

Aspire

Innovate

Respect



Carrington School

AD ASTRA



Options 2026

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Message from the Headteacher



Welcome to the Year 9 Options Journey!

I am delighted to introduce our Year 9 Options booklet, outlining the courses available to your young person from September 2026. This marks an exciting milestone – the transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4, where students begin shaping their future pathways. The choices made now will lay the foundation for their next steps, whether that be college, an apprenticeship, or another post-16 opportunity. At Carrington School, our motto 'Ad Astra' reminds us that every student should reach for the stars, and our core values of Aspire, Innovate, and Respect guide everything we do.

Making the Right Choices

Over the past few years, our curriculum has continued to evolve to ensure it meets national expectations while, most importantly, reflecting the needs, strengths and aspirations of our students.

As you consider, with your young person, their options, it is important to be mindful of keeping the curriculum broad and balanced. A wide range of subjects helps to develop different skills, keeps future pathways open, and ensures they are well prepared for further study, apprenticeships or employment.

We encourage students to choose subjects that they both enjoy and are successful in. Interest and aptitude are powerful drivers of achievement. When you are motivated and confident in a subject, you are far more likely to thrive. At the same time, it is wise to think carefully about maintaining a balance across different subject areas, so that you continue to build a strong academic foundation alongside your personal interests.

Our aim is to support every student in creating a programme of study that is ambitious, engaging and suited to their individual strengths; keeping doors open while allowing them to flourish.

Exciting Course Opportunities

We are proud to continue offering a **broad and dynamic curriculum**, with exciting new opportunities:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Animal Care | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hair & Beauty |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dorking Wanderers Football Academy – BTEC Sport & Training Award | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Esport | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health & Social Care |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further Maths ¹ | |

These courses, alongside our existing options, ensure that every student can find subjects that match their **interests, talents, and aspirations**.

¹ Available as a tenth subject and will require students to study in period 7

Supporting Your Young Person's Journey

At Carrington School, we have high expectations for all our students. We want them to thrive, achieve, and aspire to reach their dreams. Over the coming weeks, they will receive guidance and advice from:

- Mrs Basso (Deputy Headteacher)
- Mrs Pearce (Careers Lead)
- Tutors

As parents and carers, your role is invaluable. Talking through options, encouraging informed choices, and ensuring a balanced curriculum will help students set themselves up for success. Good grades across a range of subjects open doors to future opportunities, so as already mentioned, it is vital that students choose subjects they enjoy and excel in, giving them the best chance to achieve their target grades and future goals.

This is an exciting time for Year 9 students, and I feel privileged to be part of their journey. Watching them grow, challenge themselves, and step confidently into their GCSE studies is truly inspiring. We want every student to aspire to greatness, innovate in their learning, and respect the journey ahead.

Let's make this next step a positive, ambitious, and successful one. Ad Astra – Reach for the Stars!

Best Wishes



Mrs 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 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 23 March 2026. 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 pathway (Aspire or Innovate) and this will determine which Option courses are available to them.

Students' choices will be made online, the link to this will be emailed to your young person on 27 February 2026. Students have until 23 March 2026 to complete their Option choices, and after this date, students will not be able to edit their choices. Innovate 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 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

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 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

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

Bold denotes compulsory Core Courses

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

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

Bold Italics*** denotes courses only available to invited 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)

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

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/agriculture-environment-and-animal-care>

Art & Design – Fine Art

[Watch
the video](#)

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

Art GCSE is the development of practical, technical and communication skills. Creating art can help express emotions and reduce anxiety. Art is an adventure that builds your self-esteem. Throughout the course you will take risks with ideas and art materials, learn from your mistakes and discover new skills. You will complete three projects over the two-year course; each will allow you to research and develop your own ideas. There is no written examination, both coursework projects and the exam project are prepared and finished in your art room. Final pieces can be paintings, sculptures, prints, mixed media and on any scale!

