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# Carrington School AD ASTRA



# Options 2024

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# Message from the Headteacher

I am delighted to share with you our Year 9 Options brochure showing the courses that are available to your young people from September 2024. Year 9 marks the end of Key Stage 3 and your young person now has to take their next significant step in their education, which will form the basis of their career pathway post-16. The decisions made now are very important. At the end of their two years hard work, we want to ensure that your young person has achieved the qualifications they need, and deserve, to go on to college or into an apprenticeship.



Choosing options is very exciting but will require some decisions to be made as not all courses can be studied at Key Stage 4. We want you to know that we are here to help and guide you every step of the way. Studying for GCSEs is part of your young person's educational journey and the curriculum has been evolving over the past couple of years to adapt to government expectations and the cohorts that we have here at Carrington School. The government are expecting all students to study for the English Baccalaureate because it is believed that this breadth of offer "determines their opportunities beyond school" and "can help improve a young person's performance in English and Maths". The EBacc comprises of English, Maths, a Science, a Humanities and Modern Foreign Languages. This year we are therefore including this suite of courses for many of our students who we feel will benefit from this opportunity. This will not limit the choice for these students as they will still get one or two free options, depending on their capacity to study for their courses.

When choosing the free options, we strongly advise that your young people choose courses that they enjoy and have an interest in. Equally, if a young person is not finding their studies as easy, we may encourage them to think about our Future Learning Certificate, which takes away one GCSE and provides opportunity for greater support and intervention in all the other courses they are studying. On the back of a very successful launch of our partnership with Dorking Wanderers Football Academy, we will continue to offer this BTEC Sport and Training Award. (see page 15).

We have high expectations of all our students here at Carrington School. We want them to do well and to aspire to reach their dreams. Over the coming weeks, students will receive first class advice from our Deputy Head, Mrs Basso, from Mrs Pearce our Careers Lead and from their tutors. As parents and carers, you can help by talking through their decisions and helping them to make sensible choices. Good grades in a range of courses will open doors for our young people, so it is imperative that they maintain a broad curriculum throughout Key Stage 4. They should, as already mentioned, choose courses they enjoy and are good at; this way they will be sure to reach their goals and target grades.

This is a very exciting time for Year 9 students and I always feel very privileged to watch them grow and be part of their journey as they prepare to start their GCSE studies. We want each and every one of them to **reach for the stars.**

Best Wishes

*Miss K Oakley*

Miss Kerry Oakley

**Headteacher**

# Information for Parents

Year 9 students will complete their Key Stage 3 courses in July and will move onto Key Stage 4 courses in September of Year 10. To help students prepare for this change, your young person will be making their choices for their Key Stage 4 courses over the coming weeks. Obviously, this is a very important decision which will impact on their future. We also recognise that it can be a difficult decision to make, which is why we place emphasis on advice, support and guidance so that the process can be as straight-forward as possible.

We know that the choices that your young person will make are important for their future study, which is why we will ensure that both you and your young person receive the best advice possible in order to prepare them for this crucial decision.

To have the best chance of getting their first-choice courses, make sure your young person fills in the online application form, following the instructions, and submits it before 15 April 2024. We cannot guarantee that all courses will run if demand is insufficient and it may be harder for the school to guarantee option choices if the online application is completed late.

## The Core Curriculum

The curriculum is designed to ensure that students have a broad and balanced education to allow them to have a wide choice of pathways at 16. The Key Stage 4 curriculum is made up of courses which students are required to study (Core Curriculum), and courses that they can select to study (Options).

## The Options

Your young person will be allocated a specific coloured pathway (Purple, Orange or Yellow) and this will determine which Option courses are available to them.

Students choices will be made online, the link to this will be emailed on 22 March 2024. Students have until 15 April 2024 to complete their Option choices, and after this date, students will not be able to edit their choices. Yellow pathway students will study a Future Learning Certificate. If your young person is invited to study this, they will complete a range of short courses designed to help them bridge the gap between school and college or school and Apprenticeship.

If you or your young person would like to discuss a change in pathway, please contact Mrs Basso, Deputy Headteacher [mbasso@carringtonschool.org](mailto:mbasso@carringtonschool.org) so that this request can be considered. Similarly, if your young person speaks another language and you would like them to sit a GCSE in that language, this is something that we may be able to support. If this is the case, please contact Mrs Basso [mbasso@carringtonschool.org](mailto:mbasso@carringtonschool.org).

# Information for students

Selecting which courses you study at Key Stage 4 is a very important decision as it will affect:

- your progress over the next two years
- your choice of courses at college
- your employment prospects in the future

This decision must be yours, but there are people in school who can help, such as your Head of Year, your Course Teachers, Mrs Pearce and Mrs Basso. Remember that you will have to study the courses you choose for two years, so do not make your choices without finding out as much as you can about the courses you are interested in.

I hope that you find the Option videos and the Key Stage 4 Options Evening useful, but if you need any help please make sure that you talk to someone about your decisions.

## How to choose what is right for YOU

It is important that the Options courses you choose are right for you. We understand that choosing which courses to take will, for most of you, be the biggest and most important life decision you have made so far. To help, we would like to give you the following advice.

## Choose courses that interest YOU

You will naturally only give your best effort and commitment to the courses that interest you; those that you want to learn more about.

## Choose courses that suit YOU

If you have a good memory and like doing written tests, select courses that are mainly assessed through exams. If you like showing or proving you can actually do things, choose courses with lots of controlled Practicals. If you like completing projects, opt for courses that have Non-Examined Assessment/Controlled Assessment as part of their assessment.

# Key Stage 4 curriculum at a glance

## Core Courses

English Language & English Literature (2 GCSEs)

Mathematics (1 GCSE)

Core Science (2 GCSEs)

Physical Education (not examined)

Personal Development (not examined)

*GCSE or equivalent studies in the Core Curriculum = 5*

## Option Courses

Option course 1

Option course 2

Option course 3

Option course 4

*GCSE or equivalent studies in the Options = 3 or 4 depending on Pathway*

# GCSE courses at Carrington

Animal Care	Health & Social Care
Art	History
<b>Combined Science</b>	Hospitality & Catering
Computer Science	<b>Mathematics</b>
<b>Core PE</b>	Media Studies
Design & Technology: Product Design	Music
Digital Information Technology	Performing Arts: Acting
Dorking & Carrington Football Academy	Performing Arts: Dance
<i><b>Economics*</b></i>	Personal Development
English Language	<i><b>Psychology*</b></i>
English Literature	<i><b>Religious Studies***</b></i>
Engineering	Spanish
French	Sport
<i><b>Future Learning Certificate**</b></i>	Textiles
Geography	Triple Science

**Bold** denotes compulsory Core Courses

***Bold Italics\**** denotes courses only available to students on the Purple Pathway

***Bold Italics\*\**** denotes courses only available to students on the Yellow Pathway

***Bold Italics\*\*\**** denotes a course open to selected students

All Core Courses are examined with the exception of Core PE and Personal Development



# OPTION COURSES

Contact: Mrs P Frost, Subject Leader, Animal Care  
([pfrost@carringtonschool.org](mailto:pfrost@carringtonschool.org))

The BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Animal Care is for learners who want to find out more about life and work in the animal care sector. Throughout the course you will develop a practical understanding of the animal care sector, as well as build useful skills, which are not generally covered in GCSE courses, and develop a good understanding of whether the animal care sector is for you and, if so, which part of it you might want to study further.

## Why study Animal Care?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will also develop key skills, such as communication (including verbal and analytical writing skills), research and project management (including an opportunity to demonstrate reflective practice by suggesting alternative approaches to a problem).

