

Year 9 Options 2024-2026



Your guide to choosing the options that will enable you to unlock your unique potential.

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Introduction

Welcome to the Options booklet for Cohort 2024-2026. There are a wide range of subjects for you to choose from to suit your current skillset as well as your future career plans and ambitions.

In Year 10 and 11, all students study the core subjects of English (four hours), mathematics (four hours), science (four hours), and core physical education (PE - one hour). They also study their choice of four option subjects (three hours of each).

Core Subjects

(These subjects are compulsory)

- English language
- English literature
- Maths
- Combined science (two GCSEs)
- Core PE

There are many options to choose from and the structure below should help to guide you. Students must choose **at least one** subject from the 'Green' GCSEs and then **three further** subjects from either the 'Open' (yellow) or 'Green' GCSEs (green) 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 three ARCH days a year. The following pages provide an overview of each

course and we have highlighted the core and EBacc subjects (see page 6) in the page titles. You can view in-depth curriculum plans for Key Stage 4 courses on the curriculum pages on our website (www.todhigh.co.uk). Our vocational courses have a practical focus, with coursework elements. Vocational courses provide skills more directly applicable to the world of work.

Green GCSEs

(At least one of these should be chosen. Students can choose up to four of these subjects.)

- Computer science*
- Geography
- History
- Latin
- Separate sciences*
- Spanish

Open Choices

(Up to three of these subjects can be chosen.)

GCSEs

- Art, craft and design
- Business studies
- Design technology
- EPR (ethics, philosophy and religion)
- Photography

Vocational Courses

(These qualifications are equivalent to GCSE.)

- Child development
- Health and social care
- Hospitality and catering
- iMedia
- Music
- Performing arts
- Sports studies

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

We will run all of these courses provided there is sufficient uptake in the straw poll (see timeline on next page). If a course is not viable for 2024-2026, we will let you know. Please be aware that any proposed school trips advertised by different subjects are provisional and dependent on, for example, minimum numbers of participants.

When considering what your options should be, you should consider your plans for post-16 education, employment and training. 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).

Some students will be offered information, advice and guidance in relation to studying three options and being offered additional support with English and maths GCSEs.

Timeline of Key Actions and Dates

November - Options launch: Please spend some time having discussions around which subjects would suit both your interests and skills. Make sure you think of questions to ask teachers at the upcoming progress evening. It can also be helpful to think of which subjects may help with any post-16 ambitions you 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 (<https://www.todhigh.co.uk/learning-and-teaching/gcse-options>).

Student Data Check reports: Please use your attainment grades and attitude to learning scores to identify the subjects in which you are performing well as this will help guide some of the decisions you make together with your parents.

Options booklet sent out: Please spend some time reading this information and discussing the subjects on offer.

Thursday 14th December 2023 (16:30-19:00) - Y9 Progress Evening [online]: Please use this opportunity to speak to teachers about taking their subject as an option. This is the first opportunity for you to get some personal feedback within the process.

Focus time in school will be used to provide specific information about all the subjects that we hope to offer. You will have the opportunity to watch subject videos and ask questions.

Thursday 18th January 2024 (16:30-18:30) - Options Evening [in school]: There will be a presentation in the hall explaining the options process and subject teachers will be on hand to discuss the content of the subject and your suitability for it. Our careers advisor, Rob Stoakes, and various post-16 providers will also be present to help you to consider how your option choices will support the next steps after Year 11.

Friday 19th January 2024 - Straw poll shared with students and families [online]: The straw poll form asks you to select your preferred options, in line with the guidance offered on the previous page. It looks very similar to the final options selection form that you will be asked to complete in February.

Friday 26th January 2024 (15:00) - Straw poll form deadline [online]: This is not a final choice but allows us to work with the information to ensure we can support as many students as possible to study your preferred option choices and to ensure all subjects are viable.

From the straw poll, we put the subjects into combinations or 'blocks'. The blocks will be available to you on the final options form; they 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 the end of February.

From Monday 4th March 2024 - 1:1 options meetings offering information, advice, and guidance (IAG) [telephone]: You and your parents/carers will then attend a telephone appointment with a member of staff who will help you to understand the choices and discuss what is right for you. The majority of appointments will take place on Thursday 7th March (4pm-6pm), but there is flexibility to rearrange a few of these calls during this week.

Thursday 7th March 2024 - Final options letter sent home: Please review this alongside the options booklet and with your parents/carers so that they can help to guide you in choosing your options.

