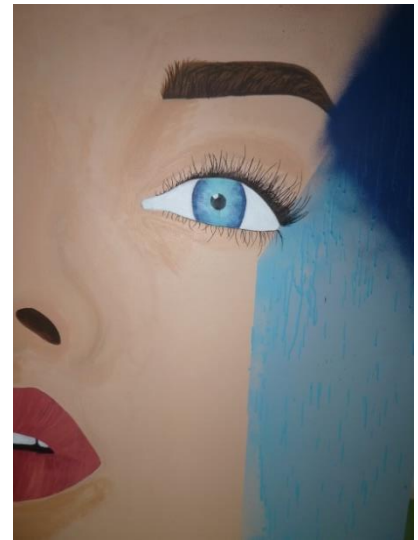




Finding Pathways to Learning & Living



OPTIONS BOOKLET



Dear Parents/Carers

From Years 9 to Post 16 all pupils at Derrymount will have the opportunity to choose some of the subjects they will study. The Core Subjects pupils must study throughout their time at school are English and Maths. However all Year 9 pupils are also required to study Science.

In addition we have an exciting range of courses on offer. Some of these are offered as GCSEs, BTECs or Entry Level depending on your son or daughter's ability. We are offering some of our courses this year as "Enrichment Courses" which are aimed at giving our young people a range of valuable experiences which are also designed to include very important skills in social development, interaction with others, teambuilding and the resilience needed to function successfully in the community and life beyond school. These areas are often those which our youngsters find the most challenging but which can be enjoyable if approached in the right way. We also recognise the pressure that our young people are under from their exam courses and by balancing their important exam subjects with some Enrichment Courses we hope to alleviate some of this stress by making their learning as enjoyable as possible!

We cannot guarantee that all courses will be available as ideally we need 4 pupils in any group to run it successfully, however over their time spent in KS4 /Post 16 they will have opportunity to try a wide range of the subjects on offer in preparation for their continuing education or employment beyond Derrymount.

Please take this opportunity to look through the booklet with your son/ daughter and you are welcome to find out more at our forthcoming Parents Evening or by phoning school. Pupils will make their choices later in the Summer Term.

Cathy Clay
Head Teacher



Finding Pathways to Learning & Living

CORE SUBJECTS

English



Course content:

All students will study English as a subject, alongside the informal English skills they will be practising and developing in the broader curriculum through study areas such as: PSHE work, Titan and other cross-curricular work including their Options.

The emphasis for English teaching and learning will be on offering an engaging curriculum that inspires an interest and enjoyment in the students first and foremost, with opportunities to acquire GCSE or Functional Skills qualifications when appropriate.

Potential progression paths:

- **Functional Skills** (Entry Level – Level 1)
 - Writing
 - Reading
 - Speaking and Listening

- **GCSE Language**
 - Fiction and Imaginative writing
 - Non-fiction and transactional writing
 - Spoken Language

Students will be able to develop the skills required to analyse real-world, relevant non-fiction texts of a sort they will encounter in their lives (e.g. newspaper and magazine articles, book reviews, speeches, letters, biographies)

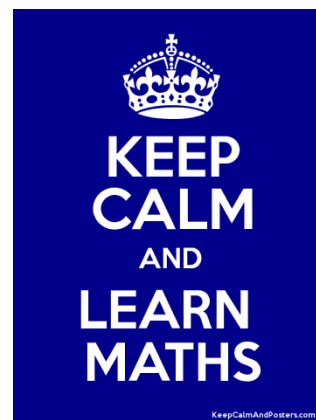
Paper 1 – Unseen 19th century fiction, creative writing

Paper 2 – comparison of two unseen texts from the 20th and 21st century, transactional writing

Mathematics

Mathematics is a core subject; that means you have to study it. We follow the Edexcel syllabus, working toward examinations at GCSE Foundation or GCSE Higher. These examinations should be taken in Year 11 during the Summer Term. You will need to study it until you either:

- Get a good GCSE qualification (Grade 4 or higher)
- Get a functional skills qualification at level 2
- Finish year 13.



