Physical and Human World Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification
- Unit 2: Developing Fieldwork Skills Non-examination assessment: 7 hours (not including the time it takes to undertake the fieldwork) 25% of qualification
- Unit 3: Our Dynamic and Diverse World Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 30% of qualification
- Unit 4: Sustainable Solutions Non-examination assessment: 6 hours 15% of qualification

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.'

History

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: jcuff@easternhigh.org.uk



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

GCSE History allows you to explore a wide and diverse selection of topics from various historical periods and societies. At Key Stage 4, you will examine, analyse and assess historical figures and events across four units.



Unit 1: The purpose of this unit is to provide an insight into the development of Wales at a specific time.

Unit 2: The purpose of this unit is to provide an understanding of an issue in European or world history in depth via the study of historical sources and interpretations.

Unit 3: The purpose of this unit is to provide an overview of an extended historical period enabling you to explore key concepts.

For units 1-3, you will study one of the three periods of time: medieval, early modern or modern, which may include topics such as the Black Death, Wales and the early Tudors, Rebellions and Protest in Wales, or changes in American society c.1880–c.1980.

Unit 4: This will be a non-examination assessment, completed in class and focussing on concepts such as continuity and change, similarity and difference, significance and impact and cause and consequence.

How will I be assessed in this subject?

- Unit 1: A written examination: 1 hour 30% of qualification.
- Unit 2: An on-screen non-examination assessment: 3 hours 20% of qualification.
- Unit 3 A written examination: 1 hour 30% of qualification.
- Unit 4 A non-examination assessment: 4 hours 15 minutes 20% of qualification.

Am I suited to History GCSE?

GCSE History is a perfect choice for students who want to develop a wide range of transferable skills that are useful in many careers. Employers are always looking for young people who are able to problem solve, make judgements and think critically and analytically, all key attributes of a historian.

GCSE History can be challenging. You will need to be able to write extended answers and have the ability to remember a lot of information, such as key dates, people and events. However, History isn't just about memorising lots of dates, it's about understanding significant events and people, and how these have shaped the world. It will also help you to make sense of current events in the world.

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 10 pupil.

Media Studies

Qualification: GCSE Media Studies

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: mpaynter@easternhigh.org.uk

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
- 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
- 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

Best point of contact: epawsey@easternhigh.org.uk



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

Best point of contact: Epawsey@easternhigh.org.uk

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

You will study the following units:-

Individual Showcase

Preparation, performance and production

Musical Theatre

How will I be assessed in this subject?

There is a mixture of internally and externally marked work. All performance work is accompanied with written logs that reflect and analyse pupils' work.

Am I suited to BTEC 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. You must be prepared to perform in front of others and work as a team.

What do current and past 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 (past student)

‘ 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 (past pupil and current West End star)

“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” Mia Willecome (Year 10)

“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” Megan Pontin (Year 11)



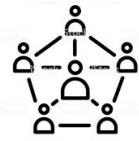
Physical Education

Qualification: GCSE

Examination board: WJEC

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: Aevans@easternhigh.org.uk



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.

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. The theory part of the course requires you to have a good understanding of a range of sports and strong levels of English and Science.

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

Sociology

Qualification: Sociology 9-1

Examination board: EDUQAS

Duration: 2 years

Best point of contact: mpaynter@easternhigh.org.uk

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.'

Helpful links and contact information:



Name	Position	Contact details
Alice Ketteringham	Career Advisor	alice.ketteringham@careerswales.gov.wales
Jonathan Morgan	Careers and Aspirations coordinator	jmorgan@easternhigh.org.uk
Sophie Clement	Associate Assistant Headteacher	sclement@easternhigh.org.uk

[Careers Wales | Careers Wales \(gov.wales\)](#) - There is lots of information on here about different pathways including which subjects are best suited to different careers.