



Year 9 Options 2021

We are very excited to share with you the options choices for 2021.

When considering what your options should be, you should take into account your plans for post 16. Local post 16 providers are available at Virtual Options Evening or you can speak with our Careers Advisor Mr Stoakes (r.stoakes@todhigh.co.uk)

Choose English Baccalaureate (EBacc), it's a great choice.

What is the English Baccalaureate?

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

- English, Maths and Science;
- Spanish;
- History or Geography.

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

Department for Education

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

- Spanish, Geography, Music and Performing Arts;
- Spanish, History, EPR and Geography;
- Spanish, Geography, Health and Social Care and Child Development;
- Spanish, History, Photography and Art, Craft and Design.

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

The Options

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

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

We would like to encourage all students to seriously think about doing a set of qualifications that will follow the **EBacc pathway**. The EBacc is made up of Maths, English, Science, Spanish and either Geography or History.

Your child has already received some information regarding their next steps during lessons and assemblies. Please use this guide to generate further discussion about their choices. At Virtual Options Evening (21st January) you will have the opportunity to speak with subject teachers and other key members of staff to allow you and your child to make the best decisions for their future.

<u>Core Subjects</u> (all these will be taken) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• English Language• English Literature• Maths• Combined Science (2 GCSEs)	<u>Open Choices</u> (Up to 3 choices from these subjects can be taken) <u>GCSEs</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art, Craft and Design• Business Studies• Design Technology• EPR (Ethics, Philosophy and Religion)• Film Studies• Photography
<u>EBacc GCSEs</u> (at least one of these must be taken) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Spanish• History• Geography• Separate Sciences*• Computer Science*	<u>Vocational Courses</u> (these are at the same level as a GCSE) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Child Development• Health and Social Care• Hospitality and Catering• iMedia• Music• Performing Arts• Sports Studies

*Separate Sciences and Computer Science have challenging content and are therefore only suitable for students currently working at 'Securing' or 'Excelling' in that subject. If you have further questions, please speak to Mr Keane (a.keane@todhigh.co.uk) for Separate Sciences and Mr Chattell (d.chattell@todhigh.co.uk) for Computer Science.

We will run all of these courses provided we get enough uptake in the Straw Poll. If a course is unfortunately not feasible for 2021-2023, we will let you know.

In addition to the Core subjects and their options students will cover the wider, compulsory aspects of the national curriculum. These include Core PE (one hour a week) and through the six ARCH days a year.

The following pages show an overview of each course, we have highlighted the core and EBacc subjects in the title. You can view in-depth curriculum plans for KS4 courses on our curriculum pages at www.todhigh.co.uk.

Please be aware that all proposed school trips advertised by different subject are dependent on minimum numbers of participants and also any changing regulations due to COVID-19.

Timeline

(Dates may be subject to slight variation.)

Week commencing 14th December

Student Data Check Reports. Please note there will not be a Year 9 parents' evening this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To replace this, students have been provided with written comments alongside their Data Check Report highlighting their strengths and next steps in a subject. These comments, your child's attainment grades and attitude to learning scores can be used to identify the subjects your child is performing well in and help guide some of the decisions you make with your child.

The options booklet will also be sent home during the final week of term. Please spend some time over the Christmas break having initial discussions around what subjects would suit both your child's interests and skills. It can be helpful to think of what subjects may help with any post-16 ambitions students already hold.

January: Focus Time will be used to provide specific information about all the subjects that we hope to offer. Students will watch videos about each subject, followed by a question and answer session with the subject leader or teacher. These videos will be then made available on the school website for you to watch before Virtual Options Evening.

Thursday 21st January (16:30-18:30)

At Virtual Options Evening there will be a presentation via Microsoft Teams explaining the options process and subject teachers will be on hand to discuss the content of the subject and your child's suitability. Our Careers Advisor Rob Stoakes and various post 16 providers will also be present for you to consider how your option choices will support your next steps after Year 11. Students will be provided with an options booklet detailing all the options available and this booklet will also be made available on the school website. In addition, students will also be provided with a "Straw Poll Form" to indicate which subjects they wish to choose. This is not a final choice, but it allows us to put together the blocks to accommodate the largest possible number of students.

