



FAITH - RESPECT - CHALLENGE - INNOVATION - COMPASSION
OUR VISION - PURSUE EXCELLENCE



DE LA SALLE SCHOOL
ST HELENS

To provide a safe and inspiring environment where all fulfil their potential

Year 8

GCSE Information

Booklet

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ENGLISH

A short description of the course....

Pupils prepare for their exams by reading two of their three set texts. Pupils also prepare for the English Language exam by studying a range of non-fiction texts.

In Year 11 the pupils develop their skills in comprehension, analysis and evaluation in English language. They study a third set text for the English literature exam. The final component of the English literature exam is an anthology of contemporary and literary heritage poems in preparation for the second English literature exam.

All pupils must study a nineteenth century novel, a Shakespeare play and a Modern Novel written after 1945.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

English is one of the most necessary qualifications for entry to colleges, universities and most jobs and apprenticeships. English is also extremely important as it promotes the literacy skills needed to access many other courses throughout the school. English can form the basis of a career in many fields such as journalism, creative writing, scriptwriting, teaching and many more. Most careers will require a grade 5 or above, as this indicates that you have a good understanding of the spoken and written word enabling you to deal with the public, and to prepare and send business letters, as well as understanding the complicated documentation we face in the world of work and study.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

are those who enjoy reading a variety of different materials (novels, plays, poems, newspaper articles etc) An eagerness to develop analytical skills and develop a deeper understanding of how our language works, and how writers have shaped language over the centuries, is required for the top grades.

Assessment requirements:

100% examination for both Language and Literature. There are two examination papers for Language and two for Literature.

- ◆ The average percentage of pupils gaining a C-Grade or above over the last three years is 72%
- ◆ This qualification forms part of the English Baccalaurate (EBacc)
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mr Hollins or Mr Talbot

MATHS

A short description of the course....

In Years 9, 10 and 11, all pupils study one of two pathways.

FOUNDATION Target grades 5 - 1

HIGHER Target grades 9 - 5.

Both pathways ensure pupils are prepared for the GCSE through a structured course that develops fluency, problem-solving and reasoning. Pupils learn to apply skills to the disciplines of Algebra, Number, Statistics, Geometry & Measures, Ratio & Proportion and Probability. Throughout the three-year course pupils will be assessed regularly to monitor their progress so they remain on track to reach their target grade.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

Mathematics GCSE is a requirement qualification for entry into most apprenticeship schemes, most FE colleges and all universities. Employers increasingly are asking for a good pass at mathematics GCSE.

Mathematics is a subject which recognises that pupils need to be fully prepared for the rapidly changing world. It is central to our understanding of the world, underpinning science, technology, medicine and engineering. When pupils are presented with real life and/or complex problems in maths, it enables pupils to develop the ability to analyse, generalise, communicate and interpret the problem. These four 'process skills', help to develop pupils as effective 'problem solvers' in society and in the workplace.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

are organised making sure they always have the correct equipment, including a scientific calculator. They use the online maths sites (mymaths and mathswatch) to help them improve their understanding and make better progress. They always complete their homework well.

Assessment requirements:

Three written examinations each for 1 hour and 30 minutes. Paper 1 is a non-calculator exam and paper 2 and paper 3 are calculator exams.

- ◆ The percentage of pupils gaining a C-Grade or better last year was 73.6%
- ◆ This qualification forms part of the English Baccalaurate (EBacc)
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mrs Gill or Miss Aldred

RE

A short description of the course....

Year 9 –**Philosophy and Ethics**

Content – Existence of God, relationships and families

Assessment: 50 minute written exam at the end of Y11 (25% of final grade)

Year 10 –**Study of Catholic Christianity**

Content – Beliefs and Teachings, Practices, Sources of Wisdom & authority and Forms of Expression and Ways of Life.

Assessment: 1 hour 45 minute written exam at the end of Y11 (50% of final grade)

Year 11 -**Study of Judaism/Revision**

Content – Beliefs and Teachings, Practices/Overall revision

Assessment: 50 minute written exam at the end of Y11 (25% of final grade)

A full specification for the GCSE can be found at <http://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-gcse/religious-studies-a-2016.html>

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

At De La Salle, Religious Education is about the development of an open-ended, 'thinking' approach to the Catholic tradition, rooted in the core values of our Lasallian heritage.

