

Liskeard School & Community College

achieving **more** together



GCSE OPTIONS 2026-2028

www.liskeard.net

Options 26-28

A Message from our Headteacher, Mr Wendon



Dear year 9 students,

It has come to that point in your secondary school life where you embark on a very exciting journey that could inspire your post 16 education and future university and career choices. At Liskeard, we are committed to providing an ambitious world class curriculum in a vast variety of subjects. We want all students to leave with good level 2 outcomes that can help you achieve your future ambitions. It is important that you think long and hard about which subjects are right for you, and in which career and future study pathways your choices can take you. Making sure you pick the right subjects could be the difference between an amazing set of results and putting your grades at risk. It is important that you choose something that will inform your future career and study success; subjects you are good at; subjects that you enjoy. You should not think about your friendship groups as part of these choices as you will all have different skills, interests and career aspirations. These decisions are incredibly important and should be considered carefully. There are many people you can discuss these choices with; your parents and older siblings, Mr Clyde (Assistant Headteacher in charge of the curriculum), Mr Rowe and your form tutor. Any of your subject teachers can explain in great detail what a course will cover and how you will be assessed. Mrs Pearce (our careers advisor) can advise on what courses would be a requirement of your chosen career.

This booklet is the beginning of that process. It is designed to help you make informed decisions. Please read it carefully and speak to your subject teacher if you have any questions. Please read and ensure you are informed about what a subject will offer you and how you will be assessed.

Options 26-28

Grades

What the numbers mean

1. The new GCSEs in England have a 9 to 1 grading scale, to better differentiate between the highest performing students and distinguish clearly between the old and new qualifications.
2. Grade 9 is the highest grade and will be awarded to fewer students than the old A*.
3. The first exams in new GCSEs for English language, English literature and maths were sat in summer 2017. All other GCSE's converted to the system of numbered grading by the summer of 2019.
4. The new GCSE grading scale is not directly equivalent to the old A* to G one. However, there are some comparable points between the old grades and the new ones, as the diagram shows:
 - The bottom of grade 7 is aligned with the bottom of grade A;
 - The bottom of grade 4 is aligned with the bottom of grade C; and
 - The bottom of grade 1 is aligned with the bottom of grade G.

GCSE Grading	
New Grading Structure	Old Grading Structure
9	A*
8	
7	A
6	
5	B
4	C
3	D
2	E
1	F
	G
U	U

Vocational qualifications including **BTEC Tech awards** and **Cambridge nationals** are awarded with GCSE equivalent grades.

Level / Qualification Grade	Grade Equivalent
Level 2 / Distinction*	8.5
Level 2 / Distinction	7
Level 2 / Merit	5.5
Level 2 / Pass	4
Level 1 / Distinction	3
Level 1 / Merit	2
Level 1 / Pass	1.25

Further Advice

The Year 9 choices form provided with this booklet should be brought to the options interview. Some students may need longer to decide on their options, but all completed choices forms should be **submitted by the end of the day on Friday 13th February 2026**

Core PE

Regardless of whether students choose to do Level 2 Sports Studies as an option, all students continue core PE as a part of their core education. There are four choices for students in core PE from Year 10 onwards which are outlined in this booklet and can be discussed and recorded on the Year 9 choices form.

Science Courses

Students need to think carefully about their science option. This year we are allowing students to select whether they wish to take the separate sciences or the trilogy course.

Students are grouped into one of two courses for Science: 'Trilogy Science' involves the teaching of the three subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Biology and results in two 'Science' GCSEs; the 'Separate Sciences' course involves the teaching of the same three subjects of Physics, Chemistry and Biology (with added detail and content) and results in three GCSEs, one in each subject.

If a student wants to take the Separate Sciences, they will need to select 'science' as one of their options choices. This will mean each Separate Science will be taught by a subject specialist, lessons will be within the school day and the equivalent time for three GCSEs will be given for the Separate Sciences. This additional time will be invaluable to ensure progress and high achievement after the disruption students have experienced in recent years.

Only students with a hard-working, positive attitude and love of science should select to do the Separate Science. The courses are demanding but very rewarding for those who enjoy Science. Students are advised to have a conversation with their science teacher about their suitability for the Separate Science course.

We do reserve the option to revert back to the previous system of after school lessons for separate science students if the number choosing Separate Sciences as an option are insufficient to run a class. If this is the case, we will let students, parents and carers know in good time to be able to select a fourth option.

Options 26-28

The English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

The EBacc is the name given to a set of subjects that the government recommends the majority of students should study. These subjects include a **Modern Foreign Language** (French or Spanish) and a **Humanities** subject (History or Geography). If you are to fulfil the EBacc requirements, you will choose Spanish or French and Geography or History, and then have two completely 'free' options.

The Department for Education (DfE) are keen for a significant number of students to study the EBacc combination of subjects. For those uncertain about taking a language it is worth noting that continuing to study a language at GCSE has been shown to help cognitive (thinking) development. Continuing to study a language could therefore be advantageous and support learning in other subjects.

Places on Courses

Around 85%-90% of students will receive all their first option choices. However, there is always a possibility that not enough students will choose a particular subject to make a class or that a student's choices may not all be compatible when we sort everyone's options and create what we call 'Blocks' – lists of the subject classes which will all be timetabled to run at the same time. It is also possible that more students may wish to take a subject than can be accommodated. In any of these circumstances, students' reserve choices may be used, and they and their parents will be contacted to discuss their options further.

While it is our aim to ensure that as many students as possible can study what they want, the school cannot guarantee that all students will get their first choices.

The Options Process: Key Dates:

January 2026 Options assembly for Year 9 students.

