

**CHOOSING
YOUR
OPTIONS
WHICH
WAY NOW?**

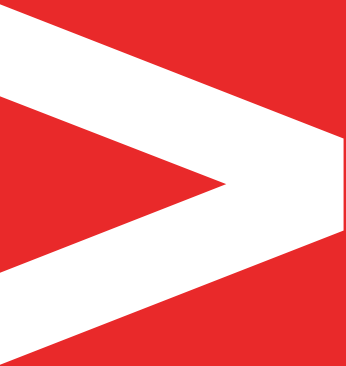
**YEAR 10
2026-2027**



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, 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 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?



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

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.

Post 18 Choices and Higher Education:

www.ucas.com

Click on the Courses tab to explore the range of courses available at university and their entry requirements. Click on the Career Guides or Subject Guides tabs to find career ideas related to the subjects you like.

www.notgoingtouni.co.uk/ Shows the opportunities that exist outside of the traditional university route – but not ‘anti Uni’.

Apprenticeships:

www.apprenticeships.gov.uk/ Everything you need to know about apprenticeships.

www.cornwall-opportunities.co.uk/

Search for the latest jobs, apprenticeships and courses in Cornwall.

Jobs and Careers:

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 700 jobs.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/careers>

Information on careers and apprenticeships.

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

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

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

Technical iPad help:

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

[Go to Options Index >](#)

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)

[< Back to Core Index](#)

[Further Information >](#)
English Language

[Further Information >](#)
English Literature

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

[< Back to Core Index](#)

[Further Information >](#)

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)

[< Back to Core Index](#)

[Further Information >](#)

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
- Energy and forces
- 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)

[< Back to Core Index](#)

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.



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.

[< Back to Core Index](#)



Why is this course important?

Life Skills is our statutory PSHE school curriculum. This means all students are entitled to receive high-quality teaching that helps them stay safe, healthy, and prepared for life beyond school.

The curriculum supports students to develop their knowledge, skills, and confidence needed to manage real-life situations, build positive relationships, look after their physical and mental wellbeing, and make informed decisions. It also helps students understand their rights, responsibilities, and role in society, preparing them for further education, employment and adulthood.

Life Skills provides a safe and supportive space for students to ask questions, explore important issues and develop resilience, ensuring they are equipped to face the challenges of modern life both now and in the future.

What will I learn?

Health and wellbeing:

- Manage challenges of adolescence, building resilience, and seek support for mental health.
- Staying healthy, risk of alcohol and drugs, balance screen time, first aid.

Learn about immunisation, vaccination, and blood, organ and stem cell donation.

Relationships:

- Healthy and unhealthy relationships, including the impacts of role models.
- Understanding the law around abuse, coercion and harassment, EDI and challenging misogyny.
- Learn about sexual health, fertility, parenthood, and parenting responsibilities.

Living in the wider world:

- CVs, interviews, work experience, careers, and post-16 options.
- Explore identity, British Values, digital footprint, and gambling risks.
- Budgeting, money management, debt, credit, and student finance.

Where will it take me?

Our Life Skills curriculum will provide our students with the knowledge, resilience, and confidence to make safe, health and informed choices, now and in the future. Empowering students to understand themselves and their role in society, to reflect on their values, morals and behaviour, and to be able to openly discuss and evaluate their personal development.

THE OPTIONS

KEY STAGE 4

CURRICULUM

The Options

Key Stage 4

Curriculum

Index

[< Back to Core Index](#)

Art and Design: Photography
GCSE



Art and Design: Textile Design GCSE



Art, Craft and Design GCSE



Computer Science GCSE



Creative iMedia: Digital iMedia
Level 1/2 Certificate



Creative Media Production
BTEC Technical Award



Dance: Performing Arts
BTEC Technical Award



Design and Technology GCSE



Drama GCSE



Engineering GCSE



Food Preparation and Nutrition GCSE



French GCSE



Geography GCSE



Health and Social Care
Level 1/2 Certificate



History GCSE



Music GCSE



Physical Education GCSE



Religious Studies A GCSE



Sociology GCSE



Spanish GCSE



Sport Science
Level 1/2 Certificate



Triple Science
GCSE



Art and Design: Photography GCSE

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

Why choose this course?

The skills gained in this course offer unique post-16 opportunities. This subject offers an enjoyable and creative career path with interdisciplinary skills. Work is tailored around individual interests and students select a career direction within the textile industry that inspires and excites them. Fashion shows, exhibitions and professional photoshoots are just some of the exciting opportunities on offer in this course.