Pupils follow the archdiocesan programme of study for secondary RE which has been modified to reflect the distinctive character of our school. All pupils take GCSE Religious Studies as outlined below.

RE is a signpost to a critical and intelligent thinker. As well as the further study of our subject, RE students often thrive in subjects such as English, History, Law, Sociology, Psychology and Politics to name a few.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

are open minded and enjoy exploring other people's views and analysing their own. Success in RE is achieved through a synergy of creativity, critical thinking and personal journey. If you are someone who enjoys discussion, argument and is open to the role faith plays in people's lives then you will benefit hugely from RE.

Assessment requirements:

Two final exams - (100% exam)

- ◆ Our GCSE results in RE are above national average and regularly fall between 70 & 80% A*-C.
- ◆ This qualification does not form part of the English Baccalaurate (EBacc)
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mr Holland or a member of the RE team.

SCIENCE

A short description of the course....

Combined Science replaces the old Core and Additional Science GCSEs.

The Combined Science course is two GCSEs.

Students will study the three sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics across Years 9, 10 and 11. There are 6 topics in each of the three disciplines, making a total of 18.

The teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed through the written examinations at the end of the course.

Students will be entered for either the foundation tier (grades 5-5 to 1-1) or the higher tier (grades 9-9 to 4-4).

The course is offered by the OCR examination board, and is the Gateway Science suite. The full specification of the course can be found at:
www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234596-specification-accredited-gcse-gateway-science-suite-combined-science-a-j250.pdf

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Combined Science encourages learners to:

- develop scientific knowledge through the specific disciplines of biology, chemistry and physics.
- develop understanding of the nature, processes and methods of science.
- develop and learn to apply observational, practical, modelling, enquiry and problem-solving skills.
- develop their ability to evaluate claims based on critical analysis.

If students are thinking of studying any of the sciences at A-level or beyond then they may also consider taking the Triple Science option.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

are those that enjoy scientific enquiry and the practical aspects of the subject. They will be keen to take their studies beyond the classroom and must also be willing to prepare thoroughly for all examinations, by spending time studying past papers and revision material.

Assessment requirements:

There are six examinations at the end of Year 11. Two assess the biology content, two chemistry and two physics.

Each paper is 70 minutes, comprises of 60 marks and is worth 16.7% of the overall qualification.

- ◆ Combined Science is a new qualification. The average percentage of pupils gaining a C-Grade or above over the last three years in Core Science is 80%.
- ◆ This qualification forms part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc).
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mr Bahan (bahans@sthelens.org.uk) or any other members of the science department.

COMPUTING

A short description of the course....

In Year 9 pupils will study problem solving and programming to allow them to develop their programming skills using Python.

Through Year 10 pupils will continue to develop their programming skills in preparation for their controlled assessment as well as studying the topics: Data, Computers and communications. (Throughout all aspects pupils will focus on technical issues, trends and ethical issues related to technology.)

In Year 11 pupils will complete their controlled assessment as well as an intense revision structure that covers all theory topics studied in year 9 and 10

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

Computer Science option should be taken by those pupils who are considering taking computer science at an advanced level.

The new GCSE specification is intended to develop students' understanding of principles of computer science and their ability to apply computational thinking to problem solving.

This course will prepare students for real-world computer challenges and build students' ability to think computationally within the context of a single scenario. As well as 'underpinning knowledge' and developing transferable skills for progression to A levels or BTEC Nationals and to higher education or the workplace. It includes topics that extend students' understanding and aid progression, such as the internet and databases.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

Enjoy a challenge and like to solve problems both as part of a team and as an individual. They are lateral thinkers who can plan and produce solutions.

Assessment requirements:

There are **2 examinations** in Computing:

Component 1: Principle of computer Science (40%)

Component 2: Applications of Computational thinking (40%)

There is **1 Controlled Assessment**:

Component 3: Project (20%) (20 hours)

- ◆ This qualification **does** form part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mrs Melia or Miss Farrelly

GEOGRAPHY

A short description of the course....