January 2026: Receive options booklet and discuss options with tutor, parents and others.

Thurs 15th Jan: Year 9 Options Evening – more information will be provided in the New Year about how this will run.

Mon 2nd Feb – Fri 13th Feb: If you would like an options meeting prior to making your choice, you will be able to make an appointment at the options evening.

Fri 13th Feb: Deadline for your Option form to be handed in to the AHOY Office or to Mr Clyde.

Mar – Apr: Any concerns or issues with choices are resolved. This may require some students to attend further discussion meetings.

June: Letters confirming option choices sent home.

If you require more information or are unsure of the process or choices, please ask tutors, subject leaders or the Assistant Head Teacher, Mr Clyde

(sclyde@lisheard.net)

Options 26-28

All students must choose **four options (or three options and science if you wish to take the separate sciences)** and **two reserves**.

CORE (You must study these subjects)
English Maths Science Religion and World Views Core PE PSHE

OPTIONS (You can choose 4 options)			
	Block 1 (Choose one option)	Block 2 (Choose one option)	Block 3 (Choose two options)
* E B a c c	History Geography French Spanish	French Spanish History Geography	**Separate Science Art Textiles Art and Design Business Child Development and Care Computer Science *Construction Drama Film Studies French Geography History Health and Social Care Hospitality and Catering Music *Product Design Philosophy and Ethics Photography Sports Studies Spanish
		**Separate Science Art Textiles Art and Design Computer Science Child Development and Care Health and Social Care Philosophy and Ethics Photography Sports Studies	*Due to demand in previous years we are asking students to choose only one of Construction or Product design but they may choose the other as a reserve.
	* If you choose a Humanities (Geography or History) and a Modern Foreign Language then you will have the combination of subjects for the English Baccalaureate (EBacc)		
	** Select science as one of your options if you want to take the separate science GCSE		

Further Advice Teacher Contacts

If you need further advice about a subject's contents or means of assessment, you could speak to your subject teachers or the Heads of Faculties (whose contact details are available on the school website).

Member of Staff	Position	Nature of Enquiry
Various Mr Rowe Mrs Sabberton	Tutor Head of Year Assistant Head of Year	General pastoral concerns relating to options
Mr S Clyde	Assistant Head: Curriculum	Matters relating to the overall process, pathways and curriculum
Mrs L Pearce	Careers Co-ordinator	For information on subjects and qualifications needed for specific careers
Dr Shilling	Head of English	Any enquiries concerned with English, English Literature and Film Studies
Mrs Ollerenshaw	Head of Maths	Any enquiries concerned with Mathematics
Mr Broad	Head of Science	Any enquiries concerned with Science
Miss Rowe	Head of PE	Any enquiries concerned with Sports Studies and Core PE
Mr Pascoe	Head of Arts	Any enquiries concerned with Art, Photography, Drama and Music
Mrs Williams	Head of Modern Foreign Languages	Any enquiries concerned with French or Spanish
Mr Bainbridge	Head of Technology	Any enquiries concerned with Product Design, Construction, Textiles, Food and Nutrition and Computer Science
Mrs Baker	Head of Humanities	Any enquiries concerned with Business, Geography, History, Philosophy and Ethics
Mrs Jeff	Head of Health and Social Care and Child Development	Any enquiries concerned with Health and Social Care or Child Development
Ms Birkbeck	Assistant Head: Inclusion, SENDCo Learning Support	Any enquiries relating to specific learning support required by your child



Art & Design

Art and Design

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel Specification: 1AD0

The Course

Art and Design is a broad course that allows you to do a wide variety of activities: Painting, Drawing, Graphics, Illustration, Printmaking, Computer Graphics, Photography, Ceramics and Sculpture are among the many things possible. By the end of the course you will have developed a comprehensive portfolio. This portfolio will support your application to further and higher education or entry into the field of work.

Assessment

The course is almost entirely practical. There is a requirement for research and writing though this is always linked to your developing practical work. There is no written exam. The course is divided into two discrete areas: 60% of the course is practical coursework whilst the remaining 40% is a practical, externally set assignment (a practical exam).

Future Pathways

This is an excellent qualification for further progression onto post sixteen courses in an arts related subject. At Liskeard Sixth Form, we offer:

- A Level Art and Design
- A Level Photography
- A Level Theatre Studies
- A Level Media Studies
- A Level Textiles

This is also a great subject to add breadth and balance to your experience. The ownership, knowledge and understanding, connections with history, theory and practical working provide excellent transferrable skills.

Skills and Knowledge

You will be required to explore your personal experience and translate this through visual investigation and exploration into an art outcome. Experimenting, exploring, taking risks, changing, adapting, refining and resolving ideas to develop a personal, visual vocabulary will be essential activities. Throughout the course you will be required to consider the development of your skills, methods of working and ideas within the context of art history. Researching other artists, experimenting with their approaches and comparing and contrasting their methods with your own will enable you to develop your own approaches.

Careers

The Creative Industries remain the fastest growing revenue earner in the UK. It is one of the strongest parts of the economy and Britain is a world leader in the field. Careers in Art and Design are huge in number and include a very wide range of specialisms and jobs at every ability level

A number of examples include: Graphic/ Advertising Design for TV/Internet/Sign/ Print/ Package Design, Illustrator/Book/Magazine/ Medical/Botanical/Technical/Natural History, Fine Artist, Exhibition Artist, Film and TV Camera Person, Animator, Teacher/Lecturer, Printmaker, Sign Writer, Silkscreen Printer, Art Gallery Manager, Art Historian, Art Journalist, Fashion Designer, Fashion Illustrator, Fashion Stylist, Costume Designer, Architectural Model

Art Textiles



Art Textiles

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA Specification: 601/8088/2

The Course

GCSE Art Textiles is a vibrant and dynamic course which teaches skills such as weaving, felting, stitching, appliqué, fashion design, painting, and printing. It gives you the freedom to express yourself using techniques and materials that you enjoy using. By the end of the course you will have built up a broad portfolio of work. The course is not only inspiring and enjoyable but equips you with the skills to continue the subject with confidence at AS, A-level and beyond.