New GCSE (9-1) Mathematics

The GCSE qualification has altered following changes to the curriculum made by the government. The key differences are:

- Grades will be 9-1. Grade 9 being a slightly higher than A* and grade 1 being slightly lower than a grade G. Colleges look for grade 4 or higher.
- There will be 3 examinations for GCSE: one non-calculator paper and two calculator papers. Exams are about one and a half hours long.
- Foundation tier has more topics and covers grades 1 to 5 (up to a C grade)
- Higher tier has more topics and covers grades 4 to 9 (C to A* grades)
- The course runs over 3 years: 9, 10 and 11.

Functional Skills Mathematics

The functional skills qualification is for students who will struggle to gain a qualification at GCSE level. It covers a much reduced curriculum with a focus on students becoming more confident in using the mathematics they know. It asks students to work on problem solving with fewer skills being used.

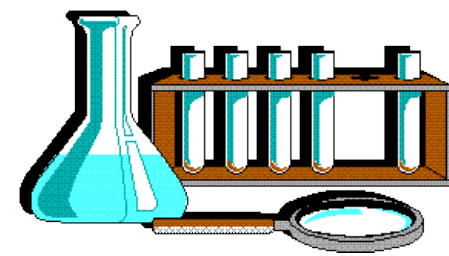
Entry level: Entry level qualifications in functional skills cover skills below GCSE, some students may attempt these before progressing further.

Functional skills level 1 – covers skills just below GCSE

Functional skills level 2 – counts as a GCSE pass and will enable some students to access college course.

Post 16 Mathematics

Students in our sixth-form will continue to study Mathematics. They may continue working toward a GCSE Mathematics. They may consider looking at Functional Skills Mathematics at level 2. This qualification looks at making use of the mathematics that students already know and applying it to a range of situations.



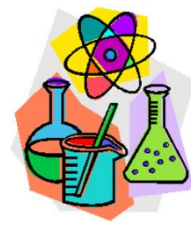
Year 9 Only - Entry Level Science

The entry level qualification is for students who will struggle to gain a qualification at GCSE level. It covers a much reduced curriculum with a focus on students becoming more confident in using the science they know and using it in practical situations. Entry level qualifications will be taken by pupils in year 9.



Finding Pathways to Learning & Living

GCSE SUBJECTS



Science GCSE Options

In the past, the majority of pupils at Derrymount School have been working towards attaining a Combined Science GCSE qualification by the time that they reach the end of year eleven. The logistics of gaining this qualification has required pupils to sit six examinations in total, in addition to producing a variety of practical based coursework. Whilst difficult to manage at times, generally pupils have been able to cope with the workload expected of them, as the exams have been modular, capable of being spread over two years. In recent years, however, the style of examination has changed, requiring pupils to sit all six papers in their final year.

Mindful of the stress levels imposed on all pupils by these examinations, it has been decided that for the sake of our pupils mental health, a change has been implemented. From September 2019, Combined Science GCSE will no longer be a compulsory requirement for all pupils. Instead, single science GCSE's will be available only as options for pupils wishing to gain qualifications in Chemistry, Physics and/or Biology. Pupils who would find the prospect of sitting these exams daunting will instead be free to choose other options to help them develop skills in other areas.

The GCSE qualifications are structured as follows:

- Grades will be 9-1. Grade 9 being a slightly higher than A* and grade 1 being slightly lower than a grade G. Colleges look for grade 4 or higher.
- Foundation tier has more topics and covers grades 1 to 5 (up to a C grade)
- Higher tier has more topics and covers grades 4 to 9 (C to A* grades)

Why choose German?

A chalkboard with the text "SPRECHEN SIE DEUTSCH?" (Do you speak German?) written on it. To the right of the chalkboard is a small German flag on a stick, a cup filled with colored pencils, and a stack of books. The background is a rustic wooden wall.

Learning activities will involve working with flashcards, games, a soap opera style TV series and role play as well as translation, listening and text comprehension exercises in German. Such an approach allows for academic progress in an enjoyable setting. Academic work will be complimented by activities such as Music, Art and Cooking that involve the joy of experiencing a different culture.

