



Thomas Clarkson Academy



A valued member of the

Brooke Weston Trust



# YEAR 9 OPTIONS 2024

Better informed students make better informed decisions



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# Welcome

## Welcome to the Year 9 Options process.

Up until now the subjects you have followed have been chosen for you. This is now changing as you can choose to follow certain subjects in Years 10 and 11. Some subjects you select will be ones you have taken before but there is also an opportunity to follow new subjects.

We have designed the options process to enable students to fulfil their potential by providing a range of choices within a broad and balanced curriculum. This means you will continue to study the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. You can then decide the other subjects that will eventually make up your Year 10 and 11 curriculum and will be able to choose from within Science, Languages, Humanities, Technology, Expressive Arts and a wide range of vocational courses.

It is a TCA expectation that all students with thresholds of SECURE or above at Key Stage 3 are considering the English Baccalaureate set of subjects (EBacc), which measures the percentage of students in a school who achieve at least 5 of the following subjects at Level 5 or above (English, mathematics, two sciences, a foreign language and history or geography). This is because they should be considering a university option in the future and the EBacc group of subjects may well influence this as they will be competing for places in the future with students who have achieved this set of qualifications.

This booklet is part of a process to help you make sensible and considered decisions. Making your choice is important and you should make the most of the opportunities available to you in the next few weeks to ensure you make the right decisions.

There is considerable choice over the subjects you can study. Whilst this greater choice will enable you to choose more of your favourite subjects, we would advise you to think very carefully before coming to any final decision.

The staff are here to help parents and students make the right choices so please read the booklet carefully and ask as many questions as you like.

**Richard Scott**  
Senior Principal

# The way ahead...

## Dear Year 9 student,

The next few weeks will see you making some important decisions about your KS4 'Options' subjects. Along with your parent(s)/carer(s), we want to help and support you in making the right choices. Our CEIAG team will remain on hand every step of the way to guide you, as will your Form Tutor, your class teachers and the Senior Leadership Team.

## The process

We have two pathways on offer, one of which is the **English Baccalaureate (Ebacc)**. This pathway is especially helpful for those students looking to go on to University. Regardless of the pathway chosen, all students will study English Language, English Literature, Mathematics, Combined Science and Core PE.

## They must then choose one of the two pathways:

### The full EBacc pathway

To complete the full EBacc suite of qualifications, students must then choose:

▶ History GCSE **or** Geography GCSE

### AND

▶ French GCSE **or** Russian GCSE **or** Polish GCSE

**Plus TWO additional subjects chosen from the extensive guided options list.\*** (Triple Science will replace Combined Science.)

### OR

### The Open pathway

Alternatively, students can opt for the Open pathway. All students studying this pathway must then choose **ONE** of the following subjects: History GCSE, Geography GCSE, Computer Science GCSE, Triple Science GCSE (replacing Combined Science), French GCSE, Polish GCSE and Russian GCSE.

**Plus THREE additional subjects chosen from the extensive guided options list.\***

The deadline for completing the process is **Friday 15th March 2024**. At this point the option choices will be sorted and checked. You will receive confirmation of your choices in the summer term.

**Joanne Maraschin**  
Assistant Principal Curriculum

# Understanding the new grades for GCSE/ vocational qualifications and progression

Following government reforms to Key Stage 4 qualifications, GCSE qualifications are now graded 9-1. Please see the comparison chart below to help understand where the new GCSE number grading fits against the old style GCSE letter grading.

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
D	5 Strong Pass
E	4 Standard Pass
F	3
G	2
U	1
	U

Grades 9-4 are considered Level 2 qualifications. Grades 3-1 are considered Level 1 qualifications. Depending on what a student achieves at the end of Year 11 will dictate their options for post-16 study.

All students should be aiming to achieve Level 2 qualifications by

the end of Year 11. This will allow them to go on to study Level 3 qualifications such as A-Levels at a sixth form, or vocational qualifications / high quality apprenticeship at college (in order for students to study A-Level, they need to achieve Grade 6 in GCSE study).

If students do not achieve enough Level 2 qualifications by the end of Year 11, they will apply to continue with Level 2 based study at college. Any student who does not achieve a Level 2 qualification in English and maths will have to continue with these subjects post-16.

**We strongly urge all students to work exceptionally hard at TCA throughout their GCSE studies so that they achieve their best in order to be able to have 'all doors open' to them in September 2026.**



# Year 9 Options overview

## All students will take:

Subject	Qualification
▶ English Language & Literature	GCSE
▶ Mathematics	GCSE
▶ Combined Science	GCSE
▶ Core PE	

## The full EBacc pathway:

Students following this pathway must then choose:

Subject	Qualification
▶ History or Geography	GCSE
<b>AND</b>	
▶ French, Polish, or Russian	GCSE

Plus TWO additional subjects chosen from the extensive guided options list.

## The Open pathway:

Students studying this pathway must choose ONE of the following subjects:

Subject	Qualification
▶ History	GCSE
▶ Geography	GCSE
▶ French	GCSE
▶ Computer Science	GCSE
▶ Polish	GCSE
▶ Russian	GCSE
▶ Triple Science	GCSE

Plus THREE additional subjects chosen from the extensive options list.

