

# CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS WHICH WAY NOW?

## YEAR 10 2025-2026



Penryn College  
Achieving through  
Challenge



# CHOOSING YOUR OPTIONS



This booklet is the guide for your last two years at Penryn College. This time is known as Key Stage 4. We hope it informs you about the subjects you have to study and how to choose the ones which you want to continue. Please use it to help you make your choices and keep it to refer to – you never know when you may need it!

When making your choices, you should ask yourself, “Will it help me to achieve the very best GCSEs?” When you have chosen all your options, please check that you have chosen subjects that will keep every future career option open to you.

Sometimes it isn't possible for you to be given your first choice; the timetable won't allow it, or maybe there are not enough students who have chosen to study a particular subject. Mr Lushington will do his very best to ensure you have the courses best suited to you. He will let you know your subjects by May half term.

The decisions you make now will affect your future. Please think and choose carefully with good reasoning. You may well regret choosing a subject because your friend is doing it, or because you like a particular teacher. Friends and teachers change. **Your future is forever.**



C Croxall  
Headteacher

# MAKING YOUR DECISIONS



## Choosing subjects:

- Research all your options before you make a decision.
- Do not fall into the trap of thinking that some subjects are only for boys and some are only for girls – this is not true.
- If you have a firm career idea, choose the subjects you will need to meet the entry requirements for the post 16 opportunities that interest you e.g. further education, higher education, an apprenticeship or a job with training.
- If you don't have a firm career idea, choose subjects that will give you plenty of choice when you leave Penryn College.
- Do not be afraid to ask for help and advice. Family, friends and teachers can all be really helpful.

**'Have big dreams  
and ambitions!'**

Coodes Solicitors

## Do choose a subject because:

- You are good at it and you think you will enjoy the subject.
- It goes well with your other choices.
- You think you might want to study it post 16.
- It links to a career idea.
- It helps to give you lots of choice post 16.

## Do not choose a subject because:

- You think it will be easy.
- You like the teacher who teaches you now.
- Your friends have chosen it.
- Someone else thinks that it is a good idea.
- You think that it is a good subject for a boy/girl to do.
- You didn't have time to research your options properly.
- Technical Awards involve assessed components throughout the course during Year 10 and Year 11. If your attendance is low, Penryn College reserves the right to advise an alternative course.

# WHAT IF I NEED TO FIND OUT MORE?

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## Talk to the people who know you really well:

- Family and friends
- Tutor
- Subject teachers
- Head of Year
- Mentors

All these people want you to make the right choices so that you can be successful in the future. Ask them whether they think an option will suit you and why. They will be delighted to help.

## Talk to the people who know about the courses:

- Staff who will be teaching the course.
- Year 10 and 11 students who are already doing the course.

They will be able to tell you what the courses are really like, so that the style of delivery, workload and assessments don't come as a surprise.

## Talk to the experts:

- Talk to Mr Lushington if you have general queries about the options.
- Talk to the Careers Team in the library.

**'Believe in yourself  
and follow your  
dreams'**

Truro and Penwith College

# ONLINE RESEARCH

‘Find that thing that sets you apart’

MWR Media Limited

## Use the internet:

You can access the Unifrog shortcut on your iPad by logging in with your school email address, where you can find and compare many different courses, opportunities and resources.

[www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/contact-us)

Web chat with an advisor or get advice on the phone on 0800 100 900, 8.00am–8.00pm Mon–Fri, 10.00am–5.00pm Sat and bank holidays.

You can also do some independent research and find out about college courses, university courses and jobs you might like to consider for the future. A useful website is [www.careerpilot.org.uk](http://www.careerpilot.org.uk).

## Post 18 Choices and Higher Education:

[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

Click on the Undergraduate tab to explore the range of courses available at university and their entry requirements. Click on the Further Education tab to find career ideas related to the subjects you like.

[www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/](http://www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/) Shows the opportunities that exist outside of the traditional university route – but not ‘anti Uni’.

## Apprenticeships:

[www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/](http://www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/)

Everything you need to know about apprenticeships.

[www.cornwall-opportunities.co.uk/](http://www.cornwall-opportunities.co.uk/) Search for the latest jobs, apprenticeships and courses.

## Jobs and Careers:

[www.icould.com](http://www.icould.com)

Find out what jobs could suit you and check out the links between subject choices and careers.

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers> Profiles on over 800 jobs.

Don't forget about all of the extra links on the Penryn College website.

[www.penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk/careers/careers-resources-websites/](http://www.penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk/careers/careers-resources-websites/)

# ADVICE FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS

## At any time during the process you can:

- Speak to the Head of Department or teacher of any subject to gain further information or to discuss your child's aptitude for their subject.
- Speak to Mr Lushington about the Options generally.

To do this, please contact:

Reception:

Telephone 01326 372379

[enquiries@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:enquiries@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk)

You can leave your phone number so that a telephone consultation can be arranged. You can also leave your email address so that we can contact you electronically if this is more convenient.

Registration/Options Login Help:

[options@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:options@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk)

Technical iPad help:

[ictsupport@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk](mailto:ictsupport@penryn-college.cornwall.sch.uk)

Before making your choices on the online form, please read the "**Choosing Your Options - Technical Guide and Info**" which is on the Options page on the school website. Alternatively, your child can view it via their iPad and on Showbie. These instructions will guide you through the process to enable you to access the Options Online service.