This course can also be complementary learning for GCSE Biology and GCSE Mathematics. This course is different from studying GCSEs as, by taking part in different types of handling and animal maintenance practical activities, it gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge, skills and the techniques you learn in practical ways.

## What will I study?

**Component 1: Animal Handling.** In this component, you will develop animal handling skills. You will also gain an understanding of the principles of animal behaviour, allowing you to catch, handle and release animals safely.

**Component 2: Animal Accommodation and Housing.** In this component, you will develop your understanding of the accommodation and housing requirements of animals by carrying out the preparation, maintenance and cleaning out of animal accommodation.

**Component 3: Animal Health and Welfare.** In this component you will cover aspects of animal health and welfare and will gain a good understanding of the relationship between looking after the wellbeing of the animal and the effect this has on maintaining animal strength and vigour.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson

**Specification Code:** 603/7057/9

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

**Grades:** Distinction\* to pass

**Assessment:** Components 1 & 2: Internally Assessed (60 marks each)

Component 3: Externally Assessed Exam (60 marks)

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[Animal care | Explore careers \(nationalcareers.service.gov.uk\)](#)

Contact: Mrs N Scott, Subject Leader, Art  
([nscott@carringtonschool.org](mailto:nscott@carringtonschool.org))

Art GCSE is the first step towards a creative career. It is the development of practical, technical and visual communication skills. It provides opportunities for personal expression and independent thinking. The improvement of transferable skills such as creative problem-solving, opportunities to question and challenge. Have fun experimenting, then creating individual final pieces.

**If you choose this course, you cannot also choose Textiles.**

## Why study Art?

Studying Art teaches students how to observe, record, and design unique outcomes which is an excellent foundation for specialisation at sixth form. The transferable skills gained, such as creativity, analysis and problem solving, complement a range of careers. Art encourages self-expression and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity, we teach and promote original thinking and independent learning. Creativity can help with wellbeing and improving health and happiness, the arts can help to develop critical thinking and the ability to interpret the world around us.

## What will I study?

Students will create work based on two themed projects. Experiment with a range of art materials learning new techniques, students then research and develop their own ideas. The course is made up of four assessment objectives, which have been selected to give students a range of skills including investigating and recording, experimentation, 3D construction skills, painting in watercolour and acrylic, printmaking, manipulation of imagery using ICT, drawing and photography.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Eduqas (WJEC)

**Specification Code:** C651QS

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** Unit 1 60% - Personal Portfolio / Unit 2 40% - Externally set assignment

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Association of Illustrators](#) [Graphic Designers Association](#) [Association of Photographers](#)

[Teaching and Education Advice](#) [Museums Association](#)

# Computer Science

[Watch  
the video](#)

Contact: Mr C Xavier, Subject Leader, Computing  
([cxavier@carringtonschool.org](mailto:cxavier@carringtonschool.org))

This exciting GCSE gives you an excellent opportunity to investigate how computers work, how they're used, and to develop computer programming and problem-solving skills. Computer Science enables you to apply computational thinking in context. This will build students ability to think computationally, within the context of a single scenario, and prepare you for real-world computer challenges.

## Why study Computer Science?

The future possibilities for people with Computer Science skills are unlimited, you can go on to A level and university or you can go into the workplace with many well-paid opportunities There are many opportunities for travel and/or remote working for people with high-level computing skills.

## What will I study?

Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation. You will analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs. Thinking creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically and understanding the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and impact the individual and wider society. Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 1CP2

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Paper 1:** Written Exam  
(50%)

**Paper 2:** On screen Exam  
(50%)

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Computer Science A Level - Reigate College](#)

[Computing technology and digital | Explore careers \(nationalcareers.service.gov.uk\)](#)

# Design & Technology: Product Design

[Watch  
the video](#)

Contact: Mr A Mitchell, Second in Charge of DT  
([amitchell@carringtonschool.org](mailto:amitchell@carringtonschool.org))

This course is designed to encourage students to develop a broad view of Design and Technology, develop their capacity to design and make products and appreciate the complex relationship between design, materials, manufacture and the end user.

## Why study Product Design?

The course provides a balance between designing and making. You will develop better understanding of how and why products are made. You will use a wide range of different materials and design and make products to solve problems. The course will help you understand how products are made and what they are made of, giving you a better insight into our technological world. This is an essential course for anyone wishing to study Product Design or Graphics at A level or follow a career in industry, manufacturing or building.

## What will I study?

- Research skills, to find out what you need to know as a designer
- Design skills including a range of graphics and modelling skills
- ICT skills including Computer Aided Design (CAD) and Computer Aided Manufacture (CAM)
- Making skills using a wide range of materials and processes with a focus on polymer and timbers
- Understanding the processes used in industrial production and understanding the environmental effects of this
- Evaluation skills, to be able to better understand and judge the work of others and your own

## COURSE INFORMATION

Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8552

Qualification: GCSE

Grades: 9 to 1

Tiers: One

Assessment: 50% Non-Examined Assessment (NEA) / 50% Written Examination

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[Product Designer](#) | [Engineer](#) | [Graphic Designer](#) | [Architect](#) | [Retail Design](#) | [Automotive Designer](#) | [Carpenter](#) | [Civil Engineer](#) | [Electrician](#) | [Plumber](#) | [CAD Technician](#) | [Aerospace Designer](#) | [Interior Designer](#)

Contact: Mr C Xavier, Subject Leader, Computing  
([cxavier@carringtonschool.org](mailto:cxavier@carringtonschool.org))

BTEC Digital Information Technology (DIT) gives you the opportunity to develop sector specific knowledge and skills in a practical learning environment. You will develop key skills in digital information technology such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces (mobile apps and websites), and creating dashboards to present and interpret data processes that underpin effective ways of working.

## Why study Digital Information Technology?

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK. 1.46m people work in digital companies and there are around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. IT skills span across all industries and almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy.

## What will I study?

- Develop key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology, such as project planning, designing and creating user interfaces and dashboards as a way to present and interpret data
- Project planning, the iterative design process, cyber security, virtual teams, legal and ethical codes of conduct
- Personal management and communication
- How different user interfaces meet user needs, how organisations collect and use data to make decisions, virtual workplaces, cyber security and legal and ethical issues

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 603/7050/6

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award

**Grades:** Distinction\* to pass

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** Two internally assessed units of work (60%) / One Exam paper (40%)

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Information Technology, Foundation Technical Level, Cambridge Level 3 - Reigate College](#)

[Jobs that use Computing and ICT - BBC Bitesize](#)

Contact: Mr M Lockhart / Ben Dyson, Senior Academy Coach  
([mlockhart@carringtonschool.org](mailto:mlockhart@carringtonschool.org) / [bdyson@carringtonschool.org](mailto:bdyson@carringtonschool.org))

Our unique Football Academy is delivered in partnership between **Carrington School and Dorking Wanderers Football Club**. Students will experience life as a professional academy football player, combining education with professional level coaching, match day experiences, trips and tours.

Alongside this, students will study towards a BTEC Sport qualification that is designed to prepare young people for careers in the sports sector. It sets scenarios of sports-related personnel who are employed in a variety of types of work in the leisure and fitness industry.

**Applicants should be prepared to attend a trial session on 25 March, 3:30-5:30pm**

## Why Join our Football Academy?

If you love football, this programme offers a unique opportunity to combine your education within a full-time football academy. Training everyday with UEFA qualified coaches, playing in national competitions under their supervision in a professional environment.

Whilst football is the main driver, this course can also lead to rewarding careers in leisure management, coaching, personal training, sports assistant, professional sports person, physiotherapy and many others.