In Year 9 pupils study a variety of topics to cover a basis for both exam papers including physical landscapes in the UK, ecosystems, natural hazards, and pilot study fieldwork visit to Snowdonia National Park to look at glacial landscapes.

Year 10 we move onto looking into the challenges that urban environments are having across the world and how we can manage our resources better for a more sustainable lifestyle.

Towards the end of the year we will be looking at going to the Lake District to study a river location and impact of tourism in a National Park.

For Year 11, pupils will be taking part in a fieldwork investigation in Liverpool City Centre as an example of regeneration in a changing economic world. We will also get a piece of pre-release work to encourage research skills.

Throughout the 3 year course pupils will be regularly assessed to support learning and will be expected to take part in individual work to underpin the learning of the classroom.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

GCSE Geography can

- allow the opportunity to develop:
 - communication skills
 - graphical and cartographical skills
 - technological skills, including ICT and GIS
 - interpersonal skills through debate and discussion
 - literacy and numeracy
 - problem solving skills
 - entrepreneurial skills and awareness of career possibilities.
- provide a sound foundation for those candidates who intend to continue to study the subject to a higher level

Geography is often a necessary qualification for entry to colleges, universities and most jobs and apprenticeships. Geography can form the basis of a career in many fields such as teaching, the environment and many more.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

are interested in Geography, willing to commit to learning in a variety of ways.

Assessment requirements:

Pupils will be assessed through 3 exams at the end of Year 11.

Paper 1 – physical geography (1hr 30mins; worth 35% of GCSE)

Paper 2 – human geography (1hr 30mins; worth 35% of GCSE)

Paper 3 – Geographical applications (1hr 15mins; worth 30% of GCSE)

- ◆ The percentage of pupils gaining an A*- G grade last year was 98%, whilst 78% attained A*-C.
- ◆ This qualification forms part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- ◆ The person you need to contact if you require further details about this course is: Mr Hussey

HISTORY

A short description of the course....

Through a variety of media including ICT, film, photographs, cartoons, novels and other forms of information pupils will begin to explore their history studies. In Yr 9 and 10 they learn about American history and between 1920 and 1973, including the Roaring 20's, America during WW2, the Cold War and the Civil Rights Movement .

A separate investigation will be undertaken into America's involvement in the Korean and Vietnam wars.

At the end of Yr10 and Yr11 study will comprise of in depth investigations into the History of Medicine (AD 1000 to the present day) and finally a study of Norman England which also involves a case study of an important Norman building eg. A particular Norman cathedral or castle).

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

Why is history important? Through improving your understanding of some of the key developments in 20th Century history we can equip you with the thinking skills to ensure that the world doesn't make the same mistake twice. History really is that valuable! Furthermore, we will also help you learn more about people. We all have different cultures and different values, so our points of view could differ greatly. If we do learn to understand one another through history, we will be able to prevent doing things that will harm others, and that make them feel hurt. It is not easy, but it should help us to learn to appreciate our lives even more, and help us live a harmonious life.

History can form the basis of a career in many fields such as journalism, politics, teaching, law, business management and many more. It will give you the opportunity to understand the world on a deeper level, debate, analyse and think critically. In addition, it forms part of the EBacc qualification which is being recognised as an increasingly important criteria when applying for entry into some universities.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

Are willing to spend their own time reading. They will be organised keep up to date with homework (4 hours per fortnight) and willing to produce extended pieces of writing. In addition there will be an expectation that you are willing to contribute towards class debate and discussion

Assessment requirements:

Controlled Assessment is no longer a feature of GCSE study, instead there will be two exams (Paper 1 and Paper 2) at the end of Y11.

- ◆ The average percentage of pupils gaining a C-Grade or above over the last three years is 75%
- ◆ This qualification forms part of the English Baccalaurate (EBacc)
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are Mr Cummings, Mrs Callister and Mr Fletcher.

SPANISH**A short description of the course....**

At De La Salle we are passionate about the benefits that learning a language can bring. We strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and something students should enjoy and find rewarding.

The course is designed to enable students of all abilities to develop their Spanish language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence and also expand their cultural knowledge.

