

CARRICKFERGUS ACADEMY



6th Form Options Booklet



Challenge Achieve Respect Excel

f⁶th form
CARRICKFERGUS
ACADEMY

Welcome to Sixth Form at Carrickfergus Academy

Welcome to Carrickfergus Academy, a vibrant, growing and progressive non-selective school serving families in the Carrickfergus area and beyond. At Carrickfergus Academy we are a caring community committed to challenging our pupils to excel and achieve their full potential in a climate of mutual respect and self-reflection. We cultivate positive relationships; we ensure every student feels valued and empowered by their teachers, peers, and the wider school community. By emphasizing mutual respect and collaboration, we create a professional space where pupils can truly thrive.

Pastoral Care and Support

Our pastoral care is a cornerstone of the Sixth Form experience. We provide tailored support to help students navigate the transition to advanced study, ensuring that well-being remains a top priority. A range of key staff led by Sixth Form Year Mentors help our young people manage the balance between academic demands and their future transition to higher education or the workforce.

Academic Excellence

We offer a broad and rigorous curriculum that encourages pupils to pursue subjects aligned with their unique career aspirations. Supported by dedicated educators and structured supervised private study periods, our students are given the tools necessary to reach their full academic potential.

Sixth Form Contacts:

Senior Teacher

Mr J. McCready – Senior Teacher

Sixth Form Year Mentors

Mrs J. McClean

Mrs M O'Neill

Ethos

Challenge, Achieve, Respect and Excel - CARE

At Carrickfergus Academy we are committed to providing a quality educational experience for each young person who we are privileged to have placed in our care. As a community, we endeavour to create a secure, enjoyable and supportive learning environment where there are high expectations for all – where each individual can thrive emotionally, academically, physically and spiritually, feel valued and cared for, and achieve their full potential in a climate of mutual respect and self-reflection.

Mission Statement

“We are a vibrant, welcoming and respectful school community, where everyone is valued and supported to achieve their full potential and a love for learning.”

Our Vision

As a community whose core values are those of respect, achieve, support and aspire, we aim to develop and empower our young people to strive for individual and collective excellence through a challenging and nurturing environment built on a foundation of mutual respect for all.

A community within which high standards of leadership, personal reflection, learning, teaching and enrichment will challenge and encourage our young people to aspire to their very best and to play an active and responsible role as contributors to their communities and society.

As a school, we will strive to build strong partnerships with our parents, carers and wider community to ensure each young person is challenged to aspire, respect and excel.

Sixth Form Curriculum

Admission to Sixth Form is based on GCSE performance. Please note that entry to A-Level courses is not automatic; a points-based system is utilised to determine eligibility.

Our curriculum is designed to equip pupils with the skills required for an ever-evolving global economy. We continually review our offer to include traditional academic subjects alongside vocational courses. Through our partnership with the Carrickfergus Learning Community (CLC), we provide an expansive range of subjects, allowing students increased access to specialised courses.

Carrickfergus Academy Subjects	CLC Partnership Subjects
Art and Design	Accounting
Business Studies	Performing Arts
English Literature	Digital Technology
Geography	Physics
Government and Politics	Photography
Health and Social Care	Spanish
History	
Life and Health Science	
Information Technology	
Media Studies	
Religious Education	
Sports Studies	
Technology	
Travel and Tourism	

Students select **three** subjects for study; no more than one may be a CLC-hosted subject.

Please note that the above subject offer may change each year following consultation with staff and students.

Sixth Form Enrichment

The Northern Ireland Labour Market increasingly prioritizes "soft skills" such as communication, teamwork, and problem-solving. Our Friday afternoon Enrichment Programme is dedicated to cultivating these essential competencies.

- **Year 13:** Activities include Mentoring, Eco-Schools, **SistersIN**, Sports Coaching, Mandarin, Public Speaking, and Counselling.
- **Year 14:** A bespoke programme featuring guest speakers from industry and universities to prepare students for life beyond school.
- **International Travel:** Students may participate in study visits to destinations such as China (Confucius Institute), Rome, Krakow, and London.

Careers and Student Leadership

Preparing students for the professional world is a key priority. Our weekly careers classes provide:

- **Personalised UCAS Guidance:** Expert help with university applications.
- **Industry Exposure:** Direct engagement with employers and guest speakers.
- **Work Experience:** Real-world placements to build networking skills and professional confidence.

