

CARRICKFERGUS LEARNING COMMUNITY



CLC

**Subject Choices Booklet
2026— 2028**

Carrickfergus Learning Community - C.L.C.

What's on offer

The post-primary schools in Carrickfergus collaborate to widen the choice of subjects available for sixth form pupils to study by offering students from the other schools specific courses subject to availability.

All courses are CCEA unless otherwise stated

At **Carrickfergus Academy, Senior Site**, Students may study:

- English Lit (AS/A2) Page 4
- Government and Politics (AS/A2) Page 5
- History (AS/A2) Page 6
- ICT (CTEC Level 3 Introductory Diploma) Page 7
- Life and Health Sciences (AS/A2) Page 8
- Media Studies (WJEC AS/A2) Page 9
- Sport (BTEC Level 3 National Extended Cert.) Page 10
- Technology & Design Product Design (Eduqas) Page 11
- Tourism (WJEC Eduqas-L3 Applied Extended Cert) Page 12

At **Carrickfergus Grammar School** Students may study:

- Accounting (AQA A2) Page 15
- Chemistry (AS/A2) Page 16
- French (AS/A2) Page 17
- History (AS/A2) Page 18
- Mathematics (AS/A2) Page 19
- Nutrition and Food Science (AS/A2) Page 20
- Religious Studies (A2) Page 21
- Sociology (WJEC AS/A2) Page 22

At **Ulidia Integrated College** Students may study:

- Business Studies (CTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate) Page 24
- History (AS/A2) Page 25
- Photography (AQA A2) Page 26
- Performing Arts (CCEA AS/A2) Page 27

NB All information about courses available in the Carrickfergus Learning Community is correct at the time of printing. Students should be aware that there may be unavoidable changes at a later date.

Overview

The English Literature course at Carrickfergus Academy follows the CCEA programme of study and offers students the exciting opportunity to study a range of texts, building their critical thinking and analytical essay writing skills, which are so important for university level study. To undertake the course, although it is useful for students to have studied GCSE English Literature, it is not a requirement – however, it would be important to have attained at least a C grade (preferably a C*) in GCSE English.

YEAR 13

Students will study two AS units covering Drama, Prose and Poetry texts.

UNIT 1:

SECTION A Chosen Texts: Select Poetry from Elizabeth Jennings & Philip Larkin. Assessment: Open Book Examination (1 Hour) Larkin and Jennings' poetry is gritty and self-reflective, covering themes such as relationships, death and isolation.

SECTION B Chosen Text: Arthur Miller - The Crucible. Assessment: Closed Book Examination (1 Hour) Miller's short, gripping play is set during the Salem witch trials and draws parallels with the McCarthy era in America in the mid 1950's.

UNIT 2: Chosen Text: Mary Shelley - Frankenstein. Assessment: Closed Book Examination (1Hour) Frankenstein is a classic gothic horror tale, dealing with themes such as alienation, secrecy and ambition.

YEAR 13

At A2 level, students build on the skills taught at AS to prepare for two exam components and one extended piece of coursework.

UNIT 1: Chosen Text: William Shakespeare's Othello. Assessment: Closed book examination (1 Hour 30 Mins) Shakespeare's tragedy introduces the reader to a world of betrayal, deceit and murder, and a masterful villain who you love to hate.

UNIT 2: Chosen Text: William Blake – Prescribed Poems. Assessment: Closed Book Examination (1 Hour) Blake's poetry addresses themes of vocation, religion and the power of art.

UNIT 3: Chosen Texts: Margaret Atwood – The Handmaid's Tale & Kazuo Ishiguro Never Let Me Go. Assessment: Coursework (2500 words) These modern dystopian fictions deal with issues of love, rebellion, and identity, as individuals struggle to confront the internal and external conflicts created by the societies in which they live.

Careers

In combination with other A-Levels, English Literature can lead to a host of different career paths. Some of our past pupils have gone on to become: Business Managers, Teachers / Lecturers, Nurses, Police Officers, Advertising Executives, Journalists, Solicitors, Publishing Copy-Editors, Writers, Social Workers, Public Relations Officers, Designers, Architects, Civil Servants.

Government and Politics

Examining Board: CCEA

AS/A2

Length of Course: **1/2 years**

Overview

The study of Government & Politics provides pupils with relevant and stimulating material aimed at developing their skills and critical awareness of political ideas, institutions, and processes. Students will gain a detailed knowledge of Northern Irish, British and American Politics. The course encourages students to explore and examine their own values and beliefs, and to reflect on how laws are made for the society in which they live. Study visits throughout the course will give students the opportunity to share their views with local politicians, influencing how decisions that effect their lives are made.

What do I need to know before taking the course?

You do not need to have studied Politics for GCSE in order to take AS or A2 level Government and Politics. It is more important to have an enquiring and lively mind, along with an interest in politics and current affairs, a desire to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

What kind of student is this course suitable for?

This course will appeal to those students who:

- Enjoy voicing their opinions, debating current affairs and political issues
- Like doing a subject that affects their everyday lives
- Have a keen appreciation of the need to participate in society
- Aren't afraid of dealing with controversial matters

Course Structure

All papers are a combination of short structured answers and more extended writing

Module	Assessment	Assessment weighing
AS 1: The Government & Politics of N. Ireland	1hr 15 min Exam	40% of AS 16% of A2
AS 2: The British Political Process	1hr 45 min Exam	60% of AS 24% of A2
A2 1: Comparative Government UK/USA	2 hour 15mins Exam	35% of A2
A2 2: Political Ideas	1 hour 30 Mins Exam	25% of A2

Careers

Skills: Aside from preparing students for specific fields of employment, Government & Politics teaches many transferrable academic skills such as the ability to properly formulate and communicate effective argument, along with the capacity to solve problems, think analytically, critically and logically.