Students will learn Spanish within the following topic areas:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

The course will enable students to:

- develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently with native speakers in speech and writing .
- express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently.
- deepen their knowledge about how language works and enrich their vocabulary to increase their independent use and understanding of extended language in a range of contexts.
- acquire new knowledge, skills and ways of thinking through the ability to understand and respond to authentic spoken and written material.
- develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where Spanish is spoken.
- develop language learning skills both for immediate use and prepare them for further language study in school, higher education or employment.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

go the extra mile with their learning; are able to apply grammar rules in new context, can use prior learning to support them to work out meaning, spend time increasing their vocabulary, are happy to practise the spoken word with friends and classmates and are keen to explore the culture of Spain as well as the language.

Assessment requirements:

GCSE Spanish has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9).

Four skills are tested in the examinations (Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing), and are each worth 25%.

This is a linear qualification. Linear means that students will sit all their exams at the end of the course.

- ◆ Pupils will have the opportunity to work with our Lasallian partner school in Valladolid to develop their cultural understanding and enjoyment of the Spanish language.
- ◆ Results in MFL are 75% A*-C or above.
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course is: Mrs Smedley and Mrs Mallalieu.

ART & DESIGN

A short description of the course....

Year 9: Pupils will use the majority of this year to explore and experiment with a range of exciting materials. The year will focus on the development of creative thinking, project based work and bringing ideas to life.

Year 10: Pupils follow a foundation course in Art and Design, providing a taster of each endorsement. They will experience Fine Art, Mixed media, Textiles, Photography and Three Dimensional Studies. This year helps us all to uncover strengths and areas of interest.

Year 11: Pupils will start to work more independently following their own creative journey in response to given themes and briefs. Developing ideas in a variety of ways are key features of this examination.

Possibilities in Art & Design:

Pathway A: Pupils gain a GCSE in Fine Art or preferred endorsement over three years.

Pathway B: Some pupils may be invited to sit the exam early, making it possible to gain their GCSE in Art and Design in Year 10. Year 11 will follow a GCSE course in Photography. **Leave with 2 GCSEs in Art.*

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

We believe strongly in the importance of a visual and Creative Education. Visual learning is a very different experience providing pupils with a new way of seeing the world around them. It provides students with opportunities to explore their own creativity, how to look and analyse what they see and how to present a personal and unique response to their surroundings. Our learning ethos is built upon strong teacher/pupil relationships. We foster and build confidence in our students through the knowledge that this will help them with all areas of the curriculum and equip them well for future employment.

Pupils who do well in this subject...

Creative, enthusiastic, hardworking with a passion for learning. They are open minded to new ideas and are visually aware.

Interested in exploring a range of ideas and working in activities from drawing, painting, textiles, three dimensional design and photography.

Assessment requirements:

Coursework = 60%, End of Course Examination = 40%



- ♦ Pass rate—2016: 99% A*-C, 41% A*-A
- ♦ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mrs Millea—Subject Leader, Mrs Ashton— Art Teacher, Mrs Mayren – Art Teacher, Miss Winder—Photography Teacher



DANCE

A short description of the course....

GCSE Dance is a three year course worth one GCSE.

The main focus, especially in year 9 will be on building choreographic and compositional skills, looking at a variety of starting points, e.g.

- Text
- Photographs
- Art
- Music
- Props
- Features of the natural world
- Topical/Historical event

A great emphasis is also placed on technique and performance skills in preparation for:

- Technical solos
- Performance Piece
- Dance Show and other public performances
- Six professional works will be studied in detail, looking not only at the movement but also at the costume, lighting and set design.

It is hoped that theatre visits will be an integral part of the course.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

‘Dance is vital, an activity both exhilarating and liberating to watch or do. The instinct to dance is fundamentally joyous and no matter how hard you try, you can’t get away from that for long. It can also be a huge force for good, effectively drawing people together and levelling everyone through sheer hard work. It can speed up your heart rate, it can enliven your being, it can change your life’ (Richard Alston CBE)

GCSE Dance gives an excellent grounding for those pupils who go onto study dance or any performance qualification at BTEC Level 2 and 3, ‘A’ Level and/or Degree Level with perhaps a long term view of a career in performance or teaching. Although the course requires a great deal of hard work, especially as it is highly practical, it may also be a welcome break from the more academic subjects.