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. Art will help you to develop your hand eye coordination. You will learn how artists tell imaginary and historical stories through their art.

What will I study?

Students will produce work based on two themed projects. They explore a wide range of art materials, learning new techniques before researching and developing their own ideas. The course is structured around four assessment objectives designed to give students a broad set of creative skills, including investigating and recording, experimenting with materials, 3D construction, clay, painting in watercolour and acrylic, printmaking, digital image manipulation, and drawing with charcoal, pastels, ink and mixed media. A key element of developing ideas is students' own photography. We encourage them to look at the world with fresh eyes, explore ideas through a creative journey, and present unique, personal outcomes they can feel proud of.

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Eduqas (WJEC)

Specification Code: 3651QS

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](#)

Art & Design – Textile Design

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: Mrs V Kendall, Head of Faculty, Design Technology and Art
(vkendall@carringtonschool.org)

If you love being hands-on, creative, and original, Textile Design is the perfect choice for you. This is a course built for makers, designers, experimenters, and anyone who enjoys turning ideas into real, tangible outcomes. Get ready to spend most of your time making. This GCSE is packed with practical work - you'll be learning new techniques and processes all the time, from fabric manipulation and printmaking to hand embroidery, machine stitching, construction skills, and more. There's no written exam. Instead, you'll use short bursts of writing only when it's genuinely useful, including annotation to explain your ideas and artist and designer research to inspire your next steps.

If you choose this course you cannot also choose Art.

Why study Textiles?

The textile and fashion industry is one of the biggest industries in the world. It's worth trillions, employs millions of people, and influences everything from what we wear to how our homes look. Every shop you walk past, every outfit on TV, every sports kit, costume, carpet, curtain, and piece of upholstery - it all comes from the textile industry. By choosing this course, you're stepping into a field that is constantly growing, constantly changing, and full of exciting possibilities. Textiles opens doors to a huge range of exciting careers or simply to a fantastic, relaxing hobby for life.

Textiles isn't just about making beautiful things - it's about building transferable skills that matter in everyday life and stay with you forever. You'll develop:

- Problem-solving
- Creativity and innovation
- Independence and project management
- Confidence in working with tools, materials and equipment

What will I study?

One of the best things about this course is how much freedom you have. Your first lessons will build your confidence with the sewing machine - you are not expected to be an expert already. Your projects will grow from your own ideas, and your final pieces can be almost anything you can imagine, including:

- Clothing that you design and construct
- Soft furnishings like cushions or wall hangings
- Jewellery made from textiles and mixed media
- Bags and accessories that show off your style

This is your chance to build a portfolio that reflects *you*.

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

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/creative-and-design>

Contact: **Mr Lockhart, Deputy Headteacher**
(mlockhart@carringtonschool.org)

GCSE Business introduces you to how real businesses operate and the decisions they make every day. You will learn to think like an entrepreneur, develop commercial awareness and analyse real-world business scenarios. Throughout the course, you will explore two key themes.

Why study Business?

GCSE Business helps you understand the world you live in. Every day, decisions made by entrepreneurs, companies and consumers shape the products we use, the jobs we do and the economy around us. Studying Business gives you the knowledge and confidence to make sense of these decisions, and to make better ones yourself.

You will learn how businesses start, grow and succeed, and explore key areas such as marketing, finance, operations and human resources. Whether it's investigating why some brands become global giants or analysing what makes a great leader, you'll gain practical insight into how real organisations work.

What will I study?

Theme 1: Investigating Small Business

- How small businesses identify opportunities and spot gaps in the market
- What makes an entrepreneur successful and the risks and rewards involved in business
- How businesses understand customers and develop effective marketing strategies
- How small firms manage finance, including revenue, costs, profit and cash flow
- How external factors - such as competition, technology and the economy - influence business decisions

Theme 2: Building a Business

- How growing businesses develop strong brands and effective marketing mixes
- How organisations recruit
- How operations are managed, including production processes, quality control and supply chains
- How financial data is used to make decisions and measure business performance
- How strategic choices and global influences affect larger, expanding businesses

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Edexcel

Specification Code: 1BSO

Qualification: Edexcel Level1 / Level2

Grades: 9-1

Tiers: One

Assessment: 100% Examination

Paper 1: 50%

Paper 2: 50%

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

[Advertising, Marketing & Public Relations](#)

Computer Science

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: Mrs K Gray, Interim Subject Leader, Computing
(kgray@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.

