



ST. CATHERINE'S
COLLEGE

A CHURCH OF ENGLAND ACADEMY



Key Stage 4 Pathways Booklet 2018

GOD'S CHILDREN AT THE HEART
OF EVERYTHING WE DO

We listen, learn and achieve together





CONTENTS

Option choices for September 2018

	Page
Pathways for September 2018	4
Pathways Packages	5
Frequently Asked Questions	6

THE CORE CURRICULUM

English Language and English Literature	8
Mathematics	9
PSHE Education and Citizenship	10
Physical Education	10
Religious Studies	11
Triple Science	11

SUBJECT CHOICES

Art	12
Computer Science	13
Dance	14
Design & Technology	15
Drama	16
Early Years.....	17
Food & Cookery	18
French	19
Geography.....	20
History.....	21
Information Technology/Digital Literacy	22
Mandarin	23
Motor Vehicle	24
Music.....	25
Photography	26
Spanish.....	27
Pathways Form 2018	29
Main Site Ground Floor Plan.....	30
Main Site First Floor Plan	31



Pathways for September 2018

A warm welcome to you at this year's St Catherine's College Pathways Evening.

During their first two years at St Catherine's College, your children have followed a broad curriculum, which has involved a wide range of subjects. This is an exciting time for your children as it is an opportunity to have some choice in what they will study in Years 9, 10 and 11. In Key Stage 4, your children will study fewer subjects, but in greater detail.

Some subjects are compulsory. These are the Core Subjects: English; English Literature; Mathematics; Triple Science—Biology, Chemistry and Physics; Physical Education; Religious Studies; and Personal, Social, Health, Economic Education & Citizenship.

In addition to the compulsory subjects, pupils can choose from a range of others to study based on their recommended pathway; selecting school based and vocational subjects. Please read the information on the next page about the different pathway packages and how to fill in your pathway form.

This booklet outlines the key features of the pathway subjects. Pupils also have the opportunity to speak to the teachers of these subjects to discuss the course on offer in more detail. They can also speak to Mr Watts, Head of Year 8, or Mrs Williams, who oversees the pathway process. Accompanying this booklet is the Pathways Form which pupils should use to express their preferences for the courses they wish to follow at Key Stage 4.

We make every effort to place pupils in their first choice subjects. Occasionally, however, it is impossible to do so. Some subjects such as Food & Cookery and Motor Vehicle take place in specialist rooms and have a limit to the number of pupils that can be accommodated at any one time. Conversely, if a subject does not have sufficient numbers of pupils choosing it, then there is a possibility it will not run. For both of these reasons, **you should think carefully about the subjects you place as reserves.**

It is important that pupils return their form, countersigned by parents, by **Tuesday 27 March 2018**. Completed forms should be returned to **their form tutor**. A copy of the form is included in this booklet and is there as reference.

Once the Pathways Form has been handed in, as you would expect, we will support your child by confirming his/her choices. You will receive a letter from us towards the end of Term 6 to confirm these.

Please note that option amendments will not be considered after Friday 15 June 2018.

Thank you for taking the time to read this Pathways Booklet and for attending the Year 8 Pathways Evening.

S Williams
Director of Support for Learning



Pathways Packages

Purple Pathway	Yellow Pathway	Blue Pathway
English Language English Literature Maths Triple Science: Biology, Physics, Chemistry Religious Studies Physical Education	English Language English Literature Maths Triple Science: Biology, Physics, Chemistry Religious Studies Physical Education	English Language English Literature Maths Triple Science: Biology, Physics, Chemistry Religious Studies Physical Education
Option Subjects ONE choice must be from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • Spanish • Mandarin • History • Geography 	Choose ONE Language <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French • Spanish • Mandarin Choose ONE Humanities subject <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Geography • History 	Motor Vehicle Motor Vehicle takes up TWO Option choices.
TWO choices from the other options available. These can be a language or a humanities subject if the EBacc is going to be followed.	One subject from the other options available.	One subject from the other options available.

Here is a brief overview of each of the packages.

Notes:

- Blue Option: BY INVITATION ONLY as the number of students that can be accommodated is limited.
- Yellow Option: offers the students the pathway to gaining the English Baccalaureate.
- Purple Option: The English Baccalaureate can be followed if both a language and a humanities subject are chosen.



Frequently Asked Questions

How many subjects will I have to choose?

This will depend on your recommended Pathways Package. The yellow pathway package follows the EBacc route. Ideally, pupils on the purple package will also choose EBacc subjects. Pupils who take Motor Vehicle on the blue pathway only need to choose one other option.

Which subjects will I get to choose from?

Again, this will depend on your recommended Pathways Package. Based on which package is recommended, you will have to choose at least one of the following subjects; Art, Drama, Dance, Geography, History, French, Resistant Materials, Mandarin, Computer Science, Information Technology, Spanish, Photography, Early Years, Motor Vehicle, Music.

Do all of the subjects lead to a GCSE or equivalent?

All of the courses lead to a GCSE or the equivalent vocational award (such as BTEC, VCerts or Technical Awards). Please speak to staff in each department to discuss the finer details relating to each subject.

Can I change my mind once I have been allocated my options?

We appreciate that, over the course of the summer term, you may rethink an option and may wish to request a change. If this is the case, please speak to Mrs Williams who will let you know if a change is possible.

Will there be any further opportunities to make changes once in Year 9?

Some students take some time to settle into their course so we won't make any changes during the first month. If at the end of September, you really feel as though you have made a mistake you can speak to Mrs Williams about this, with written parental consent. All changes will be looked at but moves cannot be guaranteed due to class sizes, catch up needed and timetabling. All requests will be looked at on a case by case basis. By 31 December, requests for changes cannot normally be considered.

Can I 'drop' a subject later on in Key Stage Four?

This is not a possibility. All options chosen must be studied through to the end of the course and examinations sat.

What if I already speak another language to at least GCSE level?

There is a possibility you can sit a GCSE in your heritage language. Please speak to Mrs Williams if this is an option you would like to consider to discuss how it will impact your option choices.

