



# Cookstown High School

Combined Grammar & Secondary



## Why study.....?

### Choosing Your GCSE Pathway February 2024

*Your guide to the courses on offer*

[www.cookstownhighschool.org](http://www.cookstownhighschool.org)

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# Section 1:

## General Subjects



# Art and Design

Pupils of the GCSE Art and Design course engage in critical, practical and theoretical study of Art and Design. They develop an appreciation of the work of artists, designers and craft workers from a range of cultural backgrounds. They also develop their artistic practice.

Through studying this course, pupils have opportunities to:

- Widen their personal experience;
- Develop their creative, intellectual and artistic abilities;
- Develop their personal knowledge and understanding; and
- Develop skills including investigating, realising, experimenting and problem-solving.

This course prepares pupils for the study of Art and Design and related courses. It also provides pupils who have an interest in developing a career in Art and Design with relevant, skills-based knowledge.

## The Specification at a glance:

Content Assessment Weightings	Assessment	Weightings
Component 1:	Controlled assessment	60%
Part A: Exploratory Portfolio	Internally set and assessed Externally moderated	Part A: 25% 50 marks
Part B: Investigating the Creative and Cultural Industries	Internally set and assessed  Teachers set tasks based on examples from a controlled assessment booklet that we provide.  Externally moderated.	Part B: 35% 70 marks
Component 2:	Controlled assessment	40%
Externally Set Assignment	Externally set and internally assessed We set a stimulus paper that provides a choice of themed starting points.  Externally moderated	80 marks

## Career pathways in Art and Design

Art Critic, Advertising, Architecture, Art Teacher, Art Dealer, Art Consultant, Graphic Designer, Set Design, Interior Design, Fine Artist, Product Designer, Make-up Artist, Hairdresser, Sculptor, Ceramic Designer, Photographer, Web Design, Fashion Designer, Museum Director, Film and Media Studies, Occupational Therapist, Print-Makers, Landscape Gardener, Freelance Artist.

# Biology

Biology is the science of “life.” It is a fascinating subject that allows us to make a difference to tomorrow’s world by helping us understand the world we live in today.

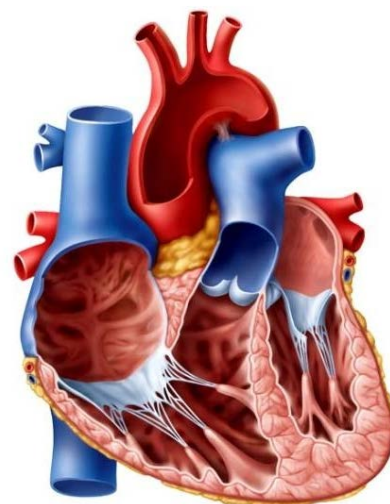
## Why choose Biology?

Studying GCSE Biology will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of the subject and its effects on society as well as appreciating the value of Biology in your lives and in the wider world around you.

It will also allow you to develop your understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations.

It is essential to study GCSE Biology if you plan to continue with the subject at AS and A2 level. To date, pupils who have studied Biology at GCSE and through to A2 level have accessed 34 different university courses and career pathways. Some of these are listed below.

Medicine	Dentistry	Nutrition	Podiatry	Biochemistry	Midwifery
Nursing	Environmental Health	Optometry	Pharmacy	Biomedical Science	
Sports Science	Veterinary Surgery	Marine Biology	Child Care		



## What will I study?

Biology can be studied at Foundation and Higher tiers.

**Unit 1:** Cells, Living Processes and Biodiversity.

**Unit 2:** Body systems, Genetics, Microorganisms and Health.

**Unit 3:** Practical skills. Controlled assessment is worth 25% of the final grade.

## How can I find out more?

Ask your Biology or Science teacher.

Ask your Careers teacher.

Look up the Biology microsite on the CCEA website – <http://www.ccea.org.uk/biology>



# Chemistry

## Why choose Chemistry?

Chemistry underpins our everyday existence. It is responsible for advances in the quality and comfort of our lives and is central to our understanding of the natural world. Everyday items we take for granted such as washing powders, cosmetics, perfumes, toothpastes and toiletries were developed with the help of chemists. Many of the challenges facing today's society will be overcome with the help of chemical scientists. Their work will be central to the development of new sustainable energy resources and new medicines to treat and cure diseases. Chemistry is an exciting, challenging subject with the potential for significant personal and financial rewards.

## What will I study?

Chemistry can be studied at Foundation and Higher tiers.

Unit 1: Structures, Trends, Chemical Reactions and Analysis

Unit 2: Further Chemical Reactions, Organic Chemistry and Materials

It should be noted that the GCSE Chemistry course contains a lot of factual material; therefore, to succeed in this area you need to be willing and able to learn many facts and cope with some difficult concepts. A good grade at GCSE opens up the possibility of studying Chemistry at AS level and beyond.

## Practical Skills Unit

Controlled Assessment is worth 25% of the final mark. Pupils complete ONE controlled assessment task.

## Career Pathways

Chemists possess an excellent range of skills, that are highly valued by employers and they can open the door to a huge range of job opportunities. Chemists are employed in areas including research, product development, analysis, health and safety, toxicology, manufacturing and technical sales.

## How can I find out more?

Ask your Chemistry or Science teacher

Ask your Careers teacher

Look up the CCEA website - <http://www.ccea.org.uk>



# English Language

English Language is a compulsory subject at GCSE. An ability to communicate effectively, either in written or oral form is also fundamental to success in the majority of subjects.

## Studying English Language at GCSE aims to encourage pupils to:

- Demonstrate skills in speaking, listening, reading and writing necessary to communicate with others confidently, effectively, precisely and appropriately;
- Express themselves creatively and imaginatively;
- Become critical readers of a range of texts, including multi-modal texts;
- Use reading to develop their own skills as writers;
- Understand the patterns, structures and conventions of written and spoken English;
- Understand the impact of variations in spoken and written language and how they relate to identity and cultural diversity; and
- Select and adapt speech and writing to different situations and audiences.

## Career Pathways

Achievement in English is a vital requirement for entry into almost all study paths and careers.

A grade C or higher is generally considered essential for all pupils wishing to proceed to university, although Further Education Colleges may be more flexible in their requirements. Careers in Media, Journalism and Law, are all examples of the types of careers that English pupils can avail of.