The digital industry is growing with new jobs being developed. A Computer Science qualification can open many doors to many areas of the industry.

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: OCR

Specification Code: J277

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](#)

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/digital>

Design & Technology: Product Design

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: **Mr A Mitchell** or **Mrs K Kirven**, Teachers of Technology
(amitchell@carringtonschool.org or kkirven@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](#)

Digital Information Technology

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: Mrs K Gray, Interim Subject Leader, Computing
(kgray@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.

This course is an alternative to those that want to focus more on the planning and implementation aspect of Computer Science and less on coding and hardware. As mentioned earlier the digital sector welcomes those with such skills.

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 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

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](#)

Dorking & Carrington Football Academy

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: Miss A Measures, BTEC Sport & George Broad, Senior Academy Coach
(ameasures@carringtonschool.org & gbroad@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, trips to watch fixtures, IDPs / S&C Programmes & Analysis!

You will study BTEC Sport which 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. Students have the opportunity to deliver high quality coaching sessions which requires high levels of confidence and will learn how to develop fitness in relation to different sports/lifestyles.

If you choose this course, you cannot also choose Sport.

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 every day 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, PE teacher, professional sports person, physiotherapy and many others.

What will I study?

- Professional coaching with UEFA qualified coaches
- Matches and training facilitated by Dorking Wanderers FC staff
- BTEC Sport – 3 components, 2 controlled assessments (60%); 1 external exam (40%)
- Season tickets to Dorking Wanderers First Team & U23 games
- Opportunities to develop experience in analysis, coaching and refereeing
- Trips to first team fixtures

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson

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>

[Careers in Football and Sport - UCFB](#)

Contact: **Mr B Stafford, Senior Leader**
(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 Aspire 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

[Careerpilot : Jobs by subject](#)

Contact: **Mr J Cooke, Teacher of Engineering**
(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: 5799QA

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: **Mr B Stafford, Senior Leader**
(bstafford@carringtonschool.org)

The Esports BTEC is an exciting and innovative qualification designed for young people who are passionate about gaming and interested in pursuing a career in the rapidly growing esports industry. This course provides a comprehensive understanding of the esports ecosystem, combining practical skills with theoretical knowledge to prepare students for various roles within the industry.

Why study Esports?

If you are interested in the gaming industry and want to open opportunities to work in this area in the future, this course will give you a good foundation of knowledge to assist your post 16 pathway.

Whether you aim to become a professional gamer or leverage your skills in another industry, this course provides a solid foundation for your future.

What will I study?

- **Strategic Thinking and Planning:** Learn how to develop and implement strategies for competitive gaming, including team management and game analysis.
- **Communication and Teamwork:** Enhance your ability to communicate effectively and work collaboratively with others.
- **Event Management:** Gain hands-on experience in organising and managing esports events, from small local tournaments to large-scale international competitions.
- **Marketing and Promotion:** Understand the principles of marketing and how to promote esports events and teams, including social media strategies and content creation.
- **Technical Skills:** Develop technical expertise in areas such as live streaming, broadcasting, and using gaming hardware and software.
- **Critical Thinking and Problem Solving:** Improve your ability to think critically and solve problems quickly.
- **Leadership and Management:** Learn how to lead and manage teams effectively, a valuable skill in any career path.