Careers: Anyone who would like to study Politics further or interested in careers such as Law, Journalism, Media, Social work or any kind of Public Administration should consider studying Government and Politics.

Entrance requirements

A minimum of a GCSE Grade C in English is required to study the course

Available to study at Carrickfergus Academy—Senior Site

HISTORY

AS/A2 LEVEL

Examining Board: CCEA

Length of Course: 1/2 years

History is one of those disciplines described by some as a “traditional” subject. However, traditional certainly does not mean “outdated” or “unimportant”. The analytical, research and ICT skills required by Sixth Form History students are exactly those deemed as essential for success in a wider range of careers in the modern workplace.

History opens doors to many different University courses and to employment. Employers who see that you have qualifications in History know certain things about you. They will know that you have taken on certain key skills which, learnt through History, can be applied to all sorts of other situations. They know that you have experience in being a group member. You can make sound, informed judgements and decisions, you can understand the difference between reality and propaganda, and you have research and ICT skills.

Module	Assessment
AS 1: Germany 1918-1945 This module will require students to engage in historical enquiry by investigating specific historical questions, problems or issues and use historical sources critically in their context, deploying information and reaching substantiated conclusions.	External 50% of AS 20% of A-level
AS 2: Italy 1817-1943 This module requires students to study significant individuals, societies, events, developments and issues within a broad historical context and how developments affected different groups within the societies from a range of historical perspectives in the chosen period of study.	External 50% of AS 20% of A-level
A2 1: Clash of Ideologies 1900-2000 This module requires students to study change and/or development over a sufficient period and to demonstrate understanding of the process of change both long term (100 years) and short term. Students will be required to demonstrate their breadth of historical knowledge and understanding by making links and drawing comparisons between different aspects of the period, society, topic and themes studied.	External 40% of A2 20% of A-level
A2 2: Partition of Ireland 1900-1925 This unit requires students to engage in historical enquiry by investigating specific historical questions, problems or issues and use historical sources critically in their context, deploying information and reaching substantiated conclusions. Students will be given the opportunity to develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and research them.	External 60% of A2 40% of A-level

Recommended Criteria

GCSE History grade C or above

GCSE English grade C or above

Careers: Teaching, Journalism, Civil Service, Research, Law, Archaeology, Travel & Tourism, Computing, Social and Probation Service, Radio & Television, Psychology, Archivist

Available to study at Carrickfergus Academy—Senior Site

Examining Board: OCR

Length of Course: 2 years

Specification: **Cambridge Technical in IT Introductory Diploma (Level 3)**

Pupils are assessed in 6 coursework units. It is recommended that pupils have studied ICT at GCSE if considering this course. Due to the coursework-based nature of the course it is recommended pupils have at least a C in English to enable them to gain a good grade for their written communication skills. The course is recognised by both Queen's University Belfast and University of Ulster for ICT-based degrees.

Course Content

Year 13

Unit 1 – Communication and Employability Skills for IT

This unit will enable you to create ICT documents for certain audiences. It will also allow you to learn about different personal skills that are essential within the ICT Industry. You will then learn about the different methods of ICT communication and be able to demonstrate ICT skills.

Unit 2 – Information Systems

This unit allows the student to demonstrate the information organisations hold and how this is valuable to an organisation. It will help the student understand the legislation governing information which goes in and out of an organisation and the constraints and limitations that apply to it. Students will discover that if systems are in place, and information held is correct, then the communication within the organisation is a powerful tool and can give any organisation a competitive edge with the use of management information systems.

Unit 27 – Digital Graphics

This unit helps students learn advanced skills in Photoshop, skills that are used in the graphic design industry. Students will complete 4 mini Photoshop tasks demonstrating a range of skills, and then complete a major task—planning, designing and evaluating a variety of graphic design products for a given scenario. In addition, students will learn the theory behind this area of ICT, including the hardware and software used in graphic design and the properties of various file formats and print mediums.

Year 14

Unit 12 – Website Production

This unit will prepare students to design, create and test a fully functioning professional website, that uses a range of advanced and dynamic features. It also provides essential knowledge on the architecture, design and security issues that need to be considered when creating websites.

Pupils use WordPress to create their websites, equipping them with skills that can be used in industry.

Unit 19 – Spreadsheet Modelling

The aim of this unit is to help students understand how spreadsheets can be used to solve complex problems. Students will learn how to create a complex spreadsheet model and to use a range of formulae and functions. They will also learn how to automate and customise their spreadsheet models, the importance of testing spreadsheets for functionality and produce relevant documentation to support the spreadsheet.

Unit 43 – Understanding Social Media for Business

This unit gives students the understanding of what social media is, the scope and impact it has, how it is evolving and the opportunities these platforms provide to businesses when promoting themselves or utilising consumer information. By reviewing business practice, students will be able to identify how to improve service and customer delivery, raise awareness of business and products/services and improve market intelligence to develop a competitive advantage.

Careers: Today nearly every job requires ICT skills. People without ICT skills may find getting employed more challenging. The following are a selection of careers that are possible by studying this specification: Web Designer, Graphic Designer, UI Designer, ICT Technician, Product Designer, ICT Support, Illustrator, Business Analyst, Financial Analyst, Project Manager, Digital Marketing Executive, Social Media and Digital Content Officer, Social Media Manager, Digital Media Assistant etc..

Available to study at Carrickfergus Academy—Senior Site

LIFE & HEALTH SCIENCES

AS/A2 LEVEL

Examining Board: CCEA

Length of Course: 1/2 years

This specification is divided into a total of 6 components for the Single Award qualification, 3 AS and 3 A2 units.