## Guided options:

Students select **TWO** choices from here if they follow the full EBacc pathway or **THREE** choices if they follow the Open pathway:

Subject	Qualification
▶ 3D Art & Design	GCSE
▶ Art & Design	GCSE
▶ Triple Science	GCSE
▶ Child Development & Care	VCERT
▶ Citizenship Studies	GCSE
▶ Computer Science	GCSE
▶ Construction	BTEC
▶ Dance	GCSE
▶ Design Technology	GCSE
▶ Drama	GCSE
▶ Enterprise & Marketing*	OCR National
▶ Film Studies	GCSE
▶ French	GCSE
▶ Geography	GCSE
▶ Health & Social Care	BTEC
▶ History	GCSE
▶ Hospitality & Catering	VOC
▶ Music	GCSE
▶ Philosophy & Ethics	GCSE
▶ Photography	GCSE
▶ Polish	GCSE
▶ Russian	GCSE
▶ Sport*	GCSE
▶ Statistics	OCR National

\*Enterprise & Marketing and PE GCSEs to be confirmed

# All students will study these subjects...



## GCSE English Language & Literature

Both English Language and English Literature GCSEs are compulsory for Key Stage 4 students.

Students follow the AQA GCSE courses for both subjects. The course is graded 9-1 with 9 being the highest grade.

English Language GCSE enables students to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts and write clearly.

English Literature GCSE is fully co-teachable with GCSE English Language, so students will benefit from the transferable skills. They will study a wide range of inspirational poetry, prose and drama texts, including Shakespeare and 19th Century novels.

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**Assessment** 100% written exam.

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**Contact**  
Mr Ian Gooda  
Ian.Gooda@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

In the 21st Century most career pathways require a student to have reached a 'good' level in their English GCSE. Without a Grade 5 or better in English, career pathways will be limited.

There are many career paths in which you can fully utilise your English GCSE skills, for example; jobs in the media, teaching, human resources, marketing and advertising.

## GCSE Mathematics

This GCSE will help students to increase and deepen their mathematical knowledge and problem-solving skills. Students will build on and develop their skills in: number, algebra, ratio, proportion and rates of change, geometry and measures, probability and statistics.

This course will enable students to understand and appreciate the importance and many uses of mathematics in everyday life. GCSE mathematics is a required qualification for further study in most areas and necessary in many careers. For those wishing to study mathematical, scientific or economics based subjects, a good GCSE grade is essential.

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### Assessment

100% written exam (2 calculator & 1 non-calculator).

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### Contact

Mrs K Gray-Hannah  
Karen.GrayHannah@thomasclarksonacademy.org

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### Career pathways

Success in GCSE mathematics is the key to accessing both college and university courses. One of the entry requirements for most universities is Grade 5 in maths (previously C Grade). Studying mathematics can open doors to careers in many fields:

- ▶ Financial (accountant, investment banker, financial analyst)
- ▶ Engineering (aerospace engineer, robotics engineer, automotive engineer)
- ▶ Education (Grade 5 is required for PGCE)
- ▶ Information Technology (IT) (software developer, web designer, database analyst)
- ▶ Statistics (market analyst)
- ▶ Also: retail, market research, pensions, insurance and many more

Good numeracy skills are valued by employers and a lack of them can affect your employability.



## GCSE Combined Science

Combined science helps students to increase and deepen their knowledge of the three basic sciences – biology, chemistry and physics. The course will help students to develop their questioning, analytical and evaluation skills to solve problems in science and improve their practical skills and understanding of how science works.

Under the new Government framework, students will begin their course in 2024 and take their examinations in the summer of 2026. The combined science course will be worth two GCSEs.

### Assessment

100% written exam. 6 papers, in each science, 60 marks each

### Contact

Mrs P Raj  
Preetha.Raj@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

Good grades in combined science GCSE could lead to A Levels in science and/or future careers in; forensic science, engineering, construction, medicine, metallurgy, health and safety work, food preparation, lab technician etc.



# EBacc/Open pathway options

## GCSE Triple Science

This course offers an in-depth knowledge and understanding of biology, chemistry and physics and will lead to three GCSEs. Students who are interested in science and think they may do an A Level in one of the sciences will be suited to this course. Students will be at a disadvantage when doing science A Levels if they have not completed Triple Science at GCSE Level.

Students will be recommended to join triple science course during Year 9. This is a challenging option but a rewarding one. Students will undertake all exams in 2026 with the chance of gaining qualifications in biology, chemistry and physics. As one of the government's new more rigorous GCSEs, there will be no coursework element. The separate science class will have three teachers, each delivering the content within their specialism.

### Assessment

100% written exam. 6 papers, 2 in each science, 100 marks each.

### Contact

Chemistry: Mr O Brown –  
Oliver.Brown@thomasclarksonacademy.org  
Biology: Mrs A Tan –  
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Physics: Mrs R Brittain –  
Rhannon.Brittain@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

Good grades in separate science GCSEs lead to A Levels in science and future careers in: medicine, dentistry, veterinary studies, engineering, architecture, law, scientific research, pathology and forensic science.

## GCSE Computer Science

Computer Science provides students with an understanding for how computers work, which includes: hardware, software and how data is represented by computers. We also look at embedded systems, Cloud technology, the Internet along with ethics, legislation and how technology impacts on the environment. Students will also engage with practical lessons in programming and computational thinking for real-world problem solving. Students will need a good grasp of mathematics in order to fully access this course.

