

## **Choosing your subjects at KS4**

The National Curriculum offers a broad education for all students. Some subjects are compulsory and others are optional.

### **You must take:**

GCSE's in English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Science and ICT  
Non examination courses in Physical Education and The Life Course.

In addition you can choose a variety of optional courses and qualifications.

### **When choosing a subject you should consider:**

- Your ability in the subject
- Your interest in the subject
- The balance of the whole package of subjects that you are taking.
- Your learning style. Some subjects have a high proportion of practical work and coursework. Others are more theoretical and there is a greater emphasis on final examinations.

### **You should not choose a subject because:**

- You like the teacher. The teacher may leave or you may not be in that particular group.
- Your friends have chosen it. Your friends may not be in the same group or they may have a different ability to you in that subject. Do you always work your best with your friends?
- You think that it is an easy subject. All GCSE's are difficult, there are no easy options!
- Someone else thinks you should choose it. You are the person that has to do the work for two years.
- Someone has told you that it will help you to get a job. Employers want to see good grades, excellent attendance and good attitudes instead of lower grades in a subject that you, or someone else, thought would be useful.

## The Options Process

To help you choose there are five parts to the Options process:

1. The Key Stage 4 Course Booklet

This Options booklet is designed to give you a short summary of each subject. There is also advice on how to choose.

2. The Key Stage 4 Course Fair

**Wednesday, 27<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

At the Options Fair there will be an opportunity to find out more about the subjects that interest you. There will be displays of class work and coursework. There will also be time to talk to teachers and students already taking the subject. Representatives from external providers such as Furness College and Barrow 6<sup>th</sup> form College will also be on hand to answer questions.

3. The Year 9 RoA

**Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2010**

You will receive a full Record of Achievement just before the Options Form is due. This will tell you and your parents how you are currently performing.

4. The Year 9 Parents Evening

**Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010**

At this evening you will be able to talk to your teachers about your choices and ask any final questions. You will also be able to make appointments with staff responsible for special needs or gifted and talented children. There will be an advice desk run by Mr Dyer.

5. Option forms returned to form teachers

**Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

## Compulsory Courses

### English

GCSE

GCSE English assesses pupils' ability in speaking and listening, reading and writing. Pupils will complete controlled assessments on creative writing, prose study and spoken language. Speaking and listening tasks comprise of Drama, individual presentations and paired work. In preparation for the exam pupils develop skills in analysing non-fiction and media texts. Over the two years pupils develop their own writing skills to match purpose, audience and form.

### English Literature

GCSE

GCSE English Literature is the study of drama, prose and poetry. The examination consists of controlled assessments on Shakespeare and poetry. Pupils study a drama text and two novels for the final examination. Pupils are also examined on unseen poetry.

### ICT - OCR Nationals - Level 2

GCSE

The OCR Nationals in ICT have been developed to recognise learner's skills, knowledge and understanding of Information and Communication Technology functions, environments and operations. The course requires learners to carry out a range of tasks that have been designed to recognise their achievements in a modern, practical way that is relevant to the workplace.

### Mathematics

GCSE

At KS4 there are two tiers of entry for the GCSE. Higher (grades A\* to D) and Foundation (grades C to G).

There are no requirements to complete coursework in Mathematics but you will still be completing investigations and problem solving activities.

This is a modular exam and there are three exams to be taken spread across Y10 and Y11. Unit 1 is Statistics and Number, Unit 2 is Number and Algebra and Unit 3 is Geometry and Algebra. All of these exams count towards the final grade so it is really important that pupils put every effort into getting their best grades in all of their exams. Unit 1 and 3 will be taken in Year 10 and Unit 5 is taken in Year 11 so attendance across Year 10 and Year 11 is really important.

In all three units there may be some constructions to do, so a protractor and a pair of compasses will be necessary. Units 1 and 3 require a calculator so it is essential that each pupil has his or her own scientific calculator.

It's not just about solving equations and working out fractions though, you will also get to build 3D shapes, calculate the probability of Mr Sinton winning the lottery and learn about the Math's you might need when you leave school.