Leadership Opportunities

Sixth Form students are encouraged to take on significant responsibilities within the school community. Positions include:

- **Prefects (Year 13) and Senior Prefects (Year 14)**
- **Head and Deputy Head Prefects**
- **Take 5 and Sports Ambassadors**

These competitively sought-after roles provide invaluable experience in events management, student council representation, and peer leadership.

Financial Support (EMA)

The **Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)** is a means-tested payment of £30 per week (paid fortnightly) for students aged 16–19 with a household income below the designated threshold. Further information can be obtained by contacting Mrs McClean at the Academy.

Sixth Form Admission Criteria (Year 13)

To be considered for admission into the Sixth Form at Carrickfergus Academy, applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Students must have achieved a **minimum of 6 GCSE points** (based on the points tables on next page), including at least *three grades at A–C** (or equivalent).
- Any student who has not attained a grade C or above in GCSE English and/or Mathematics will be required to re-sit these subjects in Year 13
- Students must study at least **two of their three subjects** at the Academy.
- Students must satisfy the specific entry criteria for each subject they wish to take at AS or A2 level. Please note that CLC partner schools set their own specific entry requirements. Students must consult the *Carrickfergus Learning Community Subject Choices Booklet* to ensure they meet the criteria for subjects hosted at other sites.
- Admission is subject to the Principal's satisfaction regarding the student's Key Stage 4 (KS4) record, including attendance, behaviour, punctuality, and commitment to study.
- Where required, students must attend an interview with the Senior Leadership Team or Sixth Form Team to confirm a suitable course of study.
- Students with non-UK qualifications must provide verified evidence of equivalence.
- In exceptional circumstances, such as medical or personal issues that detrimentally affected examination performance, the Principal may waive certain admission requirements. Robust documentary evidence will be required. In all such cases, the Principal's decision is final.

Note: The offer of a place in the Sixth Form remains at the sole discretion of the Academy.

External Applications

Applications are welcome from students who wish to transfer from other schools at the end of Year 12. Following the publication of GCSE results students should contact Senior staff at the Academy to arrange an interview and confirm option choices.

In addition to the criteria above, a strong attendance, punctuality and behaviour record at their previous school is required.

GCSE Point Equivalency Tables

Standard GCSE Grades							
NI Grade	Points	English Board	Points	Occupational Studies	Points	Other Subjects	Points
A*	4	9/A	4	*2 (A*)	2	King's Trust Pass	1
A	3	8/7/A	3	D2 (A)	2	OCN NI (Pass)	1
B	2	6 / B	2	M2 (B)	1.5		
C*	1.5	5 / C*	1.5	P2 (C)	1		
C	1	4 / C	1				
D	0.5	3 / D / E	0.5				

BTEC Level 2			
Grade	Description	GCSE Equivalent	Points
L2 D* D*	Distinction* Distinction*	A* A*	4
L2 D* D	Distinction* Distinction	A* A	4
L2 DD	Distinction Distinction	AA	3
L2 DM	Distinction Merit	AB	3
L2 MM	Merit Merit	BB	2
L2 MP	Merit Pass	BC	2
L2 PP	Pass Pass	CC	1
L2D*	Distinction*	A*	2
L2D	Distinction	A	1.5
L2M	Merit	B	1
L2P	Pass	C	0.5

Art & Design

AS/A2 Level

Subject Leaders

Mrs N Redmond

Mrs C Thacker

Exam Board

CCEA

Career Opportunities

- Illustrator
- Interior Designer
- Game designer
- Sculptor
- Fashion Designer
- Gallery Owner
- Photographer
- Animator

Recommended Criteria

GCSE Grade B or above in Art & Design

Course Overview

Students will follow a broad pathway through Art, Craft and Design studying the Combined Studies GCE. Working with a wide range of media, materials and processes, students will gain insight and understanding into one of the fastest growing career pathways, developing a wide range of skills essential for a future in creative and other industries.