## What will I study?

- Professional coaching with UEFA qualified coaches
- Matches and training at Dorking Wanderers FC
- Season tickets to Dorking Wanderers First Team & U23 games
- Opportunities to develop experience in analysis, coaching and refereeing
- Trips and tours

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 603/7068/3

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

**Grades:** Distinction\* to Pass

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** Controlled Assessment 60% / Written Examination 40%

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

<https://btecworks.com/teacher/courses/byooyi8>

Contact: Mr B Stafford, Senior Leader  
([bstafford@carringtonschool.org](mailto:bstafford@carringtonschool.org))

Economics is about people and their economic choices. It shows students that we are all part of the economy and that economics relates to every aspect of our lives from the decisions of individuals or families to the structures created by governments and producers. It develops understanding of how economic issues affect choices about resources and markets and vice versa.

Students on **Purple Pathway** are invited to apply for this course.

## Why study Economics?

Economics is interesting!

The most important thing you will learn in Economics is how to explain and evaluate economic problems and possible solutions. You will acquire a way of thinking as economists and develop a logical approach to thinking and reasoning, which will be useful in many areas of study in the future.

You will also begin to gain an ability to understand and make judgements about what you are told by politicians – do they have it right, or could they do things in a different way?

## What will I study?

- Introduction to Economics
- The role of markets and money
- Economic objectives and the role of government
- International trade and the global economy

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** OCR

**Specification Code:** J205

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Paper 1:** 50%

**Paper 2:** 50%

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

<https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/558/Why-Study-Economics%3F>



Contact: Mr J Cooke, Teacher of Engineering  
([jcooke@carringtonschool.org](mailto:jcooke@carringtonschool.org))

The Award in Engineering has been designed to support students in schools and colleges who are thinking about entering the diverse sector of Engineering, going into the construction industry and for those who enjoy working in a practical environment. Students work to find practical solutions to real life engineering problems through making and investigative and written methods.

## Why study Engineering?

This course offers a unique opportunity for students to begin learning about the Engineering and Manufacturing industry which is one of the UK's broadest sectors. According to the Engineering Council's report, more than 8.1 million people – or over a quarter of all UK workers (26%) – are part of the nation's engineering economy. Students will also have the opportunity to develop good organisational, time management, planning and communication skills. They will also develop their problem-solving ability.

## What will I study?

The course will give students the opportunity to develop an understanding of:

- The knowledge needed to investigate and develop solutions to engineering problems
- The stages involved in planning and implementing an engineering project
- Key engineering practical skills such as technical drawing, computer aided design (CAD) and analysing products
- Making engineering products

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Eduqas (WJEC)

**Specification Code:** 9790

**Qualification:** Level 1 /2 Vocational Award

**Grades:** Distinction\* to Pass

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 60% Non-Examined Assessment / 40% Written Examination

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

<https://www.wjec.co.uk/umbraco/surface/blobstorage/download?nodeId=38755>

<https://i-want-to-study-engineering.org/whyeng>

Contact: Mrs C Smythe, Subject Leader, MFL  
([csmythe@carringtonschool.org](mailto:csmythe@carringtonschool.org))

This subject is designed to develop students' use and understanding of French in a variety of contexts. Students will develop their listening and reading skills, and be able to communicate effectively in written and spoken French.

## Why study French?

This course offers students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of French language and culture. Students will learn to be creative, work independently and with others, understand different points of view and organise and manage their time effectively.

## What will I study?

You will consolidate and broaden your knowledge of French grammar, thus enabling you to freely talk and write in all time frames about yourself and contemporary issues.

Topics will include French society, healthy lifestyles, social and environmental issues, as well as relationships and the world of work.

You will work with real-life French language through a variety of media and develop strategies in all four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

You will broaden your vocabulary and engage in independent study in areas that interest you.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8658

Qualification: GCSE

Grades: Higher: 9 to 4 / Foundation: 5 to 1

Tiers: Two

Assessment: 100% Examination

Four examinations equally weighted at 25% each:  
Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[Foreign Language Jobs](#) | [Success at School](#)

# Future Learning Certificate

Contact: Mr K Sorensen, Director of Inclusion  
([ksorensen@carringtonschool.org](mailto:ksorensen@carringtonschool.org))

This course provides students with an excellent opportunity to develop skills for the workplace, within the context of a range of real-world scenarios. Employers are keen to recruit young people who can take initiative and solve problems, who can work equally successfully independently AND as part of a team, and who can communicate effectively with a range of different audiences.

Students also build their transferable learning skills that will influence their performance in all their studies, leading to better outcomes across the board.

## Why study Future Learning?

This course gives students a secure foundation to be successful in all kinds of different employment fields, tackling with confidence the challenges of the modern working environment. Additionally, it will equip students with a set of skills that will support their learning in all other subject areas.

## What will I study?

Our topics change year to year depending on the strengths and needs of the students in the group. They can include:

- Writing an impactful CV
- Navigating the Recruitment Process
- Interpersonal skills
- Budgeting, numeracy and managing finances
- Professional communications
- Collaborating with others

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** OCR

**Specification Code:** Life & Living Skills

**Qualification:** Certificate of Achievement

**Grades:** Units

**Assessment:** 100% Non-Examined Assignment-based Assessment

Contact: Mr A Thirkill, Subject Leader, Humanities  
([athirkill@carringtonschool.org](mailto:athirkill@carringtonschool.org))

In this course, we aim to develop students' understanding of the modern, contemporary geographical issues facing the world today. Not only do we seek to enhance students' grasp of traditional human and physical geography, we also analyse our relationship with the world, with a focus on the issue of sustainability.

## Why study Geography?

Many of the world's current issues - at a global scale and locally - boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them. Global warming, food and energy security, the degradation of land and soils from over-use and misuse, the spread of diseases like Coronavirus, the causes and consequences of migration, and the impacts of economic change on places and communities. Geography is a fascinating insight into our planet and helps students understand the world's big issues. As the world becomes more closely integrated there has never been a more important time to be a Geographer!

## What will I study?

- **Component 1 Global Geographical Issues** - This unit focuses on some of the key global issues facing the world today: development dynamics, challenges of an urbanising world and hazards.
- **Component 2 UK Geographical Issues** - You will look at a range of human and physical issues in this country. The units include: the UK is evolving human landscape; the UK is evolving physical landscape; plus, Geographical Investigations: the fieldwork element of the course.
- **Component 3 People and Environment Issues - Making Geographical Decisions** - in this unit students will cover a range of topics including people and the biosphere and forests under threat. They will sit an exam where a decision based on an issue must be made.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 1GB0

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Papers:** Three written papers

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Jobs and careers in Geography](#)

Contact: Mrs P Frost, Subject Leader, Health & Social Care  
([pfrost@carringtonschool.org](mailto:pfrost@carringtonschool.org))

The BTEC Tech Award in Health & Social Care offers a practical introduction to life and work in the health and social care sector. You will develop a practical understanding of the health and social care sector, build useful skills, which are not generally covered in GCSE courses, and develop a good understanding of whether the health and social care sector is for you, and if so, which part of it you might want to study further.

## Why study Health & Social Care?

This course will give you the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in a practical learning environment. You will also develop key skills relevant to the health and social care sector such as research techniques and how to measure someone's physical health. You will develop your written communication skills as you create health and wellbeing plans for an individual with specific needs.

This course can be complementary learning for GCSE Biology and Psychology. This course is different from studying GCSEs, as, by taking part in different types of research, application and health improvement activities, it gives you the opportunity to apply your knowledge, skills and the techniques you learn in practical ways.