### Science

GCSE

There are two options for the Science GCSEs:

Most pupils undertake the AQA Core Science course in Year 10 and the AQA Additional Science course in Year 11. This means pupils will earn two Science GCSE grades during their time in upper school. Each course contains a combination of Biology, Chemistry and Physics topics, and an investigative skills assessment. By sitting three GCSE papers and submitting their best investigative skills assessment, pupils will earn a GCSE grade by the end of Year 10. This assessment pattern is repeated in Year 11 for a completely distinct course. It is therefore vital

that both pupils and their families are aware that Year 10 and 11 are equally important in terms of exam preparation and the opportunity to achieve GCSE grades.

Some enthusiastic Scientists will choose to study separate sciences across Year 10 and 11 resulting in Chemistry, Physics and Biology GCSE award. For more details, please see the section in the Option subjects below called ‘Separate Sciences’.

## **The Option Choices**

You can choose from two pathways:

**The yellow section** of this booklet outlines the **GCSE Pathway**.

In this pathway you can choose up to four additional GCSE courses.

### **OR**

**The green section** of this booklet outlines the **Diploma Pathway**.

In this pathway you can choose from one of the three pilot diploma courses currently being offered by the school. These involve working out of Dowdales for two days each week. You will need to catch up with any work that has been missed on your days in school.

### **Making your final decision...**

Look at this booklet with your parents and consider all of the advice in it. Choose carefully as it is very difficult and sometimes impossible to change your mind at a later date. Note that you are asked to make reserve choices. These are very important because your first choice cannot be guaranteed. Sometimes the combination of your subjects is not possible and sometimes the numbers choosing produces groups that are either too big or too small to be viable for the school. In these cases the reserve choices will be used. When completing the options form make sure that choice no1 is the one that is most important to you and choice no. 3 is the least important.

There is an Options Form is at the back of each section of this booklet. You should return **either** the yellow **or** the green form to your form teacher on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010. See Mr. Dyer if you still need help or advice on completing the form.

## **GCSE Pathway 2010 – Option Form**

You must choose three subjects from the following list.

Your choices are:

### **GCSE qualifications:**

Art

Dance

Drama

Electronics

Food Technology

French

Geography

German

History

Media Studies

Motor Vehicle and Road Studies

Music

Religious Studies

Technology Studies

Textiles and Fashion

### **Other alternatives:**

GCSE Support

### **The enrichment choices**

You must choose **one** subject from the following list. This is the part of the week when you can enhance your learning programme with a variety of choices. You may take on the challenge of an extra GCSE, have time and support from a teacher with your other GCSEs.

### **GCSE qualifications:**

Business Studies & Economics

Citizenship Studies

Classical Civilization

Performing Arts

Physical Education (includes attendance and participation in school team practices and matches)

Separate Sciences, Chemistry, Physics and Biology.

Statistics

### **Other alternatives:**

GCSE Examination Support

## **GCSE subjects in alphabetical order**

### **Art**

**GCSE**

Art is becoming an ever more popular subject for pupils to take in GCSE. You will be able to explore with drawing, painting, 3D, photography, I.T. printing.....and anything else you can think of! Most of your work will be done in your sketchbook apart from your final pieces.

60% of the work is coursework and 40% is in the form of a final examination. The famous 10 hour exam is taken just before the end of the course!

As you work through the course, you will increasingly be able to “mould” the projects to fit your strengths and interests. This is the freedom that most GCSE Art pupils really enjoy.

### **Business Studies & Economics**

**GCSE**

This course is based on a new specification. It recognises that economic knowledge, comprehension and skills help students to understand current events and provides a basis for their role as citizens, and for possible further study.

It is made up of two modules both assessed by examination. The first module Personal Economics includes managing finances, understanding the workplace and examining the national and global economies.

Understanding Economic Issues – unit 2 includes managing the local and national economy, globalisation and environmental issues.