Monday 18th March 2024 (15:00) - Final deadline for options choices [online]: You will be asked to select your options via an online form. (Please note that 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 option choices, we will let you know.

Please note that dates may be subject to slight variation.

English Baccalaureate (EBacc)

What is the English Baccalaureate?

The EBacc is a traditional academic pathway, valued by employers and top universities. The EBacc is a set of subjects at GCSE that keeps young people's options open for further study and future careers. The EBacc consists of the core subjects, a language, and a humanities subject.

The core subjects:

- English
- mathematics
- science

A language:

- Spanish
- Latin – we are offering Latin for the first time this year (for the current Year 10) as a trial. We require critical numbers for this to run. Please be aware that this subject is not guaranteed. We will decide if it is viable following the straw poll in January.

A humanities subject:

- history
- 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 the English Baccalaureate creates a wide choice. For example, you could choose:

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

If you are unsure if EBacc is the right choice, please contact Ms Scott (m.scott@todhigh.co.uk).

Core: English



Examination information: You will study the Eduqas specification for *GCSE English Language* and *GCSE English Literature* (two separate GCSEs). 100% of the course is externally assessed via four written examinations (two for each subject).

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 also begin to see how writers often use devices to entertain, persuade or even manipulate you into thinking in a certain way.
- **English literature:** in English literature, you will study: two plays - *Romeo and Juliet* by William Shakespeare and *An Inspector Calls* by JB Priestley; a novella - *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens; 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 (at least at grade 4 or 5) in English language; 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 that you will draw upon for most of your adult life. GCSE English literature is highly desirable in the world of work and further education; it signifies that you have excellent critical thinking skills, you can sustain an argument in the form of extended essays, and that you have developed essential communication and analytical skills. 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 texts 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. Throughout the two-year course of study, students need to be resilient, self-motivated, organised, and open minded.

Head of Department:

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.'

Some interesting books include: *Mother Tongue* by Bill Bryson and *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell.

Core: Mathematics

Examination information: You will study the Edexcel specification for *GCSE Mathematics*. There are higher and foundation tiers and 100% of the course is externally assessed via three written examinations (two calculator papers and one non-calculator).

What will I study?

In mathematics you will continue to study the main topic areas of number, ratio and proportion, algebra, statistics and probability, and geometry and 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 resit the subject. A good knowledge of mathematics will help you in other subjects, for example sciences, computer science and geography. Most jobs require the use and application of skills and knowledge learned in GCSE mathematics. Professions that require a good understanding of mathematics 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 of 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.*

Head of Department:

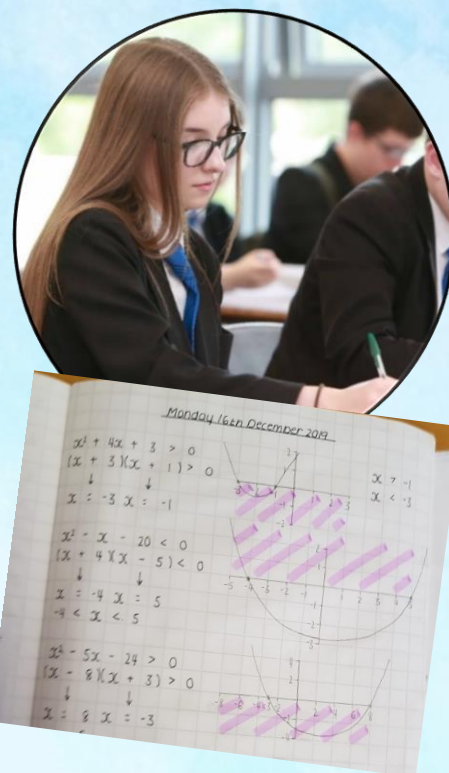
Mrs L Parker: l.parker@todhigh.co.uk

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 Todmorden High School is very friendly and staff are always willing to support and help you, even if this is after school.'

Some interesting books include: *Why Do Buses Come in Threes?: The Hidden Maths of Everyday Life* by Rob Eastaway and *Seventeen Equations that Changed the World* by Professor Ian Stewart and John Davey.



Core: Combined Science

Examination information: You will study the Edexcel specification for *GCSE Combined Science* (worth two GCSEs). There are higher and foundation tiers and 100% of the course is externally assessed via six written examinations (two for each discipline: biology, chemistry and physics).

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.

You will also develop the transferrable skills of problem solving, mathematical and analytical abilities, and evaluation. Scientific study therefore highlights 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 in, A Level Sciences, however studying separate sciences at GCSE will make the transition easier if this is your ambition.