OCR's GCSE (9–1) in Computer Science will encourage learners to:

- ▶ Understand and apply the fundamental principles and concepts of Computer Science, including abstraction, decomposition, logic, algorithms, and data representation
- ▶ Analyse problems in computational terms through practical experience of solving such problems, including designing, writing and debugging programs
- ▶ Think creatively, innovatively, analytically, logically and critically
- ▶ Understand the components that make up digital systems, and how they communicate with one another and with other systems
- ▶ Understand the impacts of digital technology to the individual and to wider society
- ▶ Apply mathematical skills relevant to Computer Science

### Assessment

There are two externally examined components (written exam papers) weighted 50% each. Paper 1 focuses on Computer Systems: how computers work, their components and purpose, computer networks and the Internet, data representation and legal, cultural and environmental concerns. Paper 2 focuses on computational thinking, algorithms, logic and programming. Both exam papers are 1.5 hours.

### Contact

Dr T Jones  
Trevor.Jones@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

With good GCSE grades you can continue studying Computer Science at A level, which is a good pathway to university. Or you might want to find work as a programmer, network administrator, network security (forensics), computer analyst, researcher, AI and robotics scientist... the list is long.

## GCSE Modern Foreign Languages

The value of studying foreign languages is indisputable in today's climate. Learning a foreign language enables students to develop many important life skills. We currently offer French as a foreign language to all students at GCSE. Students will learn not only to express themselves in the language but also to explore another country, its culture, history and lifestyle. Students will build on the topic areas they have been studying and have the opportunity to move on to new topic areas such as the basic language of the internet, job advertisements/applications, work experience, customer service, transactions and many more.

We are also fortunate to have many students in our school from a multicultural background, some of which are already fluent in their home language. If your home language is Russian or Polish we offer the opportunity to gain a GCSE in the language which will be an added plus. Students will build on their existing knowledge and study topic areas such as the basic language of the internet, job applications, work experience, customer service, translations and many more.

### Assessment

100% exam at the end of Year 11. This includes listening (25%), speaking (25%), reading (25%) and writing (25%).

### Contact

**French:** Mrs C Njingo  
Clarisse.Njikang@thomasclarksonacademy.org

**Polish:** Miss A Sikora  
Alicja.Sikora@thomasclarksonacademy.org

**Russian:** Mrs J Tjurina  
Jelena.Tjurina@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

A GCSE in a modern foreign language can lead to A Level in that subject. Having a language qualification at A Level is now an important requirement for some courses at university level. This is because the course may require students to study for a year abroad. Professionally focused courses may also be available, covering topics such as translation, international relations, business, law, interpreter, school teacher, broadcast journalist, diplomatic services and many more.

## GCSE Geography

Geography helps you to make sense of the world around you. It is hands on, it is relevant and it is fun. Our GCSE Geography course at TCA is a good mix of topics such as urban issues, world development, extreme environments, rivers and hazards – to name but a few. The course will give you the chance to get to grips with some of the big questions that affect our world, and understand the social, economic and physical forces and processes which shape and change our world.

### Living with the physical environment

Discover more about the challenge of natural hazards and the living world, physical landscapes of the UK and the human interaction with them. This unit will provide you with the knowledge about the need for sustainable management strategies, and to consider the direct and indirect effects of human interactions with Earth.

### Challenges in the human environment

This unit is concerned with human processes, systems, and outcomes and how these vary across places and how they have changed over time. You will explore various factors that produce diverse and dynamic human environments; the need for sustainable management; and the areas of current and future challenges and opportunities for the human world.

### Geographical application

Issue evaluation – this explores your critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Twelve weeks prior to the exam, you will be provided with a 'pre-release booklet' containing the themed resources to be used in the exam.

Fieldwork – this is an essential aspect of GCSE geography. We will undertake one day of fieldwork to Hunstanton, where we will investigate the interactions between the human and the physical world along the coastline.

### Assessment

You will be assessed in three exam papers:

Paper 1: Living with the physical environment (35%)

1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks

Paper 2: Challenges in the human environment (35%)

1 hour 30 minutes, 88 marks

Paper 3: Geographical applications (fieldwork) (30%)

1 hour 15 minutes, 76 marks

### Contact

Mr S Titchmarsh

Sean.Titchmarsh@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

Geography is a broad based academic subject, which will open up options for you in your future. Employers and universities see geography as a robust academic subject rich in skills, knowledge and understanding. As a subject linking the arts and the sciences it is highly flexible in terms of what you can combine it with, both at GCSE and A Level. If you choose to take geography on to university there are literally hundreds of courses to choose from and the range of career areas accessed by graduates of geography will probably surprise you. Students who have studied geography are likely to have above average earnings and are more likely to gain employment.

## GCSE History

History is continuously changing the world around us and historic events have helped to shape our society. Learning about past events and the people who've influenced history will allow you to understand how the world got to the point it's at now and how it will continue to develop in the future. Studying GCSE History will also help you to answer important questions such as:

- ▶ What role did Martin Luther King and Malcolm X play in the Civil Rights movement?
- ▶ What was the impact of World War 2 on the USA and the USSR?
- ▶ Why did Elizabeth I never marry?

You'll also learn valuable skills, for example: how to construct an argument, how to analyse different interpretations and how to develop as independent, critical and reflective thinkers.

**Unit 1: America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality** This unit focuses on the development of the USA during a turbulent half century of change. It was a period of opportunity and inequality – when some Americans lived the 'American Dream' whilst others grappled with the nightmare of poverty, discrimination and prejudice.

Students will study the different aspects of these two developments and they will also look at the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change.