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: Writing for Purpose and Audience and Reading to Access Non-Fiction and Media Texts	External written examination.  Untiered 1 hour 45 minutes. Pupils respond to five tasks.	30%
Unit 2: Speaking and Listening.	Controlled assessment.  Untiered. Teachers assess the tasks and CCEA moderate the outcomes.	20%
Unit 3: Studying Spoken and Written Language.	Controlled assessment.  Untiered. Teachers assess the tasks and CCEA moderate the outcomes.	20%
Unit 4: Personal or Creative Writing and Reading Literary and Non-Fiction Texts.	External written examination.  Untiered. 1 hour 45 minutes. Pupils respond to four tasks.	30%



# English Literature

Most people choose to study English Literature because they enjoy reading and want to extend their knowledge of literature. English Literature also enhances the ability to be critical and analytical. The course develops the ability to write accurately and clearly and for pupils to be creative as they explain themes, characters, settings and their influences through social, cultural and historical situations. Prospective pupils should also consider the intrinsic benefits of studying this subject.

## It allows pupils to:

- Increase their ability in the skills already needed for the study of English, e.g. appreciate how a writer achieves particular effects;
- Develop their cultural awareness and encourage a rounded view of life;
- Learn how people behave and thus develop an understanding of human nature;
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of our literary heritage;
- Develop sophisticated analytical and critical thinking skills.

## Course Structure

Content	Assessment	Weighting
Unit 1: The Study of Prose	External examination.  1 hour 45 minutes. Section A: Novel. Section B: Unseen prose.	30%
Unit 2: The Study of Drama and Poetry	External examination.  One question on Poetry and one question on Drama.  2 hours	50%
Unit 3: The Study of Shakespeare.	Controlled assessment  CCEA sets the task each year.	20%

## Career Pathways

There are many career opportunities for those who wish to Study English Literature.

Possible careers include:

Advertising, Architecture, Business/Personnel, Civil Service, Journalism, Law, Librarian, Public Relations, Teacher/Lecturer, Television/Radio/Theatre, Social Work, Speech Therapy

Whatever you do, a qualification in English Literature is highly regarded, especially if you wish to proceed to Higher Education.



# Further Mathematics

## Introduction

- This syllabus is intended to cater for those pupils who are capable of working beyond the limits of the GCSE Mathematics syllabus (Higher Tier): it is designed to broaden the experience of pupils.
- The entry requirement from Year 10 is that the pupil will be ranked in the top 60 in their winter and summer examinations;
- Most Advanced Level Mathematics pupils have taken Further GCSE Mathematics before they progress to AS Level study, but it is not a compulsory requirement. It is compulsory for pupils wanting to access their A level in one year in the Fast-Track Mathematics class.

## Scheme of Assessment

The Grades available are A\* to E. There are three units to be studied and pupils will be examined on the following

Unit 1	Pure Mathematics	50% (2-hour exam)
Unit 2	Mechanics	25% (1-hour exam)
Unit 3	Statistics	25% (1-hour exam)

## Objectives

- To enhance pupils' knowledge and reasoning ability.
- To further pupils' interest in Mathematics.
- To extend the base from which pupils may embark on higher studies in Mathematics or other subjects which have a significant mathematical component such as Science, Geography, Technology and Business.

## WHAT CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS, THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES WILL I DEVELOP?



- You learn to communicate meaning, feelings and viewpoints in a logical and coherent manner, by using appropriate mathematical language and notation with confidence;
- You may have the opportunity to make effective use of information and communication technology in a wide range of contexts to access, manage, select and present mathematical information;
- You will apply and evaluate a range of approaches to solve problems in familiar and novel contexts.

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH A QUALIFICATION IN FURTHER MATHEMATICS?

Mathematics is becoming increasingly important in both employment and higher education.

Studying GCSE Further Mathematics helps you to build the knowledge and skills to progress to GCE Mathematics and GCE Further Mathematics. It also helps provide progression to other post-16 subjects such as STEM, Computing, Geography or Business Studies.

A qualification in further mathematics can lead to employment in any area of work where developing knowledge and skills beyond the level of GCSE Mathematics is valued.





# History

## Why should I choose to study GCSE History?

Through studying History, you will, of course, learn about some of the most major events in the past, but that also means that you will understand the present day. Why are there divisions in Northern Ireland? Why does one country invade another? Only by learning the past and understanding the context of these events can we understand the world around us today.

History is a subject that does not lead directly to one particular job, but allows pupils to develop numerous skills that help them in other subjects and in life. Through studying History, you will:

- Develop the skills employers are looking for, in particular literacy and communication skills;
- Develop skills enabling you to think rationally and process and analyse information;
- Make sense of many other subjects e.g. English Literature, RE, Geography;
- Become more critical, look beyond the headlines, ask questions properly, and to express your own opinions;
- Understand the origins of modern political and social problems;
- Appreciate that people in the past were not just 'good' or 'bad', but motivated in complex and inconsistent ways, just like us;
- Increase your knowledge of current affairs to which parallels can be drawn with past events.

## So what will I study?

GCSE History at Cookstown High School is divided into two papers with three major topics which will be studied over two years.

### Nazi Germany 1933-45

1. How Hitler became a dictator
2. How the lives of ordinary Germans changed
3. How World War II affected Germany

### Northern Ireland 1965-1998

1. The origins of the Troubles
2. Main events during the Troubles
3. How the Good Friday Agreement helped bring peace

### International Relations 1945-2003

1. Why there was rivalry between Russia and the USA after 1945
2. How and why tensions changed throughout the period
3. New tensions which emerged between the West and terrorism

## How will I be assessed?

You will complete two exams in History:

Paper 1 – Depth Studies (2 hours) which will be completed in Year 11 (60% of GCSE)

- Germany
- Northern Ireland

Paper 2 – Overview Study (1 hour 15 minutes) which will be completed in Year 12 (40% of GCSE)

- International relations

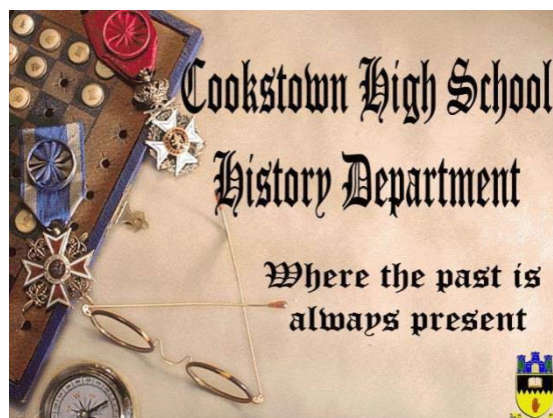
## What can I do with History?

You can do anything with History - there are historians in politics, in broadcasting, the civil service, journalism, law, the army and police, and there are quite a few historians on the board of directors of major companies.