Pupils will continue to build upon the knowledge and skills previously acquired at GCSE, taking inspiration from the world around us, using a wide range of available technologies to produce work in both two and three dimensions.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS1	Experimental Portfolio Students base their portfolio on a theme that we issue in a stimulus paper at the beginning of the AS course.	Internal
AS2 Personal Response	Available from 1 February each year. Students respond to a theme that is issued in a stimulus paper. It includes developing work into an outcome that stems from the research and exploratory work completed for their Unit 1 Experimental Portfolio.	Internal
A2 Unit		
A21 Personal and Critical Investigation	This unit included both practical and written investigations. Students demonstrate understanding through integrated practical and written forms. Students choose the medium and can present their work in a variety of forms.	Internal
A22 Thematic Outcome	Students respond to a theme that we issue in a stimulus paper at the beginning of the A2 course. This unit includes developing work into an outcome that stems from the personal investigation completed for Unit A21.	Internal

Business Studies

AS/A2 Level

Subject Leader

Mrs J Evans

Exam Board

CCEA

Career Opportunities

- Entrepreneur
- Teacher
- Public Relations
- Criminologist
- Hotel Management
- Estate Agent
- Retail
- Recruitment
- Stockbroker
- Business Manager
- Bank Manager
- Accountant
- Advertising / Marketing
- Civil Service
- Quantity Surveyor
- System Analyst
- Venture Capitalist
- Practice Manager

Recommended Criteria

GCSE English grade C or above

GCSE Maths grade C or above

Course Overview

Professional Business Services (PBS) are critical to the success of the UK economy. They are a growth area in a global market. People who work in professional business services support businesses in all sectors by providing specialist advice. This support can include a range of services in areas such as accountancy, management, recruitment, human resources, auditing, consultation, diversity and inclusion, data analysis, risk management, and technology and communications.

PBS require people with good communication and creative thinking skills, good understanding of clients' markets and a sound knowledge of market research, consultancy practices and client relationships. They require a wide range of qualities, including people skills, technical ability, a high standard of business ethics and the ability to persuade, influence and negotiate. PBS is an industry-endorsed specification, and it encourages students to develop and draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and understanding. This subject is an academic based qualification which is aimed at 16–18-year-old learners. There is no need to have prior knowledge of Business Studies to undertake this course.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS1	Professional Business Services Introduces students to the environment that PBS firms operate in.	External
AS2	Human Resource Services Students focus on the services provided by PBS firms to support human resources in a client business.	Internal
AS3	Financial Decision-Making Focuses on the services provided by PBS firms to support financial decision making within a client business.	External
A2 Unit		
A21	Technology in Business Students focus on the technology services that PBS firms provide to support business operations.	External
A22	Leadership & Management Students examine the key concepts of leadership and management and a range of leadership styles and theories.	External
A23	Project Management Skills Students explore project management.	Internal

English Literature

AS/A2 Level

Subject Leader

Mr J Luke

Exam Board

CCEA

Career

Opportunities

- Civil Service
- Law
- Film / TV Editing
- Business Management
- Administration
- Digital Content Editing
- Teaching
- Marketing
- Journalism
- Broadcasting
- Publishing
- Advertising
- Public Relations
- Proofreading
- Policing
- Nursing
- Social Work
- Writer

Recommended Criteria

GCSE English Literature grade C (if studied) or above or
GCSE English Language grade c* or above.

Course Overview

Why Study English Literature?

English Literature is an academic A-Level which is widely regarded as being one of the best in preparing students for university study as it teaches and hones those all-important critical thinking and essay writing skills that are the basis of nearly all higher education courses.

Additionally, those analytical skills are also used in the study of other A-Level subjects, so taking English Literature will aid in the work you do for other academic courses.

Furthermore, and most crucially perhaps, English Literature equips the student with many transferable skills which are valuable in life and work. You will find your confidence grow in your communication skills as you are better able to hold and sustain arguments and present your thoughts more concisely and clearly. The variety of the material studied builds cultural empathy and emotional intelligence as well as your problem-solving skills – all useful in the world of work and in life in general.

What is involved?