Course Overview:

An industry-driven course, the innovative Life and Health Sciences A-Level has been developed in partnership with industry to foster the essential skills required by this growing sector. This engaging qualification, developed with local employers, will provide learners with numerous pathways into a wide range of STEM careers.

Course Content:

The course is made up of both portfolio units and examinations, with weightings shown in the tables below. Portfolios are experimental write-ups based on practical tasks and research and are internally assessed. The year 14 portfolio task entails a fully referenced research project on a topic selected by the school. All examinations are externally assessed by the exam board. AS contributes to 30% of the A2 final mark.

Units—YEAR 13	Assessment
Unit 1 AS: Experimental Techniques	Portfolio: 13.34% of A level (33.3% of AS)
Unit 2 AS: Human Body Systems	Exam: 13.33% of A level (33.3% of AS)
Unit 3 AS: Aspects of Physical Chemistry in Industrial Processes	Exam: 13.33% of A level (33.3% of AS)

Units—YEAR 14	Assessment
Unit 1 A2: Scientific Method	Portfolio: 20% of A level
Unit 2 A2: Organic Chemistry	Exam: 20% of A level
Unit 5 A2: Genetics, Stem Cell Research & Cloning	Exam: 20% of A level

Entry requirements: At least 5 GCSEs grade C or above, with grade CC in Double Award Science, or grade C* in Single Award Science, or grade C in Biology, Chemistry or Physics GCSE.

Future career opportunities: Caters towards a wide range of careers including Nursing, Radiography, Biomedical Scientist, Biotechnologist, Computational Biologist, Microbiologist, Clinical Research Associate, Laboratory Technician, Industrial Pharmacist, Research Assistant, Bioinformatician, Analytical Chemist, Chemical Engineer, Data Sciences Manager, Epidemiologist, Pharmacologist, Statistician, Toxicologist, Clinical Research Project Manager, Drug Safety Officer and Biomedical Engineer.

Available to study at Carrickfergus Academy—Senior Site

Examining Board: WJEC

Length of Course: **1/2 years**

This specification is divided into a total of 6 components, 3 AS and 3 A2. Weightings noted are expressed in terms of the full A level qualification (AS is in brackets).

About the course:

This course offers candidates a framework through which they can study the distinctive contributions which the mass media make to their understanding and enjoyment of the world in which they live. Through a variety of approaches to the changing media environment students will develop a critical and analytical approach to the range of media texts as well as the media institutions which create and circulate them. Candidates will further explore the kinds of relationships the texts propose with audiences through a range of research, pre-production and production activities.

Components studied in Year 1 – AS Level

1. **Investigating the Media - 35% External Exam**
2. **Investigating Media Forms and Products - 35% External Exam**
3. **Media Production—30% Coursework**

Components studied in Year 2 – A2 Level

1. **Media Products, Industries and Audiences—35% External Exam**
2. **Media Forms and Products in Depth—35% External Exam**
3. **Cross-Media Production—30% Coursework**

Entry requirements:

At least 5 GCSEs grade C or above (one of which must be English). GCSE Media Studies is desirable but **NOT** compulsory. Students will also be expected to have competent ICT skills, particularly in Photoshop, and a keen interest in film, television, radio, print-based media and digital technology.

Future career opportunities can lie in advertising, marketing, journalism, media consultancy, research, sound recording, video/film editing, TV presenting and photo journalism amongst many others.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Sport = 1 A Level**About the course**

Sport is a vocational qualification which aims to provide students with the opportunity to access a career in the sport, health or leisure industries. Assessments are 66% exam and 33% coursework based, and requires learners to engage in regular practicals involving coaching and participation. Assessments will be on a continual basis throughout both years of study. The course builds on topics studied at GCSE level and it will be of advantage to students to have this knowledge and background. It is not, however a condition that students should have followed a course in GCSE PE / BTEC Sport as this course is designed to attract people who generally have a keen interest in physical activity and sport.

Students will:

- be expected to become actively involved in Sports coaching, assisting with sports activities within the Carrickfergus community.
- have the opportunity to work along side PE teachers, gaining experience in the care of children and young people
- gain an extensive knowledge in the areas of Anatomy, Physiology, Nutrition and coaching
- become actively involved in producing healthy lifestyle plans including exercise and nutrition programmes
- become involved in the preparation of sports teams, understanding the importance of both physical and mental aspects of their performance.

The BTEC Extended Certificate in Sport consists of 4 units taught over 2 years

UNIT	Weighting
Unit 1: Anatomy & Physiology (EXAM)	33%
Unit 2: Fitness training & programming for Health, Sport & Well-Being (Pre release Exam)	33%
Unit 3: Professional development in the sports industry	17%
Unit 5: Application of Fitness testing / Unit 7 Practical Sports Performance	17%
*Coaching Programme where they will design and teach PE lessons to P7 pupils from feeder Primary Schools.	Optional

*This is an optional unit for students. While this won't contribute to their overall course grade, it does provide valuable work experience and teaching / coaching experience for those who wish to go onto following these fields of work.

Entry requirements: Due to the written portfolio nature of this course, Sports Studies students should have a grade C or above in GCSE English or equivalent. Students should also either have a grade C or above in GCSE Physical Education or a Merit in BTEC Sport Studies. In the absence of studying GCSE PE or BTEC Sport Studies, students should have achieved a GCSE Science qualification grade C or above and be a participating member of a sports club. Enhanced criteria may be applied in the event of this course being oversubscribed.

Career Pathways: Sports Coaching & fitness, Healthcare (Nursing, physio etc) Sports Science, Teaching (Primary & Post-Primary, Management & business, Events Management, Public Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance), Armed Forces (Army, RAF, Navy)

TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN - 'PRODUCT DESIGN' A LEVEL

Examining board: **EDUQAS**

Length of course: **2 years**

A course in Design and Technology offers an unique opportunity in the Curriculum for Candidates to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products in a wide range of contexts relating to their personal interests. Design and Technology develops candidates interdisciplinary skills and their capacity for imaginative, innovative thinking, creativity and independence.