### **Citizenship studies**

**GCSE**

Studying Citizenship involves you learning about all aspects of the community. You will do this in the classroom and the outside world. This will lead you to becoming an active citizen with a voice that can be heard and the skills to make a difference in society.

There are four units in the course including Identity and the Law, Rights and Responsibilities and Active Citizenship. They are assessed by examination and controlled assessment.

### **Classical Civilization (Express)**

**GCSE**

You will study Greek and Roman history and literature to find out what it was like to live at the time of these great civilizations. You will learn about great events and people of the time from the words of famous early historians and writers. We will also focus on Family Life in Ancient Athens, The Destruction and Rediscovery of Pompeii and Roman Britain. This challenging express course is perfect for those who have an interest in ancient history or who have high level English skills. It is suitable to be taken on its own or as a compliment to GCSE History. This subject is assessed via 3 one hour exams with one controlled assessment and each element is worth 25% of the final GCSE grade. If you are interested in taking this subject please speak to Mr Sargent before you make your final choices.

**Dance****GCSE**

GCSE Dance is for pupils who enjoy performing, creating and watching dance. You will extend your dance vocabulary and develop new skills in improvisation and contact work. You will also have the chance to see professional dance performances, take part in workshops with dance companies and have the opportunities to perform in school events and festivals. The course is 80% practical so you must enjoy being active! For the practical assessment you will perform a solo set dance and a group piece based on a professional dance work. You will have the opportunity to learn professional repertory motifs and develop these into your own dances. You will also be taught how to choreograph short dance pieces based on your own ideas. For the written exam you will learn about different professional dance works and safe practice in dance. As the course is mostly practical, you will be required to rehearse in extra-curricular time.

**Drama****GCSE**

G.C.S.E. Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course for pupils who enjoy working with others and learning drama skills through active involvement. There is a strong emphasis on developing practical skills necessary for devising and performing. You will also be expected to keep a written record of your practical work and take a written examination at the end of the course. Over two years you will study a variety of options including acting, improvisation, and devised theatre, theatre in education and physical theatre. Due to the practical requirements of the course you must be committed to extracurricular rehearsals in preparation for assessed performance. The course is 60% practical coursework and 40% written examination.

**Electronics****GCSE**

During this course you will be taught the different functions electronic components have and how they can be combined to produce working circuits. You will learn how to programme microchips to perform a series of tasks. For your coursework you will be asked to design and make an electronic product that could be manufactured and marketed in today's society. An example of a project could require you to design and make an alarm for use by a teenager which sounds a buzzer every time a younger brother or sister enters their bedroom. A large proportion of the course is spent simulating circuits using CAD software on the computer.

**Food Technology****GCSE**

Without food we would not survive. It is constantly on our T.V screens, with celebrity chefs, school meals, unhealthy foods or the latest diet designed to slim down obese children. It is really important to us all.

If you enjoy the instant success of designing and creating food products for different people, situations and occasions then perhaps food technology is for you. You will develop and improve existing skills, but also, during year 10, while working on "mini projects" you will learn new skills and techniques. You will learn about the food industry. In year 11 you will choose a project for your final GCSE piece, which will allow you to show your skills off in whichever way you choose. If you are considering the Catering industry as a career when you leave school knowledge of food technology could help.

## **French**

**GCSE**

There is a growing concern in business and industry that young people do not have the language skills required by today's society. Students who opt for French at GCSE will have the opportunity to acquire these skills in a major world language, extensively spoken in the western world in at least 40 countries.

Choosing French at GCSE will not only give you the chance to develop your knowledge of this language but will also allow you to improve general communication skills, important in any job involving working with other people. You will broaden your knowledge of the language through topics and activities relevant to the interests of a young person in society.

French has particularly strong links with Spanish and Italian but it will help you learn strategies to tackle any languages in the future.