For example, in recent years in Cookstown, we have seen our A Level historians going to Cambridge, Edinburgh, Cardiff and, of course many more universities both at home and across the sea. They have studied a wide variety of subjects, including Politics, Languages, Medicine, Engineering, Law and, of course, History. This is proof that History will help open doors for you, whatever you choose to study, because of the skills you will develop.

## Transferable skills that are developed through studying history:

- Researching Information and analysing data;
- Making decisions based on evidence;
- Being creative and solving problems;
- Evaluating and interpreting information;
- Literacy: written and spoken communication.



# Home Economics: Food and Nutrition

## WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Key features of GCSE Home Economics: Food & Nutrition

- Allows pupils to progress from the Key Stage 3 content to A Level Nutrition and Food Science and other related courses, where appropriate;
- Content is divided into two manageable units;
- Course is assessed through one written paper and one controlled assessment task (which includes an element of food preparation as well as written elements).

## CONTENT

### Food and Nutrition

Pupils learn about the nutritional content of foods and how the specific nutritional and dietary needs of different people can be met by modifying recipes, and planning, preparing and cooking meals and dishes that reflect current government nutritional guidelines. They also study how to be an effective consumer in relation to food choice, food safety and managing resources.



Topics include:

- Food provenance
- Food processing and production
- Food and nutrition for good health
- Nutrients (sources, functions and deficiencies)
- Nutrition throughout the lifecycle
- Dietary disorders
- Being an effective consumer when shopping for food
- Factors affecting food choice
- Food safety
- Resource management
- Food preparation, cooking and presentation skills

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Unit	Type of Assessment
Component 1: Food and Nutrition 50% of GCSE	One external examination (2 hours)
Component 2: Practical Food and Nutrition 50% of GCSE	Controlled assessment

## Through studying GCSE Home Economics, learners will have the opportunities to develop:

- The means to follow a broad, coherent, satisfying and worthwhile course of study;
- The knowledge, understanding and skills (including practical skills) required for Home Economics;
- Their knowledge and understanding of human needs within a multicultural society;
- Their knowledge and understanding of relevant technological and scientific developments;
- A critical and analytical approach to decision-making and problem-solving in relation to the specified content;
- The ability to examine issues that affect the quality of human life, including an appreciation of diversity;
- The ability to evaluate choices and decisions, to develop as informed and discerning consumers;
- The ability to actively engage in the processes of Home Economics to develop as effective and independent learners.

## RELATED CAREER PATHWAYS

Environmental health officer	Consumer adviser
Home Economist	Education/teaching
Catering	Nutritionist
Hotel management	Dietician
Retail management	Market researcher
Hospitality	Nurse
Food management	Trading standards officer
	Health promotion officer

## RELATED COURSES

Environmental health	Hotel and catering
Consumer studies	Leisure and tourism
Marketing	Health promotion
Food production	Nutrition
Food technology	Dietetics
Food science	Social work
Food management & supply	Hospitality
	Nursing

# Mathematics

Mathematics is a compulsory subject at GCSE.

The study of Mathematics is extremely important in understanding the part that Mathematics plays in the world around us – in the ratio and proportion of art works, the scores of well-known songs, the content of a favourite recipe and in the structure of our daily lives. Mathematics is also at the core of many other subjects including Science, Engineering and Economics. The study of Mathematics will allow pupils to develop skills in problem solving and the ability to reason logically.

Those pupils who have shown interest and aptitude in Maths may also study Further Mathematics. GCSE Maths (Higher Level) facilitates the study of Maths at AS and A2 Level and equally the study of related subjects such as Physics, Technology etc.

The study of the GCSE Maths modules M4 and M8 is a requirement for taking Maths at AS and A2 Level. It should be noted, however, that to access the ‘fast-track’ Maths course where A2 Maths is completed in one year pupils must have taken the module M4 and M8 and Further Maths at GCSE.

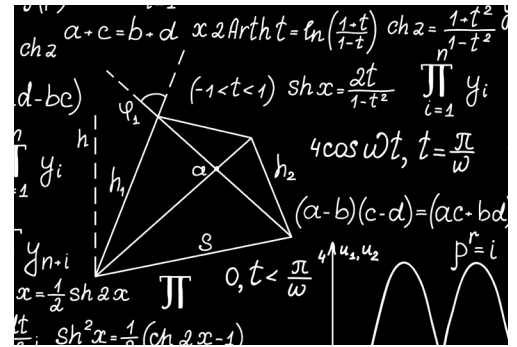
## Assessment Objectives

- Recall and use their knowledge of the prescribed content
- Select and apply mathematical methods in a range of contexts
- Interpret and analyse problems and generate strategies to solve them.

## Assessment structure

There are 2 tiers of entry – **Foundation** and **Higher**.

Target grades are	Foundation Tier	G, F, E, D, C, C*
	Higher Tier	D, C, C* B, A, A*

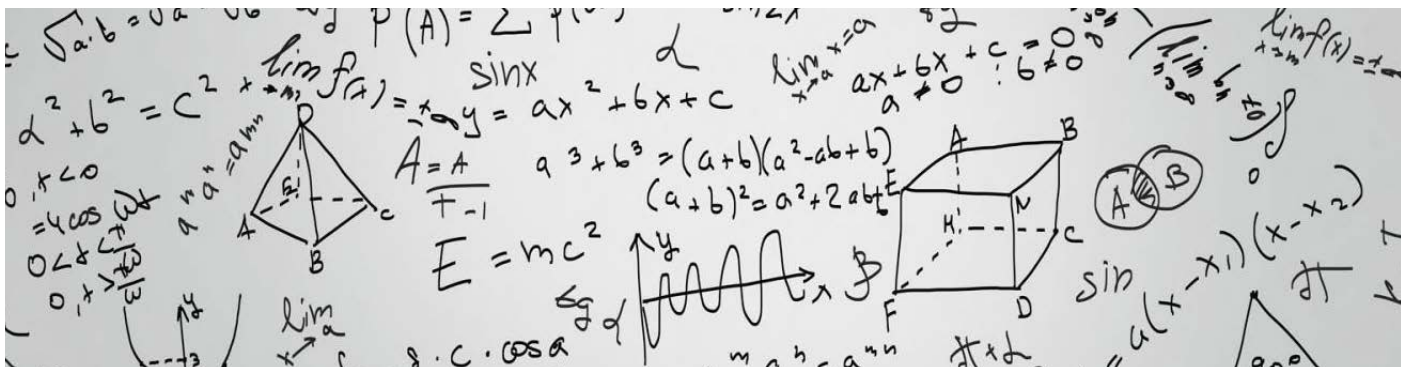


Every candidate has access to a grade C.

