



Exmouth  
Community  
College

# Year 9 Options Booklet for 2026-2028



**Belonging**

**Ambition**

**Responsibility**

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# Introduction

One of the most critical and exciting phases in a young person's development is between the ages of 14 and 19 years. It is the first time they have some control over their education and can start to delve deeper into those subjects in which they have a love of learning. It is the period where they capitalise on their earlier learning and prepare for adult life and employment. We think it is really important students continue with a broad and balanced education to keep their options open for future opportunities in an ever changing world.

The choices made are important in providing our young people with the right knowledge, skills and qualifications to both widen and support their choice of further study/employment in later years.

Students need to be adaptable, reflective and work well independently and as part of a team. Securing a job is highly competitive for young people and good qualifications in the core subjects are vital.

If you know students who have been through our process before, you may notice some changes to the offer for you. Evaluation of how recent Key Stage 4 students have managed their courses, alongside new legislation and guidance from the Government, have led us to adapt our curriculum offer in Years 10 and 11 in the following ways:

- Additional time has been given to the study of English, Mathematics and Science.
- All students will take English Literature as well as English Language qualifications.
- Within the chosen options, all students must select at least one 'guided' option from the following: French, Spanish, History, Geography or Computer Science (and are very welcome to take more than one).
- It would be recommended for those intending on applying to more competitive destinations after school to select at least one Humanity (History or Geography) and one Language subject.

The growing importance of securing a GCSE grade 4 or above in English and Mathematics is clear. Failure to do so can be a barrier for entry onto many courses or careers after College. It is now compulsory for all students without these qualifications to continue to study English and/or Mathematics, for as long as they are in education.

# The Process

As a College, we will do everything possible to support and guide your child through this important process so that their study programme is balanced and meets their needs.

The curriculum will be explained to students through a series of assemblies and there will be an Options Evening on **Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> January** when staff from each subject will be on hand to talk about their subjects and answer any queries. The students will also have 1:1 interviews with their tutors or a senior member of staff, to which you as parents are warmly invited. These take place between just before February Half Term.

At the back of this booklet you will find an Individual Learning Plan which you may want to take some time filling in with your child; it will help them consider their choices at GCSE and which direction they may like to take later in their lives, remembering at this stage it is important to keep as many choices open as possible. The plan will help to inform their 1:1 interview.

**Our expectations** for all students are very high. In Key Stage 4 we expect extra maturity in the application to learning and independent study. We expect all students to demonstrate **ambition** and **responsibility** in their lessons, aiming to be their best and helping others to achieve this also. We aim to contact parents as early as possible if students are struggling, either in their studies or, in terms of their attitude to learning. If, as a parent, you have any concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch with the House Team.

**Changing options** is very difficult because of the disruption that it causes due to the large amount of content that has been missed and the possibility that classes are full.

You will receive confirmation of which option subjects students have been allocated in May. If a student wishes to make a change after that point, they have until the end of the Summer Term to provide a letter from home detailing their request and reason for changing. If there is space in a class and the swap works on the timetable, we will make changes until the end of the Summer Term.

It is vital that students think very carefully about their choices and, even if they think they already know what they want to do, we would urge them to read through this booklet and bear in mind how the options chosen might affect the choices they have in both Post 16 and Post 18 studies, apprenticeships and world of work.

If, at any stage through the process, you have particular questions about the process, please use the '[options@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:options@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)' email address, and the best placed member of the team will respond as soon as they are able.

# Key Dates

## **Year 9 Progress Evening and Options Fayre - Wednesday 14th January 2026**

Parents/Carers and students are invited to attend our Year 9 Progress Evening and Options Fayre, which will take place in college on Wednesday 14th January 2026.

This face-to-face event provides an opportunity to meet subject teachers to discuss your child's progress and to explore the possibility of further study in each of their current subjects.

The evening will also include the Year 9 Options Fayre, featuring a number of presentations outlining the options process, along with the opportunity to ask questions about subjects and pathways.

## **Additional Year 9 Assemblies – January 2026**

These will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January, further supporting students through the Options process.

## **Deadline for Options Forms – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

Following the Options evening, a link will be shared a Microsoft Form for the submission of options forms. The deadline for this will be Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January.

If students wish to change their choices after submission but before the deadline, they are able to submit their Options form again. We will use the most recent submission

## **Student Interviews - February 2026**

Each Year 9 student will have a 10-minute interview with their tutor, or another appropriate member of staff, at which they complete their options choices form. Parents are warmly invited to attend virtually. Details of the Parent booking appointments will be shared mid-January.

## **And then...**

Once ALL student choices have been made, work will begin on timetabling the choices to check for any clashes and the potential need for using the reserve choice.

By the end of May, letters will be sent home detailing your child's subject offer for Year 10.

After this date, any request to change option choices will need to be submitted in writing by a parent or carer.

# What Choices Do I Have to Make?

## Option subjects

You will be able to choose 4 option subjects (but we will ask you to make 5 option 'choices' including a reserve).

Care is needed to choose the correct combination to keep choices open to you in later studies and the world of work.

Some subjects offer GCSE as well as other vocational courses, such as BTEC or Technical Awards. Be guided by the staff in these departments which type of course would be likely to give you the best outcome.

Although we endeavour to give all students their first choices, this is not always possible. Subjects that attract very small numbers of students may not run. Other courses have a limit to the number of students they can take. Students will be asked to submit choices in order of preference to help us give as many students the options they want to have.

All students have started work towards the Double Award Combined Science course in Year 9. The topics covered are common to both the Double and Triple Award. Those students demonstrating high academic achievement, good work ethic and who enjoy the sciences will be considered for the Triple Award Separate Sciences. Communication regarding this will follow separately to relevant students.

## Making your choices

There is a great deal to think about when deciding which subjects to take:

- *What are your strengths and weaknesses?*
- *What subjects do you have a love of learning in?*
- *How are the different subjects' type of assessment and style of learning likely to match your strengths?*
- *Would you cope well with more or less coursework?*
- *What sort of choice of career or Further Education would you like?*

# A Question of Balance . . .

You will follow courses including GCSEs or their equivalent in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics and Science. There are also compulsory programmes in Physical Education, RPE (Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) and PSHE. To complete your course of study you will need to study 4 'Option' subjects. These are summarised on the forms at the back of the booklet. Details of each course can be found later in this booklet.

Your choices depend very much on your individual skills and strengths, hopes and plans. However, you should think very carefully about keeping a balance of subjects to ensure that you have a wide range of choices, skills and experiences; this is especially important if you are not sure at this stage what you want to do after Year 11.

## ***Please Remember:***

- *Make any choice sensibly and carefully, based on information and not just on 'likes and dislikes'*
- *Discuss your choice with several people, but make your own decision*
- *Think about yourself as a student and don't be influenced by your friends' choices*
- *Have good reasons for your choice of subjects in terms of your learning and future choices*

# The Key Stage 4 Curriculum Structure

The Curriculum is in two parts, which fill up the 25 period week (as well as 'Lesson 42')

## The Core Curriculum

All students will study these subjects.

- GCSE English (Language and Literature) GCSE Mathematics
- GCSE Science – Double or Triple Award Core
- Core Religion, Philosophy & Ethics (non-examined)
- Core Physical Education (non-examined)
- Personal, Social & Health Education including sex and careers education (Lesson 42)

## The Option Subjects

Students will opt for subjects from the following choices;

### Guided Option 1 from:

Computer Science, French, Geography, History and Spanish

### Option 2, 3 & 4 (and 'reserve') from:

Art, Business Studies, Computer Science, Dance, Design and Technology, Drama, Engineering, Food and Nutrition, French, Geography, Graphics, Health and Social Care, History, ICT, Media, Music, Physical Education, Religion, Philosophy and Ethics (RPE) and Spanish.

