



Year 9 Options 2022

We are very excited to share with you the options choices for 2022. We have a wide range of subjects for you to choose from to ensure you can pick a range of subjects to suit your skillset and what you would like to do after you leave us.

In Year 10 and 11 all students will study the core subjects of English (4 hours), maths (4 hours), science (4 hours), core PE (1 hour) and their choice of 4 option subjects (3 hours of each).

When deciding on their options, students must choose to study at least one subject from the Ebacc GCSEs (green box) but their three other choices are open and can be made up with further subjects from the EBacc GCSEs or subjects in the open choices box.

In addition to the core subjects and their options, students will cover the wider, compulsory aspects of the National Curriculum. These include core PE (one hour a week), focus sessions (form time) and the six ARCH days a year. The following pages provide an overview of each course and we have highlighted the core and EBacc subjects in the title. You can view in-depth curriculum plans for KS4 courses on our curriculum pages at www.todhigh.co.uk. Please be aware that all proposed school trips advertised by different subjects are dependent on minimum numbers of participants.

Our vocational courses have a practical focus, with coursework elements. Vocational courses provide skills more directly applicable to the world of work.

<p>Core Subjects (These subjects are compulsory)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English language • English literature • Maths • Combined science (2 GCSEs) 	<p>Open Choices (Up to 3 choices from these subjects can be chosen)</p> <p>GCSEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Art, craft and design • Business studies • Design technology • EPR (ethics, philosophy and religion) • Photography
<p>EBacc GCSEs (At least one of these must be chosen)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spanish • History • Geography • Separate sciences* • Computer science* 	<p>Vocational Courses (These are at the same level qualification as a GCSE)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child development • Health and social care • Hospitality and catering • iMedia • Music • Performing arts • Sports studies

*Separate sciences and computer science have challenging content and are therefore only suitable for students currently working at 'securing' or 'excelling' in that subject. If you have further questions, please speak to Mr Keane (a.keane@todhigh.co.uk) for separate sciences and Mr Chattell (d.chattell@todhigh.co.uk) for computer science.

We will run all these courses provided we get enough uptake in the straw poll. If a course is unfortunately not feasible for 2022-2024, we will let you know.

When considering what your options should be, you should consider your plans for post 16. Local post 16 providers will be available at Options Evening or you can speak with our careers advisor Mr Stoakes (r.stoakes@todhigh.co.uk).



Timeline Of Key Dates

(Dates may be subject to slight variation.)

December 2021

Options booklet sent out. Please spend some time having initial discussions around which subjects would suit both your child's interests and skills. Make sure you think of questions to ask teachers at the upcoming parents' evening. It can also be helpful to think of which subjects may help with any post-16 ambitions students already hold. Please keep this booklet safe and come back to it as students often change their minds! If you do need additional copies/further information, please visit the options page on the school website.

Student Data Check Reports. Please use your child's attainment grades and attitude to learning scores to identify the subjects your child is performing well in as this will help guide some of the decisions you make with your child.

Y9 Parents Evening. Please use this opportunity to speak to teachers about the suitability of your child taking their subject as an option. This is the first opportunity to get some personal feedback within the process.

January 2022

Focus Time will be used to provide specific information about all the subjects that we hope to offer. Students will watch videos about each subject, followed by a question-and-answer session with the subject leader or teacher.

Wednesday 19th January (16:30-18:30)

Options Evening (virtual) there will be a presentation via Microsoft Teams explaining the options process and subject teachers will be on hand to discuss the content of the subject and your child's suitability. Our careers advisor Rob Stoakes and various post-16 providers will also be present for you to consider how your option choices will support your next steps after Year 11. In addition, students will also be provided with a straw poll form to indicate which subjects they wish to choose. This is not a final choice, but it allows us to put together the blocks to accommodate the largest possible number of students.

Tuesday 1st February

Straw poll form deadline. We work with the information from the straw poll to ensure we can support as many students to study their option choices as possible; however, we can't promise that all ranges of option choices will be available.

From the straw poll, we put the subjects into combinations or 'blocks'. These are given to the students on an options form and the blocks are different every year – according to the results of the straw poll. The school website currently shows the subjects arranged in last year's option blocks; this information will be updated by Monday 8th March.

March 2022

Options letter sent home with students. Please review this alongside the options booklet and help guide your child to choose their options. The deadline for these forms is **Thursday 24th March**.

Thursday 10th March

Options meeting will take place. You and your child will then attend an options meeting via phone with a member of staff which will help you understand the choices and discuss what is right for your child. The majority of appointments will take place on Thursday 10th March (4pm-6pm), there is flexibility to arrange a few of these calls during this week.

Thursday 24th March

Final deadline for options choices. Options will be selected via MS Forms. Late responses will delay the options process. This will be followed by a formal options offer in May. If there is a problem with your child's option choices, we will let you know.



English Baccalaureate

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The EBacc is a traditional academic pathway, valued by employers and top universities. The EBacc is a qualification that includes a specific suite of subjects:

- English, maths and science.
- Spanish.
- history or geography.

*'The **EBacc** is made up of the subjects which are considered essential to many degrees and open up lots of doors. Research shows that a pupil's socio-economic background impacts the subjects they choose at GCSE, and that this determines their opportunities beyond school. A study by the UCL Institute of Education shows that studying subjects included in the EBacc provides students with greater opportunities in further education and increases the likelihood that a pupil will stay on in full-time education. Sutton Trust research reveals that studying the EBacc can help improve a young person's performance in English and maths.'*

Department for Education

Choosing Ebacc creates a wide choice. For example, you could choose:

- Spanish, geography, music and performing arts.
- Spanish, history, EPR and geography.
- Spanish, geography, health and social care and child development.
- Spanish, history, photography and art, craft and design.