Tuesday 2nd February

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

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

Monday 8th March

Options letter sent home with students. Please review this alongside the options booklet and help guide your child to choose their options. The deadline for these forms is Thursday 25th March.

Thursday 11th March

Options meeting will take place. You and your child will then be invited to attend an options meeting via phone with a member of staff which will help you understand the choices and discuss what is right for your child. The majority of appointments will take place on Thursday 11th March (4pm-6pm), though we will be flexible and move this to a time convenient to all parties.

Thursday 25th March

Final deadline for Options choices. Options forms must be handed in to form tutors before this date, late responses will delay the options process.

This will be followed by an options offer. If there is a problem with the your child's option choice, we will let you know.

Please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance if you have any questions regarding this process; we are here to help and we will do our very best to guide you and your child through this process.

Should you still have questions, do not hesitate to email me: a.coates@todhigh.co.uk.

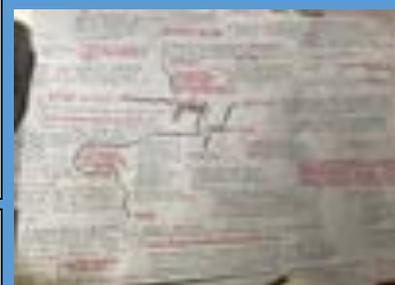
Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: You will study the AQA examination board for both English Language and English Literature. In English Language and English Literature, 100% of the course is externally assessed via written examinations; in total you will sit four examinations.

What will I study?

You will work towards earning two GCSEs in English in Year 10 and Year 11: English Language and English Literature.

English Language: you will be reading lots of fiction and non-fiction texts, such as novels, short stories, newspaper articles, biographies, speeches, diary entries and so on. The texts you cover will be from the nineteenth, twentieth and twenty first century, so you will learn a little about how language has changed over time. You will learn to analyse and evaluate how writers persuade and manipulate their readers by using language in clever ways and will also learn how to create your own creative and non-fiction writing.

English Literature: in English Literature you will study one nineteenth century novel, a Shakespeare play, a modern play and poetry. Using similar skills to those developed in your English Language course, you will analyse and evaluate the way that writers create novels, plays and poems, relating the texts to their historical context and considering the writer's intentions.



Why should I study English?

You need to 'pass' English Language to get onto most college courses and modern apprenticeships; most employers would rather employ someone with a GCSE in English Language than someone without, as it shows that you can read, write and communicate clearly. In some professions you will not be employed without GCSE English at Grade 4 or above. If you do not achieve this qualification you will be required to re-sit at college.

A GCSE in English Literature is highly desirable in the world of work and further education, in that it signifies that you have excellent critical thinking skills, you can sustain an argument on a range of texts and tasks in the form of extended essays, and that you have developed skills that are essential for today's global environment.

Nearly all jobs require employees to demonstrate strong skills in this subject, but professions where English is particularly relevant include journalism, television, media, performing arts, teaching, law and business. You will need strong English skills to complete any university course, as you will be required to read advanced text books/journals and write essays.



Important information

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



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'English is a fabulous subject. I love reading and studying so many fantastic books, plays and poems.'

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



MATHEMATICS

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: Edexcel

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

Examinations

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

What will I study?

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

Why should I study Mathematics?

Mathematics is a key GCSE subject that provides you with an essential skill for life. You will need your GCSE to progress further in education, employment or training. All colleges insist on you passing Mathematics at grade 4 or above, if you don't achieve this you will be required to re-sit the subject.

A good knowledge of Mathematics will help you in other subjects, for example Sciences, Computing and Geography. Most jobs require the use and application of skills and knowledge learned in GCSE Mathematics. Professions that require a good understanding of maths include accountancy, engineering and construction.