Head of Department:

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

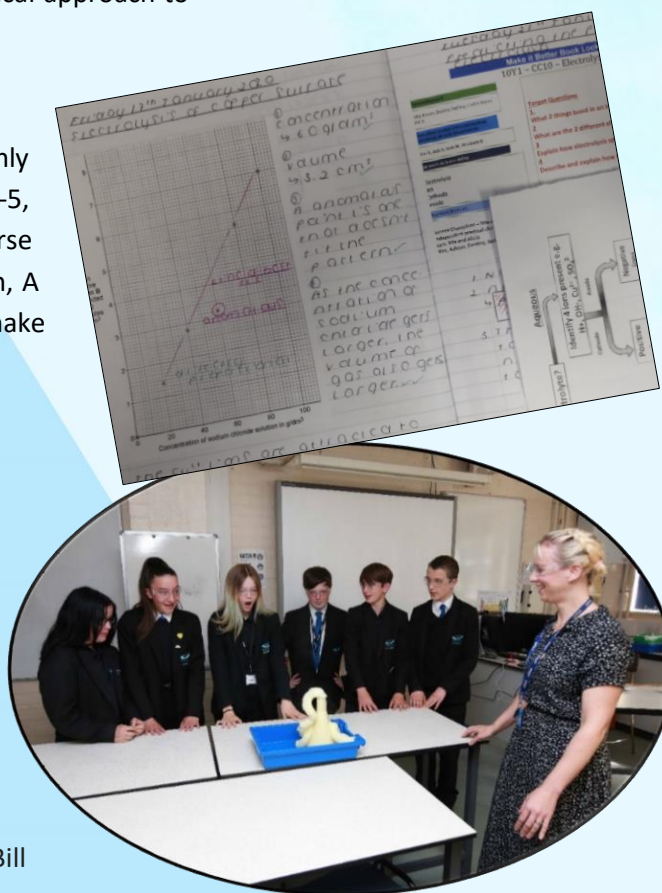
What do students think of this subject?

'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.'

Some interesting books include: *A Brief History of Everything* by Bill Bryson and *What If?* by Randall Munroe.



Green: Geography

EBacc if studied with Spanish or Latin.

Examination information: You will study the AQA specification for GCSE Geography. 100% of the course is externally assessed via three written examinations.

What will I study?

Geography is broken down into three different areas:

- **Physical geography:** Within this area, you will 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 the experiences of people within the world. You will study global economics, the changing trend to urban living, development, inequality, and how we use/overuse resources.
- **Fieldwork:** You will take a practical approach in the third element. You will go to Salford Quays to study regeneration, and investigate the River Calder (including local flood prevention methods). You will 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 a geography GCSE as a valued qualification. These could be as wide-ranging as joining the police, working in global business logistics, being a politician, and researching biogeography in distant lands.

Important information:

This course is 100% exam-based. 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 six- and nine-mark questions require a deep understanding of the subject and an ability to sustain high-quality extended writing is required. About half of your final grade depends on high level analysis.

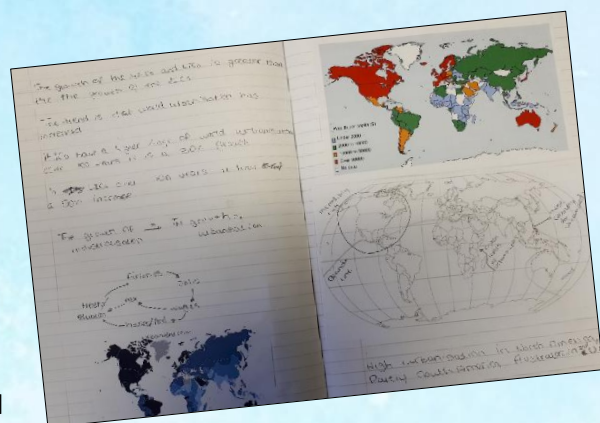
Head of Department:

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.'

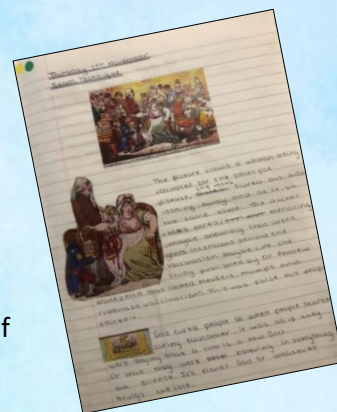
Some interesting books include: *Factfulness* by Hans Rosling, *Prisoners of Geography* by Tim Marshall, and *The Almighty Dollar* by Dharshini David.



