

Year 9 Options Booklet 2026



Be Kind

Be Curious

Be Courageous

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Welcome

Dear Parent /Carer

Your child will be moving to Key Stage 4 in their City Academy Norwich journey in September 2025. The Key Stage 4 curriculum which your child will be following for the next two years contains a compulsory core section, but there is also a significant element of choice which needs careful planning. This booklet is designed to help you and your child choose the courses they will follow over the next two years.

We offer a variety of GCSE and vocational courses. Vocational qualifications suit students who find studies connected to the workplace interesting. As well as this, there is a greater amount of the work assessed throughout these courses, by the means of coursework and not just by a final examination. We encourage students to have a broad and balanced range of subjects and qualifications to ensure they have a wide range of choices of post-16 pathways.

Your child will be in education now until they are 18 years of age; it is important that you and your child think clearly now about option choices so that their journey into college / sixth form / apprenticeship and ultimately university or work placement is a smooth one.

Choosing subjects which interest them, and that they are making good progress in is essential.

Students are at the heart of City Academy Norwich, and we aim to work with you and your child to ensure that the curriculum they choose reflects their ambitions and goals.

We look forward to supporting you and your child at this important time in their school journey.

Yours sincerely



**Mrs J Franklin, Headteacher
City Academy Norwich**



Introduction

The options process is designed to ensure that all students have the opportunity to study a broad range of subjects including the core subjects, whilst still giving each individual a degree of choice.

We ask that parents/carers and students go through the information contained in this booklet together so you and your child can discuss which courses are appropriate. Support and guidance for options will also be provided in form time and through assemblies.

The deadline for returning choices is Friday 24th April 2026

How to choose:

When making your choices make sure you consider:

- Subjects you like and ones which excite, motivate and interest you
- Subjects you feel might help you in the general career area that you are interested in, such as 'working with people' or 'using practical skills'
- Exactly what each course involves by reading this handbook and decide whether you can cope with the demands of the subjects
- Ask your teachers for advice on your level of achievement and future potential in each subject

FAQ

Q: How many choices do I make?

A: You will choose four subjects.

Q: Will I definitely have all the subjects I ask for?

A: The majority of students will be allocated the subject choices they have chosen. However on rare occasions there may be a need for flexibility.

Q: If there aren't enough students opting for a subject will it still run?

A: No, unfortunately option subjects cannot run if the numbers are low.

Q: Can I change my mind later?

A: The combination route you choose will be studied from Year 10 through to the end of Year 11. It is therefore not possible to change your subjects once you have started your course.

Top Tips

You should remember these:

Do's

- Do choose subjects which you like
- Do choose subjects at which you are successful
- Do choose subjects which you may need for a career or further education.
- Do find out everything that you can about the subject before you choose it. Once you have started a subject we expect you to stick with it.
- Do talk to the people who know you.
- Do listen to the advice your subject teachers give you.

Don'ts

- Don't choose a subject just because your friend has chosen it.
- Don't choose a subject just because you like or dislike a particular teacher, they may not end up teaching you.

What happens once options have been chosen?

- A Microsoft form will be sent to you to complete your choices - you need to submit these by **Friday 24th April 2026**
- You will have a conversation with Mr Jones if there is a significant issue with your options.
- We will confirm your option choices on **Friday 26th June 2026**

Option Choices

At City Academy Norwich, we are passionate about ensuring students leave us having fulfilled their potential in a broad range of subjects. As such, the curriculum we offer gives academic rigour and provides a broad curriculum.

Key Stage 4 courses require a considerable amount of commitment of all aspects of study both in school and at home. It is therefore important to be fully aware of the expectations of each course when making a choice.

All students will need to select their choices for the courses they will study throughout the whole of Year 10 and Year 11. Each student will study:

- The core curriculum,
- Four subjects from the Option Choices. Students will need to choose one from each Block/Group

Core Curriculum	
English Language	English Literature
Mathematics	Combined Science
Physical Education	Personal Development

Block A	Block B	Block C	Block D
Business Studies	Art	Engineering	History
Hair and Beauty	Computing	Hair and Beauty	Hospitality and Catering
History	Health and Social Care	Health and Social Care	Photography
Hospitality and Catering	Photography	History	Spanish
Drama	Sport	Music	Sport
Triple Science	Travel and Tourism		Geography

***If any group in an option block becomes too big or does not have enough students to run, we reserve the right to make changes.

Core Subjects

Combined Science

English

Maths

PE

Personal Development (PHSE, RE & Careers)

Option Subjects

Art & Design: Art

Art & Design: Photography

Business

Computing

Engineering Design

Drama

Geography

Hair & Beauty

Health & Social Care

History

Hospitality and Catering

Music

Photography

Spanish

Sport

Travel & Tourism

Triple Science

Leader of Department: Mr Coyne

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

Subject Description

At City Academy Norwich, we strive to ensure that our students can see the relevance and importance of science in their everyday lives and are equipped with the skills and knowledge required to enter a career in the field.

Throughout Years 10 and 11, they build on their Key Stage 3 knowledge and skills by exploring more complex and abstract concepts.

Students have the opportunity to select triple GCSE award in separate sciences or complete a double GCSE award in Combined Science (Trilogy) as a core subject.

In Combined Science, students will study the following topics within each discipline.

Biology	Chemistry	Physics
<p>Paper One</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cell Biology 2. Organisation 3. Infection and Response 4. Bioenergetics <p>Paper Two</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Homeostasis and response 6. Inheritance, variation and evolution 7. Ecology 	<p>Paper One</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Atomic structure and the periodic table 2. Bonding, structure, and the properties of matter 3. Quantitative chemistry 4. Chemical changes 5. Energy changes <p>Paper Two</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. The rate and extent of chemical change 7. Organic chemistry 8. Chemical analysis 9. Chemistry of the atmosphere 10. Using resources 	<p>Paper One</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Energy 2. Electricity 3. Particle model of matter 4. Atomic structure <p>Paper Two</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Forces 6. Waves 7. Magnetism and electromagnetism

All students complete twenty-one required practicals as part of the Combined Science pathway, accounting for 15% of their GCSE exam marks.