We hope the additional information we have organised on the school website and on Showbie goes some way to help answer your questions. Please do not hesitate to contact us if there is something you need help with.

**'Seek a career  
that you are  
passionate about!'**

Watson Marlow Limited

# **THE CORE**

## KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

**The Core**  
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The Core courses are subjects that all students **must** study:

**English Language GCSE**



**English Literature GCSE**



**Mathematics (9-1) GCSE**



**Combined Science: Trilogy (2 GCSEs)**



**Religious Studies (Core)**



**Physical Education (Core)**



**Lifeskills**



# English Language and English Literature (2 GCSEs)

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## Why is this course important?

Excellent written and verbal communication skills are vital to every future course, career path and avenue in life. The skills that you acquire and refine in English will ensure that you feel connected to the world in which we live.

## What will I learn?

Every student will learn to develop their reading and writing in ways that will allow them to achieve their potential and participate fully in society. You will learn to make and shape your own meanings, whilst exploring the rich cultural heritage of ancient and modern writers through a wide range of drama, poetry and prose.

## Where will it take me?

Who knows where the skills that you will develop in your English lessons will take you? With essential written and verbal communication skills, a passion for reading and the ability to analyse and engage with the ideas and views of others, the possibilities are endless.



# Mathematics (9-1)

## GCSE

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### Why is this course important?

All students study Mathematics. It is one of the fundamental subjects underpinning all sciences and technology. We want students to view the learning of Mathematics as a lifelong experience, which will help them to approach situations with confidence. We want them to appreciate that Mathematics will be useful outside of the classroom and can also be used to help in other GCSEs.

### What will I learn?

The Mathematics curriculum enables students to develop knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts, including:

- Number
- Algebra
- Ratio and proportion
- Geometry
- Statistics and probability
- Problem solving

There will be 3 exam papers. Each paper lasts for 1 hour 30 minutes. Students will be entered for either the higher tier or foundation tier.

### Where will it take me?

#### Creative careers:

Lighting designer. Photographer. Textiles.

#### Professional careers:

Architect. Engineer. Accountant. Statistician. Finance.

#### Vocational:

Electrician. Navigation. Carpentry. Plumber.

#### Personal:

Mortgage applications. Mobile phone contracts. Money management.

### Further Maths

Students targeting grades 8 and 9 may have the opportunity to sit the Level 2 Further Maths qualification, which helps to bridge the gap between GCSE and A-Level. The AQA Level 2 Certificate in Further Mathematics is for learners who are expected to achieve grades 7- 9 in GCSE Mathematics, and are likely to progress to A-Level study in Mathematics and possibly Further Mathematics. This is a guided but self-studied qualification which is launched in the autumn term of Year 11. If you are interested in this qualification you can discuss it with your Year 10 Maths teacher once you have started the GCSE Mathematics course.

# Combined Science: Trilogy (2 GCSEs)

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## Why is this course important?

Science impacts on all of our lives; whether it's deciding how best to look after our bodies, how to reduce our impact on our environment, or the type of car you will drive. The Combined Science: Trilogy course provides the knowledge and skills to make informed decisions in an increasingly technological and complex age.

You will study a balanced course of all three sciences and gain two Science GCSEs with the Combined Science course. Students can achieve up to a grade 9 in the higher tier exam.

## What will I learn?

You will study Biology, Chemistry and Physics units, building on the knowledge and skills gained at KS3. Practical investigations, experiments and research are important aspects of the course.

Example topics include:

- Cell Biology
- Hormones and reproduction
- Renewable and non-renewable energies
- Global warming and climate change
- Atoms and the formation of new materials

## Where will it take me?

Combined Science: Trilogy will provide you with the skills that underpin a wide range of careers including nursing and allied health careers, animal care, child development, engineering and electronics. This course is a suitable foundation for A-Level, BTEC and apprenticeship courses.



# Religious Studies

(Core)

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## Why is this course important?

This is an interesting course which includes looking at different opinions and discussing and debating real life issues. It involves delving into different philosophical and ethical issues. Studying religion is about people and their many perspectives. You will develop analytical and critical thinking skills and gain the ability to work with abstract ideas. This is a non-examined course that all students are required to study if they are not studying qualification RE.

## What will I learn?

You will learn how to discuss and debate different points of view on different moral and ethical issues. You will explore worldwide issues and topics happening in the world we live in today. All students will learn about medical ethics, religion and sport, relationships and families, religion in the media, wealth and poverty, and peace and conflict. Some examples of specific issues studied are abortion, euthanasia, cloning, and marriage.

## Where will it take me?

You could go on and study A-levels in Religious Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, Law, and a range of other subjects. If you want to work in a career which works with people then Religious Studies is perfect; for example, working in the police, teaching, the medical profession, law, the armed forces and any other career in which you work with other people. Most employers want employees who are aware of other people's values and needs.



# Physical Education

(Core Games)

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## Why is this course important?

This course is important as it focuses on enhancing your commitment to wellbeing. Lessons are designed to support your wellbeing during KS4 and also prepare you for when you leave Penryn College, so you know how to maintain a balanced wellbeing in the future. This is a non-examined course that all students are required to take if they do not study either GCSE PE or Sport Science as their top up option.

