



# Year 9 Options Subject Booklet 2026



Student:

P&A Group:



ENGLISH 2

MATHS 3

COMBINED SCIENCE 4

SEPARATE SCIENCE 5

CORE PE 6

PE 7

HEALTH & FITNESS 8

RE 9

LEARNING FOR LIFE 10

ART 11

MUSIC 12

ACTING 13

FRENCH 14

HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE 15

COMPUTER SCIENCE 16

CREATIVE I-MEDIA 17

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY 18

GEOGRAPHY 19

HISTORY 20

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR POST16 21

## OPTIONS PROCESS/important information

- Throughout the Spring term options subjects will promote their subjects within lessons.
- Year 9 work shadowing day - Friday 6th March (Students go with a family member for the day. Please start considering where you could go).
- Thursday 23rd April Year 9 options evening will be held. Please save this date in your diary. Options forms are available on the evening.
- Thursday 30th April Deadline for completing options form.

## What is included in the course?

Within English you will be given the opportunity to develop your skills in Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening. These are important skills in life, which will help you to become a more confident learner in all subjects. You will work towards two qualifications: GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature.

### GCSE English Language:

- Critical reading of literary texts and non-fiction texts
- Descriptive and narrative writing
- Writing to present a viewpoint

### GCSE English Literature

- A play by Shakespeare (Macbeth)
- A 19th Century novel (A Christmas Carol)
- A modern text (An Inspector Calls)
- Power and Conflict Poetry
- Unseen Poetry

## How will I be assessed?

You will sit your GCSE English Literature and GCSE English Language at the end of Year 11  
What grades are available?

The grades available are 9 - 1 where 9 is the top grade.

## Progression

This course is excellent preparation for Post 16 courses, such as A Level English Language and English Literature.

There are also links to university degrees in English Language, English Literature, Media and Journalism.



## Skills Developed

- Written and oral communication skills - ability to define audience, construct an argument, present an idea, and provide background information on a variety of issues.
- Write and speak with clarity and precision, and learn the best methods to persuade an audience.
- Detailed, balanced and rigorous examination of texts or spoken language and the ability to articulate interpretations to others
- Sensitivity to how communication is shaped by circumstances, authorship and intended audience.
- Sensitivity to the power of language and its role in creating meaning.
- A broad vocabulary and ability to use critical terminology appropriately.
- Skills in a variety of research methods and the ability to accurately and appropriately present research.

## Career Opportunities

- Digital copywriter
- Editorial assistant
- English as a foreign language teacher
- Magazine journalist
- Newspaper journalist
- Publishing copy-editor/proof-reader
- Web content manager
- Writer
- Academic librarian
- Advertising account executive
- Advertising copywriter
- Arts administrator
- Film director
- Marketing executive
- Primary school teacher
- Public relations officer
- Secondary school teacher
- Social media manager

For additional information please contact  
Mr Dowey - Careers Lead  
tdowey@minsthorpe.cc

Curriculum Team Leader: Mrs Smith

## What is included in the course?

Within Mathematics you will develop your knowledge in numeracy, shape and space, problem solving, and data handling. These are important skills that are transferable to other subjects and vital to prospective employers.

**Number** - fractions, decimals, percentages, ratio, number operations.

**Algebra** - solving equations, expanding brackets, sequences.

**Geometry** - shapes, area, volume, angles, speed, time.

**Statistics** - averages, charts, diagrams, probability.

These will be covered throughout the course and all tested at the end of the course by exam.

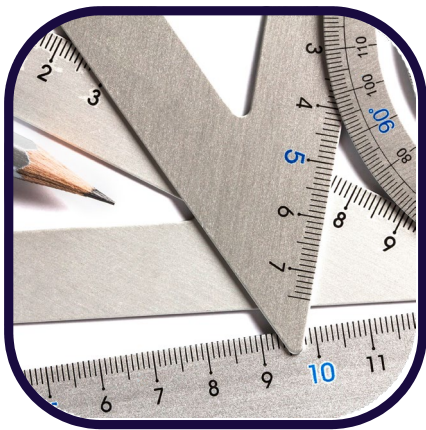
Further Mathematics is a GCSE topic designed for students who want to study mathematics beyond the Higher Tier GCSE syllabus and can work at a higher level. The syllabus is designed to broaden the mathematical experience of high attaining pupils. Students are invited (at the end of year 9) to do the course which begins in year 10.

It covers a wide range of complex topics such as algebra, calculus, and matrices. Unlike standard GCSE Math's, this course prepares students for A-level Math's and even university-level math's. It is not mandatory, but highly recommended for those who have a passion for the subject.

## How will I be assessed?

There is a final terminal exam at the end of Year 11. This exam consists of a non-calculator paper and 2 calculator papers.

The grades available are 9 - 1 where 9 is the top grade.



## Progression

This course is excellent preparation for Post 16 courses such as A-Level Mathematics.