Additionally, they will engage in various experiments aimed at enhancing understanding, fostering curiosity, and demonstrating practical applications of their knowledge in real-world contexts.

Leader of Department: Mr Coyne

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

How will I be assessed?

GCSE Science is assessed by 100% examination at the end of Year 11.

Combined Science students will complete six 70-mark, 75-minute papers, two in Biology, two in Chemistry, two in Physics.

Students are entered at one of two tiers – Foundation tier, for grades 0-5 or Higher tier for those students targeting a grade 6 and above. This decision is finalised after students' second set of mock exams in Year 11.

Combined Science students receive two GCSEs, with their final grade determined by their total marks across all six papers.

Prior to this, students will complete regular learning checks in class to assess students' understanding of each topic and help teachers provide feedback and adapt the curriculum to improve understanding.

In addition to this, students will complete a summative assessment in the spring term of Year 10, as well as paper one mocks at the end of Year 10, before two sets of mocks in Year 11. These provide staff with rigorous data on student progress, informing intervention strategies, next-step conversations as well as our tiering decisions.



Leader of Department: Mr Coyne

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy

Pathways

Our KS4 Combined Science pathway offers a wide variety of progression routes at KS5. Traditionally, students who wish to pursue Science at Key Stage 5 and beyond will undertake A-levels in Biology, Chemistry or Physics at a sixth form or college, with students typically expected to achieve a minimum grade 6-6 to be accepted onto the course.

However, there are increasingly new pathways that students may pursue with different entry requirements. Examples of these include:

- T-levels in Science and Engineering (Entry Requirements of Grade 5-5)
- Level 3 BTECs in Health and Social (Entry Requirements, Grade 4-4)
- Apprenticeships in Engineering, Dental Nursing or Healthcare (Entry Requirements, Grade 4-4)

Career Opportunities supported by Science

The skills and knowledge developed in science apply to students' everyday lives as well as a huge multitude of careers in a variety of industries such as construction, healthcare, engineering, and energy. Eight careers linked to the science curriculum are listed below:

- Construction Materials Tester
- Engineering Technician
- Healthcare Assistant
- Pharmacy Assistant
- Wind Turbine Technician
- Water Treatment Technician
- Agricultural Technician
- Veterinary Care

Leader of Department: Miss Nash

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE English Language

Subject Description:

Students are encouraged to develop their ability to write for different audiences and purposes, as well as to interrogate language that they encounter in a range of genres.

They begin the GCSE English Language course at the beginning of Year 10 and, over the next two years, follow a practical course which develops their skills in reading, writing and speaking and listening. Students follow the new AQA GCSE syllabus that builds upon the skills they developed in Key Stage 3.

This course is 100% examination at the end of Year 11, but students will complete exam style assessments each half term to hone their examination technique.



How will I be assessed?

Assessment type 100% examination

Reading - Students will be expected to read and respond to a variety of text types and will develop their ability to:

- Select and retrieve relevant information.
- Demonstrate an understanding of implicit and explicit meanings.
- Evaluate the effectiveness of a text.
- Comment on the techniques employed by the writer and consider their effect on the reader

Writing - Students will produce a variety of written assessments that will demonstrate their ability to:

- Write appropriately for form, audience and context.
- Use linguistic techniques to engage and influence the reader.
- Spell and punctuate accurately and for effect.
- Produce coherent and well-structured responses.

Non Examination Assessment: Speaking and Listening . Students will be expected to:

- Present.
- Respond to questions and feedback.
- Use standard English.

Your English Literature GCSE doesn't only lead to further study of Literature at A level. Pupils who do well in Literature are able to choose from a wide range of further education routes.

Recent pathways taken by our students include:

- Creative media
- Sociology
- Psychology
- History
- Geography

Leader of Department: Miss Nash

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE English Literature

Subject Description

Throughout Years 10 and 11, students will study a number of classic and modern texts which include:

- **An Inspector Calls, JB Priestly**
- **Poetry – Power and Conflict - various**
- **Romeo and Juliet, Shakespeare**
- **A Christmas Carol, Dickens**

Students will study all texts in Years 10 and 11.

In the first year, they will secure their understanding of plot, character and themes. This course is 100% examination and, to prepare students for this, they will be assessed at the end of each half term through an exam style question.

In Year 11, students will briefly revise the content of the texts but the teaching will focus mainly on exam technique, and students will be provided with multiple opportunities to plan, write and assess exam responses. This is crucial as the English Literature exam is a closed book one. This means that students will not have access to any of the texts they have studied in class and will be required to answer exam responses on them from memory.

Pathways

Your English Literature GCSE doesn't only lead to further study of Literature at A level. Pupils who do well in Literature are able to choose from a wide range of further education routes. Recent pathways taken by our students include:

- Creative media
- Sociology
- Psychology
- History
- Geography

Career Opportunities supported by English

Whatever you are planning to do in the future, it is now a requirement for you to retake English Language GCSEs until you obtain a Grade 4.

Competent written communication is needed in a diverse range of careers. The ability to communicate effectively and to understand other perspectives is useful in all jobs.

More specific careers that require a further qualification in English are: Journalism, Television, Teaching, Publishing, Writing, Business, Acting, Childcare, Publishing.

Leader of Department: Mrs Crosson

Specification: GCSE Mathematics

Subject Description:

The GCSE qualification equips students with key knowledge, skills and understanding needed for the next stage of their life. Students need to be competent, confident and able to solve problems in all areas of mathematics. The course content is split between:

Number (15-25%)

Ratio and Proportion (20-25%)

Algebra (20-30%)

Statistics (5-10%)

Probability (5-10%)



We are focused on ensuring that students:

develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts in Number, Algebra, Ratio and Proportion, Statistics and Probability and Geometry.
acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems.
reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions.
comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

How will I be assessed?