## What will I learn?

Lessons have 3 objectives:

- Physical: Learners move for 60 minutes.
- Social: Learners positively interact with each other.
- Emotional: Learners develop self esteem.

Each term you will select from two options, Competition/Play or Mind/Body. You will plan with your teacher the activities that you will complete within these pathways. Activities ranging from traditional sports to going off site for beach based physical activity, or accessing community facilities such as Tremough Gym or the Movement Project, will be set up to enable you to meet your objectives. Leadership will also be a key

feature, with endless opportunities to plan and lead sessions for groups from pre-school age to school games county finals.

## Where will it take me?

By the time you depart Penryn College we expect our core PE learners to be confident in:

- Valuing the importance of physical activity;
- Understanding the key principles of the Canadian 24 hour movement guidelines to Move More, Reduce Sedentary Time, Sleep Well;
- Experiencing the wellbeing benefits of being a leader;
- Showing tolerance when interacting with others;
- Recognising how to raise self esteem;
- Understanding how to apply the key word of balance to diet, physical activity, social interactions and fun to maintain wellbeing;
- Understanding how to use our local environment to maintain lifelong wellbeing;
- How to champion wellbeing in the community.

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## Why is this course important?

To increase your knowledge of a variety of topics that could impact your lifestyle when you leave school. You will learn to challenge and investigate topical issues, which prepares you for your future. Life skills will also prepare you to be a good citizen in our diverse and ever-changing society. This is a non-examined course that all students will study.

## What will I learn?

- World of Work
- Keeping Healthy Keeping Safe
- Work Experience
- Diversity
- Personal Finance
- Post 16 Pathways
- Global Economy
- CV and Interviews

## Where will it take me?

It will allow you to know and apply fundamental life skills with confidence in everyday life, ensuring you are able to keep yourself and others healthy and safe. These skills are important as they underpin almost every career imaginable but perhaps most of all, employers are looking for young people who are deep thinkers, able to evaluate and articulate their opinions.



# **THE OPTIONS**

## KEY STAGE 4 CURRICULUM

# The Options

## Key Stage 4

### Curriculum

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**Creative Media Production**  
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**Triple Science**  
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# Art and Design: Photography GCSE

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## Why choose this course?

Photography is a good choice to help develop self-expression and to record the world around you. It will help you develop and explore your creativity and help refine your technical knowledge and skills. Photography will encourage you to explore the world around you by using both digital and traditional ways of working. In addition, Photography will encourage you to observe details and new perspectives.

## What will I learn?

Within the context of Photography, students will learn to use photographic techniques and processes appropriate to students' personal intentions, for example:

- Lighting
- Viewpoint
- Aperture
- Depth of field
- Shutter speed and movement
- Use of enlarger
- Chemical and/or digital processes

Students will learn to use media and materials, for example:

- Film
- Photographic papers

- Chemicals appropriate to darkroom practices
- Digital media, programs and related technologies
- Graphic media for purposes such as storyboarding, planning, and construction shoots

## Where will it take me?

As well as a career in photography, you may wish to go into other creative areas such as graphic design, web design, animation, advertising, games and film design, visual FX and art curation.

# Art and Design: Textile Design GCSE

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## Why choose this course?

Students choose this option because they want the ability to earn a living whilst doing something they enjoy. This GCSE begins with students selecting a career direction that inspires and excites them. Students' work is always tailored around their individual interests. Fashion shows, exhibitions and professional photoshoots are just some of the exciting opportunities on offer as part of the course.

## What will I learn?

Students complete two projects in Year 10 and in the first part of Year 11. The first project focuses on the sea, ocean, and beach life. The second project allows students to choose from a range of inspirational starting points linked to their individual interests. Designers from a range of Textile Design, Interior Design, Costume Design and Sportswear/Leisurewear companies, alongside local colleges and national universities, offer workshops and portfolio guidance for students on the course. Collections are developed throughout the year alongside portfolios of experimentation and creativity. Students particularly enjoy visiting degree exhibitions and fashion shows at Falmouth University and make the most of links with the largest creative department at Tremough

Campus. This course will teach you to produce both technical and illustrative designs, develop your own brand, adapt patterns for cutting one of the garments and model fabric to the stand for couture. Final products feature in professional photoshoots and are exhibited. Students talented in hair and makeup will have the opportunity to lead during "the look" preparation and will be mentioned in the press release. The 10 hour practical exam is worth 40% and coursework is worth 60%.

## Where will it take me?

Past pupils studying at Diploma or A/S level have been fast tracked onto degrees a year early due to the skills they were taught. Careers in this sector include Mens and Ladies Fashion Design, Interior Design, Performance Sportswear/Activewear, Film and Music Industry Costumes, Stylists and Theatrical Costume Designers. Other areas include Fashion Marketing, Fashion and Media Photography, Make Up and Hair Design, Hat and Headdress Designer, and Set Designer (due to the Mixed Media element). Some students take their Duke of Edinburgh silver award at the same time as their GCSE, leading after-school workshops at The Fashion and Revamp Academy. This is particularly useful for those that aspire to a teaching profession or training role.