## What will I study?

**Human Lifespan and Development:** How do people grow and develop over their lives and the factors that affect them throughout the lifespan; lifechanging events like marriage or death of a partner. How do people cope with these changes, and what types of support are available to help them?

**Health and Social Care Services:** How do common and specialist services work together to meet individual's needs, what are the barriers to access, and how may they be overcome? What skills, attributes and values are required, and how important are these for people to get the care they need.

**Health and Wellbeing** What factors influence an individual's health and wellbeing? How to interpret physiological and lifestyle indicators, and what do these mean for someone's state of health? How to use this to design a plan for improving someone's health and wellbeing, including short and long-term targets. What difficulties can an individual face when trying to make these changes?

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson

**Specification Code:** 603/70447/6

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

**Grades:** Distinction\* to pass

**Assessment:** Components 1 & 2: Internally Assessed (60 marks each)

Component 3: Externally Assessed Exam (60 marks)

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[health and social care | Search | National Careers Service](#)

Contact: Mr A Thirkill, Subject Leader, Humanities  
([athirkill@carringtonschool.org](mailto:athirkill@carringtonschool.org))

In this course, we will complete a broad and diverse study of the history of Britain and the wider world. A range of skills are used and examined such as analysis of sources and considering concepts such as causation, change and consequence and significance.

## Why study History?

In History we explore how the past explains and affects our present. If you want to know why things are as they are, study History.

Historians develop many skills which are crucial within the world of work and business:

- interpreting and understanding information and sources
- making and presenting arguments
- broadening horizons to a wider world

## What will I study?

- **Paper 1: Thematic study and historic environment.** You will study the development of medicine from superstition and mystery to the highly technological and scientific practices of today. As well as plagues, experimentation and more, we will look at the effect of the First World War in supercharging surgery.
- **Paper 2: Period study and British depth study.** In Year 10 we will study the Cold War from 1941 to 1991 – the world on the edge of nuclear destruction as the forces of Democracy and Capitalism oppose the Soviet Union and Communism across the world – a struggle over ideas, economics and military power. In Year 11 we go further back in time to examine Early Elizabethan England, 1558-88 – religious revolution, the Spanish Armada and daring explorers during the reign of perhaps our greatest female monarch.
- **Paper 3: Modern depth study.** The final topic is the USA, 1954-75, which explores the internal issue of racism and social change within the USA and their role in the Vietnam War – a superpower in crisis at home as it tries to lead the world abroad.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** IHIO

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Papers:** Three written papers

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Careers in History](#) | [History Careers](#) | [Success at School](#)

Contact: Mr H Powell, Subject Leader, Food  
([hpowell@carringtonschool.org](mailto:hpowell@carringtonschool.org))

This course has been designed with the aim of enabling you to gain a good foundation of knowledge, understanding and skills that are required by the Hospitality and Catering industry, which is a major employer of people in the UK and other countries. You will have the opportunity to develop a variety of skills, including food preparation and cooking skills, organisation, time management, planning, communication and problem solving.

## Why study Hospitality & Catering?

This is an essential course for anyone who loves being creative and working in a practical environment. You might like food, cooking or simply enjoy working with people. The course enables you to develop cooking as a life skill and a foundation for further courses whether in the hospitality industry or a catering college.

Another reason to study this course is the relaxed, fun atmosphere created each lesson. You are allowed to develop at your own pace, creating dishes you never thought possible and all the time having a sense of achievement time after time.

## What will I study?

All aspects of the hospitality and catering industry.

- The planning, preparation, cooking and serving of a variety of healthy, tasty and appetising dishes that are suitable for different situations and customer needs and requirements, in a safe and hygienic way
- A range of food preparation techniques and cooking methods and execute them with ability and skill

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Eduqas (WJEC)

**Specification Code:** 5569

**Qualification:** Vocational Award

**Grades:** Distinction\* to Pass

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** Unit 1: The Hospitality & Catering Industry – Written Examination worth 40%

Unit 2: Hospitality & Catering in Action – Controlled Assessment worth 60%

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Catering college](#) | [Teaching](#) | [Hospitality management](#) | [Business owner](#)

Contact: Miss F Deane, Subject Leader, Performing Arts  
([fdeane@carringtonschool.org](mailto:fdeane@carringtonschool.org))

The mass media plays an increasingly important role in modern society, providing us with information and entertainment. This option choice is designed to enable students to develop a critical understanding of the role of the mass media in society. You will spend time analysing a variety of media texts, exploring how producers target audiences and also creating your own media productions.

## Why study Media Studies?

The media plays an increasing role in society and plays an important part in shaping attitudes and social values.

An important feature of the specification is the combination of theoretical understanding and the development of practical skills.

You study diverse media platforms which is not only an enjoyable experience but you also get the opportunity to produce media products.

## What will I study?

### Component 1 – Exploring the Media (Exam)

Section A assesses media language and representation in relation to two of the following print media forms: magazines, marketing (film posters), newspapers or print advertisements. Section B assesses your industry and audience knowledge of texts from two of the following media forms: film, newspaper, radio, video games.

### Component 2 – Understanding Media Forms & Products (Exam)

Section A focuses on a set Television text asking questions on media language, representation, industry and audience. Section B focuses on Music, asking questions on online media as well as asking you to analyse set music videos.

### Component 3 – Creating Media Products (Controlled Assessment)

Students will demonstrate their own understanding of media by creating a media product of their own, set by the exam board – this will usually involve a marketing or magazine production.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Eduqas (WJEC)

**Specification Code:** 603/1115/0

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 30% Controlled Assessment / 70% Examination across two written papers.

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Jobs that use Media Studies - BBC Bitesize](#)



Contact: **Mr S Winter, Subject Leader, Music**  
([swinter@carringtonschool.org](mailto:swinter@carringtonschool.org))

This course will enable you to develop musical skills in performance, music creation and production across a range of musical genres, and to develop personal skills, such as personal development, planning and responding to a brief.

## Why study Music?

Studying Music is a great way to develop musical skills in the area of performing, composing and appraising, as well as transferrable personal skills desirable for both future study and in the world of work, such as teamwork, cooperation, problem-solving and responding to a brief. This music qualification demonstrates that you are able to apply knowledge and understanding to certain situations, and that you are able to show innovation, resilience and commitment.

You need to be able to play an instrument or sing, or be willing to learn, in order to access course content.

## What will I study?

**Component 1:** Exploring music products and styles. You will explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles.

**Component 2:** Music skills development. You will develop two musical disciplines (e.g. performing, composing, production) through practical tasks, while documenting your progress and planning for further improvement

**Component 3:** Responding to a music brief. You will develop and present music in response to a given music brief.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 603/7055/5

**Qualification:** BTEC Award

**Grades:** Distinction\* to Pass

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** Controlled Assessment 60% / External Assessment 40%

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[Music Promotion](#) | [Musician](#) | [Studio Engineer](#)

# Performing Arts: Acting

[Watch  
the video](#)

Contact: Miss F Deane, Subject Leader, Performing Arts  
([fdeane@carringtonschool.org](mailto:fdeane@carringtonschool.org))

Are you creative? Do you want to intrigue and excite an audience? This course will encourage you to develop your creative and imaginative potential, while learning the professional discipline and skills required to perform and put on a show. You will be studying professional's work and processes used, developing the skills and techniques used in acting, and will practice how to contribute to the creation of the performances.

## Why study Acting?

The Performing arts and culture industry contribute 10.8 billion a year to the economy and continues to grow by a few percent each year!