All students in Years 10 and 11 study a Maths course which leads to GCSE entry at one of two different tiers: Foundation or Higher.

At Foundation level content is included up to grade 5 and at Higher Level from 4 up to grade 9.

The course is assessed by 100% Examination.

There are three papers:

- Paper 1 - Non calculator 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper 2 - Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes
- Paper 3 - Calculator 1 hour 30 minutes

Leader of Department: Mrs Crosson

Specification: GCSE Mathematics

KS5 Pathways

As a core subject, mathematics offers a pathway into the world of work and further study. Gaining a good GCSE Mathematics qualification is essential in order for students to take their place in the 21st century real world. Almost every single job or career will involve some element of mathematics to a greater or lesser extent. Studying maths develops numeracy, graphical and problem-solving skills. These skills are really useful preparation for the maths used in many university degree courses, higher apprenticeships, and the workplace. It can also increase confidence and fluency in the maths used in everyday life.

Career Opportunities supported by Maths

Whatever you are planning to do in the future, it is now a requirement for you to retake both Maths GCSEs until you obtain a Grade 4.

A Grade 5 in GCSE Maths is of interest to all employers and educational institutions. Many careers stem from Maths qualifications including:

- Teaching
- Finance
- Banks & Building Societies
- Technical & Scientific Jobs
- Engineering
- Medicine
- Dentistry
- Nursing



Option Subjects

Art & Design: Art

Art & Design: Photography

Business

Computing

Engineering Design

Geography

Hair & Beauty

Health & Social Care

History

Hospitality and Catering

Photography

Spanish

Sport

Travel & Tourism

Triple Science

Art & Design: Art

Leader of Department: Mrs Randall

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: GCSE Art, Craft & Design:

Subject Description

The GCSE Art, Craft & Design course encourages students to be adventurous and creative over two years. They will express their ideas visually while developing and refining techniques taught in KS3. The course involves studying artists to inspire personal projects, solving creative problems, and experimenting with various materials and methods. Students will explore media such as drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, ceramics, and mixed media while maintaining safe working practices.

Through this course, students will:

- Apply a creative approach to problem-solving.
- Develop original ideas from concept to completion.
- Critically analyse their own and others' work.
- Express personal thoughts and artistic choices confidently.
- Take risks, experiment, and learn from mistakes.

How Will I Be Assessed?

GCSE Art & Design consists of two components, both internally assessed and externally moderated:

Component 1: Personal Portfolio (Internally set)

- 60% of the qualification
- 72 marks (18 per Assessment Objective)
- A sustained project showing creative development and experimentation.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

- 40% of the qualification
- 72 marks (18 per Assessment Objective)
- A theme set by Pearson Edexcel, culminating in a final timed piece.

Art & Design: Art

Leader of Department: Mrs Randall

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: GCSE Art, Craft & Design:

Pathways

Art & Design provides a foundation for various post-16 educational opportunities, including:

- A-Level Art, Photography, Graphics, or Textiles
- BTEC Art & Design
- Foundation Diplomas in Art & Design
- Apprenticeships in the creative industry

Career Opportunities Supported by Art & Design

This course opens doors to careers in:

- Fine Art
- Graphic Design
- Illustration
- Animation
- Fashion & Textile Design
- Architecture
- Interior Design
- Photography
- Film & Media
- Advertising & Marketing
- Game Design
- Product & Industrial Design

Art & Design: Photography

Leader of Department: Mrs Randall

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: GCSE Photography

Subject Description

The Pearson Edexcel GCSE in Photography is designed to encourage students to engage with photography in a critical, practical, and theoretical manner. The course emphasizes the development of personal responses to various stimuli, fostering creativity and imagination. Students will explore a range of photographic techniques and processes, including both traditional and digital methods. They will also study the work of contemporary and historical photographers to inform and inspire their own practice.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE Photography course comprises two components:

Component 1: Personal Portfolio

This internally set and assessed unit accounts for 60% of the qualification. Students will develop a portfolio of work that demonstrates their ability to research, develop ideas, experiment with media, and present personal responses. The portfolio is assessed against four Assessment Objectives, each contributing equally to the total marks.

Component 2: Externally Set Assignment

This component constitutes 40% of the qualification. Students respond to a theme set by the exam board, culminating in a final piece produced under exam conditions. Similar to Component 1, this assignment is assessed against the four Assessment Objectives.

Art & Design: Photography

Leader of Department: Mrs Randall

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: GCSE Photography

Pathways

Upon successful completion of the GCSE Photography course, students can progress to A Level Art or Level 3 BTEC qualifications. These pathways can lead to further study at the university level in fields related to photography and the visual arts.

Career Opportunities supported by Photography

- Studying photography opens doors to various career opportunities, including:
- Editorial and Press Photographer
- Medical/Clinical Photographer
- Fashion Photographer
- Photographic Stylist
- Portrait or Wedding Photographer

The creative industries, including photography, are significant contributors to the UK economy, offering diverse and rewarding career paths.



Business

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Business

Students apply their knowledge and understanding to different business contexts ranging from small enterprises to large multinationals and businesses operating in local, national and global contexts. Students develop an understanding of how these contexts impact on business behaviour.

