



CORBY Technical School

Key Stage 4

OPTIONS SUBJECT BOOKLET 2024

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Art: Fine Art

Students will practise a variety of art genre and art media over the course of two years which will provide experience and develop skills to provide a solid foundation for further study.

This is an optional course, taught over two lessons. The GCSE comprises of one coursework unit and an exam unit. The exam board is OCR which allows a broad spectrum of mixed media as part of the student's portfolio. The exam unit is usually 4 months and concludes with a 10 hour exam.

Students will undergo a skills-based course using pencil, pen, paint, pastel and printmaking to establish individual strengths. A range of art genres will be looked at which will develop the skills and understanding of techniques that students will need to undertake the coursework unit.



Students will need to demonstrate the ability to accurately record observations of their chosen subject matter. They will study a selection of artists and craftspeople to aid progression. Students will then design a final piece, reflecting their observational studies combined with the artistic style of their choice.

Progression- successful completion of this course will allow students to study this subject at Key Stage 5. Successful GCSE candidates would also have access to A- Level Fine Art or A -level Photography. There are also a wide range of art courses that run nationally that could be the next step following a successful GCSE in this subject.

Careers – An Art GCSE could open up a range of careers that include: animation, fashion design, graphic design, interior design, theatrical painting, photography, product design, web design, and textile design, museum and heritage.

Art: Photography

Over two years of study, students studying OCR GCSE Photography will delve into a variety of photographic techniques and genres. This exploration not only aims to impart essential skills but also broadens knowledge for further academic or professional pursuits in photography. The curriculum is split into two main components: coursework and an examination unit. The course is designed to encourage a comprehensive engagement with diverse photographic media, enabling students to assemble a versatile portfolio. The examination phase spans four months, concluding with a 10-hour practical exam.

The course framework is tailored to enhance proficiency in both digital and traditional photography, encompassing digital imaging, darkroom processes, lighting, and composition. By investigating different photographic genres, students refine their technical abilities and deepen their aesthetic appreciation. A pivotal aspect of the curriculum involves students in actively observing and capturing their environment, promoting a personalized and inventive photographic practice.



Integral to the course is the analysis of work by various photographers and visual artists, serving as both inspiration and a developmental tool for students. This investigation leads to the creation of a final piece that not only reflects their observational skills but also demonstrates the influence of their chosen artists. This final work is a testament to their capability to blend technical expertise with creative insight.

Progression: Successfully completing the OCR GCSE Photography course equips students to potentially further their studies in Art or related disciplines at Key Stage 5. This qualification acts as a stepping stone, preparing students for a seamless transition to higher education or vocational courses in creative subjects.

Careers: The OCR GCSE Photography qualification opens up a spectrum of career possibilities. Students may find opportunities in various domains such as commercial photography, fine art photography, photojournalism, fashion photography, and event photography. Beyond these, the qualification provides a solid foundation for roles in media, advertising, and the wider creative industries, where photographic skills are in high demand. This course, therefore, not only cultivates a deep understanding of photographic practice but also enhances employability in a range of professional contexts.

Computer Science

This course is designed for those who have a strong and keen interest in computers and programming. A strong mathematics and science background will also help in this course.

Computer Science gives students a real, in-depth understanding of how computer technology works. Students will no doubt be familiar with the use of computers and other related technology from their other subjects and elsewhere. However, this course will give them an insight into what goes on 'behind the scenes', including computer programming, which many students find absorbing.

Students are likely to complete a programming project which provides them with a scenario for which a piece of software is required. Students will fully analyse, design and implement this software and test it robustly.

During the course students learn about a wide range of computer theory including the fundamentals of computer systems – how computers work; computing hardware and software; computer data representation; computer communications; and the networking and programming of computers. These elements are the foundations of the overall course and will enable students to access the future skills required.



Progression - successful completion of this course will allow students to study this subject at Key Stage 5 level. Successful GCSE candidates would have access to A-Level Computer Science qualifications. There is also a range of college computing courses that are run nationally that could be the next step following a successful GCSE in this subject.

