



**Shimna Integrated  
College**

**Sixth Form  
Options Booklet**

**2026**

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## SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE SIXTH FORM ADMISSION CRITERIA

### SHIMNA INTEGRATED COLLEGE STUDENTS

#### A Level Pathway

To enter the Sixth Form to study a pathway of 3+ A Level courses, the following criteria must be met:

- Students must have achieved a minimum of 5 GCSEs at grades A\*-C
- Students must also meet the subject requirements set out for each subject in the Sixth Form Options booklet
- Students must also have achieved at least a grade C in **both** English and Maths

#### Applied A Level / BTEC Pathway

To enter the Sixth Form to study a pathway of Applied A Levels and / or BTEC courses, the following criteria must be met:

- Students must have achieved a minimum of 5 GCSEs, including equivalents, at grades A\*- C / Pass
- Students must also meet the subject requirements set out for each subject in the Sixth Form Options booklet
- Students must also have achieved at least a grade C in **both** English and Maths

In addition, all Sixth Form applicants must subscribe to the integrated ethos of the College.

If there are more students eligible than there are places available in the College, places shall be awarded in the following order:

1. Applicants with the highest GCSE score - an applicant's GCSE score being calculated based on GCSE results as follows:

A*	6 points	C*/C	3 points
A	5 points	D	2 points
B	4 points	E	1 point

2. In the event of a tie, priority shall be established by computerised random selection.

In all cases, offers of a place in the Sixth Form will be subject to availability in the courses chosen for study by the applicant. The Principal reserves the right to consider all admissions on a case-by-case basis.

## ADMISSION OF STUDENTS TO THE SIXTH FORM (EXTERNAL APPLICANTS)

External applicants may be admitted to the Sixth Form if there are places available within the College's approved Enrolment Number.

To enter the Sixth Form as an external applicant, the criteria outlined previously for internal applicants must be met.

In all cases, offers of a place in the Sixth Form will be subject to availability in the courses chosen for study by the applicant.

The Principal reserves the right to consider all admissions on a case-by-case basis.

### **Criteria for all extra places made available by the Department of Education for admission into Year 13 (Sixth Form)**

The Department of Education may, in response to a request from a school, increase the number of students that the school can admit to its Year 13. Places that become available in this way shall be allocated only to students who meet the eligibility criteria for Sixth Form study (as set out previously) and shall be allocated in the order determined by these criteria, in addition to the following:

1. Students who have most recently completed Year 12 in Shimna Integrated College
2. Students from other schools where admission has been agreed and additional places granted by the Department of Education \*

\* Parents / Carers should note how the Department of Education (DE) will, in response to a school's request, temporarily increase a school's enrolment number in order to allow extra post-16 students to enrol. The Department of Education will only increase the school's enrolment number if it is content that each external student for whom a place is requested would not be able to pursue their post-16 course-choices at another suitable school without undertaking an unreasonable journey (i.e. a journey, that by public transport, would be over an hour from where the young person lives or is further than 15 miles distance). If the Department of Education finds that no other suitable school may provide all of the post-16 courses that the student wishes to pursue - then they will agree a school's request for an extra place.

## STUDENT AND PARENT / CARER GUIDANCE

### STUDENT INTERVIEWS & ADVICE

As we progress through this term, students will be considering their options for a post-16 pathway. This process is extensive and in preparation for making their decision each student will have:

- completed a bespoke careers programme during Pastoral Care lessons
- had a career interview with a career's advisor from the Department for the Economy Careers Service
- received a copy of our Sixth Form Subject Choice Booklet
- attended the Shimna Sixth Form Subject Fair
- met with a senior member of staff for a one-to-one interview
- engaged in various events and lessons during Careers Week

### PARENT / CARER INFORMATION

Year 12 written reports will be issued to parents and carers week commencing **2 March 2026**. These reports will include mock examination grades.

On **Thursday 5 March 2026** there will be an opportunity to meet with your child's subject teachers online to discuss their progress and areas of focus as we approach the GCSE examinations in May/June 2026. The meetings will take place via School Cloud between 4:30 pm and 6:30 pm. This will also be an opportunity to discuss your child's suitability for A-Level study in each of their subjects. Further details on booking your appointments will be communicated **next week**.

We will be holding our Sixth Form Subject Fair on **Thursday 12 March from 3:30pm - 4:30pm** in the Assembly Hall. Parents and carers are invited to attend with their child. This event will provide an excellent opportunity to see all the subjects on offer, discuss details with subject teachers and ask questions.

### APPLYING TO SIXTH FORM AT SHIMNA

Your child will receive an email to their school email account **week commencing 16 March 2026** with the link to a subject choice form for Sixth Form study at Shimna. Completion of the form will be considered as their application to Sixth Form at Shimna. It is essential it is submitted **by Friday 28 March 2026**.

We will communicate, in writing, the subject offer after the summer term, pending results in August. If your child wishes to discuss/amend their subject choices after they receive their results, an appointment can be made on results day. Please be aware that any changes will be timetable permitting and there may not be the same level of flexibility of choice at this time.

If you or have any queries, please contact [jconn968@c2kni.net](mailto:jconn968@c2kni.net).

# MAKING INFORMED CHOICES AT A LEVEL

## WHICH SUBJECTS TO CHOOSE?

You should of course choose A level subjects that you enjoy and that you will do well in. However, you will also want to consider the views and requirements of universities, colleges and employers. If you already have a career or career area in mind, you will want to know what subjects are required or recommended. You may also want to know how to keep all your options open.

There are *three reasons* why a person chooses a subject. Each of the three is a good reason, and each of the three has an issue for you to check out.

### 1. You enjoyed and were good at the subject at GCSE

BUT, some subjects can be distinctly different or more difficult at A level and you should check it out. Talk to your teacher about your target grade and ask them which aspects of the course you need to enjoy at GCSE if you are to enjoy the A Level course.

### 2. You need this subject to enter a specific career or course at university

BUT, you need to check your facts. There are always rumours and misconceptions about which subjects you need for certain careers or degree courses, and you need to research reliable sources of information regarding admissions criteria. You will find good links to research on the Sixth Form section of the Shimna website, using Unifrog or the UCAS website. Once you have done your own research, the most direct way to double-check is to c

### 3. You haven't studied the course before, and you think it looks interesting and will suit your strengths

BUT, you could be taking a risk, and you need to check out what the subject will be like. Talk to the teacher who teaches the course at A Level. Ask to see a textbook and some work by students who are enjoying the course this year. This is something you could do at our **Subject Fair on Thursday 12 March 2026**.

## HOW MANY SUBJECTS TO TAKE?

You need to think through how many A level subjects you will take. Most students take three subjects at A level. Students who take four subjects can either continue all four to A2 Level or may take one of the subjects at AS only and proceed to A2 in three subjects. A strong academic profile at GCSE is essential to take on four A Levels. It is **essential** you discuss the number of subjects during your one-to-one progress interview.

A small number of university courses will ask for four subjects, or three at A2 and one at AS. The most popular courses in the Republic of Ireland are so oversubscribed that four full A levels are required if students from NI are to meet the requirements.

# A LEVEL COURSES

## ART & DESIGN

### Examination Board – CCEA

AS and A2 Art and Design provide an opportunity for you to build on the knowledge and skills you have acquired at GCSE Level and to develop your **creative thinking** and **practical expertise**.

AS Level Art and Design is a one-year course consisting of **two units** of work. Unit one is an Experimental Portfolio and unit two is a Personal Response.

### EXPERIMENTAL PORTFOLIO

This unit will be based around **personal ideas** developed from a **set theme** decided by CCEA. The portfolio will allow students to; explore, experiment and demonstrate their **creativity** and **personal skills** in Art and Design. Most of all the portfolio should reflect **enjoyment** and a **personal learning experience** at AS Level. The portfolio should consist of work in a wide range of media which may be in 2D and/or 3D form. The Experimental Portfolio represents **50%** of AS Level marks.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

This unit requires a **personal response** to an examination paper, based on the set theme decided by CCEA. The paper will be **issued in February**. The response requires **preparatory work, research** and an outcome in either 2D or 3D form. The final outcome will be completed within a **10-hour supervised** period, over two days, in an art room. The Personal Response represents **50%** of the AS Level marks.

**A2 Level Art and Design** is a one-year course consisting of **two units** of work. Unit one is a Personal and Critical Investigation and unit two is a Thematic Outcome.

### PERSONAL AND CRITICAL INVESTIGATION

This unit will be based around **personal ideas** developed from a **set theme** decided by CCEA. It will allow students to demonstrate and communicate their **creativity** and **strengths in Art and Design**. This unit also includes a **written element** consisting of **1000-2000 words** which should investigate a credible artist/craftsperson/designer or movement and relate to the students own practical work. The Personal and Critical Investigation represents **60% of A2 Level** and **20%** of this is for the **Written Investigation**.