The curriculum is divided into **six** main topics:

- **Business in the Real World:** Understanding the purpose of business activity, the role of entrepreneurship, and the dynamic nature of business.
- **Influences on Business:** Examining external factors such as technology, ethics, and the economic environment that impact business operations.
- **Business Operations:** Exploring production processes, quality assurance, and the importance of customer service.
- **Human Resources:** Learning about organizational structures, recruitment, training, and motivation of employees.
- **Marketing:** Studying market research, the marketing mix, and strategies to meet customer needs.
- **Finance:** Understanding financial terms, sources of finance, and interpreting financial statements.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment consists of two written exams, each lasting 1 hour and 45 minutes and accounting for 50% of the GCSE:

- **Paper 1:** Influences of Operations and Human Resource Management on Business Activity
- **Paper 2:** Influences of Marketing and Finance on Business Activity

Business

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: AQA Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9-1) in Business

Pathways

If you want to continue studying, you could progress to:

- A-Levels (Business, Economics, Accounting, or Finance) – A great route if you plan to go to university.
- BTEC Level 3 in Business – A more practical and coursework-based qualification.
- T-Level in Management and Administration – A mix of classroom learning and industry placement.
- Other Level 3 Courses – Marketing, Entrepreneurship, Finance, or IT.
- Career Opportunities supported by the GCSE Business course:
 - With a GCSE in Business, you can apply for jobs such as:
 - Customer Service Assistant – Retail, banking, or hospitality sectors.
 - Business Administrator – Assisting with office tasks in various industries.
 - Sales Assistant – Working in shops or telesales.
 - Marketing Assistant – Helping with social media, promotions, or advertising.
 - Accounts Assistant – Supporting finance teams with bookkeeping and data entry.



Computing

Leader of Department: Mrs Land

Exam Board: Pearsons Edexcel

Specification: Pearsons EDexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE 9-1 in Computer Science

Subject Description

Computer Science is designed to provide students with an in-depth understanding of computer science concepts. It equips learners with the skills needed to solve problems, think computationally, and work with technology effectively. The course covers both theoretical and practical components, and it aims to develop students' ability to program and understand the fundamentals of computing.

How will I be assessed?

The Pearson Edexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE (9–1) in Computer Science consists of two externally-examined papers. Paper 1 is a written examination and Paper 2 is a practical onscreen assessment

Assessment Overview			
Paper 1 Principles of Computer Science	Marks 75	Written examination :1 hour 20 mins	50% of the qualification
This paper consists of five compulsory questions, each one focused on one of the topic areas. The questions consist of multiple-choice, short-, medium- and extended-open-response, tabular and diagrammatic items.			
Assessment Overview			
Paper 2 Application of Computational Thinking	Marks 75	Practical onscreen examination:2 hours	50% of the qualification
This paper is practical in nature and requires students to design, write, test and refine programs in order to solve problems. Students will complete this assessment onscreen using their Integrated Development Environment (IDE) of choice. They will be provided with: coding files a hard copy of the question paper Programming Language Subset (PLS) – as an insert in the question paper and an electronic version. Students should then answer the six compulsory questions onscreen using Python 3.			

Computing

Leader of Department: Mrs Land

Exam Board: Pearsons Edexcel

Specification: Pearsons EDexcel Level 1/Level 2 GCSE 9-1 in Computer Science

Pathways

Further Education:

- Post-GCSE, students may choose to study A-levels in Computer Science or ICT.
- Alternatively, students can choose vocational qualifications such as BTECs in Information Technology , Creative Digital Media Production or T Level Digital (Digital Production Design and Development).

Apprenticeships

Students can pursue apprenticeships in computing-related fields such as software development, cybersecurity, web development, and IT support.

University Courses

After GCSEs, students may go on to study computer science, software engineering, artificial intelligence, data science, or related fields at university

Career Opportunities supported by Computing

- **Software Developer:** Designing and creating applications or systems software for different platforms.
- **Web Developer:** Developing websites, web applications, and managing web services.
- **Cybersecurity Analyst:** Protecting systems and networks from cyber threats and attacks.
- **Data Analyst/Data Scientist:** Analysing large sets of data to help businesses make informed decisions.
- **Game Developer:** Creating and developing video games for various platforms.
- **IT Support Specialist:** Providing support and troubleshooting technical issues within an organization.
- **Systems Analyst:** Evaluating and improving existing systems, processes, and technologies.
- **Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Specialist:** Working with AI technologies and developing machine learning algorithms to create intelligent systems.
- **Network Engineer:** Managing and maintaining computer networks for organizations, ensuring they are secure and efficient.
- **Technology Consultant:** Advising businesses on technology solutions, improving workflows, and implementing IT systems.

Drama

Leader of Department: Miss Nash

Exam Board: OCR

Specification: GCSE Drama



Subject Description

GCSE Drama is the perfect option for students who wish to explore in greater depth, the work that goes into creating the perfect performance. GCSE Drama is not just about performing though; it allows students to study, evaluate and explore Drama as a creative art form.

Drama allows students to apply their knowledge and understanding to the process of creating and developing drama and to their own performance or theatre design.

GCSE Drama is a great choice for students who are looking to use their personal passions, interests and points of view in their studies, as the non-exam portions of the assessment allow them to perform or design what inspires them. Additionally, for the exam, students get to watch live performances of theatre that they want to see and study.

How will I be assessed?

Learners will research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama.	Devising Drama Non exam assessment: a portfolio of work	30% of total GCSE
Learners develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text.	Presenting and Performing Texts Non exam assessment: A rehearsed performance	30% of total GCSE
Learners will explore practically a performance text to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of drama. Learners will analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.	Performance and Response Exam: 1hr 30	40% of total GCSE

Pathways

Not only will Drama help to prepare students who are looking to take Performing Arts or Drama for higher education, but it is a great option for those students looking to develop transferrable skills, useful in a whole range of subjects and professions beyond school. Drama will help create independent learners, critical thinkers and effective decision makers – all personal attributes that can make them stand out as they move into life beyond school and the world of work.

Career Opportunities supported by Drama

Drama supports a wide variety of future careers, both in and out of the creative industry. In the past, students who have taken Drama at GCSE have gone on to jobs like: Actor, professional dancer, musician, barrister, teacher, content creator, marketing, television presenter, journalist, set/lighting designer, fashion designer, agent, management and so much more!