### Conflict and Tension between East and West

This unit enables students to understand the complex and diverse interests of different states and individuals and the ideologies they represented. It considers revolutionary movements during this time. It focuses on the causes and events of the Cold War and seeks to show how and why conflict occurred and why it proved difficult to resolve the tensions which arose during the Cold War. This study also considers the role of key individuals and groups in shaping change and how they were affected by and influenced international relations.

### Britain: Migration, empires and the people: c790 to the present day

This thematic study will enable students to gain an understanding of how the identity of the people of Britain has been shaped by their interaction with the wider world. It will consider invasions and conquests. It will also study the country's relationship with Europe and the wider world. It will consider the ebb and flow of peoples into and out of Britain and evaluate their motives and achievements. It considers the causes, impact and legacy of Empire upon the ruled and the ruling in the context of Britain's acquisition and retreat from Empire.

### Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

This unit allows students to study in depth the last 35 years of Elizabeth I's reign. The study will focus on major events of Elizabeth I's reign considered from economic, religious, political, social and cultural standpoints, and arising contemporary and historical controversies. Students will visit a historic site associated with this unit of study which will enrich students' understanding of Elizabethan England.

### Assessment

You will be assessed in two examinations which have equal weighting of 50%.

Paper 1: 2 hours - Section A: America, 1920-1973: Opportunity and inequality Section B: Conflict and tension Between East and West, 1945-1972

Paper 2: 2 hours - Section A: Britain: migration, empires and the people c790 to the present Section B: Elizabethan England, c1568–1603

### Contact

Miss R Stebbings -

Roxanne.Stebbing@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

This course is excellent preparation for study in all areas of further education and the world of work. Employers like students who can think critically, communicate their ideas effectively, reach judgements and weigh up different points of view. History students go on to pursue careers in law, teaching, social work, archaeology, business, journalism and politics.



# Guided Options:

The following subjects are listed under the **EBacc/Open pathway options** but are also available as **guided options**:

▶ <b>Triple Science</b>	<b>GCSE</b>	Page 7
▶ <b>French</b>	<b>GCSE</b>	Page 7
▶ <b>Computer Science</b>	<b>GCSE</b>	Page 7
▶ <b>Polish</b>	<b>GCSE</b>	Page 7
▶ <b>Russian</b>	<b>GCSE</b>	Page 7
▶ <b>Geography</b>	<b>GCSE</b>	Page 8
▶ <b>History</b>	<b>GCSE</b>	Page 8



## GCSE Art & Design Fine Art

Art and design offers students the opportunity to use their imagination and develop ideas through to a finished piece of work. The aims of the course are to:

- ▶ Research into theme, topic or subject
- ▶ Study other artists, movements and cultures
- ▶ Develop ideas using a range of media techniques
- ▶ Produce some final outcomes

The course is structured into two parts: Coursework, which is the presentation of a portfolio of work; all units of work involve preparation and a finished piece(s) of work; and the Externally Set Assignment which starts in January of Year 11. Students will have approximately ten weeks to prepare the assignment, working with the support of their teacher. At the end of this period there will be a ten hour session of supervised time where students will produce a finished piece(s) of work based on their preparation work.

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the course. Students will learn how to develop their own critical judgments of their own work and other artists. Much emphasis is placed on independent study and homework is a vital part of GCSE Art.

### Assessment

60% coursework and 40% externally set assignment..

### Contact

Miss T Armstrong –  
Tahlia.Armstrong@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

GCSE Art and Design can lead to A Level Art and Design at TCA as well as Level 2 and 3 BTEC Art and Design courses at CWA and Peterborough Regional College. At this level it is possible to focus on particular specialisms. This can then lead to degree level courses in whichever specialism is selected. This can include fine art, ceramics, sculpture, graphic design, fashion, photography etc.

Art and design careers range from self-employed artist, architect, art gallery curator, costume designer, furniture designer, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, photographer, product designer, set design, etc.

## GCSE 3D Art & Design

This GCSE course allows students to specialise in Ceramics (pottery) and create a range of 3D work for their final portfolio. They will experiment and use different 3D techniques including coiling, modelling and wheel throwing.

They will learn about and develop their skills in glazing/finishing and they will explore artists' work from different cultures. Students will learn how to research and develop their ideas through to producing final outcomes which will form part of their coursework portfolio. This GCSE is assessed through both coursework and a practical examination.

The course is structured into two parts: Coursework, which is the presentation of a portfolio of work – all units of work involve preparation and a finished piece(s) of work – and the Externally Set Assignment which starts in January of Year 11. Students will have approximately ten weeks to prepare the assignment, working with the support of their teacher. At the end of this period there will be a ten hour session of supervised time where students will produce a finished piece(s) of work based on their preparation work.

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the course. Students will learn how to develop their own critical judgments of their own work and other artists. Much emphasis is placed on independent study and homework is a vital part of GCSE 3D Art and Design.

### Assessment

60% coursework and 40% external assignment.

### Contact

Mrs S Loosemore –  
Sarah.Loosemore@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

GCSE 3D Art can lead to A level art and design at TCA as well as Level 2 and 3 BTEC Art and Design courses at CWA and Peterborough Regional College. At this level it is possible to focus on particular specialisms. Most universities offer art related courses of some sort. Art and design careers range from self-employed artist, architect, art gallery curator, costume designer, furniture designer, graphic designer, illustrator, interior designer, photographer, product designer, set design etc.