## **Geography**

**GCSE**

*'Geography is the subject which holds the key to our future.'* (Michael Palin)

GCSE Geography consists of 4 units: 1) Geographical Skills and Challenges for the Planet; 2) The Natural Environment; 3) The Human Environment; 4) Investigating Geography. Each unit is worth 25%. The course builds upon the topics studied and skills developed in Years 7, 8 & 9. Units 1, 2 and 3 are modular exams that include a mixture of multi-choice, short and extended answers. Unit 4 is a controlled assessment task that includes a day visit to Grasmere to investigate tourism in the Lake District National Park. There may also be an optional international trip (e.g. Iceland- Year 11 October 2009) to experience the awe and wonder of Geography first hand. Lessons involve a variety of activities (e.g. enquiries, investigations, map work, decision-making exercises, role-plays etc) through which cross-curricular knowledge and transferable skills are developed.

## **German**

**GCSE**

*Sprechen Sie Deutsch?* In today's economy, answering 'yes' to this question is vital. Over 100 million people speak German and Germany is the most powerful economy in Europe and the third largest industrial nation in the world. German is also second only to English in the field of scientific publications. An increasing number of businesses recognise that good language skills are vital for improving trade. Choosing German at GCSE will not only give you the chance to develop your knowledge of this language but will also allow you to improve general communication skills, important in any job involving working with other people. You will broaden your knowledge of grammar, build on already familiar topics in the four skills of listening, reading, speaking and writing, and learn strategies to help you tackle other languages in the future. An optional visit to Cologne in Germany is also open to all pupils studying German at GCSE.

## **History**

**GCSE**

History provides a useful GCSE subject for those who have an interest in the past. Understanding the past helps us understand the world we live in and how it has evolved. History GCSE consists of 2 examination courses: The History of Medicine from Prehistory to the Modern world, which looks at how medical treatments and theories have developed across the ages (35% exam in Year 11). The other exam course is: The American West, which looks at the settlement of the plains and the conflict between the different people living and moving there. (40% exam in Year 11). Pupils also have to complete a controlled assessment task based on a site visit to Quarry Bank Mill in Year 10 (25%). Pupils will develop and use existing skills such as research, planning, communication and source interpretation and will be equipped to pursue a variety of careers post-16.

## **Media Studies**

**GCSE**

GCSE Media Studies offers pupils the opportunity to study a range of Media products including some of the following: Film, Television, News, Advertising and Marketing, Magazines and Newspapers, New Media and others.

The course looks at how the media affects both the lives of young people and the wider society. Pupils will have the opportunity to analyse and create their own media texts.

In year 10 learners will be involved in writing analysis of original texts and pre-production design work. In year 11 they will research, plan and create a fully developed media project of their choice as well as studying for the controlled test on a given media topic.

The majority of the final grade awarded comes from coursework.

## **Motor Vehicle and Road Studies**

**GCSE**

Many pupils will at some time in their life take to the road either on a motorbike or car. This qualification prepares students for that step with the objective of making them potentially safer road users. It is made up of three elements.

- Theory examination (60%)
- Coursework Study (20%)
- Practical (20%)

The theory aspect looks in detail at the mechanics used in motor vehicles, the Highway Code, health issues, insurance and legal matters. The coursework aspect will focus on the development of a portfolio study based on a local road traffic issue. The practical involves students learning how to drive a moped in a controlled environment, focusing on vehicle control and road craft.

## **Music**

**GCSE**

This course is ideal for instrumentalists and singers who are looking to further develop their musicianship and understanding of a wide range of musical styles. The Course will follow the Edexcel Specification for GCSE Music and will focus upon performance, composition and appraisal of music in a wide range of styles. Each candidate would be expected to perform both on their own and as part of a group and will be expected to compose music in a variety of styles; these elements of the course will be completed under controlled assessment conditions and in a given time frame. Pupils will also study twelve set works from a range of musical periods and will then sit a final listening paper in the summer of Year 11. Pupils will be given the opportunity to perform in public at events in and out of school and will be expected to contribute to the musical life of the school.

