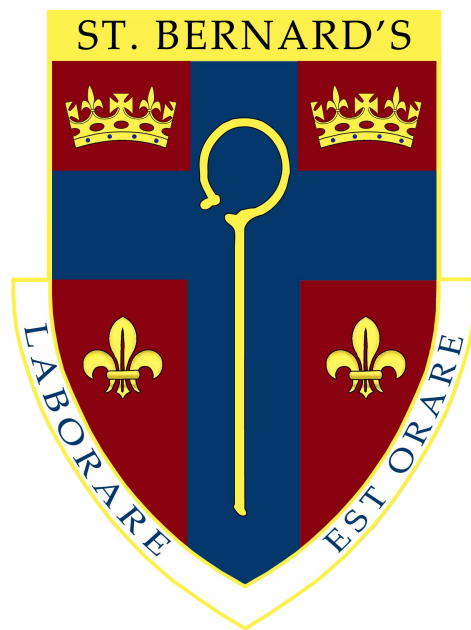


St Bernard's Catholic High School

GCSE Options



Class of 2027

Laborare Est Orare | To Work Is To Pray

The Options Process

During the next two years your child will follow a programme of studies which will include core subjects such as Religious Education, English, Mathematics and Science. Some students will also study French as a core subject. Alongside their core subjects students will also be able to select their 'options' subjects.

All students get to choose three additional 'options' subjects to study at GCSE. To ensure a broad and balanced curriculum their first option must be either Geography or History. Their other two options can be selected from the subjects detailed in this booklet. There are some restrictions on their choices which will be explained at the options information evening (for example, due to how similar the courses are they are not permitted to choose both DT and Engineering Design). We then ask students to choose two reserve subjects, while we always aim to give everyone their first choice we are limited by the number of teachers that can teach a particular subject and the number of students that can be in each classroom.

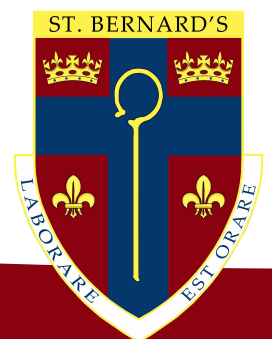
This booklet details the subjects which pupils can choose from including information about what students will learn and how they will be assessed. Some of the courses that students can choose to study are vocational courses which are Cambridge Nationals, these are equivalent to a GCSE. Further information about each course and precisely what units will be studied can be found in our curriculum book on our website.

The information on each subject page also tells you who the course is aimed at and where it may lead after Year 11. The curriculum offered allows students to follow a range of Post-16 Pathways, including Sixth Form College, Furness College, Apprenticeships or Traineeships.

Further guidance on the options process and the individual subjects on offer will be presented at our options information evening held on Thursday 27th February 2025 5:00pm - 6:45pm, invites will be sent out shortly.

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Who is the course for?

If you enjoy being creative and are thinking of a career in the creative industries then this is the subject to take. If you want to increase your practical skills and also improve your analytical, communication and research abilities, then art and design is a great choice. Art and Design is a way of seeing things and making sense of the world around you.

Where can it take you?

You can continue your Art and Design studies A-Level and then at University. Art and Design can lead to many varied and interesting careers. Here are just a few:

Illustration, Graphic Design, Art Therapy, Game Design, TV, Film, Theatre, Interior Design, Architecture, Teaching, Advertising, Fashion,

Art and Design

'Creativity takes courage.'

GCSE (AQA)

What will you learn about?

Alongside improving your practical expertise, you'll learn how to:

- Develop, refine and record your ideas.
- Present a personal response that realises your intentions.
- Improve your creative skills through the use of different media, materials, techniques, processes and technologies.
- Successfully use visual language and the formal elements eg, colour, line, form, shape, tone and texture.
- Learn about other artists and cultures and use their work to help inspire you to develop your own ideas.

How is the course assessed?