### THEMATIC OUTCOME

This unit requires a **personal response** to an examination paper based on the **set theme** decided by CCEA. The paper will be **issued in February**. The response requires **preparatory work, research** and a **final outcome** in either 2D or 3D form. The final outcome will be completed in a **15-hour supervised period**, over three days, in an art room. The Thematic Outcome represents **40% of the A2 Level**.

This course offers an opportunity for each student to complete a **portfolio** of artwork which represents their potential in art and design. The portfolio can be used at interviews for entry to art colleges, future employment, or a career in the creative industries. AS and A2 Level Art require commitment and hard work, but above all, students should enjoy the course.

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Art provides an opportunity to develop skills and techniques using new materials and a wide variety of media, as well as developing problem solving and creative thinking skills, which are applicable in all areas of life and work. Art and design is useful for a number of career paths, including architecture, curating, fashion design, film production, fine art, graphic design, illustration, interior design, photography and product design to name a few.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Melanie Skelcher** or email [mskelcher030@c2ken.net](mailto:mskelcher030@c2ken.net)

# BIOLOGY

## Examination Board - WJEC

In Shimna Integrated College, we offer our students the opportunity to study **AS** and **A2** Biology.

### WHO TAKES THIS COURSE?

Biology is a very popular A Level subject, attracting students studying a wide range of other subjects. Many of these students enjoy the subject so much they eventually choose a biologically related degree course. Others go on to careers in law, computing, accounting or teaching. So, whatever field you will eventually work in, you will find Biology a very rewarding and challenging course which will develop many of the skills essential for a successful career.

The **entry requirements** are:

- a minimum of 5 A\*-C grade GCSEs
- with at least a grade B in Maths and grade B English
- and minimum of two B grades at GCSE in science subjects.

### OUR CLASSES

Even though it is a popular choice for students, all classes will have less than 20 students. There is a strong emphasis on developing practical skills throughout this course. The Biology lessons are exciting, relevant to life and challenging, stimulating students' enthusiasm from the start. The course emphasises the way in which scientists work and the contributions of science to modern society. We also track students' progress throughout the year to ensure that students achieve their target grade.

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Biology is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in health and clinical professions such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, physiotherapy, pharmacy, optometry, nursing, zoology, marine biology or forensic science and many of our biology students have studied these courses at university.

#### AS BIOLOGY:

**Unit 1:** Basic Biochemistry and Cell Organisation (20% of qualification)

**Unit 2:** Biodiversity and Physiology of Body Systems (20% of qualification)

Both written examinations are 1 hour 30 minutes (80 marks) and include a range of short and longer structured questions and one extended response.

#### A2 BIOLOGY:

**Unit 3:** Energy, Homeostasis and the Environment (25% of qualification)

**Unit 4:** Variation, Inheritance and Options (25% of qualification)

Both written examinations are 2 hours (90 marks) and include a range of short and longer structured questions and one extended response.

**Unit 5:** Practical examination (50 marks) (10% of qualification)

This unit comprises two tasks – an experimental Task, and a practical analysis task.

To find out more, please talk to our Head of Biology, **Shauna Rowell** (email [srowell876@c2ken.net](mailto:srowell876@c2ken.net)) or our Head of Sciences, **Stephen McCormick** (email [smccormick249@c2ken.net](mailto:smccormick249@c2ken.net))

# CHEMISTRY

## Examination Board - WJEC

At Shimna Integrated College we offer the students the opportunity to study AS and A2 Chemistry.

### WHO TAKES THIS COURSE?

Many students take chemistry as they want to pursue careers in medicine or engineering. Lots of students proceed on to study Chemistry at university. A-levels in Chemistry provide opportunities to perfect mathematical skills, practical skills and allow learners to plan and carry out investigations. Overall, it provides a well-balanced education and is highly valued in many careers.

The **entry requirements** are:

- A minimum of 5 A\*-C grade GCSEs
- At least a grade B in Maths and B in English
- A minimum of two B grades at GCSE in science subjects

### OUR CLASSES

Chemistry is a very popular A-level at Shimna. Students are taught in a student friendly environment, with access to all the required laboratory apparatus. Our modern labs provide a pleasant learning environment. Students complete several practicals each year, receiving feedback and support during each activity.

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Chemistry is a required subject for medicine, dentistry, veterinary studies, engineering and pharmacy. Many other careers require advanced level chemistry. Areas of further study include cosmetic science, nanotechnology, biochemistry, forensic sciences, polymer engineering, electrochemistry, mineral engineering and Earth sciences.

#### AS CHEMISTRY:

**Unit 1:** The Language of Chemistry, Structure of Matter, and Simple Reactions (20% of qualification)

**Unit 2:** Energy, Rate and Chemistry of Carbon Compounds (20% of qualification)

Both written examinations are 1 hour 30 minutes.

#### A2 CHEMISTRY:

**Unit 3:** Physical and Inorganic Chemistry (25% of qualification)

**Unit 4:** Organic Chemistry and Analysis (25% of qualification)

Both written examinations are 1 hour 45mins.

**Unit 5:** Practical examination. (10% of qualification)

This unit comprises two tasks - experimental Task (30 marks) and practical methods and task analysis (30marks)

To find out more about this course, please talk to the Head of Chemistry, **Alan McDonnell** [amcdonnell873@c2ken.net](mailto:amcdonnell873@c2ken.net) or our Head of Sciences, **Stephen McCormick** [smccormick249@c2ken.net](mailto:smccormick249@c2ken.net)

# DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Examination Board - CCEA

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

It is necessary to have studied Digital Technology at GCSE and obtained a grade B or higher. A good overall GCSE portfolio and enthusiasm for Digital Technology are necessary.

## COURSE OUTLINE

**Unit AS 1: Approaches to Systems Development** – In this unit, students develop knowledge and understanding of the various approaches to the development of complex systems, the key stages in the development process and the outputs produced at each stage. The content of this unit underpins the learning that will take place in each of the three subsequent units. This unit is assessed through a 1 hour 30-minute written examination that includes both short and extended questions.

**Unit AS 2: Fundamentals of Digital Technology** – In this unit, students develop knowledge and understanding of the fundamentals of any system, such as data representation, computer architecture, software, and the user interface. Along with Unit AS 1, the content of this unit will provide a foundation for progression to A2. This unit is assessed through a 1 hour 30-minute written examination that includes both short and extended questions.

**Unit A2 1: Information Systems** – In this unit, students develop knowledge and understanding of information systems. It acts as an extension to Unit AS 2: Fundamentals of Digital Technology, for students progressing from AS level. This unit is assessed through a 2 hour 30-minute written examination that includes both short and extended questions.

**Unit A2 2: Application Development (Case Study)** – In this unit, students can become involved in a real-world situation detailed in a case study. They apply their skills, knowledge and understanding of digital technology to solve a problem for a specified client. We provide a new case study each year.

## ASSESSMENT

The course includes four assessment units. Three units are externally assessed, and one is internally assessed. In Year 13 students will complete Units AS1 and AS2, both of which are externally assessed. In Year 13, students will complete A2-1, which is an externally assessed module, and A2-2 which is an internally assessed piece of coursework.

**Weightings:** **AS-1:** 20% of A Level; **AS-2:** 20% of A Level; **A2-1:** 40% of A Level; **A2-2:** 20% of A Level.

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

There are many apprenticeship opportunities offered upon completion of this A Level. It gives students opportunities to progress to career paths leading to professional IT management. It offers advanced study of modern technology-based systems. It provides stretch and challenge for A2 students. It allows students to develop advanced skills in a range of development environments using a mixture of examination formats and question types.

On completion of this course, there are many exciting career opportunities in the ICT sector including:

- Web designer
- Programmer
- Games designer
- Software designer
- Graphics designer
- ICT engineer/Network manager

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Irene Mathieu** or email [imathieu872@c2ken.net](mailto:imathieu872@c2ken.net)

# ECONOMICS

## Examination Board – CCEA

Economics is split into two areas of study, Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Microeconomics is the study of individuals, households, and business' behaviour in making the correct decisions to allocate resources effectively. Macroeconomics is the study of the overall economy across our country, with emphasis on government policies, inflation, unemployment, national income and how these are intertwined.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Students should have a C\* or above in English Language and a C\* or above in Mathematics.