## OCR National Certificate in Enterprise & Marketing

This qualification is for students who wish to develop applied knowledge and practical skills in Enterprise and Marketing. It is designed with both practical and theoretical elements, which will prepare students for further study of qualifications in Enterprise, Marketing or Business. For example, students may want to progress onto the OCR Level 3 Cambridge Technical in Business which is offered at the sixth form. This course of study provides students with opportunities to learn, develop and enhance transferable skills. These are key skills that employers and universities want young people to possess such as research, presentation and communication skills as well as proficiency in using computers to create documents, the ability to plan and prioritise their workload and working as part of a team. All learners will study three mandatory topics as follows:

- ▶ Enterprise & Marketing Concepts
- ▶ Design a Business Proposal
- ▶ Market and Pitch a Business Proposal

### Assessment

There is one exam and the other units are assessed internally, using a range of different methods including reports, presentations and the student running their own enterprise activity.

R067 Enterprise and Marketing Concepts –

Externally assessed (Exam – 1 hour 15 minutes)

R068 Design a Business Proposal –

Internally assessed (Coursework)

R069 Market and Pitch a Business Proposal – Internally assessed (Coursework)

### Contact

Miss I Robinson –

Isobelle.Robinson@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

This course enables students to experience all aspects of business, including what life in the workplace will be like and a practical experience of running an enterprise. The skills developed are totally transferable to anything students may be interested in doing in the future, including a further study of business or economics at university, to careers in marketing, finance, human resources, operations and of course being an entrepreneur and starting your own business.

\*See Miss Robinson to discuss potential Business GCSE'

## GCSE Citizenship Studies

GCSE Citizenship Studies has the power to motivate and enable young people to become thoughtful, active citizens. You will gain a deeper knowledge of democracy, government and the law as well as being able to present various viewpoints and to plan practical citizenship actions to benefit society.

You will also gain the ability to recognise bias, critically evaluate arguments, weigh evidence and look for alternative interpretations and sources of evidence, all of which are essential skills valued by higher education and employers.

### Active citizenship

This theme is developed around the idea of how citizens can try to make a difference in society. This includes exploring different case studies and undertaking an investigation into a citizenship issue of your own choice through research, action and reflection.

### Politics and participation

This looks at the nature of political power in the UK and the core concepts relating to democracy and the government, including how the government operates and how decisions are made. You will gain an understanding of the role of political parties and the election system in this theme.

### Life in modern Britain

This theme covers the make-up, values and dynamics of contemporary UK society by considering what it means to be British. You will look at the role and responsibilities of the traditional media and impact of new forms of media.

### Rights and responsibilities

You will look at the nature of laws and the principles upon which laws are based, how the justice system works in the UK and how laws have developed over time. This theme also considers how society deals with criminality and the nature of human rights.

### Assessment

#### Paper 1

Section A: Active participation

Section B: Politics and participation

Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes

80 marks

50% of GCSE

### Paper 2

Section A: Life in modern Britain Section B: Rights and responsibilities  
Written exam: 1 hour 45 minutes 80 marks

50% of GCSE

### Contact

Miss R O'Dell –

Rebecca.ODell@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

The knowledge and skills gained in Citizenship lend themselves to a range of careers within the legal system such as barristers, solicitors, police officer and police community support officer. It is also great if you are considering a future career in journalism or politics. You will also find the skills are essential for careers linked to charities, the economy and the environment.

## BTEC Construction

With this Level 2 course, students will be taking a significant step towards working in the construction sector. They will learn skills that will give them a great start in their career. Students study within a mostly practical setting and focus on local construction skills. Students study brickwork, construction technology, drawing techniques, carpentry and joinery. There is a fair amount of written work and theory work to go through in preparation for the final examination. Students on this course need to have a good mathematical and problem-solving mind. They should also be happy to work outdoors on occasion and on larger construction activities in the workshops.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) is a requirement.

### Assessment

Practical making units and a written exam paper.

### Contact

Mr S Aspland –

Stephen.Aspland@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

On successful completion of a certificate in construction, students can progress on to a BTEC Level 3 in construction. The course also provides an excellent basis for entry to a wide range of jobs in engineering, to include apprenticeships, and for higher education opportunities at degree level.



## GCSE Dance

This course is based around contemporary dance, a creative and exciting style that is accessible to everyone, regardless of previous experience or ability. Dance is essentially an expressive medium that has the added benefit of helping students to build confidence and keep fit. Students will learn to perform set dances, learn about professional works, perform as part of a group and take on choreographic challenges.

Students should realise that this is a performing arts subject and understand that they will be involved in performances both during the school day and in evening events. Students will need full dance kit every lesson and will be working bare feet. Students need to be motivated and in good health, as GCSE Dance is physically demanding.

### Assessment

1.5 hour written exam (Dance Appreciation) which is worth 40% of the final GCSE grade.

Practical exam (solo performance x2, group performance x1, choreography x1) which in total is worth 60% of the final GCSE grade.

### Contact

Mrs L Tarsitano –  
Lisa.Tarsitano@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

If students are opting for a career in dance, after GCSE Dance they can go on to study A Level dance at TCA. They could further their study programme with a BA dance based degree at dance universities such as Trinity Laban, Northern School of Contemporary Dance, Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts or The Place. They can also study dance based degrees at universities such as De Montfort, Surrey, Canterbury, York or Middlesex. This could lead to jobs such as a dance performer, choreographer, dance therapist, project events manager, community arts worker or dance nutritionist.

Some graduates go on to do a PGCE at university to enable them to teach dance in secondary schools and colleges. If students enjoy dance as a hobby, choosing dance as an option will help to build their confidence, skills and knowledge to be able to pass this passion onto others within the community, for example, by running or supporting evening dance clubs or volunteering to help youth groups.