# Art, Craft and Design GCSE

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## Why choose this course?

This course offers a wide range of skills and experiences in art, craft and design, which will enable you to create your own personal portfolio of work. Art is an important subject in society today as many elements of our culture are visual and require us to think creatively.

## What will I learn?

You will study a range of cultures, artists and styles. This knowledge will enable you to create your own artwork using a range of different materials and processes, such as clay, printing, textiles, painting and digital media. Exploration and experimentation are encouraged. This will enable you to improve your skills and confidence. You will be encouraged to create work based on your interests and express these in inventive ways.

## Where will it take me?

It will give you the qualifications to apply for jobs in the Visual Arts e.g. Fashion Design, Games Design, Film, Web Design, Set/Costume Design, Animation and Illustration.

If you enjoy being creative, want to increase your practical skills and improve your analytical, communication, and research abilities, Art, Craft and Design is a great choice. The skills you gain make it a great complement to other subjects. Art, Craft and Design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you. It can help you with further study and prepare you for the world of work.



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### Why choose this course?

If you're interested in business, economics, politics and society, this GCSE course introduces many core concepts in those specialist areas that are not covered by any other subject in school. With constant government and media emphasis on the importance of business in our communities and country, it has never been so important for young people to understand the language and ideas of the business world. GCSE Business allows learners to study, analyse and apply a broad range of key ideas to a wide variety of real businesses, leaving empowered to study more or enter the world of work with the knowledge they need to thrive.

### What will I learn?

Using real examples of local, national and international businesses to bring our lessons to life, we cover the economic environment and external influences on business, business finances, marketing, human resources, and business operations. The course requires students to apply their knowledge and understanding of modern business practices to different contexts, ranging from small enterprises to large

multinationals. Students will learn to evaluate the influences on business behaviours, solve business problems, forecast cash flows, recommend marketing strategies and make decisions about how best to manage people and resources in a range of contexts.

GCSE Business is assessed at the end of Year 11 with 2 written exam papers of 1 hour 45 minutes each. Students need to be able to understand, analyse and evaluate written information and have a secure level of mathematics for the financial operations. Materials used for teaching aim to be accessible to all and self-directed research is encouraged.

### Where will it take me?

Highly valued by employers and apprenticeships, as well as excellent foundations for economics, sociology, politics, and business at A Level or the International Baccalaureate, GCSE Business provides a firm foundation for further study and valuable life skills.

**'Do a job you love and you will never have to work a day in your life'**

The Cornwall College Group

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### **Why choose this course?**

If you enjoy using technology and want to understand technically how it actually functions then this course could be the answer. In today's world nearly everything you touch is controlled by some electronics; these electronics are becoming smarter because they contain microprocessors. Being able to understand how programming works, how to program and how the hardware of a computer works will give you the ability that 'will.i.am' says is the new superpower! You need to enjoy problem solving and maths as these are key skills you will need to use and will develop throughout the course.

### **What will I learn?**

To understand how computers function, what they can do and how programming works. You will learn fundamental programming skills using Python. Python has become one of the most popular languages. These skills will be transferable to other programming languages at a later date. You will also learn the theory of how the internals of a computer work. This will involve understanding what binary is, how computers store data and how the key parts of hardware work.

You will also learn about basic computer networking. With networking comes the problem of security, so the course will cover aspects of cybersecurity from malware to social engineering techniques. You will develop your skills in resilience because programs rarely work the first time and you will develop ways and thinking to find alternative methods to solve a problem.

You will be assessed by sitting two exams at the end of Year 11. There is no coursework component and programming skills will be included in Paper 1.

### **Where will it take me?**

As well as various college courses, nearly all jobs use ICT, but particularly jobs in the STEM sectors (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths). Understanding what a computer is capable of and how it works will allow you to use your skills to be a highly valuable employee (and highly paid!). This skill could take you around the world and beyond; satellite control at Goonhilly, flight control systems at Newquay Spaceport, Cybersecurity around the world!

# Creative Media Production BTEC Technical Award

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## Why choose this course?

BTEC Creative Media Production is an exciting, hands-on course where you'll explore the world of film, publishing, design, and interactive media. BTEC Creative Media Production is a coursework subject that you will complete throughout the two years of study. This qualification will broaden your experience and understanding of a variety of media products and creative tasks through two components and a timed brief.

## What will I learn?

You will learn how to plan, create, and refine media products that entertain, inform, and inspires. With hands-on projects and industry-standard tools, you'll explore the exciting world of film, digital publishing, interactive sector, and beyond. Plus, you'll gain insights into how media shapes the world around us - and how you can shape the future of media.

Throughout the two years you will:

- Investigate different media products and their purpose. You will explore how media products are created to provide meaning and engage audiences.

- Develop and apply media production skills and techniques to make exciting and professional media products.
- Understand the art of storytelling through film, graphics, and digital media.
- Learn how to use professional tools such as Photoshop, editing software, and cameras.
- Develop Media language, codes, and conventions that bring projects to life.
- Gain skills in planning, designing, and evaluating creative products.
- Design and create your own media projects.
- Learn the tricks of the trade used by professionals.
- Work on real-world briefs that prepare you for further study or careers.