The exam structure is Modular and candidates will sit one paper in June of Year 11 which contributes to **45% of their final grade**. The use of a calculator will be permitted in this exam and only at the end of Year 12, will there be a full non-calculator paper.

Quality of Written Communication will be assessed with particular emphasis on spelling, punctuation, grammar and concise mathematical argument in a multi-step problem.

It is essential that pupils are committed if they are to achieve the grade of which they are capable.



# Modern Languages

“If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his own language, that goes to his heart.” - Nelson Mandela

## Why study a language at GCSE?

Learning a language can be a fun and entertaining process. We all need a little bit of inspiration now and then. Knowledge of languages can be the doorway which will strengthen your ability to focus, memorize, and comprehend material. It challenges you to recognise, negotiate meaning, and communicate in a different language system. This skill boosts your ability to negotiate meaning in other problem-solving tasks as well. This is a precious skill all employers regard highly!



Learning another language is not only learning different words for the same things but learning another way to think. With language learning, you are at home anywhere. You develop new skills as you improve your own language and a new way to look, think and speak to the world around you. If one language sets you in a corridor for life, learning another language opens many a door along the way.

## What will I study?

The course is structured around three contexts of Learning.

- Context 1: Identity, Lifestyle & Culture
- Context 2: Local, National, International and Global Areas of Interest
- Context 3: School Life, Studies and the World of Work



You will revisit key stage 3 topics. Study and practice in class will enable you to develop and acquire skills as well as knowledge of topics which will be assessed in the Summer Term of Year 12 as follow:

Unit 1 Listening	25%	Foundation (35m) or Higher Tier (45m) Paper
Unit 2 Speaking	25%	Two Roleplays (1-2 m) and Topical conversations (2-3m each)
Unit 3 Reading	25%	Foundation (50m) or Higher Tier (60m) Paper
Unit 4 Writing	25%	Foundation (1h) or Higher Tier (1h15m) Paper



## What options are available after GCSE?

Operating effectively in a global economy relies on many skills and includes language skills. People who can communicate, at least conversationally, can make all the difference in the conduct of business, consolidating relationships with existing suppliers and customers and opening the way to new overseas contacts. When combined with STEM skills, the career opportunities in a vast array of sectors widens.

## What degrees can I pursue?

A language at GCSE opens multiple pathways at A Level and beyond. In Queen’s University Belfast, the study of a language at degree level can be combined with a wide range of subjects.

**A language with Science, History, Politics, Business, Mathematics, International Studies Common and Civil Law and Applied languages**  
*Chemistry with Spanish | MSci , French and History | BA or History and Spanish | BA, French or Spanish and Politics | BA , Business Studies (Major) with French or Spanish| BSc, (Major) with Spanish or French| BSc, English and Spanish or French| BA, French and Spanish | BA, Spanish and Portuguese*

**GCSE 2022**

**FRENCH 57.1%**

**SPANISH 63.0%**

**of pupils achieved an A\* or an A in Cookstown High**

# Music



Music is a subject with many values and transferable skills which can be useful in a range of career paths. As a musician, you will work as an individual and in group settings, making creative choices and communicating with others. During the course, a wide range of music is studied across four areas of study:

- Western Classical Music
- Film Music
- Musical Traditions of Ireland
- Popular Music from 1980 to present day

The set works cover a range from Mozart to Ulster Scots music, from the theme music to 'Superman' to Florence + the Machine, so there is something for all tastes in music. This will increase your awareness of a range of styles, and you will consider the impact music has on our lives.

A suite of Apple iMac work stations in the Music Department opens opportunities for you to explore your imagination and communicate in new ways as you complete the composition tasks for Controlled Assessment.

## Course Outline:

Pupils complete study of 11 set works across the four areas of study shown above. Other music relating to these set works are also studied, to fully understand the characteristics of each style.

Controlled Assessment tasks include the completion of two original compositions, and the performance of a practical programme.

### Component 1: Performing and Appraising:

Up to 6 minutes, one solo and one ensemble piece and a discussion.

(30% performance, 5% discussion = 35% weighting)

### Component 2: Composing and Appraising:

Total length: 3-6 minutes, two compositions, one in response to pre-released stimulus. (30% weighting)

The composing component is assessed through Controlled Assessment in school. The performance component is assessed by a visiting examiner, but prepared for within a Controlled Assessment time allowance.

### Component 3: Listening and Appraising:

One test of aural perception, focusing on the set works and related pieces of to each area of study. This lasts for 90 minutes. (35% weighting)

## Why Study Music?

Music is very useful for lots of careers, such as primary teaching, careers in media, journalism, and more musically focused careers such as performing, composing, PR and theatre management. Studying Music allows you to discover lots of transferable skills, useful in any work environment: working with others, being self-disciplined, working to a deadline, being creative, thinking analytically, problem-solving and dealing with nerves through performance.

## Career Pathways in Music:

*Education:* Primary and post-primary teaching, and music therapy

*Media:* TV producer, director, advertising

*Studio work:* sound engineer, mixer, DJ

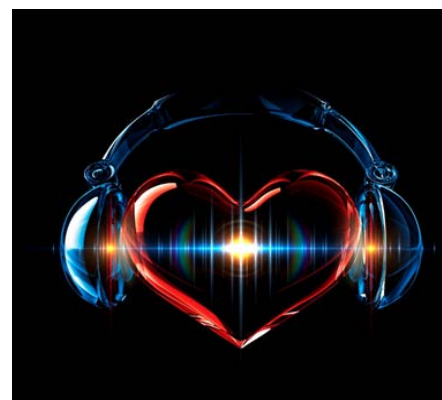
*Composer:* film music, radio jingles, song-writing

*Performer:* singer, instrumentalist, session musician

*Theatre manager:* ballet, opera, musical theatre

Actor, Stage-manager, Music publishing,

Music Librarian, Instrument technician.







# Physics

Physics helps us understand the world around us, the world inside us and the world beyond us.

## Why study Physics?

Pupils who study Physics want to really understand how things work.

- From the smallest atoms to solids, liquids and gases.
- From the human brain to supercomputers.
- From planets and stars to the galaxy itself.

Along with Design and Technology and Maths, Physics forms much of what we refer to as engineering.

A good grade at GCSE opens up the possibility of studying Physics at AS level or beyond. As Physics is a highly regarded and versatile subject at A level it is useful for gaining admission to many degree courses and a surprisingly wide variety of careers.

Physicists can end up in all sorts of interesting jobs and are virtually never unemployed because of their broad training and adaptability.

