Djanogly
City Academy

Everyone Graduates

Key Stage 4 Curriculum (2025-2027)

Year 9 Options Process

Dear Scholars, Parents, and Carers,

This booklet has been carefully designed to support your transition from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4. It will guide you through the curriculum content for years 10 and 11 and provide useful insights into making informed choices for your future.

The transition to Key Stage 4 is an exciting step in the academic journey of our Year 9 scholars. During this time, you will make important decisions about the courses you will follow over the next two years. These decisions will help shape your future, whether that leads to further education or directly into the world of work.

At Djanogly City Academy, our curriculum is designed to offer a well-rounded preparation for any career path you may wish to pursue. Many of you may already have a clear idea of the career you'd like to follow. However, even the most certain scholars can change their minds over time. That's why we ensure all scholars follow a broad range of subjects, allowing you to keep multiple future pathways open.

As scholars consider their options for Key Stage 4, it's important to keep in mind the exciting opportunities we offer in Djanogly Sixth Form. Our sixth form offers a wide range of A-Level and Sports vocational pathways and has been rated **Outstanding** by Ofsted. No matter which combination of courses scholars choose, all paths at Djanogly lead to sixth form.

All scholars will be required to study English language, English literature, mathematics, science, and either history or geography. Some may also study a modern foreign language. This means that, no matter what optional subjects you choose, you will be studying at least 8 subjects at GCSE level or equivalent.

Making informed decisions is an essential life skill, and it's especially important now. I encourage you and your parents/carers to gather as much information as possible to make the best choices. The recent Parents' Evening allowed you to discuss options with staff, and the various presentations you've had in school will help guide your decision-making.

Please take time to carefully read through the contents of this booklet. It's important to discuss your options with your family to ensure that the choices you make align with both your interests and abilities. Rest assured, once your final choices are confirmed, you will have all the support you need to succeed in this next stage of your education and to prepare for progression into our Sixth Form or college courses in two years.

I wish you all the best on this exciting journey and look forward to supporting you every step of the way.

Mr A. Smith
Principal

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Introduction

We recognise that our scholars are all at different stages on their pathway towards life-long learning and, given the right guidance and support, all scholars can achieve their highest goals and aspirations – Achievement: No Excuses!

Our curriculum takes into account the need to educate children for (potentially) more than one future career. But there are certain things that scholars must think about when making your decisions, particularly the reasons for your choices:

Ability

It is most important that you have a realistic view of your strengths and weaknesses. You must carefully consider the subjects where you seem to be most successful; where your skills are apparent and your performance is consistent; and ask yourselves, 'Does the course suit the way I like to learn?'

Personal Preferences

Some subjects are likely to be more attractive because you enjoy their content or the skills that you have developed in them. You should not however be influenced by whether a subject is taught by a particular teacher, as this is not an appropriate approach to making choices that affect your future. Similarly, you should not choose a subject just because you think your friends have – it is important that you make up your own mind.

Advice and Support

To help scholars make these decisions we have produced this booklet along with videos explaining the subject detail. We are also providing the opportunity for parents and scholars to discuss each subject with teachers during an **Options Evening on Tuesday 25th March 2025**

To further support in this process, we are asking that any questions you may have are emailed to options@djanogly.notts.sch.uk We will then be able to get back to you via email or publish answers to common questions on our website.

Courses and Progression Routes

The **9-1 GCSE grading system** was introduced to replace the old A* to G grades. In this system, scholars are awarded a grade between **9 and 1** based on their performance in their exams, with **9** being the highest and **1** the lowest. A grade 4 is seen nationally as a 'standard' pass and a grade 5 as a 'strong' pass.

GCSE qualifications are not the only qualifications on offer. There are different pathways to accreditation such as BTECs and OCR Nationals. A summary of the types of qualifications we offer can be found on the next page. Where alternative routes apply, we will ask scholars to opt for the subject of interest and we will guide them to make appropriate pathway choices best suited to their skills and interests.

GCSE

These courses mainly involve studying the theory of a subject combined with some investigative work. All examinations are taken at the end of the course in May/June. Many subjects are assessed solely through these examinations.

Some GCSEs also involve practical work, or **None-Examined Assessments** (NEAs). These are tasks set by the exam board, but marked by teachers, assessing skills such as research, processing, analysing and evaluating information. NEAs are carried out under exam conditions.

BTECs/OCR Nationals

These are vocational qualifications built to accommodate the needs of employers and to allow progression through to apprenticeships and university. They provide a more practical, real-world approach to learning alongside a key theoretical background. The work is assessed throughout the course, but also has at least a 25% terminal exam set by the exam board.

The BTEC/OCR National routes that we offer are:

- Level 2 BTEC Technical Award in Digital Information Technology.
- Level 2 OCR National in Sport Studies

More detail on the assessment procedures of all options can be found later in the subject specific sections of this booklet.

The Key Stage 4 Curriculum

The Curriculum is made up of compulsory core subjects and optional subjects.