If you are unsure if EBacc is the right choice, please contact Mrs Coates on a.coates@todhigh.co.uk





CORE: English

Examination information: You will study the AQA examination board for both English language and English literature. 100% of the course is externally assessed via four written examinations.

What will I study?

You will work towards earning two GCSEs in English in Year 10 and Year 11: English language and English literature.

English language: English language opens doors and provides opportunities for you to be heard. Studying how we communicate with each other can be fascinating, and you will explore how the texts you read and the people around you use language for a reason. You will learn how to communicate effectively and how to use language purposefully yourself. You will also begin to see how writers often use devices to entertain, persuade or even manipulate you into thinking a certain way.

English literature: in English literature, you will study one nineteenth century novel, a Shakespeare play, a modern play and poetry. Using similar skills to those developed in your English language course, you will start to see why literature is so timeless; you will explore the way that writers create novels, plays and poems.

Why should I study English?

Most college courses and apprenticeships require you to gain a good pass in English language, because this shows that you are able to explain your ideas and communicate well. In addition, being able to articulate yourself confidently is a valuable skill; a skill that you will draw upon for most of your adult life. A GCSE in English literature is highly desirable in the world of work and further education, in that it signifies that you have excellent critical thinking skills, you can sustain an argument on a range of texts and tasks in the form of extended essays, and that you have developed skills that are essential for today's global environment. Nearly all jobs require employees to demonstrate strong skills in this subject, but professions where English is particularly relevant include journalism, television, media, performing arts, teaching, law and business. You will need strong English skills to complete any university course, as you will be required to read advanced textbooks/journals and write essays.

Important information

In English language, there is a great emphasis on the analysis and evaluation of a range of fiction and non-fiction texts. We study lots of interesting extracts taken from many different texts, from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty first century. Students also enjoy writing creative and transactional pieces throughout the year. In English literature, we study an anthology of poetry on the themes of power and conflict. We also study two plays: Romeo and Juliet, by William Shakespeare and An Inspector Calls by JB Priestley, and a novella, A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens. Throughout the two-year course of study, students need to be resilient, self-motivated and open minded. Organisational skills are also highly desirable both inside and outside the classroom.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mrs N. Kewin: n.kewin@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'English is a fabulous subject. I often feel like I can achieve anything.'

'English is a really important subject because you learn to extend your vocabulary and how to craft language into creative pieces of writing. It is a subject that is always interesting and exciting.'





CORE: Mathematics

Examination information: The exam board we use is Edexcel.

Tiers of Entry: Foundation Grades 1 – 5, Higher Grades 4 – 9

Examinations: 3 Papers: 1 non-calculator, 2 calculator, each 1hr 30mins.

What will I study?

In mathematics you will continue to study the main topic areas of number, ratio & proportion, algebra, statistics & probability and geometry & measures. You will build on your knowledge from previous years – learning new skills and concepts in these key areas. You will need to be proficient in processing and dealing with all types of numbers.

Why should I study mathematics?

Mathematics is a key GCSE subject that provides you with an essential skill for life. You will need your GCSE to progress further in education, employment or training. All colleges require you to pass mathematics at grade 4 or above, if you don't achieve this you will be required to re-sit the subject. A good knowledge of mathematics will help you in other subjects, for example sciences, computing and geography. Most jobs require the use and application of skills and knowledge learned in GCSE mathematics. Professions that require a good understanding of maths include accountancy, engineering and construction.

Important information

GCSE mathematics has a focus on problem solving and mathematical reasoning and many problems will be set in a real-life context. There is also further focus on your written communication of mathematics.

Two of the three papers require you to use a scientific calculator.

Your tier entry is not confirmed until year 11.

You will need to be working at least 'securing' and ideally 'excelling' in mathematics in order to study separate sciences or computer science.

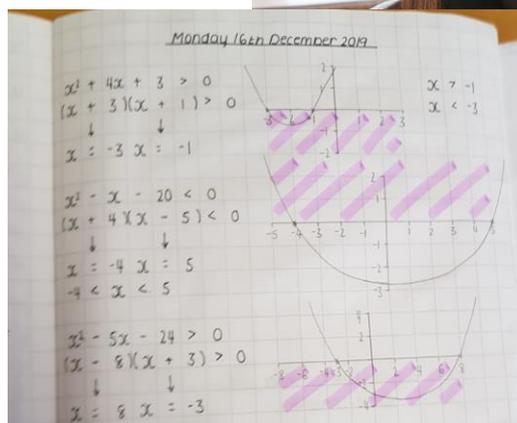
Name of acting Head of Department and email address:

Mrs E. Rawlinson e.rawlinson@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I love getting the right answer especially when you have done a lot of working out to get there - I have a great feeling of satisfaction and accomplishment.'

'The maths department at Tod High is very friendly and are always willing to support and help you, even if this is after school.'





CORE: Combined Science

Examination information: The exam board is Edexcel. Students will sit six papers, two in biology, two in chemistry and two in physics. Each paper is 70 minutes long. There are higher and foundation tiers for entry and the foundation tier is capped at a 5-5 grade. The minimum that can be achieved on a higher paper is 4-4. You must sit all papers for the tier of entry you have been entered for.

What will I study?

You will study aspects of all three science disciplines within different modules as the course progresses. The content taught in biology, chemistry and physics during the first three years at school will be covered in more depth and detail allowing for a much greater knowledge and understanding of the sciences. Practical science is at the heart of the new GCSE curriculum, this means that during the course you will need to show that you can work safely and independently to plan, complete, analyse and evaluate practical work that relates to the curriculum.

Why should I study combined science?

Scientific understanding is changing lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. You will learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. You will gain an appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of a small number of key ideas that relate to the sciences.

Science will also develop the transferrable skills of problem solving, evaluation, mathematical and analytical skills, highlighting the importance of a methodical approach to allow students to be effective citizens of the world.