Studying Acting is a fantastic way to build your confidence and your ability to speak in public or present to a group of people. It also teaches many transferable skills such as cooperation, teamwork and problem-solving; all of which are of benefit to the workplace or further study.

A drama qualification demonstrates that you are reliable and can be committed to a project – something that all employers and colleges are looking for.

## What will I study?

- **Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts**  
Students develop their understanding of the performing arts by examining practitioners' work and the processes used to create a performance
- **Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in Performing Arts**  
Students improve their technical skills by engaging in vocal and physical workshops. The final product is a scripted performance to an audience
- **Component 3: Performing to a brief**  
Students create a devised performance in response to a set brief released from the exam board

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 603/7054/3

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

**Grades:** Distinction\* to Pass

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** External 40% - written examination and performance

Internal 60% - coursework and performance under controlled conditions

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/performing-arts>

# Performing Arts: Dance

[Watch  
the video](#)

Contact: Mrs B Maddox, Subject Leader, Dance  
([bmaddox@carringtonschool.org](mailto:bmaddox@carringtonschool.org))

This is a practical course where you will develop your dance and performance skills. You will be required to work in teams so the ability to work collaboratively with other students is essential.

## Why study Dance?

Dance is ideal for candidates who prefer or enjoy practical assessment. All parts of the course are led by grading criteria so no experience is necessary to achieve a high grade. Candidates will be taught a range of dance styles to help students recognise the use of dance in society today.

## What will I study?

- New and/or existing dance skills and the practical skills for communicating and expressing ideas
- Choreographic skills and the understanding of the relationship between music and dance
- Group skills, critical analysis and evaluation of your performance and others
- Knowledge and understanding of professional companies and choreographers and learn repertoire choreographed by them
- Performance skills and ability to reproduce learnt tasks via tutor led classes developing key skills within dance context
- Ability to perform in front of others, both in a class and show environment and choreograph performances

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 603/7054/3

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

**Grades:** Distinction\* to Pass

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 60% Controlled Assessment / 40% External Examination

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[8 Dance Related Careers To Pursue After Dance Life \(nyfa.edu\)](https://nyfa.edu/8-Dance-Related-Careers-To-Pursue-After-Dance-Life)

Contact: Mrs H Outhwaite, Teacher of Psychology  
([houthwaite@carringtonschool.org](mailto:houthwaite@carringtonschool.org))

Psychology is the scientific study of the human mind and its functions, and how it dictates and influences our behaviour. It's about understanding what makes people tick and how this understanding can help us address many of the problems and issues in society today. Psychology is a unique subject as it blends not only scientific principles but written skills of debating, application, and analysis combining skills from humanities, science and maths.

Students on **Purple Pathway** are invited to apply for this course.

## Why study Psychology?

As psychology is the study of human behaviour and thought process, the applications are limitless from working within public services such as the NHS, the Criminal Justice system or Education to working in Businesses in departments like Marketing or Human Resources.

## What will I study?

Students will look at the following contexts of psychology including key research/ experiments and their findings:

- Criminal psychology – why do people commit crime?
- Development – how do we learn?
- Psychological problems – depression and schizophrenia
- Social influence – why do we behave differently in social situations?
- Memory – how do we remember different things?
- Sleep and dreaming - do our dreams have meaning?
- Psychological research methods including planning psychological research and experiments and analysing their findings

Throughout each module we will look at the neuropsychology (the structure and workings of the brain) involved in each context and theoretical approaches in each area as well as real life applications of psychological principles.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** OCR

**Specification Code:** J203

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Paper 1:** 50%

**Paper 2:** 50%

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Career options in psychology - The British Psychological Society \(bps.org.uk\)](https://www.bps.org.uk/career-options-in-psychology)

# Religious Studies

Contact: Mrs N Messina-Persad, Subject Leader, RE  
([nmessina-persad@carringtonschool.org](mailto:nmessina-persad@carringtonschool.org))

This course allows students to explore important and relevant political, economic, legal, sociological, historical and religious issues in today's world and provides an opportunity for students to develop their own opinions and consider a range of secular (non-religious), religious and moral beliefs and viewpoints.

This course is only available to selected students. If you are interested in studying Religious Studies please speak to Mrs Basso.

## Why Study Religious Studies?

All students are required to take a full GCSE course which they start in Year 9 in their Religious Studies lessons. Students explore their own ideas and the points of view of others. It provides a unique opportunity to look at the important issues in their lives, and to develop an understanding of questions concerning morality and the meaning of life. Our students particularly enjoy our debates, with the added option of joining our after school Debating Society. It is a course that is highly regarded by top universities and colleges as well as our current, and some of our past, Prime Ministers have followed this pathway.

## What Will I study?

**Paper 1- Christianity: Religion and Ethics (50%) (1hr 45min exam)**

Section A: Christian Beliefs

Section B: Marriage and the Family

Section C: Living the Christian Life

Section D: Matters of Life and Death

**Paper 2- Islam: Peace and Conflict (50%) (1hr 45 min exam)**

Section A: Muslim Beliefs

Section B: Crime and Punishment

Section C: Living the Muslim Life

Section D: Peace and Conflict

All course content is studied over two academic years with **the final examination at the end of Year 10.**

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 1RBO

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Paper 1:** 50%

**Paper 2:** 50%

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Pearson- TRS-UK Compilation 3: Varied careers that follow a degree in Theology & Religious Studies](#)

Contact: Mrs C Smythe, Subject Leader, MFL  
([csmythe@carringtonschool.org](mailto:csmythe@carringtonschool.org))

This course is designed to develop students' understanding of Spanish in a variety of contexts.

Students will develop their listening and reading skills, and be able to communicate effectively in written and spoken Spanish.

**This course is only available to students that have already been studying Spanish in Year 9.**

## Why study Spanish?

This course offers students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of Spanish language and culture.

## What will I study?

You will consolidate and broaden your knowledge of Spanish grammar, thus enabling you to freely talk and write in all time frames about yourself and contemporary issues.

Topics will include Spanish society, healthy lifestyles, social and environmental issues, as well as relationships and the world of work.

You will work with real-life Spanish language through a variety of media and develop strategies in all four language skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking.

You will broaden your vocabulary and engage in independent study in areas that interest you.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** AQA

**Specification Code:** 8698

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** Higher: 9 to 4 / Foundation: 5 to 1

**Tiers:** Two

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Four examinations equally weighted at 25% each:**  
Speaking, Listening, Reading and Writing

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Foreign Language Jobs](#) | [Success at School](#)

Contact: Mrs S Nolan, Subject Leader, Physical Education  
([snolan@carringtonschool.org](mailto:snolan@carringtonschool.org))

BTEC Sport is designed to prepare young people for careers in the sports sector. It sets scenarios of sports-related personnel who are employed in a variety of types of work in the leisure and fitness industry.

## Why study Sport?

It can lead to rewarding careers, for example: leisure management, coaching, personal training, sports assistant, professional sports person, physiotherapy and many others.

You will learn about how to get fit and why it's important to stay fit and healthy throughout your life

## What will I study?

**Component 1:** Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity

**Component 2:** Taking Part and improving other participant's sporting performance

**Component 3:** Developing fitness to improve other participant's performance in sport and physical activity

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 603/7068/3

**Qualification:** BTEC Tech Award Level 1/2

**Grades:** Distinction\* to Pass

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** Controlled Assessment 60% / Written Examination 40%

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

<https://btecworks.com/teacher/courses/byooyi8>

Contact: Mrs V Kendall, Head of Faculty, Design Technology  
([vkendall@carringtonschool.org](mailto:vkendall@carringtonschool.org))

This highly practical course will build skills and confidence starting with the basic use of a sewing machine through to the more complicated methods of creating texture and manipulating fabric using stitch and heat. As skills develop, students will begin to experiment with ideas using a wide range of printing methods, hand and machine stitching. You will continue by combining a variety of textile processes to create something personal and unique. You will be able to choose how and what you want to make for your final piece which could be a functional or non-functional piece of Textiles.