Component 1: Design and Technology in the 21st Century

Written examination: 3 hours = 50% of qualification

Learners take a single examination in the following endorsed areas: Product Design
The examination includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of:

- Technical principles
- Designing and making principles

along with their ability to:

- analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology.

Component 2: Design and Make Project

Non-exam assessment: approx. 80 hours = 50% of qualification

A sustained design and make project, based on a brief developed by the candidate, assessing the candidate's ability to:

- Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities
- Design and make prototypes
- Analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others.

The design and make project will be based within the same endorsed area as the written examination.

Grade B gained in Product Design GCSE is a basic subject requirement.

Attendance after school and non-contact time will be a pupil obligation due to the coursework aspects of this subject.

If the course is oversubscribed, we will look at the highest graded candidates applying and consult with the Head of Technology.

Careers— being a STEM subject Product Design will provide limitless opportunities for you in today's innovative world, the areas of Design and CAD/CAM are used throughout all industries and the business world.

Available to study at Carrickfergus Academy—Senior Site

TOURISM

LEVEL 3 APPLIED EXTENDED CERTIFICATE

Examining Board: **WJEC EDUQAS**

Length of Course: **2 years**

No prior study of Travel and Tourism is required for this qualification, although a minimum of a grade C in GCSE English would be beneficial in coping with the demands of the specification.

In Year 13 students are introduced into the Travel & Tourism World and have the opportunity to undertake three units which will lead to a Certificate in Tourism.

Unit 1: Global Tourism Industry: This unit is externally assessed by a 1 hour 40 minute exam paper.

Unit 3: Managing the Customer Experience: This unit is internally assessed through a controlled assessment.

Unit 4: Global Destinations: Controlled assessment: This unit is internally assessed through a controlled assessment.

In Year 14 students take three units. The 6 units in total lead to an Extended Certificate in Tourism.

Unit 2: Ireland as a Tourist Destination: Externally assessed through a controlled assessment.

Unit 7: Employment in Tourism and Events: This unit is internally assessed through a controlled assessment

Unit 8: Adapting to Change in the Tourism Industry: This unit is internally assessed through a controlled assessment.

Future Careers

Here are just some future careers using Travel and Tourism: Air Cabin Crew, Cruise Ship Rep, Holiday Rep, Tour Guide, Travel Agent, Tourism Officer/Manager, Careers in Museums/Art Galleries, Careers in Historical Buildings/Monuments, Theatre/Cinema Administration/Management, Outdoor Pursuits Manager, Leisure Club Manager, Tour Operator, Theme Park Manager, Entertainment Manager, Club Manager, Youth and Community Worker.

Studying AS Courses in Carrickfergus Grammar School OVERVIEW

The table below shows the entrance requirements (based on GCSE results) that must be satisfied before any subject is studied at A level at Carrickfergus Grammar School.

Subject	Entrance Criteria (based on GCSE Performance)
Accounting	B or better in GCSE Mathematics
French	B or better in GCSE French and Higher Tier in all components
History	B or better in GCSE History
Mathematics	B or better in GCSE Further Maths / A or better in GCSE M4/ M8 Maths (if Further Maths not studied)
Nutrition and Food Science *	B or better in GCSE Nutrition and Food Science B or better in GCSE Biology
Religious Studies	B or better in GCSE Full Course Religious Studies

*Subjects which are asterisked are subjects which can be taken up at A level, without first having been studied at GCSE. If you have studied the subject at GCSE level, you should have received at least a B grade in it. If you have not studied it at GCSE level, you should have received at least a B grade in the stated allied subject.

A level Sciences

For those students who have studied GCSE Double Award Science—At AS Level, Science is studied as 3 separate subjects: Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Choosing and being accepted for an AS Science class will be limited to those pupils who achieved an AB or better, with an A in Double Award Science in their subject of choice for A level.

Those studying GCSE Single Award Science will not have the option to study a Science at A level.

Examining Board: **AQA**

Length of Course: **2 Years**

Overview

"Money makes the world go round'.... Even the best business ideas get nowhere without sound financial management. So whether you want to work for big business, be the next Richard Branson or have your own small business, a knowledge of financial management is vital.

This Accounting course equips you with the necessary knowledge and skills to be able to assess the performance of all types of business organisations. It will enable you to effectively analyse and evaluate financial data so that you can make judgements, decisions and recommendations about how businesses can manage their financial affairs.

NOTE... the Accounting course is LINEAR – this means it is a 2 year course with no externally assessed AS exam. Only the 2 exams at the end of Year 14 contribute towards the A-level result. However, a school produced grade will still be awarded solely to determine the suitability of continuing to A2 study in Accounting. This grade will be based on an **internally assessed** Accounting paper during the summer exam period (May/June)

Year 13

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. The role of the Accountant | 6. Financial statements of sole traders |
| 2. Types of business organisation | 7. Limited company accounts |
| 3. Double entry bookkeeping | 8. Ratio analysis |
| 4. Verification of accounting records | 9. Budgeting |
| 5. Accounting concepts | 10. Marginal costing |

Whilst the Accounting course is now LINEAR, you will still sit an 'AS' exam at the end of Year 13. This is to give you experience of an A-level Accounting examination, and it will also allow us to ensure that those progressing to A2 study are capable of doing so.

1 written paper: 3 hours / 0% of A level

Year 14

- | | |
|--|--|
| 11. Standard costing and variance analysis | 15. Partnership accounts |
| 12. Absorption and activity based costing | 16. Accounting for limited companies |
| 13. Capital investment appraisal | 17. Interpretation, analysis and communication of accounting information |
| 14. Incomplete records | 18. The impact of ethical considerations |

2 written examinations—each paper is 3 hours and worth 50% of the A level. There is no coursework in this subject.