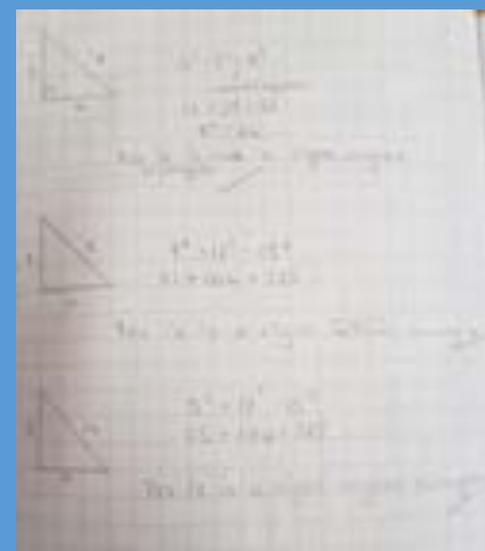
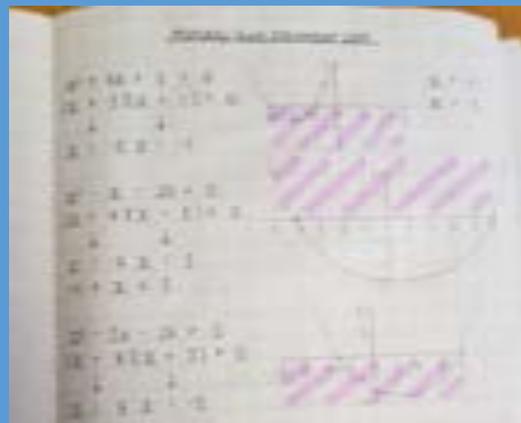
Important information

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

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

Your tier entry is not confirmed until year 11.

You will need to be working at least 'Securing' and ideally 'Excelling' in Mathematics in order to study Separate Sciences or Computer Science.



Name of head of department and email address:

Mr P Milnes p.milnes@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

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

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



COMBINED SCIENCE

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

What will I study?

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

Why should I study Combined Science?

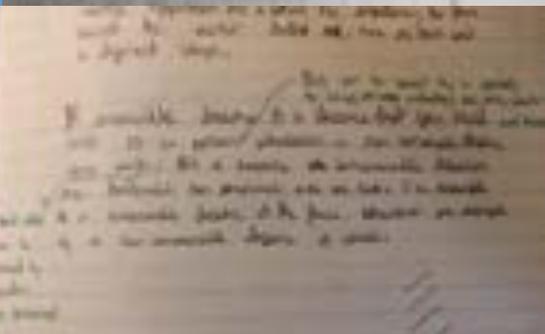
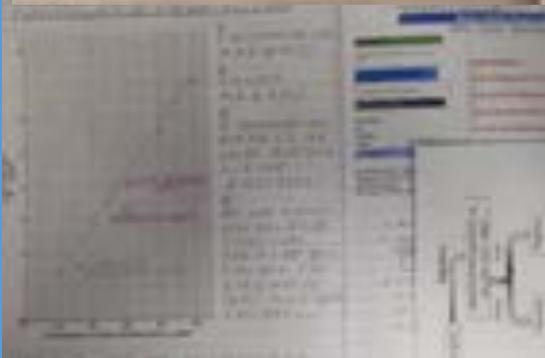
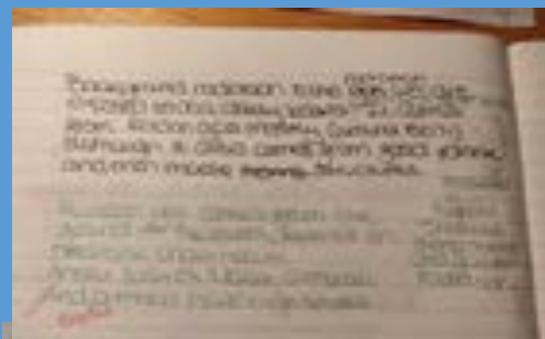
Scientific understanding is changing lives and is vital to the world's future prosperity. You will learn essential aspects of the knowledge, methods, processes and uses of science. They will gain an appreciation of how the complex and diverse phenomena of the natural world can be described in terms of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

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

Important information

The qualification results in the award of two GCSEs. They can only be split by one grade, for example students can achieve a grade 6-5, but cannot achieve a 5-3.

Completing a Combined Science course does not preclude you from applying for, and being successful at, A-level Sciences. Taking Separate Sciences at GCSE will make the transition easier, however.



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

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

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

SEPARATE SCIENCES

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

What will I study?