Assessment

The course is almost entirely practical. There is a requirement for research and writing though this is always linked to your developing practical work. There is no written exam.

Unit 1 - Portfolio of work, 60%. This unit is assessed throughout the course and moderated by the exam board.

Unit 2 - Externally set assignment, 40%. A practical exam which is marked by the school and moderated by the exam board.

Careers

There are many pathways forward through to Further Education and Higher Education. Career possibilities include:

- Fashion
- Textile Artist
- Teaching
- Costume Design
- Art Therapy
- Fashion Journalism
- Fashion Photography

Skills and Knowledge

This course is designed for students who are creative and have an interest in pursuing an Art and Design based course.

Art Textile students must enjoy:

- Working with a variety of practical techniques and processes
- Developing ideas
- Experimenting with a variety of media
- Recording ideas in order to produce visual and tactile responses
- Presenting work in a personal, informed and meaningful way.

Future Pathways

This is an excellent qualification for further progression onto post sixteen courses.

At Liskeard Sixth Form we offer:

- A Level Art and Design
- A Level Photography
- A Level Media Studies
- A Level Textiles

Business

BUSINESS

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel Specification: 1BSO

The Course

Theme 1:

Investigating Small Business (50% of the course)

- Business basics
- Understanding the customer
- Running the business
- External influences
-

Theme 2:

Building a Business (50% of the course)

- Growing the business
- Marketing
- Operations
- Finances
- Human Resources

Skills and Knowledge

This course teaches you the theory and process to setting up and running a business. It makes use of relevant and up to date case studies to help make those ideas relatable.

During the course you will learn a number of business ideas focusing on how all areas of business are linked and impact on each other.

Key ideas include marketing, finances, operations, human resources and external business influences. Whilst often seen as 'departments' in a business, you will learn how the decision making within a business relies on all of them working together. You will also learn and develop a number of business skills, such as quantitative and qualitative, analysing business situations and evaluating business decisions.

Assessment

You will sit two written exams at the end of Year 11 – one for each theme, although you will be expected to use your knowledge from the whole of the course in both papers.

Each paper has 90 marks and lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes. There are mix of multiple choice, short response and long response questions. The questions will be based on case studies given to you in the exam. Each paper is worth 50% of the GCSE.

Future Pathways

Progression to A-Level Business in at Liskeard Sixth Form would be straightforward as the course content is the foundation for those awards. It would also set you up well for apprenticeships and employment routes.

Careers

Ultimately, when you are older you are either going to run your own business, or work for somebody else's! Business is therefore a highly relevant subject in today's world. More and more students recognise the importance of Business and this is reflected in the fact it is one of the fastest growing GCSE subjects by entries nationally. The skills and knowledge that you learn in business will prepare you for many jobs in the future. Some careers that previous students have gone on to have include accounting, insurance risk assessment, sports marketing, social media marketing and retail management.



Level 1/2 Technical Award in Child Development and Care in the early Years

Examination Board: NCFE CACHE Specification: 603/7021/9

The Course

This course focuses on an applied study of child development and care in the early years and provides insight into how children behave, think, learn, and feel. You will gain a broad knowledge and understanding of working in the sector.

Assessment

The qualification has 2 assessments externally-set by NCFE:

one non-exam assessment (NEA) worth 50% of the final grade.

one written examined assessment worth 50% of the final grade.

These are graded:

Level 1 pass/merit/distinction

Level 2 pass/merit/distinction/distinction*

Careers

This course is recognised as a useful starting point for a career in childcare and is a good stepping stone for further training in working with children.

Students could also progress onto an apprenticeship in the early years sector through a variety of occupations such as early years practitioners, early years educators and teaching assistants.

Skills and Knowledge

Early childhood development is a foundation for a prosperous and sustainable society and this qualification will promote your understanding of children from birth to 5 years.

The course content is made up of 9 Content Areas:

- Holistic child development
- Factors that influence a child's development
- Care routines, play and activities to support the child
- Early years provision
- Legislation, policies, and procedures in the early years
- Expectations of the early years practitioner
- Roles and responsibilities within early years settings
- The importance of observations in early years settings
- Planning in early years settings

Future Pathways

Students will be able to progress to further relevant programmes of study at level 2 or level 3 including Early Childhood Development and Health and Social Care.

Computer Science

Computer Science

GCSE

Examination Board: OCR Specification: J277

The Course

GCSE Computer Science is an exciting and diverse course which encourages you to understand and apply the principles and concepts of Computer Science. You will analyse problems through practical programming projects using programming languages that you are familiar with e.g. Python. You will learn about how computers connect with one another both locally and globally and all the hardware/ software involved. You will learn about Network Security Threats and how hackers and criminals are extremely imaginative when it comes to inflicting harm. You will also learn how organisations can protect their network against attacks and unauthorised access.

What does the course cover?