Green: History

EBacc if studied with Spanish or Latin.

Examination information: You will study the AQA specification for *GCSE History*. 100% of the course is externally assessed via two written examinations.



What will I study?

You will study:

- **USA: Opportunity and Inequality 1920-1973:** This unit explores the development of modern America from the 'boom' of the roaring 1920s, through the 'bust' of the Great Depression into the fight for Civil Rights of the 1960s.
- **Conflict and Tension 1918-1939 (Inter-war years):** This unit charts the international tension following WW1. We explore the effects of the Peace Treaty, the failure of the League of Nations to keep peace and the rise of Hitler and Nazi Germany.
- **Elizabethan England:** This unit offers a depth study into Elizabethan England, exploring a variety of key issues from her right to be queen, to religious issues and the threat of Spanish invasion. This unit also contains a study of a historical site.
- **Health and the People:** This unit tracks nearly 1000 years of history, following the development of medicine in Britain. From medieval malpractice to the development of the NHS, this course brings history into the 21st century.

Why should I study history?

Learning about past events and the people who have influenced history will allow you to understand how the world around you 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 transferrable skills that will help you with college or sixth form and future work and make you stand out; these include excellent communication and writing skills, how to construct an argument, research skills, investigative and problem-solving skills, and analytical and interpretation skills.

Important information:

There is a big emphasis on the written 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.

Head of Department:

Mr S Dewsnip: s.dewsnip@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.'

Some interesting books include: *Blood and Guts* by Richard Hollingham, *Munich* by Robert Harris, and *Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England* by Ian Mortimer.

Green: Latin

EBacc if studied with history or geography.

Examination information: You will study the OCR specification for *GCSE Latin*. 100% of the course is externally assessed via three written examinations (one language and two literature).



What will I study?

You will build your knowledge of vocabulary and linguistic structures and become familiar with the examination vocabulary through the stories and history of the Classical world. You will also study a set text in original Latin prose plus one in original Latin verse, totalling between 110 and 120 lines in length.

Why should I study Latin?

- Latin develops English literacy: students of Latin achieve a deep understanding of grammar, which encourages accurate use of language. From the very early stages, concepts of singular and plural, tenses, and case usage are taught. In GCSE Latin, more complex grammatical structures are introduced than those in modern foreign language GCSEs. A study of Classical languages thus benefits learning across the whole curriculum.
- Latin aids cultural literacy: Classical mythology forms the bedrock of much modern art and literature and is constantly reworked in theatre and in the visual arts, film, and pop-culture. The works of Virgil and Ovid have profoundly influenced Britain's greatest writers, dramatists, and poets (including Chaucer, Milton and Shakespeare), as well as writers and artists across the world.
- Latin teaches the foundations of philosophy and history: the ancient Romans have profoundly influenced western society and thought. They established the disciplines of philosophy and history and the foundations of our political systems.
- Latin encourages cultural insight: in some ways, the Romans seem just like us, but in other ways, they are very different. This can lead students to reflect deeply about themselves and the lives of others – an important quality in a modern, multi-cultural society – enhancing the appreciation of cultural differences.
- Latin improves employment opportunities: evidence suggests that employers have respect for potential employees who have studied Classical subjects at school or university. It can often be the deciding factor when shortlisting candidates for interview.

Important information:

This is a subject requiring a high degree of language learning and analysis, as well as self-discipline. It is heartily recommended for those who have already discovered in themselves a flair and aptitude for etymology and languages. It is strongly advised that all students have a conversation with Miss Pollock (c.pollock@todhigh.co.uk) prior to making a decision on choosing this GCSE subject.

Head of Department:

Mr S Dewsnip: s.dewsnip@todhigh.co.uk

Some interesting books include: *The Aeneid for Boys and Girls* by AJ Church, *The Roman Mysteries Series* by Caroline Lawrence, and *Augustus* by Allan Massie.

Green: Spanish

EBacc if studied with geography or history.

Examination information: You will study the AQA specification for *GCSE Spanish*. There are higher and foundation tiers and 100% of the course is externally assessed via examinations (speaking, listening, reading, and writing).

What will I study?

You will learn 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.

- **Theme 1: People and lifestyle**
- **Theme 2: Popular Culture**
- **Theme 3: Communication and the world around us**

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 3.

Why should I study Spanish?