Careers – successful completion could potentially open up a range of careers that include: games development, IT consultancy, systems analysis, systems development, engineering and database administration.

Creative iMedia

This course is designed for those who have a strong and keen interest in digital applications and the creative side of IT.

Students will learn the key skills required to create digital products using industry standard tools such as Photoshop and website design software. In addition, students will have the opportunity to develop their video game design skills through entry into the BAFTA Young Game Designers competition.

In addition to practical digital skills, students will also gain a thorough understanding of pre-production techniques and how to effectively analyse requirements, design and create digital



products that are suitable for a modern market.

The course applies to a large variety of digital applications and the tasks are designed to give students experience of multiple different digital applications to best prepare them for a career in the digital industries. Students will be given the opportunity to design and create videos, animations, websites and video games.

Note – this course cannot be taken in conjunction with Media Studies as the two qualifications discount one another

Progression - successful completion of this course will allow students to complete further study at Key Stage 5 level. Students could go on to study a Level 3 vocational course in a similar field or complete A-Level Media Studies. There is also a range of college computing courses that focus on video games design for which this course would be an excellent stepping stone.

Careers – successful completion could potentially open up a range of careers that include: games development, graphic designer, IT consultancy, audio engineer, video editor or web design.

Drama

Students will study a wide range of dramatic styles, building skills and understanding how to become a successful performer. Students will also be introduced to technical aspects of drama including; lighting and sound design, stage management and costume design. Both elements of the course will allow for successful completion of coursework and exam elements.

Students will undertake 2 practical coursework pieces, one devised and one as text extracts.

Students will tackle these from the view of the performer with the opportunity to approach from the technical side as well, with an accompanying portfolio which demonstrates and evaluates the development from their original concept to completed performance. Alongside this, students will be evaluating work both in terms of written texts and live performances which will be assessed in an external written exam.



There will be opportunities for students to visit live theatre performances during the course as well as take part in workshops with professional acting companies.

Drama is a valuable subject as it show potential employers a vast array of skills which are highly desirable to employers. The skills developed over the course of the GCSE include, but are not limited to:

- confidence;
- self-presentation;
- teamwork and collaboration;
- time management and organisational skills;
- self-awareness;
- self-discipline;
- an open mind and the ability to move beyond boundaries and experiment with different ideas;
- communication skills;
- analytical, critical and research skills;
- the ability to cope with criticism and learn from it;
- stamina.

Progression to Key Stage 5 – GCSE success will allow access to the A-Levels or Vocational (BTEC) courses in Drama, Theatre studies, Performing Arts or Expressive Arts and will strongly support further studies in English, Music, Dance, Art and Design.

Careers – Successful GCSE drama candidates will have access to a wide range of professions including, but not limited to; the media, theatre, television, radio, the film industry, arts administration, drama therapy and education. In addition GCSE Drama provides a large skill set which is transferable to many areas of Business and Public Relations and well as management and sales roles.

Engineering

NCFE Engineering is a vocational qualification allowing students to develop skills and understanding which will be of use generally and as part of a progressive career path leading to further technical or academic engineering qualifications.

The course is designed for students to gain core knowledge and understanding of the engineering industry and begin to understand the contribution that engineering makes to society and the economy as a whole.

Students will develop and use a range of transferable skills, including computer aided design (CAD) and technical skills, such as how to design and make engineered products. An awareness and understanding of environmental issues and sustainable development will also be instilled within students. Additionally students will develop the following skills:

- an awareness and appreciation of commercial and industrial issues and emerging technologies in the context of engineering
- the ability to apply their knowledge and understanding of engineering by using evaluation and problem-solving skills
- acquisition of skills to be effective and independent learners.

This course will suit individuals who like working with a high degree of accuracy, who want to know how things work and why. They should also be good at mathematics and physics as this is an entry requirement to study engineering at university.