Careers: If you are focused on further study or a career in accounting, finance, business or banking this course is a great choice. But even if you plan on becoming a professional musician or technical wizard, it's good to know about accounting. That way you'll be able to control your own finances and understand the implications of business propositions.

Examining Board: **CCEA**

Length of Course: **1-2 years**

Overview

A GCE in Chemistry allows you to develop a range of generic skills requested by both employers and universities. It is a challenging subject because it involves a lot of abstract concepts. To solve many problems in Chemistry these concepts have to be understood and linked together in a particular order. This is a skill that you have to learn and develop and for this reason 'A' level Chemistry is quite different to GCSE Chemistry.

Chemistry is taught in a logical sequence of topics. The table below summaries the teaching units, assessment method and weighting.

Unit number	Description	Duration	AS	A2
Unit AS 1 Basic Concepts in Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	Written paper	1 hour 30 min	40%	16%
Unit AS 2 Further Physical and Inorganic Chemistry and Introduction to Organic Chemistry	Written paper	1 hour 30 min	40%	16%
Unit AS 3 Practical Assessment	Practical booklet A 1 hour 15 min Practical booklet B 1 hour 15 minutes		20%	8%
Unit A2 1 Periodic Trends and Further Organic, Physical and Inorganic Chemistry	Written paper	2 hours		24%
Unit A2 2 Analytical, Transition Metals, Electrochemistry and Further Organic Chemistry	Written paper	2 hours		24%
Unit A2 3 Practical Assessment	Practical booklet A 1 hour 15 min Practical booklet B 1 hour 15 minutes			12%

If you would like to study Chemistry you need to be willing to learn new skills and new ways of thinking. It is vital that you have the determination to succeed and have the desire for academic success.

Careers: Chemistry, Environmental Law, Patent Law, Pharmaceuticals, Software design, Space Exploration, Forensic Science, Military Systems, Dentistry, Engineering, Teaching, Research and Development, Biotechnology.

Available to study at Carrickfergus Grammar School

Overview

The French course introduces a range of topics of interest to young people including Relationships, Culture and Lifestyle, as well as Young People and Society and Our Place in a Changing World. It aims to develop their confidence and competence in listening, speaking, reading and writing skills and seeks to promote a critical awareness and a positive attitude towards the society and culture of the target language country and French-speaking countries or communities.

This course provides students with a basis for further study at degree level by preparing them to use the language in both social and professional situations. UK Language graduates work in Business services, Health/Community/Social Services, Public Administration, International organisations, Manufacturing, Wholesale/Retail Sales, Banking/Finance, Education, Hotels and Restaurants.

AS EXAM STRUCTURE

Context 1—Relationships - Family Life and Influences

Context 2—Culture and Lifestyle - Physical well-being, Mental well-being, Interests and Holidays.

Culture—Study of a novel or film chosen from prescribed lists

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1 - Speaking Exam, 11mn (Presentation & Conversation) - 30% of AS & 12% of A2

Paper 2 - Listening, Reading & Use of Language Exam, 2hrs (Listening, reading, translation into English, grammar) - 40% of AS & 16% of A2

Paper 3 - Extended writing Exam, 1hr (1 essay response on set film or novel) - 30% of AS & 12% of A2

A2 EXAM STRUCTURE

Context 1—Young People in Society - Education and Career Planning, Citizenship & Globalisation.

Context 2—Our Place in a Changing World - Equality, Multi-cultural Society, Democracy & Conflict, Sustainable Living.

Culture—Study of a novel and a societal theme chosen from prescribed lists.

ASSESSMENT

Paper 1—Speaking Exam, 15mn (Discussion & Conversation) - 18% of A2 .

Paper 2—Listening and reading Exam, 2h45mn (Listening, reading, summary into English and translation into French) - 24% of A2.

Paper 3—Extended writing Exam, 1hr (1 essay response on set novel) - 18% of A2.

Additional Information

We strive to offer pupils the opportunity to develop further their speaking skills and or confidence by providing sessions with a French assistant.

HISTORY

AS/A2

Examining Board: **CCEA**

Length of Course: **1-2 Years**

Overview

History AS/A2 Level consists of 4 Units all focused within the 20th century. The first 2 Units are studied in Year 13 and are tested by two examinations at the end of that year. A Level History provides pupils with opportunities to develop skills of comprehension, translation, interpretation, analysis and evaluation. Pupils will engage with contemporary source material, analysing their context and validity and will also learn to critique the main interpretations and debates within Nazi (AS) and Irish (A2) Historiography.

AS Course Structure:

AS1: Germany 1919 - 1945 • The Weimar Republic 1919-1929 • The Decline of the Weimar Republic and the Rise of the Nazis • Developments in Nazi Germany 1933-1945	1 hour 30 min exam Source and Interpretations paper 50% AS (20% A Level)
AS2: Revolutionary change in Russia 1914 - 1941 • The Revolutions of February and October 1917 • Lenin's Russia 1917-1924 • Stalin's Rise to Power and Dictatorship 1924-1941 • The Economy 1924-1941	1 hour 30 min exam Structured essays 50% AS (20% A Level)

A2 Course Structure:

AS1: Clash of Ideologies in Europe 1900 - 2000 • The Weimar Republic 1919-1929 • The Decline of the Weimar Republic and the Rise of the Nazis • Developments in Nazi Germany 1933-1945	1 hour 15 min exam One Overview Synoptic Essay (20% A Level)
AS2: Revolutionary change in Russia 1914 - 1941 • The crisis over the 3rd Home Rule Bill up to September 1914 • Political Events 1914-1918 • Developments 1919-1923 • Events in N. Ireland 1921-1925	2 hours 30 min exam Source and Interpretations paper (40% A Level)

Career opportunities

Given the range of these skills, career pathways of all kinds are open to History 'A' Level students. Law, journalism, publishing and broadcasting are commonly pursued as a result. However, many other job opportunities include education, archivists, management, consultancy, the arts and branches of public life such as the Civil Service.