Students will submit a portfolio of work completed in year 10 and 11. This work is worth 60% of the overall grade

Students will complete an exam in the spring term of year 11 and this will be worth 40% of their overall grade. The exam is conducted over a period of days during which students have to complete a piece of coursework.

Who is the course for?

Creative iMedia is a course designed to equip learners with a range of creative media skills. The course has been purposely developed to be 'hands on', challenging all learners through a range of independent project-based assignments. Students will need to be resilient and work independently.

It's a vocational qualification, equivalent in value to a GCSE and contains both practical and theoretical elements.

Where can it take you?

This course will help give you the opportunity to progress on to A Levels, T levels, a Cambridge Technical in Digital Media or an apprenticeship.

This qualification opens many doors. Creative iMedia could be the first step of a career as a:

- Games Developer
- Content Creator
- Graphic Designer
- Web Designer
- Animator
- Digital Marketer

Creative iMedia

'Design is thinking made visual.' Soul Bass

Cambridge National (OCR)

What will you learn about?

Creative iMedia is focussed on the media-sector; including web development, multimedia, gaming, animation, film and television. This qualification will encourage independence, creativity and awareness of the digital media sector.

Creative iMedia will also equip you with a range of creative media skills and transferable skills such as research, planning, and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively.

As part of the Cambridge National, you'll cover:

- How media products get their meaning across, create impact and appeal to people.
- How to create original digital graphics for specific audiences.
- Creating, testing and making interactive digital media.

How is the course assessed?

Students will sit one exam paper at the end of Year 11. They will complete two projects (coursework), one in year 10 and the second in year 11.

- Non-exam assessment (coursework) of 60%.
- Final exam of 40%.

Who is the course for?

Computer Science is a course that will appeal to more able students with a real interest in programming. Pupils who have enjoyed using Scratch and Python in years 7 - 9 will find the computer science course builds on what they have learned.

Students who are logical thinkers and who enjoy problem solving will find the course challenging and rewarding.

Where can it take you?

Computing skills are essential in a wide range of professions from astronomy to financial analysis - it isn't just IT related careers or playing games.

Computer Science opens the doors to a vast range of career opportunities including:

- *Cyber Security Analyst*
- *Game developer*
- *Software Engineer*
- *Financial Analyst*

Computer Science

'Everybody should learn to program a computer, because it teaches you how to think.'
Steve Jobs

GCSE (AQA)

What will you learn about?

Our curriculum has been developed to enable you to understand and solve complex problems, allowing you to make a positive difference in the world.

You will learn about the fundamentals of algorithms and how these form the cornerstone of programming. You will then learn to write increasingly complex computer programs in the Python programming language.

You will also learn all about the integral components of computers and how software communicates with hardware. In addition to learning more about what a computer network is, and the benefits and risks of computer networks.

Finally, the course covers cybersecurity and the current ethical, legal and environmental impacts and risks of digital technology on society.

How is the course assessed?

The Computer Science course has two final exams at the end of Year 11 and a programming project to undertake. Students learning is broken down into eight units of learning.

Who is the course for?

Design and technology is a practical and valuable subject. It enables pupils to actively contribute to the creativity, culture, wealth and well-being of themselves, their community and their nation.

It teaches you how to take risks and so become more resourceful, innovative, enterprising and capable. You will develop a critical understanding of the impact of design and technology on daily life and the wider world and you will help to develop design solutions to everyday problems

Where can it take you?

By studying Design and Technology the course will open up a wide range of career opportunities and paths which include :

- *Product Design*
- *Apprenticeships*
- *Engineering Design*
- *Set Design*
- *Civil Engineer*
- *Mechanical Engineer*
- *Robotics Engineer*
- *Architecture*

Design and Technology

'Good design is obvious. Great Design is transparent.' Joe Sparono

GCSE (AQA) 8552

What will you learn about?

A GCSE course in Design and Technology offers an opportunity for candidates to identify and solve real everyday problems by designing and making products or systems in a wide range of contexts.

