



**CITY
ACADEMY**

**Year 9
Options Booklet**

2026



**CORE
EDUCATION
TRUST**

DELIVERING A **CORE EDUCATION**



Introduction to Year 9 options

This booklet is additional guidance for our pupils at City Academy and their parents and carers to ensure that informed decisions can be made regarding the subjects available for both GCSEs and BTECs as part of the Year 9 options process.

At City Academy we believe that all students should study a broad and balanced curriculum. This is important as it prepares our pupils for their next step into sixth form, college, apprenticeships or employment.

In Years 10 and 11, all students will study a core curriculum that includes:

- GCSE English Language
- GCSE English Literature
- GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Combined Science

In addition, pupils will study core physical education and continue with their personal development (PD) education.

Pupils must then select one of the following:

- GCSE History or
- GCSE Geography

Pupils wishing to study both should pick Geography here and History in the free choice option.

Pupils will then have the option to pick two subjects, and indicate a reserve, from the subjects below (you can only choose one of the subjects with an asterisk) :

- GCSE Art & Design- Art, Craft & Design*
- GCSE Art and Design - Three-Dimensional Design*
- GCSE Business
- GCSE Religious Education
- GCSE Spanish
- Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital I.T
- Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice
- Cambridge National in Health and Social Care
- Cambridge National in Sports Studies
- WJEC Award in Hospitality and Catering
- GCSE History
- GCSE Triple Science- Biology, Chemistry, Physics

Whilst we will make every effort to accommodate pupil's choices, we may have to use reserve subjects. It is important that students choose reserve subjects that they would feel comfortable studying. If there are problems with a pupil's subject choices, we will contact pupils as soon as possible to discuss. A course will usually only run if it attracts at least 15 students. Courses with fewer than 15 students may not run. A course may be considered 'full' if it exceeds 30 students in a GCSE subject or 25 in a practical subject.



If pupils have a future career in mind, make sure that the subjects chosen, help them along this path. It is important that pupils talk to their teachers about what the requirements are of each subject. It is in their best interest to choose courses that they will be successful in. If pupils are unsure about what their future career will be then it is a good idea to select a variety of subjects.

Next steps

1. Read the information in this booklet carefully.
2. Listen to the advice you are given by members of staff.
3. Discuss all of this with your parents.
4. Ask questions to find out what your teachers think are the best courses for you.

Timeline



Options form link

[Year 9 Options Form 2026 – Fill out form](#)

The Option Form link will be open from 29th January at 4.00 p.m. until March 9th, 2026, at 12.00.p.m

Options form QR code



Website Link

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms. P. Mills – Assistant Headteacher
pmills@corecity.academy

Mr. L. Grainger - Head of Year 9
lgrainger@corecity.academy

Mr P. Coleby - Deputy Headteacher
pcoleby@corecity.academy



Examination board: AQA GCSE English Language

Why study English Language?

This subject is all about improving students' mastery of the English Language, an essential skill in all future endeavours, as we seek to empower students to be able to persuade, inspire and influence others. In this course you will study a range of extracts analysing the writers' craft and how they express images, ideas and opinions, and how they are able to persuade, inspire and influence their readers as well as being coached to how to inspire, influence, and persuade in your own writing too.

How is the subject assessed?

Students will be assessed at the end of this course by completing two exams: 'Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing' and 'Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives'.

In **Paper 1** students study and answer questions based on **one literary fiction** extract.

In **Paper 2** students study and answer questions, including the comparison of sources, based on **one non-fiction and one literary non-fiction** extract.

The exams will measure how well students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

- AO1: identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas select and synthesise evidence from different texts
- AO2: Explain, comment on and analyse how writers use language and structure to achieve effects and influence readers, using relevant subject terminology to support their views
- AO3: Compare writers' ideas and perspectives, as well as how these are conveyed, across two or more texts
- AO4: Evaluate texts critically and support this with appropriate textual references
- AO5: Communicate clearly, effectively and imaginatively, selecting and adapting tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences. Organise information and ideas, using structural and grammatical features to support coherence and cohesion of texts
- AO6: Candidates must use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

As part of the course, students will also be required to give a short presentation assessed against:

- AO7: Demonstrate presentation skills in a formal setting
- AO8: Listen and respond appropriately to spoken language, including to questions and feedback on a presentations
- AO9: Use spoken Standard English effectively in speeches and presentations.

Where can this take me?