Learning any new language has many benefits for brain function, making it easier for you to learn in general. Language learning improves memory, problem-solving and multitasking, and it also helps you to make better decisions and become more observant. Being bilingual or multilingual improves your ability to communicate effectively, not just in the new language but also in your first language(s); you become a better listener and speaker. Learning Spanish is also good for your education and career prospects, will strengthen your CV, and improve your job prospects. The ability to connect with other people through speaking multiple languages is a wonderful asset to have in most areas of your life and may open doors for you in your studies or future career.

Important information:

There is a key focus on the 'Three Pillars of Progress' – vocabulary, grammar and phonics – and their use in spontaneous manipulation of language. The learning of appropriate exam techniques will feature heavily.

Tiers of entry will not be decided until Year 11 and therefore course content will be taught in order to support 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 extracurricular activities that we offer.

Head of Department:

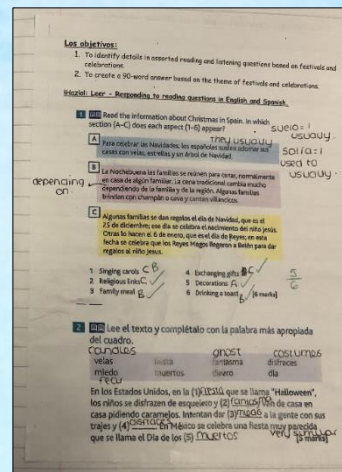
Mr M Charles: m.charles@todhigh.co.uk

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.'

Some interesting books include: *Short Stories in Spanish for Beginners* by Olly Richards and *Extranjeros - Parts 1-4 - Un chico misterioso* by Gianfranco Conti.



Green: Separate Sciences

Examination information: You will study the Edexcel specification for *GCSE Biology*, *GCSE Chemistry*, and *GCSE Physics* (three separate GCSEs). There are higher and foundation tiers and 100% of the course is externally assessed via six written examinations (two for each discipline: biology, chemistry, and physics).

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 its 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 the transferrable skills of problem solving, mathematical and analytical abilities, and evaluation. Scientific study therefore highlights 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 scientific discipline. The qualification results in the award of three GCSEs, one for each science. There will be entry guidelines for this course, due to the conceptually difficult nature of the subject. If you wish to choose separate sciences, we recommend that your attainment is at least at a 'securing' grade in both mathematics and science, however all applications will be considered. A good understanding of mathematics is very important, especially within the physics course. You will also be expected to work independently and read about science more widely to develop your scientific literacy skills.

Head of Department:

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

What do students think of this subject?

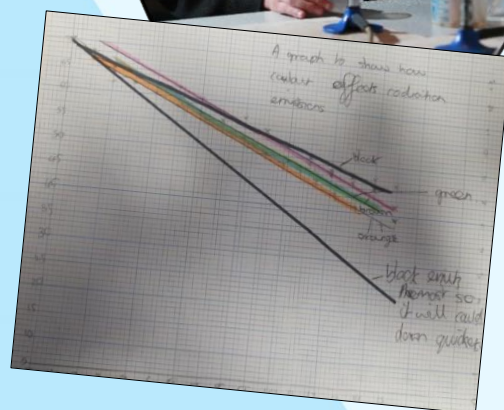
'Even though it is difficult, I find it interesting and intriguing; I get to learn about things I wouldn't normally.'

'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.'

Some interesting books include: *A Brief History of Everything* by Bill Bryson and *What If?* by Randall Munroe.



Green: Computer Science

Examination information: You will study the OCR specification for *GCSE Computer Science*. 100% of the course is externally assessed via two written examinations. A 20-hour programming project will also be completed but this will not count towards an overall grade.

What will I study?

The course is split into three units:

- **Computer systems** including system architecture, memory, storage, wired/wireless networks, network topologies, system security, system software, ethical/legal and cultural concerns.
- **Computational thinking, algorithms and programming** including algorithms, programming techniques, producing robust programs, computational logic, translators and data representation.
- **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, which focuses on how to programme computers rather than how we use them. The rewards and career prospects for those students who are computer scientists are fantastic. There will be entry guidelines for this course, due to the conceptually difficult nature of the subject. If you wish to choose separate sciences, we recommend that your attainment is at least at a 'securing' grade in both mathematics and computer science, however all applications will be considered.

Head of Department:

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.'

Some interesting books include: *Klara and the Sun* by Kazuo Ishiguro and *Bletchley Park: The secret archives* by Sinclair McKay.