J277/01: Computer Systems

- Systems architecture
- Memory and storage
- Computer networks, connections and protocols
- Network security
- Systems software
- Ethical, legal, cultural and environmental impacts of digital technology

J277/02: Computational thinking, algorithms and programming

- Algorithms
- Programming fundamentals
- Producing robust programs
- Boolean logic
- Programming languages and Integrated Development Environments

Future Pathways

Students who complete this qualification will have excellent preparation for higher study and employment in Computer Science. Computer Science can be studied at A-Level and Degree level.

Skills and Knowledge

Computer Science will be structured in the following way.

Your homework will be a range of different methods that take a flipped learning approach. This often involves using a Cornell notebook to make notes/draw images/ write key words from a video so that you have some prior knowledge before the lesson.

You will be given PowerPoints for each topic area that will be completed in lessons and then a 20-mark assessment followed at the end of each topic.

You will learn Programming and apply such skills to a range of problems.

You will work with other students to help you develop your understanding and skills.

Assessment

At the end of the course you will be formally assessed by sitting 2 separate exam papers: J277/01 - Computer systems (80 marks, worth 50%)

J277/02 - Computational thinking, algorithms and programming (80 marks, worth 50%)

Careers

- Software Developer
- Database Administrator
- Computer Hardware Engineer
- Computer Systems Analysts
- Computer Network Architect
- Web Developer
- Information Security Analysts
- Computer and Information Research Scientists
- Games Designer

Construction

CONSTRUCTION & THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

BTEC

Examination Board: Edexcel

The Course

The course is designed for students with an interest in the construction industry.

The construction industry is one of the UK's most important sectors. In 2018 it employed, directly or indirectly, around 2.4 million people and accounted for £117 bn of the value to the UK economy.

The range of jobs available is large, covering traditional craft trades, large civil engineering infrastructure projects, housebuilding, design and consultancy, and the professions such as architecture, management and surveying.

Study of this sector at Key Stage 4 will complement GCSE study through providing an opportunity for practical application alongside conceptual study.

There are also strong opportunities for post-16

Assessment

There are three components within the BTEC:

- COMPONENT 1: construction technology
- COMPONENT 2 : construction in practice
- COMPONENT 3 : construction in design

Comp 1 is an externally assessed exam, similar to a standard GCSE paper and sat in normal exam conditions as part of the summer series.

Comp 2 is a Pearson Set Assignment: this is an internally assessed practical skills based exam.

Comp 3 is a Pearson Set Assignment: this is an internally assessed design and drawing based exam.

Careers

Careers in Construction. These may include the following: Carpenter & Joiner, Bricklayer, Painter & Decorator, and General Builder. The course also allows for routes to professional careers in areas such as architecture, engineering and management.

This qualification will provide you with practical experience in construction and learning in the classroom.

Skills and Knowledge

The Tech Award gives learners the opportunity to develop sector-specific applied knowledge and skills through realistic vocational contexts. Learners will have the opportunity to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in the following areas:

- Construction technology.
- Construction in practice.
- Construction and design.

Future Pathways

On successful completion of this award, you will be able to undertake further studies as follows:

First Diploma or National Diploma course in Construction depending on your area of interest.

NVQ Level 1 Modern Apprenticeship in Construction.

Students could work towards an NVQ Level 2 on a day release basis.

Drama

DRAMA

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA Specification: 601/8575/2

The Course

The subject content for GCSE Drama is divided into three components:

1. Understanding drama
2. Devising drama
3. Texts in practice

The course combines practical drama with theoretical learning.

Assessment

Component 1: Open book written exam; 1 hour and 45 minutes; 40% of GCSE. Assesses: Knowledge and understanding of drama and theatre

Study of one set play – Blood Brothers

Analysis and evaluation of the work of live theatre makers

Component 2: Practical and coursework - internally marked and externally moderated; 40% of GCSE.

Create a log and devise performance. Assesses:

Process of creating devised drama

Performance of devised drama (students may contribute as performer or designer)

Analysis and evaluation of own work

Component 3: Practical and coursework - internally marked and externally moderated; 20% of GCSE.

Consists of:

Performance of two extracts from one play

Free choice of play but it must contrast with the set play chosen for Component 1

Careers

The Arts industry is currently the biggest employer in the UK. Even if you do not wish to work within the Arts industry, Drama can help you to gain employment in any job, as it is all about communication, social and presentation skills. Some possible career routes are:

Actor, Director, Producer, Playwright, Lighting/Sound technician, Set/Costume designer, Theatre Critic/ Journalist, Make-up artist, Drama Therapist, Props Maker, Theatre in Education Practitioner, Theatre Administrator, Press Officer, Marketing, Education Officer, Front of House Manager, Stage Manager, Researcher, T.V. Presenter, Public Services.

Future Pathways

This is an excellent qualification for further progression onto post 16 courses in an arts related subject. In Year 12 at Liskeard we offer:

A level Drama and Theatre Studies, A level Music, A Level Art and Design, A level Photography, A level Media Studies and A level Textiles.

Skills and Knowledge

Drama is an exciting, broad ranging course that allows you to do a wide variety of things:

Responding to stimuli, creating your own performances based on a theme or a play, taking part in scripted performances, responding to other's performances, giving constructive criticism, directing work and watching live theatre are some of the many experiences you can have in Drama.

Film Studies



Film Studies

GCSE

Examination Board: Eduqas Specification: Film Studies

The Course

Film is one of the most important art forms of the last 100 years. Film is a key visual media which has dominated story-telling and entertainment in our culture for the past century, and shapes many of our ideas today including gender roles, responses to conflict and political ideas which are shaped largely by Hollywood films. GCSE Film Studies allows you to develop a critical, questioning approach to films, the industry, audiences and social contexts. You will study a variety of films (including Skyfall, Spirited Away, Rear Window, Witness, Slumdog Millionaire etc.) and analyse their techniques, representations and cultural influences. You will learn to analyse texts, develop your ability to visualise stories, and learn the technical skills to turn ideas into films.