#### YEAR 13

##### AS 1: Markets and Market Failure

- The basic economic problem of scarcity and choice
- Demand and supply in product markets
- Markets and equilibrium
- Market failures and imperfections
- Government intervention in markets

##### AS 2: Managing the National Economy

- Measuring national income
- The circular flow of income
- Macroeconomic objectives
- Inflation, Unemployment, Economic Growth, Fiscal and Monetary Policy
- Exchange rates

**Exam:** AS 1 and AS 2 examinations are at the end of Year 13. These are both worth 50% of the AS grade. In total, they contribute towards 40% of the overall A Level grade achieved at the end of Year 14.

#### YEAR 14

##### A2 1: Business Economics

- Analysing different market structures features
- Monopoly, Oligopoly, Monopolistic Competition and Contestable Markets
- Business objectives
- Short run vs Long run
- Business growth

##### A2 2: Managing the Economy in a Global World

- Trade and Globalisation
- Economic development
- Exchange rates
- Monetary policy, Fiscal policy, and the financial sector
- European Union

**Exam:** A2 1 and A2 2 examinations are at the end of Year 14. These are worth 30% each of the A level grade achieved at the end of Year 14.

### EXAMPLE ECONOMIC ISSUES YOU WOULD LEARN, ANALYSE, AND EVALUATE:

- Are giant digital companies exploiting their influence over society?
- Will the introduction of electric cars reduce carbon emissions in the UK?
- What can and should be done about the gender pay gap?
- Should the NHS be privatised?

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

As Economics is an academic subject highly regarded by top UK universities, the skills you learn whilst studying Economics are transferable to a range of degrees and careers. Economists can venture into careers in banking, accountancy, business consultancy, public sector, government policy advisory, investment banking and stockbroking.

To find out more about this course, please speak to **Darryl Nesbitt** or email any questions to [dnesbitt901@c2ken.net](mailto:dnesbitt901@c2ken.net)

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

Examination Board - CCEA

## WHY STUDY ENGLISH LITERATURE?

There is far more to English Literature than simply reading books. Delving into the heart of a great text opens a world of human experience, emotion, and insight. Learning how to explore and interpret powerful writing develops your critical thinking, analytical, and essay-writing skills. These are highly valued by employers and universities, whatever career path you choose to follow.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

A student wishing to study AS/A Level English Literature should have achieved a grade B in GCSE English Literature/Language.

## COURSE OUTLINE

The GCE English Literature specification is made up of two parts: **AS** and **A2**. Students may take the AS as a 'stand alone' qualification without progression to A2. However, to gain the full GCE, students need to complete both the AS and the A2 courses.

The units are as follows:

### AS

- **Unit AS 1:** The Study of Poetry 1900–Present and Drama 1900–Present
- **Unit AS 2:** The Study of Prose Pre 1900

### A2

- **Unit A2 1:** Shakespearean Genres
- **Unit A2 2:** The Study of Poetry Pre 1900 and Unseen Poetry
- **Unit A2 3:** Internal Assessment

## ASSESSMENT

Each module will require a close study of selected texts. Essay writing and set questions will be given on key aspects of the texts. Internal assessment will be closely monitored by the class teacher. Timed class tests will ensure that you are prepared for the discipline of answering in detail within the timed exam conditions.

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

An AS/A Level in English Literature opens the door to a wide range of career opportunities. It is an excellent choice as a fourth AS subject for students specialising in science or medicine, as it demonstrates a breadth of interests alongside strong communication and analytical skills. It is also an essential subject for anyone wishing to pursue a degree in English Literature.

These graduates are well suited to a career in any one of the following; writing, literary criticism, teaching, journalism, law, theatre, television, film production, screenplay writing, multi-media, computer software production, librarianship, administration, personnel management, social work, local government, health service management and business management.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Noreen Doran** or email [ndoran492@c2ken.net](mailto:ndoran492@c2ken.net)

# FRENCH

*"One language sets you in a corridor for life, two languages open every door along the way." - Frank Smith*

## Examination Board – CCEA

The French A Level course aims to develop students' enthusiasm for and understanding of the French language and culture in a variety of contexts. Students will learn to communicate confidently, clearly and effectively in French for a range of purposes. They will also develop knowledge and understanding of themes relating to the society and culture, past and present, of a country or community where French is spoken.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Grade B in GCSE French and a keen interest in developing your linguistic skills.

**AS OUTLINE:** AS is taught through the themes of *"Relationships"* and *"Culture & Lifestyle"*. You will also study a literary text/film and the grammar of the language to help you to understand more complicated structures and develop translation skills.

**A2 OUTLINE:** A2 is taught through the themes of *"Young people in society"* and *"Our place in a changing world"*. This year, we will consolidate grammar knowledge, work on developing your fluency and accuracy and build on translation skills. You will also study your second literary text.

## ASSESSMENT WEIGHTING

**AS = 40% of A-Level.** (Speaking- 12%, AS listening, reading & writing including translation & grammar- 16%, AS Extended writing on set literary topic or film- 12%).

**A2 = 60% of A-Level.** (Speaking- 18%, A2 listening, reading, writing including translation and a summary exercise- 24%, A2 extended writing on set literary topic- 18%).

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

With over 320 million French speakers worldwide, and French being recognised as an official language in 29 countries around the world, French can take you places!

Did you know that French is a facilitating subject? Facilitating subjects are those most required or preferred by universities to access a range of degree courses. Many of the top universities will ask you to have at least one A Level in a facilitating subject when you apply. This makes French a great choice in keeping your options open and helping you to get where you want to go.

It is possible to study French alongside many other subjects at university level e.g. French with Economics or Politics, French and Theatre Studies or Business, and even with some seemingly unrelated courses such as biochemistry and engineering. You may also be given the chance to study or complete a work placement abroad, in a French-speaking country, as part of your degree.

French AS/A Level with Physics, Chemistry and Maths could well lead to an engineering course which frequently involves a language element because of the international nature of the work, whilst French AS/A Level with English or History might lead to an International Law degree.

## WORLD OF WORK

Language learning boosts brain power and improves your memory, as well as helping develop other strong cognitive skills such as multitasking, mental flexibility and problem-solving. The ability to communicate in more than one language gives you a real competitive edge in the job market. **Multilingual employees have the advantage of seeing the world from different viewpoints**, thus enhancing their ability to **communicate in today's globally connected world**. As well as having increased job opportunities, **speaking another language can increase your salary potential**.

Language skills can be used in almost any career, and particularly in businesses which trade internationally. You might not fancy working overseas, however, businesses in the UK & Ireland also have a need for linguists across many industry sectors.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Lauren McGreevy** or email [lmcgreevy509@c2ken.net](mailto:lmcgreevy509@c2ken.net)

# GEOGRAPHY

## Examination Board – CCEA

Do you enjoy Geography and want to understand how the world works? A Level Geography is an excellent choice if you are interested in real-world issues and global challenges. The subject develops a wide range of transferable skills that are highly valued by employers.

Geography is a respected academic subject that combines science, humanities and practical fieldwork skills. It encourages you to think critically, analyse complex problems and make informed decisions. These skills will support you in university study, apprenticeships and a wide range of future careers.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Grade B in Geography at GCSE.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### Year 13:

*AS makes up 40% of A Level of the full A Level.*

**Paper 1** – Physical Geography, 75-minute examination

Topics: fluvial environments; ecosystems; atmospheric processes.

**Paper 2** – Human Geography, 75-minute examination

Topics: population; settlement; development.

**Paper 3** – Fieldwork skills and techniques, 1 hour examination.

### Year 14:

A2 makes up the remaining 60% of the A Level

**Paper 1** – Physical Geography, 90-minute examination

Topics: dynamic coastal environments and plate tectonics.

**Paper 2** – Human Geography & Global Issues, 90-minute examination

Topics: tourism and planning for sustainable settlements.

**Paper 3** – Decision Making in Geography, 90-minute examination

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Geography graduates are among the most employable, thanks to the mix of academic knowledge and practical skills they gain.

**Geographers can** analyse material; manage themselves; think independently; make decisions about an issue.

**Geographers are** good communicators; spatially aware; socially and environmentally aware; problem solvers; good team players; computer literate; well rounded, flexible thinkers.

Many geography students go on to have successful and interesting careers in a diverse range of areas such as urban planning, cartography, GIS applications, climatology, environmental management, weather forecasting, research, teaching, demography, aid work, sustainable development and tourism.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Joanne Anderson** or email [janderson636@c2kni.net](mailto:janderson636@c2kni.net)

# GERMAN

## Examination Board – CCEA

If you are inspired by language and culture and want to get ahead in an international world, this course is for you. German has more native speakers than any other language in Europe and Germany has Europe's leading economy, so an advanced qualification in German can open many doors.

Students who choose A Level German build upon the knowledge and skills already acquired at GCSE. They gain a useful insight into another culture and reflect on various aspects of contemporary society. They also enhance their employment prospects, facilitate foreign travel, and experience the enjoyment and motivation of improving their linguistic level. German A Level also looks impressive on university and career applications.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** To undertake the A Level course you will need a good grade in GCSE German and a keen interest in developing your linguistic skills. An interest in current affairs is an advantage.