Engineering Design

Leader of Department: Mr Heron

Exam Board: OCR

Specification: Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design (Level 1/2)

Subject Description

The Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design course offers students a comprehensive introduction to engineering principles and practices. It emphasizes the design process, from initial concept to final prototype, and equips students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills.

Key areas of study include mechanics, materials science, thermodynamics, and electrical systems. Students will also gain proficiency in technical skills such as Computer-Aided Design (CAD), Computer-Aided Manufacturing (CAM), and technical drawing.

The course fosters problem-solving abilities and provides insights into real-world engineering challenges, preparing students for future endeavours in the engineering sector.

How will I be assessed?

The assessment structure for this course comprises three main components:

R038 – Principles of Engineering Design: This is a written examination accounting for **40%** of the total grade.

R039 – Communicating Designs: Assessed through coursework, this component contributes **30%** to the final grade and is typically completed in Year 10 during the Spring terms.

R040 – Design, Evaluation & Modelling: Also assessed via coursework, this component makes up the remaining **30%** of the grade and is usually undertaken in Year 11 during the Spring terms.

Each component is designed to evaluate a student's understanding and application of engineering design principles, effective communication of design ideas, and proficiency in design evaluation and modelling.

Engineering Design

Leader of Department: Mr Heron

Exam Board: OCR

Specification: Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design (Level 1/2)

Pathways

Upon successful completion of the Cambridge Nationals in Engineering Design, students have several progression routes:

Further Education: Pursue A Levels in subjects like Design and Technology or Engineering, or enrol in Level 3 vocational qualifications related to engineering.

Apprenticeships: Engage in engineering apprenticeships that combine practical on-the-job training with academic study.

Higher Education: Progress to university degrees in various engineering disciplines, such as mechanical, electrical, civil, or aerospace engineering.

Career Opportunities supported by Engineering Design

The skills and knowledge acquired from this course open doors to diverse career paths in the engineering sector, including:

- **Design Engineer:** Develop and test product designs across various industries.
- **Mechanical Engineer:** Focus on designing, building, and maintaining mechanical systems.
- **Civil Engineer:** Plan, design, and oversee construction projects like roads.
- **Electrical Engineer:** Specialise in electrical systems and components across industries.
- **CAD Technician:** Use software to create detailed design plans for engineering projects.

These roles span sectors such as manufacturing, construction, automotive, aerospace and energy, offering dynamic and rewarding career opportunities.

Geography

Leader of Department: Miss Hulme

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE Geography

Subject Description

Throughout GCSE Geography we study a variety of current, relevant and fascinating topics. These include the impact of flooding in the UK, the threat of global warming, the growing gap between rich and poor, the growth of slum settlements in Brazil, and natural hazards such as hurricanes, earthquakes and volcanoes. Field trips are an important part of learning outside the classroom; students are able to use a variety of skills to plan an investigation and to experience geography in the real world.

How will I be assessed?

At City Academy, we follow the AQA Geography exam board specifications, choosing the optionality of rivers and coasts in their paper 1 exam, and water as a resource in paper 2.

Our KS3 learning is led by this specification so that students will have a good foundation knowledge of the subject, should they choose to take it at GCSE level. Topics covered include:

Year 10

- The challenge of natural hazards
- The living world
- Physical landscapes in the UK

Year 11

- Urban issues and challenges
- The challenge of resource management
- The Changing economic world



Geography

Leader of Department: Miss Hulme

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE Geography

Pathways

A-Level Geography – This is the most direct continuation of GCSE Geography. It allows you to study the subject in more depth, covering physical geography (e.g., ecosystems, weather, and climate) and human geography (e.g., urbanization, global development, and population studies). You'll also engage with geographical research and fieldwork.

Environmental Science or Environmental Studies – If you enjoy the environmental aspects of geography, such as ecosystems and climate change, an A-Level in Environmental Science might be a good fit. This subject delves into understanding the environment and the impact humans have on it.

Geology – For those interested in the physical side of geography, including processes like plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanic activity, A-Level Geology can be a great option. It complements physical geography from GCSE.

Economics – As geography touches on human systems, population growth, and economic development, Economics at A-Level can build on these ideas and explore economic theory, business, and policy.

Sociology – Sociology looks at human societies, social behavior, and societal structures, which connects well with human geography topics such as urbanization, social inequality, and cultural patterns.

Politics – If you are interested in the geopolitical aspects of geography, such as international relations, power dynamics, and global development, Politics might be a suitable subject.

Biology – For those with an interest in ecosystems, environmental processes, and the natural world, Biology can provide a scientific foundation that complements physical geography.

Career Opportunities

Architect, Property Developer, Town Planner, Traffic Engineer, Hydrologist, Civil Servant, Meteorologist, Teacher, Researcher, Scientist, Travel Agent, Construction Worker, and many more!

Hair & Beauty

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: VTCT

Specification: VTCT Level 1/2 Technical Award, Study of Hair & Beauty

Subject Description

The VTCT Level 1/2 Technical award in the Study of Hair & Beauty is aimed at learners aged 14-16 who have an interest in developing broad understanding of the hairdressing and beauty therapy sector, and related industries including retail, manufacturing, and other personal care services. This qualification is designed to use the context of hairdressing and beauty therapy as a vehicle to support learners to develop a broad and comprehensive understanding of the sector and related industries but, more importantly, of core academic knowledge and study skills that will support progression into post-16 and higher education.

How will I be assessed?

This qualification consists of 3 mandatory units:

1. **UC090** – Business and entrepreneurship in the hair and beauty sector
2. **UC091** – Anatomy, physiology, and cosmetic science
3. **UC092** – Design in the Hair and Beauty sector

Pathways

Learners who successfully complete this qualification will be prepared for further post-16 studies. Specifically, the qualification will prepare them to progress onto qualifications related to the hair and beauty sector, such as the T-Level in Hair, Beauty, and Aesthetics; however, learners may also progress onto broader areas of study. It is a vocational qualification equivalent to GCSE Grades 9-1.