There are also links to university degree courses in Mathematics, Engineering, Accountancy and Computing.

## Skills Developed

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Analytical thinking
- Quantitative reasoning
- Ability to manipulate precise and intricate ideas
- Construct logical arguments and expose illogical arguments
- Communication
- Time management
- Teamwork
- Independence

## Career Opportunities

- Accountant
- Actuary
- Computer programmer
- Doctor
- Engineer
- Investment manager
- Lawyer
- Government research and laboratories
- Theoretical mathematician
- Mathematician
- Numerical analyst
- Statistician
- Teacher
- Market researcher
- Systems analyst
- Banking
- Government
- Space/aircraft industry

For additional information please contact  
Mr Dowey - Careers Lead  
tdowey@minsthorpe.cc

Curriculum Team Leader: Mr Lancashire

## What is included in the course?

Students study each Science specialism (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) for a total of 6 lessons per week. They will receive a Combined Science qualification worth 2 GCSE grades at the end of Year 11. Students will be entered on either the Higher (grades 9-4) or Foundation (grades 5-1) papers based on their ability in Science.

Combined Science is the minimum requirement for Science education, therefore all students who do not elect to study Single Science will study this course.

This Science route provides a broad understanding of Science and develops transferable skills that can be applied to other subjects and the workplace.

## GCSE Combined Science example content:

- Cell Biology & Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Atomic structure and the Periodic Table, The properties of matter & Chemical changes
- Energy, Electricity, Forces & Waves

## How will I be assessed?

Students will sit six terminal exams at the end of Year 11. These will be based on the content and practical skills taught throughout Key Stage 4 and the application of this knowledge. The grades available are 9-1 where 9 is the top grade.

## Progression

The Combined route provides good preparation for the AQA Applied Science course. Progression onto A Level Science for students taking the Higher paper is possible but the Single Science route is preferable.

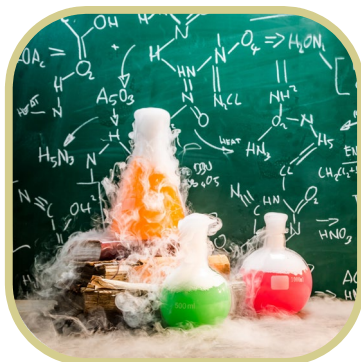
Science qualifications open up a range of possibilities from apprenticeships to degree courses in Engineering, Nursing & Forensic Science.

## Skills Developed

- Analysis and problem-solving
- Time management and organisation
- Written and oral communication
- Monitoring/maintaining records and data
- Teamwork
- Research and presentation
- Critical thinking
- Innovation
- Application of numeracy
- Reasoning
- Logical thought
- Identifying reputable sources of information
- Resilience

## Career Opportunities

- Chemical engineer
- Healthcare scientist, clinical biochemistry
- Forensic scientist
- Nanotechnologist
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist (physical sciences)
- Toxicologist
- Biotechnologist
- Higher education lecturer
- Marine biologist
- Microbiologist
- Nature conservation officer



## What is included in the course?

Students study each Science specialism (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) for a total of 9 lessons per week. They will receive a GCSE Science qualification in each of Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSE grades at the end of Year 11).

GCSE Separate Sciences is an option available to students in the top sets in Science.

This Science route provides a deeper understanding of Science and develops a wider range of key transferable skills that can be applied to other subjects and the workplace.

## GCSE Single Sciences example content:

- Neuroscience, Monoclonal antibodies & DNA code
- Nanoparticles, Organic chemistry & The chemical industry
- Space, Nuclear fission & Fusion and lenses

## How will I be assessed?

Students will sit six terminal exams at the end of Year 11. These will be based on the content and practical skills taught throughout Key Stage 4 and the application of this knowledge.

The grades available are 9-1 where 9 is the top grade. Higher tier 9-4, Foundation tier 5-1.

## Progression

This route provides good preparation for the A Level Sciences, with Post 16 experiences delivered during the course. The natural progression then is to study a Science related degree.

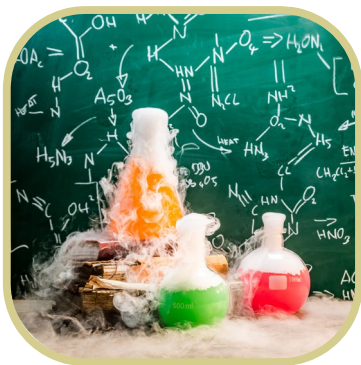
However, the Separate Science GCSEs are highly regarded as qualifications because they show a good balance of application, practical, numeracy & literacy skills and therefore are desirable for most career-based options.