## GCSE Design Technology

Students will have the opportunity to work with a variety of materials, woods, metals, plastics and fabrics, in addition to using a wide range of machinery and equipment including heat treatment, lathes and many more.

Students will also benefit from developing skills at using Computer aided design (CAD) working with both 2D design and 3D virtual modelling, and some of the latest technology of Computer aided manufacture (CAM) machines. Machines that we have available include; a laser cutter, glow forge, 3D printers and sublimations machines.

In Year 10, students will cover a range of practical and theory based lessons to give plenty of opportunity for students to develop a wide range of skills and meet all the requirements of the specification. This will be delivered through both practical and theory work.

In Year 11, students will focus on their Non-Exam Assessment (NEA) which will be 50% of their total GCSE grade. This will be through content set by the exam board, where students will then create their own brief, and then design and make their own product. This is where students will bring all their previous learning together to demonstrate their knowledge and skills. The remaining time of Year 11 will focus on revising for their final exam which will make up the remaining 50% of the GCSE grade.

### Assessment

Component 1 (50%) 2 hour written exam paper

Component 2 (50%) A single design task from a range of contexts

### Contact

Mrs H. Cornwell –  
Hayley.Cornwell@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

Designer – artist, business, graphics

Engineer – industrial, workshop, designing Fashion – designer, maker, buyer

Theatre/television – set and costume design Industry – manufacture and design, architect, town planning, infrastructure

Own design business

## GCSE Drama



GCSE Drama – This course focuses on how Drama relates to the individual, the Theatre, and the world around us. The course promotes a variety of essential life skills that will relate to any career path, including enhancing creativity, encouraging social engagement and promoting teamwork and communication. When a prospective university or employer sees Drama on an application, they see a confident, outgoing and creative person who is happy to speak in public, can use their own initiative and who works well as part of a team. Students will have the chance to develop skills in performance, design and technical elements as well as learning how to analyse a play which supports the English curriculum.

### Assessment

Component 1 (40%) - Devised Practical Assessment with Coursework

Component 2 (20%) - Scripted Practical Assessment

Component 3 (40%) - Written Exam (1 hour and 30 minutes)

### Contact

Mr M Clay – Michael.Clay@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

A drama GCSE can lead to A-Level Drama offered at TCA as well as at sixth form colleges and local regional colleges. Following these courses, a degree is possible in both Drama as well as Performing Arts. Most universities offer degrees in Drama, which can lead to a variety of careers; actor/actress, stage manager, arts administrator, drama lecturer, drama therapist, television production assistant, radio presenter and theatre director. A PGCE can also lead to the opportunity of a secondary teaching post. The skills build in Drama GCSE relate to a huge range of careers, from shop assistant to lawyer.

## GCSE Film Studies

Film studies is designed for students who have a strong enthusiasm for film with a skillset that is similar to the study of English Literature; the course will introduce students to a wide variety of cinematic experiences through films which have been important in the development of the film industry and film technology. Learners will develop their knowledge of US mainstream film from the 1950s to the present day, thus exploring the development of Hollywood films. They will also study films from the UK, Sweden and India to broaden their understanding of the film industry across the world. Students will study a diverse range of films to explore generic conventions and cinematography, gaining an understanding of the following concepts:

- ▶ How directors create meanings in film
- ▶ How directors intentionally gain a desired response from the audience
- ▶ How film is an aesthetic medium
- ▶ How films reflect the social, cultural and political context in which they are made
- ▶ How film and film technology has developed and changed over time.

The course is structured into two parts: coursework and exam. The examinations require students to respond to questions with both short and long written answers; writing about films from memory, students will develop the ability to compare, analyse and evaluate films from different time periods and contexts. In this way, Film Studies is very similar to English Literature, and the study of film will be beneficial to the student who enjoys or wants to improve their performance in English Literature. The coursework involves applying their knowledge of film and film technology to produce, analyse and evaluate their own genre-based screenplay or film extract.

### Assessment

70% externally assessed examinations and 30% coursework.

### Contact

Mr I Gooda – Ian.Gooda@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

GCSE film can lead to A Level Film or Media Studies and develops skills that would also be relevant to

studying A Level Literature, as well as Level 2 and Level 3 Film Studies or Media Studies courses at CWA and Peterborough Regional College. This could then lead to degree level courses relating to either Film, Literature or Media Studies.

## OCR Health & Social Care

This is a level 2 course that students will study in Year 10 and 11, providing students with their first stepping stone into Health & Social Care.

This course provides you with an up-to-date overview of the main concepts in the health & social care industry. You will study the principles of care in health and social care settings, supporting individuals through life events and one other optional unit.

The course has both theory and practical elements included, so it is well suited to students who would like to explore a future career in health & social care.

You will also be able to develop a range of study skills including communication, English, maths, and presentation skills.

### Assessment

60% coursework (internally assessed)  
40% exam (externally assessed)

### Contact

Miss A Anderson –  
Amy.Anderson@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

You may be interested in this if you want to use what you learn in practical, real-life situations such as, recommending support for individuals, carrying out first aid, creating and delivering a creative activity, creating, and delivering a health promotion campaign.

You can progress onto a career in adult care worker, health profession support, healthcare science assistant, maternity, and paediatric support. This qualification will also enable you to progress onto a T Level, such as Health and Healthcare Science..