## COURSE OUTLINE

The AS level of the CCEA course develops the topics you have already studied at GCSE such as the topic of family, the media, popular culture, and relationships. In your AS year you also study a German speaking film; in the second A2 year we consider issues like the environment, immigration, poverty and the impact of technology. Literary and cultural studies are important in both years and in recent years we have studied the films 'Die Welle' or 'Das Leben der Anderen', and the novel 'Der Vorleser'; other options are available and we can usually cater to the interests of students. Alongside your main lessons you will have sessions with the language assistant, Susi who offers a great deal of help in preparing for your oral exam.

## ASSESSMENT

There are three separate modules:

1. **Speaking** – including a presentation in year 13 and conversation and a discussion in year 14 based on an independent research project
2. **Listening and reading and writing** – including grammar and translation
3. **Writing** – an essay on a film in year 13 and a literary work in year 14

AS Assessment: 40% of AS marks contribute to the overall A Level grade. The skills assessed at the end of the AS year are listening, speaking, reading and writing. A2 Assessment: 60% of A2 marks contribute to the overall A Level grade and are assessed at the end of the A2 year.

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Universities and employers recognise German as a demanding and prestigious course that develops thinking and communicative skills. Students who choose German have a competitive edge on the job market. Knowledge of German is highly valuable for careers in science, finance, economics, government, foreign trade, and international law. This makes German a great choice for enriching your studies at A Level.

Due to the heavy emphasis on technology, engineering and the pharmaceutical industry in the German economy, German will be of particular benefit to those who wish to combine a language with STEM subjects, I.T or for scientists who wish to add a relevant unique selling point to their C.V. German also compliments other arts and humanity subjects such as history, politics, English, geography and religious studies and of course other languages. Our role as a PASCH-Schule ensures that there will be opportunities for students to apply for placements (e.g. work experience) and courses in Germany - we have already had several students who have won such places. Students who are successful at A Level are also well placed to apply to universities in Germany or Austria, where tuition fees are much lower or completely free.

# HISTORY

## Examination Board – CCEA

As History is an essay-based subject, students should have a B in English language, they do not have to have studied GCSE History, though it does help.

### YEAR 13 AS 1: Historical Investigations and Interpretations – Germany 1919-45

This course covers the Weimar Republic from its emergence after World War One, to its decline and how this led to the rise of the Nazi Party. Also studied is the Nazi Party's consolidation of power in 1933, the political, economic and social developments in Nazi Germany up to 1939 and then finally students focus on the political, economic and social impact of the Nazi regime on the people in both Germany and the occupied Eastern European territories up to 1945.

**Exam:** AS 1 is sat at the end of year 13, the value is 20% of the whole A Level. The form is a 1 hour 30-minute exam with a short question and two extended source questions.

### YEAR 13 AS 2: Historical Conflicts and Change – Russia 1914-41

Students analyse the reasons why the Tsarist regime collapsed and why the Bolsheviks were able to seize power. The focus then looks at the civil war and the consolidation of Bolshevik power afterwards. Students evaluate the aims and consequences of Lenin's economic policies from 1917-24. Finally, the option ends with an analysis of Stalin's Russia, including his rise to power, his economic aims and consequences and the most important features of Stalin's dictatorship.

**Exam:** AS 2 is sat at the end of year 13, the value is 20% of the whole A Level. The form is a 1 hour 30-minute exam with 2 short questions and 2 extended essay questions.

### YEAR 14 A2 1: Change Over Time – The American Presidency 1901-2000

Students cover the role of the presidents involved in key domestic events such as the Great Depression and the Watergate scandal and world events such as the World Wars, the Cold War and the Vietnamese war. Each president is evaluated to cover the extent of their influence and impact.

**Exam:** A2 1 is sat at the end of year 14, the value is 20% of the whole A Level. The form is a 1 hour exam with 2 short questions and 2 extended essay questions.

### YEAR 14 A2 2: Historical Investigations and Interpretations – England 1558-1603

This final option covers the reign of Elizabeth I from her accession in 1558 to her death in 1603. Students will investigate the political, both domestic and foreign policy, religious, economic and social developments in England over Elizabeth's 45 year reign. Students will develop their source skills and their understanding of different historical interpretations during the process of developing an understanding of Elizabeth's rule.

**Exam:** A2 2 is sat at the end of year 14, the value is 40% of the whole A Level. The form is a 2 hours 30 minute exam with three questions in the form of 2 source-based questions and 1 essay.

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

History is an academic subject, respected for the skills that it develops in a person and ideal for anyone considering university. Skills of analysis are invaluable in many jobs, and the ability to analyse and then prioritise information is vital to decision making. Students who choose History A level do so because they enjoy learning in depth about the personalities and processes involved in the subject. It is an interesting and enjoyable experience for both teacher and students, developing invaluable and transferable skills for any career choice.

To find out more about this course, please get in contact with **Jo Rodgers** by emailing [jrogers515@c2ken.net](mailto:jrogers515@c2ken.net)

# IRISH

## Examination Board – CCEA

“Fluency in Irish enables graduates to develop careers, not only in the more traditional areas such as teaching, translation and the media, but also in the arts and cultural sector, in public sector organisations, and in professions such as healthcare, ICT and marketing”.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** at least a grade C\* in GCSE Irish.

### COURSE OUTLINE

During the two years of the course students will have the opportunity to study a wide range of topics including, myself, family, school and university life, hobbies and interests, young people’s issues, the media, technology, and many more. Students will have the opportunity: to work with computers creating leaflets, short films and presentations on certain topics; to debate certain topical issues with their classmates and students from different schools; to study independently; express their own opinions and reach their own conclusions on all issues.

### ASSESSMENT

Both AS and A2 are split into 3 modules, the first being the speaking module which is worth 30% of your total mark. Module 2 consists of reading, listening and translating. The written piece at AS will be based on a short film of our choice, while at A2 students have the option to study a drama, a novel, poetry or some very funny short stories. The course offers a chance for those with genuine work ethic, the opportunity to achieve the highest grades.

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

You can now study Irish as a joint degree along with many subjects such as Business Studies, Management Studies, Sociology, Psychology, Computing, International Politics, Marketing, Advertising, Law, Drama, Design, Music, Dance, History, Media and many more, giving you the opportunity to let your studies in Irish take you practically wherever you wish.

Irish is recognised as an official language of the European Union and the parliamentary house in Brussels. This means there is constant demand for translators with Irish and another EU language, with many new job opportunities abroad.

The recent Identity and Language Act provides for the Irish language sector to continue to grow throughout the country and beyond with jobs in the media, TV, ICT, marketing, publishing, teaching, translating, to name but a few.

Irish is an advantage in careers such as tourism, the media, teaching, research, the world of finance and in the administration of the arts. Even Oxford and Cambridge acknowledge Irish at A-level as an accepted entry subject. There are Irish language departments in universities all over the world, Spain, America, Australia and Japan to name a few. These offer not only employment opportunities, but social avenues as well, with many Irish speakers visiting the above places for festivals etc.

Studying and speaking Irish is an easy way to make valuable contacts locally, nationally and beyond, which as anyone will tell you can sometimes make the difference between getting where you want to go or not.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Robbie Keenan** or email [rkeenan823@c2ken.net](mailto:rkeenan823@c2ken.net)

# MATHEMATICS

## Examination Board – CCEA

The main reason for studying Mathematics is that it is interesting and enjoyable. People like its challenge, its clarity and the fact that you know when you are right. The solution to a problem carries excitement and satisfaction. You will find all these aspects in A Level maths!

Davis Willetts MP, when speaking as the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills said recently, "In terms of future jobs and career opportunities, A Level Maths scores more highly than just about anything else."

## AIMS OF THE COURSE

The course aims to develop students' understanding of mathematics and mathematical processes in a way that promotes confidence and fosters enjoyment and provides a strong foundation for progress to further study. It will help to develop an understanding of coherence and progression in mathematics. Above all students should enjoy the challenge that problems will present and be willing to persist at a problem to obtain the correct solution. Pure Mathematics with its emphasis on algebra is the foundation of all other forms of Mathematics. Mechanics is the study of forces and their effect on stationary and moving bodies. Statistics will teach you how to present and manipulate numerical information. You will study the underlying physical principles involved and learn how to translate practical problems into a mathematical language.

## ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Grade A in GCSE Mathematics and/or at least grade C in Further Mathematics.