Your study of English Language is integral to your success in most other courses and careers you should want to choose later. It underpins a basic understand of the wider world around us and how authors express their different viewpoints. Specifically, qualifications in English are very favorable for careers in Journalism, Law, Research, Education and job in the Press and Media among others.



Examination board: AQA GCSE English Literature

Why study English Literature?

English Literature takes students on a journey through their cultural history, examining the points of view of established authors such as Shakespeare, Dickens and Priestly and the kinds of comments they wanted to make about society.

In this course students will learn all about the features of classical storytelling and students will look at the views and values of people in Elizabethan and Jacobean England by studying a Shakespearian text. Students will also discover the beliefs of people who lived in Victorian times and the consequences of The Industrial Revolution that they lived under by studying a 19th century text. All this before learning about the beginning of the welfare state and the birth of modern society in students' 20th Century text all while examining the changing attitudes towards society in an anthology of poems.

How is the subject assessed?

Students will be assessed at the end of this course by completing two exams: Shakespeare and the 19th-Century Novel and Modern Texts and Poetry.

They will study:

Macbeth

A Christmas Carol

An Inspector Calls

Power and Conflict poetry

Unseen poetry

The exams will measure how well students have achieved the following assessment objectives:

- AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts. Students should be able to: maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations.
- AO2: Analyse the language, form and structure used by a writer to create meanings and effects, using relevant subject terminology where appropriate.
- AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written.
- AO4: Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation.

Where can this take me?

Your study of English Literature is integral to your success in most other courses and careers you should want to choose later. It underpins a basic understand of the wider world around us and how authors express their different viewpoints. Specifically, qualifications in English are very favourable for careers in Journalism, Law, Research, Education and job in the Press and Media among others.

For more information contact- Head of English Akhanom@corecity.academy



Examination board: Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Mathematics (1MA1)

Why study Mathematics?

Mathematics is for everyone. It is diverse, engaging and essential in equipping students with the right skills to reach their future destination, whatever that may be. Mathematics is a universal part of human culture. It is the tool and language of commerce, engineering and other sciences – physics, computing, biology etc. It helps us recognise patterns and to understand the world around us. Mathematics plays a vital, often unseen, role in many aspects of modern life, for example: space travel, safeguarding credit card details on the internet, modelling the spread of epidemics, predicting stock market prices, business decision making.

How is the subject assessed?

The Mathematics GCSE can be taken in one of two tiers: Foundation (grades 1 to 5) and higher (grades 4 to 9). The choice of tiers is decided based on students' ability throughout the course, and is regularly reviewed to give the best opportunity to reach their potential. GCSE Mathematics is examined by three written papers at the end of Year 11. All papers must be taken at the same tier.

- Paper 1 (Non-Calculator)
- Paper 2 (Calculator)
- Paper 3 (Calculator)

All three papers follow the same format:

- 1 hour 30 minutes
- 80 marks
- 33⅓% of the GCSE Mathematics assessment

Questions: A mix of question styles, from short single-mark questions to multi-step problems. The mathematical demand increases as a student progresses through the paper.

Where can this take me?

Analytical and quantitative skills are sought by a wide range of employers. A degree in mathematics provides you with a broad range of skills in problem solving, logical reasoning and flexible thinking. This leads to careers that are exciting, challenging, and diverse in nature. Whatever your future academic or career plans a good mathematics GCSE provides you with particularly good job prospects.

Further vocational and academic qualifications: A Level Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms Yusif – Head of Maths
iyusif@corecity.academy



Examination board: Pearson AQA Combined Science: Trilogy (8464)

Why study Combined Science?

Science is all around us and studying science as a core subject provides the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity, and students are taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes, and uses of science. Students are helped to appreciate how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas relating to the sciences which are both inter-linked and are of universal application. Science is a highly regarded subject, often linking other subjects such as such as Mathematics, Sports Science, and Food Technology.

How is the subject assessed?

Combined Science GCSEs can be taken in one of two tiers: Foundation (Grades 1 to 5) and Higher (Grades 4 to 9). Tiering is decided based on students' ability throughout the course and is regularly reviewed to give the best opportunity for each learner to reach their potential. GCSE Combined Science is examined by six written papers which equate to 2 GCSEs at the end of Year 11. All papers must be taken at the same tier.

Paper 1s – Biology, Chemistry and Physics (210 total marks)

Paper 2s – Biology, Chemistry and Physics (210 total marks)

All six papers follow the same format:

- 1 hour 15 minutes
- 70 marks
- Each paper contributes 16.6% of the GCSE Combined Science assessment.