## VOC Hospitality & Catering



This course has been designed to develop in learners the knowledge and understanding related to a range of hospitality and catering providers; how they operate and what they have to take into account to be successful. There is the opportunity to learn about issues related to nutrition and food safety and how they affect successful hospitality and catering operations. In this qualification, learners will also have the opportunity to develop some food preparation and cooking skills as well as transferable skills of problem solving, organisation and time management, planning and communication.

If you choose this course you will be asked to bring your own ingredients.

This course is made up of 2 units:  
Unit 1: The Hospitality and Catering Industry (Exam) Unit 2: Hospitality and Catering in Action

### Assessment

Written exam 40%  
Coursework 60%

### Contact

Mrs J Tjurina – Jelena.Tjurina@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

A Level: Level 3 Diploma in Food Science and Nutrition  
Degree: Food Technology, Food and Nutrition, Food Marketing Management, Food Safety and Quality Management  
Apprenticeships: food manufacturing, hospitality and catering  
Possible careers: catering, chef, product development, food production, marketing, nursing, teaching, social work, dietician, paediatrician, environmental health officer.



## GCSE Music



GCSE Music is the perfect course for students interested in listening to, performing and composing Music. KS3 has laid the foundations for GCSE study by focusing on listening, appraising, performing and composing music from different times and places whilst developing your technical abilities needed for musical creativity. The following is a brief outline of the course:

### Assessment

Component 1: Performing 4-6 minute performance, solo and ensemble – 30% of qualification.

Component 2: Composing 3-6 minute composition, moderated – 30% of qualification.

Component 3: Appraising Written examination – 1 hour 15 minutes (approximately).

Listening examination:

8 questions in total, 2 on each areas of study below:

Area of study 1: Musical Forms and Devices

Area of study 2: Music for Ensemble

Area of study 3: Film Music

Area of study 4: Popular Music

### Contact

Mr T McCoy – Tim.Mccoy@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

Performer, composer / arranger, music teacher, music business / marketing, music management, music publishing, music retail, development officer, Film / TV / video game scoring, recording engineer.

## GCSE Philosophy & Ethics

Philosophy and ethics (RE) offers a modern and inspiring option that will help students learn about the approaches of religion and philosophy to some of the fundamental questions about human existence.

“No man is an island, entire of itself” – John Donne

### So why study RE?

Religion can be considered the most important influence on the lives of everyone in the world. Even if we think that we do not believe in any religion, and that it is nothing to do with us, nevertheless, it affects a great many aspects of our everyday lives, wherever we live.

Religious belief has been with humanity since the very beginning. It is an attempt to explain those things for which we do not otherwise have an answer: why are we born, why do we suffer, what happens to us when we die?

The aims of the course are to:

- ▶ Look at today's issues – including things you have read about in the news
- ▶ Consider philosophies and different areas of ethics such as medicine, justice and poverty.
- ▶ Examine beliefs and practices in Christianity and Islam around the world.
- ▶ Learn skills in interpreting and evaluating pieces of information.
- ▶ Develop debating skills.

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**Assessment** 100% examination.

### Contact

Mr S Titchmarsh

Sean.Titchmarsh@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

GCSE philosophy and ethics supports a variety of careers in law, travel, advertising, human resources, diplomacy, publishing, journalism, the media and teaching. Many go on to further education, and philosophy and ethics (RE) is a well-respected subject amongst universities.

## GCSE Photography

The aims of the course are to:

- ▶ Research theme, topic or subject
- ▶ Study other photographic artists, movements and cultures
- ▶ Develop ideas using a range of editing techniques
- ▶ Produce final outcomes

Photography is for creative students who enjoy playing with imagery, who like being arty and love taking photographs! You will be required to research photographers and develop your own ideas. You will be taught how to experiment with cameras, lighting and editing. You will aim to improve the quality of your work and make professional looking final pieces. You will learn how to use the manual settings of the camera for shots taken in a variety of conditions and situations.

Although it would be useful to own a DSLR camera it is not essential. Homework shots can be taken on a phone/camera as long as students have a way of uploading to the school system. The course is structured into two parts: Coursework, which is the presentation of a portfolio of work. It consists of 3 projects showing different themes and approaches.

Students then complete an Externally Set Assignment. Students will have approximately ten weeks to prepare the assignment. At the end of this period there will be a ten-hour session of supervised time where students will produce a finished piece(s) of work based on their preparation work.

Assessment will be ongoing throughout the course. Much emphasis is placed on independent study and homework is a vital part of GCSE Photography.

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### Assessment

60% coursework and 40% externally set assignment.

### Contact

Mr J Birch – John.Birch@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

GCSE Photography can lead to A Level Art and Design at TCA as well as Level 2 and 3 BTEC Art and Design courses at CWA and Peterborough Regional College. This can then lead to degree level courses which can include photo journalism, graphic design, fashion, self-employed photographer and advertising.

## OCR Cambridge National Sport\*

This is a level 2 course that students will study in Year 10 and 11, providing students with their first stepping stone into a career within sport and leisure.

This course provides you with an up-to-date overview of the main concepts within sport. You will study contemporary issues in sport, sports leadership, developing sports skills and sport in the media. The course has both theory and practical elements included, so it is well suited to students who enjoy sport.

You will also be able to develop a range of study skills including communication, English, maths and presentation skills.

### Assessment

60% coursework (internally assessed)

40% exam (externally assessed)

### Contact

Miss A Anderson –

Amy.Anderson@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

You can progress onto a Level 3 course at TCA, which can lead to a place at university and a career in PE teaching or a high level sports industry job. Alternatively, you could progress into an apprenticeship or gain employment in the sports and leisure industry.