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson

Specification Code: 603/5803/8

Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Award

Grades: Distinction to Pass

Assessment: 100% coursework

Tiers: One

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

[Explore Career Pathways in esports](#)

Contact: Mrs H Razii-Ryall, Subject Leader, French
(hrazii-ryall@carringtonschool.org)

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

Students will develop their listening and reading skills and **will learn 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. Studying French at GCSE can offer numerous benefits to students both academically and personally.

Learning French can enhance your ability to communicate with many people both in personal and professional contexts.

Studying French provides insights into the rich cultures, traditions and history of French-speaking countries, fostering a greater appreciation for diversity and global citizenship.

In an increasingly globalised world, being multilingual can enhance your employability. It also improves cognitive abilities, problem-solving skills and memory.

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: 8652

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: **Miss S Osborne, SENCO**
(sosborne@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)

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, but 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

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](#)

Hair & Beauty

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: **Mrs V Magnani, Instructor of Hair & Beauty**
(vmagnani@carringtonschool.org)

Studying the Pearson BTEC Level 1 Introductory Diploma in Hair and Beauty can open the door to a fulfilling and creative career in the Beauty industry. It can give you the opportunity to develop a range of skills in the hair and beauty sector and support your progression on to further study.

Why study Hair & Beauty?

The course provides a solid foundation in hair and beauty practices, including essential techniques and knowledge needed for further studies or entry-level work in the industry. The beauty industry is always in demand, offering a variety of career paths such as hairdressing, beauty therapy, makeup artistry, and more. This diploma can be a stepping stone to those opportunities. The course includes hands-on practical training, allowing you to gain real-world experience and develop your skills in a supportive learning environment.

What will I study?

You have to study 10 Units. 4 units from **Core Skills** and 6 units from **Sector Skills**.

Core units include:

- Being Organised
- Developing a Personal Progression Plan
- Working with Others
- Researching a Topic

Sector Skills include:

- Finding out about the Hair and Beauty Industry
- Responding to a Hair and Beauty Theme
- Contributing to Salon-Related tasks
- Looking after Customers
- Carrying out a Treatment
- Demonstrating Nail Art
- Demonstrating Make-up Techniques
- Demonstrating Hair Styling

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson

Specification Code: 603/4883/5

Qualification: BTEC Tech Award Level 1

Grades: Distinction* to Pass

Assessment: Units are assignment based with no end of year exam.

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

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/search-results?searchTerm=hair+and+beauty>

Health & Social Care

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: Mrs P Frost, Subject Leader, Health & Social Care
(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

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/health-and-science>

History

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: **Mr A Thirkill, Subject Leader, Humanities**
(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: Medicine and the development of Surgery in WW1** - 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: Superpowers and the Cold war / Early Elizabethan England** - 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: The USA 1954-1975: Crisis at home and abroad** - 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

Specification Code: 1HI0

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](#)

Hospitality & Catering

[Watch
the video](#)

Contact: **Mr H Powell, Subject Leader, Food**
(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. Please note, students opting for this course will be required to take part in weekly practical work.

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: 5409

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](#) | [Hospitality management](#) | [Business owner](#)

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers/job-sector/catering-and-hospitality>

Contact: Miss F Deane, Subject Leader, Performing Arts
(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 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 J Henderson-Jones, Subject Leader, Music**
(jhenderson-jones@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 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 can 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, 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

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)

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 create live performance.

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, examining how a performance got from page-to-stage in written coursework.

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 based around a Pearson set assignment.

Component 3: Performing to a brief

Students create a devised performance in response to a set brief released from the exam board at the end of Year 11.

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson

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)

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.

Students will be expected to take part in up to two period 7 classes held with professional dance teachers covering technique and performance skills.

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

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 \(nyfa.edu\)](#)

Contact: **Mrs K Gray, Assistant Headteacher**
(kgray@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 Aspire Pathway are invited to apply for this course.

Why study Psychology?

Are you fascinated by how the mind works and why people behave the way they do? Psychology offers an exciting chance to explore topics like criminal behaviour, memory, personality, and social influences, helping you understand yourself and others better.