A mix of question styles are used: including multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response. Scientific content and skills (analytical, numeracy, experimental and working scientifically) are assessed.

Where can this take me?

Studying science provides students with key scientific ideas and scientific skills which are applicable to a range of different careers/professions, such as science, engineering, journalism, law, architecture, business and finance. GCSE Combined Science is a prerequisite for the study of Biology, Chemistry, or Physics at A level and can help gain access to other A level courses such as Psychology.

Further vocational and academic qualifications: BTEC Level 3 Applied Science and A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Browne – Head of Science
cbrown@corecity.academy



Examination board: AQA GCSE Geography

GCSE Geography encourages students to explore the link between the physical landscapes in the world, and the human landscapes. The course explores the interrelationships between peoples and environments, change in places and processes over space and time, and the interrelationship between geographical phenomena at different scales and in different contexts. Through the study of various case studies, students investigate how these interrelationships are playing out in the real world. Topics include climate change, ecosystems, natural hazards, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students will also develop their competence in a range of skills including those used in fieldwork, and Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Additionally, students will practice applying geographical knowledge, understanding skills and approaches appropriately and creatively to real world contexts, including fieldwork; and develop well-evidenced arguments for drawing on their geographical knowledge and understanding.

The qualification is broken down into three exam papers, made up of the following topics

Paper 1

- 1hr30mins – 88 marks – ‘Living in the Physical Environment’
- Natural Hazards, Climate Change, Ecosystems, River and Coastal landscapes

Paper 2

- 1hr30mins – 88 marks – ‘Living in the Human Environment’
- Urban Issues and Challenges, Changing Economic World, Resource Management (Energy)

Paper 3

- 1hr15mins – 76 marks – ‘Geographical Applications’
- Issue evaluation, Fieldwork, Geographical Skills

There has never been a more important time to use geographical knowledge and skills to pursue a career. Geography is a tough, rigorous course, but it encourages students to think deeply about some quite complex topics and move out of their comfort zone. Fieldwork activities take grit and determination, which only develop through being challenged and challenging yourself. None of these changes and challenges facing the UK and the world in the 21st century, including climate change, urbanisation, and globalisation, can be properly understood, let alone tackled, without geography. Whether your career lies in the environmental sector, business, education, the natural or social sciences, the media, in geospatial industries or in travel, geography opens up a range of choices for your future work and career.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Boyle – Head of Geography - bboyle@corecity.academy

Ms Khayat – Teacher of Geography - bkhayat@corecity.academy



Examination board: AQA GCSE (9-1)

Why study History?

History is the foundation of the world around us. In order to understand the present and become changemakers of the future you first need to understand the past. History is full of secrets, untold stories of lives of people that have shaped the world in which we live in. It unlocks understanding of how we came to being and how the society in which we live in functions. The study of history provides invaluable skills of analysis and interpretation skills for navigating the world. These skills are transferable to a variety of different careers from history itself through to law and social studies.

How is the subject assessed?

The AQA history GCSE is divided into two exam papers:

- Paper 1: Conflict and tension the interwar years 1918-1939 and Germany, democracy and dictatorship 1890-1945.
- Paper 2: Elizabeth England 1558-1603 and Britain, health and the people 1000-2000.

Both papers are worth 50% of your overall GCSE history grade and are examined separately each lasting two hours.

Questions: All four units cover a range of historical skills that you will answer in the exam. There are some cross overs across the papers helping you to make connections in your historical writing.

Where can this take me?

Due to the skills you acquire by studying history it opens many doors in terms of careers. As well as this, knowledge of the past also works well to support a variety of different careers. Employers from across a wide range of sectors look for history qualifications as part of recruitment. Career paths include journalism, law, criminology, armed forces, education and work for historical organisations such as English Heritage and the National Trust.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr. Thomas - Head of History

jthomas@corecity.academy



Examination board: AQA Art and Design – Art, craft and design

Why study Art, craft and design?

This course will give you the opportunity to explore the work of others and build on creating, experimenting, adapting & making of your very own artwork using a wide range of appropriate materials, and techniques, to help take your initial ideas through to realisation. You will develop Knowledge, understanding and skills in Art, craft and design. There are many skills, techniques, materials, processes, and concepts that are essential to all areas of study in Art, craft and design.