Options German will give students the opportunity to continue learning German in KS4. They can thus develop their conversational skills in German beyond a basic level. If students wish to do so, they can take their GCSE in German in Year 11. This would require a little support at home. Students who are in Year 9 can choose Options German to complement their regular German lesson. New students who have not had any German are welcome to join at a beginners' level.

German Options – Overview			
Levels	Content	Time	Assessment
Beginners	Introducing oneself, number, colours, family, pets, sports etc.	1 – 2 lessons/double lessons	No formal assessment
Advanced	Extended topics, such as school, employment, travelling etc.	1 – 2 lessons/double lessons	No formal assessment
GCSE	AQA specification for German GCSE	2 lessons/double lessons	GCSE exams





American Progress, (1872) by John Gast, representation of the modernisation of the new west.

GCSE: History

Why choose History?

Studying history is a highly **enriching** and beneficial pursuit. History is continuously changing the world around us and historic events have helped to shape our society. Learning about past events and the people who've influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the future. Aside from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you'll learn a range of handy skills that will help you with future studies and/or work. These include:

- excellent communication and writing skills
- how to construct an argument
- research and problem skills
- investigation and problem-solving skills
- analytical and interpretation skills.

You will have the option of sitting an exam to gain a GCSE History qualification at the end of the course in Year 11. This would require some support at home.



Nighthawks, (1942) by Edward Hopper. Inspired by the new medium of street photography, Edward portrays the definite isolationism of America post-Pearl Harbor.

What will you study?

You will cover four themes across the programme:

Period study, Wider World Depth Study, Thematic Study, and British Depth Study.

Part 1: Understanding the modern world

- **Section A:** America, 1840-1895: Expansion and consolidation
- **Section B:** America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality

Period Study

Wider World Depth Study

Part 2: Shaping the nation

- **Section A:** Britain: Migration, empire and the people: c790-present day
- **Section B:** Elizabethan England, c1568-1603

Thematic Study

British Depth Study

The Spanish Armada fighting the English navy at the Battle of Gravelines in 1588.
(Unknown, 16th-century, [English School](#).)

Computer Science working towards GCSE Level



We will learn to program in Python, make web pages, and the fundamentals of how computers work. In addition we will learn about algorithms, logical reasoning, decomposition and abstractions. We will also spend some time learning about computer hardware, and how it relates to the software we are writing. There will be an introduction to databases and SQL, as well as program design, from a programmer and a user's perspective.



Finding Pathways to Learning & Living

BTEC SUBJECTS

PE

BTEC Level 1 Award/Certificate/Diploma in Sport and Active Leisure

Outline of the Course

The course involves continual assessment, covering specific units such as Taking part in sport, Planning your own fitness programme, How the body works and Job opportunities in sport. These units will provide opportunity for students to engage in learning which is relevant to them and develop a range of sporting skills and techniques, personal skills and attributes essential for successful performance in working life.

Students will be required to hand in assignments, and complete practical tasks by set deadlines and meet specific criteria in order to pass each unit. Successful completion of the course will result in students achieving a nationally recognised, Level 1 vocationally related qualification.



BTEC Art & Design (level 1)



The Art & Design BTEC qualification is a great way for pupils to gain a formal qualification in the subject. It leads on perfectly from pupil's prior knowledge and practical skills gained up to year 9, to a more in depth insight of the skills that are required within the art and design sector. The qualifications are very flexible by allowing pupils to either gain an award by achieving two units or advancing to a certificate by opting to pick more units. Pupils are given a choice of unit, giving the learner the opportunity to choose from a range of different subjects within art and design. Trips out to get inspired will be a valuable part of the process and this could range from a walk in a country park to visiting exhibitions and artist's studios. Assessment evidence will be cumulative throughout the activities undertaken during each unit, taking the pressure off as there is no end exam. For pupils who wish to continue in art and design once leaving Derrymount School, the work collated throughout the unit's processes will provide sufficient knowledge, skills and evidence to access higher qualifications.