## Skills Developed

- Analysis and problem-solving
- Time management and organisation
- Written and oral communication
- Monitoring/maintaining records and data.
- Teamwork
- Research and presentation
- Critical thinking
- Innovation
- Application of numeracy
- Reasoning
- Logical thought
- Identifying reputable sources of information
- Resilience

## Career Opportunities

- Chemical engineer
- Healthcare scientist, clinical biochemistry
- Forensic scientist
- Nano technologist
- Pharmacologist
- Research scientist (physical sciences)
- Toxicologist
- Biotechnologist
- Higher education lecturer
- Marine biologist
- Microbiologist
- Nature conservation officer



## Non-examination

### What is included in the course?

You have one lesson each week, which will be a practical lesson. You will not study for any exams, as the main emphasis of this course will be developing skills and enjoyment so that you are equipped and encouraged to continue playing sport in later life.

You will cover the following sports:

- Fitness Room
- Boxing
- Badminton
- Football
- Hockey/Rugby
- Trampolining
- Basketball/Netball
- Rounders/Cricket
- Tennis
- Athletics

Students will be encouraged to join extracurricular clubs in the sports they enjoy.

### How will I be assessed?

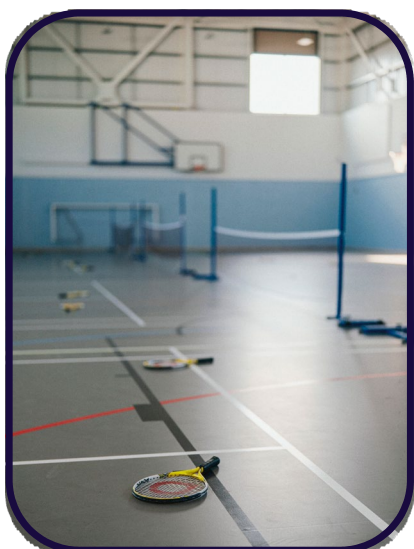
In Year 10 and 11 there will be no formal assessment, though there will be regular feedback on how your skills progress and how you are developing across the core strands of PE.

### Skills Developed

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Analytical thinking
- Quantitative reasoning
- Construct logical arguments and expose illogical arguments
- Communication
- Time management
- Teamwork
- Independence

### Career Opportunities

- Professional sports performer
- Semiprofessional sports performer
- Teacher
- Referee
- Sports analysis
- Sports engineering
- Physiotherapist
- Sports Personal Trainer
- Sports Centre Manager
- Coach



## PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

### What is included in the course?

In addition to your 1 'Entitlement for All' PE lessons, you will have 3 extra lessons a week to study GCSE PE.

The GCSE course is worth one GCSE.

### What might the two years look like?

The practical and theory split across the 3 lessons will be approx one third practical, two thirds theory.

Practical sports include:

- Football
- Rugby
- Netball
- Climbing
- Athletics
- Trampolining

Theory topics include:

Paper 1 (36%)

- Applied Anatomy and Physiology
- Movement Analysis
- Physical Training

Paper 2 (24%)

- Health, Fitness & Well-being
- Sport Psychology
- Cultural Influences

### How will I be assessed?

GCSE Assessment

Your final grade will be made up of the following:

30% practical

10% PEP coursework

60% 2 written exams

The grades are 9 - 1 where 9 is the top grade

### Possible next steps

A Level PE or Cambridge Technical courses.

All courses are available at Minsthorpe in Post 16.

This course also prepares you for careers in Sports Centres, Sports Coaching and Personal Fitness Training.

### Skills Developed

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Analytical thinking
- Quantitative reasoning
- Construct logical arguments and expose illogical arguments
- Communication
- Time management
- Teamwork
- Independence

### Career Opportunities

- Professional sports performer
- Semiprofessional sports performer
- Teacher
- Referee
- Sports analysis
- Sports engineering
- Physiotherapist
- Sports Personal Trainer
- Sports Centre Manager
- Coach



## NO PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT

### What is included in the course?

In addition to your 1 'Entitlement for All' lessons, you will have 3 extra lessons a week to study Health & Fitness.

The NCFE course is equivalent to one GCSE in PE.

### What might the two years look like?

There will be both practical and theory elements to the course.

Theory topics include:

- Body systems
- Effects of Health & Fitness activities on the body
- Components of Fitness Programmes
- Diet
- Training

### How will I be assessed?

Your final grade will be made up of the following:

Coursework 60%

1 Written Exam 40%

### No Practical Assessment

The grades are Pass - Distinction \*

### Possible next steps

Cambridge Technical courses or A Level PE. All courses are available at Minsthorpe in Post 16. This course also prepares you for careers in Sports Centres, Sports Coaching and Personal Fitness Training.