Am I guaranteed to get my first choices?

In the vast majority of cases we will be able to give you most of the courses that you have put down, but this is not always possible. Some options are controlled by guidelines that are out of our control. We endeavour to ensure you have all of your choices but, in some circumstances, it is necessary to offer your reserve choice, so you must consider this wisely too.



Frequently Asked Questions Continued

How do I decide which subjects to choose?

Attend the Options Evening.

You've completed the first step! Every option subject is represented. Feel free to walk around the rooms with your parents/carers and speak to staff to find out more about the different courses you are interested in.

Read the options booklet.

The following pages give you important details about each of the courses on offer, including course content, types of assessment and possible progression routes.

Speak to your teachers.

Ensure you speak to the teachers of the subjects you are interested in, your form tutor, Mr Watts and Mrs Williams. Your teachers know you really well and can help you to see whether or not the subject you are considering will be suitable for you.

Speak to your Parents.

Talk through your ideas and plans with your parents. Explain why you want to choose the options that you do. Ensure they know what each subject involves so that they can support you when it comes to homework and your GCSE exams.

Ask for a 1:1 interview.

If you are struggling with making your final choices, a 1:1 interview can be arranged for you to discuss your options with a senior member of staff or your Head of Year. They can help you choose between courses if you are struggling to decide or confirm that those you are choosing are appropriate for you.



The CORE curriculum

English Language and English Literature

WHAT is this subject about?

English Language and Literature aim to encourage pupils to develop knowledge and skills in reading, writing and critical thinking. Pupils are taught how to write in a variety of styles according to purpose, form and audience, using the correct punctuation, spelling and grammar. Through literature, pupils have a chance to develop culturally; read a wide range of texts, including Shakespeare and use their knowledge gained from texts to inform and improve their own writing. In English Literature students will be studying: *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare, *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley or *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens, *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley and the *AQA Poetry Anthology*, focusing on the Power and Conflict section. In addition, English Literature and Language enable learners to listen to and understand spoken language and encourage pupils to use Standard English effectively.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You are assessed through examinations. A total of four exams are taken: two for English Language and two for English Literature.

You must also prepare and deliver a speech which is reported on as part of the qualification.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

A GCSE in English and Mathematics have been the key requirements of virtually all professional careers to date. Therefore, success in these two subjects significantly enhances a person's opportunities post-16, whatever their area of interest or expertise. Post-16 courses are likely to ask for a Level 4 or 5 qualification in English Language in order to sit the higher level courses.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Please speak to Mrs Williams in EN1.





The CORE curriculum

Mathematics

WHAT is this subject about?

Mathematics is the subject that makes sense of the world. It is an interconnected subject in which pupils develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts so that they can select and apply the correct mathematical techniques in order to solve problems. As pupils progress they will gain confidence in independent thinking skills so that they can make deductions and inferences and draw conclusions based on their mathematical reasoning.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

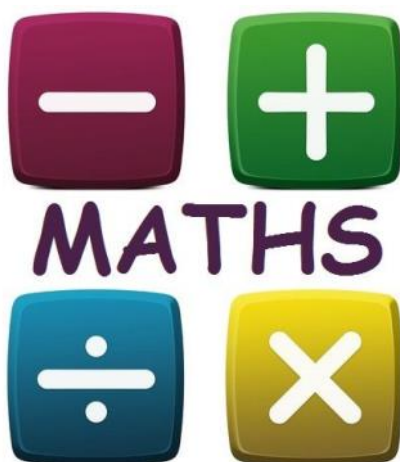
The Mathematics GCSE course is a linear course which means that examination takes place at the end. The assessment takes the form of three examinations totalling 4½ hours. The examinations are a rigorous test to ensure that pupils can comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The Mathematics GCSE is designed to help pupils leave school with a level of confidence and fluency that will provide a genuine foundation for the rest of their learning and working lives. Whether pupils enter a mathematics-based career or not, a good Mathematics GCSE will give them many transferable problem-solving and reasoning skills.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Please speak to Mr de Sousa or Miss Tinkl





The CORE curriculum

PSHE Education and Citizenship

WHAT is this subject about?

Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education (PSHEE) and Citizenship Education provide pupils with opportunities to explore issues not normally covered in academic subjects. Pupils develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in topics such as careers, drug and alcohol awareness, relationships and sexual health, personal finance, global citizenship, democracy and the law.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There is no formal qualification in PSHEE and Citizenship. Pupils self-assess their own progress in the topic.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

PSHEE helps pupils to manage their lives and develop the qualities needed to thrive as individuals, family members and members of society. Citizenship education helps prepare them to play a full and active part in society.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Pittman (npittman@stcatherines.college)



Physical Education

WHAT is this subject about?

PE looks at a number of different practical and theoretical issues around sport; its performance and the effects on the body. As a department the aim is for all pupils to achieve at the end of Year 11 and to develop a life-long love of sport and fitness.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Pupils will complete either the GCSE PE or BTEC Sport pathway. Terms 1 and 2 will determine the route way that pupils take through a series of assessments and tasks designed to determine their preferred learning and assessment style and their suitability for either course. GCSE assessments are carried out throughout Years 9, 10 and 11 with pupils completing the external exam at the end of Year 11. BTEC assessments are on-going with the external exam unit, a key component of the course, being undertaken early in Year 11.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The sports industry continues to grow exponentially. Having hosted the 2012 Olympics and the Rugby World Cup in September 2015 and with the Commonwealth Games being held in Birmingham in 2022, there has never been a better time to be involved in the sports industry. Both courses open doors to a variety of post-16 courses, from teaching to sports management and physiotherapy.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Honeybourne or Mrs Newnham-Reeve





The CORE curriculum

Religious Studies

WHAT is this subject about?