# Who Can I Talk To?

## **Friends and Relations**

Your parents and other relatives will want you to make sensible choices. They might not know about the subjects in detail, but they will be able to ask really good questions and make you think. Your friends are in the same position as you and might have found out information or had ideas which are useful to you. However, be careful that you do not make choices because of your friends. Even if you choose the same subjects as a friend, you will not necessarily be placed in the same group.

## **Teachers and Tutors**

Your subject teachers will talk to you in lessons about subjects in Years 10 and 11 and will have discussed your progress at the Parents' Evening. They are also a good source of information if you have a specific query and can give you an idea of how your ability matches the demands of the course in question. Your tutor has better knowledge of your overall progress and can therefore give you sound advice about the balance of subjects and how you will respond to the work in Years 10 and 11.

## **Careers Advisers**

Apart from Modern Languages, History and some Technology subjects there are no option subjects for which you must have a GCSE to be allowed onto an A-Level course. This means that it is very difficult for you to make a serious mistake when choosing your Year 10 subjects. However, if you have a particular career in mind, you might wish to talk about your choices. You could visit the Careers Library or talk to a member of the Careers Team. Ask your Head of House for more details.

# Our and Your Responsibilities

As a College, our aim is to help all students maximise their potential in whatever form that might be. This will enable all Exmouth students be well prepared to, not only lead a fulfilling working life, but also to play an active and positive role within their community.

***We will do all we can to help students succeed.*** However, the earlier that students realise theirs is the greatest responsibility, the more successful they will be. Clearly parents also have a vital role to play in supporting their children, through both this decision making process and over the next two years of Key Stage 4. It is very important students realise that you value their education and so rewarding students where you see good results and effort can be very motivating. There are many ways in which parents can support their children.

## ***Parents can help by:***

- Taking an interest in their child's work
- Looking at exercise books
- Checking and signing their child's diary
- Buying revision guides
- Ensuring their child has a quiet place to work
- Helping their child to organise their time out of College
- Encouraging 100% attendance
- Attending Parents Evenings
- Contacting the College if they have any concerns

## ***Students need to:***

- Attend College every day, be punctual and come with the correct equipment
- Work consistently throughout Years 10 and 11
- Complete all work, including coursework, on time
- Work positively and co-operatively with your teachers
- Ask for advice if you have difficulties
- Be well organised and plan your work and time effectively
- Broaden your skills and experiences by taking advantage of the clubs and activities available to you at the College or locally

## ***We will help you succeed by:***

- Getting your tutor to oversee your studies and progress throughout Years 10 and 11
- Having high standards and expectations matched by a well-qualified and committed staff
- Giving you Target Grades to work towards
- Ensuring that work is regularly marked and students are aware of how to improve
- Providing the Lesson 42 [Personal Development] programme, which will help you to improve your study skills, organisation and career planning
- Providing access to careers advice
- Providing access to the Library Resource Centre and ICT facilities after College

# **CORE SUBJECTS**

**ALL students must take these  
subjects**

# English & English Literature

<b>Qualification:</b>	2 GCSEs	<b>Course:</b>	AQA
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs L Carpenter – Director of English		
<b>contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:lea.carpenter@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">lea.carpenter@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>		

## Is this course for me?

Everyone studies English Language and English Literature in Key Stage 4. There is no tiering for these GCSEs and all students sit the same exam papers in the summer.

## What does the course involve?

These GCSEs focus on developing students' skills in reading, writing and spoken language. Students will write for a variety of purposes and audiences whilst having the opportunity to explore a multitude of texts including prose, poetry and drama. Texts studied come from an assortment of time periods and encourage students to think critically, respond creatively, and to explore themes, character development and writers' intentions.

## How will my work be assessed?

Students will be assessed by terminal examinations for both English Language and English Literature. All students will complete four exam papers in total as well as a Spoken Language assessment which is assessed by the class teacher.

## English Language (AQA)

- Paper 1: Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (50%, 1 hour 45 minutes).
- Paper 2: Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives (50%, 1 hour 45 minutes).
- Non-exam assessment: Spoken Language Endorsement (graded separately).

## English Literature (AQA)

- Paper 1: Romeo and Juliet and A Christmas Carol (40%, 1 hour 45 minutes).
- Paper 2: An Inspector Calls and Poetry (60%, 2 hours 15 minutes).

What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

A-level English Literature and A-level English Language are both taught here at ECC post 16. To study English Language post 16, you will need a grade 5 and to study English Literature, you will need a grade 6. Most A-level courses require you to have at least a grade 5 in English Language at GCSE and some require a 6.

# Maths

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>	AQA
	Foundation tier (F) grades 1-5; Higher tier (H) grades 4-9		
<b>For more details:</b>	Mr B Pike – Acting Director of Maths		
<b>contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:ben.pike@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">ben.pike@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>		

## Is this course for me?

All students study Mathematics to GCSE level.

## What does the course involve?

Mathematics is taught in a variety of ways; whole class teaching, group work, individual work, investigations, problem solving and using ICT. Successful Mathematics students enjoy tackling puzzles, solving problems and learn from their mistakes.

The course is a continuation of the GCSE course you started in Year 9 but will build on the knowledge and skills you have developed since the start of Year 7. It will pick up from the point you reached at the end of July 2021.

The three Mathematics attainment targets are:

- *Use and apply standard techniques (A01)*
- *Reason, interpret and communicate (A02)*
- *Solve problems within Mathematics and other contexts (A03)*

## How will my work be assessed?

Exam Board: AQA

For GCSE Mathematics, a 100% terminal rule applies. Students will follow this linear course where they will be externally examined in May/June of Year 11 on two calculator papers and one non-calculator Paper.

Students will be entered at Higher or Foundation level. Level of entry will be finalised and made in February of Year 11.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

You will normally need to achieve within new grades **7-9** to continue on to 'A' level Mathematics. Mathematics is a fundamental skill required across many areas of employment, for example: Economics, Medicine, Engineering, Accountancy, Teaching, Child Care, Hairdressing, Fashion, ICT and Environmental Studies.

# Combined Science - Double Award

<b>Qualification:</b>	2 GCSEs	<b>Course:</b>	AQA
<hr/>			
Foundation tier (F) grades 1-5; Higher tier (H) grades 4-9			
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<b>For more details:</b>	Miss H Miles – Director of Science		
<b>contact:</b>	<a href="mailto:henrietta.miles@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk">henrietta.miles@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk</a>		

## Is this course for me?

Science is a compulsory subject at GCSE level across the UK and the majority of students will study the double award course. Students will be awarded 2 GCSE grades in Science where the two grades will always be one grade apart, e.g. a 5-5 or a 5-4. The grades are determined by taking an average of the six exams from the course. As the grades are determined from an average across the three sciences (Biology, Chemistry and Physics), stronger sciences can increase the overall average.

Students will be entered at Higher or Foundation level. Assessments throughout the course will decide the level of entry for students and a final decision will be made in the February of Year 11. Higher tier grades of 6 or higher, will be suitable for students wanting to take an 'A' level in a Science subject at Post 16 at Exmouth College.

You will study Science for five periods a week.