Open: Art, Craft and Design

Examination information: You will study the AQA specification for *GCSE Art, Craft and Design*. The course is assessed through a coursework component (worth 60%) and one practical exam sat over two full days (worth 40%).

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 enriches 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 helps 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.

Head of Department:

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.'

Some interesting books include: *Great Paintings: The World's Masterpieces Explored and Explained* published by DK and *Modern Art: A History from Impressionism to Today* by Hans Werner Holzwarth.



Open: Business Studies

Examination information: You will study the Edexcel specification for *GCSE Business Studies*. 100% of the course is externally assessed via two written examinations.

What will I study?

You will study two themes:

- Theme 1 includes topics such as enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective, and understanding external influences on business.
- Theme 2 consists of growing the business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions, and making human resource decisions.

Why should I study business studies?

Are you the next Alan Sugar, Richard Branson, or Karren Brady? We want to help train you up to be the next potential multi-millionaire businessperson with a wide range of skills that will help you navigate the world of business. This is a course where you will learn everything that you will need to run a small business, as well as helping prepare you for when that business goes global!

Important information:

Business studies is a dynamic course which prepares students for the challenges of the 21st century by introducing them to the world of business. It emphasises the ever-changing character of business, the diverse nature of business enterprise and the interdependence of the various parts of the business world. Although an academic subject, business studies is practical, applied, and exciting. It equips students with many life skills such as communication, problem solving, time management, teamwork and decision making. Whether your aim is to pursue an academic career or train for a profession, the necessary knowledge and skills will be provided.

Head of Department:

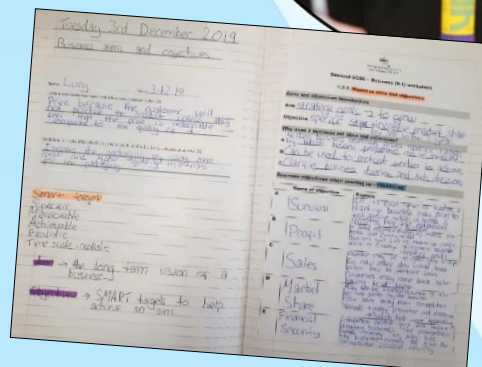
Mr D Chattell: d.chattell@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'I like business studies because it's very informative and it gives me lots of options for the future.'

'Business studies is possibly one of the best options. I am learning about how to run my own business in the future.'

Some interesting books include: *Elon Musk* by Walter Isaacson and *Managing My Life* by Alex Ferguson.



Open: Child Development

Examination information: You will study the *OCR Cambridge National Level 1/Level 2 Award in Child Development*. The course is assessed through a coursework component (worth 60%) and written exam (worth 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 develop knowledge and understanding of child development, safety, and healthy growth from conception, through pregnancy, and up to the age of five. It is a practical introduction to the application of play opportunities for the learning and development of children in a variety of environments.

In a practical learning environment, you 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.
- Pregnancy and birth.
- How play promotes children's learning and development.
- Child-friendly environments to support play, learning, and development in children from birth to five years old.
- Resources needed to enable adults to look after children and keep them safe.
- Childhood illnesses and reasons why children may need support.
- The importance of nutrition in the early years.
- Supporting all children to learn and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially, adapting activities to support children's play, learning, and development.

Why should I study child development?

Are you interested 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.

Head of Department:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'This is my favourite subject. If I could do it all the time I would!'

'Child development is interesting and fun. My favourite part was going to a nursery. I learnt lots of important information about children.'

Some interesting books include: *Inconceivable* by Ben Elton and *Parenting Hell* by Rob Beckett and Josh Widdicombe.



Open: Creative iMedia

Examination information: You will study the *OCR Cambridge National Level 2 Award in Creative iMedia*. The course is assessed through a coursework component (worth 60%) and written exam (worth 40%).

What will I study?

In this unit you will learn about the sectors, products and job roles that form the media industry; the legal and ethical issues which need to be considered; and the processes used to plan and create digital media products. You will learn how media codes are used within the creation of media products to convey meaning, create impact, and engage audiences. You will learn to choose the most appropriate format and properties for different media products. You will learn how to develop visual identities for clients. You will also learn to apply the concepts of graphic design to create original digital graphics which incorporate your visual identity to engage a target audience. You will learn to plan animations with soundtracks based on client briefs. You will learn to use a range of tools and techniques to create, edit, and combine audio and animated content. You will then export and review completed animation with audio products.

Why should I study iMedia?