They can have careers in engineering, computer programming, optics, research, teaching, communications, health, design, IT, finance, law, marine science, ecology, meteorology, archaeology, architecture, forensics and surveying, to mention but a few.

## What will I study?

Physics can be studied at Foundation and Higher tiers.

Unit 1: Motion, Force, Moments, Energy, Density, Kinetic Theory, Radioactivity, Nuclear Fission and Fusion

Unit 2: Waves, Light, Electricity, Magnetism, Electromagnetism and Space Physics

Unit 3: Practical skills which is worth 25% of the final grade, and comprises of;

- Booklet A which is externally marked. Pupils carry out two practicals in their final year of study.
- Booklet B - external written examination. Pupils answer compulsory structured questions that include short responses, extended writing and calculations, all set in a practical context.

## How can I find out more?

Ask your Physics or Science teacher

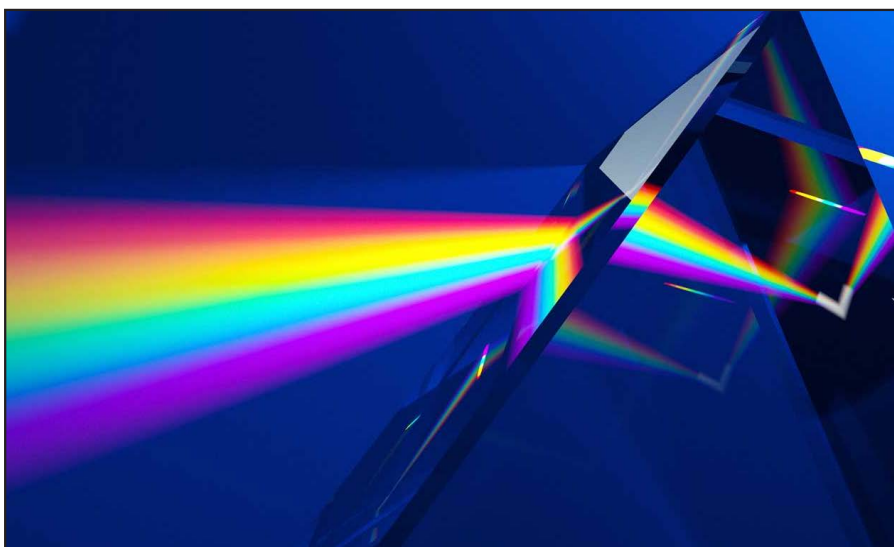
Ask your Careers teacher

Look for information on the internet

E.g. CCEA website – <http://www.ccea.org.uk/physics>

## Career Pathways

Studying Physics teaches you transferrable skills which are highly sought after in both the work place and further education. Some areas of employment for which it is particularly valuable to have studied Physics are: medicine and dentistry, veterinary, finance, research and development, manufacturing, engineering, management roles and many more.



# Religious Studies

Religious Studies helps us to understand the world around by considering what we personally believe and the beliefs of others. It is an interesting subject which gives lots of opportunity for exploring a wide range of ideas.

## Why choose R.S.?

This subject may be a good choice for you if you enjoy expressing your views and justifying them, whilst debating with others who may have a different point of view.

If you are interested in learning about areas of medical ethics, such as abortion, euthanasia and fertility treatment, this may be a good choice for you.



## What will you study?

Pupils will study two units: Christian Ethics and Matthew's Gospel.

Christian Ethics	Matthew's Gospel
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Personal and Family Issues – relationships, marriage and divorce.</li> <li>Matters of Life and Death – the abortion debate, the euthanasia debate and capital punishment.</li> <li>Medical Ethics – IVF, Surrogacy.</li> <li>Equality – social justice, Christian duty to disadvantaged groups, issues of racism and discrimination and religious diversity.</li> <li>War and Peace – the pacifism debate and the Just War tradition.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Identity of Jesus</li> <li>Jesus the Miracle Worker</li> <li>The Kingdom of God</li> <li>The Death and Resurrection of Jesus</li> <li>The Place and Nature of Christian Discipleship</li> </ul> <p>These topics will be considered from both a Biblical and modern day perspective.</p>

## How will you be assessed?

Content	Assessment	When the Assessment is taken	Weighting
Unit 6 – Ethics	Examination - 1 hr 30 mins	End of Year 11	50%
Unit 4 – Matthew's Gospel	Examination - 1 hr 30 mins	End of Year 12	50%
GCSE Religious Studies does not have a controlled assessment element			

## What Skills will develop in this subject?

Researching information. Questioning, investigation and exploration. Analysis and evaluation, e.g. "Why do some people believe that?" Thinking and problem solving. Decision making. Appreciation of and sensitivity to the view of others. Communication skills and the ability to work with others. ICT

## Career Note – How can I use my Religious Studies Qualification in the Future?

You can do anything with Religious Studies and it provides a good background for any career where understanding about people is an asset.

Possible Career Pathways include: social work, counselling, teaching, youth work, journalism, the police, broadcasting, the medical and caring professions (nursing - the Medical Ethics element is particularly useful for this), human resource management.

## Points to consider

1. Pupils have the maturity to think about what they believe and why, in addition to taking into consideration the views of others.
2. Helps to develop your written and oral communication skills, both of which are really important when you are applying for jobs in the future.
3. Helps you to know and understand more about the world in which you live.
4. Encourages you to think and to ask questions, rather than accepting as fact everything you are told.

Year 11 and 12 pupils who do not opt for GCSE R.S. will study Religious Education for one period per week for approximately ten weeks, in a carousel system.  
This will be non-examination based.

# Single Award Science

Single Award Science encourages pupils to appreciate the value of Science in their lives and in the wider world around them.

## Why choose Single Award Science?

Studying Single Award Science will allow you to develop your knowledge and understanding of the material, physical and living worlds as well as appreciating the nature of science and its applications to society. It will also allow you to develop your understanding of the relationships between hypotheses, evidence, theories and explanations.

## What will I study?

Single Award Science can be studied at Foundation tier.

Unit 1: Biology

Unit 2: Chemistry

Unit 3: Physics

Unit 4: Practical Skills

Each Unit is worth 25% of the final grade. The course is modular and you will sit one of the units in February of Year 11, another in November of Year 12 and the final two units in May/June of Year 12. The practical examination will be scheduled at the school's discretion usually between November and February of Year 12.

## How can I find out more?

Ask your Science teacher.

Ask your Careers teacher.