The content of the qualification is designed to engage learners through the context of hair and beauty due to its' popularity and aspirational career pathways.

Career Opportunities supported by Hair and Beauty

Your Level 2 qualification can help you secure entry-level jobs such as:

Junior Hairdresser or Stylist: Working in a salon, assisting senior stylists.

Beauty Therapist Assistant: Providing basic treatments in spas, salons, or wellness centres.

Makeup Artist Assistant: Working in beauty retail, bridal, or freelance makeup services.

Nail Technician: Specialising in manicures, pedicures, and nail art.

Salon Receptionist: Handling bookings and customer service.

Health & Social Care

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 in Tech Award in Health and Social Care

Subject Description

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/ Level 2 Tech Award in Health and Social Care is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge through vocational contexts by studying human lifespan development, health and social care services and values, and health and wellbeing as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification recognises the value of learning skills, knowledge, and vocational attributes to complement GCSEs. The qualification will broaden learners' experience and understanding of the varied progression options available to them.

How will I be assessed?

3 mandatory units:

1. Human lifespan development - internally assessed.
2. Health and social care services and values - internally assessed.
3. Health and wellbeing - externally assessed

Pathways

Study of the qualification as part of Key Stage 4 learning will help learners to make more informed choices for further learning, either generally or in this sector. The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might 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 Health and Social Care, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships.
- Move on to higher education by studying a degree in the health or social care sector.

Career Opportunities supported by Health and Social Care

Your Level 2 qualification can help you get entry-level jobs such as:

Care Assistant: Working in residential homes, nursing homes, or domiciliary care.

Support Worker: Assisting individuals with disabilities, mental health conditions, or elderly care.

Healthcare Assistant (HCA): Supporting nurses and doctors in hospitals, clinics, or GP surgeries.

Nursery Assistant: Helping with childcare and early years education.

History

Leader of Department: Mr Ward

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: GCSE History

Subject Description

History encourages learners to: develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history and an understanding of its intrinsic value and significance, develop and extend their knowledge and understanding of specific historical events, periods and societies.

Acquire an understanding of different identities, including their own, within a society and an appreciation of social, cultural, religious and ethnic diversity, build on their understanding of the past and the diversity of human experience through experiencing a broad and balanced course of study. Improve as effective, independent and resilient learners and as critical and reflective thinkers through a process of historical enquiry, develop the ability to ask relevant and considered questions about the past and to investigate historical issues critically.

How will I be assessed?

The course is 100% examination based and comprises of 4 units:

1. Medicine in Britain, 1250–present
2. Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588
3. Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939
4. Superpower relations and the Cold War, 1941-1991



Throughout the course you will be assessed through in class assessments, practice exam questions and formal mock exams.

At the end of Year 11 you will sit 3 exam papers.

Paper 1 : 1 hour 20 mins **(Unit 1)**

Paper 2 : 1 hour 50 mins **(Units 2 & 4)**

Paper 3 : 1 hour 30min **(Units 3)**

History

Leader of Department: Mr Ward

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: GCSE History

Pathways

A-Level History: Directly builds on your GCSE History, allowing you to study different periods and themes in more depth.

Politics: Ideal for those interested in political systems, ideologies, and historical political movements.

Sociology: Explores the social structures, behavior, and changes in society, complementing the study of historical events and social movements.

English Literature: For those drawn to literature, this subject explores historical, cultural, and social contexts of literary works.

Law: A great choice for students interested in the legal systems, justice, and the evolution of laws throughout history.

Career Opportunities supported by History

Employers value the research, analytical, teamwork and communication skills that history students develop throughout their GCSE study.

Career opportunities include:

- Archaeologist
- Museum Curator
- Librarian
- Solicitor
- Forensic Criminologist
- Lawyer
- Barrister
- Journalist
- Teacher
- Political Research Assistant
- Historical Consultant for TV shows and films

Hospitality & Catering

Leader of Department: Mr Heron

Exam Board: WJEC

Specification: WJEC Level 1 / 2 Hospitality and Catering

Subject Description

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering is designed to provide students with both practical cooking skills and a comprehensive understanding of the hospitality and catering industry. The course covers various aspects, including the operational environment of catering providers, health and safety protocols, food safety, nutrition, and menu planning. Students will engage in regular cooking sessions, typically once a week, utilising modern facilities to enhance their learning experience.



How will I be assessed?

The qualification is divided into two units.

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry

This unit focuses on understanding the hospitality and catering industry, including types of providers, working conditions, health and safety, and food-related causes of ill health.

Assessment: Written examination

Duration: 1 hour 20 minutes

Weighting: **40% of the total qualification (80 marks out of 200)**

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

Students are required to plan, prepare, and present a menu in response to a given brief, demonstrating practical culinary skills and knowledge of nutrition, menu planning, and cooking methods.

Assessments are designed to evaluate both theoretical knowledge and practical competencies, ensuring students are well-prepared for real-world applications in the hospitality and catering sector.

Assessment: Non-exam internal assessment (assignment)

Weighting: **60% of the total qualification (120 marks out of 200)**

Hospitality & Catering

Leader of Department: Mr Heron

Exam Board: WJEC

Specification: WJEC Level 1 / 2 Hospitality and Catering

Pathways

Upon successful completion of this course, students may pursue further education and career opportunities, such as:

- Level 3 courses in Food, Catering, or Hospitality
- Advanced diplomas or apprenticeships in culinary arts, hospitality management, or nutrition
- University degrees in fields like nutrition, food science, hospitality management, or dietetics

Career Opportunities supported by Hospitality and Catering

- Nutritionist
- Dietician
- Health Promotion Officer
- Food Product Developer
- Food Technology Teacher
- Catering Manager
- Food Hygiene Officer
- Hospitality and Events Manager

The skills and knowledge acquired through this course provide a strong foundation for those interested in advancing within the hospitality and catering industries or related fields.