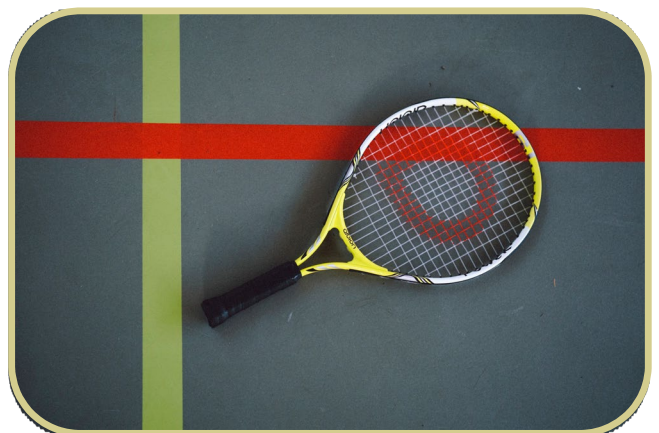


### Skills Developed

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Analytical thinking
- Quantitative reasoning
- Construct logical arguments and expose illogical arguments
- Communication
- Time management
- Teamwork
- Independence

### Career Opportunities

- Professional sports performer
- Semiprofessional sports performer
- Teacher
- Referee
- Sports analysis
- Sports engineering
- Physiotherapist
- Sports Personal Trainer
- Sports Centre Manager
- Coach



## What is included in the course?

The GCSE is divided into 2 units. Unit 1 'Religion and Ethics' is explored through a study of Christianity whilst Unit 2 'Religion, Peace and Conflict' is examined through the study of Islam. GCSE RE allows you to express your own opinion on a variety of issues:

- How can God exist if suffering exists?
- Can abortion ever be right?
- Can any modern war be a just war?
- Is capital punishment acceptable?

## How will I be assessed?

Written exams - you will take two exams each lasting 1 hour 45 minutes in May of Year 11.

## What grades are available?

- This course is worth a full GCSE.
- The grades available are 1-9

## Possible next steps

GCSE RE can lead to A-Level Religious Studies, Philosophy, Ethics and many more.

Understanding others is an essential skill in the world of work. GCSE RE is great preparation for this!



## Skills Developed

- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Analytical thinking
- Ability to reflect upon key information
- Construct logical arguments
- Decision making about moral problems
- Communication
- Time management
- Teamwork
- Independence

## Career Opportunities

- Social worker
- Counsellor
- Youth worker
- Rabbi/minister
- Forces Chaplain
- RE teacher
- Inter-faith schools officer
- Theology Lecturer
- Police Officer
- Politician
- Housing Officer
- Freelance writer
- Musician
- Literary Publisher



## Non-examination

### What is included in the course?

L4L lessons encompass:

- Citizenship
- Economic Enterprise
- Personal Health and Well-Being With Skill for Learning SMSC running throughout.

L4L lessons bring the world into context for your own life, make you think about your own place in the world, and what you want your life to be. It involves practical work and information, real-life resources and visitors, and a chance to develop your views on issues that affect all our lives.

Every L4L lesson helps develop a variety of skills particularly focusing on Bloom's Taxonomy:

- Create
- Evaluate
- Apply
- Explain
- Recall

### What might the two years look like?

Over the two years you'll cover subjects such as:

#### Year 10:

- Diversity
- Body image
- Mock interviews
- RSE

#### Year11

- RSE
- CVs
- Wakefield Prospectus
- Exam strategies

### How will I be assessed?

The L4L course is not accredited - No academic grades given with focus on application of effort.

### Skills Developed

- Reasoning and Problem Solving
- Reflection
- Resilience and independence
- Respect
- Teamwork
- Communication
- Time management
- Organisation
- Summarising
- Exam skills and strategies
- Research skills

### Career Opportunities

This subject develops key skills to support entry into employment, College and University.



## What is included in the course?

BTEC Art and Design aims to develop your ability to research and explore different aspects of Art, Craft and Design from contemporary, historical and cultural sources.

### Year 10 Component One

Creative Practice in Arts & Design  
(Externally assessed)

### Year 11 Component Two

Responding to a BRIEF

## How will I be assessed?

This course consists of 2 components. Each component within the qualifications has specified assessment and grading criteria which are to be used for grading purposes. The grades are available are L1 Pass - L2 Distinction\*.

## Progression & Career Opportunities

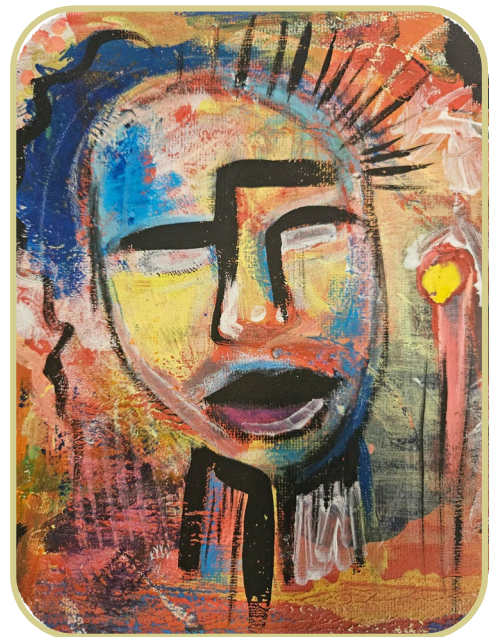
- There is a course at Post 16 for students wanting to progress further with their Art Skills. This course is an A Level in Art & Design which continues to develop your skills as an artist.
- Progress to other vocational qualifications such as BTEC Level 3 Nationals at Post 16 is also an option.
- Students are then able to go on to study a BA Hons Degree in a range of Art skills at university.