Design and technology is an inspiring, rigorous and practical subject. Using creativity and imagination, pupils design and make products that solve real and relevant problems within a variety of contexts, considering their own and others' needs, wants and values.

Additionally, it provides excellent opportunities for students to develop and apply value judgements of an aesthetic, economic, moral, social, and technical nature both in their own designing and when evaluating the work of others.

How is the course assessed?

Students will sit one exam paper at the end of year 11. This will be worth 50% of their final grade. This exam will focus on the following key areas:

- Core Technical Principles
- Specialist Technical Principles
- Designing and Making Principles

Pupils will also complete a controlled assessment (coursework) project. This will start at the beginning of year 11 and will be worth 50% of pupils final grade.

Who is the course for?

This qualification will enable you to learn about the process of engineering design, and understand how it can be used to design effective solutions for a given design brief.

You will develop the ability to communicate your design ideas through the use of sketches, engineering drawings and computer aided design. You will also be able to evaluate the design of a product, through the disassembly of existing products and use modelling skills to develop a prototype.

Where can it take you?

This qualification can lead to many potential careers as well as further education. For example:

- *Electrical engineer*
- *Mechanical engineer*
- *CAD technician*
- *Design engineer*
- *Apprenticeships*
- *T levels*
- *Maintenance engineer*

Engineering Design

'As an engineer I'm constantly spotting problems and plotting how to solve them.' James Dyson

Cambridge National (OCR)

What will you learn about?

You will learn how to develop your techniques in sketching, and gain industry standard skills in engineering drawing using third angle orthographic and exploded views. You will enhance your confidence and capabilities by using 3D computer aided design software (Solidworks), to produce accurate models that visually communicate your designs.

Analysing how products are made can help to inform designs, and it can be useful to disassemble existing products to discover how they function and how they were manufactured.

You will also develop your physical modelling skills using resistant materials to produce a physical prototype. This will be a set assignment so you will be working from an engineering drawing.

How is the course assessed?

There are three units which are assessed. Two of the units are assessed through NEA (coursework). Each of these is worth 30% of the students final grade. The final unit is assessed through an exam at the end of year 11, this is worth 40% of the students final grade.

NEA - Communicating designs (worth 30%)

NEA - Design, evaluation and modelling (worth 30%)

Exam - Principles of engineering design (worth 40%)

Who is the course for?

If you have a passion for food preparation and want to expand your knowledge of different recipes, cooking techniques and the science behind cooking, then this course is for you.

This course is a natural progression from Food Technology studied at key stage three, so if you have enjoyed cooking in year 9 you should consider this course for your GCSE's.

Where can it take you?

This qualification can lead to many different career paths, as well as giving you many practical skills which will support you in adult life.

Examples of possible next steps would be courses in:

- *Catering and Hospitality*
- *Medicine*
- *Healthcare*
- *Dietitian*
- *Childcare*
- *Food Manufacturing*
- *Product Development*

Food Preparation & Nutrition

'Imagine a world where every child was educated about how amazing food is, where it comes from, how it affects the body and how it can save their lives.' Jamie Oliver

GCSE (AQA)

What will you learn about?

Food Preparation and Nutrition equips students with the knowledge, understanding, skills and encouragement they need to cook. It will give them the ability to apply the principles of food nutrition and healthy eating. Students develop vital life skills so that they can feed themselves and others affordably and nutritiously.

Students will also learn about the functional and chemical properties of ingredients and the science of the recipes they follow.

How is the course assessed?

Pupils will complete 2 NEA (coursework) projects as follows. These are worth 50% of their final grade in total:

- Food investigation - A written report focusing on Food Science
- Food Preparation Task - Menu planning and demonstrating practical skills

Students will then sit one exam paper at the end of Year 11, this is worth 50% of their grade. This exam will focus on, food safety, nutrition, food science and provenance.

Who is the course for?

If you have an interest in developing your cultural and linguistic knowledge about the Francophone world then this course is for you.

Learning a foreign language also helps develop transferable skills such as communication skills and problem solving which are sought after by employers.