## Where will it take me?

The UK's creative industries as a whole are now worth over £126bn per year to the UK economy. The industry involves a wide range of practical processes, skills, and techniques, from broadcast media to increasingly interactive products and publishing platforms. This course will open the doors to further study of vocational qualifications at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Media, A Levels for entry to higher education in many subjects, or Media diplomas at college or sixth form. You will also develop transferable skills in creativity, teamwork, communication, and problem solving - valued in any industry.

# Dance

## Performing Arts

### BTEC Technical

#### Award

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#### Why choose this course?

You will explore a range of dance styles and different professional works, explore what the Performing Arts industry looks like, take part in Dance Productions/Carrick Dance and choreograph your own work.

#### What will I learn?

How to create, develop, refine and perform your own choreography. Learn about a range of different professional works, watch them, and explore with them in practical workshops in a variety of styles. Take part in skill development workshops in a dance style of your choice; this will include visiting choreographers. Learn a set piece of professional choreography that Miss Nowell will teach and workshop. Respond to a performance brief in groups to create a group performance in the style(s) of your choice.

#### Where will it take me?

Onto an AS/A-Level or a BTEC Level 3 in Dance/Performance. This course could lead to a career in theatre, music or even television. Studying Dance can also give you an insight into the wider creative industries, such as media, film and television production.



# Design and Technology

## GCSE

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### Why choose this course?

GCSE Design and Technology is a practical and valuable subject that will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. It enables young people to actively contribute to the creativity, culture, wealth and wellbeing of themselves, their community, and their nation. It teaches how to take risks and so become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising, and capable.

### What will I learn?

GCSE Design and Technology sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. Students will be given the opportunity to identify and solve real world problems by designing and making products or systems in a wide range of contexts relating to their personal interests. Students will gain a working knowledge of a range of materials and industrial manufacturing processes including computer aided design and manufacture.

All course content will be taught through practical tasks where possible. Penryn College has excellent traditional workshop facilities and is also fortunate to have

advanced CNC machines such as CNC routers, laser cutters and a 3D printer. The skills learned in the course also expand on ideas from other subjects, particularly Science and Maths. Through applying those concepts in practical, everyday projects, Design and Technology helps students develop a true understanding of mathematical and scientific ideas.

### Where will it take me?

A GCSE in Design and Technology is a great stepping stone to any mechanical or design based further education course. Many students move on to study A-Levels in Design or BTEC courses in Engineering. Some students go on to pursue apprenticeships in a broad range of disciplines, such as boat building, marine engineering, and construction. Completing a practical course alongside Maths and Physics A Levels might also support students who wish to pursue foundation or degree level courses in fields such as Design, Architecture, or Engineering.

**'Be curious, take responsibility for your own learning'**

Truro and Penwith College



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### Why choose this course?

You may be interested in this course if you want an engaging qualification where you will be planning and creating original digital graphics and illustrations using industry standard software. This course is designed to foster your creativity, independence, and confidence in mastering the skills crucial to the digital graphics industry. You'll delve into file and asset handling and gain proficiency in essential software tools.

### What will I learn?

#### **R093 Creative Digital Graphic Media.**

Students will gain an understanding of the digital graphics industry and pre-production documents, including documents for ideas generation and documents for designing and planning digital products. This knowledge will inform the planning and creation process that students will apply during the practical coursework units. This is an exam unit taken in Year 11.

#### **R094 Visual Identity and Digital Graphics.**

Students will learn how to develop visual identities for clients and use the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics to engage target audiences. Coursework unit.

#### **R095: Digital Characters and Comics.**

Students will design and create their own comic characters to convey emotion and personality, and learn how to set the characters within their own stories. Students will also learn to use conventions of comics to tell their characters' stories across multiple pages. You will have the opportunity to use digital graphics tablets for creating digital artwork and industry standard software. Coursework unit.

### Where will it take me?

Relevant sectors include digital illustration, graphic design, character design, games development, and animation.



# Drama GCSE or Drama Performing Arts BTEC Technical Award

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[Drama GCSE  
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[Drama BTEC  
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## Why choose this course?

There is a really nice balance of creating, performing, scripted, written work and watching live performance. It will help develop and support your communication skills, public speaking, confidence, team work and resilience.

## What will I learn? (GCSE)

How to create, develop, refine and rehearse devised drama. Create a working log book of your progression and choices made over a performance project. Be cast in a scripted play that you will learn and be directed by your teacher for an exam piece. Watch a live production in a theatre that we will review as part of your written paper. Study and perform Willy Russell's Blood Brothers.

## What will I learn? (BTEC)

How to create, develop, refine and perform your own performance work. Learn different styles of professional works and explore them in workshops. Take part in skill development workshops in styles and scripts of your choice. Learn and perform a scripted performance that your teacher will teach, workshop and direct.

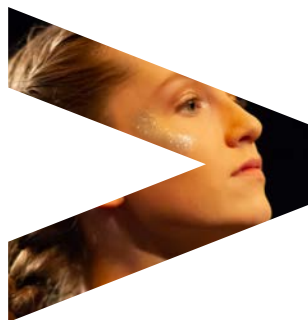
Respond to a performance brief in groups to create an original and independent group performance piece.