You'll learn to analyse data, think critically, and solve problems, all while improving communication and teamwork through discussions and experiments.

Psychology also opens doors to a wide range of careers, from clinical psychology and teaching to law, marketing, and counselling. Whatever your goals, the skills you gain here are a solid foundation for the future.

If you're ready for a subject that's fascinating, practical, and life-changing, choose GCSE Psychology. Discover the science behind behaviour and take your first step into an exciting field of study!

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)

Contact: **Miss A Tariq, Interim Subject Leader, RE**
(atariq@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.

Why Study Religious Studies?

Do you enjoy exploring life's big questions? GCSE Religious Studies is your chance to dive into fascinating discussions about morality, the meaning of life, and the diverse beliefs that shape our world. You'll develop your own ideas while understanding and respecting the views of others.

This subject encourages critical thinking and writing and opens the door to thought-provoking debates. Students especially love our lively class discussions, with the option to join the afterschool Debating Society to hone your skills even further.

Religious Studies is highly valued by top universities and colleges for the way it nurtures analytical and communication skills. It's also a pathway followed by many successful leaders, including several past Prime Ministers. So, if you're ready to explore the important issues in life and gain skills that will set you apart, expand your mind, strengthen your voice, and prepare for a bright future, then Religious Studies is for you!

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 11.**

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson

Specification Code: 1RB0

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: Miss A Measures, Subject Leader of Girls PE
(ameasures@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. Students have the opportunity to deliver high quality coaching sessions which requires high levels of confidence and will learn how to develop fitness in relation to different sports/lifestyles.

If you choose this course, you cannot also choose Dorking & Carrington Football Academy.

Why study Sport?

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

Students will learn how to maintain a healthy, active lifestyle, become competent on being a coach and can evaluate others performance in sport/physical activity.

What will I study?

Component 1: Preparing participants to take part in sport and physical activity (30% coursework)

Component 2: Taking Part and improving other participant's sporting performance (30% coursework)

Component 3: Developing fitness to improve other participant's performance in sport and physical activity (40% external exam)

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson

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

[Careerpilot : Jobs by subject](#)

Contact: **Mrs S Robinson, Subject Leader, Science**
(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 Aspire Pathway are invited to apply for this course.

Why study Triple Science?

Triple Science units contain several 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, the Haber process and the contact process, polymers and how they are used.
- **Physics:** medical applications of physics Nuclear Fusion and Fission, gears, lens astronomy, buoyancy and water pressure

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson

Specification Code: 1BI0 / 1CH0 / 1PH0

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)

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

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: **Mr S Barker & Miss A Measures, Subject Leads, Physical Education**
(sbarker@carringtonschool.org & ameasures@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 and active lifestyle. 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 the student.

There are four pathways that the students have the option to pick from.

1. Invasion activities: such as football, rugby and basketball
2. Invasion/net activities: such as football, badminton and volleyball.
3. Aesthetic/net activities: such as dance, HRF and badminton
4. Aesthetic activities: such as dance, yoga and fitness.

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 students will take 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)

This course offers students an opportunity to read a wide range of fiction and non-fiction extracts as well as produce 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://englishandmedia.co.uk/projects/what-jobs-do-people-with-an-english-degree-end-up-doing/>

<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)

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 a variety of textual interpretations.

What Will I study?

You will study four key texts:

- 'Romeo & Juliet' by William Shakespeare
- 'Dr Jekyll & Mr Hyde' by Robert Louis Stevenson
- 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley
- Power & Conflict Poetry

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8702

Qualification: GCSE

Grades: 9 to 1

Tiers: One

Assessment: 100% Examination

Paper 1:

Paper 2:

Shakespeare & 19th
Century Novel **40%**

Modern Texts & Poetry **60%**

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

<https://www.indeed.com/career-advice/finding-a-job/english-literature-jobs>

<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)

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.

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

What Will I study?

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

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: Pearson

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. Two calculator and one non-calculator.