The course covers a range of poetry, prose and drama from different eras and genres. Class teaching is based around the analysis of the texts, and the contexts in which they are written. So, there will be lots of opportunity for paired and group work as well as insightful, lively class discussion - encouraging those critical and analytical thinking skills; but class teaching is also supported by watching excerpts of film and stage adaptations and theatre visits when applicable and the opportunity arises. There will also be exciting opportunities for research into the socio-historical, biographical and literary contexts of the work you are studying, expanding your insights into the motivations of the writers.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS1	The Study of Poetry 1900 – Present & Drama 1900 – Present Section A: Poetry from Elizabeth Jennings & Philip Larkin Section B: Arthur Miller - <i>The Crucible</i>	External
AS2	The Study of Prose Pre 1900 Mary Shelley - <i>Frankenstein</i>	External
A2 Unit		
A21	The Study of Shakespearean Genre Tragedy - <i>Othello</i>	External
A22	The Study of Poetry Pre 1900 & Unseen Poetry – William Blake	External
A23	Comparative Analysis of Dystopian Fiction Margaret Atwood – <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> Kazuo Ishiguro – <i>Never Let Me Go</i>	Internal

Geography

AS/A2 Level

Subject Leader

Mrs C Laughlin

Exam Board

CCEA

Career

Opportunities

- Teaching
- Writing
- Publishing
- Journalism
- Public relations
- Directing
- Advertising
- Event Management
- Broadcasting
- Radio
- Law
- Marketing
- Production

Recommended Criteria

GCSE Geography grade C or above

Course Overview

The world in which we live is constantly changing; people move around for different reasons, countries change economically and politically, wars occur, natural disasters are frequent and caught on camera, goods are bought and sold across the world, and we travel more than ever before. The growth of digital media means that we are more aware of what is happening in the world around us. We see the migrant issues in Europe, we hear about terrorist threats across the world, and we see the devastation that earthquakes cause to people's lives. By studying Geography students will develop a lifelong interest in the world we live in and be able to understand and empathise with issues that affect you as a global citizen.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS1	Physical Geography	External
AS2	Human Geography	External
AS3	Fieldwork Skills and Techniques in Geography	External
A2 Unit		
A21	Physical Processes Landform and Management	External
A22	Processes and Issues in Human Geography	External
A23	Decision Making in Geography	External

Government & Politics

AS/A2 Level

Teacher in Charge

Mr J McCready

Exam Board

CCEA

Career Opportunities

- Politician
- Journalist
- Fashion Journalist
- Media Correspondent
- Public Sector
- Law
- Economist
- Activist
- Armed Services
- Police
- Accountant
- Banking

Recommended Criteria

GCSE English grade C or above

Course Overview

Why study Politics at Carrickfergus Academy?

Politics is a challenging, lively and enjoyable subject. Classroom teaching is supported by interesting and enjoyable study visits which allow students to meet the important decision makers in Northern Ireland. Results within the department are consistently excellent, allowing students to go to study at university. Politics students have recently gone on to study a range of courses including Law, Criminology, Psychology, History, and Nursing. It has also proved useful for past pupils who have pursued careers in the police or armed services.

Each year Government and Politics students from Carrickfergus Academy take part in a study visit to the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Houses of Parliament in London. On these visits pupils are given an insight into the workings of our political institutions and have the opportunity to watch live political debates. Pupils also take part in question and answer sessions with MLAs and MPs from a range of political parties, giving you the chance to put your views across to the people in power.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS1	The Government & Politics of Northern Ireland This unit covers – NI Assembly / executive / Politics Parties	External
AS2	British Political Process This unit covers – UK Parliament / government / the Judiciary	External
A2 Unit		
A21	The Government of USA This units covers – US Legislature / Role of the President / Comparison of US and UK Government	External
A22	Political Ideas This units covers – Socialism / Conservatism / Liberalism	External

Health & Social

AS/A2 Level

Single & Double Award

Subject Leader

Mrs C Acheson

Exam Board

CCEA

Career

Opportunities

- Health Care
 - Nursing
 - Midwifery
 - Health Visitor
 - Paramedic
- Social Care
 - Social Worker
 - Probation Worker
 - PSNI
 - Youth Worker
 - Counselling
- Early Years
 - Teacher
 - Learning Support Assistant
 - Childcare Assistant
- Roles in HSCNI
 - Administration
 - ICT Support
 - Human Resources
 - Technical Staff
 - Laboratory

Recommended Criteria

GCSE Double Award Science grade CC or above

GCSE Single award Science grade B or above

Course Overview

By studying GCE Health and Social Care you will gain knowledge and understanding of the health, social care and early years sectors. You will also increase your awareness of the issues affecting these sectors. As this is an applied subject with a more vocational perspective you will be asked to complete a work placement in a health care, social care or early years' service such as a care home, day centre, nursery or primary school to gain first-hand knowledge, understanding and experience of the day-to-day running of a care setting.