The Core Subjects

- GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature **(5 hours per week)**
- GCSE Mathematics **(5 hours)**
- GCSE Combined Science **(5 Hours)** or GCSE Triple (separate) Sciences **(6 hours)**

All scholars will also study, but not have assessments in, Core Physical Education, Personal, Social and Health Education, including Relationships and Sex Education, and Religious Education.

Compulsory Option X

- GCSE History or GCSE Geography **(4 hours)**

Free Choice Options **(3 hours each)**

- Art and Design
- Photography
- Computer Science
- Design Technology Products
- Digital Information Technology (BTEC)
- Drama
- Design Technology Food
- Music
- Psychology
- Physical Education (GCSE)
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Sport Studies (OCR National)
- Religious Studies

First Language GCSEs

Scholars who speak English as an additional language will be assessed for their reading, writing, speaking, and listening skills in their first language. If they meet the required standards, they will also be entered for GCSE in their first language if there is a GCSE available.

Making Choices and Completing Your Options Form

As detailed in the KS4 Curriculum section of this document, in addition to the core subjects that you already study, scholars will study history or geography plus 2 optional subjects. Inevitably, trying to accommodate every scholar's first choice is a very difficult task. We ask that scholars select, in order of preference, 4 subjects from the list of options subjects. We will then allocate you 2 of your choices, where possible trying to ensure that you receive your highest order of preference.

It is our academy policy that scholars who start a course will continue studying it for the duration of the two years. We do not drop scholars out of subjects. It is also not possible to swap courses part way through the key stage.

Completing the form

The options form will be completed online by following a QR code given to scholars during an options assembly over the coming weeks.

You do not have to select English, maths or science as these are the core subjects and everyone studies these for GCSE.

At the top of the options form, you are asked to say which of the compulsory Option X subjects is your first choice: geography or history.

The next questions are about which subjects you would like to study in the free choice option blocks. After careful consideration and discussion, **you must make 4 priority choices, no more and no less.** You will not be able to submit the electronic form until all choices are made.

We will then allocate scholars either geography or history and a further 2 out of their 4 choices. Please note that if not enough scholars select a subject, it may not be able to be offered and we may have to remove it from the timetable.

There are two pairs of subject choices listed in options blocks at the end of this booklet which have a significant overlap in their course material but are assessed in different ways. They are (i) Computer Science and Digital Information Technology and (ii) Sport Science and PE. There is also one pair of subject choices (i) Art and (ii) Textiles with significant overlap in assessment. We will work to guide scholars and ensure that you are studying the more appropriate one of the two subjects based on your skills and interests. (You are only able to study one or the other from each of the pairs above, not both.)

At the end of the options booklet is a paper form to help you make your choices. Once you have made your selections, you will be able to complete and submit the electronic form.

Options Timeline

Tuesday 11th February 25	Options Launch Assembly to Scholars
Tuesday 11th February 25	Year 9 Parents Evening
W/C 24th February 25	GCSE Taster sessions Week 1
Thursday 27th February 25	Assembly – Social Sciences / Religious Studies / Spanish
W/C 3rd March 25	GCSE Taster sessions Week 2
Thursday 6th March 25	Assembly – Art / Photography / Design & Tech / Catering
Thursday 13th March 25	Assembly – Digital Information / Sports / Drama / Music
Thursday 20th March 25	Sixth Form Assembly
Tuesday 25th March 25	Options Evening, Parent Presentation and Subject Stalls
Thursday 27th March 25	Careers assembly
Friday 28th March 25	Careers Fair
Tuesday 1st April 25	Option forms submitted
W/C 28th April 25	One to one conversations with scholars
End of June 2025	Options choices confirmed to scholars in writing

THE CORE SUBJECTS

AQA GCSE English Literature (9-1) (8702)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

English Literature GCSE is split into the following four broad areas of study:
- A Shakespeare text – 'Macbeth'
- A 19th century text – 'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens
- A modern text – 'Blood Brothers' by Willy Russell
- A poetry anthology – AQA 'Power and Conflict'

Scholars will be taught to:
- Identify the main themes and ideas in a text
- Analyse the methods used by the writer to present those ideas
- Explain the link between the ideas presented in the text and the contexts in which they were written

The course follows on directly from the content and skills covered at KS3 at a level appropriate to each individual scholar.

Assessment:

Assessment is through 2 written exams (Paper 1 – Shakespeare and 19th century texts; Paper 2 – modern texts and poetry). There are no tiers for the English Literature GCSE, so each paper covers the grades 9-1. Paper 1 lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes. Paper 2 lasts 2 hours and 15 minutes.

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE English grade 4 or above is a prerequisite for most college and university courses (although this can be in either language or literature). Those who do not achieve this level of performance in their GCSEs will need to resit the qualification after year 11.

AS & A2 Level English Literature
AS & A2 Level English Language and Literature

Career Routes:

Those securing a strong grade in English Literature will find it advantageous in a wide range of career options. A Level English Literature is often asked for by universities when applying to study subjects such as Drama, Modern Foreign Languages, Media Studies, Film Studies and Theology.