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

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

[Home - Maths Careers](#)

Further Maths

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

This course offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the Key Stage 4 curriculum and is intended as an additional qualification to GCSE Mathematics, rather than as a replacement. The content assumes prior knowledge of the Key Stage 4 Programme of Study. *We will contact the families of eligible students during the summer term to offer the option, and this will include an afterschool session during Yr 11.*

This course is only suitable for students who are expected to achieve, grades 7, 8 and 9 in GCSE mathematics and are likely to progress to A-Level study in Mathematics and possibly Further Mathematics.

Why Study Further Maths?

This qualification fills the gap for high achieving students by developing their higher order mathematical skills, particularly in algebraic reasoning, in greater depth.

What Will I study?

Number
Algebra
Coordinate Geometry (2 dimensions only)
Calculus
Matrix Transformations
Geometry

Further Mathematics enables students to:

- Develop higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem-solving skills.
- Develop a greater depth and breadth understanding in algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject
- It also introduces calculus and matrices and develops further skills in trigonometry, functions and graphs.

COURSE INFORMATION

Board: AQA

Specification Code: 8365

Qualification: GCSE

Grades:

Higher: 9 to 5

Tiers: One

Assessment: 100% Examination

Papers: Two papers of the same duration, 1 hour 45 minutes, equally weighted. One calculator and one non-calculator.

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

This course will prepare students to fully maximise their potential in further studies in the A level courses in Mathematics and Further Mathematics

Personal Development

Contact: Ms N Dietrich, Subject Leader, Personal Development
(ndietrich@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

▪ Who can help me make my decisions?

- You can send an email to Mrs Pearce (jpearce@carringtonschool.org) or Mrs Basso (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 26 February 2026

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

The deadline for the submission of your choices online is 23 March 2026. The choices that you make will be checked by Mrs Basso, Mrs Pearce, your Heads of Year. 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 July.

▪ Will I get all my first-choice courses?

Most students can 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

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

It is 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.

▪ 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.

▪ 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 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 listed below. To help with Option decision making, all students will all be given access to the careers platform Unifrog which can help as detailed below.



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

CareerPilot

A great careers site that can help you to understand where studying particular subjects can take you in the future. If you want some inspiration on what careers might be right for you try out the Buzz Quiz which links your personality type to different jobs.

[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 careers. [Destination STEM](#) and [Home - Not Just Labcoats](#) are useful websites to provide more information about the wide range of careers 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 can 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

▪ **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.

▪ **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.

▪ **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.

▪ **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.

▪ **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.



Our Pathways Your Choices

Aspire Pathway

<p>Block A</p> <p>Choose ONE from this column</p>	<p>Free Choice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose 3 from this column. Do not choose the same as Block A You can choose Dorking & Carrington Football Academy as a single or double option 	<p>Optional</p>
<p>Computer Science</p> <p>French</p> <p>Geography</p> <p>History</p> <p>Triple Science</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Animal Care Art & Design: Fine Art Art & Design: Textiles Business Computer Science Design & Technology: Product Design Digital Information Technology Dorking & Carrington Football Academy Economics Engineering Esports French Geography Hair & Beauty Health & Social Care History Hospitality & Catering Media Studies Music Performing Arts: Acting Performing Arts: Dance Psychology Religious Studies Sport Triple Science 	<p>Further Maths</p> <p>Final selection will depend on Maths ability</p>

Our Pathways Your Choices

Innovate Pathway

Block A	Free Choice	
Future Learning Certificate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Animal Care• Art & Design: Fine Art• Art & Design: Textiles• Business• Computer Science• Design & Technology: Product Design• Digital Information Technology• Dorking & Carrington Football Academy• Engineering• Esports• French	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Geography• Hair & Beauty• Health & Social Care• History• Hospitality & Catering• Media Studies• Music• Performing Arts: Acting• Performing Arts: Dance• Religious Studies• Sport