## Skills Developed

- Critical thinking and analysis
- Presentation skills
- Strong writing skills
- Intensive research
- Problem-solving and decision-making
- Attention to detail
- Organization

## Career Opportunities

- Fine artist - Kicking off with perhaps the most obvious of art careers, there is no reason why you cannot pursue a career as a professional artist if you have talent and dedication
- Illustrator
- Photographer
- Animator
- Graphic designer
- Arts administrator
- Printmaker
- Teacher/university lecturer
- Fashion designer
- Product designer
- Advertising



## What is included in the course?

- The BTEC music qualification is a practical course that explores the skills of a musician
- You will get the opportunity to explore the different career opportunities within the music industry
- You will be able to learn the instrument of your choice
- You will learn to use music software programmes such as Cubase.

## What might the two years look like?

This is your chance to become the musician you want to be. You may have a hidden talent for singing, playing guitar or as a budding pianist. The course consists of three components.

Year 10 - You will focus on exploring music genres, learning how to perform one of each of the genres. You will also have a chance to produce your own compositions using brand new IT room equipment. You will become a film composer and produce music for an existing film scene. You will focus on developing your solo skills on your chosen instrument and do a final performance.

Year 11- You will be given an external paper and respond to a given brief and explore and produce a piece of music from a given list and styles.

## How will I be assessed?

During the course you will be assessed in a variety of ways supported by a portfolio of evidence collected

- One Unit is externally assessed



## Possible next steps

You will have the opportunity to study BTEC Musical Theatre Level 3 and then study a BA Hons degree in Music or Music Technology.

## Skills Developed

- Confidence
- Independence
- Creativity
- Communication
- Leadership
- Teamwork
- Presentation
- Vocal Expression
- Organisation
- Event management
- Teaching
- Self-reflection
- Musicianship skills
- Creative thinking
- Performance management
- Creative Interpretation

## Career Opportunities

- Music Teacher
- Music Journalist
- Music Therapist
- Sound engineer
- Music producer
- Radio DJ
- Singer
- Musician
- Session musician
- Lighting engineer
- Roadie
- Music Marketing
- Music Lawyer
- Music promoter
- Recording engineer
- Composer
- Music Director



## What is included in the course?

The BTEC Acting course is a very practical course that explores the skills of an actor. You will train as an actor and participate in lots of staged performances to different audiences.

The course relies heavily on you working and co-operating as part of a team as you will be staging a range of performances in groups including all the technical aspects of putting on a performance.

The course consists of 3 components which cover the following areas:

- Exploring the Performing Arts industry
- Presenting findings through a presentation
- Developing acting skills and techniques
- Performing devised and scripted plays
- Participating in a variety of workshops
- Performing to a brief
- Performance styles
- Professional repertoire

## How will I be assessed?

Your work will be assessed both internally, by your teachers and externally, by the exam board. Assessed work will consist of the following:

- Performance work
- Presentations
- Written logs
- Portfolio work

## What grades are available?

Course title - BTEC Level 2 Tech Award in Performing Arts: Acting

Students can be awarded the following grades on the tech award and below is the equivalency to GCSE

- Level 1 Pass - 1
- Level 1 Merit - 2
- Level 1 Distinction - 3
- Level 2 Pass - 4
- Level 2 Merit - 5/6
- Level 2 Distinction - 7
- Level 2 Distinction\* - 8/9

## Possible next steps

Students wanting to progress further with Acting Skills can go on to Level 3 or A Level course at college. Then go on to study a BA Hons Degree in Acting/Drama at University.

## Skills Developed

- Confidence
- Articulation
- Pronunciation
- Accent
- Imaginative Skills
- Devising
- Vocal Expression
- Movement Skills
- Working from a Stimulus
- Creative writing
- Problem solving
- Ability to realise ideas
- Debate skills
- Communication
- Time management
- Teamwork
- Independence

## Career Opportunities

- Actor - TV Film
- Actor - Theatre Performer
- Presenter
- Artistic Director
- TV Film Critic
- Producer
- Script Writer
- Costume Designer
- Lighting Technician
- Sound Technician
- Drama Therapist
- Director
- Production roles in theatre, TV and film
- Theatre critic
- TV critic
- Teacher



## What is included in the course?

You will develop your language skills in a variety of themes:

**People and lifestyle** - Identity and relationships with others; Healthy living and lifestyle; Education and work.

**Popular culture** - Free time activities; Customs, festivals and celebrations; Celebrity culture.

**Communication and the world around us** - Travel and tourism including places of interest; Media and technology; The environment and where people live.