## What does the course involve?

The three Sciences studied are Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The combined Science GCSE involves the study of the three sciences and builds on the knowledge you have learnt in Years 7-9. You will be encouraged to develop an informed interest in Science and its impact on everyday life. Through practical work, you will learn about scientific method and the need to work safely. You will be required to carry out twelve specified practical investigations per academic year, and these will be assessed through questions on the written papers.

## Subjects Covered

All the exams are 75 minutes in length and are equally weighted at 16.7% of the GCSE grade

**Biology paper 1** Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and Response and Bioenergetics

**Biology paper 2** Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution and Ecology

**Chemistry paper 1** Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry and Chemical and Energy Changes

**Chemistry paper 2** The rate and extent of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and using Resources

**Physics paper 1** Energy, Electricity, Particle model of matter and Atomic Structure

**Physics paper 2** Forces, Waves and Magnetism and Electromagnetism

All written papers contain multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

**What courses can this lead to in Post 16?**

Grades 6-6 or higher in science and a grade 6 in Mathematics are required for entry to academic science 'A' level courses; Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

# Science - Triple Award

**Qualification:** 3 separate GCSEs      **Course:** Bio 8461 /Che 8462/Phy 8463  
Foundation (F) tier – grades 1-5; Higher (H) tier – grades 4-9

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**For more details:** Miss H Miles – Director of Science  
**contact:** [henrietta.miles@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:henrietta.miles@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

## Is this course for me? [O&B]

Students that study separate sciences at GCSE will be awarded with three GCSE grades/qualifications. Triple award science is no more difficult than double award science, it does through need you learn and understand a much larger amount of information. This course is for those students who have a great interest in science, a determination to succeed and perhaps be looking towards studying at the highest level in the future. All sciences must be studied, and students must be able to demonstrate good knowledge and understanding in all three sciences. We would usually expect to enter students for the higher tier as the majority of students studying triple award are seeking grades of 6 and higher. The course will have five lessons a week and there may be a requirement to attend further sessions.

## What does the course involve?

The same content as the double Science award is studied with additional content to allow a greater depth and breadth of understanding in the three sciences. Through practical work, you will learn about scientific method and the need to work safely. You will be required to carry out twelve specified practical investigations per academic year and these will be assessed through questions on the written paper.

## Subjects Covered

All exams are 105 minutes in length and are equally weighted at 50% of each science.

**Biology paper 1** Cell Biology, Organisation, Infection and Response and Bioenergetics

**Biology paper 2** Homeostasis and Response, Inheritance, Variation and Evolution and Ecology

**Chemistry paper 1** Atomic Structure and the Periodic Table, Bonding, Structure and the Properties of Matter, Quantitative Chemistry and Chemical and Energy Changes

**Chemistry paper 2** The Rate and Extent of Chemical Change, Organic Chemistry, Chemical Analysis, Chemistry of the Atmosphere and Using Resources

**Physics paper 1** Energy, Electricity, Particle Model of Matter and Atomic Structure

**Physics paper 2** Forces, Waves and Magnetism and Electro-magnetism

All written papers contain multiple choice, structured, closed short answer and open response questions.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

To study a science subject at 'A' level, a grade 6 or higher in the individual science and a grade 6 in Mathematics are required to continue studying this subject in Post 16.

# The Compulsory Core Curriculum

## Religious Education

All students must continue to study Religious Education (we call it 'RPE' – Religion, Philosophy and Ethics) through Years 10 and 11. For more information on our RPE curriculum, please see:

<https://www.exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/curriculum/subjects/religion-philosophy-and-ethics>

## PSHE – [Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education]

Here at the College, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) education is delivered through a programme called 'Lesson 42'. The number 42 is significant in Douglas Adams' 'The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy'; it is the answer determined by the supercomputer, Deep Thought, to the 'Ultimate Question of Life, the Universe and Everything.'

We feel this is fitting, as PSHE is a broad subject which covers many areas that will prepare our students to understand the world around them. Lesson 42 is delivered, primarily, by our form tutors but we also work hard to ensure that assemblies, outside speakers and production companies, as well as drop-down days, provide a wealth of further experiences for our students. Across all Key Stages, PSHE education can be split into three key strands: 'Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships' and 'Living in the Wider World.'

## Physical Education

During Year 10 and Year 11 **all** students are expected to take part in Physical education. The lessons will build on their skills, knowledge and understanding developed in KS3. It is entirely a practical course and will be assessed throughout Year 10 and Year 11 by your engagement in lessons.

The main focus is that students are active and experiencing a lesson of physical activity that will help with keeping the body systems fit and healthy, improving concentration, reducing stress and anxiety, improving retention of new information and improving problem solving skills.

Students will cover a range of practical activities following a pathway approach, including: Invasion, rackets, netball, health and fitness and outdoor and adventurous activities. Students will be taught in ability groups to provide optimum learning for three periods a fortnight. It is essential therefore that high attendance/participation is required and the correct PE kit is worn.

# **OPTION SUBJECTS**

Where there is a choice of a GCSE, BTEC or Technical Award course, please be guided by your subject teachers

# Art & Design

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>
<b>For more details:</b>	Mr J Perry – Head of Art & Design	
<b>contact:</b>	jon.perry@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk	

## Is this course for me?

GCSE Art and Design builds on the knowledge and skills developed in Key Stage 3 and gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity through the development of personal projects.

This popular subject allows artists to experiment with a broad range of techniques and media, including drawing and painting, printmaking, three dimensional processes and photography.

The Art Department is a friendly, productive and supportive environment, and many students in Key Stages 4 and 5 choose to spend much of their free time working in our spaces, where they can use the materials and equipment and receive help and advice from the Art staff and other students.

## What does the course involve?

Students record their ideas using a range of methods in response to a given theme. Our students are highly motivated and prepared to experiment with a variety of materials, media and techniques. Sketchbooks are used extensively to draw, sketch, record ideas, make notes and produce a range of exciting, creative outcomes.

Throughout the course, students are given opportunities to further their skills with workshops, visits and trips. In previous years, Key Stage 4 students have visited St Ives to experience the Barbara Hepworth sculpture garden and Tate gallery. Overseas trips for students considering Art at 'A' level have included New York, Venice and Barcelona. Work produced as a result becomes coursework or examination preparation for the final timed test and invariably improves the student's final grade.

## How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed using four assessment objectives:

- How your ideas develop over a project, and link to research
- How you experiment with and select appropriate media, techniques and processes
- How you record ideas and observations, through visual and written work
- How you present your outcomes

Coursework makes up 60% of the student's final grade, 40% is decided by the externally set assignment, which occurs in Year 11.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

'A' level Art and/or Photography.

*\*Please note that there are three different Art & Design courses – students may only choose one.*

# Business Studies

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>	Edexcel
<b>For more details:</b>	Mr J Simon – Business Studies Co-ordinator		
<b>contact:</b>	john.simon@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk		

## Is this the right subject for me?

*If you enjoy:*

- Communicating and explaining your ideas
- Thinking creatively and making decisions
- Working with numbers to solve business problems
- Learning about the world of business through real and relevant local and international brands

Then the GCSE Business course is the right subject for you!

## What does the course involve?

The course will start by exploring the world of small businesses through the lens of an entrepreneur. How and why do business ideas come about? What makes a successful business? You will learn how to develop an idea, spot an opportunity and turn it into a successful business. You will understand how to make a business effective, manage money and see how the world around us affects small businesses and all the people involved.