Assessment

Component 1 (Paper 1): (examination) 35%

Component 2 (Paper 2): (examination) 35%

Component 3 – Film Production: (Non-Exam Assessment) 30%

Careers

There are many pathways forward through to Further Education and Higher Education.

Career possibilities include:

- Television Production
- Screenwriting
- Film Studies
- Cultural Studies
- Game Design

Skills and Knowledge

- You will be expected to discuss, plan and write about films texts.
- You will be expected to research in to, plan and create a short film or screenplay.
- You will use a range of creative software such as Photoshop and Sony Vegas.

It is essential that you have an interest in film and the media, have creative ambitions and are willing to engage with the active creative processes of film making.

Future Pathways

- Film and Media Studies at Bristol University.
- Film production at Salford University.
- Advertising and Marketing at Falmouth University.
- Film studies at Bath University.
- Gaming Design at Portsmouth University.
- Journalism at Cardiff University.

Of course, there are post 16 opportunities with A-level Film Studies/Media Studies being offered in the Sixth Form.

French



French

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

Specification: 8685

The Course

You will learn to communicate in French on a variety of topics including:

Identity and culture

Local area, holiday and travel

School

Future aspirations, study and work

International and global dimension.

These topics will be studied in the context of the home country and also that of the countries where French is spoken. You will learn to give and justify your opinions and how to communicate in the past, present and future time frames.

Assessment

The skills are tested separately, namely, listening, speaking, reading, and writing, all with an equal weighting.

Candidates are entered at either Foundation or Higher level.

All four skills are tested by exam at the end of year 11.

- Paper 1: Listening and Understanding
- Paper 2: Speaking (3 tasks: role-play, picture based discussion, conversation)
- Paper 3: Reading and Understanding (with translation into English)
- Paper 4: Writing (with translation into French)

Careers

As fewer students are taking languages nationally, those with a language qualification are in a better position when competing for popular jobs.

In addition, in some careers, people with language qualifications are paid more throughout their careers.

Skills and Knowledge

Teaching and learning styles will be varied and will include role play, pair work, group work and the opportunity for independent study as well as more formal teaching.

A wide range of resources is available online including all of the listening materials used in class.

Future Pathways

Studying a language will give you an advantage in University applications and employers also value people who have communication skills in other languages.

Geography

Geography

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA Specification: 8035

The Course

During the course you will study:

Living with the physical environment:

- Natural Hazards including earthquakes, tropical storms, extreme weather in the UK and climate change.
- UK Physical Landscapes including rivers and coasts.
- The living World – Ecosystems including tropical rainforests and cold environments.

Challenges in the human environment:

- Urban issues and challenges
- The changing economic world
- The challenge of resource management

You will also learn a range of geographical skills and how to apply your geographical knowledge to unfamiliar situations.

Assessment

Two written exams at the end of Year 11 examine the physical and human aspects of the course. Each one is 1 hour 30 minutes long and is a mixture of multiple choice, short and long questions. These are worth 35% each of the final mark. A third exam is 1 hour 30 minutes long and examines fieldwork, geographical skills and a pre-release booklet. This is worth 30% of the final mark. The course includes two days of fieldwork.

Careers

Many employers like Geography because of the transferable skills you will learn. You could become a disaster manager, chartered surveyor, media researcher, be in the Armed forces, an environmental consultant, town planner, architect, or environmental planner. You could work in conservation, emergency relief, overseas aid, administration or retail management. The list is endless!

Skills and Knowledge

If you study GCSE Geography, you will learn using a variety of techniques including group work, research activities, class and group discussions, independent learning and peer teaching.

Resources such as photographs, diagrams, maps, GIS and videos will help to bring topics to life and enhance your geographical understanding.

You will learn a range of geographical skills including data collection, presentation, analysis and how to draw conclusions based on the evidence you find.

Future Pathways

As a subject Geography covers the arts, sciences and social sciences too, so leaves all options open to you. It is viewed very favourably by employers and is on the top universities' 'facilitating subjects' list.

Health & Social Care



Health & Social Care

Level 1/2 Technical Award

Examination Board: NCFE CACHE Specification: 603/7013/0

The Course

This course is designed for students to have an introduction to health and social care and who wish to pursue a career in the health and social care sector or progress onto further study.

Skills and Knowledge

As healthcare is the backbone of our society, it is important to understand the importance of health and social care. This qualification will support your understanding and knowledge of how to support and care for some of the most vulnerable people in society, and the significant impact that support and care has on people's daily lives.

The course content is made up of 8 Content Areas:

- Health and social care provision and services
- Job roles in health and social care and the care values that underpin professional practice
- Legislation, policies and procedures in health and social care
- Human development across the life span
- The care needs of the individual
- How health and social care services are accessed
- Partnership working in health and social care
- The care planning cycle

Assessment

The qualification has 2 assessments externally set by NCFE:

- one non-exam assessment (NEA) worth 50% Of the final grade
- one written examined assessment worth 50% of the final grade

These are graded:

Level 1 pass/merit/distinction

Level 2 pass/merit/distinction/distinction*

Future Pathways

Students will be able to progress to further relevant programmes of study at level 2 or level 3 including Early Childhood Development and Health and Social Care.

Careers

This course is recognised as a useful starting point for a career in health and science, health and social care, or education and childcare. Students could also progress onto an apprenticeship in the health and social care sector through a variety of occupations such as lead/adult care worker or senior/healthcare support worker.