Religious Studies is all about looking at different beliefs, cultures and ethics, to then compare our own beliefs and values. RS is an excellent place to discuss relevant issues, things we know already and others we have never heard of. In RS there is a strong focus on both written and oral work. At GCSE we study in depth the beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions: Christianity and Islam and also four themes, applying religious and non-religious views.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

There are two written examinations taken in Year 11. These examinations will test, not only your detailed religious knowledge and your ability to discuss ethical issues, but also your ability to write effectively and communicate your own viewpoint and the views of others.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

RS is an academic subject with a large emphasis on analytical writing, covering a vast amount of ethical and philosophical content. It requires pupils to have excellent discussion skills, good literacy skills and higher order thinking.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

All further education institutions and universities value qualifications in RS. Colleges like pupils with RS GCSE as they can think for themselves, analyse information and form independent judgements. Typical careers for RS candidates include: a teacher, lecturer, the legal profession, the media, and all local and national government positions.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Preston or Mrs Vickers



Science

WHAT is this WHAT is this subject about?

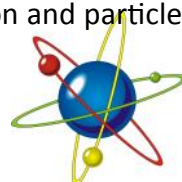
Studying Triple Science will provide the foundations for understanding the material world. Scientific understanding is changing our lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. All pupils will be taught essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They will be helped to appreciate how the complex and diverse natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas relating to the sciences, which are both inter-linked and are of universal application.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

In Year 9 all pupils will start Triple Science. This means pupils will gain three different GCSE qualifications: Biology - the science of living organisms, Chemistry - the science of the composition, structure, properties and reactions of matter and Physics - the science of the fundamental concepts of field, force, radiation and particle structures.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Clayton-Harding or Mrs O'Brien





Art

WHAT is this subject about?

Art and Design is not just about being able to draw. Whilst this is an important aspect of the GCSE, other skills are also developed. A main focal point of the coursework is developing ideas and researching themes, cultures and other artists. You must work in a variety of media and produce final outcomes that link back to your research.

WHY should I choose this subject?

If you are passionate about expressing yourself and coming up with new ideas, then this is the subject for you! You **must** be willing to commit to producing work out of lesson time in order to build up your portfolio and the Art Department is open out of lesson time in order to help with this. You will have to work at home for a few hours a fortnight too. We have strong links with local galleries and like to visit galleries and museums as inspiration for new work.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Controlled assessment accounts for 60% of the final grade. This consists of at least two projects with final pieces. This work is produced from your very first lesson in Year 9 right up until January in Year 11. From then, you prepare ideas for a final piece which you make in the final exam. This is carried out under exam conditions and accounts for 40% of your final grade.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

It is essential to analyse your work and the work of others so good literacy skills are a must. ICT is used regularly as a basis for research but can also be used to produce art work. A positive point of the Art and Design GCSE is that it can incorporate your strengths in other subject areas through the themes you choose to research. Final outcomes do not have to be traditional painting. They can include photography, graphics, textiles, sculpture and a wide variety of other media.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Art and Design can lead to jobs such as a computer game designer, special effects artist, set designer, fashion designer, graphics and web designer, architect or animator. Even if the artistic side of the GCSE is not made use of once the GCSE is finished, the research, innovation, creative thinking and presentation skills learnt can be applied to many other industries.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Bawden, Mrs Templeman, Mr Newham-Bentley or Miss Davies or email questions to cbawden@stcatherines.college



"This is a subject where you can be an individual, express yourself; you can really show off your talents."

Jemma, Year 11

"I enjoyed researching other artists as I got to choose who I wanted to look at."

Macaulay, Year 11



Computer Science

WHAT is this subject about?

GCSE Computer Science gives pupils a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works and is designed to boost computing skills essential for the 21st century. It will give pupils an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many pupils find absorbing. This course has computational thinking as its core, helping students to develop the skills to solve problems, design systems and understand human and machine intelligence. Other topics that pupils will learn about include hardware, software and networks as well as ethical, legal, cultural and environmental concerns.

WHY should I choose this subject?

The course provides excellent preparation for higher study and employment in the field of computer science. The increasing importance of computing technologies means there will be a growing demand for professionals who are qualified in this area.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

This GCSE has a combination of exams and controlled assessments. There are 2 1.5 hour exams, the first is on computer systems and the second is on computational thinking, algorithms and programming. Each exam is worth 40%. There is also one controlled assessment unit (programming project) which is worth 20% of the total mark.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

GCSE Computer Science requires good literacy and numeracy skills. Additionally you should have an interest in problem solving and in using digital technology and programming.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

GCSE Computer Science will develop critical thinking, analysis and problem-solving skills through the study of computer programming. For many pupils, it will be a fun and interesting way to develop these skills, which can be transferred to other subjects and even applied in day-to-day life. In this respect, the course will be an excellent preparation for pupils who want to study or work in areas that rely on these skills, especially where they are applied to technical problems. These areas include engineering, financial and resource management, science and medicine.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Parker or Mr Lau or email questions to kparker@stcatherines.college or rlau@stcatherines.college



"The Internet is becoming the town square for the global village of tomorrow."

Bill Gates



Dance

WHAT is this subject about?

The Dance course allows pupils to develop an insight into and an understanding of a wide range of dance-based activities. These include how to use your imagination and creative skills to express ideas and concepts in choreography; appreciating and critically evaluating professional dance works and developing your performance skills in a variety of different dance genres.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Dance gives you a wide range of physical and intellectual skills. As well as the obvious ones of co-ordination, strength, stamina, flexibility, balance, control, rhythm and exercise, Dance is excellent for improving confidence, developing your communication and social skills and enhancing your ability to appreciate and analyse professional dance works.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The GCSE is all externally marked:

1. Performance = 30%
2. Choreography = 30%
3. Appreciation = 40%.

The appreciation is a one and a half hour written paper testing your knowledge of professional dance works and of your own performance and choreography.

You **must** be comfortable with performing.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

As Dance is a performance subject, Art and Drama would be helpful as well as P.E. for a good level of fitness. The Dance syllabus requires you to produce written work analysing professional dances as well as explaining your own performance and choreography skills so you will find that a good level of literacy would be helpful.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Aside from becoming a dancer, you could go on to combine it with other art forms and take a Performing Arts qualification. You could become involved in areas of the theatre such as lighting design, choreography, stage management, set or costume design or you could work in arts administration, arts education or become a teacher or dance critic for a major newspaper.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Miss McQueen or Mrs Ayling



Year 11 pupils performing at Awards Evening at the De La Warr Pavillion in Bexhill



Gifted and Talented group waiting to perform at the Sussex Schools Performance evening at Brighton University



Gifted and Talented pupils performing at the Sussex Schools Performance evening at Brighton University



Design and Technology



"I enjoy Technology because it teaches you more than just making something, for example you learn to believe in your own abilities."