## COURSE OUTLINE

The A Level Mathematics is a modular course:

Year 13 AS Modules: AS 1 Pure Mathematics and AS 2 Applied Mathematics

Year 14 A2 Modules: A2 1 Pure Mathematics and A2 2 Applied Mathematics

## ASSESSMENT

AS 1 Pure Mathematics is worth 60% of AS and 24% of A2

AS 2 Applied Mathematics is worth 40% of AS and 16% of A2

A2 1 Pure Mathematics is worth 36% of A2

A2 2 Applied Mathematics is worth 24% of A2

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

- Finance – actuarial work, accountancy, financial modelling, investment banking
- Computing – games design, internet security, telecommunications
- Mathematical Biology – population modelling, epidemics and vaccination
- Engineering – aircraft modelling, fluid flows, acoustic engineering, quantity surveyor, planner
- Teaching and lecturing
- Statistics – medical statistics, market research, government statistics
- Business – logistics, traffic planning, project management, business consultancy

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Irene Mathieu**, or email [imathieu872@c2ken.net](mailto:imathieu872@c2ken.net)

# MOVING IMAGE ARTS

## Examination Board – CCEA

Do you have a passion for film? Have you ever wanted to make your own, but didn't know where to start? Or have you ever wondered how films develop from a raw idea into a finished, polished production? If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then Moving Image Arts could be the subject for you!

Moving Image Arts is the dedicated study of the film industry. Students embarking on this course will learn about the earliest examples of humans creating moving images and the technological developments that, just over 100 years ago, laid the foundations of modern cinema. You will explore the influence of painting and art on film and discover the wide range of filmmaking styles that exist.

Students will develop an understanding of film language and how filmmakers use techniques to influence and engage audiences. In addition, you will learn about other cultures through the study of foreign cinema. Finally, you will examine the various stages of the production process and, by putting all of this new knowledge into practice, you will create your own film.

Not only is Moving Image Arts a highly enjoyable and creative course of study, it is also an excellent addition to any combination of subjects. It provides students with a strong and versatile skill set through both its practical and theoretical elements.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** You can study Moving Image Arts at A Level without having taken GCSE Moving Image Arts. However, GCSEs in subjects such as Art, English, ICT, and Moving Image Arts are desirable as they provide you with the skills you will need to succeed in MIA.

### AS OUTLINE

Alfred Hitchcock and the Classical Hollywood Style

- Formalism – Early European Cinema and American Expressionism
- Foundation Portfolio

### A2 OUTLINE

- Realism – Narrative and Visual Style
- Advanced Portfolio

**ASSESSMENT** - AS and A2 have two units each.

**Unit 1** – Critical response. This is assessed through an online exam worth 40%

**Unit 2** – Film production and planning. This is assessed through practical coursework worth 60%.

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Universities recognise MIA as a demanding academic course that develops a wide range of essential skills. Skills such as organisation, planning, time management, communication, teamwork, leadership as well as thinking and problem-solving skills; but most importantly MIA develops confidence. These skills are valuable in a range of career pathways and help to give MIA students a competitive edge. Northern Ireland is also a hot property in cinema today with many productions being shot locally.

Due to the range of skills acquired in film making, MIA A Level combines well with all subjects but particularly, English, Art and ICT.

To find out more about this course, please speak to **Noreen Doran** or email [ndoran492@c2ken.net](mailto:ndoran492@c2ken.net).

# MUSIC

## Examination Board – CCEA

If you enjoy studying music, playing your instrument or singing, and are good at it, then you should consider continuing your study into A Level. The course gives you the power to engage with music more deeply as a performer, composer and listener. It broadens your experience, develops imagination, fosters creativity and promotes social and personal development.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

Grade B in GCSE Music and at least Grade 4 standard on chosen instrument/voice.

AS LEVEL (YEAR 13)	A2 (YEAR 14)
<b>Performing 32.5%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 – 7-minute solo performance</li><li>• Viva Voce</li></ul>	<b>Performing 19.5%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 8 – 10-minute solo performance</li><li>• Viva Voce</li></ul>
<b>Composition 32.5%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1.5 – 2.5-minute composition</li><li>• 1000-word commentary</li></ul>	<b>Composition 19.5%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 – 3-minute composition</li><li>• 1200-word commentary</li></ul>
<b>Responding to Music 35%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 hour listening paper</li><li>• 2 hour written paper</li></ul>	<b>Responding to Music 21%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 1 hour 15 mins listening paper</li><li>• 2 hour written paper</li></ul>
<b>AREAS OF STUDY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music for Orchestra 1700 -1900</li><li>• Sacred Vocal Music, Anthems</li><li>• Secular Vocal Music, Musicals</li></ul>	<b>AREAS OF STUDY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Music for Orchestra in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century</li><li>• Sacred Vocal Music</li><li>• Secular Vocal Music, 1600 – present day</li></ul>
<b>UNFAMILIAR MUSIC</b> <p>Critical Judgements on musical elements, structure, resources, styles &amp; genres, periods.</p>	<b>UNFAMILIAR MUSIC</b> <p>Critical Judgements on musical elements, structure, resources, styles &amp; genres, periods.</p>

### WHERE WILL SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

A Level music gives you a strong foundation for higher education or a career in any of the following: music industry, TV, radio, film companies, teaching, event management and tourism, music therapy. Music is a universal language, so your career could take you anywhere. It is a well-known fact that recruiters enjoy hiring candidates who have taken part in creative subjects; it's an asset. Employers are increasingly looking for young adults with skills in critical thinking, adaptability, and tenacity, which are learnt from playing a musical instrument/singing. Studying music opens doors to many opportunities.

### SHIMNA SUCCESSES

Our graduates have achieved outstanding success, with some earning First Class Honours degrees in their courses. One graduate obtained a degree in Sound Technology from LIPA and is now touring the world as an engineer and studio manager. Another, a BMus (Hons) graduate from Goldsmiths, University of London, has pursued a career in teaching.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Orla Fitzpatrick** or email [ofitzpatrick063@c2ken.net](mailto:ofitzpatrick063@c2ken.net)

# PERFORMING ARTS

## Examination Board – CCEA

Performing Arts is a growth industry in Northern Ireland. This course gives students the opportunities to research and gain insights into the industry, engage with effective practice and prepare for employment, further training and/or study. If you have experience in and/or a keen interest in any aspect of performance or production, then this could be the course for you.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

There is no particular level of attainment required to study this course; it is open to any student who has a good GCSE profile and enthusiasm for this industry. However, it builds on the knowledge, understanding and skills developed in any GCSE creative and expressive arts subjects, for example, Drama, Music and Art.

This is an **applied course** which encourages students to develop knowledge and understanding of the following **in a context related to employability**:

- The techniques and approaches required in one or more performing arts areas of study
- Working methods linked to industry practice
- How their own skills and aptitudes could be best employed within related sectors, through exploring its products and processes

### KEY FEATURES

- There are 4 assessments units (outlined below)
- Students develop specialist knowledge, understanding and skills in **one** discipline within either performance or production (outlined below)
- Work will be completed both independently and in groups
- It is an applied A Level so there is no written exam

YEAR 13: AS LEVEL	YEAR 14: A LEVEL
<b>AS 1: Developing skills and Repertoire</b> <b>AS 2: Planning and realising a Performing Arts Event</b>	<b>A2 1: Planning for employment</b> <b>A2 2: Performing to a Commission Brief</b>

### DISCIPLINES AVAILABLE

**Performance** – Music, Dance, Drama

**Production** – Choreography, Design (costume or set), Direction, Musical Direction, Stage management, Technical (lighting or sound)

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Universities recognise that performing arts students develop a wide range of essential skills. Skills such as organisation, planning, time management, communication, teamwork and leadership, as well as thinking and problem-solving skills. These skills are valuable in a range of career pathways and help to give students a competitive edge.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Orla Fitzpatrick** or email [ofitzpatrick063@c2ken.net](mailto:ofitzpatrick063@c2ken.net)

# PHYSICS

## Examination Board – CCEA

### WHY SHOULD I TAKE PHYSICS?

Physics describes and explain how our world works, from the tiniest objects like atoms, to the whole Universe. The laws of physics underpin all of science and all of our technologies.

In our advanced level courses, you will study familiar topics such as energy, electricity and waves. You also meet quantum mechanics, gravitational fields, nuclear and particle physics.

The **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS** are:

- a minimum of 5 A\*-C grade GCSEs
- with at least a grade B in Maths and grade B English
- and minimum of two B grades at GCSE in science subjects.

### HOW WILL I LEARN?

We believe in learning by doing, so there is demonstration, discussion and practical investigation. This is supported by academically rigorous treatment of the theories. It does help to study Maths alongside Physics, but a good grasp of GCSE Maths is all that you need, and students typically take a variety of other subjects. Classes are exciting, challenging and take examples from our daily world, so students can link their learning to their interests. Students learn to think and work like professional scientists, and the application of Science to modern society is highlighted. We track progress throughout the course, to support students in achieving their target grade.