Important information

The qualification results in the award of two GCSEs. These can only be split by one grade, for example students can achieve a grade 6-5, but cannot achieve a 5-3. Completing a combined science course does not preclude you from applying for, and being successful at, A-level Sciences., however, studying separate sciences at GCSE will make the transition easier.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

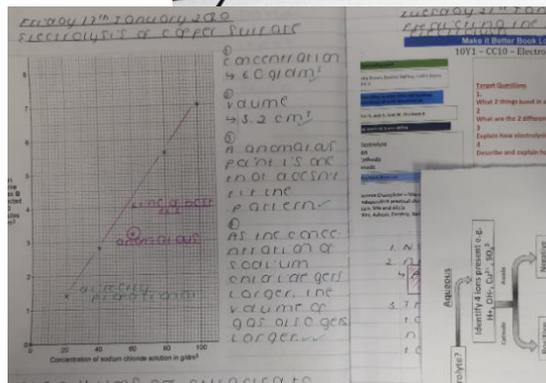
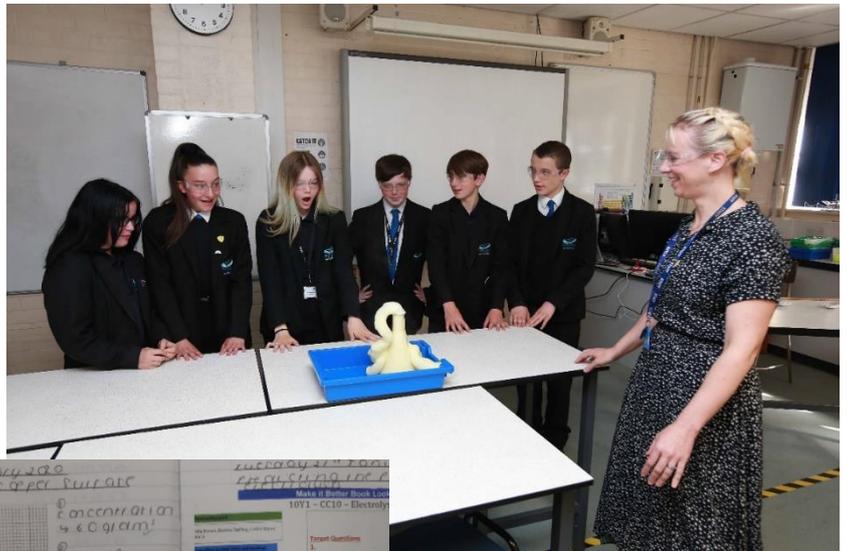
Mr A. Keane a.keane@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I feel prepared for my exams as there is a lot of support and practice to develop my skills.'

'I feel pushed so that I achieve at the best of my ability.'

'Teachers are supportive and knowledgeable and really help me to understand some of the difficult concepts.'





EBacc: Separate Sciences

Examination information: The exam board is Edexcel. Students will sit six papers, two in biology, two in chemistry and two in physics. Each paper is 100 minutes long. There are higher and foundation tiers for entry and the foundation tier is capped at a grade 5. The minimum that can be achieved on a higher paper is a grade 4.

What will I study?

You will study separate GCSEs in biology, chemistry and physics. The content taught for combined science will be covered, but in much greater depth, for example in physics there are further lessons on how nuclear power works rather than just looking at the advantages and disadvantages. There are also specific units that only separate sciences students will be taught, for example space and astronomy within the physics course.

Why should I study separate sciences?

Studying separate sciences will provide you with many of the same skills and understanding as combined science but with a much greater depth of knowledge about scientific phenomena. It will really help you if you plan to study science at A-level and beyond.

It will also develop transferrable skills of problem solving, evaluation, mathematical and analytical skills, highlighting the importance of a methodical approach to allow students to be effective citizens of the world.

Important information

Students will have different teachers for each different science. The qualification results in the award of three GCSEs, one for each science.

There will be entry requirements for this course, due to the conceptually difficult nature of the subject. You should be currently at least at a 'securing' grade in your most recent data check, all applications will be considered. A good understanding of mathematics is also important especially within the physics course. You will be expected to work independently and read about science more widely to develop your scientific literacy skills.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr A. Keane a.keane@todhigh.co.uk

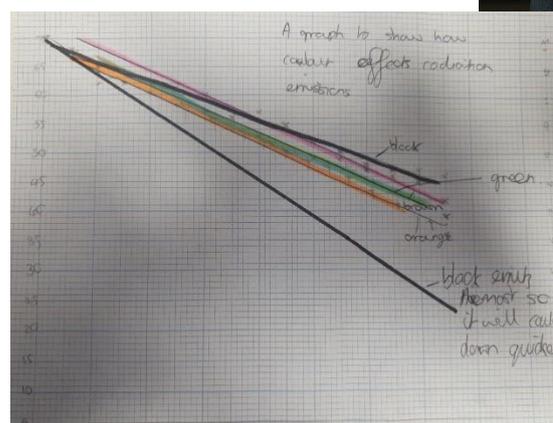
What do students think of this subject?

'Even though it is difficult, I find it interesting and intriguing, I get to learn about things I wouldn't normally.'

'I like having a different teacher for each subject, so I get more in depth knowledge.'

'Teachers use their past experiences to help us learn and make it real life.'

'Separate sciences will help me to achieve my dreams of becoming a vet.'





EBacc: Spanish

EBACC if studied with Geography or History

Examination information: At Todmorden High School we follow the AQA Specification for Spanish. There are two tiers of entry: higher (grades 5-9) and foundation (grades 1-5) and you will be entered for the same tier for all 4 exams in the qualification. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. The papers are paper 1 - listening, paper 2 - speaking, paper 3 – reading and paper 4 - writing.

What will I study?