You will study separate GCSEs in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The content taught for Combined Science will be covered, but in much greater depth, for example in Physics there are further lessons on how nuclear power works rather than just looking at the advantages and disadvantages. There are also specific units that only Separate Sciences students will be taught, for example space and astronomy within the Physics course.

Why should I study Separate Sciences?

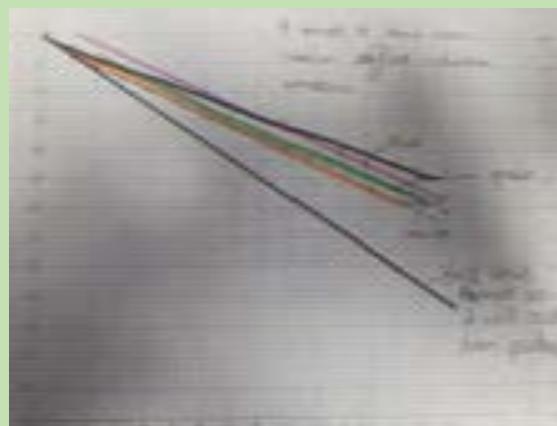
Studying Separate Sciences will provide you with many of the same skills and understanding as Combined Science but with a much greater depth of knowledge about scientific phenomena. It will really help you if you plan to study Science at A-level and beyond.

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

Important information

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

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



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

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

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

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



SPANISH

EBACC if studied with Geography or History

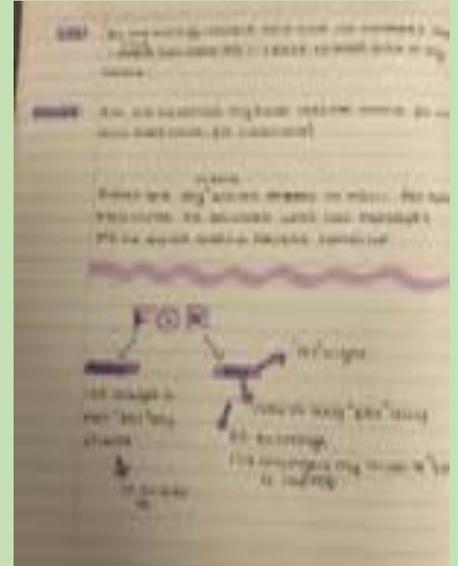
Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: At Todmorden High School we follow the AQA Specification for Spanish. There are two tiers of entry: Higher (grades 5-9) and Foundation (grades 1-5) and you will be entered for the same tier for all 4 exams in the qualification. Each exam is worth 25% of the final grade. The papers are: Paper 1 — Listening, Paper 2 — Speaking, Paper 3 – Reading, Paper 4 — Writing.

What will I study?

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

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

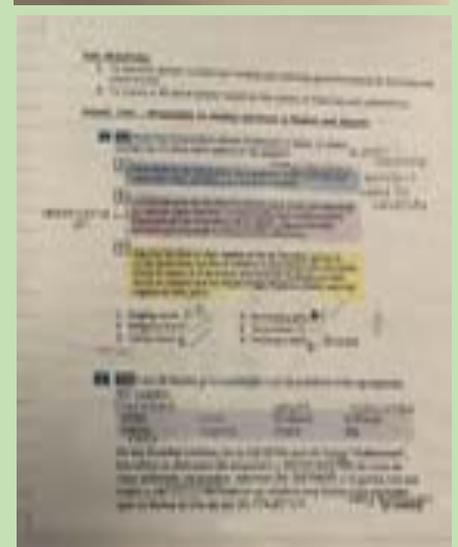
You will also develop your understanding of different grammatical structures in Spanish, building on the knowledge that you have already acquired by studying the subject at key stage three.



Why should I study Spanish?

Spanish is the fourth most widely-spoken language in the world and is an official language of countries on four continents. Learning to speak Spanish will enable you to engage with the exciting and diverse Hispanic culture connected to the language and enable you to participate as a global citizen more fully.

A GCSE in Spanish will be impressive on any Post-16 application form and will make you an attractive candidate for any college, regardless of whether you choose to continue studying the language at A-level and beyond. Foreign language skills are in demand and can be used in almost any career, particularly within businesses that trade internationally.