AQA GCSE English Language (9-1) (8700)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

English Language GCSE is split into the following four broad areas of study:
- Reading fiction
- Writing fiction
- Reading non-fiction
- writing non-fiction

Scholars will be taught to:
- Identify the main ideas in a text
- Analyse the methods used by the writer to present those ideas
- Compare different viewpoints and the ways they are expressed.
- To use language and structure effectively in their own writing both fiction and non-fiction.

The course follows on directly from the content and skills covered at KS3 at a level appropriate to each individual scholar.

Assessment:

Assessment is through 2 written exams (Paper 1 - reading and writing fiction; Paper 2 – reading and writing non-fiction). There are no tiers for the English Language GCSE, so each paper covers the grades 9-1. Each paper lasts 1 hour and 45 minutes.

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE English grade 4 or above is a prerequisite for most college and university courses (although this can be in either language or literature). Those who do not achieve this level of performance in their GCSEs will need to resit the qualification after year 11.

AS & A2 Level English Language
AS & A2 Level English Language and Literature

Career Routes:

Those securing a strong grade in English Language will find it advantageous in a wide range of career options. A Level English Language is a facilitating subject meaning it is frequently asked for by universities and is essential in a number of areas such as journalism, creative writing, and law, if studied at degree level.

AQA GCSE Mathematics (9-1) (8300)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

Mathematics GCSE is split into the following six broad areas of study:
- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and Proportion and Rates of Change
- Geometry and Measures
- Probability
- Statistics

Each area will teach scholars to:
- Use and apply standard mathematical techniques
- Reason, interpret and communicate mathematics
- Problem solve in various contexts.

The course follows on directly from the content and skills covered at KS3 at a level appropriate to each individual scholar.

Assessment:

There are two tiers of entry, which are Higher Tier (grade 9-4) and Foundation Tier (grades 5-1). Those scholars in set 1 maths will be entered for Higher Tier and all other scholars Foundation Tier.

Each tier of entry is assessed through 3 written examinations, each lasting 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE Mathematics grade 4 or above is a prerequisite for most college and university courses. Those who do not achieve this level of performance in their GCSEs will need to resit the qualification after year 11.

AS & A2 Level Mathematics
AS & A2 Level Further Mathematics
(Most colleges require a grade 6 or better in GCSE mathematics to get onto an A Level course.)

Career Routes:

Those securing a strong grade in mathematics will find it advantageous in a wide range of career options. A Level Mathematics is a facilitating subject meaning it is frequently asked for by universities and is essential in a number of areas such as science, engineering, economics, accountancy, computer science and statistics if studied at degree level.

AQA GCSE Science (9-1)
Biology (8461) / Chemistry (8462) / Physics (8463)

(Only studied by set 1)

Content: (This course counts for three GCSEs)

You will study biology, chemistry and physics covering these topic areas:

In Biology:

- Cells biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

In Chemistry:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- Energy changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

In Physics:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves
- Magnetism and Electromagnetism
- Space Physics

Assessment:

Exams: There are external module exams in the 3 Sciences; 2 exams per subject.
They are 1 hour and 45 minutes long.
Each exam contributes 50% of the final GCSE awarded, per subject.

Pathways after Year 11:

AS & A2 Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics
(Most colleges require a grade 6 or better at GCSE to get on to an A Level course.)

Career Routes:

Science is a facilitating subject. This means that those with science qualifications are always in high demand in any industry. Science teaches us how to analyse and solve problems presented in a wide range of contexts. These transferrable skills are highly sought after in the work place as well as at college and university. Strong qualifications in science can lead careers in wide variety of industries from astronomy or nursing to engineering or finance.

AQA GCSE Combined Science: Trilogy (9-1) (8464)

(To be studied by all scholars, except for set 1)

Content: (This course counts for two GCSEs)

You will study biology, chemistry and physics covering these topic areas:

In Biology:

- Cells biology
- Organisation
- Infection and response
- Bioenergetics
- Homeostasis and response
- Inheritance, variation and evolution
- Ecology

In Chemistry:

- Atomic structure and the periodic table
- Bonding, structure and the properties of matter
- Quantitative chemistry
- Chemical changes
- The rate and extent of chemical change
- Organic chemistry
- Chemical analysis
- Chemistry of the atmosphere
- Using resources

In Physics:

- Energy
- Electricity
- Particle model of matter
- Atomic structure
- Forces
- Waves

Assessment:

Exams: There are 6 external exams, 2 in each of the 3 Sciences.
They are 1 hour and 15 minutes long.

Pathways after Year 11:

AS & A2 Level Biology, Chemistry or Physics
(Most colleges require a grade 6 or better at GCSE to get onto an A Level course).