The main aim of the course is to enable you to understand and communicate effectively in Spanish. To help you enrich your vocabulary and appreciation of the language we will cover topics within three key themes which will be assessed in each of the four papers.

- **Theme 1: Identity and culture.**
- **Theme 2: Local, national and global areas of interest.**
- **Theme 3: Current and future study/employment.**

You will also develop your understanding of different grammatical structures in Spanish, building on the knowledge that you have already acquired by studying the subject at key stage three.

Why should I study Spanish?

Spanish is the fourth most widely spoken language in the world and is an official language of countries on four continents. Learning to speak Spanish will enable you to engage with the exciting and diverse Hispanic culture connected to the language and enable you to participate as a global citizen more fully. A GCSE in Spanish will be impressive on any post-16 application form and will make you an attractive candidate for any college, regardless of whether you choose to continue studying the language at A-level and beyond. Foreign language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally.

Important information

This new specification has a renewed focus on the accurate use of grammatical structures and their use in spontaneous manipulation of language. This will be assessed in various ways in the examinations at the end of year 11 and so the learning of grammar and appropriate exam techniques in its assessment will feature heavily. **Tiers of entry will not be decided until year 11 and therefore course content will be taught so it supports all levels.** You will need to be dedicated to learning vocabulary and practising the language outside of lessons as well as being organised and resilient with homework tasks and revision. The more time you invest in learning the language beyond the classroom, the more proficient you will become in your lessons and assessments. We are keen to offer you opportunities to utilise your language skills in an authentic setting and so will prioritise GCSE Spanish students in any trips and extra-curricular activities that we offer.

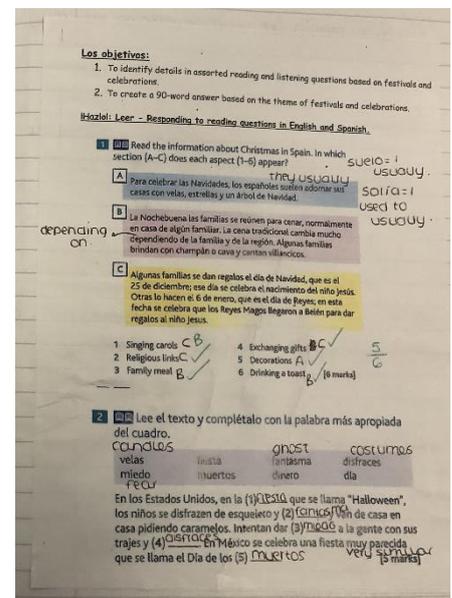
Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr M. Charles m.charles@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I chose Spanish because I really wanted to learn a language for travelling in the future.'

'It will look really good on my CV for college. It's been a big step up but it's worth it.'





EBacc: Geography

EBACC if studied with Spanish

Examination information: AQA, 3 x 90-minute exams

What will I study?

Geography is broken down in to three different areas:

Physical geography. Within this area we look at climate change, tectonics, extreme weather, ecosystems, tropical rainforests, cold environments, rivers and glaciated areas;

Human geography. This concentrates on the impact of people on the world and peoples' experiences within the world. We study global economics, the changing trend to urban living, development and inequality and how we use/overuse resources;

Fieldwork. We take a practical approach in the third element. We go to Salford Quays to study regeneration and investigate the River Calder including local flood prevention methods. We also study a theoretical project and apply fieldwork techniques.

Why should I study geography?

Geography is at the cutting edge of issues to do with the modern world. You will become an understanding, responsible, thoughtful person who has detailed knowledge about the world that they live in.

Geography sits between science and humanities and teaches you skills from both. Any profession that requires an understanding of the world, its people and the way that it functions will recognise geography GCSE as a valued qualification. These could be as wide-ranging as joining the police, working in global business logistics, being a politician, researching biogeography in distant lands.

Important information

This is a 100% exam-based course. It has three exams, one in each aspect of the course, at the end of the two years.

There is a high level of written analysis required. The 6 and 9-mark questions require a deep understanding of the subject and an ability to do high-quality extended writing is required. About half of your final grade depends on high level analysis.

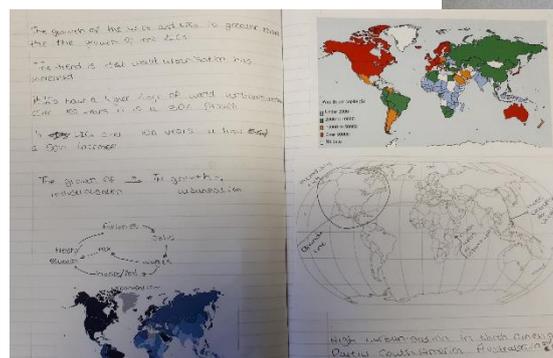
Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr T. Hall t.hall@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I chose geography because I really enjoyed it in Year 9, and I'm interested in the world.

GCSE is definitely a step up in terms of difficulty, but I am finding it more interesting as we gain a deeper understanding.'





EBacc: History

EBACC if studied with Spanish

Examination information: The exam board is AQA. There is only one tier to the exam with Two exam papers each lasting two hours. **Paper 1** - Conflict and Tension 1919-1939 and America 1920-73

Paper 2 - Britain, Health and the People c1000 – Present and Elizabeth c1568-1603

What will I study?

You will study history from a range of time periods and a range of countries. You will look at medicine and how we got to the point we are at today, Elizabeth I, America in the modern era and the issues that occurred between the wars and how Hitler took advantage of them. You will also develop important skills that will set you up well for the future.

Why should I study history?

Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to where it is now, and how it will continue to develop in the future. Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you'll learn a range of handy skills that will help you with college or sixth form and future 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.

Important information

There is a big emphasis on the skills of explanation and analysis. This will support your work in English.

You will have to read information and be prepared to take it in.