## How will I be assessed?

Examination at the end of Year 11 (100%):

- Paper 1 - Listening (25%)
- Paper 2 - Speaking (25%)
- Paper 3 - Reading (25%)
- Paper 4 - Writing (25%)

The grades available are 9 - 1 where 9 is the top grade.

## Possible next steps

This course will lead onto A-Level French, a wide variety of university degrees and a wider choice of employment opportunities. Many degree courses include an option to study a language on its own, with another subject or as a small part of a degree course. A language qualification provides the opportunity to live and work abroad.



## Skills Developed

- Develop their ability to communicate confidently and coherently (in English as well as French) in speech and writing, conveying what they want to say with increasing accuracy
- Express and develop thoughts and ideas spontaneously and fluently
- Deepen their knowledge about how a 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 spoken and written material
- Develop awareness and understanding of the culture and identity of the countries and communities where French is spoken
- Develop language learning skills and language strategies
- Work collaboratively and independently

## Career Opportunities

- Interpreter
- Translator
- Any role within the Business sector e.g. international retail / sales / Law
- Journalist
- Secondary school teacher/ primary school teacher
- English as a foreign language teacher
- International Aid/Development Worker
- Diplomatic service officer
- intelligence analyst
- Tour Manager / Guide
- Cabin Crew
- Travel Rep
- Insurance
- Marketing/ Advertising

## What is included in the course?

You will learn through practical and real-life situations and the course will help develop your communication, independence and confidence using skills that will be relevant and transferable to the Health and Social Care Sector.

### Units Covered:

Coursework- Supporting individuals through the life stages. You will focus on a given stage of life and explore the development of an individual through the life stage. You will also explore life events and the impact on an individual and how the sources of support can help.

Coursework- Health Promotion Campaigns. You will be provided with a public health issue and explore the impacts of this on society. You will create and present a public health campaign to raise awareness of the illness.

Exam- Principle of care in health and social care settings. You will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, pre-season-centred values and how to apply them. You will learn the importance of effective communication skills when providing care and support for service users in health and social care settings. You will explore the procedures and measures used to protect individuals such as safeguarding, hygiene and security.

### How will I be assessed?

2 units of coursework and 1 exam unit.  
The grades available are Pass - Distinction\*

### Possible next steps

Studying Level 3 Health & Social Care, Childcare or other Social Science courses.

## Career Opportunities

- Nurse
- Carer
- Midwife
- Counsellor
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Primary School Teacher
- Family Support Worker
- Social Worker
- Secondary Teacher
- Occupational Therapist
- Care Home Manager
- Youth Worker
- Doctor
- And many more!



## What is included in the course

In GCSE Computer Science, students will learn a range of key concepts related to computing, programming, and the impact of technology on society. The course typically covers the following main areas:

- Computer Systems
- Computer Networks
- Computational Thinking, Problem Solving, and Algorithms
- Impact of Digital Technology
- Programming

By the end of the course, students will have a strong understanding of how computers work, how to write and troubleshoot programs, and how digital technology influences and shapes the modern world.

## How will I be assessed?

Students will sit 2 GCSE exam papers consisting of:

**Paper 1** – This usually focuses on the fundamentals of computer systems, hardware, software, data representation, and networking. It may also include sections on the impact of technology, such as ethical and social issues.

**Paper 2** – This paper typically covers algorithms, programming concepts, and problem-solving. Students may be required to solve coding problems or answer questions related to algorithm design.

## What grades are available?

This is a Level 1/2 course in which you will work towards one GCSE, grades 1-9.

## Possible next steps

Further Study - This course would be good preparation for students wanting to study Computing at Post 16, it would be a good pathway on to the A Level. In addition, the course is a natural route onto the Cambridge Technical in IT.

## Minimum requirements

Achieving a grade of 5 or above in Math's at the end of KS3.

Averaging a grade 5 or above in CDM at the end of KS3.

If a student does not meet these criteria's, but wishes to study Computing at Key Stage 4, please contact Mr Mallinson to discuss it further.

## Skills Developed

- Analytical skills- Being a computer science major involves identifying a problem and coming up with a technological solution to address it
- Problem-solving skills
- Creativity
- Critical thinking skills
- Resilience

## Career Opportunities

- Application analyst
- Applications developer
- Data analyst
- Database administrator
- Games developer
- Information systems manager
- IT consultant
- Multimedia programmer



## What is included in the course

The Creative iMedia GCSE offers students a dynamic and engaging opportunity to explore the world of digital media, combining creativity with technical skills. By studying this course, students will gain hands-on experience in creating media products like comics, and digital graphics, while also learning about industry-standard software and techniques.

The course develops valuable skills in problem-solving, project management, and communication, which are highly transferable to future careers in media, technology, and design. With a focus on both creativity and practical application, Creative iMedia equips students with the knowledge and skills to thrive in the digital age.