You will then move on to investigating business growth. How does a business develop beyond the start-up phase? You will learn about key business concepts and issues and decisions you need to make when growing a business and working in a global business. You will learn about meeting customer needs, making marketing, operational, financial and human resourcing decisions and explore how the wider world impacts the business as it grows.

## How will I be assessed?

- 100% exam based with no non-exam assessment
- Two equally weighted components of 1 hour and 45 minutes, worth 90 marks each
- The assessment will use a mixture of question styles such as multiple choice, short answer and extended response questions
- After this qualification you will understand the world of business and have developed skills in:
- Making decisions and developing persuasive arguments
- Creative and practical problem solving
- Understanding data, finance and communication

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

There is an Edexcel 'A' level course available in business studies at Post 16.

# Computer Science

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>	OCR
<b>For more details: contact:</b>	Mr J Quinn – Head of Computing Science, IT and Media Faculty Jake.quinn@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk		

## Is this course for me?

The course is designed to develop valuable thinking and programming skills that are extremely attractive in the modern workplace. It also aims to give a deep understanding of computational thinking and how to apply it using the Python programming language.

It is a rigorous and academic subject which can be challenging and requires a high level of study commitment. Girls often underestimate their abilities in computing, and it is a government target for more to study this.

## What does the course involve?

Conducting an in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and a look at what goes on 'behind the scenes'. As part of this you will investigate computer programming, which many learners find fascinating. Topics that are covered by this course include:

### J277/01 Computer Systems

- System Architecture
- Memory and Storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network Security
- System Software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital Technology

### J277/01 Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

## How will my work be assessed?

- 50% Computer systems – written examination
- 50% Computational thinking, algorithms and programming – written examination

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

This is an excellent stepping stone into any course particularly 'A' level Computer Science course. The emphasis on problem solving and logic makes this a good pathway into a range of 'A' level courses that require these qualities for success as well as the BTEC Level 3 course in ICT.

**Web page:** <https://ocr.org.uk/Images/558027-specification-gcse-computer-science-j277.pdf>

# Dance

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>
<b>For more details: contact:</b>	Mrs A Phillips – Head of Expressive Arts Faculty amy.phillips@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk	

Dance is a powerful and expressive subject, which encourages students to develop their creative, physical, emotional and intellectual capacity, whatever their previous experience in the subject. Performance and choreography play an integral role in the course and provide opportunities to study a wide range of styles and genres of dance. The critical appreciation of professional dance is also central to developing students understanding of different styles and cultural influences.

## You will:

- Perform dances by developing your physical, technical and expressive skills, reflecting the choreographic intention.
- Create original dances developing your knowledge, skills and understanding of choreographic devices using a range of ideas to communicate an intention.
- Develop your appreciation of dance through critical analysis, interpretation and evaluation of professional dance works and your own work.

## Course Summary:

### **Component 1: Performance and choreography**

**Performance:** worth 30% of GCSE (non-exam assessment)

- Perform set phrases through two taught solo performances (totalling 1 minute in duration)
- Perform in a duet/trio (3½ min in duration)

**Choreography:** worth 30% of GCSE (non-exam assessment)

- Solo or group choreography: solo (2 - 2 ½ min) or group dance for 2 - 5 dancers (3 - 3½ min)



**Component 2: Dance appreciation:** worth 40% of GCSE assessed as a written exam: 1hr 30 min

### **Knowledge and understanding of choreographic processes and performing skills**

- Critical appreciation of your own work
- Critical appreciation of professional works

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

- At grade 4 or above, GCSE Dance qualifies towards further study in any other subject at Post 16.
- 'A' Level Dance
- BTEC Dance or Performing Arts at level 2 or 3
- Dance training at vocational dance schools and conservatoires
- Apprenticeships

## Enrichment

- Theatre trips
- Workshops
- Opportunities to work with our partner dance company 'Chhaya Youth Dance'
- Performance opportunities
- Performance in our annual dance production

# 3D-Art & Design (Design Technology) \*

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs S Browne – Head of Art, Design & Technology Faculty	
<b>contact:</b>	sarah.browne@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk	

## Is this course for me?

Are you creative? Do you like solving problems and enjoy making things? Then GCSE 3D-Art & Design is the ideal subject for you. You will learn a wide range of practical based skills, theory and technical understanding. All of which will give you valuable skills and knowledge for your chosen career or further education, whether that is in engineering, design, carpentry or the creative industries or similar. You will work independently and in groups, developing communication and thinking skills, valued by the business world. You will be able to use your imagination, knowledge and creativity to design and make innovative products, solving genuine problems. We have great facilities and learning environments with a wide range of tools and machinery allowing you to work in woods, plastic, metal, print, textiles and CAD/CAM.

## What does the course involve?

This is a highly creative and practical course where you will develop skills in exploring, creating and making. You will produce a selection of high-quality products using a variety of materials and learn how to communicate your ideas to others. You will learn a wide range of skills including:

- Presenting design ideas and creating a portfolio
- CAD/CAM
- Joining and construction techniques
- Product designing and making
- Experimenting with techniques, materials and processes

Over the two years, you will produce a range of outcomes and practical work and record it in a creative portfolio of work by drawing, using photographs and experiments. You will work through a wide range of skill-based tasks each ending in a product/s for your 2-year portfolio.

You will continue to develop and extend the skills you have developed in this course and become adept at designing and creating your own unique outcomes. Themes could include 'Urban Inspiration', 'Nature', 'Unconventional Materials and Structures'.

## How will my work be assessed?

- **Component 1:** Worth 60% - A portfolio including a sustained project that shows your intentions of a design from start to finish.
- **Component 2:** Worth 40% - Externally set assignment consisting of a sustained project preparing for and resulting in a 10-hour Practical exam under supervision.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

This qualification is recognised by colleges and universities and would be a great foundation for 'A' levels, especially our very popular Art, Textiles, Graphics and 3D courses. The course could lead on to a full range of careers within the creative, product design, architecture and 3D design industry.

Come join our team in this exciting adventure!

***\*Please note that there are three different Art & Design courses – students may only choose one***

# Drama & Theatre Studies

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>	AQA
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs L Coull – Head of Drama		
<b>contact:</b>	lauren.coull@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk		

**Is this course for me?**

For students choosing GCSE Drama, this is an exciting and rewarding course in which you will learn and develop a wide range of skills and understanding. Through careful research, creative cooperation, critical analysis and practical exploration you will develop the necessary skills and understanding to be able to achieve highly in this subject.

**What does the course involve?** There are three components to this exam:

- 1 Understanding Drama - Students will be expected to attend performances organised by the department as part of the requirements of the course and answer three questions in the written exam.
- 2 Devised Work - The devised work must contain both elements of improvisation and script – extracts from plays, verse or prose and be of original work. Students will be expected to keep a devising log based on the practical work.
- 3 Texts in Practice - This is a practical module in which students prepare, perform and evaluate two script extracts for performance.

**How will my work be assessed?**

Understanding Drama – worth 40% of GCSE

This is 1hr 45 min written examination. This is worth a maximum of 80 marks and is sat at the end of the course in Year 11.

Over the next two years you will have plenty of practical and theoretical opportunities to develop the necessary skills and understanding to answer the three compulsory sections of the written paper:

**Section A:** Multiple choice questions relating to theatre terminology (4 marks)

**Section B:** Four questions on a given extract from a chosen set play (44 marks)

**Section C:** One question about a single live production you will see (32 marks)

Devising Drama – worth 40% of GCSE

This is a practical module in which you will be given opportunity to develop your devising skills. Using a given stimulus you will develop a group performance for examination. The emphasis is very much on your development so a maximum of 60 marks are awarded for your devising log and 20 marks for your devised performance.