Where can it take you?

Pupils who complete this course can study towards an A-Level in French or it can be a springboard to learn other languages.

French can be useful for a wide range of jobs such as

- *Journalism*
- *Engineering*
- *Medicine*
- *Politics*
- *Hospitality*
- *Tourism*
- *TEFL*
- *Police*
- *Law*
- *Teaching*

French

'To learn a language is to have one more window from which to look at the world.'

GCSE (AQA)

What will you learn about?

The GCSE course interleaves the learning of grammar with developing awareness about the culture, history and geography of different Francophone countries, thus building upon the foundations of key stage three.

The three main areas of content are:

- 1) People and lifestyle
- 2) Popular culture
- 3) Communication and the world around us

By the end of the course, pupils should be able to manipulate language which will provide them with the necessary linguistic skills to learn other languages in the future.

How is the course assessed?

Pupils will sit three papers at the end of year 11 in reading, writing and listening. These are equally weighted at 25% each.

There is also a speaking exam (25%) which involves a roleplay, a short reading aloud activity and using a photo as stimulus for a general conversation. This takes place in the April of year 11.

Who is the course for?

The further Mathematics course is designed for more able pupils with an interest in studying Mathematics, Engineering, Medicine or Computer Science post-16.

This option allows students to expand their mathematical knowledge beyond core GCSE mathematics. It is the ideal preparation for students thinking of studying Mathematics at A-level.

Where can it take you?

Students who enjoy this course can go on to take A-level mathematics at 6th form.

This qualification opens many doors. Possible future careers are wide ranging including:

- *Medicine*
- *Accountancy*
- *Economics*
- *Law*
- *Teaching*
- *Programming*
- *Engineering*

Further Mathematics

‘Pure Mathematics is, in its way, the poetry of logical ideas.’

Level 2 Certificate (AQA)

What will you learn about?

In Year 10, pupils will be gradually introduced to the Further Mathematics content over the year. Once into Year 11 and they are feeling more confident with their core GCSE Mathematics they will be introduced to the new topics such as calculus and matrices.

This qualification offers the opportunity for stretch and challenge that builds on the GCSE Mathematics curriculum. It is an excellent option choice to bridge the gap between GCSE Mathematics and A-Level Mathematics.

Further Mathematics studies the areas of algebra and geometry, which are crucial to further study in the subject, in greater depth and breadth. This qualification places an emphasis on higher order technical proficiency, rigorous argument and problem solving.

All pupils will have access to a relevant textbook, revision books, workbooks and will also be supported by online video resources.

How is the course assessed?

For Further Mathematics pupils will sit two exam papers at the end of Year 11.

Students must select Geography or History as their first option.

Geography

'Geography is a subject which holds the key to our future.'

Who is the course for?

It is difficult to think of a time when geography has been more relevant than today. Globally we face unprecedented challenges from the management of our resources, like energy, to the climate crisis and the geopolitical problems in Asia and the Middle East.

Geography is about the future, and recognising these challenges and working together to fix them. Be part of the solution!

Where can it take you?

There are thousands of jobs which use geography in their day to day work, here is a very brief selection:

- *Construction manager*
- *Landscape architect*
- *Market researcher*
- *Nature conservation officer*
- *Palaeontology*
- *Political risk analyst*
- *Sustainability consultant*
- *Transport planner*

GCSE (AQA 8035)

What will you learn about?

This exciting and relevant course studies geography in a balanced framework of physical and human themes and investigates the link between them.

Students will travel the world from their classroom, exploring case studies in the United Kingdom, higher income countries, newly emerging economies and lower income countries. Topics of study include climate change, poverty, deprivation, global shifts in economic power and the challenge of sustainable resource use. Students are also encouraged to understand their role in society, by considering different viewpoints, values and attitudes.

How is the course assessed?

Students will sit three examinations at the end of year 11.

Paper 1 (worth 35%) which covers the challenge of natural hazards, the living world, physical landscapes and geographical skills.