Alex, Year 11



"I like Technology because I learn best when I'm in lessons that are practical."

Matt, Year 11

WHAT is this subject about?

Design and Technology is a subject based on skills that are learnt and undertaken to create quality products using materials such as wood, metal and plastic. It will also incorporate drawing skills in order to be able to design these products. This includes free hand sketching and formal line drawing, as well as using computers to draw and create designs.

WHY should I choose this subject?

You will learn very important life skills such as lateral thinking, problem-solving, independent learning, time management and creative thought. These skills will help you whatever career path you take in life. The course will include a wide range of learning activities and projects, using a huge range of tools in the workshops, including CNC machining, lathe work, brazing, woodwork and metalwork tools. The practical aspect of Design and Technology creates 'once in a lifetime' opportunities to learn a wide range of practical skills. There are two well equipped workshops and a well-equipped computer room to work in.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The timed exam will be in June of Year 11. Design folder work will be assessed in combination with made work during Year 11 and this will be teacher assessed. Work will be regularly assessed throughout Year 9 and 10 so that staff and pupils can determine progress and 'gaps' in learning can be addressed.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

An enjoyment of making things and being creative is the main requirement for success in Design and Technology. Complementary subjects are Art, Science, English, Mathematics and Geography.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

The UK is very short of professional engineers and designers. Design and Technology is a good starting point and will give pupils an excellent understanding and knowledge of industrial practices and the skills needed in these interesting and worthwhile careers. The subject also gives you life skills that you will need in your future, whatever direction that takes. For example, you will learn how to think for yourself!

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Sandry or Miss Hampson



Drama

WHAT is this subject about?

KS4 Drama promotes an appreciation of the possibilities within performance, ensuring that all pupils develop as creative, confident and reflective learners. It enables pupils to practically explore the world around them and promotes self-discovery. The course introduces pupils to themes and issues within society and requires them to explore how practitioners apply techniques and production elements in performance to evoke atmosphere and create meaning.

WHY should I choose this subject?

If you are passionate about Drama, enjoy performing and analysing your own and other's work, this is an excellent opportunity to develop your creativity whilst working with others. KS4 Drama is a practical and analytical discipline which involves pupils using their imagination and experiences to devise performances and develop their skills as actors. Drama develops various transferable skills such as team work, communication, problem solving, creative thinking, confidence and working to deadlines.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

New BTEC Tech Award in Acting, assessed:

Component 1-Exploring the Performing Arts-Year 10-Here pupils develop their understanding of the performing arts by research and exploration of three live performances of differing styles. They examine the processes practitioners use within performance and how these create meaning.

Evidence is shown via Blog or power point presentation as well as workshop recordings and teacher observations.

Component 2-Developing Skills & Techniques in the Performing Arts-Year 10&11

Develop skills/techniques needed as an actor by participating in vocal, movement and interpretive workshops. Pupils are required to apply these skills to the rehearsal and performance of a scripted piece as well as reviewing their own development and performance. Evidence is shown via recordings of workshops, rehearsals and performance(s), as well as pupil log books which reflect on the process.

Component 3-Performing to a brief-Year 11- Here you work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and stimulus. You need to develop and apply effectively the techniques you have explored during the course. Evidence is via your practical rehearsal and performance as well as an ideas and skills log and written evaluation of your piece.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You **must** enjoy performing, being creative and working with others. Good literacy skills are required in order to interpret scripts and texts and complete the various written components. An ability to research information independently is necessary.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

This course can lead to further study at college in Performing Arts and degree courses. Many pupils acknowledge that their completion of a Drama course dramatically increased their self confidence, which has had a positive impact on their employability.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Farrier & Mrs Gwynne



Year 10 Drama Students



KS4 Drama Leaders



Stage Combat Workshop

"Inspirational lessons."

"Our performances were our creations."

"Helped me to believe in myself and build up my confidence."

"A brilliant experience we will carry with us forever."

Quotes from KS4 Pupils



Early Years



WHAT is this subject about?

The Early Years course allows pupils to learn about the growth and development of children; how to support babies and young children's play; respecting and valuing children; Health and Safety for young children and many other topics

WHY should I choose this subject?

Early Years gives you a number of progression opportunities. You could go to college to study childcare or go onto a traineeship and specialise in childcare. You could also move to an apprenticeship for CYPW (Children and Young Peoples Workforce) or for STL (Support Teaching and Learning in Schools).

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

In Year 9 you will complete the NCFE CACHE Level 1 Award: Certificate and Diploma in 'Caring for Children.'

In Years 10 and 11 you will complete the NCFE CACHE Level 2 Award.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

It is key for you to have an interest in childcare. It is also helpful for you to have an inquisitive nature and a desire to know more about supporting young children.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Early Years can take you to lots of places in the future, from specialising in childcare, becoming a nursery nurse and even midwifery.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Schofield





Food & Cookery

WHAT is this subject about?

The *NCFE Level1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery* is about:

The study of food and cookery involves understanding food and nutrition, factors that affect food choice, food preparation and cooking skills. It also involves an understanding of recipe development, responding to a brief, and food related Health and safety.

WHY should I choose this subject?

If you really enjoyed Food Technology in Year 7 and Year 8 and you love cooking and doing written coursework, this course may be for you!

You will cook in at least one of your three lessons per fortnight, apart from when we are revising for exams. You will need good organisational skills as well as plenty of enthusiasm, determination and motivation!

You should also be prepared for plenty of written work and IT work as there is a large amount of evidence and portfolio work to produce.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The *NCFE Level1/2 Technical Award in Food and Cookery* is 40% externally assessed through a two hour exam and 60 % internally assessed through a variety of assessments completed in a portfolio of evidence.