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Physics is a good choice if you want a career in science, engineering or almost any other field. Shimna physicists have taken degrees in mechanical, civil, aeronautical, electrical and electronic, nuclear and software engineering, also chemistry, biochemistry, environmental science, veterinary science, physiotherapy, music technology, computer games development, physics and astrophysics. You will develop skills valued by all employers; the ability to grasp concepts quickly, a determination to find answers, along with problem-solving, analytical, mathematical and IT skills. The skills you develop by studying Physics will help whichever career you choose.

### AS PHYSICS

**Unit 1:** Forces, Energy and Electricity (16%) – 1hr 45min written exam

**Unit 2:** Waves, Photons and Astronomy (16%) – 1 hr 45min written exam

**Unit 3:** Practical Techniques (8%) – 2 x 1hr practical exams of short experiments and a separate paper requiring analysis of experimental results.

### A2 PHYSICS

**Unit 4:** Deformation of solids, Thermal Physics, Circular Motion, Oscillations and Atomic and Nuclear Physics (24%) – 2h written exam

**Unit 5:** Fields, Capacitors and Particle Physics (24%) – 2h written exam

**Unit 6:** Practical Techniques (12%) – 2 x 1 hr practical components consisting of longer experiments and a separate paper requiring the analysis of experimental results.

To find out more, contact Head of Physics, **Alasdair Spence** ([aspence621@c2ken.net](mailto:aspence621@c2ken.net)) or our Head of Sciences, **Stephen McCormick** ([smccormick249@c2ken.net](mailto:smccormick249@c2ken.net))

# POLITICS

## Examination Board – CCEA

### POLITICS A-LEVEL – THE FUTURE IS IN YOUR HANDS

In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to keep track of the shifting political landscape in order to learn what's happening, why it's happening and how it affects you. If network and cable news just aren't enough then you've come to the right place.

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

No qualifications or previous experience is required, but a general interest in current affairs and the world around you would be valuable.

Have you an interest in:

- **US politics** – Some are arguing we have left crazy town and arrived at dullsville in 2021 with the change in the U.S top spot. If you want to know more, sign up.
- **U.K politics** – A turbulent few years brought about Brexit, now we are dealing with the consequences. The effects of covid are going to be long lasting on politics/economics/ employment and the future for young people, watch this space and keep ahead of the curve.
- **NI politics** – The pandemic is dominating politics at the minute, but the effects of Brexit and the Irish sea border is a growing concern. Add that to the normal day to day issues over power sharing and it's going to be an interesting ride.
- **Who has real power in the world today?** The people, the government or big business and bankers. What is the role of feminism in the 2020s?
- **Coercion, instability in States around the world** – Egypt, North Korea, Syria, Nigeria and China, to mention only a few.

If so, **A level politics** is an option for you. You will study:

- **British politics:** the role of: cabinet; prime ministers; the House of Commons and the Lords;
- **US politics:** powers of presidents; US constitution; US supreme court; US elections;
- **Those who control power:** elites – big business; oil companies; the military; · Alternatives to our structures: Marxism; feminism; anarchy; NI politics: political parties; the assembly; elections.

#### TRIPS

Meet Stormont MLAs; three day trip to London to see MPs in action, West End show, Cinema, Camden market, sightseeing; lectures at Queen's University.

#### WHERE CAN SUCCESS LEAD YOU?

Students who have studied A level politics have gone on to study a wide range of subjects including: politics; history; law; languages, and some have used a good result in politics to enter courses in social work, medicine, drama etc.

Careers relating to politics include – MPs, MEPs, MLAs, councillors, management, banking, civil service, media/publishing/journalism/research for TV and radio, pressure groups/ lobbying, political consultancy, parliamentary offices, charities, law, social work, nursing, education, US President (if you have US citizenship – Obama has a degree in Politics).

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Paddy McClean** or email [pmcclean619@c2ken.net](mailto:pmcclean619@c2ken.net)

# PSYCHOLOGY

## Examination Board – WJEC

Psychology is the scientific study of mind and behaviour. Psychology includes the study of conscious and unconscious phenomena, including feelings and thoughts. It is an essay-based subject with a lot of statistical analysis.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** Students should have a B in English Language and a B in Mathematics.

## COURSE OUTLINE

### YEAR 13 AS UNIT 1 PSYCHOLOGY: PAST TO PRESENT

Compulsory questions relating to five psychological approaches and classic of research.

**Exam:** AS 1 is sat at the end of year 13, the value is 20% of the whole A Level. This is a 1 hour 30-minute exam.

### YEAR 13 AS UNIT 2 PSYCHOLOGY: USING PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCEPTS

**Section A: Contemporary debate** – one question linked to the given debates.

**Section B: Principals of research and application of research methods**

**Principal of research:** compulsory questions on the theory of psychological research (including the work of the social and developmental psychologists).

**Application of research methods to a novel scenario:** compulsory questions requiring a response to a piece of research previously unseen.

**Exam:** AS 2 is sat at the end of year 13, the value is 20% of the whole A Level. This is a 1 hour 30-minute exam.

### YEAR 14 A2 UNIT 3 PSYCHOLOGY: IMPLICATIONS IN THE REAL WORLD

**Section A: The study of behaviours**

Three structured essays form a choice of six.

**Section B: Controversies in in psychology**

One question from a choice of two requiring a synoptic exploration of psychological controversies.

**Exam:** A2 3 is sat at the end of year 14, the value is 40% of the whole A Level. This is a 2 hour 30-minute exam.

### YEAR 14 A2 UNIT 4 PSYCHOLOGY: APPLIED RESEARCH METHODS

**Section A: Personal Investigations**

Compulsory questions based on investigative activities carried out prior to the assessment.

**Section B Application of research methods to a novel scenario**

Compulsory questions requiring a response to a piece of research.

**Exam:** A2 4 is sat at the end of year 14, the value is 20% of the whole A Level. The form is a 1 hour 30-minute exam.

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Psychology is an academic subject, respected for the skills that it develops in a person and ideal for anyone considering university. Skills of research, analysis and debate are invaluable in many jobs. Students who choose psychology A Level do so because they enjoy learning in depth about the human mind and behaviours that are extensively researched in the subject.

To find out more about this course, please get in contact with either **Suzy Dillon** or **Jo Rodgers** by emailing [sdillon140@c2ken.net](mailto:sdillon140@c2ken.net) or [jroddgers515@c2ken.net](mailto:jroddgers515@c2ken.net)

# RELIGIOUS STUDIES

## Examination Board - CCEA

Religious Studies provides a strong foundation for further study across a wide range of subject areas, including education, law, medicine, theology, and the history of the Christian Church in Ireland. In addition, our students obtain a wide range of skills such as analysis, interpretation, critical thinking as well as the ability to produce extended evaluative pieces of writing & participate in oral debate. The topics are relevant and require knowledge of current affairs. Students, therefore, will read widely outside of the core texts.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE Religious Studies (*grade B and above*), GCSE English (*grade B*)

### YEAR 13

#### The Celtic Church in Ireland in the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh Centuries (CCEA Unit 5)

- The arrival of Christianity in Ireland – *the work of Palladius & St Patrick*
- Celtic monasticism
- Celtic penitentials & concepts of sin and forgiveness
- Celtic hagiography of Celtic saints

#### Religious Ethics (CCEA Unit 6)

- Deontological ethical theories
- Teleological ethical theories
- Life and death ethics – *abortion, personhood & euthanasia*
- Bioethics – *surrogacy, pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD), embryo research and IVF*

### YEAR 14

#### Themes in the Celtic Church, Reformation and Post-Reformation Church (CCEA Unit 5)

- Controversy and authority – *dispute between Roman and Celtic Christianity*
- Missionary outreach
- Developments and outreach in Christianity – *post-reformation & modern*
- Synoptic assessment theme: Faith, Morality and the State

#### Religious Ethics (CCEA Unit 6)

- Virtue ethics, moral relativism
- Free will and determinism
- Human rights and gender justice
- War and peace, crime and punishment
- Synoptic assessment theme: conscience, faith, morality & the role of the state

AS Level	A2 Level
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AS 1: 50% of AS &amp; AS 2: 50% of AS</li> <li>• <b>AS in total = 40% of A-Level</b></li> </ul> <p>Each AS paper is 1 hour 20 minutes long.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A2 1: 50% of A2 &amp; A2 2: 50% of A2</li> <li>• <b>A2 in total = 60% of A-Level</b></li> </ul> <p>Each A2 paper is 2 hours long.</p>

### LINKS TO HIGHER EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT:

Religious Studies is an excellent subject at AS/A2 Level as it is compatible with a broad range of subjects. It will equip you with many skills and abilities suited to further study and Degree courses. Moreover, as an academic subject, it is widely recognised and respected by universities. Students engage with great debates and are provided with the opportunity to hone their skills in 'arguing a case on the basis of evidence' – a skill which is central to progress in the world of work. Former students have gone on to successful careers in journalism, law, social work, criminology, psychology, nursing, medicine, teaching and the theatre.