Students will develop a practical knowledge and understanding of:

- The use of formal elements and visual communication through a variety of approaches
- The use of observational skill to record from sources and communicate ideas
- Characteristics of materials such as the mood that specific media and its effect on the outcome
- The elements of Art such as line, tone, shape, space, form, scale, composition, and proportion
- The effects and creative potential of combining and manipulating different two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials and media and textures.
- The use of digital and/or non-digital applications.

How is the subject assessed?

Students will be assessed on the following four assessment areas:

- Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting, and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques, and processes.
- Record ideas, observations, and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- Present a personal and meaningful response that realizes intentions and demonstrates an understanding of visual language.

Final assessment

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (internally set) – 60% of overall qualification, taking approximately 45 hours, culminating in a final piece of work.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment. - 40% of overall qualification, taken over 10 hours in exam conditions.

Where can this take me?

Success in this subject can lead to students studying 'A' Level Art or Design Technology plus a wide variety of Vocational Art & Design courses at Level 3, including photographic and interior design options.

This route could lead to further study and employment in branches of Art or Design at University i.e., Three-dimensional design, Jewellery, Fashion Design, Furniture Design, Textile Design & Product Design, a working artist, or curator. Birmingham and the greater West Midlands area boast some of the best degree courses in these subjects in the country.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs K Stanley – Teacher of Art
kstanley@corecity.academy

Examination board: AQA Art and Design – Three-Dimensional Design

Why study Three-Dimensional Design?

This course will give you the opportunity to experiment and build on designing, prototyping, modelling & making of functional and aesthetic products. You will engage with appropriate processes, materials, and construction techniques, using maquettes, models and working drawings to help take your initial ideas through to realisation. You will develop knowledge, understanding and skills in Three-dimensional Design. There are many skills, techniques, materials, processes, and concepts that are essential to all areas of study. Students will develop a practical knowledge and understanding of:

- The use of formal elements and visual communication through a variety of approaches
- The use of observational skill to record from sources and communicate ideas
- Characteristics of materials such as resistance, malleability, recyclability, and sustainability
- The elements of three-dimensional design such as light, space, form, scale, and proportion
- The effects and creative potential of combining and manipulating different two-dimensional and three-dimensional materials and media
- The use of digital and/or non-digital applications.

How is the subject assessed?

Students will be assessed on the following areas:

- Develop ideas through investigations, demonstrating critical understanding of sources.
- Refine work by exploring ideas, selecting, and experimenting with appropriate media, materials, techniques, and processes.
- Record ideas, observations, and insights relevant to intentions as work progresses.
- Present a personal and meaningful response that realises intentions and demonstrates an understanding of visual language.

Final assessment

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (internally set) – 60% of overall qualification, taking approximately 45 hours, culminating in a final piece of work.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment. - 40% of overall qualification, taken over 10 hours in exam conditions.

Where can this take me?

Success in this subject can lead to students studying 'A' Level Art or Design Technology plus a wide variety of Vocational Art & Design courses at Level 3.

This route could lead to further study and employment in branches of art or design at university i.e., fine art, interior design, jewellery, fashion design, furniture design, textile design and product design. Birmingham and the greater West Midlands area boast some of the best degree courses in these subjects in the country.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms. P J Mills- Assistant Headteacher
pmills@corecity.academy



Examination board: Edexcel GCSE Business Studies (9-1)

Why study GCSE Business Studies?

The GCSE Edexcel Business Studies course teaches you about key business areas like marketing, money, managing people, and starting your own business. It helps to build useful skills, and you'll learn how to think critically, solve problems, and make decisions—skills that are super useful in real life. The course uses real-world examples to show how businesses work, helping you understand what it's like to work in different industries. It has clear assessments, and you'll be tested in a way that helps you show what you've learned, with a good balance between knowledge and problem-solving. It is interesting and relevant to today's world. You'll study modern topics like online shopping, global businesses, and how companies deal with ethical issues, so it's all up-to-date and relatable. This course is a great foundation for A-levels, college, or even starting your own business someday.

How is the subject assessed?

The qualification consists of three components that give pupils the opportunity to develop broad knowledge and understanding of the enterprise sector, and relevant skills such as research, planning, problem solving and communication. Components 1 and 2 are assessed through internal assessment. Internal assessment for these components has been designed to relate to achievement of application of the conceptual underpinning for the sector through realistic tasks and activities. This style of assessment promotes deep learning through ensuring the connection between knowledge and practice.