Single Award

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS1	Promoting Quality Care	Internal
AS2	Communication in Health, Social Care and Early Years Settings	Internal
AS3	Health and Well-Being	External
A2 Unit		
A22	Body Systems and Physiological Disorders	Internal
A23	Providing Services	External
A25	Supporting the Family	Internal

Double Award – Double Award students complete all 6 Single Award units above plus the following 6 units.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS4	Safeguarding Children	Internal
AS6	Holistic Therapies	Internal
AS7	Understanding the Physiology of Health and Illness	External
A2 Unit		
A21	Applied Research	Internal
A24	Health Promotion	Internal
A25	Human Nutrition and Health	External

History

AS/A2 Level

Subject Leader

Mr P Middleton

Exam Board

CCEA

Career

Opportunities

- Teaching
- Journalism
- Civil Service
- Research
- Law
- Archaeology
- Travel & Tourism
- Computing
- Social and Probation Service
- Radio & Television
- Psychology
- Archivist

Recommended Criteria

GCSE History grade C or above

GCSE English grade C or above

Course Overview

History is one of those disciplines described by some as a “traditional” subject. However, traditional certainly does not mean “outdated” or “unimportant”. The analytical, research and ICT skills required by 6th form History students are exactly those deemed as essential for success in a wider range of careers in the modern workplace.

History opens doors to many different University courses and to employment. Employers who see that you have qualifications in History know certain things about you. They will know that you have taken on certain key skills which, learnt through History, can be applied to all sorts of other situations. They know that you have experience in being a group member. You can make sound, informed judgements and decisions, you can understand the difference between reality and propaganda and you have research and ICT skills.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS1	Germany 1918-1945 This module will require students to engage in historical enquiry by investigating specific historical questions, problems or issues and use historical sources critically in their context, deploying information and reaching substantiated conclusions.	External
AS2	Italy 1817 – 1943 This module requires students to study significant individuals, societies, events, developments and issues within a broad historical context and how developments affected different groups within the societies from a range of historical perspectives in the chosen period of study.	External
A2 Unit		
A21	Clash of Ideologies 1900 – 2000 This module requires students to study change and/or development over a sufficient period and to demonstrate understanding of the process of change both long term (100 years) and short term. Students will be required to demonstrate their breadth of historical knowledge and understanding by making links and drawing comparisons between different aspects of the period, society, topic and themes studied.	External
A22	Partition of Ireland 1900 – 1925 This unit requires students to engage in historical enquiry by investigating specific historical questions, problems or issues and use historical sources critically in their context, deploying information and reaching substantiated conclusions. Students will be given the opportunity to develop the ability to ask relevant and significant questions about the past and research them.	External

Life & Health Sciences

AS/A2 Level

Subject Leader
Mrs G Edwards
Exam Board
CCEA

Career Opportunities

- Analytical Chemist
- Chemical Engineer
- Data Science Manager
- Epidemiologist
- Pharmacologist
- Statistician
- Toxicologist
- Clinical Research
- Drug Safety Officer
- Chemist
- Biomedical Scientist
- Biotechnologist
- Biochemist
- Computational Biologist
- Microbiologist
- Clinical Research
- Laboratory Technician
- Research Assistants
- Bioinformatician

Recommended Criteria

GCSE Double Award Science grade CC or above

GCSE Single Award Science grade B or above

Course Overview

Life and Health Sciences specification was developed with industry in response to the needs of the growing life and health sciences sector in Northern Ireland.

Life and Health Science related industries make up over 25% of Northern Ireland's total economic output and include a diverse range of public and private businesses and employment opportunities, including pharmaceutical, chemical, agricultural, dental, nursing, environmental and allied health professions.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS1	Experimental Techniques Students develop skills in performing a range of experimental techniques useful in Biology, Chemistry and Physics.	Internal
AS2	Human Body Systems Students have the opportunity to learn about how human body systems work and how they support good health.	External
AS3	Aspects of Physical Chemistry in Industrial Processes Students develop skills in performing calculations in Chemistry. Students can also apply their knowledge of energetics, kinetics and equilibrium in the industrial manufacture of chemicals.	External
A2 Unit		
A21	Scientific Method, Investigations, Analysis and Evaluation Students carry out research and get to choose, plan and undertake a scientific investigation.	Internal
A22	Organic Chemistry Students focus on basic reactions within organic chemistry and the uses of organic compounds in contributing to an increasing carbon footprint.	External
A25	Genetics, Stem Cell research & Cloning Students learn about the make-up of DNA and how it links to genetic engineering and gene therapy.	External

