

# 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
<b>Core subjects</b>		
English	✓	✓
Mathematics	✓	✓
Science	✓	✓
<b>Foundation subjects</b>		
Art and design	✓	
Citizenship	✓	✓
Computing	✓	✓
Design and technology	✓	
Languages <sup>4</sup>	✓	
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

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

# Year 10 and 11 lessons

- Each student will have 48 hours of lessons a fortnight
- Each option subject will be 5 hours a fortnight, approximately 180 hours per subject over two academic years (5 ½ terms)

	Subjects	Year 10	Year 11
Core subjects	English	9	9
	Mathematics	7	7
	Science	9	9
	Religious Education	5	5
Foundation subjects	Physical Education	2	2
	PSHE (Citizenship / Computing)	1	1
Option subjects	Option 1	5	5
	Option 2	5	5
	Option 3	5	5
Total		48	48

# 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 <sup>a</sup>	Northern Ireland from 2019 <sup>b</sup>	Wales from 1994 England, NI 1994–2019 <sup>c</sup>
9	A*	A*
8	A	A
7		
6	B	B
5	C*	C
4	C	
3	D	D
2	E	E
1	F	F
	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