

What are the key stage 4 qualifications?

Information about Year 10 and 11

The national curriculum KS3

- Maintained schools in England are legally required to follow the statutory national curriculum
- The national curriculum provides pupils with an introduction to the essential knowledge that they need to be educated citizens
- **Religious Education is also a Core subject**
- The curriculum offer is broad and balanced, all year 9 students study the core and foundation subjects with Performing Arts as an addition

	Key stage 3	Key stage 4
Age	11 – 14	14 – 16
Year groups	7 – 9	10 – 11
Core subjects		
English	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓
Foundation subjects		
Art and design	✓	
Citizenship	✓	✓
Computing	✓	✓
Design and technology	✓	
Languages ⁴	✓	
Geography	✓	
History	✓	
Music	✓	
Physical education	✓	✓

The national curriculum KS4

- In Year 10 and 11 all students study; English, Mathematics, Science and Religious Education
- Physical Education is once a fortnight
- Citizenship and Computing are delivered through the PSHE programme
- All students will select 3 further subjects to study

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Core subjects		
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Mathematics	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓
Foundation subjects		
Art and design	✓	
Citizenship	✓	✓
Computing	✓	✓
Design and technology	✓	
Languages ⁴	✓	
Geography	✓	
History	✓	
Music	✓	
Physical education	✓	✓

Key stage 4 entitlement areas

- arts (comprising art and design, music, dance, drama and media arts)
- design and technology
- the humanities (comprising geography and history)
- modern foreign language



The NC states that “*schools must provide access to a minimum of one course in each of the four entitlement areas*”

Christ the King College offered all courses listed above

What is a GCSE qualification?

- The General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) is an academic qualification in a particular subject, taken in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- The UK government has drawn up a list of preferred subjects known as the English Baccalaureate and the Progress 8 benchmark metric is calculated on the results in eight GCSEs including Maths and English.



What is a vocational qualification?

- Vocational qualifications are practical qualifications that relate to a specific job or career sector
- They combine a mix of theory and practical learning and students may do some work experience too
- **BTEC** - Business and Technology Education Council qualifications (BTECs) have been around for over 30 years and are designed to give you the skills that businesses are looking for
- **OCR Cambridge Nationals** - Cambridge Nationals have been around since 2012 and are designed for students aged 14-16. They are linked to different industries, and geared to the requirements of each career sector. They take the same amount of time as GCSEs

GCSE - How will I be assessed and graded?

- GCSEs are awarded on a graded scale, and cross two levels of the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) Level 1 and Level 2
- Level 1 qualifications constitute GCSEs at grades 1, 2, and 3
- Level 2 qualifications are those at grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9

GCSE Grade		
England from 2017 ^a	Northern Ireland from 2019 ^b	Wales from 1994 England, NI 1994–2019 ^c
9	A*	A*
8		
7	A	A
6	B	B
5	C*	
4	C	C
3	D	D
2	E	E
1	F	F
U	G	G
U	U	U

Vocational - How will I be assessed and graded?

- Typically vocational qualifications are graded using “Pass”, “Merit” or “Distinction” but may also include “Level 1” or “Level 2”.

BTEC Tech Award Grading

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