A Double Award in Life & Health Sciences may be offered, subject to sufficient student demand, for further information please speak to Subject Leader – Mrs Edwards

Information

Technology

OCR Technical Level 3

Subject Leader

Mr C O'Loughlin

Exam Board

OCR

Career

Opportunities

- Project Manager
- Technical Sales
- 3D Designer
- ICT Teacher
- ICT Technician
- Secretary
- Accountant
- Film Editor
- Help Desk Operator
- Project Manager
- Technical Sales
- 3D Designer
- ICT Teacher
- ICT Technician
- Secretary
- Accountant
- Film Editor
- Help Desk Operator
- Photographer
- Videographer

Recommended Criteria

GCSE English grade C or above

GCSE ICT grade C or above or
GCSE Business

Communication Systems
grade C or above

Course Overview

In ICT, pupils follow the OCR Cambridge Technicals specification and are assessed in 6 coursework units. It is recommended that pupils have studied ICT at GCSE if considering this course and have access to a PC or laptop at home.

Due to the coursework-based nature of the course, it is recommended that pupils have at least a C in English to enable them to gain a good grade for their written communication skills. This vocational course is the equivalent of one A-Level and is recognised by both Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University for ICT based degrees.

This specification is 100% coursework based.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
Unit 1	Communication and Employability Skills for IT This unit will allow students to learn about different personal skills that are essential within the ICT industry.	Internal
Unit 2	Information Systems This unit will allow students to learn the information organisations hold and how this is valuable to an organisation.	Internal
Unit 27	Digital Graphics This unit allows students to learn advanced skills in Photoshop, developing skills that are used in the graphic design industry.	Internal
A2 Unit		
Unit 12	Website Production This unit will prepare students to design, create and test a fully functioning professional website, that uses a range of advanced and dynamic features.	Internal
Unit 19	Spreadsheet Modelling The unit will allow students to understand how spreadsheets can be used to solve complex problems.	Internal
Unit 43	Understanding Social Media for Business This unit allows students to understand of what social media is, the scope and impact it has.	Internal

Media

AS/A2 Level

Teacher in Charge
Ms K Waring
Exam Board
WJEC

Career Opportunities

- Media Planner
- Multimedia Specialist
- Programme Researcher, broadcasting/film/video
- Public relations officer
- Runner
- Broadcasting / Film
- Social Media Manager
- Television / Film Producer
- Broadcast Journalist
- Web Content Manager
- Advertising Executive
- Editorial Assistant
- Event Manager
- Film Director
- Magazine Journalist
- Market Researcher
- UX Designer
- Writer

Recommended Criteria

GCSE English grade C or above

GCSE Media Studies grade C or above if taken at GCSE

Proficient in ICT, particular in Adobe Photoshop is recommended.

Course Overview

Media Studies is challenging, interesting and creative. The course looks at several media industries, such as: Advertising & Marketing, Film, TV, Radio, Magazines, Newspapers, and Online Media. Media Studies involves the analysis of media language, issues of representation and application of theory. It also covers changing audiences, industries and historical and social contexts.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
Unit 1	Investigating the Media It consists of three sections: Section A: Selling Images – Advertising and Music Video Section B: News in the Online Age Section C: Film Industries – from Wales to Hollywood	External
Unit 2	Media Production A media production, including individual research and planning, created in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC , and applying knowledge and understanding of key concepts. An individual reflective analysis of the production.	Internal
A2 Unit		
Unit 3	Media in the Global Age It consists of three sections: Section A: Television in the Global Age Section B: Magazines – Changing Representations Section C: Media in the Digital Age – Video Games	External
Unit 4	Creating a Cross – Media Production A cross-media production, including individual investigative research and development, created in response to a choice of briefs set by WJEC and applying knowledge and understanding of key concepts and digital convergence. An individual critical analysis of the production.	Internal

Religious Education

AS/A2 Level

Subject Leader
Mrs L Shannon
Exam Board
CCEA

Career Opportunities

- Teacher
- Youth Worker
- Social Worker
- Ministry
- Charity Worker
- Theological Studies
- Journalist
- Broadcaster
- Government – Foreign Service
- Law
- Museums and the arts
- Counsellor