Pupils who do well in this subject...

- Have a love of dance.
- Be prepared to work outside their comfort zone creatively.
- Willing to perform to a variety of audiences.
- Will need to be prepared to put time in away from the classroom.
- Are able to work to deadlines.

Assessment requirements:

Performance (30%) 40 Marks Choreography (30%) 40 Marks

Dance appreciation (40%) Written exam 1 hr 30 mins 80 Marks

Choreography and Performance - Internally and externally marked.
Written Paper - externally marked.

PAST RESULTS

2012 – 2016 100% A* - C

- ◆ The person you need to contact if you require further details about this course is: Mrs Loftus

DRAMA**A short description of the course....**

Pupils study many aspects of drama throughout the course. There is the opportunity to study professional plays as well as learning the tools to devise in a variety of styles using different stimuli. Pupils will also gain experience of different roles within the theatre. The course involves both written and practical work.

**A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.**

The skills developed in Drama will obviously prepare pupils for further study in Performance as well as give them an understanding of the organisation and many skill sets needed to stage a performance. Pupils will also gain experience in presenting information in an interesting way and creating pieces around given topics.

Pupils who do well in this subject...

Are willing to work **collaboratively**. They must be able to work as part of a team and share the responsibility of putting assessed pieces together. This will entail after-school rehearsal as well as many research tasks.

Assessment requirements:**Component 1: Understanding drama****What's assessed**

- Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre.
- Study of one set play from a choice of six.
- Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers.

How it's assessed

- Written exam: 1 hour and 45 minutes
- Open book
- 80 marks
- 40 % of GCSE

Component 2: Devising Drama (practical)**What's assessed**

- Process of creating devised drama.
- Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer).
- Analysis and evaluation of own work.

How it's assessed

- Devising log (60 marks)
- Devised performance (20 marks)
- 80 marks in total
- 40 % of GCSE
- This component is marked by teachers and moderated by AQA.

Component 3: Texts in practice (practical)**What's assessed**

- Performance of two extracts from one play (students may contribute as performer or designer).
- Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1.

How it's assessed

- Performance of Extract 1 (20 marks) and Extract 2 (20 marks)
- 40 marks in total
- 20 % of GCSE
- This component is marked by AQA.

- ♦ The person you need to contact if you require further details about this course is: Miss Wellens

FOOD & CATERING

A short description of the course....

The Technical award in Food & Catering is a brand new exciting high quality qualification that will equip students with applied knowledge and real life practical skills.

The Food & Catering technical award is more practical in nature than the GCSE and will provide students with knowledge and highly sought after skills to prepare them for further study, apprenticeships and the work place. This course is ideal for learners who are interested in food and preparation in a commercial catering environment and wish to develop skills and knowledge that will prepare them for further study and employment within this sector.

It is equivalent to a single GCSE and WILL be included in Progress 8. Students with a Technical award qualification will be able to go on to study A levels or Vocational courses and will be considered by Colleges as **EQUAL to a GCSE** in fulfilling the entry requirements for a range of courses.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

What will I study in Food & Catering?

The Technical Award in Food & Catering will give learners the opportunity to develop an understanding of

- Practical food preparation skills and techniques
- Meal & menu planning
- Cooking methods and recipes
- Commercial practice
- Career opportunities in the catering sector
- Food hygiene and safety

There are three units;

Unit 1 Practical skills in Food & Catering – Learners will create a number of small practical outcomes to demonstrate their competency in 12 core skills. This will include the transferable skills of teamwork.

Unit 2 Extended making project – Learners will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills they have developed in unit 1 and the knowledge and understanding they have acquired in unit 3. The project will be in response to a brief. Learners will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing, evaluation and communication.

Unit 3 Fundamentals of Food & Catering (Exam) – Learners will study the essential information relating to food and catering including:
Ingredients & commodities
Meal and menu planning
Commercial practice
Possible careers within the catering industry
Food hygiene and safety

Points to Consider:

- ◆ Developing food preparation skills is a valuable life skill.
- ◆ Students must be organised with ingredients for practical lessons every week if they are to develop their practical skills to the standard needed for this level.
- ◆ Students opting for this subject will need to meet the requirements of a discussion/interview with the Head of DT/ Food to discuss the high commitment and organisational skills needed to complete this GCSE.
- ◆ The person you need to contact if you require further details about this course is: Mr Scott.