Each Unit in this course and the exam needs to be passed at least, in order to pass the course.

The course is graded Level 1 Pass / Merit / Distinction / Distinction* and Level 2 Pass / Merit / Distinction / Distinction* (equivalent to GCSE grades 8.5-1).

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

The subject requires good literacy and numeracy skills. The portfolio of assessment work and the nutritional analysis work requires good ICT skills. You should be well organised too.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Everyone needs to eat to live, so this course is great for learning the skills of cooking and eating healthily in your future adult life, no matter what you do. However, some of you may wish to pursue the subject further at college, which many of our students currently do when they leave school. This is an ideal foundation for further education.



"It's very enjoyable. There is a variety of written work and practical lessons."

Jack, Year 11

The exact details of this course are in 'draft' form from the exam board at present and are, therefore, subject to change.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Ms Pearce or Mrs Matthews



French



"The reason why I chose French is because it is a widely spoken language and I really enjoy learning it."

Abigail, Year 10

"I think everyone should do GCSE French because it's a really great language and will help me in the future."

Shannon, Year 8

WHAT is this subject about?

Learning French for GCSE is about discovering more about the culture of the French-speaking world and enabling you to be in a better position to communicate on a variety of levels with French people. You will build upon knowledge gained in KS3 and improve your skills in all areas.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Because it will help you get into university; because you want to travel and/or work abroad; because you fancy a challenge; because you have a house in France or go there regularly; because so many adults regret not being able to speak another language.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will be assessed at the end of the course by Writing, Speaking, Listening and Reading exams, each worth 25% of the total mark. To succeed, you must be prepared to participate actively in lessons, to speak the language aloud and to work hard in and out of lessons

Your teacher will also assess your homework via frequent vocabulary tests

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

English, Maths, Music - any subject provides a good basis for doing well in Modern Foreign Languages. It is more important that you are prepared to work hard and enjoy the opportunities given to you.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

University for a start! Many universities are falling in with the Government's proposal to include a foreign language as an entrance requirement. In addition, many people choose to work abroad, for example as a skilled tradesperson or a holiday rep. Others find a niche in industry in this country.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Please speak to Mrs Alff and Mr Leng.



Geography

WHAT is this subject about?

Pupils opting for this subject will study elements of both human and physical geography including the places and communities in which we live and work, and our natural environments and the pressures they face. We will look at the impact we are having on the world we live in. You will also study decision making skills, particularly choices that global decision makers have to make, and data interpretation and analysis. If you are interested in all that is taking place in the world currently, then this is the subject for you.

WHY should I choose this subject?

The GCSE Geography course is informative, current and engaging. The focus is very much on issues that are current and thought provoking, with the emphasis on awareness of the world around us. We will be looking at issues such as global warming, migration and the impact of politics. The students will have to attend two compulsory local field trips to collect and analyse data for paper 3 in their final exams. In addition, there are opportunities to attend trips further afield.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Assessment will be in the form of three formal written examinations, all taken at the end of Year 11. Paper 1 will test the physical elements of geography such as coasts, rivers and weather and climate, worth 35% of the qualification. Paper 2, worth 35%, will test the human elements of the course such as population growth and urbanisation. Paper 3, worth 30%, will assess pupils' fieldwork and decision making skills. There will be no internally assessed coursework, and no tiered exam papers.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

GCSE Geography requires high level literacy and numeracy skills, so competency in English and mathematics is a basic requirement as there are areas of the exam that require extended pieces of writing. There is also a significant amount of maths and statistical skills required and the ability to analyse and interpret data is essential. Students will also benefit from competency in science as there is a large crossover between the two subjects.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Geography can literally take you places! Any aspect of Geography could launch you into a career. Interested in the environment or ecosystems? You could become a Conservation Manager or work for the Environment Agency. On a wider front, your career options could range from town planning, marketing or law to leisure, travel, tourism or teaching. The decision making and data analysis skills in Geography make someone with a Geography qualification highly employable and will keep your future options open.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Pavey or Mrs Padgham



Investigating service provision at Bluewater.



Gullfoss Waterfall, Iceland

"Geography has many areas to explore and enjoy, and with great teachers showing you the way, you will always want more"

Year 11 pupil



History



The entrance of
Sachsenhausen
concentration Camp



The Berlin Visit 2017

WHAT is this subject about?

History is everything! People, places, events; those moments in time when everyone remembers what they were doing. History is about understanding our society today through learning about where we have come from. We follow Pearson Edexcel History. The new course will have a unit on Germany 1918-39, a 1000 year thematic study looking at crime and punishment over time with an additional focus on Whitechapel in the late 19th century, International Relations 1943-91 and, finally, Henry VIII and his Ministers.

WHY should I choose this subject?

History is an excellent choice if you are undecided for your future career as it makes people independent thinkers, open-minded, disciplined, good at problem-solving and able to pick out the essential from the trivial. The GCSE history course is thought-provoking and powerfully engaging. Varied lessons are supported by out of lesson trips to a range of places including Brighton, London and Berlin.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The qualification is 100% external final exam. It will include a mixture of source work and knowledge recall. Extended writing and essays will feature heavily in the exams.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

History is an academic subject with a large emphasis on analytical writing, covering a vast amount of historical content which must be memorised for the exams. It requires pupils to have excellent literacy skills and an ability for independent learning and higher order thinking. Pupils should have an interest in reading, writing and learning detail off by heart as this is the basis of the course.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

All further education institutions and universities value qualifications in history very highly indeed. Colleges like pupils with History GCSE as they can think for themselves, analyse information and form independent judgements. History is also a vital subject if you are considering a university education. Typical careers for history candidates include King (Prince Charles has a History degree), the legal profession, the media and all local and national government positions.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Clifton or Mrs Honeybourne

"The excursion [to Berlin] proved to be a valuable experience that is sure to stay in the memories of my fellow pupils."

Jack, Year 10

"In History I have learnt to analyse text and manage writing to tight time constraints which has really helped me with all my other subjects."