Themes	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Theme 1 – Investigating Small Business - Skills involved in starting and running a small business	90	105 minutes	50%
Theme 2 – Building a Business - How a business develops beyond the start-up phase – aspects of marketing, operations, finance and human resources	90	105 minutes	50%

Both themes are an examination.

Where can this take me?

GCSE Business Studies provides an excellent steppingstone for further education, such as A-levels or vocational qualifications in business, economics, or related fields. It lays a solid foundation for business courses at college and university.

The fun bit....

As the Business world is more outside of the classroom rather than in. We run a lot of trips in Business. We partake in the Academy's competition and mentor scheme with Goldman Sachs. We go to Cadbury's world for a marketing presentation. We are planning a residential trip to London. We will be going to Star city for a talk and Lazer quest.

Who do I contact for further information? Mrs. K Virdee kvirdee@corecity.academy



Examination board: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital IT

Why study BTEC Digital IT?

BTEC Digital IT is a fantastic option for those passionate about technology and its applications in the modern world. This course offers a comprehensive understanding of various digital concepts, from hardware to software, providing a solid foundation for future studies and careers in IT.

How is the subject assessed?

Two internal assessments (Coursework)

Component 1 – Exploring User Interface Design

Component 2 – Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data

One External assessment (Examination)

Component 3 – Effective Digital Working Practices

Please see the assessment overview below:

Component	Marks	Duration	Weighting
Component 1 - Exploring User Interface Design	60	N/A	30%
Component 2 - Collecting, Presenting and Interpreting Data	60	N/A	30%
Component 3 - Examination	60	2 Hours	40%

Where can this take me?

The BTEC Digital IT curriculum equips students with a diverse skill set, preparing them for a wide range of career paths, from software development and cybersecurity to digital marketing and multimedia design. It also lays a solid foundation for further studies in IT-related fields at higher levels.

The fun bit.....

We want you to understand how Digital IT is used in the real world, so we run numerous trips in IT. We run progression visits to local universities, have guest speakers and also run a residential to London in Year 10.

Who do I contact for further information?

Ms A Sandhu - asandhu@corecity.academy

Mrs K Virdee – k.virdee@corecity.academy



Examination board: OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National in Health and Social Care

Why study Health and Social care?

Our Cambridge National in Health and Social Care will encourage students to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of the rights of individuals, person-centred values, effective communication and how to protect individuals in health and social care settings.
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the health and social care sector and more widely.

How is the subject assessed?

Studying Cambridge Nationals in Health and Social care will cover the following topics:

R032 Principles of care in health and social care settings (Exam)

This mandatory examined unit focuses on key topics that are important when caring for and protecting people in health and social care.

R033 Supporting individuals through life events (Mandatory)

This mandatory internal unit focuses on the growth and development through the life stages. You will also learn how to understand the needs of individuals who have been affected by life events and how to recommend support to meet their needs.

R035 Health promotion campaigns (Optional)

This optional unit focuses you will research health promotion campaigns and learn about their benefits to society. You will also plan and deliver your own health promotion campaign.

Where can this take me?

This course can lead to a variety of jobs/careers in the sporting industry. The course is a perfect foundation to go on and study level 3 Cambridge Technical in Sport at college/sixth form. Some examples of careers are:

- *Nurse*
- *Social worker*
- *Care worker*
- *Supervisors and managers in the care industry*

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr. W. McAllister- wmcallister@corecity.academy

Examination board: WJEC Level 1 / 2 Award in Hospitality and Catering

Why study Hospitality and Catering?

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is most suitable as a foundation for further study, post 16. Employment in Hospitality and Catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. Students will learn all aspects of both front of house and food preparation, from a wide variety of hospitality and catering venues.

How is the subject assessed?

Students will be assessed on their ability in the following areas:

- Understand the environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate.
- Understand how hospitality and catering provisions operate.
- Understand how hospitality and catering provision meets health and safety requirements.
- Know how food can cause ill health.
- Be able to propose a hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements.
- Understand the importance of nutrition when planning menus.
- Understand menu planning.
- Be able to cook dishes.

Final assessment

- Unit 1, The Hospitality & Catering Industry (externally set)
- Unit 2, Hospitality & Catering in Action (internal, written and practical assessment)
- Vocational Awards are awarded on an 8-point scale: Level 2 Distinction*, Level 2 Distinction, Level 2 Merit, Level 2 Pass, Level 1 Distinction*, Level 1 Distinction, Level 1 Merit, Level 1 Pass.