Look up the Science microsite on the CCEA website – <http://www.ccea.org.uk/science>



# Section 2:

## Applied Subjects

### Agriculture and Land Use

#### Why choose Agriculture and Land Use?

Studying GCSE Agriculture and Land Use will give you the opportunity to develop your knowledge about agricultural activity and appreciate how this can enhance productivity in the land-based and environmental sectors. It will also allow you to increase your awareness of the relationships between humans and the environment. Pupils achieving a GCSE in Agriculture and Land Use can progress to Further Education, training and employment.

#### What will I study?

Unit 1: Soils, Crops and Habitats.

Unit 2: Animals on the Land.

Unit 3: Contemporary Issues in Agriculture and Land Use. Pupils complete two controlled assessment tasks. Controlled assessment is worth 50% of the final grade.

#### How can I find out more?

Ask your Science teacher.

Ask your Careers teacher.

Look up the Agriculture and Land Use microsite on the CCEA website – <http://www.ccea.org.uk/agriculture>



# Business Studies

Business Studies provides pupils with a unique insight into the world of work. Through its study, pupils discover how businesses operate and learn about their key elements and essential business functions. This knowledge, and the holistic understanding that develops, is invaluable to those pupils who are approaching or are currently in the workplace. GCSE Business Studies is a single tier exam. Attainable grades range from A\*-G. *This subject is only available in Pathway 1.*

## Course Content

**GCSE Business Studies Unit 1** includes an introduction to the fundamentals of starting up a business. We will examine why businesses start and the resources required to maintain and grow them. Pupils will explore business aims and the impact that various stakeholder groups have on businesses. Pupils will also explore marketing options and consider the impact of e-business on potential growth strategies. Consideration will be given to why businesses conform to quality assurance and health and safety legislation.

**GCSE Business Studies Unit 2** examines recruitment and selection practices and analyses the importance of a business having a motivated and well-trained workforce. We will identify the signs of business success and failure and evaluate the different ways in which businesses grow. Pupils will learn about finance. They will examine the sources of finance and complete basic cash flow forecasts, as well as interpret simple financial statements. When analysing business performance, pupils will consider concepts such as ratio analysis and Break-Even.

Content	Assessment	Weightings
Unit 1: Starting a Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating a Business</li> <li>• Marketing</li> <li>• Business Operations</li> </ul>	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Short structured questions and extended writing	40%
Unit 2: Developing a Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Resources</li> <li>• Business Growth</li> <li>• Finance</li> </ul>	External written examination 1 hour 30 mins Short structured questions and extended writing	40%
Unit 3: Planning a Business (Synoptic) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Business Plan</li> </ul>	Controlled assessment Pupils complete the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Booklet A: Planning; and</li> <li>• Booklet B: Communicate Findings.</li> </ul> Teachers mark the task, and CCEA moderate the results.	20%

## Career Pathways

There are many career pathways for those who decide to study Business Studies at A Level.

These possible careers include:

Administration roles, Advertising, Accounting, Banking, Business Consultancy, Communications, Data Analyst, Retail Management, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Hospitality & Events Management, Law, Civil Service, Visual Merchandising, Product Design and Online & Digital Marketing Consultant.

Business Studies will not only benefit pupils interested in Business Activity but the skills gained in covering the course will benefit them greatly in their personal lives no matter what career they chose to follow



*“Don’t sit down and wait for opportunities to come. Get up and make them.”*

**Madam C. J. Walker**  
First female self-made millionaire in America  
Excellence. Opportunity. Support



# Engineering

## Why Choose BTEC First Extended Certificate in Engineering?

BTEC first extended certificate is equivalent to two GCSEs at grade A\* to C. The course focuses on education and training related to jobs within the engineering industry.

## What will I be doing?

The course is divided into 7 units. You will follow:

Two core units, two mandatory units and three specialist units.

Core units

- 1 The Engineered World External exam
- 2 Investigating an Engineered Product Internal

## Mandatory units

- 3 Interpreting and using Engineering Information External exam
- 4 Mathematics for Engineering Internal

## Optional specialist units

- 5 Health and Safety in Engineering Internal
- 6 Computer-aided Engineering Internal
- 7 Machining Techniques (subject to change) Internal

## Will there be coursework?

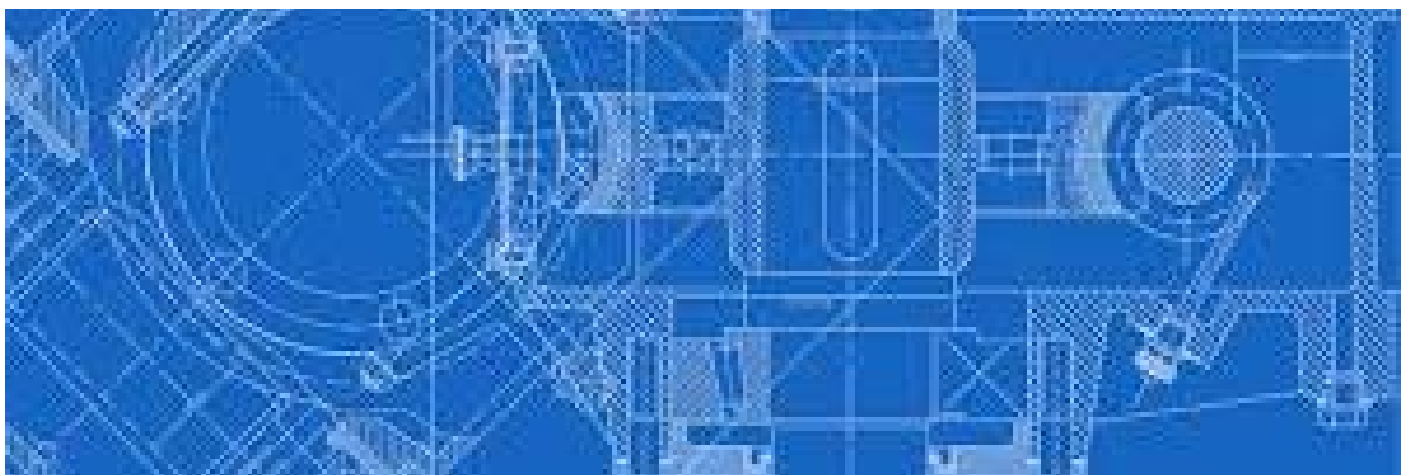
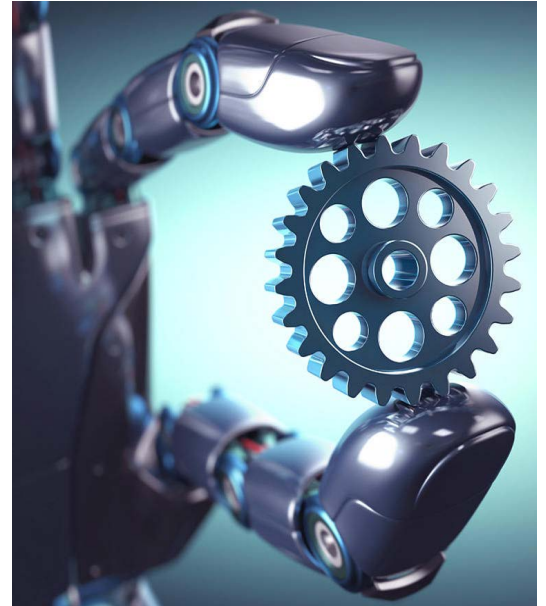
The course is 70% coursework based. You will have two external exams. You will be assessed in a variety of ways for your coursework this will include practical, written work, presentations and report writing.