If you would like more information about the course, please speak to **Letitia Kerr** in P45, or email [lkerr613@c2ken.net](mailto:lkerr613@c2ken.net)

# SOFTWARE SYSTEMS DEVELOPMENT

Examination Board – CCEA

## AIMS OF THE COURSE

Software Systems Development is a relatively new course. This course was created to educate students in the latest software programmes and developments in an ever-expanding industry. The course aims to allow students to develop a genuine interest in Software Systems Development with a focus on programming. Throughout the course students will develop an understanding of systems approaches and modelling techniques to support software development. Coursework enables students to develop software development skills that will prepare them for work in today's software industry.

Students will participate in the development of a software project using a complete software development process and will apply their skills to relevant work-related scenarios. Working in groups students will research, develop and present their findings in a variety of formats. Advanced study skills will be developed in preparation for university level education and students are given the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding and application of key concepts through challenging internal and external assessment.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** at least grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

## COURSE OUTLINE/ASSESSMENT

The course consists of four units over the course of two years:

- **AS Level: AS 1** – Introduction to Object Orientated Development (external written exam taken in the Summer of Year 13, worth 50% of AS and 20% of A Level)
- **AS Level: AS 2** – Event Driven Programming (internal portfolio completed during Year 13 worth 50% of AS and 20% of A Level)
- **A Level – A2 1** – Systems Approaches and Database Concepts (external written exam taken in the Summer of Year 14, worth 30% of A Level)
- **A Level – A2 2** – Implementing Solutions (internal portfolio completed during Year 14, 30% of A Level)

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

This A Level can lead to a number of university courses and higher level apprenticeships.

- Software Business Analyst
- Database Administrator
- IT Consultant
- Software Engineer/Developer
- Software Trainer
- Web Developer

## COMMITMENT NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS

Students should be interested in software and computer programming, how the processes work and can be used effectively. Practical work is a vital part of this course as assignments account for 50% of the A Level. Students should be prepared to complete all assignments in an allotted time and to a high standard.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Irene Mathieu** or email [imathieu872@c2ken.net](mailto:imathieu872@c2ken.net)

# SPANISH

## Examination Board – CCEA

If you are inspired by language and culture and want to get ahead in an international world, this course is for you! Spanish is one of the world's major languages with as many first language speakers as English. By 2050, the number of Spanish speakers is expected to increase to 530 million. Speaking Spanish can open a door to a whole new world and is seen as a valuable skill in the world of work. Using Spanish in the workplace, when socialising or enjoying cultural life will widen your horizons, create new opportunities, and increase your appreciation of what's out there. Studying Spanish at A Level compliments many other subjects such as history, English literature, geography, science subjects, maths and philosophy and ethics.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** GCSE grade B and above in Spanish and a keen interest in developing your linguistic skills.

### COURSE OUTLINE

AS Spanish subject content deals with social issues and trends and includes the following aspects of Hispanic society – modern and traditional values such as family and relationships, friendship, young people's problems, their free time, cinema, music and the arts, the influence of famous people and Spanish regional identity. Students study a modern Spanish film. At A2 level students will study topics such as going to university, jobs and careers, immigration, racism, integration, equality and environmental issues as well as a set literature text. You will have the opportunity to complete your work experience in Spain in a Spanish school and have a lesson every week with our Spanish language assistant to improve your oral skills!

### ASSESSMENT

AS Assessment: 40% of AS marks contribute to the overall A Level grade. The skills assessed at the end of the AS year are listening, speaking, reading and writing. A2 Assessment: 60% of A2 marks contribute to the overall A Level grade and are assessed at the end of the A2 year.

### WHERE CAN YOUR SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Universities and employers recognise Spanish as a demanding and prestigious course that develops thinking and communicative skills. Students who choose Spanish have a competitive edge on the job market. A knowledge of Spanish is invaluable for careers in journalism, law, marketing, translating, accounting, media, healthcare, social work. The IT sector has a huge shortage of workers who can speak more than one language and there are lots of opportunities in sales and accounting where you can use your Spanish. At university you can combine Spanish with other subjects and do your work placement in a Spanish-speaking country, e.g. Spanish with Engineering, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Management Studies, Maths, Computing, Sports Studies, Law, English and Theatre Studies.

### ARE THERE ANY A LEVEL SPANISH TRIPS?

Yes, A Level Spanish trips have taken place to both Seville and Madrid. The trips allow students to immerse themselves in Spanish language and culture and include cultural visits as well as leisure activities.

Find out more about this course, please talk to **Grace Susay** or email [gsusay356@c2ken.net](mailto:gsusay356@c2ken.net)

We can also put you in touch with one of our past year 13 or 14 Spanish students so you can talk to them about the A Spanish Level course to gain a student's perspective of the course.

# BTEC / APPLIED COURSES

## APPLIED BUSINESS

### Examination Board - WJEC

The Level 3 Applied Business qualifications support learners to understand the business industry. It enables learners to develop knowledge and understanding of foundational aspects of business, to learn about business strategy, and provides opportunity for them to develop a broad range of skills and qualities required by the industry.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** It is not necessary to have studied GCSE Business Studies. A good GCSE profile and enthusiasm for the subject are essential, with a minimum of 5 GCSEs including English or Maths.

### COURSE OUTLINE & ASSESSMENT

The qualification is accredited by the WJEC exam board. The Extended Certificate is equivalent to one A Level. Year 1 covers a range of topics and is assessed through one controlled assessment worth 30% of the overall qualification, and one external examination worth 20% of the overall qualification. The Extended Certificate Year 2 covers a range of topics and is assessed through one controlled assessment worth 30% of the overall qualification, and one external examination worth 20% of the overall qualification

Year 1 (Year 13)	Year 2 (Year 14)
Exploring business fundamentals	Exploring business strategies
Marketing principles for business success	The use of budgeting as a planning tool
Managing business finance	Using sales forecasts
Managing human resources (HR)	Using technology to drive change
Coordinating efficient business operations	Exploring economies and diseconomies of scale
Developing skills for business	Using SWOT analysis to aid decision-making
Managing ethical business operations	Measuring business performance
Sustainable business	Making investment decisions
	Taking an environmental, social and governance (ESG) approach
	The impact of the external environment on business operations
	Trading in the global business environment

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

The Applied Business qualification provides you with skills and knowledge relevant to a wide range of university courses and Higher Level Apprenticeships. It certainly gives an excellent foundation for the study of any business-related degree course and many past students have followed this path. It is also useful if you are starting your career after Sixth Form and it will give you the grounding you need if you are thinking of going into business for yourself.

To find out more about this course, please speak to **Darryl Nesbitt** or email any questions to [dnesbitt901@c2ken.net](mailto:dnesbitt901@c2ken.net)

# HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

**Awarding Body – Pearson**  
**Level 3 National Extended Certificate**

## COURSE INFORMATION

This qualification is a practical, work-related course which involves learning through the completion of projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situations, activities and demands, as well as working towards externally assessed exams. This course is excellent preparation for working with people in any workplace situation but particularly for working with individuals who have care and support needs.

This **level 3 BTEC** course is widely recognised as equivalent to **1 A Level** grade A\*-C.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** A grade C or above in GCSE English is essential. This is a *specific English requirement* and cannot be substituted with a combined "C in Maths and/or English" criterion.

## YEAR 1 STUDY

The first year of the course consists of 2 units:

### **Unit 1: Human lifespan development** (exam sat in January each year)

Externally assessed unit within which you will learn about physical, intellectual, emotional and social development across the human lifespan, the factors affecting development and the effects of ageing.

### **Unit 5: Meeting Individual Care and Support Needs**

Internally assessed unit consisting of 2 written assignments. You will learn about the principles and practicalities that underpin meeting individuals' care and support needs as well as promoting anti-discriminatory practice. You will explore values and issues that need to be considered in care, methods used by professionals across all care sectors and challenges they may face.

## YEAR 2 STUDY

The second year of the course consists of 2 units:

### **Unit 2: Working in Health and Social Care** (exam sat in January each year)

Externally assessed unit that will provide you with an insight into the roles and responsibilities of people who work in the health and social care sector, the roles of organisations in the health and social care sector and the working practices used when working with people with specific needs.