Important information

This new specification has a renewed focus on the accurate use of grammatical structures and their use in spontaneous manipulation of language. This will be assessed in various ways in the examinations at the end of year 11 and so the learning of grammar and appropriate exam techniques in its assessment will feature heavily. **Tiers of entry will not be decided until year 11 and therefore course content will be taught so it supports all levels.**

You will need to be dedicated to learning vocabulary and practising the language outside of lessons as well as being organised and resilient with homework tasks and revision. The more time you invest in learning the language beyond the classroom, the more proficient you will become in your lessons and assessments. We are keen to offer you opportunities to utilise your language skills in an authentic setting and so will prioritise GCSE Spanish students in any trips and extra-curricular activities that we offer.

Name of head of department and email address:

Miss E Boardman l.boardman@todhigh.co.uk

What do students think of this subject?

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

'I really enjoyed Spanish at KS3 and thought that it was fun, it is really enjoyable at GCSE'

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



GEOGRAPHY

EBACC if studied with Spanish

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: AQA, 3 x 90 minute exams

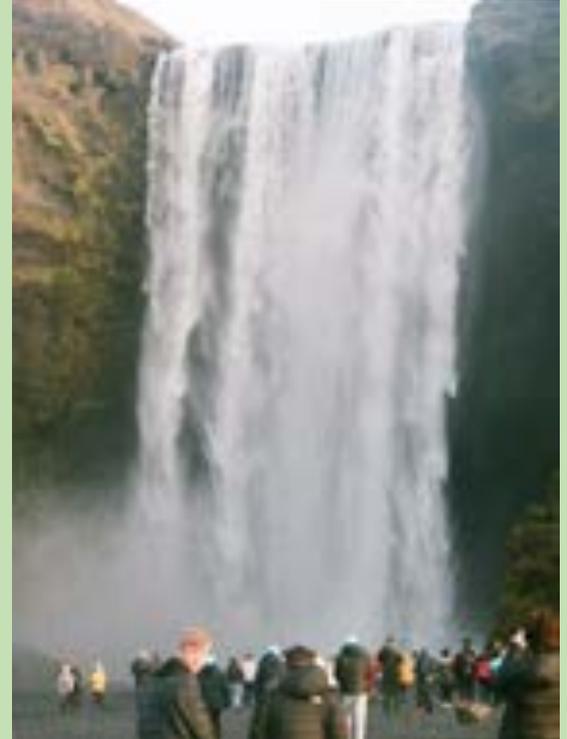
What will I study?

Geography is broken down into three different areas:

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

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

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



Why should I study Geography?

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

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

Some GCSE Geography students got the option to explore Iceland as part of the course.

Important information

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

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



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'I chose Geography because I really enjoyed it in Year 9 and I'm interested in the world. GCSE is definitely a step up in terms of difficulty, but I am finding it more interesting as we gain a deeper understanding.'



HISTORY

EBACC if studied with Spanish

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: The exam board is AQA. There is only one tier to the exam. Two exam papers each lasting two hours. **Paper 1** - Conflict and Tension 1919-1939 and America 1920-73
Paper 2 - Britain, Health and the People c1000 – Present and Elizabeth c1568-1603

What will I study?

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

Why should I study History?

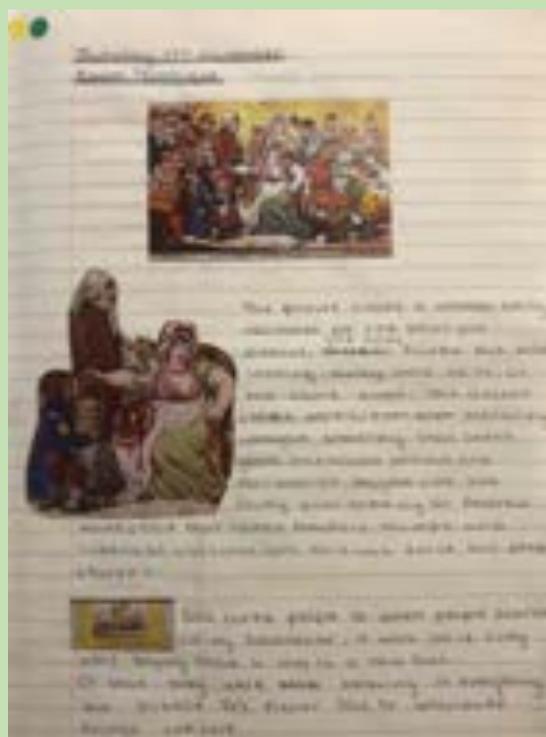
Learning about past events and the people who have influenced History will allow you to understand how the world got to where it is now, and how it will continue to develop in the future. Apart from studying a wide range of exciting historic periods, you'll learn a range of handy skills that will help you with college or sixth form and future work. These include excellent communication and writing skills, how to construct an argument, research and problem skills, investigation and problem-solving skills, analytical and interpretation skills.