## What will happen in lessons?

The lessons will vary according to the subject and level but all pupils should experience most of these activities:

- Discussion - one to one or in groups
- Research – group or individual using a variety of methods
- Report writing – manually or using ICT
- Presentations – in groups or individually
- Practical work
- Observations
- Display work

Commitment to work is essential for Engineering



# BTEC Level 2 First Certificate in Health and Social Care

This qualification is the equivalent to 2 GCSEs and can be continued at National Diploma /A Level in Sixth Form.

This work related qualification is designed to provide you with a choice of routes into Further Education, University or Employment. You do not need to have studied Health and Social Care before starting the course. It is important that you have an enquiring mind, an interest in Health and Social Care, a willingness to explore new ideas and an ability to communicate your ideas effectively.

## Why should I study this subject?

You will:

- Gain knowledge and understanding about Health, Social Care and Early Years services and how they operate;
- Have an opportunity to apply learning in a practical and realistic way;
- Enjoy studying a subject that is relevant to your life and experiences;
- Gain confidence by developing independent learning skills;
- Develop key skills which are highly valued by employers and Further Education;
- Be able to move onto a related career or higher education course.

## What will I learn?

The course consists of the following: 2 mandatory core units (Compulsory) and 4 optional units.

Core Units/Mandatory Units

Unit 1- Human Lifespan Development (Exam)

Unit 2- Health and Social Care Values

Unit 3- Effective Communication in Health and Social Care

Unit 9- Healthy Living (Exam)

## Optional Specialist Units

Unit 4- Social Influences on Health and Wellbeing

Unit 5- Promoting Health and Wellbeing

Unit 6- The impact of Nutrition on Health and Wellbeing

Unit 7- Equality and Diversity in Health and Social Care

Unit 8- Individual Rights in Health and Social Care

Unit 10- Human Body Systems and Care of Disorders

Unit 12- Creative and Therapeutic Activities in Health and Social Care



## How will I be assessed?

The total mark for the course consists of 75% coursework and 25% external exams.

## Skills Taught

During the course you will be taught many skills including communication skills, ICT skills, practical skills, presentation skills, organisational skills, analytical skills, observational skills and research skills.

## Careers Pathways in Health and Social Care

Nursing, Social Work, Teaching, Child Care, Psychology, Nursery, Education, Counselling, Charity Work, Youth & Community Work, Welfare & Social Services, Administration in Health & Social Services, Research, Management, Social Policy and Health Promotion.







# Technology and Design

Technology and Design at GCSE involves you showing an understanding of:

**Materials:** types of materials, uses of materials, how to join and finish them. Manufacturing processes in industry, computer aided design and computer aided manufacturing

**Systems and control:** electronics, microelectronics, mechanisms and pneumatics.

**Product design:** market demand, client research, analysis, design, evaluation.

**Product design assignment:** design process, sketching and drawing, product analysis and evaluation. This will consist of a design assignment folder set by CCEA, consisting of a maximum of 12 excellent quality A3 design sheets.

**Design project:** pupils will complete a making project set by CCEA.

GCSE provides a thorough preparation for the study of Technology and Design and related courses at GCE AS and A Level. It allows pupils to develop transferable skills, which will benefit them in vocational training and employment.

## Benefits to pupils:

- Develop as effective and independent learners
- An ability to make decisions
- Knowledge and understanding to design and make quality products
- Analyse existing products and develop practical solutions to needs
- Decision-making skills
- An understanding that designing and making reflect and influence people
- Skills of creativity and critical analysis, through making links between existing solutions, technological knowledge and the principles of good design

## The content that we will study is:

Unit 1: Technology and Design Core - 25%

Externally assessed written paper examination lasts 1.5 hours

Unit 3: Product Design - 25%

Externally assessed written paper examination lasts 1.5 hours.

Unit 4: Design Project - 50%

Controlled assessment 2 CCEA set the project. Pupils take either:

- Element 1: Systems Design and Manufacturing; or
- Element 2: Product Design and Manufacturing.

**Unit 1 will be completed in Year 11 and unit 4 started.**

**Year 12 will complete coursework and unit 4 the Design project.**



# Applied ICT (BTEC - Information and Creative Technology)

## Currently Offering:

BTEC Applied ICT (2 x GCSE)

## Teaching:

As a double GCSE this course will be taught over 6 periods each week.

The majority of the time will be spent using computers to complete subject related tasks and assignments. Two units of the BTEC are now examined with a value of 25% of the course.

## Course Content:

BTEC Applied ICT is a unit-based course that has allowed us to tailor the units selected for completion to pupil's interests.

The units we currently have selected for completion within our Double GCSE include:

- Technology Systems (30 GLH) – Examination
- Online World (30 GLH) – Examination
- Database (60 GLH) – Pupil Assignments
- Website Design (60 GLH) – Pupil Assignments
- Digital Portfolio (30 GLH) – Pupil Assignments
- Website development (30 GLH) – Pupil Assignment

This is an ideal qualification for those who prefer completing large amounts of project work and assignments, and have fewer examinations. The course progresses naturally to further study of an Applied ICT qualification at A-Level. Those who complete this course will be well suited to roles which use computers.

## Edexcel:

This qualification has been developed to provide a broad educational basis for further training, further education or moving into appropriate employment within the ICT sector. Units have been designed to be delivered through work related contexts and allow learners to develop an understanding of the sector.

## Progression Opportunities

On successful completion of Level 2, you can consider progression on to our Level 3 Diploma in IT

You will have gained knowledge and skill in the use of software and equipment related to:

- Database development and management
- Spreadsheet development and management
- Website development

## Note:

This may not be the best pathway for pupils who wish to study Computing at university level.



information  
and  
communication  
technology



**Course Name:**

OCN Level 2 Certificate in IT Applications

**Qualification Aim:**

Today's work environment depends increasingly on a range of technologies. The OCN NI Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications is designed to provide learner with the IT skills required to function successfully in work environments and in further studies.