**If you choose this course you cannot also choose Art.**

## Why study Textiles?

This is an essential course for anyone who loves being creative and working in a practical environment. You might like fashion or simply working with fabrics and want to go into a related career but this is also a skill for life and can continue to develop and improve well-being far beyond the end of school life. The skills learnt will be valued by employers and academics who will understand that you have been gaining analytical, time and resource management and also problem-solving skills.

## What will I study?

- Investigation skills, looking at the work of Artists and Designers and other sources to inspire ideas
- Design skills including the presentation of work
- The exploration of colour, texture, shape and form through fabric using a wide range of materials and processes such as screen printing, tie-dye and appliqué
- The creation of functional and non-functional textiles
- Evaluation skills, to be able to better understand and judge the work of others and your own

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** AQA

**Specification Code:** 8204

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** Non-Examined Assessment 60% / Practical Examination 40%

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

[Fashion Designer | Search | National Careers Service](#)



# Triple Science

[Watch  
the video](#)

Contact: Mrs S Robinson, Subject Leader, Science  
([srobinson@carringtonschool.org](mailto:srobinson@carringtonschool.org))

This course enables students to achieve 3 separate GCSEs (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) and is particularly suited for students currently in upper Science sets. Triple Science is advisable for those students considering Science A Levels, or who simply have great enthusiasm and interest in the course.

Students on the **Purple Pathway** are invited to apply for this course.

## Why study Triple Science?

Triple Science units contain a number of the sections considered more difficult than the other GCSE science units. This means it starts to bridge the gap between GCSE and A level Science much more than Combined Science. So, whilst it is not compulsory, if you want to do Science A levels it does make the step up much easier in Year 12.

## What will I study?

Students study the same topics as the combined scientists but also complete extra content, examples are listed below:

- **Biology:** plant defences, thermoregulation and the kidney, the eye, ear and brain, transcription and translation of DNA
- **Chemistry:** organic chemistry, analysis and synthesis of titrations and the Haber process
- **Physics:** medical applications of physics and astronomy

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** IBIO / 1CHO / 1PHO

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades: Higher:** 9 to 4 / **Foundation:** 5 to 1

**Tiers:** Two

**Assessment:** 100% Examination. Two papers per course, totalling six papers.

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[Careers in science - BBC Bitesize](#)

# CORE COURSES

# Combined Science

Contact: Mrs S Robinson, Subject Leader, Science  
([srobinson@carringtonschool.org](mailto:srobinson@carringtonschool.org))

Science is everywhere. It enables you to understand the world around you and consider the impact scientific development has on all living things. The course also puts significant emphasis on understanding how to make a decision based on the variety of scientific evidence collected.

## Why Study Combined Science?

Combined Science helps you to develop skills, such as obtaining, analysing and evaluating evidence. You will be able to consider the ethics behind scientific research and consider the impact on society. Science also develops many transferable skills including literacy, numeracy and ICT.

## What Will I study?

**Biology:** keeping healthy, the immune system, nerves and hormones, adaptation, energy in food chains, genetic variation, reproduction and evolution

**Chemistry:** atoms, the periodic table, chemical reactions, extracting metals, their properties and their uses, crude oil and fuels, polymers, plant oils and their uses, earth atmosphere and its changes

**Physics:** Forces and motion, energy transfer, generating and uses of electricity, magnets, properties of waves and their uses, reflection, sound and red-shift radioactivity

## COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson (Edexcel)

Specification Code: 1SCO

Qualification: GCSE

Grades: Higher: 9 to 4 / Foundation: 5 to 1

Tiers: Two

Assessment: 100% Examination. Six papers.

This course is worth TWO GCSEs

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[Careers in Science - BBC Bitesize](#)

# Core PE

Contact: Mrs S Nolan, Subject Leader, PE  
([snolan@carringtonschool.org](mailto:snolan@carringtonschool.org))

The course will offer each student access to a broad and balanced curriculum, and will provide a wealth of opportunities to experience success in a variety of ways.

Students are encouraged to develop a range of skills in a variety of team games and individual sports while developing an appreciation and understanding of the importance of exercise.

## Why Study Core PE?

Physical activity is important in maintaining healthy living. Research shows that students who are active remain active in their adult lives which helps to promote healthier lifestyles.

## What Will I study?

During Physical Education Core lessons students choose the activities they will participate in by selecting a 'pathway of learning'. Each pathway is designed so that it is suited to you.

One of the pathways is team-sport dominated and is suited to students who enjoy physical activities such as football and rugby, whilst another pathway has more creative activities that include dance and health related exercise.

Students will study the techniques involved in participating in the sport successfully, how to referee and the social aspects of the sport. Our aim is to encourage positive attitudes to health and fitness, which you will take with you into adulthood.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Board: N/A

Specification Code: N/A

Qualification: N/A

Grades: N/A

Tiers: N/a

Assessment: Not Examined

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[Sport \(L1 Introductory\) | Pearson qualifications](#)

[Sport and Recreation | City & Guilds \(cityandguilds.com\)](http://cityandguilds.com)

# English Language

Contact: Mrs C Wood, Director of Learning, English  
([cwood@carringtonschool.org](mailto:cwood@carringtonschool.org))

This course offers students an opportunity to read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction extracts as well as create their own pieces of writing. Students will develop core communication skills through their written work and will have the chance to share their own interests through the spoken language component.

## Why Study English Language?

This core course is studied by all students. It offers the opportunity to develop excellent communication skills - a fundamental requirement for almost all future careers, but also vital for everyday life. The range of varied and complex skills covered by the course has application far beyond the classroom.

## What Will I study?

You will read a range of texts, drawn from both fiction and non-fiction. You will be asked to demonstrate your ability to read with insight, understand how authors use language and structure to produce a range of effects, compare and evaluate writers' perspectives.

You will study creative writing and writing to argue and persuade.

Through speaking and listening, you will have the opportunity to develop your verbal communication skills and to talk about something that personally interests you.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8700

Qualification: GCSE

Grades: 9 to 1

Tiers: One

Assessment: 100% Examination

Paper 1: 50%

Paper 2: 50%

Speaking and Listening are assessed separately

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

<https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/389/Careers-in-English-Where-Can-English-Take-You%3F>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/careers-advice/what-can-i-do-with-my-degree/english>

# English Literature

Contact: Mrs C Wood, Director of Learning, English  
([cwood@carringtonschool.org](mailto:cwood@carringtonschool.org))

English Literature is compulsory for all students, offering opportunities to study a variety of whole texts. Students will be given the opportunity to develop and debate different interpretations, study how an author uses language, structure and form for effect and explore the ways context can shape a text. Although closely linked, it is a separate qualification from English Language.

## Why Study English Literature?

This course will encourage students to develop both an interest in, and enjoyment of, literature, through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, cultures, genre and gender.

Students will explore how language and structure convey meaning, and become sensitive to the variety of textual interpretations.

## What Will I study?

You will study four key texts covering: Shakespeare, nineteenth century texts, modern texts and poetry.

Students will learn how to shape and structure their arguments into essays – an invaluable skill for further study.