You must be prepared to learn the evidence to support your opinions.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Miss C. Vose c.vose@todhigh.co.uk

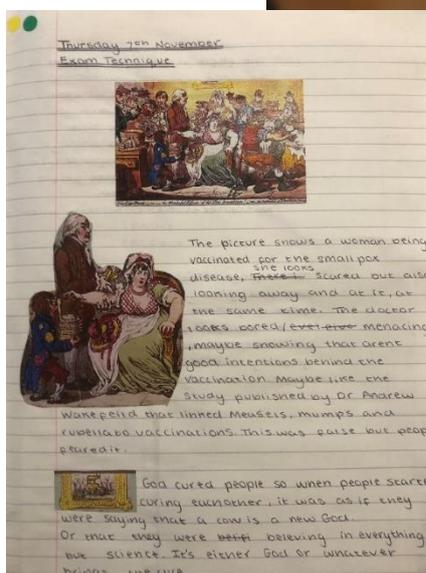
What do students think of this subject?

'History is very interesting and not boring. If you are willing to

write and learn, then it's great.'

'Definitely the best option I chose.'

'History is one big story.'





EBacc: Computer Science

Examination information: The examination board is OCR. You will be assessed at the end of year 11 with two x 1 hour 30-minute written examinations both worth 50% and 80 marks each. A 20-hour programming project will also be completed but this will not count towards an overall grade. Paper 1 is based on computer systems and paper 2 is computational thinking, problem solving and programming.

What will I study?

The course is split into three units:

1. Computer systems including system architecture, memory, storage, wired/wireless networks, network topologies, system security, system software, ethical/legal and cultural concerns.
2. Computational thinking, algorithms and programming including algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation.
3. Programming project including programming techniques, analysis, design, development, testing and evaluation/conclusions.

Why should I study computer science?

This course will build on the computer science elements covered throughout years 7, 8 and 9. This course will allow students to develop their programming skills, thinking about real world application. Through the course, students will develop their computational thinking skills, both in their understanding of how computers work and through the development of working computer programs. It will also provide a solid basis for looking at future careers within the computing industry, finance and engineering.

Important information

Computer science is different from ICT. Computer science is a very rewarding but academically demanding subject and is how to programme computers rather than how we use computers. The rewards and career prospects for those students who are computer scientists are fantastic. There will be entry requirements for this course, due to the conceptually difficult nature of the subject. You should be currently at least at a 'securing' grade in your most recent data check.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr D. Chattell d.chattell@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'Computer science can be difficult at times but once you get a grip of it, it gets a lot easier.'

'I know that if I take computer science, I am future-proofing my career.'





Open: Art, Craft & Design

Examination information: The course will run with the AQA examination board. You will be assessed at the end of Year 11 and the weightings will be 60% coursework component and 40% exam component.

The controlled test (coursework) unit will be set by the AQA exam board.
The final exam is sat over 2 full days.

What will I study?

This course is art, craft and design and will offer you a great range of experiences with a range of materials, media and processes.

You will have the chance to create outcomes using traditional techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles and ceramics. You will also have the chance to use more contemporary technological processes and programmes such as Photoshop, Illustrator, and an array of photo manipulation apps as well as undertaking photography using state-of-the-art camera equipment.

Why should I study art, craft and design?

Learning through, and about, the arts enrich the experience of studying while at school as well as preparing students for life after school. Art subjects encourage self-expression and creativity and can build confidence as well as a sense of individual identity. Creativity can also help with well-being and improving health and happiness – many students find that art lessons act as an outlet for releasing the pressures of studying as well as those of everyday life. Studying art subjects also help us to develop critical thinking and the ability to interpret the world around us.

Important information

As the course is heavily weighted to the coursework component (60%) you will need to be self-motivated and independent in your work ethic. You will need to be highly imaginative and able to research thoroughly into existing artists' work. You will be expected to work steadily on your own projects and manage your own workload. As such, this course is an excellent way to demonstrate passion and work ethic.

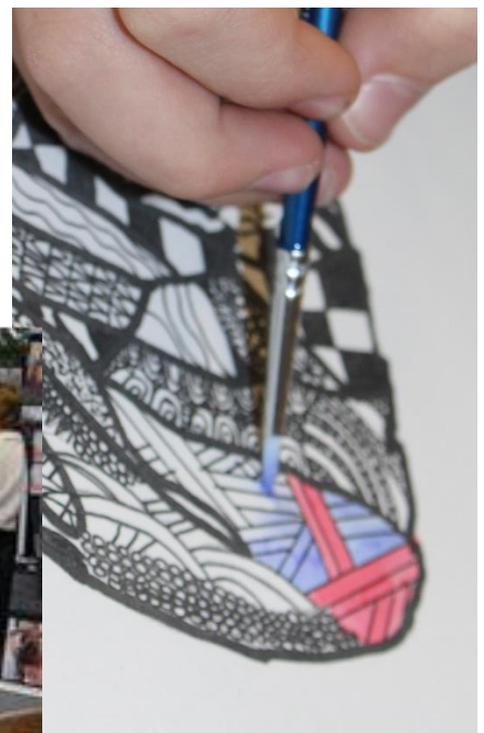
Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr L. Freeman l.freeman@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I see art as a creative space to express my originality.'

'Art is my favourite subject as I find it challenging and fun.'





Open: Design Technology

Examination information: 50% - NEA: non-exam assessment (internal assessment) 50% - paper one: split into three sections - core technical principles; specialist technical principles and designing and making principles (120 minutes external examination).

What will I study?

GCSE design technology sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. The majority of the specification is delivered through practical application, with various materials and processes, to develop the required knowledge and understanding in preparation for the examination and NEA.

Students have the opportunity to select which area of material strength they will concentrate on for the non-exam assessment in year 11.

The course content:

- new and emerging technologies.
- energy generation and storage.
- developments in new materials.
- systems approach to designing.
- mechanical devices.
- materials and their working properties.