**Content:**

The course is comprised of Information Technology knowledge and skill development in the use of a range of ICT Applications. Within Cookstown High School we have selected units that provide a broad range of experiences relevant for modern work environments and will prepare them for the future.

**The units which deliver include:**

- IT User Fundamentals (3 credits)
- Presentation Software (2 credits)
- Email Software Skills (3 credits)
- Website Software (4 credits)
- Imaging Software (4 credits)

**Assessment:**

Assessment is based on 100% internal task and coursework assessment with no mandatory examinations selected by Cookstown High School.

Unit Achievement: Each unit achievement/pass earns OCN certification for the skills and knowledge gained related to and development of a portfolio of evidence and practical demonstration.

GCSE Grade B: Students who achieve a total of 15 unit credits (passing all 5 units) will earn a 'Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications'. A Level 2 Certificate is equivalent to a 'B' in GCSE.

**Future Pathways:**

Unit certification will be valuable for any future employment applications and will contribute towards mandatory ICT components of apprenticeships.

OCN ICT '**Level 2 Certificate in Information Technology Applications**' is equivalent to a grade B in GCSE and should be counted towards entry requirements to future courses.

**Course Name:**

OCN Level 2 Certificate in Employability Skills

**Qualification Aim:**

These qualifications have been designed to provide learners with a range of employability skills that are key to preparing them for the workplace. To achieve this qualification, learners must successfully complete a minimum of 15 credits from the optional units.

**Content:**

The objectives of the qualifications are to assist learners in acquiring the skills, attributes and behaviours that are needed to enter and succeed in the world of work. The qualifications provide flexibility and choice in the delivery of units, providing learners with the opportunity to gain skills and knowledge in the areas most relevant to them. Some of the key skills developed include.

- Producing a CV
- Searching for Employment Opportunities
- Interview Skills
- Workplace Communication and Relationships
- Leadership Skills
- Problem solving in the workplace

**Assessment:**

Assessment is based on 100% internal task and coursework assessment with no mandatory examinations selected by Cookstown High School.

Unit Achievement: Each unit achievement/pass earns OCN certification for the skills and knowledge gained related to and development of a portfolio of evidence and practical demonstration.

GCSE Grade B: Students who achieve a total of 15-unit credits (passing all 5 units) will earn a “Level 2 Certificate in Employability Skills”. A Level 2 Certificate is equivalent to a ‘B’ in GCSE.

**Future Pathways:**

Unit certification will be valuable for any future employment applications and will be counted towards entry requirements to future courses.



## Course Name:

OCN Level 2 Certificate and Diploma in Healthy Living

## Qualification Aim:

The qualification provide learners with an opportunity to know how to develop a healthy lifestyle. They allow learners to gain an accredited qualification in the area of healthy living. The OCN NI qualifications in Healthy Living enable progression into further learning in this area or into employment.

The OCN NI qualifications in Healthy Living are designed to allow learners to develop skills and knowledge in health/hygiene, home and personal safety awareness, issues around body image and understanding the impact of eating disorders.

## Content:

### Physical Health

- Healthy Living for the Individual
- Understanding Healthy Eating
- Exercise and Fitness
- Health Promotion
- Life Stages of Human Development
- Understanding Nutrition



### Mental Well-Being

- Mental Health Awareness
- Stress Management Techniques
- Understanding the Impact of Eating Disorders
- Introduction to Counselling for Wellbeing



### Social Development

- Media Influences on Own Body Image
- Communication Skills in the Workplace
- Employment Placement
- Employment within Hospitality, Sport and/or care
- Keeping Safe Online



## Assessment:

Assessment is based on 100% internal task and coursework assessment with no mandatory examinations selected by Cookstown High School.

GCSE Grade B: Students who achieve a total of 15-unit credits (passing all 5 units) will earn a “**Level 2 Certificate in Healthy Living**”. A Level 2 Certificate is equivalent to a ‘B’ in GCSE.

## Future Pathways:

The qualification will benefit those interested in a career involving supporting a healthy lifestyle such as fitness instruction, dietetics, PE teaching, personal training and many more.

**Course Name:**

OCN Level 2 Certificate in Personal Success and Well-Being

**Qualification Aim:**

The OCN NI Personal Success and Well-Being qualifications have been designed to support a balanced curriculum by assisting the learner with effective development in personal, social, health and well-being. They build on the broad objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, aiming on empowering young people to achieve their potential and help them deal more effectively with personal and social issues that may affect their physical and mental health.

**Content:**

The modules to be studied are outlined below:

- Exploring Personal Identity
- Exploring Relationships
- Managing Risk
- Exploring Cultural Identity
- Understanding Healthy Lifestyles
- Understanding Individual Rights and Responsibilities
- Enrichment Activity
- Improving Confidence
- Understanding Teamwork
- Prejudice and Discrimination

**Assessment:**

Assessment is based on 100% internal task and coursework assessment with no mandatory examinations selected by Cookstown High School.

Unit Achievement: Each unit achievement/pass earns OCN certification for the skills and knowledge gained related to and development of a portfolio of evidence and practical demonstration.

GCSE Grade B: Students who achieve a total of 15-unit credits (passing all 5 units) will earn a “**Level 2 Certificate in Personal Success and Well-Being**”. A Level 2 Certificate is equivalent to a ‘B’ in GCSE.

**Future Pathways:**

Unit certification will be valuable for any future employment applications and will be counted towards entry requirements to future course.





**Cookstown High School**  
**Coolnafranky Demesne**  
**Cookstown**  
**BT80 8PQ**

Chair of Board of Governors  
**Mrs Lynne Dripps, BA**

Principal  
**Miss Gwyneth Evans**  
*BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH*

Vice Principals  
**Mrs Claire Allen**  
*BA, PGCE, PQH(NI)*  
**Mr Andrew McGeown**  
*BSc, PGCE*

Senior Teachers  
**Mrs Fiona Gormley**  
*BMus (Hons.), MEd, PGCE, ATCL (Rec.), Cert.  
FSMus., FCIEA, PGCert.*  
**Mr Robert Johnston**  
*BEd, MSc, PGCE, PQH(NI)*

Telephone  
**028 867 63632**

Email  
**[info@chs.cookstown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@chs.cookstown.ni.sch.uk)**

Website  
**[www.cookstownhighschool.org](http://www.cookstownhighschool.org)**

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Annual Report of the Board of Governors can be  
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It should not be assumed that there will be no change  
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**Excellence. Opportunity. Support.**