Important information

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

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

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



An example of some classwork completed in GCSE History studies.

Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'History is very interesting and not boring. If you are willing to write and learn, then it's great.'

'Definitely the best option I chose.'



COMPUTER SCIENCE

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

What will I study?

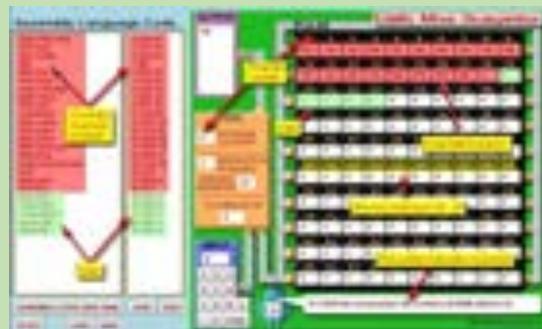
The course is split into three units:

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



Why should I study Computer Science?

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



Important information

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

Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

'I know that if I take Computer Science, I am future-proofing my career.'

ART, CRAFT AND DESIGN

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: The course will run with the AQA examination board. You will be assessed at the end of Year 11 and the weightings will be - a) Coursework component 60%, b) Exam component 40%. The controlled test unit will be set by the AQA exam board. The final exam is sat over 2 full days.

What will I study?

This course is Art, Craft and Design and will offer you a great range of experiences with a range of materials, media and processes. You will have the chance to create outcomes using traditional techniques such as drawing, painting, printmaking, textiles and ceramics. You will also have the chance to use more contemporary technological processes and programmes such as Photoshop, Illustrator and an array of photo manipulation apps as well as undertaking photography using state-of-the-art camera equipment.



Why should I study Art, Craft and Design?

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



Important information

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



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

‘I see Art as a creative space to express my originality.’

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

BUSINESS STUDIES

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: The examination board is Edexcel. You will be assessed at the end of year 11 with 2 x 1 hour 30 minute examinations both worth 50% and 90 marks each. Both examinations are written and will include multiple choice, short and long written questions, with marks ranging from 1-12 per question. Paper 1 is based on investigating small businesses and Paper 2 is based on building a business.

What will I study?

This course consists of two themes. Theme 1 includes topics such as enterprise and entrepreneurship, spotting a business opportunity, putting a business idea into practice, making the business effective and understanding external influences on business.

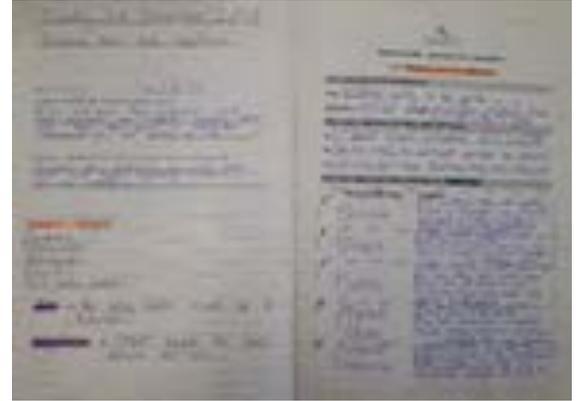
Theme 2 consists of growing the business, making marketing decisions, making operational decisions, making financial decisions and making human resource decisions.

Why should I study Business Studies?

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

Important information

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



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

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

DESIGN TECHNOLOGY

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: 50% - NEA: non-exam assessment (internal assessment)
50% - Paper one: split into three sections - core technical principles; specialist technical principles and designing and making principles (120 minutes external examination).