Why should I study design technology?

By studying design technology, you'll be able to build up your creativity, problem solving, planning, and evaluation skills. Since many projects are done via group work, you'll also gain communication and teamwork skills.

Important information

Around 40% of lessons are practical, although this may vary. You will be provided with personal protective equipment. There is a more academic approach to this subject as more importance has been placed on the theory element. There are key deadlines for coursework through year 11 that must be kept to. Coursework needs to be written using a high standard of English, whether handwritten or electronically written.

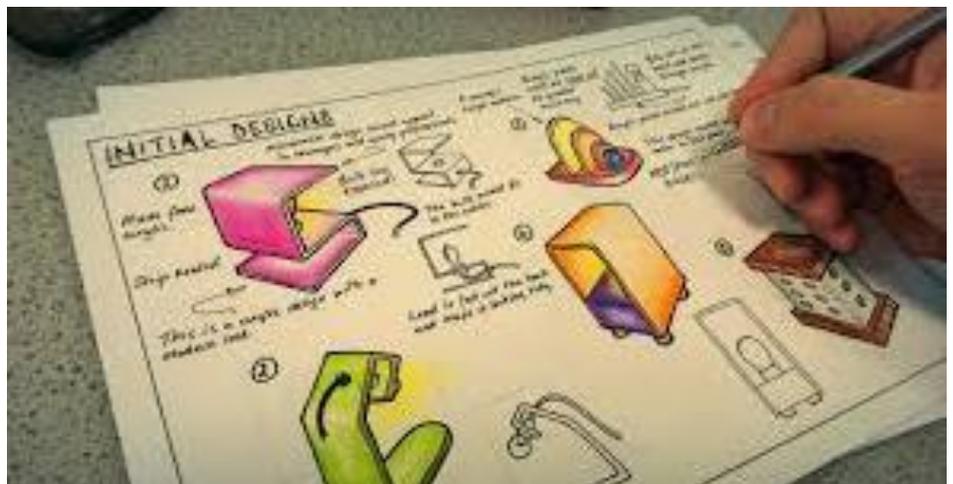
Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr L. Freeman l.freeman@todhigh.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'Design technology is different to my other subjects.'

'I like the equal balance of theory and practical.'





Open: Ethics, Philosophy & Religion (EPR)

Examination information: In EPR you will sit two papers. Each paper is 1hr 45min and each is made up of 4 24-mark sections. You have already been training to complete these sections (which are made up of 1, 2, 4, 5 and 12-mark questions). We have chosen to study AQA Specification A with a focus on Christianity and Buddhism.

What will I study?

In paper one, students complete a thorough study of Christian and Buddhist beliefs and practices. They will encounter a range of different scholars and concepts. Some highlights include controversial Buddhist sky burials and modern-day devotional crucifixion. In paper two, students explore a range of ethical and philosophical themes ranging from abortion and euthanasia to the existence of God, relationships and animal rights. Students will develop their own opinions in conjunction with the best scholars and thinkers both religious and otherwise.

Why should I study EPR?

EPR is a fascinating subject with a wide scope of study. Unlike the RE of old, it comprises a greater focus on ethics and philosophy where students can develop their moral personhood and logical thinking skills. In addition to being simply absorbing, it is an excellent option to support further study and the world of work. Where 84% of the world is religious (and roughly half of the UK), an understanding of and ability to work alongside religious believers is essential. Furthermore, ethical decision making has never been more important. With high profile news stories having ethical links (climate change, prisons and domestic policy), the prospect of simply becoming an ethicist or ethical advisor (for a business or organisation) hardly needs mentioning. Finally, in a world where many jobs are becoming mechanised, philosophy helps to demonstrate the superior power and prowess of the human mind. In short, there is no job or course that EPR is not applicable to.

Important information: The EPR department runs several trips to further outcomes for students. These usually include:

- York - A trip to the Madhyamaka Kadampa Meditation Centre to meet a Buddhist nun and discuss different ideas of enlightenment. It also includes a visit to the Minster and a climb to the top before an independent exploration of the city.
- Peter Vardy - Dr Peter Vardy is a very well-respected voice in the world of EPR. His 'Puzzle' series is studied at A-Level and University. Each year, we attend one of his Manchester lectures that focus on equipping GCSE students.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr J. Womack j.womack@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'EPR is a brilliant subject where you get to study things that you don't in other subjects. I have enjoyed relationships and euthanasia which are from the ethical themes paper. These are real-life issues which will be useful for any job. EPR is where I get my best results.'





Open: Photography

Examination information: The course will run with the AQA examination board.

The weightings will be:

- a) Coursework component 60%
- b) Exam component 40%

What will I study?

Students will be introduced to a variety of experiences that explore a range of photographic media, techniques and processes.

They will be introduced to traditional methods but focus on new technologies.

Students will be required to work in **one or more** area(s) of photography, for example, portraiture, landscape photography or moving image (video, film, animation). They may explore overlapping areas and combinations of areas.

Why should I study photography?

Photography has become an increasingly present part of our everyday lives. The course offers you the opportunity to be creative within a variety of processes that encompass both digital and physical media. The course is suited to anyone who feels they wish to express themselves through the lens of a camera. There are a great number of careers that studying photography can lead to, for example: documentary photography, photojournalism, fashion photography, digital editing and design work.

Important information

You do not need to own your own camera. You will be assessed at the end of year 11.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr L. Freeman l.freeman@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'Photography was more of a challenge than I expected, but it is always fun.'

'There is lots of creative, imaginative freedom within photography, making room for self-expression through the coursework element.'

'Working on something you're passionate about evokes prosperity, talent, commitment and certainly diligence.'