The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia is a media sector-focused qualification which includes film, television, internet, radio, and digital print publishing. You may be interested in this qualification if you have an interest in creative design and exploring different methods of technology to express your ideas. For example, many employees of film, television, web design, social media, streaming services, and publishing services require creative people when advertising or creating their products.

Important information:

Creative 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.

Head of Department:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'I've learnt how to use Adobe Illustrator which I have made some fantastic graphics with. We're going to be making computer animations next year.'

Some interesting books include: *The Animated Man: A life of Walt Disney* by Michael Barrier.



Open: Design Technology

Examination information: You will study the AQA *GCSE in Design Technology*. The course is assessed through a coursework component (worth 50%) and written exam (worth 50%).

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 help you develop the required knowledge and understanding in preparation for the examination and coursework.

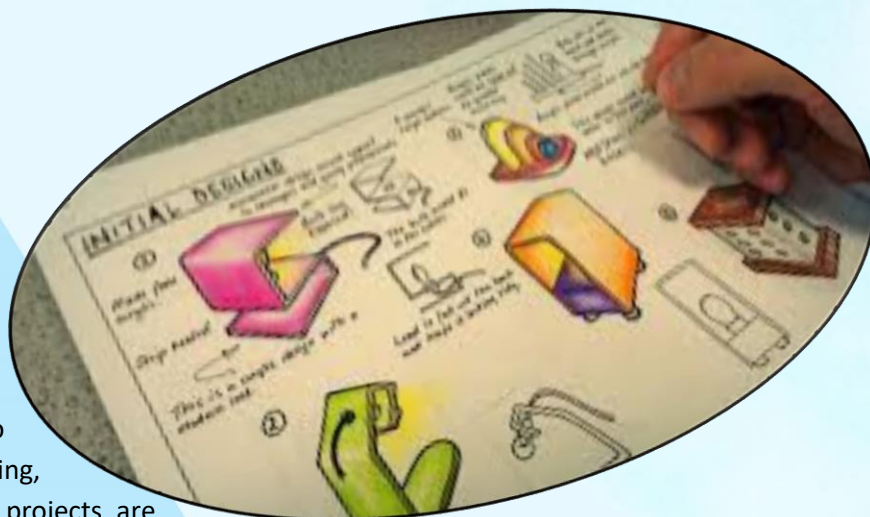
You will have the opportunity to select which area of material strength you will concentrate on for the non-exam assessment in Year 11.

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 an academic approach to this subject as importance has been placed on the theory element. There are key deadlines for coursework through Year 11 that must be met. Coursework needs to be written using a high standard of English, whether handwritten or electronically written.

Head of Department:

Mr L Freeman: l.freeman@todhigh.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'Design technology is different from my other subjects.'

'I like the balance of theory and practical.'

Some interesting books include: *A Dictionary of Modern Design* by Jonathan Woodham and *Masterpieces of Modern Design* by Catherine McDermott.

Open: Ethics, Philosophy and Religion (EPR)

Examination information: You will study the AQA specification for *GCSE Religious Studies*. 100% of the course is externally assessed via two written examinations.

What will I study?

In paper one, you will complete a thorough study of Christian and Buddhist beliefs and practices. You will encounter a range of different scholars and concepts. Some highlights include controversial Buddhist sky burials and modern-day devotional crucifixion. In paper two, you will explore a range of ethical and philosophical themes ranging from abortion and euthanasia to the existence of God, relationships, and animal rights. You will develop your 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 religious education 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 (for example, regarding 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 to which EPR is not applicable.

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. Each year, we attend one of his Manchester lectures that focus on equipping GCSE students.

Head of Department:

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 studying 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.'

Some interesting books include: *Puzzle of Ethics* by Peter Vardy, *What the Buddha Taught* by Walpola Rahula, and *The God Delusion* by Richard Dawkins.



Open: Health and Social Care

Examination information: You will study the *OCR Cambridge National Level 2 Award in Health and Social Care*. The course is assessed through a coursework component (worth 60%) and written exam (worth 40%).

What will I study?

You will learn 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. You will also develop learning and practical skills that can be applied to real-life contexts and work situations.

You will study three units:

- Principles of care in health and social care settings
- Supporting individuals through life events
- Creative and therapeutic activities

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.

Head of Department:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'I chose to study health and 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.'

Some interesting books include: *Before I Die* by Jenny Downham and *Elizabeth is Missing* by Emma Healy.



Open: Hospitality and Catering

Examination information: You will study the *WJEC Level 2 Vocational Award in Hospitality and Catering*. The course is assessed through a coursework component (worth 60%) and written exam (worth 40%).