What will I study?

GCSE Design Technology sets out the knowledge, understanding and skills required to undertake the iterative design process of exploring, creating and evaluating. The majority of the specification is delivered through practical application, with various materials and processes, to develop the required knowledge and understanding in preparation for the examination and NEA. Students have the opportunity to select which area of material strength they will concentrate on for the Non-Exam Assessment in year 11.

The course content;

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



Why should I study Design Technology?

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

Important information

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



Name of head of department and email address:

Mr L Freeman l.freeman@todhigh.uk

What do students think of this subject?

'Design Technology is different to my other subjects.'

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

ETHICS, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION (EPR)

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

What will I study?

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

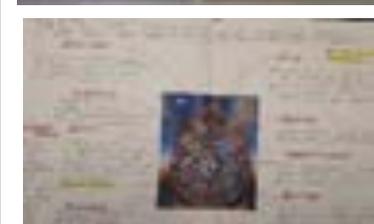
Why should I study EPR?

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

Important information

The EPR department runs a number of trips to further outcomes for students. These usually include:

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



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

'I feel really well supported in EPR. It isn't what I expected. It doesn't matter what you believe but you will become much better at arguing for your view after the lessons.'

PHOTOGRAPHY

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: The course will run with the AQA examination board. the weightings will be:

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

What will I study?

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

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

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

Why should I study Photography?

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

Important information

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



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

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

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

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

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

What will I study?

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

- the characteristics of children's development from birth up to five;
- factors that affect growth and development;
- the importance of play;
- how play promotes children's learning and development;
- reasons why children may need support;
- child-friendly environments to support play, learning and development in children from birth to five years old;
- supporting all children to learn and develop physically, intellectually, emotionally and socially, and adapting activities to support children's play, learning and development.

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



Why should I study Childcare?

Have you an interest in working with children under five years of age? Or do you have experience with younger siblings or cousins?

If you are considering a future career in a childcare setting, from a private nursery to teaching, this would be an excellent qualification for you.

Important information

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



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

"I love the independence during this course"

"This is a lesson I look forward to"

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE (H&SC) BTEC

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: OCR Cambridge National in Health and Social Care (Level 2 GCSE equivalent)

What will I study?

If you have an interest in working with children, the elderly or within any sector of health, social or care, this is the course for you.

During the course you will study four separate units. Three units are written coursework and one unit involves an external exam. The course involves you producing a vast amount of written work but it also allows you to apply theoretical knowledge in a practical setting. For example in the communication unit, students are asked to explore different forms of communication but are then assessed practically during a one-to-one interaction in the form of a role play.



Why should I study Health and Social Care?

If you are interested in Health and Social Care industry such as nursing, being a health visitor, teacher, social worker, midwife, physiotherapist caring for older or disabled people or working in the early years sector. You might also enjoy learning about the theoretical side of Health and Social Care. You will also receive an external first aid qualification in RO31. This course will allow you to study Health and Social Care at post 16 providers.



Important information

The course is split into four units, all contributing 25% to the final grade.

- Unit 1 – Examination unit – Essential Values of Care – 1 one-hour paper taken in Year 10.
- Unit 2 – Communicating and Working with Individuals in Health and Social Care.
- Unit 3 – Using basic First Aid.
- Unit 4 – Understanding the nutrients needed for good health.



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'This subject is completely new for me and I am enjoying learning about all aspects of Health and Social Care.'

'I like this course as most of the work is coursework with just one exam which we sit in year 10. This means it is one less external exam to think about in Year 11.'

'I am already looking at studying Health and Social Care at college.'

HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

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

What will I study?

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



Why should I study Hospitality and Catering?

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

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

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



Important information

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

Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

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

iMEDIA

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry:

OCR – Cambridge Nationals Exam — 25% final grade, Controlled Assessment - 75% based on three units work — Multimedia, Graphics and Webpage Development (these are the planned units but are subject to change based on teacher specialism and student preference).

What will I study?