Available to study at Carrickfergus Grammar School

Mathematics is all around us. It exists in the proportions of artistic works, in the scores of our favourite songs and in the physical structures we live and work in daily. It is also the bedrock of many other subjects including the Sciences, Economics and Engineering and is extremely relevant to subjects like Psychology and Design.

Overview

The content of AS & A2 Mathematics builds on the knowledge, skills and understanding established throughout GCSE. At AS and A2 level pupils will study modules both Pure Mathematics & Applied Mathematics. The Applied Mathematics papers will be split equally into the study of Statistics and Mechanics. The A2 Level award is based 40% on the results of the AS level modules and 60% on the results of the A2 Level modules.

AS Pure Mathematics (60% of AS or 24% of A2 level) • Algebra • Geometry • Trigonometry • Calculus AS – Applied Mathematics (40% of AS or 16% of A2 level) • Mechanics • Statistics Assessment: Pure Mathematics examined by a 1 hour 45 minute written paper. Applied Mathematics examined by a 1 hour 15 minute written paper.	A2 Pure Mathematics (36% of A2 level) • Algebra • Geometry • Trigonometry • Calculus A2 – Applied Mathematics (24% of A2 level) • Mechanics • Statistics Assessment: Pure Mathematics examined by a 2 hour 30 minute written paper. Applied Mathematics examined by a 1 hour 30 minute written paper.
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Careers

The study of Mathematics can develop a host of skills that are essential to students continuing in their studies as well as those currently in or entering the workplace. These include problem-solving, logic and reasoning, and attention to detail. Mathematics can also lead to careers in Engineering, Finance, Business, I.T. and Teaching, amongst others.

Examining Board: **CCEA**

Length of Course: **1-2 years**

Overview

A stimulating course which allows the development of a detailed understanding of nutrition and food science.

In the AS units, students will explore the Principles of Nutrition, Diet, Lifestyle and Health. They will develop knowledge and understanding of the key nutrients and their requirements through the life cycle. They will have the opportunity to explore dietary related disorders and how they impact on health. Students who continue to A2 explore Food Quality and Safety, developing an understanding of the importance of securing a safe food supply. All A2 students will select an area of personal interest to study for a research project, which will allow the development of advanced study skills such as critical thinking, problem solving, designing research tools and analytical aptitude to help preparation for higher education or the work of work.

AS Structure:

UNIT 1. Principles of Nutrition

- **The study of the macro and micro nutrients and other dietary constituents.**
- **Protein, Fat, Carbohydrate, Fibre and Water.**
- **Nutritional requirements and current dietary recommendations across the lifespan.**

ASSESSMENT: Exam 1hr 30 mins 50% AS (20% A2)

UNIT 2 Diet, Lifestyle and Health

- The study of current research in relation eating patterns and dietary disorders. energy and energy balance;
- The concept of energy balance.
- Cardiovascular disease, Obesity, Diabetes, Cancer and Physical Activity.

A2 Structure:

UNIT 1 Food Safety and Quality

- Food safety as a public health priority.
- Food contamination by chemicals and micro-organisms.
- Food Additives, Food allergens
- The legislation and controls in place to protect consumers

ASSESSMENT: Exam 2 hrs 30 mins (30% A2)

UNIT 2 Research Based Assignment

- A report on a research based activity (4,000 words)

ASSESSMENT - Coursework (30% A2)

Careers: The course provides a solid foundation for Higher Education. Graduates can follow careers such as Nutrition, Dietetics, Food Design, Food Management and Marketing, Health Promotion, Journalism, Retail Management, Environmental Health, Nursing, Occupational Therapy, Pharmacy and Radiotherapy

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

AS/A2

Examining Board: CCEA

Length of Course: 1-2 Years

Focus	Assessment	Assessment weighing
YEAR 13 AS		
AS2: An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles This module includes a study of the background to Acts, the beginnings of the Christian Church, Growth and expansion of early Christianity as well as a study of Paul the apostle and the broader themes of faith and witness in Acts	1hr 20 min External Exam	50% of AS 20% of A Level
AS7: Foundations of Ethics with Special Reference to Medical Ethics This unit will explore a number of themes and principles that are foundational to religious ethics: ethical foundations, natural law, situation ethics, utilitarianism, developments in bioethics and life and death issues. These issues will be considered in light of wider aspects of human experience and example.	1hr 20 min External Exam	50% of AS 20% of A Level
YEAR 14 A2		
A2 2: Themes in Selected Letters of St Paul This will include Paul's Letters to the Galatians, Corinthians and Ephesians. Pupils will examine the theme: Controversy, Division and Reconciliation in relation to religion and secular society.	2 hour External Exam	50% of A2 30% of A Level
A2 7: Global Ethics This unit explores the contrasts and similarities between religious and non-religious ethics across a range of issues: freewill and determinism, sexual identity, gender justice, war and peace and justice, law and punishment. Pupils will examine the theme: Conscience, Freedom and Tolerance. They will critically evaluate issues pertaining to moral duty, the role of the state and the capacity of religion to promote tolerance and intolerance	2 hour External Exam	50% of A2 30% of A Level

Careers: R.S. can lead to careers within the fields of Law, Teaching, working for an NGO, Social work, Pastoral work, Youth Work and the Ministry. Much of the Ethics component is suited to working in various medical professions.