## Where will it take me?

Onto an AS/A-Level or a BTEC Level 3 in Drama/Performance. Gives support and confidence in public speaking and responding to others in preparation for interviews and jobs.

## Which pathway?

The decision whether the accreditation is a GCSE or a BTEC Technical Award will be made by Penryn College in the best interests of the students. Both qualifications are recognised and accepted by Post 16 Colleges. This decision will be made prior to the start of term and will be communicated to all of the students who have opted for Drama. Unfortunately we are unable to deliver both courses at the same time to the same class. To study Drama please select Drama GCSE on the Options form.



# Engineering

## GCSE

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### Why choose this course?

GCSE Engineering is for someone who wants to design and invent new products and tools using mechanical or electronic systems. Someone who wants to know how things work and be able to use this knowledge to creatively solve problems. This course will provide the basis for being a competent and confident part of the ever-changing technological world, always able to adapt and thrive. GCSE Engineering is the fullest example of cross-curricular working, applying and developing skills in Science, Maths, Computing, and many other subjects.

### What will I learn?

GCSE Engineering will support students to become creative problem solvers in all Engineering fields, giving a solid foundation in Metals, Plastics, Composites, Electronics, Mechanical and Electrical Systems, Computer Aided Design and Project Planning. Students will learn to apply the Engineering process of DEFINE - CREATE - TEST - IMPROVE to develop iterative design skills. Students will work on numerous hand skills as well as computer controlled systems such as 3D printing. They will make small parts as well as work on longer projects, developing a feel for

the design and manufacturing processes. At all stages students will be working and learning practically as much as possible.

### Where will it take me?

A GCSE in Engineering is a clear stepping stone towards further Engineering courses at college and university. It is also a great support for many other courses including Science (especially Physics), Computer Science and Maths. Students may choose to go on to take A-Levels, Level 3 vocational courses, or an apprenticeship route through college or via our strong links with local businesses. Whatever a student looks to do long term, a GCSE in Engineering gives a core skill set that has always been sought after by employers and will always be current, no matter how technology changes.

**'Exciting job opportunities can be found on your doorstep, you do not always need to venture far'**

Hine Downing Solicitors

# Food Preparation and Nutrition

## GCSE

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### Why choose this course?

This course will allow you to develop an in-depth understanding of nutritional requirements through life, specialist diets, and the functions of key nutrients within the meals we plan and prepare. The knowledge and skills will enable you to analyse and review recipes and accurately identify areas for development. You will apply these skills to your own dishes, build on practical techniques and evaluate your choices, referring to flavour, cost and nutritional value.

### What will I learn?

A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition has a strong practical element with many areas of food science being explored through individual and group practical sessions. A key part of the course will be exploring, analysing and comparing recipes, selecting alternative ingredients and making adaptations to create dishes that are suitable for a range of specialist diets. You will be analysing food labels and nutritional content whilst planning and costing your own recipe designs. As part of the course, you will also explore the wide range of factors that affect our food choices including social, moral and environmental issues which have an impact on our chosen

diets and lifestyles. Another key area within the course is understanding the functional properties of the ingredients we use, allowing you to plan meals effectively to meet certain requirements.

### Where will it take me?

A GCSE in Food Preparation and Nutrition will complement studies in Lifestyle, PE and Science, giving you an excellent foundation for further studies in Education, Sport and Fitness, Medicine or Food Science, as well as allowing you to develop fundamental life skills in preparing healthy and nutritious meals. The knowledge is an essential aspect of many careers within medicine, education and fitness, as well as the catering industry. The course will also give you the opportunity to gain an insight into these areas and careers and experience the wider catering industry through workshops and competitions. The practical and social aspects of the course will allow you to build confidence in your practical skills and work effectively with your peers, strengthening organisational skills as well as time management.

## French

### GCSE

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## Spanish

### GCSE

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### Why choose this course?

Studying a language gives you a view into another world. Not only do you learn how to speak and read another language, you gain an insight into the food, customs and culture of other great European civilisations. A GCSE in a language is highly desirable. Employers look favourably on languages as they demonstrate a person who works hard, has resilience and is ready for the demands of the globalised working world.

### What will I learn?

You will develop the seven skills needed to be an expert in learning a language, which are to listen, speak, read, write, memorise, translate and apply grammatical rules. You will also find yourself learning about the way English is constructed too! You will cover some really interesting topics that are pertinent to current global issues such as: environmental issues, ethical shopping, voluntary work, large sporting events and festivals in other countries. You will be studying the new look GCSE which is designed to be more accessible, with less vocabulary and clearer, more straightforward exams.

### Where will it take me?

Not only do universities and employers want candidates who have a GCSE in a language because of the level of challenge, they also acknowledge the resilience and discipline that you will have demonstrated. Learning a language gives you a pathway to travel and work both in Cornwall and the wider world. It will open doors for you for the rest of your life, so where could a language take you?



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### Why choose this course?

Discover more about the fascinating world in which we live! Lessons will explore how today's world was shaped and how we can respond to growing future challenges. There are opportunities to take your learning outside the classroom, with field trips to Penryn and Portreath, as well as an optional residential field trip.