Music

Leader of Department: Mrs Randall

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Subject Description

The BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice is designed for students who want to develop their musical skills and techniques through applied, real-world scenarios. This course provides hands-on experience in music performance, creation, and production, while also fostering personal skills such as self-management, time planning, and responding to creative briefs. Students will gain a solid understanding of musical elements and industry-related practices, equipping them with the necessary skills for future careers in the music industry or further study.



How will I be assessed?

The course consists of three components:

Component 1: Exploring Music Products and Styles

- Internally assessed, externally moderated
- Pearson-set assignment completed over approximately 12 hours under supervised conditions
- **60 marks**

Component 2: Music Skills Development

- Internally assessed, externally moderated
- Pearson-set assignment completed over approximately 15 hours under supervised conditions
- **60 marks**

Component 3: Responding to a Music Brief

- Externally set and marked
- Students receive a brief in January, allowing 12 weeks for preparation before a 3-hour supervised assessment
- **60 marks**

Music

Leader of Department: Mrs Randall

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Music Practice

Pathways

- Successful completion of this course provides students with opportunities to progress to:
- BTEC Level 3 Music courses
- A-Level Music or Music Technology
- Apprenticeships in music production or live sound
- University courses in music performance, composition, sound engineering, or music business.

Career Opportunities supported by Music

Studying music develops a range of transferable skills, including teamwork, creativity, problem-solving, and technical expertise. Careers directly linked to music include:

- Music Therapist
- Musician (session, live, or recording artist)
- Music Teacher
- Composer or Songwriter
- Music Producer
- Sound Technician or Engineer
- Studio Manager
- Event Organizer
- Radio Broadcaster or Presenter

Additionally, music education supports roles in the wider creative industries, such as film, broadcasting, arts administration, and sound design.

Spanish

Leader of Department: Mr French
Exam Board: AQA
Specification: GCSE Spanish



Subject Description

GCSE Spanish covers various aspects of the language, including speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Students learn this important life skill which teaches them to communicate effectively, to be more aware of the multicultural world around them and to understand how their own language works. Students learn vocabulary in a variety of topics and gain the grammatical skills to understand and produce the language. The exam covers a range of themes such as family, relationships, technology, school, travel, education and health. Students also learn about Spanish culture, including traditions and lifestyles in Spanish-speaking countries.

How will I be assessed?

Speaking: Students hold a conversation with an examiner. They describe a photo, respond to a role-play scenario and answer questions in a themed conversation.

Listening: Students listen to recordings in Spanish and answer questions based on what they hear.

Reading: Students read texts such as adverts, letters, and articles and answer questions to demonstrate their understanding of both literal and implied meaning.

Writing: Students demonstrate their knowledge of the language through writing about a photo, completing a translation and writing sentences and paragraphs.

Students sit regular learning checks to assess their understanding of each topic. Mock exams take place once in Year 10 and twice in Year 11.

Spanish

Leader of Department: Mr French

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE Spanish

Pathways

Learning a language boosts employability, makes it easier to travel and work abroad, improves communication skills and deepens knowledge of the English language. It can help create connections with more people and sharpens mental skills and memory. Students wishing to continue to advance their language skills can go on to take an A-level qualification and a university degree.

Career opportunities supported by Spanish

There are numerous career pathways open to students who study languages at A-level and university. In addition, in an ever-increasing global workplace, being proficient in one or more additional languages gives job seekers an edge over their fellow candidates and can boost earnings. According to recruitment agency Euro London, learning a language has been shown to increase income by 10-15%.

Careers requiring advanced language skills include:

- Translator/Interpreter
- Tour guide
- Teacher/Lecturer
- Import-export administrator
- International trader
- Travel agent
- Immigration service jobs
- Customer service jobs
- Sales jobs

Sport

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

Subject Description

Passionate about sport? Ready to take your skills to the next level? **Unleash Your Potential with the Tech Award in Sport!**

The Tech Award in Sport gives learners an exciting opportunity to develop real-world, sector-specific knowledge and expertise in a hands-on, vocational setting.

Through this course, you'll dive into:

Investigating Sports Provisions: Explore top-tier equipment, cutting-edge facilities, and the impact they have on performance.

Developing Coaching & Training: Learn how to plan and deliver high-energy sports drills and sessions that inspire and improve athletes.

Optimising Fitness & Performance: Understand fitness testing, training methodologies, and how to unlock peak performance.

Students will gain invaluable insight into the diverse range of participants in sports, understanding their unique needs and discovering ways to boost engagement and accessibility. Alongside this, they'll deepen their knowledge of anatomy and physiology, building a strong foundation for further study or careers in the sports industry.

Through practical sessions, learners will develop essential skills in planning and delivering engaging sports activities.

They'll also sharpen their sports analysis and leadership skills in realistic vocational settings, while improving key personal attributes like communication, teamwork, time management, and strategic planning.

This qualification is perfect for those who love sport and want to develop both their practical abilities and their understanding of the industry, setting them up for future success in further education or careers in sport and fitness.



Sport

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

How will I be accessed?

There are three mandatory units

- **Component 1** Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity - internally assessed. Assessed by coursework and practical based assignments.
- **Component 2:** Taking part and improving other participants' sporting performance - internally assessed. Assessed by coursework and practical based assignments.
- **Component 3:** Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity. Assessed externally via an exam.

Pathways

Students have several exciting pathways to continue their education and career in sport. They can choose A Levels, which provide a strong foundation for entry into further education across a wide range of subjects.

Alternatively, they can pursue a Level 3 vocational qualification, such as a BTEC National in Sport or BTEC National in Sport and Exercise Science. These courses offer a hands-on approach, preparing learners for employment, apprenticeships, or further study at university in fields like sports science, teaching, or coaching.