What will I study?

- 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.
- Hospitality and catering in action: in this unit you will safely plan, prepare, cook, and present nutritional dishes. This includes understanding the importance of nutrition in planning menus and skilfully being able to 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 through 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 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.

Head of Department:

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.'

Some interesting books include: *Toast* by Nigel Slater and *Taste* by Barb Stuckey.



Open: Music

Examination information: You will study the *Level 2 Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Music Practice*. The course is assessed entirely through three coursework components.



What will I study?

Component 1 (Exploring music products and styles) and 2 (Music skills development): You will explore iconic composers and musical elements from a range of musical styles, from popular music to world, film and TV, classical, and blues. You will apply understanding to create your own product, through performance or composition. You will explore and apply professional skills and techniques for the music industry through performance and composition. Component 3 (Responding to a music brief): You will develop and present music in response to a brief is the externally assessed final component. BTEC will set and assign a brief for all components.

Why should I study BTEC music?

- You are interested in developing your musical ability (instrument or voice) to an advanced level of performance.
- You would like to take part in more performance opportunities such as concerts, the school production, and other musical events throughout the year.
- You are interested in creating your own music, through the use of music technology and high-quality computer programs. You are interested in working as a musician within the music industry and would like to experience this through practical assignments.
- This course will support your progression if you wish to study music, performing arts or music technology at Level 3 or at A Level*.

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 afterschool weekly in order to prepare for the performance assessments. We fully support students who do not have the facilities at home to practise their instrument and they can use the department resources as a priority.

*If students wish to continue with music at A Level, please be aware of the variety of entry requirements required. Some colleges request that students are to be working at grade 5 standard in music theory. If you have further questions regarding this, please email Miss Brockman.

Head of Department:

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.'

Some interesting books include: *The Storyteller* by Dave Grohl and *Bessie Smith* by Jackie Kay.

Open: Performing Arts

Examination information: You will study the *Level 2 Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts*. The course is assessed entirely through three coursework components.



What will I study?

- **Exploring the performing arts** – you will examine the work of performing arts professionals, understand the various roles within the industry, and develop a practical understanding of how to create performances.
- **Developing skills and techniques in the performing arts** – you will specialise as a performer or designer to develop skills in performance or production roles. You will work with existing performing arts repertoire to reproduce a performance or design elements of the work.
- **Responding to a brief** – you will 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 you 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; you will present these findings through presentations, portfolio work, and performances.

Why should I study performing arts?

- You are interested in developing your skills through drama, acting, and performing to an advanced level.
- You would like to take part in the school production and other performance opportunities at school and within the local community.
- You are interested in the job roles within the performing arts industry and would like to experience these through practical assignments.
- You are keen to learn production skills such as costume and set design, lighting, sound, 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. All written coursework needs to be completed to a high standard using word processing. You will need to attend weekly rehearsals at lunchtimes and/or after school. Most of the practical work will be completed in small groups, therefore good attendance to lessons is essential.

Head of Department:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'In performing arts, you will learn about the performing arts industry. You will be given many opportunities to watch theatre and develop your performing skills to an advanced level. Be prepared to present and perform.'

Some interesting books include: The National Theatre: *All About Theatre* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon.

Open: Photography

Examination information: You will study the AQA specification for *GCSE Photography*. The course is assessed through a coursework component (worth 60%) and one practical exam taken over two full days (worth 40%).

What will I study?

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

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

You will be required to work in one or more areas of photography; for example, portraiture, landscape photography or moving image (video, film, or animation). You 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.

Head of Department:

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 a lot 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.'

Some interesting books include: *Better Photo Basics* by Jim Miotke and *Read This if You Want to Take Good Photographs* Laurence King Publishing.



Open: Sports Studies

Examination information: You will study the *OCR Cambridge National Level 2 Award in Sports Studies*. The course is assessed through a coursework component (worth 60%) and written exam (worth 40%).

What will I study?

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

How will I be assessed?

The course will consist of three units:

- Contemporary issues in sport
- Performance and leadership in sports activities
- Increasing awareness of outdoor and adventurous activities

Why should I study sports studies?

This vocational course includes a wide range of content linked to jobs in the sports industry. Whether you are interested in working in sport as a performer, a sports journalist, a PE teacher, a sports coach, a sports analyst, in sports development, or in 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 moderate proportion of practical lessons involved.

Head of Department:

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 of which 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.'

Some interesting books include: *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander and *Lioness: My Journey* by Beth Mead.