Jess, Year 11



Information Technology/Digital Literacy

WHAT is this subject about?

From personal computers to smartphones, from apps to websites, all of our lives, every day, are enhanced through the use of IT. This course delivers IT skills across the whole range of learning styles and abilities, effectively engaging and inspiring all pupils to achieve great things.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Computing and mobile technologies have completely transformed how people live their lives – at home, in education and at work. It has changed how people communicate with each other, how they store and access information, how they work, and how they spend their spare time. If you are inspired to explore the basics of IT and learn how to safely and legally use the various computing technologies available to you, then this is the subject for you.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

The Cambridge National in Information Technologies consists of an externally assessed exam worth 50% and an internally assessed task worth 50%. Both units of assessment must be completed to achieve the qualification. The exam is taken in Year 10 and, if necessary, you will have the opportunity to retake this exam in Year 11.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

IT requires good literacy and numeracy skills, so competency in English and mathematics is a basic requirement. Additionally, you should have an interest in using digital technology and modern devices.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

IT skills are essential for success in employment and higher education, and are among the fundamental transferable skills required by employers. This subject will provide you with essential knowledge, skills and tools to improve your learning in other subjects with the aims of enhancing your employability when you leave education. A qualification in IT will open doors to diverse career paths: roles within the games design industry, web and animation development or network management or perhaps network security, digital forensics or mobile app development.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Parker or email questions to kparker@stcatherines.college



"In 20 or 30 years, you'll be able to hold in your hand as much computing knowledge as exists now in the whole city or even the whole world."

Douglas Engelbert, 1968
(Co-inventor of the computer mouse)





Mandarin



WHAT is this subject about?

We aim to equip the professionals of tomorrow with the linguistic skills that will enable them to compete successfully in Europe and beyond. In this 3- year course, students will be ready to read, listen, speak and write in Mandarin Chinese on the following 3 themes:

- 1) Identity and culture
- 2) Local, national and global issues
- 3) Education and employment

WHY should I choose this subject?

If you are graded with 1+ or higher, you will love the challenge and succeed in this subject.

If you are interested in going to China, there will be a discounted trip for GCSE takers only.

If you are stronger in writing characters than memorising grammar rules, this is the language for you.

If you are willing to dream big, there will be a great range of future prospects waiting for you (see below).

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

A) Current grade: is based on each assessment fortnight per term including all 5 skills required by GCSE 9-1. Y9 and Y10 will be assessed on individual/mixed topics with GCSE foundation level questions. Y11 will be assessed on all topics with GCSE higher level questions.

B) Homework: is reflected by weekly vocabulary test. All green = excellence, 1 red=good, 3 red=Inconsistent, or more = unacceptable.

C) Others: learning about the culture of your chosen language is equally as important as learning the language itself. Therefore, we always include intercultural aspects in our projects, pupil exchange (paired up with native speakers) and trips to the country where this language is spoken. Your engagement will be taken into account for formative assessment.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

We are looking for pupils who have shown willingness and commitment in their French, Spanish or Mandarin lessons and who have a decent grasp of the grammar of their own language

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

If you are preparing for university/career in 'business and trade', 'banking and finance', 'culture and media' or 'politics and law', you will not regret choosing Mandarin as one GCSE option. Others choose this subject as they are interested in hospitality and tourism.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Please speak to Mr Leng.



Motor Vehicle

WHAT is this subject about?

Now entering the ninth year of this popular and successful qualification, pupils will cover a range of units detailing repair and maintenance in the motor vehicle industry alongside engineering practices. The course is practical-based with pupils working on a variety of different vehicles. There is a good balance between theory and a 'hands-on' experience taught by fully qualified mechanics.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Because it will enable you to learn in a completely different way within our own private garage with the latest tools and equipment. This subject provides an excellent route into the motor vehicle industry and other engineering linked vocations. It provides a hands-on experience that is different from the 'normal' school environment.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will work from the St Catherine's College Motor Vehicle Centre (near Lottbridge Drove) where assessment is on-going throughout the course. The course assessment is a combination of theory and practical observations which cover a diverse range of topics from tyre fitting, brake repair, engine overhaul and general engineering practices.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

Pupils should have a keen interest in motor vehicles and the confidence to work in small teams as well as independently. Pupils will develop the ability to self-evaluate and problem-solve over the duration of the course. Being able to work with and alongside others is also an important skill for this course.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Many students have gone straight into an apprenticeship. It also provides a pathway to post-16 education to further study the motor vehicle industry full time. The experience, knowledge and skills learnt through this outstanding course can transfer to many walks of life.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Neil Hillier on 01323 465433 or nhillier@stcatherines.college



"You get to work in a practical environment which helps with my understanding."

Richard, Year 10



Music

"You learn about such a wide variety of styles that there's something for everyone. It uses all the different parts of your brain and helps you to think differently."

Emily, Jess and
Heather Year 11



"It's fun and creative. I particularly enjoy the opportunity to compose my own pieces."

Ben, Year 11



"It's a challenging subject which is, ultimately, very rewarding. You have creative freedom without being thrown in at the deep end."

Henry, Year 11

WHAT is this subject about?

Music is a very practical subject, giving you the opportunity to sing or perform on your instrument. We study musical styles from around the world and use these to create compositions. The course allows you to progress your skills as a musician in composing, performing, listening and evaluating.

WHY should I choose this subject?

The benefits of studying music are clear: improving your musical skills, better focus and concentration, clarity of thought, great collaborative skills, creative problem solving, increased confidence and self-awareness, and the ability to create beautiful sounds that evoke strong emotions in others.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

- **PERFORMING 30%**
You will record 2 ensemble performances, or 1 solo and 1 ensemble.
- **COMPOSING 30%**
You will write 2 compositions – one to a set brief, and one in any style you choose.
- **LISTENING 40%**
There is one exam (around 70 minutes long) where you will identify styles and features of the music you hear.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

You need to have some ability playing a musical instrument, or be a confident singer or performer. If you are not, you can still take Music but you will need to be dedicated to taking some lessons, practising regularly and developing your self-confidence.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Music GCSE can take you on to study A Level Music or Music Technology at college. You can also study courses in music production, the music business and other creative industries.