Open: Child Development

Examination information: Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in child development. The course is a mix of assignments over the two year course (60%) and a two hour exam (40%). Unless there are exceptional circumstances, all learners at Todmorden High School will be entered for the level 2 qualification which is equivalent to GCSE grades 5-9 and will lead to A-level or BTEC level 3 study in similar subjects.

What will I study?

You will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and understanding of child development and growth up to the age of five, how children learn through play and how meeting the needs of individual children will support their development, play and learning. In a practical learning environment, learners will have the opportunity to develop knowledge and technical skills in the following areas:

- The characteristics of children's development from birth up to five.
- Factors that affect growth and development.
- The importance of play.
- How play promotes children's learning and development.
- Reasons why children may need support.
- Child-friendly environments to support play, learning and development in children from birth to five years old.
- Supporting all children to learn and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially, adapting activities to support children's play, learning and development.

It is a practical introduction to the application of play opportunities for the learning and development of children in a variety of environments.

Why should I study childcare?

Have you an interest in working with children under five years of age? Or do you have experience with younger siblings or cousins? If you are considering a future career in a childcare setting, from a private nursery to teaching, this would be an excellent qualification for you.

Important information

You will need to be able to conduct independent research, manage your time and keep to deadlines. The course needs you to understand a little psychology and apply this to children under five years old.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr J. Womack j.womack@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

"I love the independence during this course"

"This is a lesson I look forward to"





Open: Health & Social Care (H&SC)

Examination information: OCR Cambridge National in health & social care. You will be entered for three units at Level 2 and this is equivalent to a GCSE qualification.

What will I study?

The Cambridge National in health & social care will encourage students to:

- understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of the rights of individuals, person centred values of care, effective communication and how to protect individuals in health and social care and early years settings.
- develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.

How will I be assessed?

The course will consist of an exam unit and two coursework units.

- R032: Principles of care in health and social care settings – exam unit – 70 marks.
- R033: Supporting individuals through life events – centre assessed and OCR moderated coursework unit- 60 marks.
- R034: Creative and therapeutic activities – centre assessed and OCR moderated coursework unit - 60 marks.

Why should I study health and social care?

This qualification introduces students to the biggest employment sector in the UK, which includes elements of the NHS, local authority adult and child-care services as well as a range of independent providers, which provide care in a variety of settings. It introduces students to this vocational sector and the role it plays in the health, well-being and care of individuals across all age ranges. Students will also develop transferable skills, in particular communication and aspects of team working.

Important information: The pathways into work are vast in health and social care. This course can lead to careers in nursing or midwifery, or as a counsellor, occupational therapist, mental health worker, social worker, youth worker, early years practitioner, teacher, chiropractor, physiotherapist or paramedic.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr P. Duerden p.duerden@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I chose to study health & social care because we take part in practical activities as well as theory lessons'

"The course allows me to learn about different jobs within the health, social and early years sector. This has given me ambition for future job opportunities."



"When completing written coursework in health and social care we learn key information before applying it to roles within the sector."



Open: Hospitality & Catering

Examination information: WJEC/Eduqas Hospitality and Catering Level 2. The course is composed of one Exam worth 40%, to be taken at the end of year 11 and practical assessments, taken in year 11, for the remaining 60%.

What will I study?

1. The hospitality and catering industry: this unit involves understanding how the industry works, the environment in which hospitality and catering providers operate and key food and health and safety issues.
2. Hospitality and catering in action: this unit is for learners to safely plan, prepare, cook and present nutritional dishes. This includes understanding the importance of nutrition in planning menus and being able to skilfully cook dishes.

Why should I study hospitality and catering?

The course is suitable for all those with a passion for food. It aims to develop strong practical skills and a strong theoretical knowledge of food and the food industry.

The course will serve as a learning platform for those who want to enter the food industry in either a practical sense or a scientific pathway. There is a strong practical skills element as well as scientific and analytical assessment and theoretical food knowledge.

You will prepare and make nutritious food. This is a skill for life and a great opportunity to develop your creativity in combining flavours and textures as well as ensuring food looks appealing.

Important information

The WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in hospitality and catering has been designed to support learners in schools and colleges who want to learn about this vocational sector and the potential it can offer them for their careers or further study. It is recognised as a great foundation for further study, or a great stepping stone into the industry.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Miss A. Brockman

a.brockman@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I really enjoy the practical side of this subject.'

'I never realised that I could be such a good cook. My confidence has really grown.'





Open: iMedia

Examination information: OCR – Cambridge Nationals level 2. The course is made up of an exam and controlled assessment (coursework). The controlled assessment is based on two units of work — graphics and computer animations.

What will I study?

The OCR Level 1/2 Cambridge National Certificate in Creative iMedia has been designed to engage and enthuse young people with an interest in creative computing and media. For example, digital graphics, animations and interactive multimedia products. We will build on the digital skills that you developed in Key Stage 3 to equip you with the skills that will need in the new digital media job market.

How will I be assessed?

- Unit R093: Creative iMedia in the media industry (External Exam – 70 marks)
- Unit R094: Visual identity and digital graphics (internal assessment – Coursework – 50 marks)
- Unit R096: Animation and audio (internal assessment – Coursework – 70 marks)

Why should I study iMedia?

The Cambridge National in creative iMedia is a media sector-focused qualification which includes film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and has information technology at its heart. It provides knowledge in several key areas in this field from pre-production skills to digital animation and has a motivating, hands-on approach to both teaching and learning. The iMedia qualification will open doors to what is the fastest growing job sector in the market.

Important information

iMedia has replaced the old 'ICT' but now has an additional focus on media. We use and build on many of the skills established in Key Stage 3. It is a fantastic course for those students wanting to develop their skills in this area of expertise which is in high demand in the workplace.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr D Chattell d.chattell@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I've learnt how to use Fireworks which I have made some fantastic graphics with and we're going to be making computer animations next year.'