Career Routes:

Science is a facilitating subject. This means that those with science qualifications are always in high demand in any industry. Science teaches us how to analyse and solve problems presented in a wide range of contexts. These transferrable skills are highly sought after in the work place as well as at college and university. Strong qualifications in science can lead careers in wide variety of industries from astronomy or nursing to engineering or finance.

AQA GCSE History (9-1) (8145)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

The GCSE History content comprises of the following elements:

- **One period study**
  This allows a focus on a substantial and coherent medium time span of at least 50 years.
  At Djanogly we study Germany 1890 – 1945.
- **One thematic study**
  This enables understanding of change and continuity across a long sweep of history.
  At Djanogly we study Britain: Health and the people c 1000 to today.
- **One wider world depth study**
  Depth studies allows a focus on a substantial and coherent short time span. The studies gain understanding of the complexities of a society or historical situation and the interplay of different aspects within it. At Djanogly we study Conflict and tension: 1918 – 1939.
- **One British depth study including the historic environment**
  Depth studies enables a focus on a substantial and coherent short time span. The study of the historic environment should focus on a particular site in its historical context and enables scholars to study the relationship between a place and historical events and developments. At Djanogly we study Norman England c1066 to C1100.

Scholars will develop a secure understanding of chronology, knowledge and understanding of history on different scales and contexts, apply historical concepts and processes and engage with the nature of evidence and interpretation. In each pathway, you will engage with a variety of perspectives, such as political, social and economic, and investigate the contributions of key individuals and groups.

Assessment:

GCSE History scholars will take assessments (option 8145 – GA) in both of the following papers in the same series and each is worth 50%:

Paper 1: Understanding the modern world

This written exam is two hours, out of 84 marks and compromises of two topics:

- AB: Germany 1890 – 1945 Democracy and dictatorship and
- BB: Conflict and Tension: the inter-war years 1918 – 1939.

Paper 2: Shaping the nation

This written exam is two hours, out of 84 marks and compromises of two topics:

- AB: Britain: Health and the people c1000 – today and
- BA: Norman England c1066 – c1100.

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE History grade 4 or above can lead to studying AS and A Levels at college or sixth form and further on to study history at university.

AS and A Level History – make sure you research which topics will be studied at the college / sixth form as the topics are dependent on the teachers selecting the period of history they want to deliver.

Career Routes:

People who study history investigate past politics, societies, cultures, languages, health, art, education, money, conflicts and more, look at how things have developed over time and connect the dots to understand how we got where we are today. With your analytical, writing, debate and detective skills, you'll be primed for a huge range of careers in history and beyond. Areas you could go into include: law, politics, government, business, journalism, economics, teaching, social research, archaeology and curation (museums, galleries, archives and libraries).

AQA GCSE Geography (9-1) (8035)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)
The GCSE Geography compromises of the following topics:

Paper 1 - Living with the physical environment
This unit is concerned with the dynamic nature of physical processes and systems, and human interaction with them in a variety of places and at a range of scales.

Paper 2 - Challenges in the human environment
This unit is concerned with human processes, systems and outcomes and how these change both spatially and temporally. They are studied in a variety of places and at a range of scales and must include places in various states of development, such as higher income countries (HICs), lower income countries (LICs) and newly emerging economies (NEEs).

Paper 3 - Geographical applications
The Geographical applications unit is designed to be synoptic in that scholars will be required to draw together knowledge, understanding and skills from the full course of study. It is an opportunity to show their breadth of understanding and an evaluative appreciation of the interrelationships between different aspects of geographical study

Scholars will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom (UK), higher income countries (HICs), newly emerging economies (NEEs) and lower income countries (LICs). You are also encouraged to understand your role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes. In addition, you will develop and demonstrate a range of geographical skills, including cartographic, graphical, numerical and statistical skills, throughout your studies.

Assessment:
GCSE Geography scholars will take assessments in all of the following papers in the same series:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment
This written exam is one hour and thirty minutes, out of 88 marks, worth 35% of the GCSE and compromises of three topics:
- 3.1.1 The challenge of natural hazards,
- 3.1.2 The living world
- 3.1.3 Physical landscapes in the UK.

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment
This written exam is one hour and thirty minutes, out of 88 marks, worth 35% of the GCSE and compromises of three sections:
- 3.2.1 Urban issues and challenges,
- 3.2.2 The changing economic world
- 3.2.3 The challenge of resource management.

Paper 3: Geographical applications
This written exam is one hour and fifteen minutes, out of 76 marks, worth 30% of the GCSE and compromises of two sections:
- 3.3.1 Issue evaluation
- 3.3.2 Fieldwork.

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE Geography grade 4 or above can lead to studying AS and A Levels at college or sixth form and further on to study geography at university.
AS and A Level Geography
BTEC/NVQ and other diplomas in travel and tourism, health and social care
Apprenticeships

Career Routes:

Geography is great for any kind of career that involves the environment, planning, or collecting and interpreting data. Employers love the mix of technical and social skills people get from studying geography, which they see as very transferable, i.e. useful for a whole range of jobs. Popular careers for people with geography qualifications include: town or transport planning, surveying, conservation, sustainability, waste and water management, environmental planning, tourism, charity, law and business, government and weather forecasting.