Over the course students will continue to develop their skills in designing and making, ensuring they have a broad range of skills and knowledge of working with different materials.

Progression - successful completion of this course will allow students to study engineering at Key Stage 5 level. Successful candidates would have access to A Level Design Engineering course. There is also a range of apprenticeships that are run nationally that would be the next step following a successful qualification in this subject.



Careers – successful completion could potentially open up a range of careers that include design, engineering, product development, technology development and manufacturing.

Food Preparation and Nutrition

GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

Food preparation skills are integrated into five core topics:

- Food, nutrition and health
- Food science
- Food safety
- Food choice
- Food provenance

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study, or embark on an apprenticeship or full time career in the catering or food industries. Students are assessed on their theoretical knowledge of food preparation and nutrition



in a written exam that is worth 50% of the GCSE and includes 20 multiple choice questions (20 marks) and five questions each with a number of sub questions (80 marks). They will also complete 2 pieces of NEA coursework, one of which allows them to explore the science of food and the other is a more traditional piece of coursework that asks them to plan, cook and prepare 3 dishes in 3 hours. The course will lead to students being able to;

- Demonstrate effective and safe cooking skills
- Develop knowledge and understanding of the functional properties and chemical processes as well as the nutritional content of food and drinks
- Understand the relationship between diet, nutrition and health, including the physiological and psychological effects of poor diet and health
- Understand the economic, environmental, ethical and socio-cultural influences on food availability, production processes and diet and health choices
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of functional and nutritional properties, sensory qualities and microbiological food safety considerations when preparing, processing, storing, cooking and serving food
- Understand and explore a range of ingredients and processes from different culinary traditions (traditional British and international), to inspire new ideas or modify existing recipes
- Consider the influence of lifestyle and consumer choice when developing meals and recipes
- Consider nutritional needs and food choices when selecting recipes
- Develop the ability to review and make improvements to recipes
- Manage the time and cost of recipes effectively

Progression – Successful completion of this course could take students all over the world with an exciting career. This course could lead to a variety of level 3 qualifications in Food Technology or Hospitality and Catering.

Careers – This course would be suitable for someone wanting to go into a career as a nutritionist, food technologist, chef, caterer or events manager.

Geography

Geography is the study of the world around us and our place within it. It is constantly changing and impacts upon our everyday life. It is the subject we experience every day without every truly knowing it.

Students will study about tectonic and climatic hazards including climate change. Globally students will learn about the creation, uses and future of rainforest and hot desert environments, while, from a UK perspective, students will learn about river and coastal landscapes.

Looking from a human geography viewpoint, students will examine why some countries are rich, while others remain poor despite global efforts to help, and what resources humans are in danger of using up and why.

It is hoped that students will have the opportunity to experience a number of case studies first hand, in the form of fieldtrips which will be arranged throughout the course. These should give students first-hand experience of geographical methods.

Geography, alongside History forms part of the English Baccalaureate and we expect that all students to take one (or both) of the subjects.



Students will develop a range of skills over the course of this GCSE which would include:

- communication skills
- an understanding of the wider world
- an ability to bring together and present a range of different points of view
- the ability to solve problems
- the ability to research and present findings following fieldwork

As a result, this course requires students to have reasonable writing and evaluation skills.

Progression to Key Stage 5 - successful completion of this course will allow students to study a range of subjects at Key Stage 5 level. Obviously, GCSE success will allow access to A-Level Geography. However, a successful geography GCSE candidate would also have access to sociology, geology, elements of media and potentially journalism courses.

Careers – successful geography GCSE candidates will find accessing all types of employment significantly easier. Employers are particularly keen to see applications from students who have obtained a Geography GCSE as it shows a willingness to learn about and understand the world around them. Geography specialist careers are wide ranging including town planning, environmental stewardship, aid work, journalism and teaching.