Available to study at Carrickfergus Grammar School

Examining Board: **WJEC**

Length of Course: **2 years**

Overview

Are you curious about how society works and why people behave the way they do? A-Level Sociology offers you the chance to explore these questions and more. This course delves into the structures, processes and issues that shape our world, from family dynamics and education systems to crime, deviance and social inequality.

Why study A-level Sociology?

- **Engaging Content:** Study real-world issues and current events that impact your daily life, developing your sociological awareness.
- **Critical and Reflective Thinking:** Develop analytical skills to understand and critique societal norms and policies in our contemporary world.
- **Diverse Perspectives:** Gain insights into different cultures, communities and social groups.
- **Future Opportunities:** Open doors to careers in social work, education, research, law, journalism and many others.

AS and A-level Specifications

AS Unit 1 - Acquiring Culture

Section A – What is culture and socialisation?
Section B – Families and Households

AS Unit 2 - Understanding Society and Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Section A – Research Methods
Section B – Society through the lens of Education

A2 Unit 3 - Power and Control

Section A – Society through the lens of Crime and Deviance

A2 Unit 4 - Social Inequality and Applied Methods of Sociological Enquiry

Section A – Applied Research Methods
Section B – Society through the lens of Social Inequality

Assessment

AS Unit 1 –

1 hour 15 minutes external exam paper
37.5% AS and 15% of A-level

AS Unit 2 –

2 hours external exam paper
62.5% of AS and 25% of A-level

A2 Unit 3 -

2 hours external exam paper
25% of A-level

A2 Unit 4 -

2 hours 15 minutes external exam paper
35% of A-level

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Examining Board: OCR

Length of course 1/2 years

The Cambridge Technical in Business has been developed to meet the changing needs of the sector, and prepare pupils for the challenges they'll face in Higher Education or employment.

Designed in collaboration with experts spanning the breadth of the sector, the Cambridge Technical in Business focuses on the skills, knowledge and understanding that today's universities and employers demand. Pupils will practically apply their skills and knowledge in preparation for further study or the workplace.

You will learn how a business might evolve. From a small start-up business to a large multinational organisation, you will consider a range of different business types and gain an understanding of how the choice of business type might affect the objectives that are set. You will also look at the internal workings of businesses, including their internal structure and how different functional areas work together. Plus, by looking at the external constraints under which a business must operate, you will gain an understanding of the legal, financial and ethical factors that have an impact. You will also explore ways in which businesses respond to changes in their economic, social and technological environment; and gain an appreciation of the influence different stakeholders can have upon a business.

The business world places a high value on the ability to research, analyse and evaluate information in order to make considered decisions and you will have the opportunity to gain these vital skills. Alongside this you will develop practical employability skills, including the ability to communicate effectively with both internal

TITLE OF UNIT	ASSESSMENT METHOD	AWARD WEIGHTING
AS Unit 1: The Business Environment	External examination	33% of Overall A Level
AS Unit 4: Customers and Communication	Internal Portfolio	16.6% of Overall A Level
A2 Unit 2: Working in Business	External Examination	16.6% of Overall A Level
A2 Unit 5: Marketing and market research	Internal Portfolio	16.6% of Overall A Level
A2 Unit 16: Principles of Project Management	Internal Portfolio	16.6% of Overall A Level

and external stakeholders, and to manage time effectively.

Possible career choices within the area of business include management, marketing, finance, accounting, banking, retailing, manufacturing and local government.

Entry requirements: Students must have a minimum of a Grade C in GCSE English and Maths. GCSE Business Studies is preferred but not essential. If course is oversubscribed, preference will be given to those students who have Grade Cs and above in GCSE Business Studies.

HISTORY

AS/A2

Examining Board: **CCEA**

Length of course 1/2 years

A Level History is an ideal qualification for those wishing to attend University or begin a career in a History related profession or teaching. During the course, pupils will:

- Develop their interest in and enthusiasm for history
- Draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and understanding
- Organise and communicate their knowledge and understanding in different ways
- Present coherent arguments and make substantiated judgements
- Acquire the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past, carry out research and evaluate conclusions
- Gain an understanding of different ways in which aspects of the past have been interpreted
- Develop higher order thinking skills, such as creative thinking and problem solving.

AS UNITS

TITLE OF UNIT	ASSESSMENT METHOD	AWARD WEIGHTING
AS Unit 1: Historical Investigations and Interpretations <i>Germany 1918-1945</i> 1hr 30min	External written examination. Students answer a short response question and a two-part source question	50% of AS, 20% of A2
AS Unit 2: Historical Conflict and Change <i>Russia 1914-1941</i> 1hr 30min	External written examination. Students answer two questions from a choice of three. Each question has two parts, a short response and an extended essay.	50% of AS, 20% of A2

A2 UNITS

TITLE OF UNIT	ASSESSMENT METHOD	AWARD WEIGHTING
A2 Unit 1: Change over Time <i>The American Presidency 1901-2000</i> 1hr 15min	External written examination. Extended essay question, students answer one question from a choice of two	20% of A2
A2 Unit 2: Historical Investigations and Interpretations <i>Partition of Ireland 1900-1925</i> 2hr 30min	External written examination involving essays and sources. Three source questions. Choice of essays—write one out of two	40% of A2

Entry requirements: Students wishing to enrol on the A level in History should have achieved a minimum of a grade B in History at GCSE.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Examining Board: **AQA**

A2
Length of Course: 2 years

Students will explore relevant workshops in class, research images, artefacts and resources relating to a range of photography, craft and design, from the past and from recent times, including world wide examples.

This should be integral to the investigating processes. Students' responses to these examples must be shown through practical and critical activities that demonstrate their understanding of different styles, genres and traditions. They will have a digital portfolio that can be sent to University and also exhibit two final pieces in the year. NOTE... the Photography course is LINEAR – this means it is a 2 year course with no externally assessed AS exam.