THE OPTIONS SUBJECTS

AQA GCSE Art and Design (9-1) (8201)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

Content:

GCSE Art and Design lets you explore your creative side. Using different starting points and themes you will create work that explores and develops your ideas into finished artworks.

During the course you will:

- Be introduced to new skills, techniques and media.
- Create a portfolio of art work that includes painting, drawing, sculpture, mark-making, photography, digital, and printmaking.
- Learn how develop your ideas through exploring different media and techniques.
- Learn how to evaluate and review your own work and that of other artists.
- Create written annotations that explain your ideas and observations.
- Explore artists from a diverse range of periods and styles

Assessment:

GSCE Art is split into 2 sections, coursework, and an exam. Coursework is worth 60% and is one large portfolio of work that is built up from your best work created over the two years. The 10-hour exam is worth 40%. The exam is a very similar format to the coursework; you are given starting points to work from and are asked to create a set of preparation that shows the development and exploration of your ideas. The preparation is counted as 75% of the exam grade. Art is split into 4 assessment objectives; each of the objectives is worth equal marks, i.e. 25% of the total.

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE Art and Design provides many opportunities. You could choose to continue your studies at A-level. The GCSE course provides an excellent starting point for many art industries, through choosing GCSE you will gain valuable skills, techniques, ideas and art history knowledge. The course could lead you towards becoming an artist, designer, illustrator, etc. Art helps provide you with a creative perspective which can help in many careers including engineering, architecture, mathematics, and science.

AQA GCSE Art and Design Photography (9-1) (8206)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

Content:

Photography does not rely on being able to draw to be creative. It's defined here as the practice of producing images using light-sensitive materials such as photographic film, or digital methods of development and production to create static or moving images.

GCSE Photography is split into two components, component 1 and component 2. Scholars are required to work in **one or more** area(s) of photography, such as those listed below:

- portraiture
- location photography
- studio photography
- experimental imagery
- installation
- documentary photography
- photo-journalism
- moving image: film, video, and animation
- fashion photography

Assessment:

Component 1: Portfolio 60% of GCSE

A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during a scholar's course of study. There is no time limit and the component is out of 96 marks.

Component 2: Externally set assignment 40% of GCSE

Scholars respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives. Scholars get a preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time; the component is out of 96 marks.

Career Routes:

Advertising art director, Film/video editor, Graphic designer, Magazine features editor, Medical illustrator, Freelance Photographer, Press photographer, Cinematographer.

Pathways after Year 11:

A Level Photography, Diploma in Photography, Level 1, 2 or 3 courses in Media, Digital and Photography.

Pearson Edexcel GCSE Computer Science (9-1) (1CP2)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

GCSE Computer Science is split into the following six broad areas of study:

- Computational thinking
- Data
- Computers
- Networks
- Issues & Impact
- Problem solving with programming

Assessment:

Paper 1 – Principles of computer science
Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes
50% of the qualification
75 Marks

Paper 2 – Applications of computational Thinking
Onscreen examination: 2 hours
50% of the qualification
75 Marks

Pathways after Year 11:

Scholars can progress from this qualification to:

- A Level Computer Science
- BTEC in Computer Science

Career Routes:

With computer technologies playing an ever-growing role in all aspects of modern life, you're likely to find your computer science skills in high demand across many different industries. These include: financial organisations, management consultancy firms, software houses, communications companies, data warehouses, multinational companies (IT-related, financial services and others), governmental agencies, universities and hospitals.

AQA GCSE Design and Technology (9-1) (8552)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

This Design and Technology GCSE has been designed to encourage you to design and make products with creativity and originality, using a range of materials and techniques. You will have the opportunity to develop your practical skills whilst undergoing written theory and design tasks. This course focuses on the ability to use a range of techniques alongside the design process utilising a range of materials and manufacturing processes, and the ability to research, plan and develop work independently. You will be enthused and challenged by the range of practical activities possible while utilising a wide range of CAD and CAM throughout the course.

Scholars will begin the course undertaking a series of structured lessons to develop practical skills that cover the course content. There will be practical work, designing and researching work. You will have to produce design folders that are based on careful research and planning and that demonstrate developments of designs leading to a final idea that is able to be made; all of which is supported by detailed and well-presented sketches, drawings and technical drawings. The course has aspects of science and mathematics and will require a development of theoretical knowledge within these areas.

Assessment:

50% NEA – Non-Examined Assessment – 1 Design and Make Project that is based upon a context that is set by the examination board.

50% Final Examination – 1 x 2-hour paper

Pathways after Year 11:

This course leads to a natural progression to related A Level courses such as product design, graphic design, engineering, design and technology. The course can also lead into related apprenticeships and a range of level 3 vocational courses.

Career Routes:

A wide range of design related careers including furniture, graphic, interior and architectural design.