Texts in Practice – worth 20% of GCSE

This is a practical module in which you will develop and produce two script extract performances for examination. There is a maximum of 20 marks for each of the performances.

**What courses can this lead to in Post 16?**

GCSE Drama is a natural pathway into Post-16 Theatre and Performing Arts for those students who wish to develop both their skills and a deeper level of theoretical understanding. The benefits of this subject are vast as the communication, team building and academic skills you will acquire will be paramount in a variety of careers to include: Law, Social Services, Teaching, the Armed Forces as well as the Performing Arts industry itself.

# Engineering

Qualification: **Level 1-2 Certificate** Course: **OCR**

For more details, **contact:** Mr T Harrison – Design & Technology Department

Thomas.harrison@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

## Is this course for me?

Do you have an interest in design and the world around you? Do you like problem solving and developing real life solutions? Do you have the ability to be creative and apply mathematical thinking to problems? If so, then engineering could be the course for you.

## What does the course involve?

The Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Manufacture will encourage you to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Engineering Manufacture, including manufacturing processes, engineering materials, manufacturing requirements and developments in engineering manufacture.
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically.
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that would be relevant to the engineering, manufacturing, process control sector and more widely.
- Plan manufacturing production through practical experience of manufacturing for one-off products and manufacturing in quantity.
- Determine the sequence of operations required, recognising hazards and risks so that control measures can be implemented for safe working.
- Interpret engineering drawings to facilitate manufacture, using a range of tools and equipment, including Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machines.

**Year 10:** Students will familiarize themselves with working in an Engineering Workshop, they will learn how to safely use all the tools & equipment such as the centre lathe, milling machine and gain important bench skills needed to progress. They will also begin on their first piece of NEA coursework R015 Manufacturing a one-off product this is set by the exam board and this will be submitted in the summer term.

**Year 11:** Students will begin the second piece of NEA coursework R016 Manufacturing in Quality. In order to succeed in this they will be taught how to draw using Computer Aided design programs and how to manufacture using the Computer Aided manufacturing machines such as the CNC Plasma cutter, CNC Milling Machine or Laser cutter.

## How will my work be assessed?

- **Internal assessment:** A portfolio of evidence from the two units of work. This will be graded by centre staff and externally moderated by the exam board.
- **External assessment:** Exam externally graded by the exam board. Learners must be successful in both types of assessment to achieve the qualification.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

3D Art & Design 'A' level

# Food & Nutrition

**Qualification:** 1 GCSE

**Course:**

**For more details:** Mrs S Browne– Head of Art, Design & Technology Faculty  
**contact:** Sarah.browne@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

## Is this course for me?

The new 'Food Preparation and Nutrition' GCSE is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills.

It would appeal to students who are genuinely interested in food and enjoy practical work. The majority of the course will be delivered through practical experiences. Students taking this subject need to be sufficiently well organised to bring ingredients to College on a regular basis.

### What does the course involve?

The majority of key learning will be covered in Year 10; students will extend their subject knowledge and learn new practical skills. The course will cover the following sections: Food Preparation Skills including:

Knife skills	Preparing fruit and vegetables	Use of the cooker
Use of equipment	Cooking methods	Prepare, combine and shape
Sauce making	Tenderise and marinate	Dough
Raising agents	Setting mixtures	General practical skills

- Food, Nutrition and Health
- Food Safety
- Food Science
- Food Provenance
- Food Choice

Students will begin Task 1 of the non-examination assessment at the start of Year 11. They will complete this in the Autumn Half-Term. They will complete Task 2 in the Spring Term.

### How will my work be assessed?

Component	Weighting
Single written examination (1 hour 45 minutes)	50%
Non-exam assessment: <b>Task 1: The Food Investigation (10 hours of class time).</b> <i>(A choice of three given, e.g. investigate the use of raising agents in baked products).</i>	15%
<b>Task 2: The Food Preparation Assessment (20 hours including one three hour period).</b> <i>(A choice of three given, e.g. plan, prepare, cook and present a range of dishes, using a variety of skills, from the Mediterranean culinary tradition. Present three final dishes.</i>	35%

### What can this lead to?

The course covers basic life skills and is intended to be useful as part of a broad and balanced curriculum for all students. It also links to a wide range of future careers including those in the food industry, catering and health and fitness.

# French

Qualification:

1 GCSE

Course: AQA

For more details:  
contact:

Mrs R Burman – Acting Faculty Leader of languages  
Rachel.burman@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

## Is this course for me?

To study French as a GCSE, students must have studied French in Year 9. If you would like to broaden your horizons, then this is the course for you!

Studying French at GCSE unlocks vital communication skills valued by employers worldwide. Beyond basic fluency, it develops crucial cognitive abilities like problem-solving and cultural understanding, enhancing overall academic performance. In the professional realm, French is highly beneficial for careers in international business, diplomacy, journalism, and tourism, as France remains a major global economic and cultural hub. Being bilingual demonstrates adaptability and a competitive edge in today's globalized job market, opening doors to opportunities that monolingual candidates often miss. It's a smart investment in your future success.

## What does the course involve?

The AQA specification focuses on three main themes: **People and lifestyle** (identity, health, relationships); **Popular culture** (free-time, customs, celebrity); and **Communication and the world around us** (travel, environment, study, and employment). We study a range of grammar such as adjectives and the past, present and future tenses. The four skills tested are: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

## How will my work be assessed?

**GCSE:** The course awards marks to each of the four skills and will use the grading structure 1- 9.

## Overview of Assessment:

The GCSE specification for languages is linear with all assessments at the end of the course. There are four final exams in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

All examinations take place at the end of Year 11.			
Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%
Listening comprehension to be answered in English or non-verbally. Dictation of short sentences.	Three tasks: One role-play. One reading aloud task and short conversation. A photo card describing two photos followed by a discussion.	Reading tasks to be answered in English or non –verbally, Translation from French into English.	Writing tasks including one translation task from English into French, a 90-word essay and other written tasks depending on the tier of entry.

Year 9 have already started working on some of the topics and grammar on the GCSE syllabus for French. This introduces students to the new skills and requirements for GCSE prior to the

Options Process. You will learn many skills useful in other subjects such as concentration, memorising, spelling accurately, communicating clearly and problem solving.

There is a good selection of material on the internet with interactive activities, practice and revision for example on BBC Bitesize and we also provide online access to the textbook we use in college.

**What courses can this lead to in Post 16?**

'A' Level French.

# Geography

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>	AQA
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs J Outram – Head of Geography		
<b>contact:</b>	jo.outram@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk		

## Is this course for me?

If you're curious about the world and enjoy finding out why things happen — from extreme weather to global inequalities — GCSE Geography is a brilliant choice. It helps you understand the big issues shaping our planet today, like climate change, population growth, urban change and how we use resources.

AQA Geography gives you the chance to explore real places and real challenges. You'll study everything from natural hazards and river or coastal landscapes to the ways cities grow and how countries develop. You'll also get hands-on experience through fieldwork, map skills and investigating real-world questions.

Geography is highly valued by colleges, universities and employers because it teaches you to think critically, solve problems and understand people and environments. It keeps your future options wide open — whether you're interested in science, business, politics, planning, environmental work, or simply want to better understand the world you live in.