Paper 2 (worth 35%) which covers urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world, the challenge of resource management and geographical skills

Paper 3 (worth 30%) which covers issue evaluation, fieldwork and geographical skills

Students must select Geography or History as their first option.

Who is the course for?

History is aimed at students who have an interest and enthusiasm for past events and who wish to become successful global citizens of the future.

It is for students who enjoy expressing themselves in extended pieces of writing and who can analyse and explain why events happened and what the consequences of those events were.

Where can it take you?

- *Enter the legal profession and become, lawyers and barristers.*
- *Study the subject further to become historians and archaeologists..*
- *Join the education professions as history teachers and lecturers. Many use this as a platform for leadership roles.*

History

'Those that fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.'

GCSE (Edexcel)

What will you learn about?

The curriculum is very diverse, covering many different time periods and key events which are centred around the following five key areas of skill development:

1. Developing knowledge and understanding of the past, with a focus on key people, key events and key place.
2. Developing skills of historical inquiry
3. Developing the ability to ask questions about the past so that we can learn from it.
4. Developing an ability to ask why interpretations of the past are different.
5. Developing an ability to organise knowledge and reach conclusions based on the evidence provided.

How is the course assessed?

Paper 1 (30%). A Thematic Study and Historic Environment. It covers Crime and Punishment in Britain 1050 to the present. Also, Crime, Policing and the Inner City, including Whitechapel Murders.

Paper 2 (40%). A Period and British Depth Study. It covers Elizabeth I 1558 to 1588. Also, The Cold War 1945 to 1993.

Paper 3 (30%). A Modern Depth study which covers Weimar Germany 1918 to 1929 and the rise of Hitler and the Nazi Party from 1918 to 1939.

Who is the course for?

GCSE Drama is an exciting course for students who wish to express themselves through performance. This course will appeal to any student who has an interest in the theatre and the practical applications of acting and performance.

This course should also appeal to students who have a love of English literature and the historical context that helps to shape the ideas in a text.

Where can it take you?

This course can lead to further study in Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts at A-Level and then degree level. This could lead to employment in the performing arts industries.

However, Drama is not just about performing. The skills you gain from this subject are transferable to any career that requires teamwork, strong communication skills, creative thinking, problem solving and co-operation.

Performing Arts

'All the world's a stage'

GCSE (OCR)

What will you learn about?

GCSE Drama provides opportunities for students to understand and create drama as a practical art form. Students will develop a range of theatrical skills and work collaboratively to generate and communicate ideas and meanings through informed artistic choices.

Students gain a practical understanding of drama, and apply this knowledge to their performances as they develop their practical skills.

How is the course assessed?

Students research and explore a stimulus, work collaboratively and create their own devised drama. They complete a portfolio of evidence during the devising process, give a final performance of their drama, and write an evaluation of their own work.

Students develop and apply theatrical skills in acting or design by presenting a showcase of two extracts from a performance text. The chosen extracts must allow sufficient exploration of dialogue, plot and/or subplot, and characterisation for students to work in depth on their acting or design skills.

Students explore practically a whole performance text, and demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of how drama is developed, performed and responded to. They also analyse and evaluate a live theatre performance.

Students should note that there is a substantial written element to this course.

Who is the course for?

Sport Studies is an exciting course for those students who have a passion for sport and want to develop their knowledge within the subject further.

The course is predominantly theory based with students demonstrating their understanding of sport through assignment based tasks.

It is highly recommended that students regularly participate in competitive sport outside of school to take the course.

All year 11 students continue to take part in core practical PE.

Where can it take you?

The sports industry is huge and has many opportunities for careers further down the line. By successfully studying this course, students would be in a perfect position to progress to further education in this area. Possible careers for students interested in sport include; PE Teacher, Sports Coach/Leader, Fitness Instructor, Sporting Performance Analyst, Sports Analyst, Personal Trainer, Leisure Industry worker (public and private), Sports Development, Sports Administrator and many more.

Sports Studies

'Leadership is not a position or a title, it is action and example.'