WJEC Vocational Award Hospitality and Catering

Content: (This course counts as the equivalent of one full GCSE)

Our Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering will develop scholars' knowledge and understanding of the Hospitality and Catering sector and provide them with opportunities to develop associated practical skills. It covers the hospitality and catering industry and hospitality and catering in action.

Unit 1: The hospitality and catering industry
In this unit learners will gain a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the hospitality and catering industry including provision, health and safety, and food safety.

Unit 1 Assessment: is externally assessed through a written examination which contributes 40% to the overall qualification grade. Exam format is short and extended answer questions based around applied situations.

Unit 2: Hospitality and catering in action
In this unit scholars will gain 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 apply knowledge from unit 1 including the operation of the front and back of house, hospitality and catering provision to meet specific requirements, health and safety in hospitality and catering provision, food safety and preventative control measures of food-induced ill health.

Unit 2 Assessment: is internally assessed through controlled assessment. The assessment contributes 60% to the overall qualification grade.

Skills Development:
Through the course, scholars will develop a wide range of skills essential for success in the hospitality and catering industry. In Unit 1, they will gain comprehensive knowledge of the industry, including an understanding of service provision, health and safety regulations and food safety standards. These skills ensure scholars are equipped to work in various hospitality settings, maintaining high standards of safety and quality. In Unit 2, scholars will enhance their abilities to plan nutritious and well-balanced menus, applying their understanding of nutrition to meet diverse dietary needs. They will also develop practical culinary skills, including the preparation, cooking, and presentation of dishes. Furthermore, scholars will learn how to effectively review and evaluate their work, fostering continuous improvement and refinement of their skills in a professional setting.

Careers:
This course provides a strong foundation for a variety of career pathways within the hospitality and catering industry. Scholars could pursue roles such as chef, cook, or catering manager, gaining practical skills in food preparation, cooking, and presentation. The knowledge of nutrition and menu planning also opens doors to careers as nutritionists, menu planners, or food safety officers, ensuring balanced, healthy dishes and compliance with regulations. For scholars interested in management, this course will lead to roles like restaurant manager or event catering specialists. Additionally, scholars could move into consultancy, advising businesses on food and beverage operations.

Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology

Content: (This course counts for one full Level 2 BTEC)

BTEC Tech Award in Digital Information Technology is split into the following 3 components.

- Component 1 – Exploring user interface design principles and project planning techniques
- Component 2 – Collecting, presenting and interpreting data
- Component 3 – Effective digital working practices

Assessment:

Component 1 – Internally assessed (Coursework)
Component 2 – Internally assessed (Coursework)
Component 3 – Externally assessed (Exam)

Pathways after Year 11:

The choices that learners can make post-16 will depend on their overall level of attainment and their performance in the qualification. Learners who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects

- Study of a vocational qualification at level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

Career Routes:

The digital sector is a major source of employment in the UK, with 1.46 million people working in digital companies and around 45,000 digital jobs advertised at any one time. Digital skills span all industries; almost all jobs in the UK today require employees to have a good level of digital literacy. The UK has positioned itself to be the 'digital capital of Europe' as it continues to invest billions every year in digital skills and commerce. Learners who perform strongly in this qualification should strongly consider this progression route as it can lead ultimately to employment in the digital sector.

AQA GCSE Drama (9-1) (8261)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

During the course you will gain an understanding in applying dramatic techniques, study of plays, analysis and evaluation of live theatre, devising drama- performance, analysis and evaluation of own work, performance of extracts.

During this course you will examine and apply a range of dramatic techniques to enhance your performance skills. You will work in smaller groups, as well as a whole class working as an ensemble. We look at a range of different plays and extracts in both a practical and theoretic sense. You will look critically at your own work, others' performances and professional theatre. Although much of the work in drama is practical, there are also written lessons that will prepare you for the written components of the exam.

Assessment

Component 1: Written exam paper - comment and analysis of set text and live theatre production (40% of marks)
Component 2: Devising drama - create your own performance and write about the process (40% of marks)
Component 3: Practical exam - Performance of two extracts (20% of marks)

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE Drama leads on to AS & A2 level Drama, or performing arts.
It works well in combination with other creative subjects, or to enhance your study of English Literature. Many scholars who enjoy drama also study it at A Level to contrast with their main highly academic subjects.

GCSE Drama helps improve oracy and critical thinking skills which are useful in any AS or A2 level courses which require discussion and reflection. The set texts links well with English literature, as the set texts may be required in both specifications. There are a wide variety of drama and performing arts courses at university.

AQA GCSE Music (9-1) (8271)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

During the course you will appraise, develop and demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of musical elements, musical context and musical language. There are four areas of study, which can also provide a rich source of material for you to work with when developing performance and composition skills:

1. Western classical tradition 1650–1910
2. Popular music
3. Traditional music
4. Western classical tradition since 1910.

You will be able to perform live music using one or both of the following ways: instrumental (including DJ)/vocal; and production via technology.