If you enjoy current affairs, like learning about different places, or want a subject that's relevant to the future of our planet, then GCSE Geography is a great choice for you.

## What does the course involve?

The course is divided into six main sections that cover Physical and Human Geography themes.

The Physical Geography includes 'The Challenge of Natural Hazards', 'The Living World' and 'Physical Landscapes of the UK'. The Human Geography covers 'Urban Issues and Challenges', 'The Changing Economic World' and 'The Challenge of Resource Management'.

How will my work be assessed?

There are three examinations taken at the end of the GCSE Geography course. Paper 1 assesses all of the Physical Geography topics, and Paper 2 assesses the Human Geography topics. Paper 3 is a skills-based examination. It includes tasks that require students to apply the geographical skills they have developed throughout the course, as well as a decision-making exercise in which they must analyse evidence and justify a conclusion. Paper 3 also tests the skills gained through the fieldwork activities, which form an essential part of the qualification.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

'A' level Geography is a popular and successful Post-16 option. It complements a wide range of other subjects, reflecting the varied and diverse nature of the discipline. Many students choose to combine Geography with subjects such as Sociology, Politics, Economics, or Psychology. Because there is also a strong scientific component to the course, it pairs well with Chemistry, Physics, or Biology.

As with all humanities subjects, Geography requires students to analyse, interpret, and evaluate evidence. These transferable skills support success in subjects such as English, Media, and many others.

# Art & Design: Graphic Communication \*

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs S Browne– Head of Art, Design & Technology Faculty	
<b>contact:</b>	Sarah.browne@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk	

## Is this course for me?

*Are you...*

- Creative by nature?
- Interested in Graphic Art?
- Interested in Photography, Photoshop and Print?
- Interested in creating something you could be proud of?
- Looking to develop making skills?
- Interested in designing your own original posters, magazine spreads and logos?

*Then this is the course for you!*

## What does the course involve?

This is a highly creative and practical course where you will develop skills in exploring, creating and making. You will produce a selection of high quality products using graphic techniques and learn how to communicate your ideas. You will learn a wide range of skills including:

- Hand-rendered working methods
- Digital Photography
- Print making
- Illustration
- Photoshop

Over the two years you will produce a range of outcomes and practical work and record it in a creative portfolio of work by drawing, using photographs and experiments. You will work through a wide range of skill-based tasks each ending in a product for your 2 year portfolio.

You will continue to develop and extend the skills you have developed in this course and become adept at designing and creating your own unique outcomes. Themes could include, Urban Inspiration, Beliefs and Nature.

## How will my work be assessed?

- **Component 1:** Worth 60%: Portfolio including a sustained project that shows your intentions of a design from start to finish
- **Component 2:** Worth 40%: Externally set assignment: sustained project preparing for and resulting in a 10-hour practical under supervision.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

This qualification is recognised by colleges and universities and would be a great foundation for 'A' levels. The course could lead on to a full range of careers within the graphic and design industry. Come join our team in this exciting adventure!

***\*Please note that there are three different Art & Design courses – students may only choose one.***

# Health & Social Care

<b>Qualification:</b>	BTEC Level 1-2	<b>Course:</b> Pearson
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs P Gale – Health & Social Care Co-ordinator	
<b>contact:</b>	pippa.gale@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk	

## Is this course for me?

This course would suit you if you have a genuine interest in working with people within a helping capacity and if you have a caring nature. If being a social worker, teacher, paramedic, carer, occupational therapist, midwife, general nurse, mental health nurse, dental nurse, pediatric nurse, nursery worker or a special needs worker interests you then this course could be for you. These are examples of some of the careers available – there are many more, for example working with the police or in the prison service.

## What does the course involve?

Working in health and social care requires good verbal communication skills as well as good written skills. You will develop these skills with support from your teachers over the duration of the course. The course involves a considerable amount of written work and application to real-life scenarios.

*You will:*

- Explore how people grow and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially throughout the 6 life stages
- Investigate key milestones of development and key changes that occur throughout the six life stages
- Explore a number of factors that affect human growth and development, such as inherited conditions, substance misuse, dietary choices, exercise and culture
- Show your knowledge of how health care professionals demonstrate the skills, attributes and values when delivering care to individuals
- Interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators and what they mean for a person's state of health; to include knowledge of blood pressure, BMI & pulse
- Recommend appropriate actions for improving a person's health and wellbeing
- Explore the difficulties individuals may face when trying to improve their health and wellbeing

## How will my work be assessed?

You will complete three units over two years. Two course work units and one exam.

Unit	Unit Title	Form of Assessment	Year	Overall BTEC Grade
1	Human Lifespan Development	Controlled assessments	Year 10	30%
2	Health and Social Care Services and Values	Controlled assessments	Year 11	30%
3	Health and Wellbeing	External exam	Year 11	40%

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

On completion of this course, you may progress to Level 3 BTEC in Health and Social Care; Level 3 BTEC in Children's Play, Learning and Development or Level 2 Diploma for the Early Years Practitioner

# History

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b> Edexcel
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs A Hamblin – Head of History	
<b>contact:</b>	alison.hamblin@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk	

## Is this course for me?

A history GCSE helps students develop skills of comprehension and analysis essential to many careers, such as journalism, law, management and administration. The course is constructed around the major ideas in history of change over time, in-depth analysis and the interpretation of the past. If you are interested in finding out the 'Whys?' of our world then this course is for you!

## What does the course involve?

### 'Medicine through Time':

An overview and analysis of how people have understood and practised medicine from medieval times to the present day. There is a special focus on surgery during World War One.

### Henry VIII 1509-1540

An in depth investigation into why and how Henry VIII changed England so much and the impact that those changes had on the country.

### Super power relations and the Cold War 1941-1991

This investigates how countries such as Russia, America and Britain interacted during the Second World War and why the Cold War developed after 1945. It looks at the treatment of Germany after World War Two and how the conflict was finally brought to an end.

### Germany 1918-1939

Charting the rise of Hitler and developments in Germany and Europe, which led to the Second World War and the Holocaust; events which still have a profound effect on our lives.

## How will my work be assessed?

There will be three exams at the end of Year 11.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

All of them. History helps develop literacy, understanding, encourages inquisitiveness and empathy. All study requires these attributes. Universities are increasingly looking to offer places to students who have a history qualification. History is offered at 'A' level.

# ICT

**Qualification:** Level 1-2 Vocational Award (Tech Award)      **Course:** WJEC

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**For more details:** Mr J Quinn – Head of Computing Science, IT and Media Faculty  
**contact:** jake.quinn@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

## Is this course for me?

Are you passionate about technology? Do you like solving problems? Are you curious about all things digital and want to learn some fantastic new skills?

## What does the course involve?

You will develop a number of skills which are attractive to an employer, colleges and universities including:

Communication	Coping with rapid changes in technology
Critical thinking	Time management
Learning independently	Numeracy and data handling
Problem solving	Research
Designing, programming, testing and evaluating software systems	Taking responsibility

## The qualification is made up of two units:

### Unit 1: 'ICT and Society'

- Explore the wide range of uses of hardware, application and specialist software in society.
- Investigate how information technology is used in a range of contexts, including business and organisations, education and homes.
- **Assessment:** Written exam, made up of short and extended response questions (worth 40% of final grade).