You will develop great collaborative and team-working skills, creative problem-solving skills, confidence and self-awareness - all very valuable skills recognised by any institution, whatever you do when you leave secondary school.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mr Woozley or you can visit stcatherinesmusic.wordpress.com for more information.



Photography

WHAT is this subject about?

During the Photography GCSE you will study lens-based media including digital photography, dark room techniques and mobile phone photography. You will study the different genres of photography, for example, photojournalism, fashion, portrait and wildlife photography. You will also analyse the work of other photographers and create projects based around a theme.

WHY should I choose this subject?

If you are interested in looking at the world from a different viewpoint then this is a great subject to choose. You **must** be willing to commit to producing work out of lesson time in order to build up your photography portfolio and the Art Department is open out of lesson time in order to help with this. In addition, you will have to work at home for a few hours a fortnight too. We encourage pupils to get out and take photos in real life situations, including street and landscape photography. We run street photography trips but also have studio based equipment in school.

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

Controlled assessment accounts for 60% of the final grade. This consists of at least two projects with final pieces. This work is produced from your very first lesson in Year 9 right up until January in Year 11. From then, the final exam paper is handed out and you prepare ideas for a final piece which you make in the final exam. This is carried out under exam conditions and accounts for 40% of your final grade.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

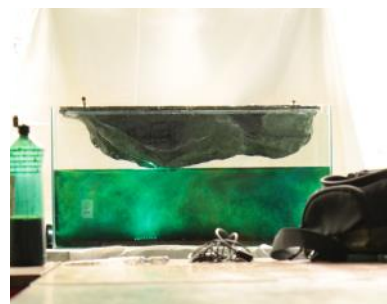
It is essential to analyse your work and the work of others so good literacy skills are a must. ICT is used regularly as a basis for research and digital manipulation will feature as part of the course. It is important to have an ability to draw as this is needed to plan your projects and express ideas.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Photography is a good basis for jobs such as press photographer, fashion photographer, animator, careers in media and film and sports photography. Even if the photography element of the GCSE is not made use of once the GCSE is finished, the research, innovation, creative thinking and presentation skills learnt can be applied to many other industries.

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Mrs Bawden, Mrs Templeman, Mr Newham-Bentley or Miss Davies or email questions to cbawden@stcatherines.college



"I'm hoping to work in forensics and photography has helped me research this area."

"I love landscape photography as well. Photography helps me capture what I see and share it with others."

Jake, Year 11



Spanish

WHAT is this subject about?

In this subject you will learn to communicate in, and understand, Spanish. We will touch on various aspects of Spanish society and culture and teach you skills for use on holiday as well as in exams.

WHY should I choose this subject?

Because it will help you get into university; because you want to travel and/or work abroad; because you fancy a challenge; because you have a house in Spain or go there regularly; because so many adults regret not being able to speak another language; because you have done well in your other language lessons

WHEN and HOW am I assessed?

You will be assessed at the end of the course by Writing, Speaking, Listening and Reading exams, each worth 25% of the total mark. To succeed, you must be prepared to participate actively in lessons, to speak the language aloud and to work hard in and out of lessons.

WHICH subjects should I have an aptitude in?

We are looking for pupils who have shown willingness and commitment in their French, Spanish or Mandarin lessons and who have a decent grasp of the grammar of their own language.

WHERE could this subject take me in the future?

Learning a language is highly valued by universities and employers, and could open doors to working in the travel industry or even abroad. GCSE Spanish does, of course, lead on to A Level Spanish at college. At the very least you will learn skills to help you on holiday!

WHO do I need to speak to for more information?

Dr Lynn, Mr Gutierrez or Mr Leng



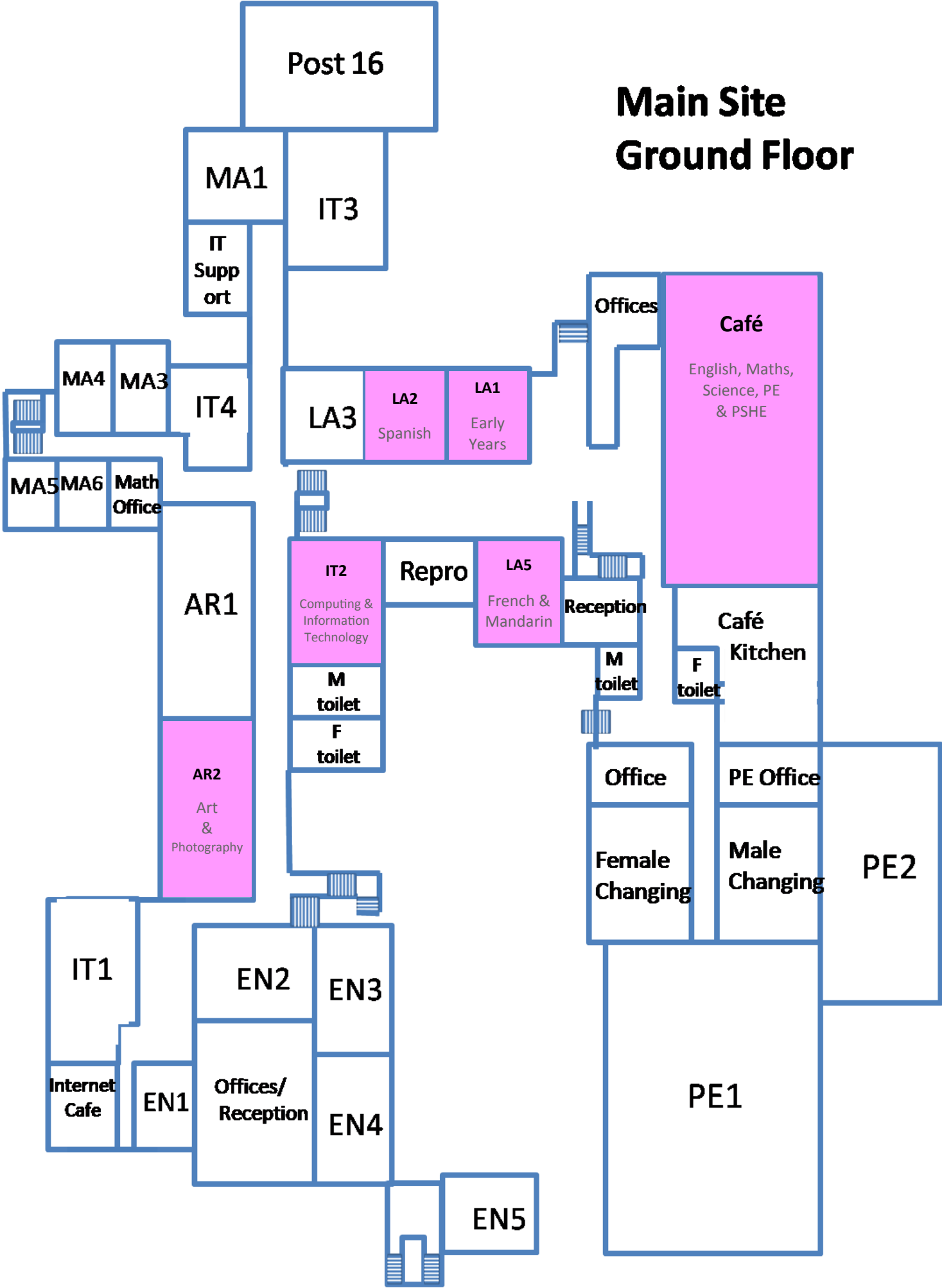
“ Aprender Español es divertido y tengo un profesor que me ayuda ”