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** AQA

**Specification Code:** 8702

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:** 9 to 1

**Tiers:** One

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Paper 1:**

**Paper 2:**

Shakespeare & 19<sup>th</sup>  
Century Novel **40%**

Modern Texts & Poetry **60%**

**Where can this course take you? Click below to find out**

<https://successatschool.org/advisedetails/389/Careers-in-English-Where-Can-English-Take-You%3F>

<https://www.topuniversities.com/student-info/careers-advice/what-can-you-do-english-literature-degree>

# Mathematics

Contact: Mr M Ives, Director of Learning, Maths  
([mives@carringtonschool.org](mailto:mives@carringtonschool.org))

This course covers far more than how to add up and multiply. It is about developing the tools to solve problems enabling us to understand far more about the world around us and how things relate to each other.

## Why Study Mathematics?

Mathematics is vital in so many aspects of life that it is a compulsory part of the curriculum. It will also support a vast array of courses such as: economics, science, psychology, engineering, technology, geography and many more.

## What Will I study?

Number  
Algebra  
Ratio, Proportion and Rates of Change  
Geometry and Measure  
Probability  
Statistics

Mathematics enables students to:

- develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts
- 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

## COURSE INFORMATION

**Board:** Pearson (Edexcel)

**Specification Code:** 1MA1

**Qualification:** GCSE

**Grades:**

**Higher:** 9 to 4 / **Foundation:** 5 to 1

**Tiers:** Two

**Assessment:** 100% Examination

**Papers:** Three papers of the same duration, 1 hour 30 min, equally weighted

Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

[Jobs that use Maths - BBC Bitesize](#)

[Home - Maths Careers](#)

# Personal Development

Contact: Mr A Finch, Subject Leader, Personal Development  
([afinch@carringtonschool.org](mailto:afinch@carringtonschool.org))

Personal Development (PD) covers statutory Relationships and Sex Education [RSE], Personal, Social, Health and Economic [PSHE] education and Careers Education, Information Advice and Guidance [CEIAG].

We have a comprehensive programme of study designed to cover economic wellbeing, careers and enterprise education, education for personal safety, including assessing and managing risk. Students are equipped with the knowledge and skills to prepare them for later life. This is regularly reviewed and adapted to local, national and global developments.

## Why Study Personal Development?

Personal development gives students the opportunity to develop the skills and knowledge they need to thrive now and in the future.

PD helps students to deal with issues they face every day such as friendships, emotional wellbeing and change. It also gives students a solid foundation to flourish in the wider world.

PD also helps to enrich students' other subjects by developing the health and wellbeing which can help students to achieve better academically and succeed in all areas of life.

## What Will I study?

The core themes studied in PD are 'Health and Wellbeing', 'Relationships' and 'Living in the Wider World'.

Within these themes at KS4 we study vital topics to help students succeed in life outside school. Topics include; 'Career Guidance,' 'Making a Good CV,' 'Employment Rights,' 'Stress Management,' and 'Revision Skills'.

## COURSE INFORMATION

Board: N/A

Specification Code: N/A

Qualification: N/A

Grades: N/A

Tiers: N/A

Assessment: Not Examined

## Where can this course take you? Click below to find out

By developing student financial understanding, boosting career skills and aiding understanding of relationships, health, and wellbeing, Personal Development will help you succeed in whatever you choose to do in the future



# How can parents help?

You have a vital role in supporting your young person through the Options process. The life experience that you have will give a sense of reality to the big decisions they are about to make.

**Firstly**, you can work with your young person to help them understand themselves as learners. It is helpful for students to be able to talk through what they are good at with someone who knows them well and who they are comfortable with. This enables them to explore their own views of their qualities, likes and dislikes. Their understanding of themselves can be used to identify the courses that may or may not suit them.

**Secondly**, you can help your young person explore the range of potential careers that may be open to them. This is more than just talking to them about dream jobs; you can help give their Options decision a sense of purpose by asking them to explain how they intend to make their ambitions a reality. An aspect of this could be to help them research the qualifications that they would need to reach their life/career goals. It may also be useful to have them plan out the 'route' in terms of courses and experiences that they would need to 'travel' in order to get to their aspired destination.

**Thirdly**, tell them your story. How did you end up where you are? What did you want to do when you were their age? What have you learnt from life? What advice was given that was useful? Did you realise your aspirations? What is next for you in your career? Young people need to know that you are living the journey they are about to start, and that your advice is based on your own experiences, which lends it gravitas.

**Finally**, and this piece of advice is especially important, your young person will truly value your support while they work out what courses they want to take, but please remember part of growing up is being given and taking more responsibility for their own decision making.

# Questions you may have

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## Who can help me make my decisions?

- You can send an email to Mrs Pearce ([jpearce@carringtonschool.org](mailto:jpearce@carringtonschool.org)) or Mrs Basso ([mbasso@carringtonschool.org](mailto:mbasso@carringtonschool.org)) to make an appointment to speak with either of them
- Your Course Teachers can give you advice
- You can talk to your Heads of Year
- You should come along to Key Stage 4 Pathways Evening on 21 March 2024

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## What happens once I have completed my Option Online choices?

The deadline for the submission of your choices online is 15 April 2024. The choices that you make will be checked by Mrs Basso, Mrs Pearce, your Heads of Year and Mr Lockhart. They will make sure that you have selected courses that are appropriate for you. You may then be asked to have an interview to discuss your choices. In some cases, you may have to change your Option choices because they are not appropriate for your ability level. You should know your Option choices by June.

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## Will I get all my first-choice courses?

Most students are able to study all the courses they want, but it may not be possible if:

- Your choices do not match your ability level
- There are too many students who want to do that course
- There are not enough students who want to do that course so the course is withdrawn

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## How do I know if I should choose a 'new' course?

It is really important that you find out as much as you can about each course and that you do not just choose a course because you have not studied it in Year 9. Remember that you should talk to your Course Teachers, Heads of Department, your Head of Year, Mrs Pearce or Mrs Basso if you are in doubt.

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## How can I choose courses if I am not sure what I want to do when I leave Carrington School?

Try to choose a broad and balanced range of courses so that your options for what you do when you leave Carrington School are open. Choose courses you are good at and that you enjoy. Avoid choosing a course for poor reasons such as you like the teacher, your friends are doing that course, or you do not like the teacher. If you are in any doubt as to your choices, please discuss this with Mrs Basso, Mrs Pearce, your Head of Year, your Tutor or Mr Lockhart.

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## Can I change later?

You will only be allowed to change courses during the first 4 weeks in Year 10. After this time, we do not allow students to change courses. You are not allowed to 'drop' a course that you picked but then do not enjoy. Give your Course Option choices the time and consideration that they deserve in order to make sure you are doing the best courses for you.

# Useful Links

Although it is a good thing to start thinking about the type of courses, jobs and career you might like to do in the future, Year 9 students are usually just beginning to explore their options.

The compulsory “core” curriculum ensures you continue with a broad range of courses through Key Stage 4 so you have a wider base of options for later study and career choices. Later, when you are choosing courses for after Year 11, you will have a lot more choice and can start to specialise a bit more.

Most Option courses will be good general preparation for further learning and work, so it's not crucial to choose specific courses to fit with a specific career, at this stage. However, if you have a clear goal and you know the sector you want to work in, it is advisable to seek further guidance from Mrs Pearce, our School Careers Lead, or to explore the websites below. Links can be found on the Careers page of the school website.

Please do check the [Careers and Pathways](#) pages of the school website for all resources relating to Options.

## StartProfile

An online careers platform with lots of useful information to help you make great Course Option choices along with information to help you to explore different career areas.