### Unit 2: 'ICT in Context'

- Gain a working knowledge of databases, spreadsheets, automated documents and images.
- Learn to apply your knowledge and understanding to solve problems in vocational settings.
- **Assessment:** Project work, no exam (worth 60% of final grade).

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

ICT is a good route into the BTEC course in 'Information Technology', either at Level 2 and 3 and is a complementary subject for those intending to study any subject including Computing.

**To find out more about the course, please visit:** [https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/4t0gxiic/wjec\\_l1-2-vocaward-ict\\_spec\\_04-07-2022-e.pdf](https://www.wjec.co.uk/media/4t0gxiic/wjec_l1-2-vocaward-ict_spec_04-07-2022-e.pdf)

# Media Studies

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>	WJEC/Eduqas
<b>For more details:</b>	Mr J Quinn – Head of Computing Science, IT and Media Faculty		
<b>contact:</b>	Jake.quinn@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk		

## Is this course for me?

Studying how the media works and how audiences use and are influenced by media products is more important than ever and this course offers you the opportunity to get involved in this fascinating and ever-changing subject area.

If you are interested in any aspect of the media then this is the course for you! We explore the whole range of media industries from newspapers to video games, advertising to TV. As well as studying exciting media texts you will also get to make your own using professional equipment and software.

## What does the course involve?

There are **two** components to the course:

<b>Controlled assessment:</b> <b>Worth 30%</b>	You will work to a brief to produce a media product to a professional standard. You will have the opportunity to learn how to use DSLR cameras, green screens and lighting rigs as well as developing your skills in using software such as Adobe Photoshop and Premiere. This is one of the few GCSEs where practical production work is still assessed!
<b>Two Exams:</b> <b>Worth 70%</b>	Component 1 exam will explore a broad range of media texts based on examples set by the exam board. You will examine issues of representation and audience in video games, advertising, newspapers and radio. Component 2 allows you to conduct an in-depth study of a television show and a cross-media study of popular music. Both exams are primarily based on material you will have studied before you sit the exam.

## How will my work be assessed?

This qualification has a single level of entry and is graded 1 to 9.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

This course makes a great way to access media and film courses at Post 16 and beyond as well as providing you with knowledge and skills of the creative industries (a growth sector of the UK economy). The course is also useful for those wanting to pursue Photography, Psychology and Sociology at Post 16.

# Music

**Qualification:** 1 GCSE **Course:** OCR

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**For more details contact:**

**Mr G Susevee – Head of Music [greg.susevee@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:greg.susevee@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)**

## **Is this course for me?**

If you enjoy playing a musical instrument / singing and composing your own music, then yes, this course is for you. You will need to be able to sing or play a musical instrument.

Music Staff will discuss course options with you, making sure that you are on the best course for you.

## **What does the course involve?**

**Performance** - Two performances on an instrument of your choice. You choose the pieces to play. One must be performed with other people. The performances will be recorded in the studio, not performed in front of an audience.

**Composition** - Two compositions. You can use music software to help you compose. The pieces will need to be recorded. One piece will be set by you and the other will be set by the exam board (composed between set dates).

## **Listening** - (Written exam)

Students listen to a variety of music and answer questions about it. These topics include:

- Film Music – including music for video games
- Popular Music – e.g. Rock Anthems, Pop Ballads
- Rhythmic Music – e.g. Samba, African, Greek, Bhangra
- Concerto – music from the Baroque, Classical and Romantic periods

These topics are taught practically and students are expected to participate in tasks set.

## **How will my work be assessed?**

Controlled Assessment: 60% (Performance 30%, Composition 30%)

Exam: 40%

## **What courses can this lead to in Post-16?**

Any music course (BTEC / 'A' level).

# Physical Education

Qualification: **1 GCSE** Course: **AQA**

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## For more details

**contact:** Mr S Lowe – Head of PE [stuart.lowe@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk](mailto:stuart.lowe@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk)

## Is this course for me?

*Please speak to your PE teacher to see if this is the most suitable course.*

3 lessons a week – **mainly theory based.**

## You must be performing in 2 sports in competitive situations.

*If you enjoy:*

- Sport and recreation
- Working hard
- Biology in science
- Developing knowledge and understanding through theory and practical involvement
- Learning about the benefits of sport and exercise
- Improving your own performance in a range of sport
- Or, if you are considering a sports-related career or an 'A' level/Higher Education course, then our GCSE in Physical Education is the right subject for you.
- You must compete regularly in a variety of sports.

The course builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills established in Key Stage 3 Physical Education (you will have worked on GCSE theory as part of your lessons). It will give you exciting opportunities to develop your knowledge in many theory based areas. You will be involved in a number of different physical activities (**in core lessons**), promoting an active and healthy lifestyle.

## What does the course involve?

Students will study the theoretical and practical aspects of a number of areas. Students must be aware that this is not solely a practical subject - there is a very large amount of theory in the new course. Even the practical elements will require clarity of thought involving much of the theory content. Students will be asked to work on practical performance in after school clubs and weekend sports.

## The theory areas to be studied are:

Body Systems	Physical Training
Movement Analysis	Use of Sports Data
Diet & Exercise	Sports Injuries and Prevention
Hygiene & Safety in Sport	Sports Psychology
Socio-cultural Influences	Health, Fitness & Well-being

## How will my work be assessed?

Exam 1 – The Human Body	Exam 2 – Socio Cultural Influences & Well-being
1 hour 15 min 78 marks 30% of GCSE	1 hour 15 min 78 marks 30% of GCSE
40% Practical – <b>You must be assessed in three sports</b> (25 marks for each sport). You will also be assessed on observation and analysis skills in one sport (25 marks)	

### What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

AS/A2 Physical Education/BTEC National Diploma/BTEC First Diploma in Sport

# Physical Education (Health & Fitness)

**Qualification:** Level 1-2 Award  
in Health & Fitness      **Course:** NCFE

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**For more details:** Mr S Lowe – Head of Sport & Leisure  
**contact:** stuart.lowe@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

## Is this course for me?

The LEVEL 1/2 TECHNICAL AWARD IN HEALTH AND FITNESS has been designed primarily for young people aged 14 to 16 who may wish to explore a more vocational route throughout Key Stage 4 and is equivalent to one GCSE.

## About this qualification

The Level 1/2 Technical Award in Health and Fitness is designed for learners who have a genuine interest in developing their knowledge in health and fitness that includes a vocational and project-based element. The qualification will appeal to learners who wish to pursue a career in the health and fitness sector or progress onto further study.

## Qualification Structure

Learners are required to successfully demonstrate their knowledge and skills to meet the requirements of all eight content areas of this qualification.

## Content areas

1. Structure and function of body systems
2. Effects of health and fitness activities on the body
3. Health and fitness and the components of fitness
4. Principles of training
5. Testing and developing components of fitness
6. Impact of lifestyle on health and fitness
7. Applying health and fitness analysis and setting goals
8. Structure of a health and fitness programme and how to prepare it safely

## What does the course involve?

**UNIT 1:** worth 40% - **EXTERNALLY ASSESSED EXAM** (1 hour 30 min)

**UNIT 2:** worth 60% - **INTERNALLY ASSESSED HEALTH AND FITNESS PROJECT** (22 hours)

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

BTEC National Diploma in Sport L3

BTEC First Diploma in Sport L2

A Level PE

# Religion, Philosophy & Ethics

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>	AQA
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs L Lowe – Head of Religion, Philosophy & Ethics		
<b>contact:</b>	lisa.lowe@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk		

*NB This is a full Option subject for those that wish to study the full GCSE in addition to the non-examined 'Core' RPE curriculum.*

Religion, Philosophy and Ethics at GCSE is a fascinating qualification that helps students understand different beliefs and cultures, develop critical thinking and ethical reasoning, and gain awareness of global and historical issues. It builds valuable skills like analysis, communication, and problem solving, while fostering personal growth and tolerance. Religion, Philosophy and Ethics is a highly valued subject for a variety of career pathways from Law to the Police Service to Human Resources.