You will develop musical ideas and compose music that is musically convincing through two compositions. Each composition will demonstrate the selection and use of at least four types of musical elements as follows: at least two of rhythm, metre, texture, melody, structure, form; and at least two of harmony, tonality, timbre, dynamics, phrasing, articulation.

Assessment

Component 1: Understanding music: Listening – unfamiliar music, and Study pieces.
The exam is 1 hour and 30 minutes. (40% of marks)

Component 2: Performing music: Solo performance, and Ensemble performance.
A minimum of four minutes of performance in total is required, of which a minimum of one minute must be the ensemble performance. (30% of marks)

Component 3: Composing music: Composition to a brief, and Free Composition.
A minimum of three minutes of music in total is required. (30% of marks)

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE Music leads on to AS & A2 level Music and a wide variety of music courses at university. It works well in combination with maths and languages; studying music can enhance your grades in other subjects.

Music provides a range of transferable skills that will provide a good foundation, whatever pathway you choose. It can open doors to a range of education and employment pathways in: music, the arts/creative industries, professions such as medicine, law, accountancy. Music helps maintain good mental health during a time of high pressure and anxiety.

OCR GCSE PE (9-1) (J587)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

Throughout this course scholars will have an opportunity to develop their practical skills in different sports and gain an understanding of some theoretical areas associated with physical activity and sport. They will study different areas within the theory lessons including anatomy and physiology, sports psychology and diet and nutrition and complete a piece of coursework.

Paper 1 –
Applied Anatomy and Physiology
Physical Training

Paper 2 –
Socio-cultural Influences
Sports Psychology
Health Fitness and Wellbeing

Assessment:

Paper 1 (30% overall grade)	1 hour written paper 60 marks (60 UMS) OCR set and marked.	This question paper comprises short-answer questions, extended-response questions and some use of multiple-choice questions
Paper 2 (30% overall grade)	1 hour written paper 60 marks (60 UMS) OCR set and marked.	This question paper comprises short-answer questions, extended-response questions and some use of multiple-choice questions
Practical Sports (30% overall grade)	3 sports to be chosen and moderated by OCR moderator.	Teacher and scholar will decide on top 3 sports and these may be shown on a moderation day.
Analysing and Evaluating Performance (coursework 10% of overall grade)	14 hours of coursework to be completed within classroom.	The coursework is completed in a classroom in assessment conditions and compromises of 5 main areas.

Pathways after Year 11:

There are a variety of pathways for scholars to embark on, these include;

- BTEC Sport National Extended Diploma.
- A Level PE.
- An apprenticeship in sport and leisure and sports coaching.

Career Routes:

Those securing a GCSE PE grade could embark upon a career in the sports industry, including sports coaching, sports development, leisure centre management, PE teaching and the armed forces.

AQA GCSE Psychology (9-1) (8182)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

Psychology is the study of the human mind and behaviour. The course consists of the following modules:

- Memory
- Perception
- Development
- Research methods
- Social influence
- Language, thought and communication
- Brain and neuropsychology
- Psychological problems

Assessment:

Scholars will sit two exams, each worth 100 marks.

Pathways after Year 11:

AS & A2 Level Psychology

Career Routes:

Psychology can be taken as a single degree or combines with a number of other subjects at college or university.

There are lots of careers available in psychology, in areas such as clinical psychology, educational psychology, forensic psychology, sport psychology and/or research based employment.

Since psychology is also concerned with human behaviour, it lends itself to a number of careers outside of psychology itself, and also complements many other subjects at GCSE.

AQA GCSE Religious Studies A (9-1) (8062)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

The GCSE Religious Studies content considers different beliefs and attitudes to religious and non-religious issues in contemporary British society. They include awareness of what the religious traditions of Great Britain are, in the main, Christian, and that religious traditions in Great Britain are diverse. They include Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism and Sikhism, as well as other religious and nonreligious beliefs such as atheism and humanism.

Scholars will be challenged with questions about belief, values, meaning, purpose and truth, enabling them to develop their own attitudes towards religious issues. You will also gain an appreciation of how religion, philosophy and ethics form the basis of our culture. Developing analytical and critical thinking skills, the ability to work with abstract ideas, leadership and research skills.

Assessment:

GCSE Religious Studies scholars will take assessments (8062MA option) in both of the following papers in the same series and each is worth 50%:

Paper 1: the study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices
This written exam is one hour and forty-five minutes, out of 102 marks, worth 50% of the GCSE and compromises of two topics:

- Christianity
- Islam

Paper 2: Thematic studies
This written exam is one hour and forty-five minutes, out of 102 marks, worth 50% of the GCSE and compromises of four topics:

- Theme A: Relationships and families
- Theme B: Religion and life
- Theme D: Religion, peace and conflict
- Theme E: Religion, crime and punishment.

Pathways after Year 11:

GCSE Religious Studies grade 4 or above can lead to studying AS and A Levels at college or sixth form and further on to study Religious Studies at university.