[VISIT SITE HERE](#)

## BBC Bitesize/Careers

Explore careers by job sectors. Check out the job profiles to help you get careers inspiration. Hear from people working in areas that interest you, see how much you could get paid for different roles and find out what qualifications you might need to follow in their footsteps.

[VISIT SITE HERE](#)

## National Careers Service

Explore different careers on the 'search job profiles' tab.

[VISIT SITE HERE](#)

## icould

Real life career videos giving personal insights into jobs and career paths by job type, theme and subject. Practical guides on making your Subject Options which can then lead into Post 16 decision making.

[VISIT SITE HERE](#)

## Careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

There are a growing number of job opportunities in these career areas. [Visit these virtual careers fairs](#) to inspire you about the career areas available.

# Different qualifications explained

There are a wide variety of qualifications available to students and it is important that you and your young person understand the difference between the qualifications so that they are able to make informed decisions about which style of learning is best for them.

Nationally recognised qualifications are classified as either Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications at Key Stage 4. Level 3 courses are studied post 16.

- ➔ Level 2 qualifications are equivalent to GCSE grades 9-4
- ➔ Level 1 qualifications are equivalent to GCSE grades 3-1

## GCSE

This stands for General Certificate of Secondary Education. Most, but not all GCSEs are based on a final examination to test what students understand, know and can do. Very few GCSEs have a Non-Examined Assessment/Controlled Assessment element. The Non-Examined Assessment/Controlled Assessment has to be completed during lesson time in school under conditions which are taught at school. Awards are graded 9 (highest) to 1 (lowest).

## BTEC

This stands for Business and Technology Council Qualification. Students can attain either a Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction (GCSE equivalent 3-1) or Level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction (GCSE equivalent 9-4). These courses are considered to be vocational qualifications, with more work-related knowledge and skills.

## Level 1/2

These are a mixture of vocational and theoretical qualifications. These are designed to support learners who want to learn about vocational sectors and the potential it can offer them for their careers or future studies. Students can attain either a Level 1 Pass, Merit or Distinction (GCSE equivalent 3-1) or Level 2 Pass, Merit or Distinction (GCSE equivalent 9-4).

# Terms used in this booklet

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## Non-Examined Assessment/Controlled Assessment

Most courses do not have Non-Examined Assessments/Controlled Assessments, but those that do will be organised similarly across all courses. They consist of tasks/activities that will happen at certain points throughout the 2-year course. They are completed in class. They have to be completed under controlled conditions which means that students are only allowed to have a certain amount of time to complete them and that they are generally carried out under examination conditions. This is marked by teachers, but then moderated by the Examining Body (see moderation below). Please note that Non-Examined Assessment/Controlled Assessment marks given to students by teachers are subject to moderation and may go down. Very few courses have Non-Examined Assessment/Controlled Assessment – please see individual Course Option pages for more information.

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## External Examinations

These are examinations that are set by the Examining Body. The dates and times of them are outside our control which means that if your young person is absent on that day, a medical note must be provided as there will not be another opportunity for them to sit this examination again. These examinations will contribute towards GCSE and BTEC.

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## Moderation

This is a way of checking that Non-Examined Assessment (which is marked by teachers in each school) is marked to an agreed standard. This means that marking of Non-Examined Assessment is standard across all schools in England and Wales. Student's work is moderated by external moderators.

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## Tiers

Some courses have examination tiers. This means that students can be entered for Higher tier (usually GCSE grades 9-4) or Foundation tier (usually GCSE grades 5-1). Some courses have only 1 tier which allows students to gain GCSE grades 9-1. Tiers are selected by teachers according to each individual student's ability and performance.

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## Specification

Each course has a specification written by the Examining Body. This details the knowledge, skills and understanding that students are expected to develop in order to gain a qualification for that course. This is what schools have to follow in order to deliver each individual qualification.

# One to One Device Scheme



Year 9 students at Carrington School have the opportunity to access our 'One-to-One Digital Device' purchase scheme. This enables students to make use of digital learning both in the classroom and at home.

## Vision

- ▶ We believe that the use of one-to-one devices will be highly beneficial to students. It will
- ▶ Improve equity of access to the curriculum for all students
- ▶ Encourage organisation by helping students to manage their own workload and stay on task
- ▶ Offer new possibilities for teaching and learning
- ▶ Help to prepare students for technological demands of the modern workplace

Staff will ensure that the devices are used where they enhance or support learning. Books and handwriting will remain an important part of the student learning experience.

## The Device

We are offering a reputable device (currently under tender). It is both a laptop and a tablet in one - making it a versatile tool whatever the learning situation. Features include

- ▶ Tiger glass touch screen and a sturdy keyboard
- ▶ Sturdy design to protect against the knocks and shocks of daily usage
- ▶ Lightweight, compact design
- ▶ Battery life that will last a full school day (12.5 hours)
- ▶ Flip 360° hinge



## Advantages

- ▶ An affordable monthly payment with no credit checks
- ▶ 3-year repair service, with theft and warranty cover for peace of mind
- ▶ The scheme is being subsidised by the school to ensure that all students can access it
- ▶ Instructions provided in-box to help students set up the device so they can use it both at home and at school
- ▶ Offer new possibilities for teaching and learning
- ▶ Use of Office 365, free of charge to all students
- ▶ Software automatically installed to allow the device to be used in school and connect to the school Wi-Fi

## Package Price

The device will be purchased through the school via a partnership with a reputable company, at a cost payable by parents in one outright payment or via 36 monthly Direct Debit payments. At the end of the 36 months, the device will be owned outright by you with no balloon payment. The full package represents a saving compared to the high street packages when you include the cost of repair/replacement service.

Aspire

Innovate

Respect

# Our Pathways Your Choices

## Purple Pathway

9 courses

Your Language	Select 1 of these	Choose 2 courses and 1 reserve. D&C Football Academy counts as 2 choices		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geography</li> <li>History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal Care</li> <li>Art</li> <li>Computer Science</li> <li>D&amp;T Product Design</li> <li>Digital Information Technology</li> <li>D &amp; C Football Academy</li> <li>Economics</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engineering</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>Health &amp; Social Care</li> <li>History</li> <li>Hospitality &amp; Catering</li> <li>Media Studies</li> <li>Music</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Performing Arts: Acting</li> <li>Performing Arts: Dance</li> <li>Psychology</li> <li>Spanish</li> <li>Sport</li> <li>Textiles</li> <li>Triple Science</li> </ul>

## Orange Pathway

9 courses

Choose 1	Choose 3 courses and 1 reserve. D&C Football Academy counts as 2 choices		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>History</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal Care</li> <li>Art</li> <li>Computer Science</li> <li>D&amp;T Product Design</li> <li>Digital Information Technology</li> <li>D &amp; C Football Academy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engineering</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>Health &amp; Social Care</li> <li>History</li> <li>Hospitality &amp; Catering</li> <li>Media Studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music</li> <li>Performing Arts: Acting</li> <li>Performing Arts: Dance</li> <li>Spanish</li> <li>Sport</li> <li>Textiles</li> </ul>

## Yellow Pathway

8 courses

Compulsory to support success	Choose 3 courses and 1 reserve. D&C Football Academy counts as 2 choices		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future Learning Certificate</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Animal Care</li> <li>Art</li> <li>D&amp;T Product Design</li> <li>Digital Information Technology</li> <li>D &amp; C Football Academy</li> <li>Engineering</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>French</li> <li>Geography</li> <li>Health &amp; Social Care</li> <li>History</li> <li>Hospitality &amp; Catering</li> <li>Media Studies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music</li> <li>Performing Arts: Acting</li> <li>Performing Arts: Dance</li> <li>Sport</li> <li>Textiles</li> </ul>