BTEC units

Explore Drawing Learners will be shown how to use a variety of drawing/ marking techniques to explore 2 dimensional (2D) visual language. This is a practical unit where learners will practice and develop their skills through observation and experimentation.

Explore Painting This unit is an introduction to the many ways learners might produce fine art paintings. Through observation and practical experimentation learners will explore their own creativity and look at the materials, techniques and processes needed to create a painting for fine art work.

Discovering 3 Dimensions This unit aims to introduce learners to 3 dimensions (3D) art and design, developing knowledge, creative and work-related skills within a practical and exploratory content.

Explore mixed This is a practical unit where learners will combine a variety of mixed media, methods and technologies to produce creative artwork. Learners will practice and develop their skills through observation and experimentation.

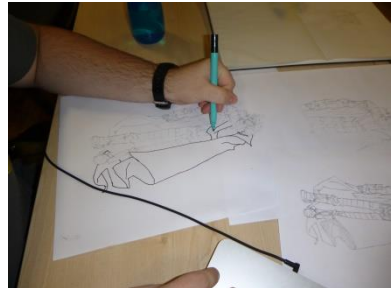
A Project in 2 or 3 Dimensions This is a practical unit which is project focused. Learners will develop and apply creative skills within the context of a 2 or 3- dimensional (2D/3D) art and design project.

An Accessory Project Learners will explore the many and varied types of accessory in this practical and project based unit. They will experiment with a variety of different materials and methods, and develop and apply creative skills and processes.

A Personal Project This practical unit aims to give the learners the opportunity to begin to explore that individual approach. The unit is completely learner-led and is project focused.

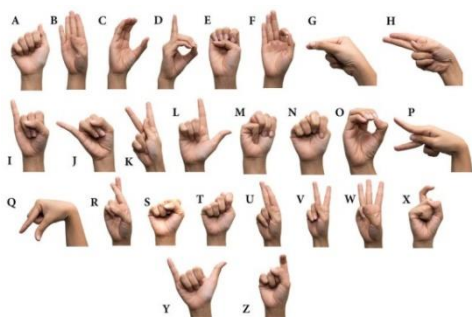
Explore Printmaking Learners will be shown, and then use, a variety of printmaking techniques to explore 2- dimensional visual language. This is a practical unit where learners will practice and develop their skills through observation and experimentation.

Examples of pupil's artwork



BTEC-Introduction to Health and Social Care

The aim of the course is to teach some of the key skills in the Health and Social care sector. These skills are essential for volunteering or working in a Health and Social care setting environment. Pupils will learn skill needed to provide personal care and procedures, promoting healthy eating, self-management, teamwork, problem solving and communication skills. They will also complete and individual project of their choice related to health and social care and learn about different opportunities in different sectors of health and social care.



Basic sign Language

The aim of the course is to teach basic sign language. They will learn the alphabet and learn how to spell their own name, family and friends' names using sign language. They will then go on to learn colours, days of the week and other basic words. Skills learnt in class will enable them to greet people, have basic conversations, discuss their

interests, feelings, directions and ask questions. The skill they will learn could help them communicate on work experience, out in the community or even for future, education, careers and prospects.

Positive Parenting Skills

This unit is an introduction of Parenting Skills aimed at pupils who have little or no experience of child care and child development.

They will acquire knowledge of what good parenting skills should be, develop relationships and play with children. Understand different healthy food for children and keeping children safe.





Finding Pathways to Learning & Living

ENRICHMENT SUBJECTS

Home Cooking (Life Skills/Independent living skills) – Enrichment



Cooking is an essential life skill, empowering us to make changes that benefit our health and wellbeing. Our Home Cooking Skills course aims to give every young person the basic skills and knowledge to be able to cook for themselves in a healthy, cost-effective way, as well as gain the confidence to share these skills with friends and family.

Students will learn essential knowledge and skills such as:

- Kitchen basics: the best way to stock your store cupboard, fridge and freezer. What equipment you need to cook a basic recipe.
- Food safety and hygiene: handling equipment safely, fridge management and rotation.
- How to shop wisely: planning using a budget, planning recipes ahead of time, creating shopping lists.
- Preparing ingredients and understanding food labels.
- Research their choice of recipe.
- Select and bring their own ingredients to school or alternatively buy from the shop.
- Prepare, cook and evaluate their dish.
- Assure they have worked to a safe and hygienic standard.