FRENCH

A short description of the course....

At De La Salle we are passionate about the benefits that learning a language can bring. We strongly believe in languages as a skill for life and something students should enjoy and find rewarding.

The course is designed to enable students of all abilities to develop their French language skills to their full potential, equipping them with the knowledge to communicate in a variety of contexts with confidence and also expand their cultural knowledge.

Students will learn French within the following topic areas:

Theme 1: Identity and culture

Theme 2: Local, national, international and global areas of interest

Theme 3: Current and future study and employment

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

Pupils will study French over three years and traditionally this has been in smaller class sizes to enable pupils to receive the maximum support and guidance from their teacher.

Pupils will have the opportunity to work with other Lasallian schools in France to gain a stronger cultural awareness and also further to develop their confidence in the spoken and written language.

Pupils who do well in this subject....

Students studying a second language have achieved outstanding results with 100% A-A* pass rate in 2016.

We have a strong record of students going on to study two or more Languages in Higher Education with many gaining a place at Oxford or Cambridge

Assessment requirements:

GCSE French has a Foundation Tier (grades 1–5) and a Higher Tier (grades 4–9).

Four skills are tested in the examinations (Listening, Reading, Speaking and Writing), and are each worth 25%.

- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mrs Smedley and Mrs Mallalieu.

VISUAL COMMUNICATION

A short description of the course....

The Technical award in Visual Communication is a brand new exciting high quality qualification that will equip students with applied knowledge and real life practical skills.

The Packaging and Graphics technical award is more practical in nature than the old GCSE and will provide students with knowledge and highly sought after skills to prepare them for further study, apprenticeships and the work place.

It is equivalent to a single GCSE and WILL be included in Progress 8. Students with a Technical award qualification will be able to go on to study A levels or Vocational courses and will be considered by Colleges as **EQUAL to a GCSE** in fulfilling the entry requirements for a range of courses.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

What will I study in Packaging and Graphics?

You will have the opportunity to develop and experiment with Graphic Design, Illustration, Advertising and CAD. You will learn and develop the technical skills involved in making high quality prototypes and demanding surface developments for complex packaging. You will also develop a range of skills and knowledge including:

- A greater understanding of how to develop real world design solutions
- Work with realistic Graphic Design and Advertising briefs
- Research and analysis of existing products
- Learning from existing high profile Graphic/Product Designers and Advertising agencies
- Develop and learn construction techniques such as model making, card engineering and prototype construction
- Learn a range of illustration techniques and drawing skills which will enable you to convey your ideas with confidence and flair; from perspective technical illustration to rapid concept sketches

During the course you will maintain a design portfolio and sketchbook. You may also have the opportunity to discuss your projects with real designers who are invited in from local businesses. In addition, due to the nature of this course, the skills you have developed and refined should link directly with further design based courses that you may choose to pursue.

There are three units;

- Unit 1** Skills demonstration – Learners will create a number of small practical outcomes to demonstrate their competency in 12 core skills. This will include the transferable skills of teamwork.
- Unit 2** Extended making project – Learners will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills they have developed in unit 1 and the knowledge and understanding they have acquired in unit 3. Learners will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing and evaluation and the transferable skills of communication.
- Unit 3** Fundamentals of Visual Communication (Exam) – Learners will study the fundamentals of visual communication techniques, processes in industry, health & safety, materials & stick forms, tools & equipment, systems & control procedures etc.

- ♦ The person you need to contact if you require further details about this course is: Mr Scott.

ICT

A short description of the course....

In Year 9 pupils will learn about using different types of software in a business scenario e.g. email, internet searching, spreadsheets, databases, presentation software and word processing.

In Year 10, you will complete your controlled assessment based on Database structure and design, as well as creative publications and technical developments. These are followed by theory units in preparation for the exam.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

This is a vocationally-related qualification that takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. The everyday use of ICT, from PCs to smartphones, now impacts all of our lives. This new Cambridge Nationals in ICT reflects this and provides students with a solid understanding of the subject which they can use in their working lives. Three themes are covered: business information systems, creative and technical development. You will be able to study any Level 3 course if you have successfully completed this course

Pupils who do well in this subject...