History



HISTORY

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel Specification: 1H10

The Course

- ◆ GERMANY 1918-1939: An in-depth study of the changes and their impact on Germany.
- ◆ THE AMERICAN WEST 1835-1895: Plains Indians and settlement, changes, conflict and tension.
- ◆ HENRY VIII: His ministers, wives and the reformation.
- ◆ MEDICINE DEVELOPMENT, 1250-PRESENT DAY: A study of the development and changes in medicine in Britain; illness, prevention and treatment, plus case studies; e.g. Fleming, Cholera, WW1 and treatment in the trenches.

Assessment

Examination: The course is assessed at the end of Year 11 with three exams in May/June

Paper 1	1 hour 20 written exam	30% of final mark.	Medicine Development
Paper 2	1 hour 50 written exam	40% of final mark.	American West, and Henry VIII
Paper 3	1 hour 30 written exam	30% of final mark.	Germany 1918-1939

Careers

A GCSE in History shows that you have a number of skills that are transferable to other areas. It shows that you are able to construct detailed and well supported arguments, that you can look at a range of information and make sense of it and apply it, and that you can evaluate and analyse a range of sources.

A GCSE in History can help with careers such as journalism, teaching, the law, archaeology, heritage management, public services and many more.

Skills and Knowledge

If you study GCSE History, you will learn through a wide range of teaching strategies including recall quizzes, model exam answers, and online homework. We also provide the students with packs of practice questions, online revision guides, and content quizzes. A variety of materials are used alongside a mixture of interesting sources that include photographs, cartoons, diary extracts, and official records.

Students develop vital skills of analytical thinking and interpretation, learn to think critically about evidence, in conjunction with gaining an understanding of a range of historical topics.

Future Pathways

GCSE History will help you understand the world we live in through the study of interesting and relevant topics.

A GCSE in History is a highly respected qualification that links well with other subjects. GCSE History lays the foundation to study A level History which is on offer at Liskeard Sixth Form.

Hospitality and Catering



Hospitality and Catering

Level 2 vocational
Examination Board: WJEC

The Course

Hospitality and catering are dynamic, vibrant, and innovative sector delivering vital jobs, growth, and investment in the heart of our local communities – it is important culturally, socially, and economically. Hospitality is the third largest private sector employer in the UK; double the size of financial services and bigger than automotive, pharmaceuticals and aerospace combined.

The course consists of two mandatory units:

Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering industry

Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in action

Assessment

Unit 1 is externally assessed through a written examination which contributes 40% to the overall qualification grade. Duration: 1 hour 20 minutes

Number of marks: 80

Format: short and extended answer questions based around applied situations. Learners will be required to use stimulus material to respond to questions.

Unit 2 is internally assessed through controlled assessment. The assessment contributes 60% to the overall qualification grade. Duration: 12 hours Number of marks: 120

Format: An assignment brief will be provided by WJEC, which will include a scenario and several tasks. The students then must plan a menu to meet the brief, make this dish and evaluate their suitability. This piece of coursework will then be marked and then sent for moderation.

Careers

Businesses which make up the hospitality sector include hotels, restaurants, coffee shops, pubs and bars, leisure parks, stadiums, nightclubs, contract caterers, food service operators, entertainment, and visitor attractions. Employment can range from waiting staff, receptionists and catering assistants to chefs, hotel and bar managers, and food technologists working for supermarket chains.

Skills and Knowledge

Unit 1 enables learners to gain and develop comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including; provision, health and safety, and food safety – Year 10 work experience will need to be in the hospitality industry.

Unit 2 enables learners to develop and apply knowledge and understanding of the importance of nutrition and how to plan nutritious menus. They will learn the skills needed to prepare, cook, and present dishes. They will also learn how to review their work effectively. An understanding and application of food hygiene is essential.

Future Pathways

The Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering has been designed to support learners in schools who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. This further study would provide learners with the opportunity to develop a range of specialist and general skills that would support their progression to employment. There are numerous courses hospitality and catering that be accessed through this course.

MUSIC

GCSE

Examination Board: Eduqas Specification: C660QS

The Course

The course is split into three components: Performing, Composing and Listening/Appraising. Through these components you will explore and discover how the elements of music are used to create and perform music of many different genres.

The areas of study are varied and really engaging that cater for all musical tastes including Musical Forms And Devices – Classical Traditions; Music for Ensemble – Jazz, Blues, Musical Theatre; Film Music – music and media; Popular Music – looking at the Birth of Pop music through to modern day!

If you already play an instrument or sing, you can develop your skills and get a GCSE out of it! If you don't already play an instrument or sing, you can take the opportunity to learn new skills which could stay with you for life. If you already enjoy writing your own music or songs, you can use this ability and experience towards your GCSE. If you are a creative person who wants to learn to make music, this course will give you that chance. If you love listening to music, and can spot all the details, sing every riff and "air-drum" every beat you have already developed some of the abilities you need. OK, so you can't mime playing it in the exam, but if you can already think that rhythm or sing that tune in your head, you have some skills!

Skills and Knowledge

This is an enjoyable but demanding GCSE and to succeed you will need to work hard at all three aspects of the course – not just Performing, but also Composing and Listening.

Lessons incorporate the 3 core skills: Performing, Composing and Listening; and equip you to succeed in these 3 assessed components.

Assessment

Component 1 – Performing (30%)

You must perform as a soloist and as a member of an ensemble. You can perform on any instrument or sing. Grade 3 is the standard level for performing when you reach Yr 11.

Component 2 - Composing (30%)

You must write and submit two compositions, one in response to a brief set by the exam board the other is a free composition and can be in ANY style of music.