What will I learn?

Students complete two coursework projects in Year 10 and the start of Year 11. The first project focuses on the sea/beach. The second is student driven and students choose a topic linked to their interests. These two coursework projects are worth 60%. In January in Year 11 the remaining 40% research, design and experimentation begins. After 2-3 months of preparation students have 10 hours in exam conditions to make a textile final conclusion. Designers from a range of companies including textile design, interior design, and sportswear offer workshops and portfolio guidance. Collections are developed alongside portfolios of experimentation and creativity. Students particularly enjoy visiting degree exhibitions and fashion shows at

Falmouth University.

This course teaches both technical and illustrative design skills, how to develop and launch your own brand, adapt patterns for cutting, and make unique garments and model fabric to the stand for couture. Final products feature in professional photoshoots. Students interested in fashion photography, modelling, or hair and makeup will have the opportunity to work alongside professionals.

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 entrepreneurs, sportswear and fashion design, interior design, film and theatrical costume design, celebrity stylist, fashion photography, modelling, and hair and make up designer. Other areas include fashion marketing, accessory designer, hat and headpiece 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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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.



[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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 iMedia: Digital iMedia OCR Cambridge National

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

Why choose this course?

Are you ready to turn your creativity into real digital skills? The Cambridge National in iMedia is your gateway to the fast-moving world of digital media - from graphic design to games, animation, and web creation. You'll use industry-standard software to bring your ideas to life while developing independence, confidence, and technical know-how that employers and colleges value.

This is a hands-on, practical course designed for students who love being creative, enjoy working with technology, and want to understand how the digital world around them is built.

What will I learn?

R093 Creative iMedia in the Media Industry (Exam Unit): Explore how media products are planned, designed, and created. You'll learn about pre-production techniques, including idea generation, mood boards, and storyboards - the same tools used by professionals in film, gaming, and design studios.

R094 Visual Identity and Digital Graphics

(Coursework Unit): Discover the art of branding and visual communication. You'll design digital graphics and develop creative visual identities for client briefs, applying professional design principles to make your work stand out.

R097 Interactive Media (Coursework Unit): Bring your creativity to life through interactive experiences. You'll plan, design, and produce engaging digital products such as websites, apps, and games, developing skills that are in high demand in the creative and tech industries.

Where will it take me?

This qualification opens doors to exciting pathways in the creative and digital sectors, including:

Graphic Design - brand and visual design for marketing, advertising, and media.

Games Design and Development - from character creation to world-building. Animation and VFX - digital storytelling and motion graphics for film and TV.

Web and App Design - interactive experiences for the web and mobile devices.

Digital iMedia gives you the chance to be creative, build real digital skills, and see your ideas come to life.

Creative Media Production

BTEC Technical Award

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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 inspire. 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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)



Why choose this course?

Dance is a creative, energetic, and expressive subject that develops your performance, choreography, and analytical skills. You'll explore a wide range of dance styles and professional works while improving teamwork, discipline, and confidence. Whether you're passionate about dance or simply enjoy performing, this course gives you the opportunity to express yourself and grow as a performer.

What will I learn?

Throughout the course, you'll take part in workshops, rehearsals, and performances that build your skills as both a dancer and choreographer. You will learn how to create, develop, refine, and perform your own choreography, exploring a range of styles through practical workshops.

- **Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts.** You will study a range of professional dance works and styles. Through practical workshops and written tasks, you'll explore how choreographers and performers communicate meaning and develop their ideas.

- **Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts.** You'll take part in classes, rehearsals, and performances to develop your technical, interpretive, and performance skills. You'll track your progress through a rehearsal and skills logbook and perform extracts of professional choreography.
- **Component 3: Responding to a Brief.** Working in groups, you'll respond to a set performance brief to create and perform an original piece of choreography. This externally assessed unit allows you to showcase everything you've learned through performance and written evaluation.

Where will it take me?

BTEC Dance provides a strong foundation for progression to A-Level Dance, BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts, or other performance based courses. It can lead to careers in the performing arts industry including theatre, dance, music, and television, and offers transferable skills valuable for creative roles in media, film, production and education.

Design and Technology

GCSE

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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



[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

Why choose this course?

Drama is a vibrant, creative, and collaborative subject that allows you to explore performance in a practical and engaging way. You'll experience a balance of creating, performing, scripted and devised work, as well as written reflection and live theatre. Studying Drama helps you develop communication, confidence, teamwork, creativity, and resilience, skills that are valuable both on and off stage.