Like to learn about all the different types of software available from Graphics and Databases to Webpage design and computer programming.

- ◆ This course is a new course but very similar to OCR Nationals, where results in the department were consistently excellent.
- ◆ This qualification does not form part of the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mrs. Melia or Miss Farrelly .

MATERIALS TECHNOLOGY

A short description of the course....

The Technical award in Materials Technology is a brand new exciting high quality qualification that will equip students with applied knowledge and real life practical skills.

The Materials Technology technical award is more practical in nature than the old GCSE and will provide students with knowledge and highly sought after skills to prepare them for further study, apprenticeships and the work place.

It is equivalent to a single GCSE and will be included in Progress 8. Students with a Technical award qualification will be able to go on to study 'A' levels or Vocational courses and will be considered by Colleges as **EQUAL to a GCSE** in fulfilling the entry requirements for a range of courses.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

What will I study in Materials Technology?

You will have the opportunity to develop and experiment with your creative approach to materials and design. You will learn and develop the technical skills involved in making basic products / projects and will learn about the processes involved in making such products. Some of the areas covered in Materials Technology will be:

- Materials and components
- Design of products / projects
- Market influence
- Processes and manufacturing
- Environmental and sustainability issues

You will also develop a range of skills and knowledge including:

- Measuring and marking out
- Use of tools, equipment and machinery
- Quality assurance and quality control
- CAD /CAM

There are three units;

- Unit 1** Skills demonstration – Learners will create a number of small practical outcomes to demonstrate their competency in 12 core skills. This will include the transferable skills of teamwork.
- Unit 2** Extended making project – Learners will undertake an extended making project that showcases the skills they have developed in unit 1 and the knowledge and understanding they have acquired in unit 3. Learners will develop skills in planning and development, making, testing and evaluation and the transferable skills of communication.
- Unit 3** Fundamentals of Materials Technology (Exam) – Learners will study materials and their working properties and learn about processes and manufacture. They will gain knowledge of the application and characteristics of a wide range of woods, metals, polymers and also learn about careers in the industry etc.

- ♦ The person you need to contact if you require further details about this course is: Mr Scott.

MUSIC

A short description of the course....

In Year 10 pupils study a range of musical skills which centre around a project of arrangement which is handed in as coursework. This is where pupils make a different version of a well-known song for other instruments or singers. They also study ensemble performance.

In Year 11 the pupils sharpen their skills as performers and focus on their own skills as performers in My Music (AoS1). They also look in more detail at their own instrument and how this fits into a context and/or genre and compose an original piece of music for this instrument.

Throughout the course pupils learn about music both familiar and unfamiliar and learn how to analyse, appreciate and appraise it.

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

Music GCSE is a multi-skill subject where students are required to follow 4 Areas of study. These units need skills as an instrumentalist/singer and require students to have good creative and performance skills in addition to good academic ability. Music can form the basis of a career in many fields such as orchestras, soloists, composers, teaching, conductors/musical directors, teaching and many more. Former pupils who have studied music at De La Salle have gone on to study at the Royal Northern College of Music, The Royal Academy of Music and the Guildhall School of Music. Numerous other pupils have gone on to have successful experiences as band musicians who still have a regular spot on the music performing circuit today.

Pupils who do well in this subject...

Are usually good instrumentalists/singers already or have a passion for their improvement in their field. They are usually highly organised and motivated to practice on their own and with others.

Assessment requirements:

This is based on 60% coursework which includes 2 performances and 2 compositions as well as controlled tests in creative ability (15%) and in Listening and appraising (25%)

- ♦ The person you need to contact if you require further details about this course is Miss Cottrell.

PE**A short description of the course....**

Three practical performances, with a split of team sports and individual sports.