History

History is the study of the past and significant events that have taken place. It is a window for us to learn where we have come from, and to see the perils that lie ahead. It is a dynamic subject that we experience every day.

Exam board: AQA

Assessment: 2 exams – No Coursework

Paper one: Understanding the Modern World

- **America – Opportunity and Equality: 1920-73**
- **Conflict and Tension between the East and West: 1945-73**

Paper two: Shaping the Nation

- **Britain: Power and People: c1170 to the modern day**
- **Elizabethan England: c1568-1603**



Martin Luther King Jr (1929-1968) helped organize the 1963 March on Washington, where he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial was attended by 250,000 people.

Is this course right for me?

Students who want to explore the depths of the world around them will enjoy taking GCSE History. Our modules have a range of focuses, with the USA module focusing on the experiences of people (social history), to Power and People allowing students understand peoples' rights and liberties throughout a 1000 years of British history (political history). It is a challenging course, which will stretch you. However, we have big focus on literacy and developing students writing and analytical skills so they are prepared for GCSE.

Progression to Key Stage 5 - Successful completion of this course will allow students to study a range of subjects at Key Stage 5 level including A-Level History, Politics, Classical Civilisation, Philosophy, Sociology, Media and Film.

Careers – History is a highly desirable qualification as it will enable to you think critically, communicate clearly, analyse adeptly and evaluate efficiently. These invaluable skills will open up doors to careers such as jobs in the civil service, law, politics, journalism, heritage, archaeology, and teaching.

Music

Develop communication and performance skills whilst expanding your understanding of music. You will learn to use Music Technology software to support your learning and can choose to specialise in music technology (instead of playing an instrument). You need to have a love of the subject, and be seeking to develop your own musicianship outside of lesson time as this is an important factor at doing well in GCSE Music.



- **‘My Music’** - You can perform and compose in any style of music, on any instrument. Your choice. You can also make use of music technology as an alternative – using computers to record and create music.
- **‘The Concerto through Time’** - You will study a traditional style of music called ‘The Concerto’ and how it has developed from the Baroque era, through to later Classical and Romantic eras.
- **‘Rhythms of the World’** - You will study a mixture of different world music styles including ‘Indian, Punjab, Bhangra, Traditional Eastern Mediterranean and Middle Eastern music plus West African drumming and Central/South American style of Calypso and Samba.
- **‘Film Music’** - You will study a range of different types of film Music plus video game music.
- **‘Conventions of Pop’** - A history and development of pop music styles from the 1950’s to the present day will be studied. Students will perform on a range of instruments in a variety of different ‘pop’ styles.

Assessment - All coursework will be internally assessed by your music teachers as part of your practical assessment. Your performances and compositions will be recorded, which will finally be moderated by OCR. The listening exam is externally assessed by the examiners.

Coursework – 60% (no lengthy written work)

Listening exam - 40%

Progression - GCSE Music is a good path towards BTEC Nationals in Music, A Level Music, Music Technology and Performing Arts courses.

Careers – Musical skills and knowledge would be an advantage in careers in retailing, leisure, tourism, media, presenting, journalism, sound engineering, entertainment and the performing arts.

Separate Sciences (3 GCSEs – Biology/Chemistry/Physics)

Students will study topics from biology, chemistry and physics whilst increasing their skills sets. They will be required to complete practical investigations work as an engaging way to explore science as a hands-on subject.

The Separate Sciences cover the material from the Combined Science course, and then further expands on concepts and theories. This additional information and understanding helps to bridge knowledge between the current GCSEs and A Level in science, thus giving Separate Science students a distinct advantage over those studying Combined Science as they start their A-Level studies in the sciences.

Students will develop a range of skills over the course of this GCSE which would include:

- investigative skills
- analysis and interpreting skills
- evaluating both their own effectiveness and the validity of their findings
- research skills
- referencing
- application of theory to a situation
- numeracy skills
- literacy skills



Progression to Key Stage 5 – successful completion of this course will equip students with the skills required to undertake many courses at Key Stage 5 level. Successful GCSE students may be eligible to study A-Level Science or a Level 3 Applied Science course that many schools offer. It is worth noting, if the original intention is to pursue a science subject at A-Level or further, students are advised that they should consider the Separate Sciences GCSE option.