Component 3: Listening and Appraising (40%)

A listening exam

Careers

This is an essential qualification for progression onto post-16 courses in Music, here at Liskeard Sixth Form. It will also give insight to the world of being a professional performer, composer and musicologist.

Future Pathways

In the future, Creativity is going to be one of the most important and in-demand skills at work. When business leaders across the world were surveyed, they voted creativity as the most important workplace skill to help their businesses survive and grow. This means that the study of creative subjects, like Music, is becoming even more important and relevant to young people to give you the chance to succeed - whatever your ambitions. At the same time, you will find many opportunities to develop and improve your personal wellbeing both independently and as part of a wider community. Music will enable you to demonstrate many skills which employers, colleges and universities are looking for.



PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (RS)

GCSE

Examination Board: Eduqas Specification: A

The Course

A subject where your opinions really matter! In a fast-changing world it is increasingly important to understand the world we are living in and why things are as they are. In this course, you will study ideas and attitudes that shape our modern world, and study the relationship between belief, society and thought. Philosophy - Can good exist without evil? What makes us human? Does science disprove God? Philosophy literally means the 'love of wisdom' and involves exploring the ultimate questions that have fascinated humans throughout time. You will study the ideas and arguments of big thinkers and use them to create your own arguments and judgments.

Ethics - Should people always have free speech? Should we have the death penalty in Britain? Is abortion right or wrong? The study of Ethics involves considering what is moral and why people make the decisions they do. You will investigate a number of different ethical issues such as crime and punishment, abortion and euthanasia, consider different responses to them and form your own ideas.

Christianity and Islam - From beliefs about God to attitudes on relationships and war, these two largest belief systems in the world continue to interest people, both theist and atheist. These units will encourage you to critically analyse religion and reach conclusions on what religious believers think, teach and do.

Future Pathways

GCSE History will help you understand the world we live in through the study of interesting and relevant topics. A GCSE in History is a highly respected qualification that links well with other subjects.

GCSE History lays the foundation to study A2 level History which is on offer at Liskeard Sixth Form.

Skills and Knowledge

The ways in which you will learn will be varied and interesting. You can expect lots of opportunities to develop speaking skills through discussion, debating, presenting and teaching others, as well as learning through image, film and art. Teaching in Philosophy and Ethics will build confidence, encourage curiosity, and foster high-quality communication skills.

Assessment

Examination: The course is assessed at the end of Year 11 with three exams in May/June:

Paper 1.	Philosophy and Ethics 50%
Paper 2.	Christianity 25%
Paper 3.	Islam 25%

Careers

This GCSE prepares students well for a wide range of careers in many sectors, including:

- Law
- Journalism
- Medicine
- Film and TV
- Armed forces
- Police
- Politics
- Business and Management
- Police
- International development and aid
- Teaching
- Social work
- Civil service
- International relations

Photography



Photography

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel Specification: 1PY0

The Course

Photography is a specialised course that allows you to learn the craft of digital and wet chemical image making. You will learn how to create:

- a photogram in the photographic dark room.
- your own camera and make a pin hole camera image.
- images using film and an SLR camera.
- negatives using a chemical process.
- prints from your negatives in the dark room.
- digital images using our SLR cameras.
- an image making the most of ambient lighting.
- an image using studio lighting.
- an image exploiting the use of the SLR to record with specific effects.
- contact sheets and how to annotate these with reflective ideas for development.

Skills and Knowledge

On this course you will progress from taking a 'snap shot' to learning the craft of photography: from the historical origin of image making to the use of sophisticated digital SLR cameras; from controlling and manipulating light to building a rapport with your subject. The course is almost entirely practical. There is a requirement for research and writing, though this is always linked to your developing practical photography work. You will be provided with outstanding examples of other photographers' work to inspire, support and develop your personal styles and interests.

Assessment

The course is divided into two discrete areas: 60% of the course is practical coursework whilst the remaining 40% is a practical, externally set assignment (a practical exam).

Careers

The Creative Industries, of which photography and new media is a significant part, remain the fastest growing revenue earner in the UK. It is one of the strongest parts of the economy and Britain is a world leader in the field. Careers include: Advertising, Fashion, Medical, Botanical, Advertising, Press, Scientific, Aerial, Forensic, Scenes of Crime, Journalistic, Archaeological, Book and General Illustration, Commercial Artist/Designer, Computer Graphics Designer/Programmer, Film direction and camera operators, TV/Film and Internet use, commercial freelancing for weddings / special occasions.

Future Pathways

This is an excellent qualification for further progression onto post sixteen courses. At Liskeard Sixth Form we offer: A Level Art and Design, A Level Photography, A Level Media Studies and A Level Textiles.

Product Design

Product Design

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA Specification: 8552

The Course

Students will study a series of topics including: Health and Safety; How to design; Graphic techniques; ICT used in design situations; Design and market influences; Materials and components; Processes and manufacturing techniques; Using CAM; Industrial Practices; Sustainability of design; Social, cultural, moral, environmental, sustainability, economic issues; Consumer rights legislation, product maintenance and codes of practice.

Students interested in engineering should consider taking the product design course.

Assessment

Unit 1: Written Paper (External exam)

2 hours – 100 marks – 50%

Unit 2: Design and Making Practice (Coursework)

Approximately 30 -35 hours – 100 marks – 50% This consists of a single design and make activity selected from a range of externally set tasks.

Careers

Engineering/manufacturing apprenticeships.

Degrees in design and making related areas.

Any manufacturing industry or courses.

Any engineering industry or courses.

Become a trade's person in industries involved in the use of resistant materials.