Open: BTEC Music

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: Pearson BTEC First Award in music. This is a level 2 qualification, equivalent to 1 GCSE. Students will be graded a pass, merit, distinction or distinction* Students complete 4 units of work.

- Unit 1: 1 hour written exam paper on the music industry. Students are allowed to re-sit this paper once.
- Unit 2: Music event. Students plan, prepare and deliver a musical event. Written portfolio and video footage of evidence.
- Unit 4: Composition. Students create their own music using music technology computer programmes.
- Unit 5: Performance. Students perform two contrasting pieces. A written portfolio and video footage of rehearsals and the final performance is submitted.

What will I study?

This vocational course offers a combination of both practical learning and written assignments in order to provide students with the knowledge, skills and understanding for a career within the music industry. As part of the course, you will be expected to complete practical assignments in both performance and composition. You will take part in the planning and delivery of a musical event; past examples are the THS Christmas concert and other musical shows. A written examination will be based on your knowledge of the music industry, the jobs roles and responsibilities and the contribution of different organisations working within the industry.

Why should I study BTEC music?

- If you are interested in developing your musical ability (instrument or voice) to an advanced level of performance.
- If you would like to take part in more performance opportunities such as concerts, the school production and other musical events throughout the year.
- If you are interested in creating your own music, using music technology and high-quality computer programs.
- If you are interested in the job roles within the music industry and would like to experience these through practical assignments.

This course will support your progression if you wish to study music, performing arts or music technology at level 3 or post 16.

Important information: Written evidence, video footage and research tasks will make up a portfolio of your progress and learning throughout the course. Deadlines for coursework are set at the start of the course. You will be required to attend catch up sessions if you miss any work or fall behind. All written coursework needs to be completed to a high standard using word processing. Students are expected to attend rehearsals at lunchtimes and/or after school weekly in order to prepare for the performance assessments. We fully support students who do not have the facilities at home to practice their instrument.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Miss A. Brockman a.brockman@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'The BTEC music course gives you opportunities and experiences in performing and allows you to develop your compositional skills. It is a great course to learn about the music industry and allows you to continue your studies in music further, either at college or if you wish to work within the music industry later in life.'





Open: BTEC

Performing Arts

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: Pearson BTEC Tech Award in performing arts. This is a level 2 qualification, equivalent to one GCSE. Students will be graded a pass, merit, distinction or distinction star. Students complete 3 units of work.

What will I study?

Unit 1: Exploring the performing arts -students examine the work of performing arts professionals, understand the various roles within the industry and develop a practical understanding of how to create performances.

Unit 2: Developing skills and techniques in the performing arts - students specialise as a performer or designer to develop skills in performance or production roles. They work with existing performing arts repertoire to reproduce a performance or design elements of the work.

Unit 3: Responding to a brief - students work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a set brief, building on the skills, knowledge and understanding from previous units.

This vocational qualification offers students the opportunity to perform, learn production skills and discover the knowledge and understanding for a career within the performing arts industry. As part of this course, you will be expected to complete written assignments, take part in practical workshops and complete research tasks which will all contribute to your coursework. You will present these findings through presentations, portfolio work and through performances.

Why should I study performing arts?

- If you are interested in developing your skills through drama, acting and performing to an advanced level.
- If you would like to take part in the school production and other performance opportunities at school and within the local community.
- If you are interested in the job roles within the performing arts industry and would like to experience these through practical assignments.
- If you are keen to learn production skills such as costume and set design. Lighting, sound, and stage management. Directing and choreography.
- This course will support your progression if you wish to study drama, dance and/or performing arts at level 3/post-16.



Important information: Throughout the course, written evidence, video footage and research tasks will make up a portfolio of your progress and learning. Meeting deadlines for written coursework is essential and is expected to be completed to a high standard, using word processing. Students are required to attend weekly rehearsals at lunchtimes and/or afterschool. This is so students can prepare for performances and develop their understanding of the importance of rehearsal. Most of the practical work and rehearsals will be completed in small groups, therefore good attendance to lessons is essential.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Miss A. Brockman a.brockman@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'The BTEC in performing arts will give you opportunities to learn about the performing arts industry. You will be given many opportunities to watch theatre and develop your performing skills to an advanced level. However, you must work hard and keep track of your coursework. Be prepared to present and perform.'



Open: Sports Studies

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: Level 2 OCR Cambridge National in sport. You will be entered for three units at Level 2. This is equivalent to a GCSE qualification.

What will I study?

The Cambridge National in sport studies will encourage students to:

- Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of sport studies.
- Develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.
- Develop independence and confidence in using skills that are relevant to the exercise, physical activity, sport and health sector and more widely.

How will I be assessed?

The course will consist of an exam unit and two coursework units.

- R184: Contemporary issues in sport – exam unit – 70 marks (80 UMS)
- R185: Performance and leadership in sports activities – practical and coursework unit- 80 marks (80 UMS)
- R187: Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities – 40 marks (40 UMS)

Why should I study sports studies?

This vocational course includes a wide range of content linked to jobs in the sports industry. If you are interested in working in sport as a performer, sports journalist, PE teacher, sports coach, sports analyst, sports development, sports marketing, there are so many opportunities this course could help you with. Students will also develop transferable skills, in particular communication, leadership and aspects of team working.

Important information

Sports studies is suitable for those students that are competent in a wide variety of sports practically and have a good knowledge and understanding of theoretical physical education. Students should also be keen to develop their physical fitness throughout the duration of the course. Students need to be dedicated and keenly interested in sport and PE. The course mainly focuses on theory and written assignments with a medium proportion of practical lessons involved.

Name of Head of Department and email address:

Mr P. Duerden p.duerden@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I have really enjoyed taking part in a wide range of sports and outdoor activities, some that I have never taken part in before.'

'I have really developed my confidence, communication and organisation skills by planning and leading sporting activities this year.'