Areas of Study

Students are required to work in one or more area(s) of Photography, such as those listed below. They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas:

- Portraiture
- Landscape photography (working from the urban, rural and/or coastal environment)
- Still life photography (working from objects to or from the natural world)
- Documentary photography, photojournalism
- Fashion photography, experimental imagery & multimedia
- Photographic installation

Year 13 Photography;

Digital Photography Portfolio (150 pages): Short Projects including: Manmade Urbanscape, Archisculpture Collage, Photoshop, Framing Devices and Digital Drawing with Portraits. Compare and contrast essay writing about two photographers styles. Written analysis and notes within the digital portfolio.

A2 Photography

Digital Portfolio (150 pages): A choice of one theme from: Altered Faces, Furniture, Garments, Photo Poetry Montage, Inside & Outside, Plants, Fluid Art and more. Compare and contrast essay writing about specific photographers styles. (Sept to Jan) 60% &

Exam Topic (Feb—May) 40%

Entry Requirements:

Having GCSE MIA or Art & Design would be desirable. An interest or strong enthusiasm for photography is essential and you must be able to get out and about to take photographs. Students who undertake this course will be expected to have access to their own equipment which includes a Camera that shoots RAW and JPEG images, SD card and Expansion Drive. In addition, students will be expected to order final piece photos from a professional print lab.

Available to study at Ulidia Integrated College

PERFORMING ARTS

Examining Board: CCEA

AS/A2

Length of Course: 2 years

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate in Performing Arts

About the Course:

Performing arts is a growth industry in Northern Ireland. This GCE specification gives students opportunities to research and gain insights into the industry, engage with effective practice and prepare for employment, further training and/or study.

You will study the following units:

YEAR 13

AS 1: Developing Skills and Repertoire

A portfolio, including a summary of research, skills audit, record of work, risk assessment, either live performance or production and presentation, and evaluation. Internally assessed and externally moderated. This unit gives students the opportunity to develop one discipline within performing arts (from either Performance or Production) and then apply this discipline in a performance context.

24% of A Level

AS 2: Planning and Realising a Performing Arts Event

Externally set pre-release stimulus material. Externally assessed. Supporting document in three sections under controlled conditions. Live performance and/or presentation. Students interpret this stimulus to create a performing arts event that will draw on existing material. An external examiner will examine each student in their chosen discipline.

16% of A Level

YEAR 14

A2 1: Planning for Employment

A record of work, including a written report in three sections, promotional portfolio and evaluation. This unit gives students the opportunity to develop their understanding of how to find work in their chosen discipline.

36% of A Level

A2 2: Performing to a Commission Brief Externally set pre-release stimulus material.

Externally assessed. A record of work, including a research report, summary of findings, evidence of tasks completed and evaluation under controlled conditions. Live performance and/or presentation. This unit gives students the opportunity to form a production company to realise a performing arts event from an externally set Commission Brief. Students research, promote, plan and perform the event.

24% of A Level

Entry requirements:

Grade C or above in English and prior experience of performing to an audience. Students studying Performing Arts are expected to become actively involved in extracurricular performances and will be required to attend rehearsals out of class time. This will include students being available for occasional afterschool rehearsals.

Career Pathways—Studying Performing Arts can lead to a career on stage, television or film. Other career opportunities are available in make-up, set and costume design and theatre production. It can also lead to careers in teaching and working with children. In addition, there is evidence to suggest that involvement in music, dance and drama can improve concentration, develop self-discipline, self expression and confidence and enhance communication skills.

Available to study at Ulidia Integrated College

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Certificate*Examining Board:* EDEXCEL*Length of course* 1/2 years

The Level 3 BTEC course in Sport is designed to provide a specialist work-related qualification in a range of sectors. The BTEC in Sport has been developed to provide preparation for further education and employment in the field of sport.

- Students will gain the knowledge and skills required for different career pathways in the sports industry.
- Students will have the opportunity to work along side PE teachers, gaining experience in the leading and coaching of children and young people to develop the necessary skills and techniques.
- Students will explore client screening and lifestyle assessment, fitness training methods and fitness programming to support improvements in a client's health and well-being.
- Students will gain an extensive knowledge in the area of anatomy and physiology and how the body responds to sport and physical activity.

Possible career choices within the area of business include management, marketing, finance, accounting, banking, retailing, manufacturing and local government.

TITLE OF UNIT	ASSESSMENT METHOD	AWARD WEIGHTING
Unit 1: Anatomy and physiology	External examination	120
Unit 2: Fitness training and programming for health, sport and well-being	External Examination	120
Unit 3: Professional development in the Sports Industry	Internal Portfolio	60
Unit 4: Sports Leadership	Internal Portfolio	60

** Unit 4 - Students will complete sports leadership or an additional optional unit. This will depend on the Ulidia timetable on a year by year basis.*

Entry requirements: Due to the written portfolio nature of this sport course, students should have a grade C or above in GCSE English. Students should also either have a grade C or above in GCSE Physical Education. In the absence of studying GCSE PE, students should have achieved a GCSE Science qualification grade C and a keen interest in sport, health and fitness. GCSE performance in biology may also be considered.

AVAILABLE RESULTS EXPLAINED

A2 Grade	A-level Equivalents
A*	Distinction*
A	Distinction
B	
C	Merit
D	
E	Pass

CARRICKFERGUS LEARNING COMMUNITY

CONTACT DETAILS

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CLC students enjoying their studies



CLC students on field trip to Murlough Bay

Tourism students mixing work with play



It's pointing the wrong way for a selfie!

'A Quest for Excellence'



Media Studies students
get down to business

Performing Arts
students



‘A Quest for Excellence’