### **Unit 12: Supporting Individuals with Additional Needs**

Internally assessed unit which requires the learner to visit 2 additional needs care settings: one for children and one for adults. Observations at these placements along with secondary research will be used to complete 2 assignments based around diagnosis and effects of specific additional needs, as well as rights and access for those with additional needs.

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Care management; community development; social work; nursing; midwifery; occupational therapy; childcare; elderly care; teaching assistant; health therapies; youth work and health administration to name a few.

For more information on this course, speak to **Suzy Dillon** or email [sdillon140@c2ken.net](mailto:sdillon140@c2ken.net)

# INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPLICATIONS

## OCN NI Level 3 Diploma – equivalent to a C grade at A Level

If you are interested in working in Information Technology, this is a course for you. The content will appeal to anyone interested in the fundamentals of IT including software, security, mobile application development and the effective use of social media in marketing and promotion whilst also developing practical IT skills in email, spreadsheets, using the internet and presentation and multimedia software.

### WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM THIS COURSE?

Today's work environment depends increasingly on a range of technologies. The OCN NI Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology Applications is designed to provide students with the more advanced IT skills required to function successfully in the work and wider environment. In order to achieve the Diploma in Information Technology Applications, students must complete all units.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

There are no formal entry requirements however students should have an intermediate knowledge of IT skills.

### COURSE OUTLINE

Students will study a variety of units totalling 52 credits across Year 13 and Year 14.

### ASSESSMENT

The course is fully assessed through the completion of a portfolio for each unit with no written examinations.

### PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

The OCN NI Level 3 Diploma in Information Technology Applications qualifications enable progression into further and higher education, apprenticeships, IT training or employment.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Irene Mathieu** or email [imathieu872@c2ken.net](mailto:imathieu872@c2ken.net)

# SPORTS STUDIES

## Level 3 National Extended Certificate

If you want to make a career out of your love of sport, this is the course for you. This subject will appeal to anyone interested in the theory of sport, whilst developing some of your practical interests.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

GCSE PE: Grade C or above is required.

English: Grade C or above is essential.

If GCSE PE has not been taken students must have achieved AA–CC in Double Award Science

All applicants should also demonstrate an active involvement in sport

### WHAT WILL YOU GAIN FROM THIS COURSE?

The **BTEC** in Sport allows students to gather a rich and diverse appreciation of a whole range of theoretical and practical knowledge. Students can get a real-life feel of the multi-disciplinary nature of the subject area as they constantly apply their learning to both themselves, performers, and practical situations.

It is the equivalent to **one A Level**.

This **Level 3 extended certificate** offers the skills and knowledge you will need to work in sport and also gives you transferable skills that employers and universities are looking for. In completing the course, you will gain a detailed understanding of the anatomy and physiology of the human body, and how this has implications for fitness testing and training methods. Practical Sports Performance will provide you with the skills, techniques and tactics to reflect and improve performance. This in turn underpins how to professionally develop your career in sport.

### COURSE OUTLINE

Over the two years you will study four units:

- Anatomy and Physiology (exam)
- Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being (synoptic exam)
- Professional Development in the Sports Industry (internal assessment)
- Practical Sports Performance (internal assessment)

### ASSESSMENT

Assessment is rigorous and appropriate, and benchmarked against national standards.

We appreciate that students learn in different ways, so the pattern of internal assessment is extremely varied. There are three forms of assessment: external, internal and synoptic. *It is worth noting that this is NOT the traditional coursework-based BTEC.* One external and one synoptic exam (67%) and two internal units (33%)

Over the two years you will learn to write essays, careers audits, complete application forms, conduct interviews, critically analyse participants, prepare poster presentations, carryout fitness tests, analyse results and develop ICT skills, build on exam technique all while working as part of a team.

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

Sports Studies students are well qualified to pursue university level education and work in the sport and leisure industry, recreation management, and community recreation. The transferable skills you acquire during your study will also make you equally attractive to non-sport employers.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Rebecca Murphy**, **Barry Dagen** or **C Hanna** or email [rmurphy973@c2ken.net](mailto:rmurphy973@c2ken.net) [bdagen319@c2ken.net](mailto:bdagen319@c2ken.net) [channa616@c2ken.net](mailto:channa616@c2ken.net)

# TRAVEL & TOURISM

## Level 3 National Extended Certificate

Love to travel? Then the **BTEC** National Extended Certificate in Travel and Tourism may be for you!

This BTEC encourages students to develop broad skills, knowledge and understanding of the travel and tourism industry. Students are encouraged to develop and sustain an interest in travel and tourism and the issues affecting the industry, as well as appreciating the positive and negative impacts travel and tourism may have on people, the environment and the economy.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:** A good GCSE profile and level of English, along with enthusiasm for the subject are **essential**. Many students have found that it combines well with Business Studies or Geography at A Level.

## COURSE OUTLINE AND ASSESSMENT

This **level 3 BTEC** course is widely recognised as equivalent to **1 A Level** grade. You will complete four units:

### UNIT 1: THE WORLD OF TRAVEL AND TOURISM

This unit provides the foundation for learners to study other units in travel and tourism. You will explore the key components and scale of the industry, using data to analyse key trends and their impact. It is assessed by **a 1.5 hour written exam (25% of total qualification)**.

### UNIT 2: GLOBAL DESTINATIONS

You will investigate and analyse information regarding the features and appeal of global destinations, travel planning, and the factors and trends affecting the changing popularity of global destinations. You will be provided with information and tasks to carry out research prior to your exam.

You will then complete the assessment task during **a 3-hour written exam (33.3% of total qualification)**.

During this exam, you will be assessed on your ability to:

- Explain features of a global destination and explain the features that give it global appeal
- Assess travel plans and justify how they meet customer needs.
- Evaluate the appeal and popularity of destinations.

### UNIT 3: MARKETING IN TRAVEL AND TOURISM

You will investigate the use of marketing in travel and tourism organisations and how to meet customer expectations in order to inform a promotional campaign of your own design.

This unit will be assessed via **internal assignments** - which are work related assignments set and marked by your teacher. **(25% of total qualification)**.

### UNIT 9: VISITOR ATTRACTIONS

You will develop analytical skills as you investigate the nature and role of visitor attractions, their commercial success, appeal, response to diverse visitor needs and the importance of delivering a memorable visitor experience.

This unit will be assessed via **internal assignments** - which are work related assignments set and marked by your teacher. **(16.6% of total qualification)**.

## WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

This qualification provides you with skills and knowledge relevant to a wide range of university courses and provides the same UCAS points as an A Level. It gives an excellent foundation to the study of any travel or business-related degree course. It may be particularly useful if you are looking to go into employment after A Level.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Stuart Scott** or email [sscott725@c2ken.net](mailto:sscott725@c2ken.net)

# OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

## EXTENDED PROJECT QUALIFICATION

### Examination Board - AQA

The Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) is an A Level standard standalone qualification designed to extend and develop your abilities beyond A Levels and prepare you for university or your future career. You are supported through a progressively independent project. While you do not need to know your area of research at the start of the project, you will need to develop a genuine passion and interest in the topic you focus on. These attributes will help your commitment and motivation to your Project and ensure your success.

### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:

The EPQ is equivalent to half an A-level and can only be taken in addition to your three or four A Level/BTEC qualifications.

### COURSE OUTLINE

The EPQ allows students to lead their own projects. Students get to plan and carry out research on a topic that they have chosen that is not covered by their other qualifications. They can take inspiration from something touched on in class or something personal and unrelated to their studies. They then use this research to produce a written report and, in the case of practical projects, an artefact or a production. It is recognised by universities and employers and shows a dedication to independent research and the pursuit of knowledge.

By taking responsibility for the choice, design and decision making of an individual project (or an individual role in a group project) students:

- become more critical, reflective and independent learners
- develop and apply decision-making and problem-solving skills
- increase their planning, research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation and presentation skills
- learn to apply technologies confidently
- demonstrate creativity, initiative and enterprise.

Students have submitted projects on topics such as; the limits of humanity, whether political comedy has a positive influence on national American politics, masculinity in K-Pop Critical, an analysis of Jaws and its cultural significance.

### ASSESSMENT

Students draft a title and aims of the project for formal approval by the centre. Plan, research and carry out the project. Deliver a presentation to a non-specialist audience. Provide evidence of all stages of project development and production for assessment

### WHERE CAN SUCCESS TAKE YOU?

It is worth half an A Level and contributes the UCAS tariff points for university applications and funding for higher education courses. It is recognised by universities and employers and shows a dedication to independent research and the pursuit of knowledge.

To find out more about this course, please talk to **Darryl Nesbitt** or email [dnesbitt901@c2ken.net](mailto:dnesbitt901@c2ken.net)