Where can this take me?

According to UK Hospitality, Hospitality is the third largest employer in the UK, with **3.5 million people** working in the sector. The sector directly contributes **£93 billion** annually to the economy. In 2022, hospitality generated **£54 billion** in tax receipts and **£20 billion** in exports and attracted **£7 billion** in business investment. Where the WJEC Level 1/2 Award in Hospitality and Catering is achieved together with other relevant Level 1/2 qualifications, such as GCSEs in English, and Maths and Science, learners will be able to access Level 3 qualifications relevant to the hospitality and catering sector, such as:

- WJEC Level 3 Food, Science and Nutrition (certificate and diploma)
- Level 3 NVQ Diploma in Advanced Professional Cookery
- Level 3 Advanced Diploma in Food Preparation and Cookery Supervision

Employment in hospitality and catering can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers and food technologists in food manufacturing. These roles require further education and training either through apprenticeships or further and higher education.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs. G Patel- Assistant Head teacher gpatel@corecity.academy



Examination board: Pearson BTEC Level 1/2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Why study BTEC Music?

This qualification is designed for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge and technical skills through vocational contexts by studying and developing their musical skills and techniques, and by responding to a music industry brief as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification enables learners to develop their skills, such as using musical elements, music creation, performance, and music production, using realistic vocational contexts, and their personal skills, such as self-development, responding to a brief, planning and time management through a practical and skills-based approach to learning and assessment. You will develop many research and learning skills that will complement the undertaking of your GCSEs. The qualification will broaden your experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to you. To study this qualification, you do not need any experience in instrumental skills or music production skills (DAWs), being as the course is focused around developing your ability in these areas throughout Key Stage 4 (Year 10 and 11).

How is the subject assessed?

This qualification is assessed through the completion of three separate components over the course of Year 10 and Year 11. Prior to starting Component 1, you will undergo a period of skills development that focus on the use of music technology and instrumental skills. The skills you gain in this time will then support your development and learning through the completion of coursework-based assignments involving the listening, composing, and performing of music.

Here are the components you will be completing as part of this qualification:

Component	Marks	Duration of Term	Weighting
Component 1 – Exploring Music Products and Styles	60	Year 10 Spring Term	30%
Component 2 – Music Skills Development	60	Year 11 Autumn Term	30%
Component 3 – Responding to a Music Brief	60	Year 11 Spring Term	40%

You do not need to have any musical ability to choose this course as one of your options. Each component is designed to progressively build further on the skills you gain during lessons and workshops throughout Year 10 and Year 11.

Where can this take me?

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help you to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in the music sector. After completing this course, you can consider progression to: A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects, study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Music or a BTEC National in Music Technology, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the music sector. The music industry is constantly evolving and offers many different and exciting new work opportunities. In 2019, the music industry supported more than 190,935 full-time jobs in the UK, 139,352 of which were in the music creators' sector.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr. T Sissons – Teacher of Music, Head of Creative Arts
TSissons@corecity.academy



Examination board: AQA GCSE Religious Education

Why study RE?

GCSE RE is historically one of the best performing subjects within the school and is an excellent choice for students who are interested in big questions such as 'What is God like?', 'Why does evil exist?', 'How does religion affect people's behaviour?', 'How do we know what is right and wrong?'. In the first component students will study Christian and Islamic beliefs and practices. The second component will consist of looking at a range of ethical dilemmas such as abortion, euthanasia, the death penalty, nuclear weapons, and animal testing, to name a few. Students are encouraged to express their views through class debate

How is the subject assessed?

GCSE RE is 100% examination.

Paper 1

Beliefs and Practices: Christianity and Islam. 1 hour 45 minutes. [50% of final grade]

Paper 2:

Thematic Studies: Relationships and families, religion and life, peace and conflict, crime and punishment. 1 hour 45 mins [50% of final grade]

Questions: A mix of question styles from short one mark questions to longer essay style twelve mark questions.

Where can this take me?

A GCSE RE can enable students to access higher education at college level and then further on to degree level. RE links to careers in the social sector including education, social work, government and politics, medicine, and law.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mrs J Smith – Head of RE

jsmith@corecity.academy



Examination board: AQA Separate Science (Biology 8461, Chemistry 8462, Physics 8463)

Why study Separate Science?