## **Performing Arts**

**GCSE**

This is a new course suitable for pupils who enjoy all aspects of Performing Arts and who are interested in gaining skills for work in the performing arts industry. There are two units; the first concentrates on skill development through portfolio evidence and workshops (60%) while the second unit is a showcase performance created from a set brief (40%). You will have a broad experience of more than one performing arts discipline, and have the option to specialise in performing or focus on technical roles such as sound, lighting and costume design. Throughout the course you will work to develop your skills and provide evidence to show this through rehearsal techniques and practical methods. Evidence can be provided from relevant extracurricular work and through observations from suitably qualified people outside of school. At the start of the year you will create a small company so that when planning each presentation and production you can take on specific roles and responsibilities including front of house, stage management, marketing and publicity.

## **Physical Education**

**GCSE**

The course is based around both practical activities and theory based work.

You will study several sports/activities but will only be finally assessed in your best four activities.

In the theory part of the course you will look at topics such as the human body, fitness and training, diet and drugs, sport/leisure participation, international/Olympic sport and social sports issues.

There is a short coursework piece on a personal fitness/training plan.

GCSE PE students must be committed to extra-curricular practices and teams.

*The opportunity exists for exceptional pupils to be entered for the double award in Physical Education*

## **Religious Studies**

**GCSE**

GCSE Religious Studies is an exciting and dynamic option for anyone with an interest in people and the world in which we live. RS is a well valued academic subject useful in many careers such as: medicine, law, teaching, journalism and politics. This is because a major focus of the course is on moral issues, including: abortion, infertility treatments, euthanasia, war, crime, punishment and the environment. RS is also important because of its emphasis on thinking skills, which are developed throughout the course, but particularly in the philosophy unit where students will have the chance to study some mind-blowing questions such as: is there a purpose to life, does God exist and is there such a thing as life after death? Students are required to sensitively analyse a variety of views, in order to reach their own informed conclusions.

### **Separate Sciences - Physics, Chemistry and Biology**

### **Express GCSE**

This is an option that should be considered by enthusiastic scientists that love to ask questions about the world around them. Enjoyment of the subject is key as separate scientists will spend 8 lessons a week in our labs studying a wide range of topical subjects and developing their scientific skills. These committed pupils will be awarded GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics at the end of year 11. All three GCSEs are compulsory in this option choice and this replaces the core and additional science qualifications described in the first section of this booklet. In comparison to the rest of the year group, these pupils sit 3 extra examinations; one further exam in each science, to gain three Science GCSEs instead of two. This is a challenging option for pupils achieving a level 6 (or better) at KS3. Separate Sciences should only be chosen by students for whom Science is a particular interest or strength.

### **Statistics**

### **GCSE**

The Statistics GCSE has two tiers of entry. Higher (grades A\* to D) and Foundation (grades C to G).

There is a 2½ hour exam which is 75% of the grade and a controlled assessment worth 25% of the grade. The controlled assessment is an extended piece analysis which is started in lessons but then there will be a section to be completed under exam conditions.

Some of the investigations have involved comparing boys and girls reaction times to see who reacts fastest and also exploring whether there was a fair distribution of different coloured smarties in every tube.

This GCSE covers a lot of the same work as in the Handling Data section of the Mathematics GCSE, so if you like that then you'll love this! The work is mainly practical with statistical techniques being used to analyse and interpret data. You will need a calculator for this GCSE. Statistics has many application areas, such as health, biology, industry, government and education, to name just a few!

### **Technology Studies**

### **GCSE**

*In order that students select the most relevant and suitable course for their individual skills and aspirations we request that any student wanting to take a workshop based course selects TECHNOLOGY STUDIES on their options form. You will then be allocated to one of three courses: Engineering GCSE, Resistant Materials GCSE or Design and Technology entry level certificate, following interviews and assessment carried out by the technology teachers.*

The Engineering GCSE course focuses on aspects which are common to all branches of Engineering which includes the principles of design, technical drawing, workshop skills and modern production methods. We maintain a balance between practical work, theory and graphical communication in preparing students for the two assessment units. Unit 1 focuses on the design and development of a mechanical system. Unit 2 is a written exam focusing on the manufacture of engineering products and on the application of Engineering technology.