## What does the course involve?

The course covers the following areas of work:

- The beliefs and teachings of **Christianity**
- The practices of **Christianity**
- The beliefs and teachings of **Islam**
- The practices of **Islam**
- **Crime and Punishment** (for example, the treatment of criminals and the death penalty)
- **Religion and Life** (for example, the origins of the universe and animal experimentation)
- **Relationships and Families** (for example, the purpose of marriage and the nature of different types of families)
- **Religion, Peace and Conflict** (for example, exploring whether or not war is ever justified and the ethical issues surrounding the use of nuclear weapons).

Emphasis is on the experience of religion in the lives of believers today and also on topical issues and religious responses to them. Students are also expected to develop and express their own views, as well as show an understanding and appreciation of the views of others. Much thought and discussion goes on within this subject.

It is a thought provoking and challenging GCSE that will develop not only their knowledge and understanding of the world but also assist in improving their wider study skills.

## How will my work be assessed?

The course is assessed by **exams** only – 2 exams at the end of year 11. No coursework is required.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

This course is a perfect foundation for Philosophy at A-level but can also be helpful when considering many other subjects at Post 16.

# Spanish

**Qualification:** 1 GCSE **Course:** AQA

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For more details contact:

Mrs R Burman – Acting Faculty Leader of languages Rachel.burman@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

## Is this course for me?

To study Spanish as a GCSE, students must have studied Spanish in Year 9. If you would like to broaden your horizons, then this is the course for you!

Studying Spanish at GCSE unlocks vital communication skills valued by employers worldwide. Beyond basic fluency, it develops crucial cognitive abilities like problem-solving and cultural understanding, enhancing overall academic performance. In the professional realm, Spanish is highly beneficial for careers in international business, diplomacy, journalism, and tourism, given the vast and growing global influence of Spanish-speaking countries and communities. Being bilingual demonstrates adaptability and a competitive edge in today's globalized job market, opening doors to opportunities that monolingual candidates often miss. It's a smart investment in your future success.

## What does the course involve?

The AQA specification focuses on three main themes: **People and lifestyle** (identity, health, relationships); **Popular culture** (free-time, customs, celebrity); and **Communication and the world around us** (travel, environment, study, and employment). We study a range of grammar such as adjectives and the past, present and future tenses. The four skills tested are: listening, speaking, reading and writing.

## How will my work be assessed?

**GCSE:** The course awards marks to each of the four skills and will use the grading structure 1- 9.

## Overview of Assessment:

The GCSE specification for languages is linear with all assessments at the end of the course. There are four final exams in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing.

<b>All examinations take place at the end of Year 11.</b>			
Paper 1: Listening	Paper 2: Speaking	Paper 3: Reading	Paper 4: Writing
25%	25%	25%	25%
Listening comprehension to be answered in English or non-verbally. Dictation of short sentences.	Three tasks: One role-play. One reading aloud task and short conversation. A photo card describing two photos followed by a discussion.	Reading tasks to be answered in English or non –verbally, Translation from Spanish into English.	Writing tasks including one translation task from English into Spanish, a 90-word essay and other written tasks depending on the tier of entry.

Year 9 have already started working on some of the topics and grammar on the GCSE syllabus for Spanish. This introduces students to the new skills and requirements for GCSE prior to the Options Process. You will learn many skills useful in other subjects such as concentration, memorising, spelling accurately, communicating clearly and problem solving.

There is a good selection of material on the internet with interactive activities, practice and revision for example on BBC Bitesize and we also provide online access to the textbook we use in college.

**What courses can this lead to in Post 16?**

'A' Level Spanish.

# Art & Design: Textiles \*

<b>Qualification:</b>	1 GCSE	<b>Course:</b>
<b>For more details:</b>	Mrs S Browne – Design & Technology Dept	
<b>contact:</b>	sarah.browne@exmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk	

## Is this course for me? *Are you..*

- Creative by nature?
- A unique stylist who likes expressing yourself?
- Interested in creating your own decorative techniques?
- Interested in creating something you could be proud of?
- Looking to develop making skills?
- Interested in designing your own original fabrics and textile products?

## What does the course involve?

This is a highly creative and practical course where you will develop skills in exploring, creating and making. You will produce a selection of high-quality products using textile materials and learn how to communicate your ideas to others. You will learn a wide range of skills including:

- Colouring and decorating fabrics to your own design
- Surface embellishment
- Fabric manipulation and construction
- Product designing and making
- Fashion design

Over the two years, you will produce a range of outcomes and practical work and record it in a creative portfolio of work by drawing, using photographs and experiments. You will work through a wide range of skill based tasks each ending in a product for your 2 year portfolio.

You will continue to develop and extend the skills you have developed in this course and become adept at designing and creating your own unique outcomes. Themes could include, Urban Inspiration, Nature and Unconventional Materials.

Inspirational Trips: We include inspirational trips during the course, for students to gain primary research and in the past we have visited: the Creative Stitches Exhibition, Eden Project, the Victoria & Albert and London Fashion & Textiles museums.

## How will my work be assessed?

- Component 1 60%: Portfolio including a sustained project that shows your intentions of a design from start to finish
- Component 2 40%: Externally set assignment: sustained project preparing for and resulting in a 10 hour practical under supervision.

## What courses can this lead to in Post 16?

This qualification is recognised by colleges and universities and would be a great foundation for 'A' levels, especially our very popular 3D course and all of the arts. The course could lead on to a full range of careers within the textile and design industry.

Come join our team in this exciting adventure!

***\*Please note that there are three different Art & Design courses – students may only choose one.***

# YOUR CHOICES

## Guided Option Choice (Choice '1')

Choose One Subject	Please Tick Choice
Computer Science	
French	
Geography	
History	
Spanish	

## Additional Option Choices (Choices '2', '3', '4', and 'Reserve')

Subject	Please tick choice	Subject	Please tick choice
Art and Design		Art and Design – Graphic Communication	
Business Studies		Health and Social Care	
Computer Science		History	
Dance		ICT	
3D Design Technology		Media Studies	
Drama and Theatre Studies		Music	
Engineering		PE GCSE	
Food and Nutrition		PE Health and Fitness	
French		Religion, Philosophy & Ethics	
Geography		Spanish	
		Art and Design - Textiles	

Public Services is likely to be an option that selected students will be guided towards.  
In the meantime all students should select a full set of options above.

# My Individual Learning Plan

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

The aim of this document is to help you plan your future choices about education and training. These decisions should be made with the help and support of your parents or carers and the College. In College you should talk to your tutor and subject teachers, you should listen carefully to the presentations that are made to you and you should attend the coursing interview with your tutor well prepared.

**This record is designed to encourage you to think about your educational choices from the age of 14 all the way through to the age of 19.** Try to fill in the boxes as well as you can and, if there are any you can't fill in, think about what you may need to do in that area.

Subjects you enjoy or are good at:

What type of job would you like? (e.g. indoor / outdoor, working with people / more independently)

What sort of careers interest you?

What qualifications do they require?