Studying Separate Science means taking three individual GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, allowing students to explore each subject in greater depth than in Combined Science, which awards two GCSEs across all three disciplines. Separate Science includes additional content and practical work, making it well-suited to students who enjoy science. Examples of topics taught only in Separate Science include Space Physics (e.g., life cycles of stars and orbital motion), biotechnology techniques such as culturing microorganisms in greater depth, and extra Chemistry content on quantitative analysis and chemical tests.

How is the subject assessed?

The Separate Science course is comprised of one GCSE in each of the three main scientific disciplines – Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Together, three separate GCSEs are awarded. Separate Sciences can be taken in one of two tiers: Foundation (Grades 1 to 5) and higher (Grades 4 to 9). Tiering is decided based on students' ability throughout the course and is regularly reviewed to give each learner the best opportunity to reach their potential. Each Separate Science is examined by two written papers at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 and Paper 2 each for Biology, Chemistry and Physics

All six papers follow the same format:

- 1 hour 45 minutes
- 100 marks
- Each paper contributes 50% of the final GCSE grade

Questions: A mix of question styles, from multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response. Scientific content and skills that are assessed through these questions including skills such as development of scientific thinking, experimental, numeracy and analytic evaluation.

Where can this take me?

GCSEs in Separate Science is a prerequisite for the study of biology, chemistry, or physics at A level for those students who wish to study careers such as medicine, veterinary and physiotherapy.

GCSEs in Separate Science are required for degrees in medicine, pharmacy, and physiotherapy.

Further vocational and academic qualifications: A Level Biology, Chemistry and Physics. BTEC Level 3 in Applied Science

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr Browne – Head of Science
cbrown@corecity.academy



Examination board: Pearson Edexcel GCSE Spanish

Why study Spanish?

Give yourself an edge by having GCSE Spanish as a qualification. The knowledge of a foreign language would be an advantage for furthering your career in any field and some universities and colleges may require this as a condition of entry.

You will develop skills in working with others collaboratively, problem solving, memory techniques and communicating effectively, among many others. The course is designed to enable you to communicate in situations in which you might realistically find yourself whilst in Spain, or when speaking with people from any Spanish speaking countries. You may be able to visit Spain while studying this language at school and will be given several opportunities to explore this culture in the form of Spanish speaking plays and other local cultural visits.

How is the subject assessed?

Spanish GCSE is available to all students. You will have covered many of the topics in years 7, 8 and 9 and will be in a strong position to do well in this subject. You should be prepared to work hard on your grammar and vocabulary skills in addition to having a keen interest in the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

Throughout the course you will study the following themes:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

At the end of your course, you will sit an examination in four skill areas, each of which is worth 25% of your total mark.

- Listening – understand and respond to different types of spoken language.
- Speaking – communicate and interact effectively in speech including describing a photo.
- Reading – understand different types of written language and translate into English.
- Writing – communicate in writing and translate into Spanish.

Where can this take me?

A grade 4 or above in GCSE Spanish will enable you to continue your studies of Spanish at AS and A2 levels or other business qualifications. It can lead to career opportunities in numerous areas including law, business, travel and tourism, the media, journalism, MIS, sales and marketing, customer support, education, translating and interpreting and many more.

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr. A. Dowe -Assistant Headteacher ADowe@corecity.academy



Examination board: OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies

Why study Sports Studies?

Our Cambridge National in Sports Studies will encourage students to:

Understand a range of contemporary issues in sport such as participation levels, barriers, sporting values and ethical behaviours.

- Develop learning in a practical setting in two different sports as well as skills as a sports leader.
- Understand the different sides to the media sources and how they apply to real life, studying the relationship between sport and the media

How is the subject assessed?

R184: Contemporary issues in sport (Exam)

The mandatory exam focuses on key topics within the world of sport such as technology, drugs, values, barriers to participation and National Governing Bodies.

R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities (Mandatory)

This unit assesses your ability in a practical context in two different sport as well as your ability to plan, lead and evaluate a sports activity of your choice to Primary school pupils.

R186: Sports and the media (Optional)

This unit explores the world of sport and its relationship with the different media outlets such as newspapers, internet, TV and more. You will understand the positives and negatives of how the sporting world interacts with the media.

Where can this take me?

This course directly leads onto Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Sport at College/Sixth Form. Careers can be undertaken in;

- Coaching
- Teaching
- Sports Science and many more

Who do I contact for further information?

Mr. W. McAllister- Head of PE wmcallister@corecity.academy