### What will I learn?

#### Living with the Physical Environment:

- Natural Hazards (tectonics, weather, climate change)
- Living World (tropical rainforests and hot deserts)
- UK Landscapes (coasts and rivers)

#### Challenges in the Human Environment:

- Urban Issues and Challenges (Rio de Janeiro and Bristol)
- Changing Economic World (development gap, India as a Newly Emerging Economy and the Changing UK Economy)
- Challenge of Resource Management (food, water and energy)

### Geographical Application and Skills:

- Geographical/numeracy skills. Field trips to Penryn and Portreath.

### Where will it take me?

The world is your oyster! Geographers have a huge range of skills, making them highly employable and successful. Careers include: volcanologist, meteorologist, hazard risk planner, energy policy analyst, solicitor, RNLI trainer, marketing consultant, glaciologist and transport planners.

**'Every young person has something special to offer and it is important to let this individual gift shine and flourish'**

Truro and Penwith College

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### Why choose this course?

This course will encourage you to: understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of the rights of individuals, person-centered values, effective communication, and how to protect individuals in health and social care settings; develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real life contexts and work situations.

### What will I learn?

**Unit R033: Supporting individuals through life events.** On our journey through the stages of life we experience many life changing events and are influenced by many factors that affect growth and development. You will learn about life stages and factors that affect them. You will understand expected and unexpected life events and the impact they have on physical, social, emotional, and socio-economic aspects in an individual's life. You will research the service providers and practitioners that can support individuals, recommend support, and justify how this will meet the needs of a specific individual.

**Unit R034: Creative and therapeutic activities.** These are used in both health and social care settings because of the many benefits. You will explore the different types of creative and therapeutic activities that are available and understand how those involved enjoy the experience and benefit from taking part. This unit

will enable you to develop essential work-related skills for working with adults or children. You will learn about a range of creative activities and therapies that are available in health and social care settings and understand the physical, intellectual, emotional and social benefits. You will learn how to plan and deliver a creative activity with an individual or group and evaluate your planning and delivery.

**R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings.** Whether you want a career in a health or social care setting, understanding rights, the person centered values and how they can be applied is vital. Communicating effectively with service users you are caring for and creating a care environment that is safe and hygienic is also essential. You will learn about the importance of the rights of service users, person-centered values and how to apply them, effective communication skills when providing care and support for service users in health and social care settings, and the procedures and measures used to protect individuals such as safeguarding, hygiene and security.

### Where will it take me?

Social care employees, such as care assistants and social workers, work with individuals to support them to be as independent as possible in their own homes, in care homes, or in nursing homes. Healthcare employees such as doctors, pharmacists, nurses, midwives, healthcare assistants and physiotherapists work with individuals to enhance their quality of life by improving their health.

# History

## GCSE

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### Why choose this course?

Learning about past events and people will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it is at now and how it will continue to develop in the future. There is the opportunity to visit Germany to help bring to life paper 3 content.

### What will I learn?

You will study the Edexcel 9-1 GCSE course. The course is divided into 5 topics with 3 exams.

**Paper 1:** Medicine in Britain, c1250–present and the British sector of the Western Front.  
1 hour 15 minutes. 30%

**Paper 2:** Early Elizabethan England, 1558–88 and the American West, c1835–c1895.  
1 hour 45 minutes. 40%

**Paper 3:** Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918–39.  
1 hour 20 minutes. 30%.

There is no coursework for this course. It is all exam based.

### Where will it take me?

You'll learn a range of skills that will help you with your future. For example, communication and writing skills, how to construct and justify an argument, analysing evidence for usefulness, understanding different interpretations and understanding concepts such as significance and change and continuity with the ability to weigh these up. History is useful in a variety of careers such as law, journalism, teaching, charities, architecture, heritage, nature conservation, libraries and local and national politics.



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### Why choose this course?

GCSE Music allows you to develop your skills as a musician whilst exploring a range of musical styles. You will extend your knowledge and understanding from Years 7, 8 and 9 as a listener, composer, and performer.

### What will I learn?

You will explore a range of styles and genres across four areas of study, from Film Music and Popular Music to Western Classical. Throughout Year 10 you will develop your knowledge and understanding of the elements of music and how different music uses them, as well as extending your composing and performing skills.

### Where will it take me?

After completing the course, you can continue on to further vocational and academic study at Level 2 and Level 3, as well as apprenticeships and traineeships. What's more, the transferable skills you master during your studies such as self-reflection, communication, teamwork and problem solving will also support your progress.



# Physical Education

## GCSE

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### Why choose this course?

We aim to develop students' ability to plan, execute, analyse and improve all aspects of both theoretical and practical performance. We hope to encourage in-depth knowledge, skills and understanding of effective and safe performance. More broadly, we work with students to establish an understanding of the role of sport and physical activity in society and in the wider world.

### What will I learn?

**Paper 1:** The human body and movement in physical activity and sport. Applied anatomy and physiology. Movement analysis. Physical training.

**Paper 2:** Socio-cultural influence and well-being in physical activity and sport. Sports psychology, socio-cultural influences, and health, fitness and well-being.

**Non-exam assessment:** Practical performance in physical activity and sport. Practical performance in three different physical activities in the role of player/performer; one in an individual activity, one in a team activity, and a third in either a team or individual activity. Analysis and evaluation of performance to

bring about improvement in one activity.