Each student has to show enthusiasm and determination with/out support, to make their dish a great success and all of the photos and testimonials are proof to that!

Each student will create a profile for evidence and to further there learning to the next level.

For those that wish to pursue this at a higher level, we can offer a “BTEC Level 1 in Home cooking”, along with a certificate in “food and hygiene”.

Land Based Studies - Enrichment

In this subject the students will take part in a variety of different horticulture activities to help manage and redevelop the Sherbrook Road School site. In this they would look at the quad area, and plant vegetables and flowers to improve the look of the site and create an area that the students could access.

The Students will create a portfolio with a record of physical evidence of the skills that they have learnt during the sessions. The aim will be to visit different garden centres and professional gardens to see how horticulture works in a professional environment.

The students will learn to use a variety of different hand tools such as:

- Spades
- Forks
- Hoes
- Edging shears
- Garden shears



Students will look at cultivating vegetables in greenhouse's and under polytunnels, growing their own seasonal produce to either be used in school or taken home.

Students will look at the processes used in landscape gardening including

- Paving
- Turfing
- Decking
- Grass cutting
- Garden maintenance



Students will also spend some time looking tool maintenance and the importance of selecting the right tool for the right job.

During the winter months students will participate in indoor activities such as designing, building and painting bird boxes and small animal shelters to sell at the school fairs.

There will be no assessment criteria for the option, and the students will leave with a small portfolio of the work they have completed and information to help them in the future.

Textiles



During this option, you will be studying four units.

- There will be an opportunity to consider health and safety aspects of practices like using dyes, sewing machines and irons.
- We will look at a fashion accessory and take it apart to reveal all of its component parts and possibly redesign it to make a more superior product.
- One unit focuses on applying colour to fabric and for this we will trial different tie-dye patterns to create a colourful and functional item.
- The final unit will involve designing and making a fabric bag from reusable textiles.

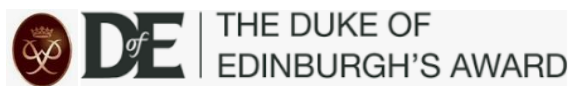
During the year, you will produce a portfolio of work to include a small amount of written work, sketches of your designs and photographs of the progress you make. You will learn how to use a sewing machine, how to design and use specialised textiles equipment and work at a steady pace within a calm and creative environment.



Adventure School – Enrichment/Duke of Edinburgh 2019-2020



Adventure School helps students push their comfort zones and to try new and exciting activities. This is the third year we have offered this option; the first two years have been a fantastic success with lots of young people taking part in new activities and experiences.



This year students have taken part in activities such as Hillwalking, Climbing, and Bushcraft as well as working towards their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award - which involves at least two two-day expeditions and committing other activities throughout the year.

A group have also participated in an 8 week programme that saw them get onto the water to develop paddling skills and water confidence.

Those who have already completed a year of Adventure School as enrichment will work to improve and refine their skills and learn new ones too. Students that have completed their Bronze DofE Award will be given the opportunity to work on the Silver DofE Award.

Ultimately, the aim of Adventure School is to give young people new experiences (in all weatehrs), and gain self-confidence and resilience. In doing this, they will also boost their self-esteem and their ability to work collaboratively with others.



Dog Care 2019- 2020

This year the Dog Care option will offer students the following:

- The chance to learn about:
 - Food, nutrition and well-being
 - Meeting and greeting a dog
 - Training and walking
 - Body language and communication
 - Breed differences
 - Common issues and problems
- The manager of Jerry Green Dog Rescue will visit the group regularly to share her expertise with the group
- A weekly walk to exercise Gryff and practise and reinforce:
 - Recall and control
 - General obedience
 - Agility and
 - Play



Students will be encouraged to study for a Professional Dog Walker qualification.

NB. Students currently taking this option will be encouraged to continue for another year, particularly if they working towards the Professional Dog Walker qualification.