Recommended Criteria

GCSE English grade C or above

Course Overview

A Level Religious Studies examines the growth of early Christianity and the threats which faced this new movement in its infancy as well as understanding the continued impact of faith and suffering in the wider world today.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
AS2	An Introduction to the Acts of the Apostles This unit is a study of Acts, the beginnings of the Christian Church, growth and expansion of early Christianity as well as a study of Paul and the broader themes of faith and witness in Acts	External
AS4	The Christian Church in the Roman Empire This unit is a study of the expansion of Christianity, Church organisation and Government, persecution of the early believers, Emperor Constantine and some early Christian thought.	External
A2 Unit		
A22	Themes in Selected Letters of St Paul This unit builds on the study of Paul's letters at AS level. Students explore Paul's role as an evangelist in greater depth through his letters to the churches. Students engage in detailed study of three New Testament texts and critically assess the importance of Paul's teaching for early Christian communities and the Church today as well as examining the problem of religious controversy and highlight some potential areas of conflict.	External
A24	Themes in the Early Church and the Church Today The first two sections of this unit consist of themes in the early Church followed by a section dealing with belief and belonging in the modern world. Students study the changing nature of authority and Church government and the challenges of heresy. In the final theme on faith, morality and the state students consider the relationship between religious faith and state authority.	External

Sports Studies

BTEC

Subject Leader
Ms S Harrison
Exam Board
BTEC

Career Opportunities

- Exercise Physiologist
- Fitness Centre Manager
- Personal Trainer
- Sports Administrator
- Sports Coach
- Sports Development
- Higher Education Lecturer
- Outdoor Activities Manager
- Sport and Exercise Psychologist Teaching
- Nursing
- Physiotherapist
- Paramedic Science
- Sports Therapist
- Event Manager

Recommended Criteria

BTEC Sport Merit or above

For those who didn't do BTEC Sport at GCSE a Grade C or above in Science and English

Membership of a school team or external sporting club e.g. Carrick Rugby Club/Castle Hockey Club

Course Overview

BTEC Level 3 Extended Certificate in Sport (1 A Level) is a vocational qualification which aims to provide students with the opportunity to access careers in the sport, health & leisure industries as well as provide a pathway into University and Further Education.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
Unit 1	Anatomy & Physiology Science knowledge / Sports Science / Coaching / Nursing / Allied Health Professions eg Physiotherapy	External
Unit 2	Fitness Training and Programming for Health, Sport and Well-being Fitness / Gym Instructor / Personal Trainer/ Nutritionist	External with pre-release
Unit 4 Part 1	Sports Leadership Coach groups / Lead groups for activities / Teaching / Childcare / Nursing/ Allied Health Professions	Internal
A2 Unit		
Unit 3	Professional Development in Sports Industry Mock interview process / University interviews / Job interviews	Internal
Unit 4 Part 2	Sports Leadership Coach groups / Lead groups for activities / Teaching / Childcare / Nursing/ Allied Health Professions	Internal

All pupils will have the opportunity to participate in sports coaching. This is a unique opportunity that gives each student a minimum of 10 hours teaching practice experience as well as developing their ability to write lesson plans and interact with children in a sporting setting. This experience stands out on a UCAS application and has meant some of our pupils have received unconditional offers!!

A Double Award in Sports Studies may be offered, subject to sufficient student demand, for further information please speak to Subject Leader – Ms Harrison

Design & Technology

A Level

Subject Leader
Mr D Simpson
Exam Board
EDQUAS

Career Opportunities

- Entrepreneur
- Product Designer
- CAD Technician
- Engineer
- Fashion Designer
- Landscape Architect
- Jewel Designer
- Town Planning
- Costume Designer
- Shop Fitter
- Engineering Apprenticeships
- Construction Craftsperson
- Construction Tech
- Engineering Tech
- Craft Designer
- Teacher / Lecture
- Interior Designer
- Graphics Designer
- Special Effects Design