Work in the armed services in some form of engineering or construction discipline.

Work in art/craft industries.

Skills and Knowledge

- Have opportunities to develop a range of design and practical skills to allow you to design and manufacture a range of products. Have an opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way.
- Follow a programme of study that could enable you to progress to further courses in the field of design and manufacturing or become a trade's person in a range of practical activities that involve the use of a variety of materials.

Future Pathways

Product Design GCSE is a foundation subject for A level Product Design (offered here at Liskeard Sixth Form).

Spanish



SPANISH

GCSE

Examination Board: Edexcel

Specification: 601/8710/4

The Course

You will learn to communicate in Spanish on a variety of topics including:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension.

These topics will be studied in the context of the home country and also that of the countries where Spanish is spoken. You will learn to give and justify your opinions and how to communicate in the past, present and future time frames.

Assessment

The skills are tested separately; namely, listening, speaking, reading and writing: All with equal weighting from the 2018 GCSE exams.

Candidates are entered at either Foundation or Higher level.

All four skills are tested by exam at the end of year 11:

Paper 1: Listening and Understanding

Paper 2: Speaking

Paper 3: Reading and Understanding

Paper 4: Writing

Careers

As fewer students are taking languages nationally, those with a language qualification are in a better position when competing for popular jobs.

Skills and Knowledge

Teaching and learning styles will be varied and will include role play, pair work, group work and the opportunity for independent study as well as more formal teaching. A wide range of resources are available online, including all the listening material used in class.

Future Pathways

Studying a language will give you an advantage in University applications and employers also value people who have communication skills in other languages.

The GCSE Spanish lays the foundation to study A Level Spanish (offered here at Liskeard Sixth Form).

Separate Science

SEPARATE SCIENCES 3 GCSE'S

GCSE

Examination Board: AQA Specification: Separate science

The Course

The most motivated scientists in the year group who select to take the separate sciences will follow the GCSE Biology, GCSE Chemistry and GCSE Physics courses. At the end of Year 11 they will be certificated with three separate Science GCSEs:

For each GCSE there are exams which will be taken at the end of the course. Practical skills will be indirectly assessed within each exam.

Assessment

GCSE Biology will be assessed in two papers at the end of the course (each lasting 1h 45m with a weighting of 50%). GCSE Chemistry will be assessed in two papers at the end of the course (each lasting 1h 45m with a weighting of 50%). GCSE Physics will be assessed in two papers at the end of the course (each lasting 1h 45min with a weighting of 50%).

Careers

Science qualifications are useful for a wide range of careers including:

Archaeologist, Dentist, Engineer, Forensic Scientist, Marine Biologist, Veterinarian, Medicine, Meteorologist, Teacher, Software engineer plus many more.

See www.futuremorph.org for further ideas.

Skills and Knowledge

Science is a set of ideas about the material world. We have included all the parts of what good science is at GCSE level: whether it be investigating, observing, experimenting or testing out ideas and thinking about them. The way scientific ideas flow through our teaching will support you in building a deep understanding of science. This will involve talking about, reading and writing about science plus the actual doing, as well as representing science in its many forms both mathematically and visually through models.

Future Pathways

GCSE Biology, Chemistry and Physics lay an appropriate foundation for further study of Science subjects, post-16 at Liskeard School (grade 6 in Science and Maths needed).

These may include A levels in:

Biology

Chemistry

Physics

Psychology

Environmental Studies (Grade 6 required)

*Separate science is a popular course at Liskeard. Students are encouraged to choose separate science if they are motivated learners and enjoy learning science in extra depth. It is also a rewarding and academic course that supports students seeking to take a science at A level. As such the final decision on who would be most suited to this course, will be decided later in Y9. This will be based on good progress being made in science and recommendations from science teachers.

Sports Studies



SPORTS STUDIES

Cambridge Nationals Level 1/2

Examination Board: OCR Specification: J812

The Course

Sport is a high profile and expanding industry and there is a growing need for qualified professionals and capable volunteers. The Cambridge National in Sports Studies takes a more sector based and vocational approach whilst also encompassing some core sport/PE Themes. Students have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity, skills development and sports leadership to their own practical performance. They will learn about contemporary sports issues such as funding, participation, ethics and role models. Students will develop their understanding of Outdoor and Adventurous activities and how to engage with the wild environment around them. Students will also expand their appreciation of the importance of sport locally and nationally, different ways of being involved in sport and of how this shapes the sports industry.

Assessment

- Contemporary Issues in Sport - assessed via a written external exam.
- Performance and leadership in sports activities – assessed via written and practical tasks set by your teacher.
- Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities - assessed via written and practical tasks set by your teacher.

Careers

The study of Sports Studies can lead on to University degrees in Sports Science, Sports Management, Healthcare, Sports Media as well as Outdoor Education and Coaching. Sports Studies can also complement further study in terms of Teacher Training and the Fitness Industry. The transferable skills you learn through your study of Sports Studies, such as decision making and independent thinking, are also useful in any career path you choose to take.

Skills and Knowledge

Students will develop a wide range of highly desirable, transferrable skills such as communication, problem solving, team working and performing under pressure. As you might expect the bulk of the learning and assessment is through practical means. Within the Sports Studies qualification students will develop their own performance and effectively lead others as well as gain knowledge about the national sports context. **The course is aimed at those students who enjoy PE and have a real interest in sport but who don't necessarily compete on a competitive basis outside of school.**

Future Pathways

The Cambridge National L2 in Sports Studies is not just an excellent base for the L3 OCR Technical in Sport at Sixth Form but it also provides solid foundation for an A Level in Physical Education.