What will I learn?

Throughout the two years, you will take part in workshops exploring a range of professional performance styles and techniques. You'll have the opportunity to devise your own original performance, perform a scripted play, and develop your acting and design skills under your teacher's direction.

Assessment is divided into three key components:

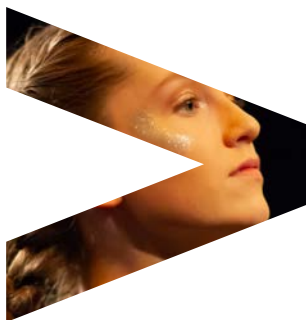
- **Understanding Drama:** You will complete a written exam on theatre roles and terminology, your set text (previous years have been *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare and *Blood Brothers* by

Willy Russell), and a live theatre production that you will watch and review.

- **Devising Drama:** You will create, perform, and evaluate an original piece of drama, supported by a written log that explains your creative process and decisions.
- **Texts in Practice:** You will perform two extracts from a published play to a visiting examiner.

Where will it take me?

Drama can lead to A-Level Drama and Theatre Studies, BTEC Level 3 Performing Arts, or other creative pathways. It's also an excellent foundation for any career that values communication, confidence, leaderships, and collaboration, such as law, teaching, media, or business.



Engineering

GCSE

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

Spanish

GCSE

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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?



[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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.



[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

Why choose this course?

Is prison a suitable punishment for serious crime? Should the law on euthanasia be changed? Why do Christians pray? What do Hindus believe about reincarnation? These are just some of the questions we study in this interesting course which includes looking at different opinions, and discussing and debating real life issues. It involves delving into different philosophical, ethical and social issues as well as examining different 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 Paper 1 (50%) The Study of Hinduism and Christianity and Paper 2 (50%) Thematic Studies - Crime and Punishment, Human Rights and Social Justice, Relationships and Families and Religion and Life. Within this, you will explore real issues such as euthanasia, abortion, crime, animal experimentation and other ethical topics.

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, or any other career in which you would work with other people.

Students who chose 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 we think this is suitable for the student. **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 RE course, add a comment in your student comment box when completing the options form.

‘Play to your strong points and find out about what is out there’. Software Cornwall

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

Why choose this course?

Sociology is the study of how society works and how individuals fit into a wider social network. It encourages you to question beliefs about society that you have previously taken for granted. Sociologists are interested in why society works in the way that it does and the extent to which our behaviour and opportunities can be shaped by our social class, age, gender, and ethnicity. Throughout the course you'll explore questions such as: why do girls tend to achieve higher results at school than boys? What does it mean to be poor in Britain today? How have family structures changed over time and what does this mean for society today?

Students should choose this subject if they enjoy critical thinking, debate, and exploring different perspectives on society. It involves analysing information, questioning assumptions, and evaluating how representative or accurate different viewpoints are. It encourages you to see the world through multiple lenses and understand that people can interpret the same issue in very different ways.

What will I learn?

The main topics you will study include: what is sociology; education; families; crime and

deviance; social stratification; research methods. This course is entirely exam based. You will develop a variety of transferable skills including analytical thinking, interpreting data, evaluating evidence, forming and support arguments, and developing empathy and understanding of diverse perspectives. In addition to the main topics, you will also explore a range of sociological perspectives including feminism, Marxism and functionalism. You will learn about key sociologists such as Anne Oakley, Max Weber and Emile Durkheim and how their ideas have shaped our understanding of society.

Where will it take me?

Sociology provides you with valuable skills such as logical thinking, research, communication, evaluation, and planning. It opens doors to a wide range of A-Level and college courses including Sociology, Psychology, Criminology, Health & Social Care, and Politics. The skills you gain are also highly relevant to degrees in Law, Journalism, Education, Social Policy, and Media Studies. Career pathways include social work, criminology, policing, teaching, counselling, nursing, journalism, human resources, law, civil service, and charity or voluntary sector roles. Sociology helps you understand people and the world around you - skills that are invaluable in almost any career.

Sport Science

OCR Level 1/2

Certificate

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further information >](#)

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)

[< Back to Options Index](#)

[Further Information
Biology >](#)

[Further Information
Chemistry >](#)

[Further Information
Physics >](#)

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:

D Revell

Photographers:

Mark Parsons,

Chair of Governors

Adam Pickup-Bowker,

Freelance Photographer



Penryn College

Achieving through
Challenge