Recommended Criteria

GCSE grade C or above in Technology & Design

Recommended Grade C or above in Maths

Willingness to attend after school classes

Course Overview

A course in Design and Technology offers a unique opportunity in the curriculum for candidates to identify and solve real problems by designing and making products in a wide range of contexts relating to their personal interests.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
Component 1	<p>Design & Technology in the 21st Century</p> <p>Learners take a single exam in one of the following endorsed areas:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fashion and textiles • Product design. <p>The exam includes a mix of structured and extended writing questions assessing learners' knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical principles • Designing and making principles along with their ability to analyse and evaluate wider issues in design and technology. 	External 50%
A2 Unit		
Component 2	<p>Design and make Product</p> <p>A sustained design and make project, based on a brief developed by the candidate, assessing the ability to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify, investigate and outline design possibilities. • Design and make prototypes. • Analyse and evaluate design decisions and outcomes, including for prototypes made by themselves and others. <p>This project should represent an appropriately high standard.</p>	Internal 50%

Travel & Tourism

Level 3 Applied Extended Certificate

Subject Leader

Mrs C Laughlin

Exam Board

WJEC

Career Opportunities

- Sports Venues
- Airlines – cabin crew
- Visitor attractions
- Event management
- Tour Operators
- Travel Agents
- Airports
- Marketing
- Customer Service
- Human Resources
- Hotel Manager
- Event Coordinator
- Overseas Travel Advisor

Recommended Criteria

GCSE English grade C or above

Course Overview

The WJEC Level 3 Applied Extended Certificate in Tourism is an exciting qualification that supports learners to understand the local, national and global tourism industry, and enables them to develop a broad range of skills and qualities required by the industry.

AS Unit	What you Study	Type of Assessment
Unit 1	Global Tourism Industry Externally exam paper.	External
Unit 3	Managing the Customer Experience Learners will undertake a series of set tasks that are to be applied to a prescribed context set by WJEC.	Internal
Unit 4	Global Destinations Learners will undertake a series of set tasks that are to be applied to a prescribed context set by WJEC.	Internal
A2 Unit		
Unit 2	Ireland as a Tourist Destination Learners will undertake a series of set tasks that are to be applied to a prescribed context set by WJEC.	External
Unit 5	Planning, Co-ordinating and Running an Event Learners will undertake a series of set tasks that are to be applied to a prescribed context set by WJEC.	Internal
Unit 8	Adapting to Change in the Tourism Industry Learners will undertake a series of set tasks that are to be applied to a prescribed context set by WJEC.	Internal

Enrichment

At Carrickfergus Academy, we believe in developing the whole person as we want you to achieve your full potential in and out of the classroom. As an Academy student, you will have the opportunity to take part in our extensive enrichment programme, this includes a wide range of career and life enhancing activities, clubs and societies.

Enrichment teaches you new skills and builds on your existing subject knowledge to make you stand out from the crowd when applying for university or employment. It is also a great way for you to make new friends and have fun.

Further Information

Carrickfergus Academy cannot be held responsible for the entry requirements set by universities. We strongly encourage students and parents to thoroughly research any degree courses they are considering before making final decisions in August.

While every university has its own policy regarding the acceptance of BTEC or CTEC qualifications, we advise that students aiming to progress to university choose no more than one BTEC or CTEC course. It is essential that students and parents independently verify the specific entry criteria for each institution.

Please note that the information provided is accurate at the time of printing but may change. It is important that parents and students check the most up-to-date guidance.

Plan of Action - Results Day - Thurs 20th August 2026

On results day, senior staff will be available to talk to you about your decisions and choices for next year. If you have achieved a good set of results and are keen to return to school – you will have a short interview so that we can finalise your choices. You will also be able to get support and advice as required on the results day.

Students who have not submitted an application before this date may still do so on the day; however, priority will be given to those who have expressed prior interest.

Useful Websites	Contact Information	
www.ccea.org.uk	Mr J McCready - Senior Teacher	jmccready038@c2kni.net
www.wjec.co.uk	Mrs J McClean - Sixth Form Mentor	jmcclean684@c2kni.net
www.ocr.org.uk	Mrs M O'Neill - Sixth Form Mentor	moneill780@c2kni.net
www.pearson.com	School	info@carrickfergusacademy.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk
www.ucas.com		
www.hotcourses.com		
www.unionview.com		

CARRICKFERGUS ACADEMY

Take 5

steps to wellbeing

Connect



Take notice



Be active



CA

Keep learning



Give



We are a
Take 5
SCHOOL