AS and A Level Ethics and Philosophy
AS and A Level Religious Studies
AS and A Level Theology
Apprenticeships

Career Routes:

Knowledge of other cultures and world religious beliefs can be useful in many jobs where you are working with the public or communities. These include counselling and social services, marketing, sales and advertising, catering and hospitality, leisure, sport and tourism, retail sales and customer services, education and training, medicine and nursing, and service sector roles.

AQA GCSE Sociology (9-1) (8192)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

Sociology is the study of society and allows scholars to develop a deeper understanding of how society works and to assess inequalities within British society.

Modules covered include:

- The sociology of families
- The sociology of education
- The sociology of crime and deviance
- The sociology of social stratification
- Relevant areas of social theory and methodology

Assessment:

Scholars will sit two exams, each worth 100 marks.

Pathways after Year 11:

AS & A2 Level Sociology

Career Routes:

Sociology can be taken as a single degree or combines with a number of other subjects at college or university.

There are lots of careers available in sociology, in areas such as criminology, journalism, police officer, probation officer, social work and/or research based employment.

Since sociology is about understanding the society and the world we live in, it lends itself to a number of careers outside of sociology itself, and also complements many other subjects at GCSE.

AQA GCSE Spanish (9-1) (8698)

Content: (This course counts for one full GCSE)

The Spanish GCSE course is split into three themes of study:

- Identity and culture
- Local, national, international and global areas of interest
- Current and future study and employment

All themes will be explored in equal depth and within each area scholars will be taught to:

- Understand and respond to different types of spoken language
- Communicate and interact effectively in speech for a variety of purposes
- Understand and respond to different types of written language
- Communicate effectively in writing for a variety of purposes
- Gain an appreciation for the diverse cultures within the Spanish-speaking world.

The course follows on directly from the content and skills covered at KS3 at a level appropriate to each individual scholar.

Assessment:

There are two tiers of entry, which are Higher Tier (Grade 9-4) and Foundation Tier (Grades 5-1). Language classes are taught in mixed ability groups. As a result, the decision to enter a scholar into either Higher or Foundation Tier will be largely dependent on their working level prior to the exams.

Each tier of entry is assessed through the examination of the 4 key language skills:
 Listening
 Speaking
 Reading (including translation)
 Writing

Each exam accounts for 25% of the total grade.

Pathways after Year 11:

A GCSE in a modern foreign language can be a great asset for a wide range of courses at university and can be a requirement for some of the world-class Russell Group Universities.
A Level Spanish - Most colleges require a grade 6+ to enrol onto this course.

Career Routes:

A GCSE in Spanish can be a great asset for a wide range of career sectors including education, IT, law, marketing, media and journalism. It is particularly advantageous for those seeking opportunities to travel abroad.

If you wish to pursue a language at degree level, an A-level in that language is often required. At degree level you could be gifted the opportunity to experience the language and culture first-hand with a year abroad either studying or working in a foreign country; an experience that allows many scholars to become fluent.

OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Sport Studies (J829)

Content

This course enables scholars to develop and apply knowledge of sports-related activities with a particular focus on developing performance and leadership. They explore contemporary issues in sport, different ways of being involved in the sports industry and the impact of sport on wider society.

Assessment

Scholars will complete **three** units in total with Unit R184 and R185 being mandatory to the course.

Unit no:	Unit title	Guided learning hours	How they are assessed	Compulsory or optional
R184	Contemporary issues in sport	48	Externally (75-minute exam)	Compulsory
AND				
R185	Performance and leadership in sports activities (Coursework unit with leadership and practical sport assessments)	48	Internally (centre assessed tasks)	Compulsory
R186	Sport and the media (Coursework unit)	24	Internally	Optional
OR				
R187	Increasing awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities (Coursework unit with practical assessments in OAA)	24	Internally	Optional

Pathways after Year 11

There are a variety of pathways for scholars to embark on, these include:

- BTEC Sport National Extended Diploma.
- A Level Physical Education
- An apprenticeship in Sport and Health sector and Sports Coaching.

Career Routes:

Those securing an OCR Sports Studies grade could embark upon a career in the sports industry, including sports coaching, sports development, leisure centre management, PE teaching and the armed forces.

Djanogly City Academy

PRACTICE OPTIONS FORM 2025 - 27

Scholar's full name: _____

Possible future career choices:

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Subjects being studied by everyone:

- English Language
- English Literature
- Mathematics
- Science
- Core Physical Education

Look through the list of courses below and write 1 to 2 for the humanities subjects and 1 to 4 in order of your preference against the subjects you would like to opt into.

Additional subjects to choose from:

	Options in order of preference 1-2		**Options in order of preference 1-4**
History		Art and Design	
Geography		Art and Design Photography	
		Computer Science	
		Design and Technology Products	
		Digital Information Technology (BTEC)	
		Design and Technology Food	
		Drama	
		Psychology	
		Physical Education GCSE	
		Religious Studies	
		Sociology	
		Spanish	
		Music	
		OCR Sport Studies	

Notes