Melanie, Year 10

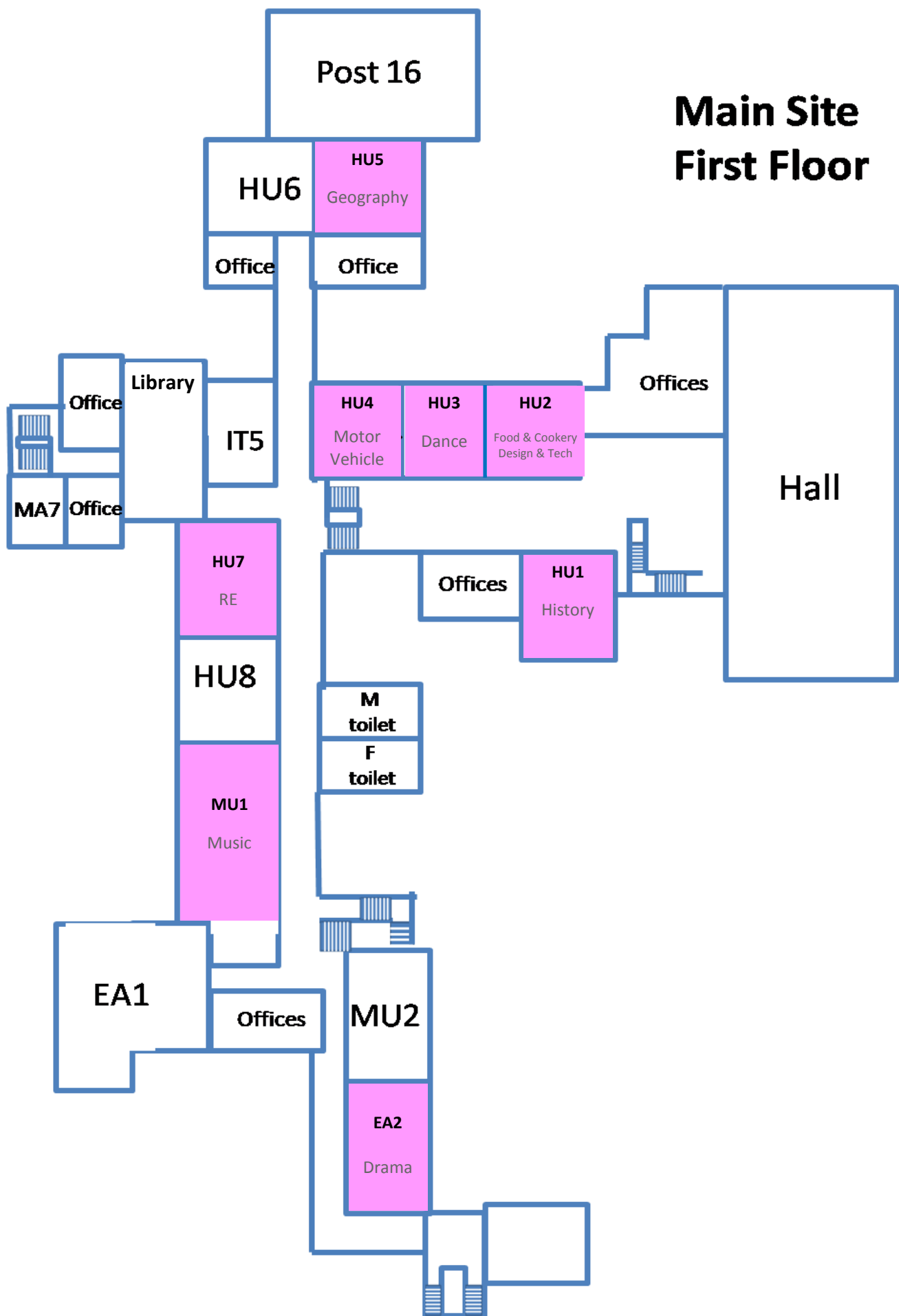
“ El Español no es fácil pero es importante para ir a la universidad ”

Luke, Year 10

Main Site Ground Floor



First Floor



Priory Road
Eastbourne
East Sussex
BN23 7BL

T: 01323 465400
F: 01323 465465
E: admin@stcatherines.college
W: www.stcatherines.college

GOD'S CHILDREN AT THE HEART
OF EVERYTHING WE DO

We listen, learn and achieve together

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