Careers – Careers using skills obtained within science are wide ranging, from those being closely linked to science and those requiring logic, methodology and analysis. Examples include medicine, dentistry, forensics, engineering, geology, astronomy, research, sports science, zoology, botany, palaeontology, medical physics, environmental science, conservation and many more.

Sociology

Sociology is the study of the relationship between people and the society around them. It involves looking at people's behaviour, identities and beliefs. It includes studying different social institutions like media, law, families, education and the criminal justice system.

Sociology is an exciting subject that challenges students' experience with everyday life. It will enable them to understand why people become the way they are whilst also considering why people commit crime, why some people are richer than others and whether men and women are treated the same.



Studying Key Stage 4 Sociology will enable students to:

- develop an understanding of individuals, institutions and different groups that exist in different societies.
- analyse different sources of information and arguments and make judgements based on the evidence provided. This type of analysis equips students with transferable skills that they can use in their environment.

Progression to Key Stage 5 – Students who achieve a high grade at GCSE will have a basis of understanding to go on to study Psychology as well as Sociology at A Level, alternatively they could progress to a Level 3 qualification in Health and Social Care.

Careers - Careers leading on from GCSE Sociology can include health and social care, psychology, law, media studies, childcare and teaching.

Spanish

Spanish speakers are highly sought after by British employers and as the second most widely spoken language in the world in terms of native speakers) fluency in Spanish is much in demand. Spanish is a crucial language in the world of tourism, hospitality and commerce.

Over the duration of this course students will be taught to develop their Spanish speaking ability, written accuracy and reading and listening comprehension skills through a series of thematic units. Additionally, as the course progresses students will be expected to develop knowledge in the following:

- languages as a life skill
- languages as a communication and adaptability skill.
- cultural awareness
- the greater opportunities to travel and work abroad through language study

The course itself is taught through a series of themes, which will include the following:

- Environment and technology – mobile phones, internet and green themes
- Pressures and problems for young people in today's society
- Healthy living and lifestyle choices – food, smoking and fitness
- Extension of the topics, which you have already studied in KS3.

Progression - successful completion of this course will allow students to study this subject at Key Stage 5 level. Successful GCSE candidates would have access to A-Level Spanish. Some of our best universities may request the study of a language at GCSE as an entrance requirement for certain degrees and numerous degrees are offered with the study of a foreign language alongside, and the opportunity to spend a year studying abroad under the ERASMUS scheme with a year in Madrid or Barcelona for example.

Careers – successful completion could open up a range of careers that include hospitality, travel and tourism, hotel management, business and enterprise, teaching, translation, public relations, media and journalism, supply chain and logistics, international and/or litigation law, international sales/marketing/purchasing.



Sport Science

Sport is a high-profile and expanding industry in the UK, contributing over £20bn to the economy, sport now ranks within the top 15 sectors in the country and its wider economic benefits mean it plays a huge part in our society.

It's also widely recognised that regular participation in sport and physical activity is highly beneficial both to individuals and to society as a whole. With life expectancy on the increase, there will be continuing focus by government in collaboration with other bodies, to promote sport's benefits and encourage wider take up.

Elite sport has fully embraced sport science and considers every minute detail of an athlete's training programme, rest time, environment and psychology in the pursuit of excellence.

The Cambridge Nationals in Sport Science offer students the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles; and psychology in sport and sports performance.



Progression - successful completion of this course will allow students to complete further study at Key Stage 5 level. Students could go on to study a Level 3 vocational course in a similar field or complete coaching qualifications in specific sports or personal training.

Careers – successful completion could potentially open up a range of careers that include personal training, sports development, physiotherapy and other opportunities in the sports and health industry.