### Where will it take me?

The GCSE Physical Education course offers an excellent insight into the theoretical and physiological concepts associated with sporting performance. The theory element of the course provides an excellent foundation for those students considering studying A-Level Physical Education, BTEC Diploma in Sport, or pursuing a sports related career such as a physiotherapist, sports journalist, sports psychology or personal trainer.



# Religious Studies A

## GCSE

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### Why choose this course?

This is an interesting course which includes looking at different opinions, and discussing and debating real life issues. It involves delving into different philosophical and ethical issues as well as examining beliefs and practices in Hinduism and Christianity.

### What will I learn?

You will study the AQA GCSE Religious Studies exam specification. The course is split into 50% Hinduism beliefs and practices and Christianity beliefs and practices and 50% which includes studying; Crime and Punishment, Human Rights and Social Justice, Human Relationships, and Religion and Life. Within this you will explore real issues such as euthanasia, abortion, crime, animal experimentation and other important and interesting ethical topics.

**Play to your strong points and find out about what is out there'**

Software Cornwall

### Where will it take me?

You could go on and study A Levels in Religious Studies, Philosophy, Sociology, Psychology, Law and a range of other subjects. If you want to work in a sector which works with people then Religious Studies is perfect! For example, working in the police, teaching, the medical profession, law, the armed forces and any other career in which you would work with other people.

Students who choose to study RE will be enrolled in the 2 Year GCSE RE course. Some students will be offered the opportunity to study a "Fast Track" GCSE RE course, which is a one year course leading to the same qualification but completed in less time, if their ability and skills are sufficient to meet the requirements of the Fast Track content. **Fast Track RE cannot be studied as the top up option; it is only available as an additional course for students who are studying Triple Science or PE as their top up option.**

If you would like to be considered for the Fast Track course, add a comment in your student comment box when completing the options form.

# Sport Science

## OCR Level 1/2

### Certificate

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#### Why choose this course?

Elite sport has embraced sport science to promote outstanding performance. The athlete's understanding of how to create a high-quality training programme, how to use sports psychology and how to create a positive environment in the pursuit of excellence are all key to maximising performance. This course offers learners the opportunity to study key areas of sport science including anatomy and physiology linked to fitness, health, injury and performance; the science of training and application of training principles; and psychology in sport and sports performance.

#### What will I learn?

**Reducing the risk of injuries:** Learners will know how to prepare participants to take part in physical activity in a way that minimises the risk of injuries occurring, how to react to common injuries that can occur during sport, and how to recognise the symptoms of some common medical conditions, providing a good foundation to undertake formal first aid training and qualifications. This will be an exam assessed unit.

**Applying principles of training:** In the world of team and individual sports, it is vital that coaches keep their performers in peak

condition by regularly monitoring them through fitness tests and by designing bespoke training programmes to suit the type of sport, performance schedule, and the individual themselves. High quality training programmes apply principles of training to the requirements of the individual in their development and implementation. Learners will develop knowledge and understanding of the principles and methods of training and the application. This will be a coursework assessed unit.

**Nutrition and Sports Performance:** You will learn to consider the composition of healthy balanced nutrition. You will consider the necessity of certain nutrients and their role in enabling effective performance in different sporting activities. The knowledge gained will be used to produce an appropriate, effective nutrition plan for a performer.

#### Where will it take me?

This course offers an excellent insight into the theoretical and physiological concepts associated with sporting performance. The theory element of the course provides an excellent foundation for those students considering studying A-Level Physical Education, BTEC Diploma in Sport, or pursuing a sport related career such as a strength and condition coach, physiotherapist, sports journalist, sports psychologist or personal trainer.

# Triple Science: Biology, Chemistry and Physics (3 GCSEs)

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## Why choose this course?

Triple Science is a highly academic route developed for students who intend to pursue Science A levels and study a Science degree in the future. Strong skills in English and Mathematics are essential and students should be achieving close to 70% or higher in their end of unit assessments, especially in Science where 70% is essential. Triple Science provides greater breadth and depth of content than the Combined Science course and suits those students who are enthusiastic about Science and wish to study it in more detail.

Students are automatically enrolled on the Combined Science course, and can request to be considered for Triple Science as the top up option. If you meet the criteria, discuss your interest with your Science teacher to find out more.

## What will I learn?

You will study the three sciences separately and will gain three separate GCSE grades; a GCSE in Biology, a GCSE in Chemistry and a GCSE in Physics. You will study the same content that is covered in the Combined Science course but in greater depth and with

some additional practical investigations.

Explore the hidden wonders of space during Physics lessons, dissect an eyeball to learn more about how we see in Biology and explore the chemistry behind hand warmers and exothermic reactions.

## Where will it take me?

Triple Science is highly recommended if you wish to take the Science A levels (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Psychology and Environmental Science) or study Science at degree level. The breadth and depth of the Triple Science course provides a solid foundation for many science related careers such as medicine, dentistry, veterinary science and teaching. Other avenues for triple scientists include engineering, marine studies, and the food and nutrition industry. In Cornwall there are also many opportunities to study Science as part of an exciting apprenticeship programme.

## Credits:

Designer:

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Chair of Governors

Adam Pickup-Bowker,

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**Penryn College**

Achieving through  
Challenge