\*See Miss Anderson to discuss a potential option of PE GCSE

## VCERT Child Development & Care

This qualification provides the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that introduces the sector. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of learners who wish to be introduced to childcare and development of children aged 0-5 years. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles.

This level two qualification has nine content areas – one externally verified short question assessment and then one internally assessed coursework unit, with a random sample verified by NCFE.

### Assessment

Non-examined assessment (NEA): 50% externally-set, internally marked and externally moderated coursework. Examined assessment: 50% externally-set and externally marked – written examination.

Grading: Students are graded Level 1 or Level 2 Pass, Merit and Distinction.

### Contact

Miss L Heasell – Laura.Heasell@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

After the completion of this course you may want to go on to study Level 3 at college. This qualification will also go towards entry to A Level and other college courses. This certificate can also lead you to find work in the childcare sector as a trainee or apprentice. This course can support you in careers such as social work, nursery workers, teaching, psychologists, health visitors, childminders, teaching, paediatric nursing and many more.



## GCSE Statistics

Statistics is a well-respected academic subject with close links to Mathematics. GCSE Statistics and GCSE Mathematics have many common topics and so by opting for Statistics you will automatically improve your chances of a better grade in Mathematics.

Statistics is very cross curricular and will come in useful in many other subjects including the Social Sciences and Geography. It will also be extremely useful for anyone wishing to study A-level Mathematics. Real-life scenarios will capture your interest and give you an insight into the importance of statistics in the real world. Statistics ensures that students develop the confidence and competence with statistical techniques to enable them to apply those techniques flexibly to solve statistical problems through a practical programme of study.

This course is open for students in sets 1 & 2 in both X and Y bands. For students taking Statistics, we offer GCSE Further Maths as an additional qualification.

### Assessment

The examination is split into two evenly weighted exam papers:  
Paper 1: Written examination: 1 hour and 30 minutes 50% of the qualification 80 marks  
Paper 2: Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 50% of the qualification 80 marks .

### Contact

Mrs K Gray-Hannah

Karen.GrayHannah@thomasclarksonacademy.org

### Potential career pathways

GCSE Statistics can lead to A-Level maths and may continue to study Statistics in University. The knowledge and skills students gain through this qualification are applicable in many fields such as agriculture, economics, education, engineering, medicine and transport. Typical employers include:

- ▶ Financial and banking companies
- ▶ Insurance and accountancy firms
- ▶ IT companies
- ▶ Logistics and transport companies
- ▶ The NHS and private health companies
- ▶ Market research organisations
- ▶ Not-for-profit organisations and think tanks
- ▶ Pharmaceutical industries
- ▶ Universities and other education bodies.



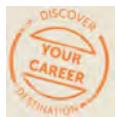
# Careers, Education, Information, Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) at Thomas Clarkson Academy

**CEIAG aims to encourage students to challenge themselves and try to achieve their dreams. We want our students to explore the opportunities available and perhaps try something new, whilst building up their skills, knowledge and experience.**

The world of work is constantly changing and in order to prepare our young people for their futures, it is vital we help them gain the qualifications they need and plan ahead.

Careers information and advice starts in Year 7 at Thomas Clarkson Academy. Students have access to CEIAG support and are introduced to the various websites that offer further information about the world of further learning careers and apprenticeships. Students are given a login to the Kudos careers programme that the Academy subscribes to. It enables students to search for careers inspiration by looking at subjects they enjoy, searching a particular field, for example animal care or medicine.

The best bit is that once students have their log in they are able to access the site anywhere, ensuring that parents/ carers can help in their search.



To log into Kudos, the student simply goes to **[www.cascaid.co.uk](http://www.cascaid.co.uk)**, or via the Kudos App on RM Unify

The student then enters their username and password that they received in school. If you cannot remember these please email your tutor.



Using the Kudos system, It is also ideal for those who are still not really sure what career they are interested in, as students can complete a questionnaire about their skills and personality and are then provided with a list of suggested career options to assist in planning for the future.

Students can also search each field – for instance, they can look what jobs there are in the field of engineering. They can also list their favourite subjects and again, suggestions are made.

The system links to local colleges, UCAS and apprenticeship vacancies. It also has labour market information explaining how likely vacancies are in a particular industry and earning potential. It reports on whether jobs in that sector are increasing or are on the decline. There are interviews and videos with employees in different jobs so students can gain a personal insight.

In Year 9, access to New Kudos becomes more important as students are choosing their options. Looking at potential career paths and the qualifications needed should help students select their options; however, if they are still unsure it is wise to keep a balanced approach and pick subjects they enjoy.



Students keep their New Kudos throughout their time with us and in later years the system helps by linking into college and university courses, as well as creating a CV.

Another careers website available for students to use is **[www.northeastambition.co.uk/buzz](http://www.northeastambition.co.uk/buzz)** which also makes suggestions for future career paths, after you answer a series of questions. You simply click on the heading 'The Buzz Quiz'.

There is lots more information and helpful links on the Careers page on our website, under Useful Links.

So please explore the various options with your child and plan ahead – this is the next step towards their future and we need to make sure it's the right one.

**Sharon Smith**  
Careers Leader





This is a very exciting time for you, as these choices will shape decisions you make in the future. Take plenty of time and think carefully about your options.

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**Thomas Clarkson Academy**

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