Career Opportunities supported by Physical Education

Sports & Coaching

- PE Teacher (Primary or Secondary School)
- Sports Coach (Football, Rugby, Tennis, etc.)
- Personal Trainer
- Strength & Conditioning Coach
- Performance Analyst
- Talent Scout

Health, Fitness & Wellbeing

- Physiotherapist
- Sports Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Health & Wellbeing Coach
- Nutritionist/Dietitian
- Rehabilitation Specialist

Sport

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Sport

Career Opportunities supported by Physical Education....continued

Sports Science & Research

- Sports Scientist
- Exercise Physiologist
- Biomechanist
- Kinesiologist
- Sport Psychologist

Outdoor & Adventure Activities

- Outdoor Activities Instructor
- Adventure Tourism Guide
- Expedition Leader
- Mountain Rescue Worker

Sports Media & Management

- Sports Journalist
- Commentator/Broadcaster
- Sports Marketing Specialist
- Event Manager
- Club or Team Manager

Emergency & Armed Services

- Firefighter
- Police Officer
- Paramedic
- Armed Forces (Army, RAF, Royal Navy, etc.)

Professional Sport & Officiating

- Professional Athlete
- Referee/Umpire
- Sports Development Officer
- Stadium or Facility Manager

Travel & Tourism

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Travel & Tourism

Subject Description

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Travel and Tourism is for learners who want to acquire sector-specific applied knowledge through vocational contexts by studying the aims, products and services of different travel and tourism organisations, their use of consumer technologies, the features of tourist destinations, how organisations meet customer needs and preferences, and the influences on global travel and tourism as part of their Key Stage 4 learning. The qualification enables learners to develop their transferable skills, such as researching, planning, and making decisions and judgements.

The travel and tourism sector is the UK's third largest employer, accounting for 9.5 per cent of total employment. Tourism is one of the fastest growing sectors in the UK in employment terms, employing nearly 3 million people, and the value of tourism to the UK economy is approximately £121 billion (7.1 per cent) of UK GDP. In 2016, travel and tourism contributed 10.2 per cent of the world GDP, and the sector now supports 292 million people in employment – that's one in ten jobs worldwide.

How will I be assessed?

There are 3 mandatory units:

1. Travel and tourism organisations and destinations - internally assessed.
2. Customer needs in travel and tourism - internally assessed.
3. Influences on global travel and tourism.

Pathways

After completing a Level 2 Travel and Tourism course, you have several pathways to choose from, depending on your interests and career goals. Here are some of the main options:

Further Education

- **Level 3 Travel and Tourism Diploma:** This advanced qualification can help you specialise in areas such as hospitality, tour guiding, or aviation.
- **Apprenticeships:** You could take an apprenticeship in travel services, hospitality, or aviation (e.g., customer service, resort representative, or travel consultant).
- **Related College Courses:** You might choose a Level 3 qualification in business, hospitality, or customer service to complement your travel and tourism knowledge.

Travel & Tourism

Leader of Department: Mr Lincoln

Exam Board: Pearson Edexcel

Specification: BTEC Level 1 / Level 2 Tech Award in Travel & Tourism

Career Opportunities supported by Travel and Tourism

A Level 2 qualification can open entry-level roles in various sectors, such as:

- **Travel Agencies:** Customer service assistant, junior travel consultant
- **Airline Industry:** Check-in staff, ground crew, cabin crew trainee
- **Hotels & Hospitality:** Front desk receptionist, guest services assistant
- **Tourism Attractions:** Theme parks, museums, visitor centres
- **Tour Operators & Holiday Resorts:** – Resort representative, holiday advisor
- **Cruise Industry** – Guest services, hospitality roles



Science (Triple Science)

Leader of Department: Mr Coyne

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE Biology; GCSE Chemistry; GCSE Physics

Subject Description:

Whilst Combined Science is compulsory for all students, our Separate Science pathway, more commonly known as 'Triple Science' provides an opportunity for students who are passionate about the subject, to delve deeper into concepts and push their understanding. Separate Science contains all the content of the Combined award, but with additional material that allows each subject to be awarded its own GCSE.

This additional content includes: the eye, the brain and cloning in Biology; titrations, corrosion and the Haber Process in Chemistry; and static electricity, space, and nuclear fission in Physics; as well as an extra seven required practicals.

Lessons follow the same structure as with Combined Science, but the additional material is covered within the context of the other units being taught, which allows for a more comprehensive coverage of the specification.

This route is most suited to students that wish to continue with the sciences at A-Level, or those that just have a keen interest in how the world around them works.

How will I be assessed?

There are six exams like Combined Science, however due to the increased size of the specification, each exam is now longer at 1hr 45min and worth 100 marks each.

Once again, students are entered at one of two tiers – Foundation tier, for grades 0-5 or Higher tier for those students targeting a grade 6 and above. This decision is finalised after students' second set of mock exams in Year 11.

Students will receive three GCSE's, with specific grades for Biology, Chemistry and Physics. As with Combined Science, students will complete regular learning checks in class to assess students' understanding of each sub-topic, a summative assessment in the spring term of Year 10, and three sets of mocks.

Science (Triple Science)

Leader of Department: Mr Coyne

Exam Board: AQA

Specification: GCSE Biology; GCSE Chemistry; GCSE Physics

Pathways

Studying the three separate GCSE Sciences will give you both a broader and a deeper understanding in each of the Sciences as well as a distinct advantage if you decide to go on and study any of the Sciences at A Level.

After KS5, you could study a degree in an immense variety of subjects as Science A levels are highly regarded by universities.

Career Opportunities supported by Science

With the extra breadth and depth that Separate Sciences provides, careers opportunities that may be of interest include:

- Biomedical Science
- Environmental Engineering
- Pharmacology
- Aerospace Engineering
- Forensic Science
- Chemical Engineering
- Medical Physics
- Marine Biology
- Petroleum Geology
- Energy Consultancy



**CITY
ACADEMY
NORWICH**

Be Kind

Be Curious

Be Courageous