Engineering GCSE is aimed at students who may wish to follow a career in Engineering at Technician level or above. It forms an excellent grounding for students wishing to seek an Engineering Apprenticeship. As such it is a demanding course, requiring good standards of Maths, English and Science (at least KS3 Level 6 in all three subjects).

In Resistant Materials year 10 students follow a programme of projects to develop their skills to design and manufacture high quality products using woods, metals and plastics. The GCSE is assessed through coursework and examination.

The coursework element requires students to produce a range of high quality products, supported by a detailed portfolio of design, planning, graphics and evaluation work. Practical work is carried out within the schools workshops, with much of the portfolio being completed by students in their own time as homework.

The work completed throughout the two years of study underpins the preparation for the final examination at the end of the course.

Entry Level Design and Technology has been introduced to allow students, who do not feel that they could take on the challenge of a full GCSE course, the opportunity to gain a worthwhile technology qualification. The focus is on the practical side of D&T with written work being kept to a minimum. Students will be able to experience a wide range of D&T practical activities from food to systems and control.

### **Textiles and Fashion**

### **GCSE**

Fabrics are all around us. They can be used in many different ways, from clothing to furnishings, from a football strip to a wedding dress. If you like fashion, making things, and experimenting, then perhaps textiles is the option for you. You will develop and improve existing skills, but also, during year 10, while working on “mini projects” you will learn new skills and techniques, which can be used to construct, decorate and embellish fabrics for lots of different situations, people and occasions. You will keep a designers sketch book and relate your work to that of the textile industry. In year 11 you will choose a project for your final GCSE piece, which will allow you to show your skills off in whichever way you choose.

### **GCSE Support**

GCSE Support is a non-examination subject, so what will you get out of it? During GCSE Support lessons you will be able to complete homework and coursework tasks from your other GCSE subjects. The advantage of doing this in school is that you will have the support of a teacher and other pupils in a small class situation. You will also learn the skills that you will need to be successful in your exams such as time management, how to revise and preparing for exams.

## GCSE Pathway 2010 – Option form

### You must take:

English Language GCSE  
Mathematics GCSE  
ICT GCSE  
P. E.

English Literature GCSE  
Science GCSE  
The Life Course

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You must make three choices from the list below. Make your choices in order of priority. Choice number one will be the subject that is most important to you. Finally you must make a reserve choice in case the combination of subjects that you would like to do is not possible.

### Choose three of the following:

#### GCSE qualifications

Art	History
Dance	Media Studies
Drama	Motor Vehicle and Road Studies
Electronics	Music
Food Technology	Religious Studies
French	Technology Studies
Geography	Textiles and Fashion
German	

#### Other qualifications:

Examination support

#### Enrichment choice:

Here is the part of the week when you can enhance your learning programme! You may take on the challenge of an extra GCSE, have time and support from a teacher with your other GCSEs or choose one of our non-GCSE vocational experiences.

### Choose one of the following:

#### GCSE qualifications:

Business Studies & Economics  
Citizenship studies  
Classical Civilization  
Performing Arts  
Physical Education (includes attendance and participation in school team practices and matches)  
Separate Sciences  
Statistics

#### Other alternative:

GCSE Examination Support

## GCSE Pathway 2010 – Option Form

My three Option choices are as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> choice .....

2<sup>nd</sup> choice .....

3<sup>rd</sup> choice .....

Reserve .....

My enrichment choice is as follows:

Enrichment choice .....

Reserve choice .....

**Name** ..... **Form** .....

Return this form to your form teacher not later than Friday March 26<sup>th</sup> 2010. A late return may affect the availability of your subjects.



## Diploma Pathway

This year Dowdales will be offering three of the eight diplomas currently at the pilot stage in Cumbria.

- **Construction and the Built Environment**
- **Creative and Media**
- **Society, Health and Development**

A Diploma is different to what you're used to. You get more choice about what you learn and you can keep your options open for the future by exploring subject areas without committing to a career in them.