Cambridge National (OCR)

What will you learn about?

Sports Studies offers students a perfect foundation for further study or progression into a career in sport through its task-based approach, which is very similar to many careers in the industry. Students will have the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge about different types of sport and physical activity. They will do this through taking on roles as sports leaders, practical performers and outdoor activity enthusiasts. They will also learn about contemporary issues in sport such as funding, participation, ethics and role models, alongside sport and the media.

How is the course assessed?

The overall grade for this qualification will be awarded as a result of students completing three units of work. Students will sit one exam at the end of year 11 and produce two portfolios of assignment courseworks which are a mix of theory and practical work.

Unit 1: Contemporary Issues in Sport, assessed through a 1 hour and 15 minutes exam.

Unit 2, Performance and Leadership in Sporting Activities, assessed through written assignments, training logs and practical performance.

Unit 3, Increase Awareness of Outdoor and Adventurous Activities, assessed through written assignments.

Who is the course for?

The Statistics course is designed for any pupils with an interest in studying Mathematics, Psychology, Engineering, Medicine or Computer Science post-16.

This option allows students to expand their mathematical knowledge beyond core GCSE mathematics.

Where can it take you?

Students who enjoy this course can go on to take A-level mathematics at 6th form.

This qualification opens many doors. Possible future careers are wide ranging including:

- *Medicine*
- *Psychologist*
- *Accountancy*
- *Economics*
- *Law*
- *Teaching*
- *Programming*
- *Engineering*

Statistics

'Statistics is the grammar of science.'

GCSE (Edexcel)

What will you learn about?

In Year 10, students will study the main components of the Statistics curriculum. This is an area of mathematics all about making well-reasoned predictions about the future, as well as making justified assumptions about why something has happened.

GCSE Statistics will involve studying probabilities as well as displaying and analysing data in real life situations. Statistics is a fascinating subject which has many applications to real life and across many other disciplines. Students are introduced to the skills of statistical enquiry, and practise the underpinning statistical calculations and interpretation using real world data and authentic contexts.

Our approach supports skills development for progression to a range of subjects and develops an awareness of statistics beyond the classroom. Once they go into Year 11 they will continue to develop and enhance these skills further.

All pupils will have access to a relevant textbook, revision books, workbooks and will also be supported by online resources.

How is the course assessed?

Pupils will sit two exam papers at the end of Year 11.

Who is the course for?

Triple Science is an option for students who have a keen interest in Science. This is an academically challenging course and recommended for more able students. This route provides students with a greater depth of knowledge and skills within the individual Sciences and facilitates Post-16 and 18 learning in any of the Science disciplines.

Where can it take you?

Local providers of A-Level Science courses frequently comment on how those who have followed the Triple Science course are better equipped for the demands of this next level of learning.

Students interested in Medicine, Dentistry or Veterinary Science as a career should definitely consider Triple Science as an option.

Other possible careers include:

- *Marine Biologist*
- *Ecologist*
- *Forensic Scientist*
- *Meteorologist*
- *Astrophysicist*

Triple Science

'Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood. Now is the time to understand more, so that we may fear less.' Marie Curie

GCSE (AQA)

What will you learn about?

Students will work towards three separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Students who do not take Triple Science will do 'Combined Science' in which they are only awarded two GCSE's.

The key themes running throughout the two year program are cells, atoms and energy. From these key ideas, students will explore a wide variety of Science including how our bodies respond to infection, how atoms bond and react with each other, and what lies beyond our planet.

The delivery of our curriculum combines theory with practical Science so that pupils can reinforce concepts learned. Working scientifically underpins the Triple Science curriculum so that pupils can analyse information and present it in a concise way. Through studying Triple Science, students will improve their organisation, analytical and communication skills.

How is the course assessed?

Students will sit six exams at the end of year 11.

- Two exams in Biology, each worth 50%.
- Two exams in Chemistry, each worth 50%.
- Two exams in Physics, each worth 50%.