Planning, performing and evaluating and analysing a health related exercise programme
Theory Work is divided into three sections

Social-Cultural Influences

- Social Groups
- Commercialisation of sport
- Ethical and Socio cultural issues

Sports Phycology

- Classification of skill
- SMART Targets
- Basic Information Processing
- Types of Feedback
- Mental preparation

Health, fitness and Well-being

- Physical, mental & social
- Diet & nutrition

Applied Anatomy & Physiology

- Data Analysis
- Skeletal System
- Muscular System
- Movement Analysis
- Cardiovascular & Respiratory Systems
- Effects of exercise on the body system

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

Physical Education will give you the chance to excel in your chosen activities, and give you the opportunity to try new activities and exercises.

Given the skills you will develop through PE at GCSE, employers of all kinds will be interested in you. Due to the current concerns about health and fitness of society, more jobs are likely to be created in the health and leisure industry. Other occupations that may be pursued are PE teaching, Coaching, Physiotherapy & Sports Medicine and Media related jobs.

What Skills will I develop? A clear insight into the field – The combination of physical performance and academic challenge provides an exciting opportunity for students. They also learn about physical education through a range of different contexts and the impact it has on everyday lives. **Keeps the subject real** – It encourages students to immerse themselves in the world of sports and PE with the chance to perform sport (through the non-exam assessment component), and delve into the how and why of physical activity and sport.

Pupils who do well in this subject...

have a genuine interest in Physical Education and prove this through

- regular participation in a variety of activities and represent the school in at least one activity.
- are happy to be spending well over 70% of their time studying in class.

Assessment requirements:

- 30% - 3 Practical Areas eg basketball, football
- 60% - 2 end of Y11 written examinations
- 10% - written coursework.
- ◆ The average percentage of pupils gaining a C-Grade or above over the last three years is 90%
- ◆ This qualification does not form part of the English Baccalaurate (EBacc)
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: your PE teacher or Mr Whelan.

TRIPLE SCIENCE

A short description of the course....

Students will study the three separate sciences – Biology, Chemistry and Physics. These will be taught by three specialist teachers. The content is externally assessed at the end of Year 11.

The teaching of practical skills is integrated with the theoretical topics and they are assessed through the written examinations at the end of the course.

Students will be entered for either the foundation tier (grades 5-5 to 1-1) or the higher tier (grades 9-9 to 4-4).

The full specifications of the courses can be found at:

www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234594-specification-accredited-gcse-gateway-science-suite-biology-a-j247.pdf

www.ocr.org.uk/Images/234598-specification-accredited-gcse-gateway-science-suite-chemistry-a-j248.pdf

A summary of benefits of this qualification including signposts to higher/further education and careers.

The Triple Science option may be chosen by those students wishing to study any of the three sciences at A-Level or beyond. The additional topics studied provide a good foundation to these further studies.

The course will give the students the opportunity to develop a critical approach to scientific evidence and methods. Students will acquire scientific skills, knowledge and understanding necessary for progression to further learning.

Students will be awarded three separate GCSE grades in Biology, Chemistry and Physics, rather than a GCSE in Combined Science.

This will also use up one option choice.

Pupils who do well in this subject...

are those that enjoy scientific enquiry and the practical aspects of the subject. They must also be willing to prepare thoroughly for all examinations, by spending a lot of time studying past papers and revision material.

Assessment requirements:

There are two examinations in each of the three Sciences at the end of Year 11. Both examinations are 1 hour 45 minutes and contribute 50% of the total qualification.

- ◆ The average percentage of pupils gaining a C-Grade or above over the last three years is 92% in Biology, 93% in Chemistry and 95% in Physics.
- ◆ This qualification forms part of the English Baccalaurate (EBacc).
- ◆ The people you need to contact if you require further details about this course are: Mr Bahan or any other members of the science department.



Careers Information, Advice and Guidance (CIAG)

Career Connect – Delivering Professional, Impartial, Careers Advice and Guidance at De la Salle School

Career Connect is a charity who are passionate about providing high quality independent careers advice, bridging the gap to learning and employment and better life chances for young people and adults.

Nicola Scully is the Career Connect Adviser at De La Salle and is based in the Career's Room in school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. A lunch time 'drop in' service is provided on these days and students are encouraged to participate in small group work sessions, 1-1 meetings and assembly presentations etc. to ensure they are able to make fully informed choices about their future careers and progression Post 16.

Website: www.careerconnect.org.uk

Email: Nicola.scully@careerconnect.org.uk