- It is a 2 year course at foundation or higher level.
- You will learn in the classroom.
- You will also spend time at another school or college in the area.
- You will do practical things like projects and work experience.
- You will learn life skills that are important for work, study and the future.
- You can use what you learn to tackle real life situations like you would find at work, study or in research.

Pupils can only choose one of these courses which will replace the GCSE options in the previous section of this booklet.

Pupils are likely to be working at Furness College or Barrow 6<sup>th</sup> form college for two days each week. All pupils will still take GCSEs in English, Mathematics, Science and ICT in addition to non examination courses in PE and The Life Course on the three days when they are in Dowdales. There will also be the opportunity to catch up with any work that has been missed.

Students may be working at Foundation or Higher level.

- The Foundation Diploma is the same as 5 GCSEs at grades D to G plus the Maths, English, Science and ICT GCSEs that you will study in school.
- The Higher Diploma is the same as 7 GCSEs at grades A\* to C plus the Maths, English, Science and ICT GCSEs that you will study in school.

### **Construction and the Built Environment**

For the Diploma Construction and the Built Environment your course will look at 3 main areas:

- Designing the built environment: Learning how the built environment is designed and constructed, how it impacts on people and communities, and how history, politics and economics affect it.
- Creating the built environment: Developing a range of skills and knowledge needed in different industries – for example, using tools and understanding modern construction methods and materials.
- Valuing and using the built environment: Analyzing the need for good management and continuous maintenance, and understanding the importance of good design, workmanship and teamwork.

## **Creative and Media**

For the Diploma in Creative and Media your course will look at four main areas:

- Creativity in context: The things that can influence the creative process, such as society, culture, the environment or the work of other people.
- Thinking and working creatively: Ways of exploring, experimenting with and developing ideas, skills and techniques.
- Principles, processes and practice: The skills, techniques and processes to turn your ideas into reality.
- Creative businesses and enterprise: An understanding of real situations and the skills that you need to succeed in the industry.

At Foundation level you are introduced to these ideas and skills; at Higher level you get to explore them more.

## **Society, Health and Development**

For the Diploma in society, health and development your course will look at 6 main areas:

- The sectors in context: Focuses on the political, social and economic factors that affect the four sectors today.
- Principles and values in practice: The values and principles that underpin and inform the practice of everyone across the sectors. It puts the person using the service at the centre of provision.
- Partnership working: New work practices mean that services work much more closely together to ensure the quality, greater flexibility and more efficient use of resources for service provision and support. For example, in family centres, there will be people from social services, health and the children's services all working to ensure quality and integrated services for children and families.
- Communication and information sharing: Good communication is crucial to people working across the sectors. What are the barriers to good communication, how can they be overcome and are there tensions between good communication and sharing information with other professionals and respecting the privacy of individuals?
- Personal and professional development in the work environment: Being able to reflect on own practice is a critical aspect of professional development - what did you do well, what can be improved, how can you improve your practice?
- Safeguarding and protecting individuals and society: People are often working with the most vulnerable people in society. It is important to understand what needs to be done to ensure that people are kept safe.

If you're doing a Higher Diploma, you'll be looking at the same themes but exploring them in more detail and in different practical ways. Like focusing on architectural elements, community involvement and the variety of things that shape and influence what we build.

## Diploma Pathway 2010 – Option Form

### You must take:

English Language GCSE  
English Literature GCSE  
Mathematics GCSE  
Science GCSE  
ICT GCSE  
The Life Course  
P. E.

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Choose one subject from the list below. Please note that there is an interview process external to the school to decide whether you will take the Foundation Level or Higher Level Diploma.

### Choose one of the following diplomas:

- Construction and the Built Environment
- Creative and Media
- Society, Health and Development

My diploma choice is as follows:

Diploma choice .....

**Name** ..... **Form** .....

Return this form to your form teacher no later than Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2010.

*A late return may affect the availability of your subjects.*