## How will I be assessed?

Students studying the Creative iMedia GCSE will be assessed through a combination of coursework and exams. The course includes two main components:

### Controlled Assessment (Coursework)

Students will complete a series of practical assignments that involve creating digital media products such as digital graphics, 2D modeling and comic book creation. These projects are internally assessed and contribute to a significant portion of the final grade (60%). The coursework allows students to apply the skills they've learned in real-world contexts.

### Written Examination

At the end of the course, students will sit an external exam that tests their understanding of the theory behind digital media production, including topics like media hardware, software, and the processes involved in creating media products. The exam assesses students' knowledge of industry practices and key concepts.

## The course is split into the following:

Unit 1 – Visual identity and digital graphics (25%)

Unit 2 – Characters and Comics (35%)

Unit 3 – Creative iMedia in the media industry (Exam) (40%)

## What grades are available?

This is a Level 1/2 course in which you will work towards one GCSE equivalent.

The grades available are L1 Pass – L2 Distinction\*

## Possible next steps

Further Study - This course would be good preparation for students wanting to study IT/Media in Post 16, it would be a good pathway onto the Cambridge Technical Level 3 course.

## Skills Developed

- Creative Design
- Technical Skills
- Problem-Solving
- Project Management
- Communication
- Critical Thinking
- Collaboration
- Research Skills
- Time Management

## Career Opportunities

- Computer Science Teacher/Lecturer
- IT Technician
- Network Manager
- Software Developer
- Software Engineer
- Systems Analyst
- Programmer
- Graphics Designer
- Web Developer
- Game design
- Animator
- Journalism
- Marketing Manager



## What is included in the course?

Within GCSE Design Technology you will specialise in a material area that matches your skill-set. The area in which you will be guided will be decided by your strengths and skills learned at Key Stage 3. Hospitality and Catering, both at Level 1 and Level 2 is also offered for those students who wish to further their interest in a food-based subject.

In all of these subject areas you will have varied experience that will allow you to enhance and develop your practical skills within the area that you choose to study.

## What will you be doing?

In **Hospitality & Catering** you will be planning and cooking your own meals and learning about the Hospitality industry. In **Textiles** you will have the chance to create functional and creative products to a high standard. In **Product Design** you will develop your manufacturing and modelling skills to design and make products that solve real-world problems. Please be aware students that study Hospitality & Catering will need to regularly provide their own ingredients. (Year 10 - assessed practical days - cooking 3 course meals).

## Design Technology (Textiles or Product Design)

Will cover core theory and subject specific, where students will gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of the subject area they are in. One lesson out of the three taught over a fortnight is dedicated to the theory content, as this will make up 50% of students' final GCSE grade.

**Hospitality and Catering** will cover specific theory content that covers the Hospitality industry, this will also be examined in Year 11.

## You will need to...

- Develop your own project from a set design brief
- Demonstrate creativity, initiative and commitment to completing your projects to a high standard
- Be able to work hard and solve problems independently

## How will I be assessed?

### Design & Technology (Textiles or Product Design)

- In Year 10 you will complete a range of projects and mock tests that will be assessed against the WJEC GCSE criteria
- In Year 11 your GCSE is made up from your major project (50%) and written exam (50%)

### Hospitality & Catering

- In Year 10 you will complete a range of projects and mock tests that will be assessed against the WJEC criteria
- In Year 11 the course will be made up of a major project (60%) and a written exam (40%)

## What grades are available?

### Design & Technology

This course is worth a full GCSE, graded between 1-9.

### Hospitality & Catering

This is a Level 1 or Level 2 course where a Pass-Distinction\* can be achieved.

## Possible next steps

Studying Science and Nutrition, Product Design, Textiles and other creative courses at other colleges.

## Skills Developed

- Creative thinking
- Problem solving
- Independent working
- Time management
- Practical skills
- Technical ability
- Organisation

## Career Opportunities

- Product designer
- Engineering
- Commis Chef
- Apprenticeship food routes
- Print Designer
- Costume designer
- Architect
- Web designer
- Food production chef

## What is included in the course?

Geography can provide answers to the world's questions; it helps us understand why things happen, how things might change and what impacts these changes may have on the world.

Studying GCSE geography allows students to gain knowledge and understanding about our world whilst appreciating the human and physical processes that occur within it. Students also gain knowledge on how humans can affect these processes and how we are also affected by them too.

It shows how we can learn from events that have happened in the past, using the knowledge we have gained to predict what can happen in our future. "So many of the world's current issues - on a global scale and locally - boil down to geography, and need the geographers of the future to help us understand them" - (Michael Palin).

## How will I be assessed?

Students study AQA Geography GCSE (8035). It is assessed by three separate papers:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment. 88 marks. 1 hr30mins (35%)  
Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment. 88 marks. 1 hr30mins (35%)  
Paper 3: Geographical applications. 76 marks. 1hr 30mins (30%)

\*Paper 3 requires students to take part in fieldwork activities outside of college.

## What grades are available?

In the Geography course a GCSE qualification is available. Grades available are 9 - 1 where 9 is the top grade.

## Possible next steps

A-Level in Geography, but the skills developed on this course will help with the study of a wide range of A-Levels.

## Skills Developed

- Critical thinking Problem solving
- Data analysis
- Numerical and statistical skills
- Communication and writing skills
- Time management
- Teamwork

## Career Opportunities

- Tourism officer
- Transport planner
- Landscape architect
- Sustainability consultant
- Land surveyor
- Cartographer / GIS officer
- Town planner
- Environmental lawyer
- Disaster & emergency planner
- Climate change analyst
- Meteorologist
- Air pollution analyst
- Water conservation officer / Hydrologist
- Remote sensing analyst
- Geography teacher
- Nature conservation officer
- Leisure centre coordinator
- Charity fundraiser
- Human rights officer
- Refugee & asylum advisor
- Coastal engineer



## What is included in the course?

History is a popular subject. It teaches you to use a variety of skills such as the identification, comparison and evaluation of information within a historical setting. These skills will also help you progress in other subjects, particularly English and are valued highly by future employers. GCSE History will include

- Britain: Power and the People, 1170 to the present day
- Norman England, 1066-1100 including the study of one historical site in depth
- America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and Inequality
- Conflict and Tension between East and West 1945-1972

## How will I be assessed?

GCSE History is divided into 4 modules which are assessed externally through two examinations at the end of Year 11.

## What grades are available?

GCSE History

- This course is worth a full GCSE.
- The grades available are 9 - 1 where 9 is the top grade

## Possible next steps

This course will lead to A Level History and a wide variety of university degrees such as Law, Journalism, Teaching and many more.

## Skills Developed

- The ability to analyse and interpret information
- Problem solving and Analytical Skills
- Investigative and research skills
- Critical thinking
- Communication – both verbal and written
- The ability to construct logical arguments
- Time management

## Career Opportunities

- Heritage manager
- Historic buildings inspector or conservation officer
- Museum education officer
- Museum or gallery curator
- Museum or gallery exhibitions officer
- Secondary school teacher
- Academic librarian
- Archaeologist
- Archivist
- Journalist
- Civil Service administrator
- Editorial assistant
- Information officer
- PPC specialist
- Politician's assistant
- Solicitor
- Web content manager



# ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR POST16

## LEVEL 3 COURSES - POST 16

These are the subjects available at Minsthorpe Community College POST 16 - these can change periodically, but seeing what grades you need for future study may help make your GCSE choices.

### Entry Requirements 2026/27

Block A subjects			
Subject	Qualification	Essential	Plus
Art	A Level	Merit in BTEC Art	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Chemistry	A Level	Min 6 In Chemistry or 6-6 In Combined Science + 6 In Maths	3 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Health & Social Care	Vocational	Min 4 In English, Maths & Science	3 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
History	A Level	Min 5 In History & English	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Computing	Vocational	Min 5 In English Language & Computer Science or Merit in Media	3 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Sport (Single)	Vocational	4 In PE	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs

Block B subjects			
Subject	Qualification	Essential	Plus
Criminology	Vocational	Min 4 In English & Maths	3 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
English Language	A Level	Min 5 in English Language	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Geography	A Level	Min 5 In Geography & English	3 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Maths	A Level	Min 6 In Maths	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
PE	A Level	Min 5 In PE	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs

Block C subjects			
Subject	Qualification	Essential	Plus
Applied Science	Vocational	Min 4 In Combined Science, 4s English & Maths	2 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Biology	A Level	Min 6 In Biology or 6-6 in Combined Science + 5 in English & Maths	2 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Childcare	Vocational	Min 4 In English & 4 in Maths	3 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Food & Nutrition	Vocational	Min of Merit in Hospitality & Catering Or 5-9 at GCSE Food Prep & Nutrition	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Musical Theatre	Vocational	Min of Pass in Performing Arts or Merit in Music	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Sport (Double)	Vocational	Min 4 in PE	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs

Block D subjects			
Subject	Qualification	Essential	Plus
Business	Vocational	Min 4 In English & 5 Maths	3 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
English Literature	A Level	Min 5 In English Literature	4 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Physics	A Level	Min 6 In Physics or 6-6 In Combined Science + 6 in Maths	3 other grade 9-4 GCSEs
Psychology	A Level	Min grade 4 in English and 5 in Maths & Science	3 other grade 5-9 GCSE or equivalent (Distinction and Merits)

Please use this page to make notes/questions you may wish to ask staff at the open evening (Thursday 23rd April 2026)



**Minsthorpe**  
Community College

**Principals: Mark Gilmore and Rachael Merritt**  
**<http://minsthorpe.cc>**  
**Email: [enquiries@minsthorpe.cc](mailto:enquiries@minsthorpe.cc)**  
**Tel: 01977 657600 Fax: 01977 657605**