This vocationally-related qualification takes an engaging, practical and inspiring approach to learning and assessment. It will equip learners with a range of skills and provide opportunities to develop, in context, transferable skills such as research, planning and review, working with others and communicating creative concepts effectively. The hands on approach has strong relevance to the way young people use the technology required in creative media.

Why should I study iMedia?

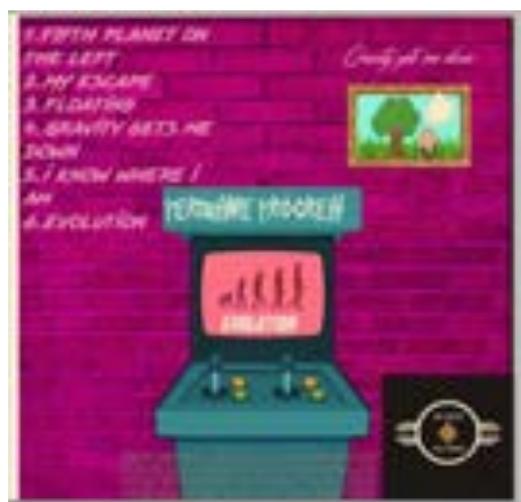
The Cambridge National in Creative iMedia is a media sector-focused qualification which includes film, television, web development, gaming and animation, and has Information Technology at its heart. It provides knowledge in a number of key areas in this field from pre-production skills to digital animation and has a motivating, hands-on approach to both teaching and learning. There is an exciting choice of optional units for the Certificate, making it appeal to a wide range of students.

Important information

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

Name of head of department and email address:

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



What do students think of this subject?

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

BTEC MUSIC

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

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

What will I study?

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

Why should I study BTEC Music?

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

This course will support your progression if you wish to study Music, Performing Arts or Music Technology at level 3 or post 16.

Important information

Written evidence, video footage and research tasks will make up a portfolio of your progress and learning throughout the course. Deadlines for coursework are set at the start of the course. You will be required to attend catch up sessions if you miss any work or fall behind. All written coursework needs to be completed to a high standard using word processing.

Students are expected to attend rehearsals at lunchtimes and/or after school weekly in order to prepare for the performance assessments. We fully support students who do not have the facilities at home to practice their instrument.



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

PERFORMING ARTS (TECHNICAL AWARD)

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: AQA Technical Award Performing Arts. This is a level 2 qualification, equivalent to 1 GCSE. Students will be graded a pass, merit, distinction or distinction* Students complete 3 units of work.

Unit 1: Students complete a written portfolio of evidence and record a presentation of their findings, alongside a short performance in small groups. Students complete a range of practical workshops, research projects and written assignments.

Unit 2: Students demonstrate their learning from unit 1 and create a complete original performance in year 11.

Unit 3: 1 hour 30 min written examination on the Performing Arts Industry, including the understanding of job roles and responsibilities.

What will I study?

This vocational qualification offers students the opportunity to perform, learn production skills and discover the knowledge and understanding for a career within the Performing Arts industry.

As part of this course you will be expected to complete written assignments, take part in practical workshops and complete research assignments which will all contribute to your coursework. You will present these findings through presentations and work in small groups to develop your skills when rehearsing.



Why should I study Performing Arts?

If you are interested in developing your performance skills through drama, dance, musical theatre, physical theatre to an advanced level.

You would like to take part in the school production and other performance opportunities at school and in within the local community.

You are interested in the job roles within the performing arts industry and would like to experience these through practical assignments. You are keen to learn production skills such as costume, set and stage design. Lighting, sound and stage management. Directing and choreography. This course will support your progression if you wish to study drama, dance and/or performing arts at level 3/post 16.



Important information

Throughout the course, written evidence, video footage and research tasks will make up a portfolio of your progress and learning. Meeting deadlines for written coursework is essential and is expected to be completed to a high standard, using word processing.

Students are required to attend weekly rehearsals at lunchtimes and/or afterschool. This is so students can experience the performing arts first hand and will aid them in their knowledge and understanding of the industry. Most of the practical work and rehearsals will be completed in small groups, therefore attendance to lessons is essential.



Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

'The Performing Arts Tech Award will give you opportunities to learn about life in the theatre, from actors to costume designers, from technicians to dancers. You will be given many opportunities to watch theatre and meet professional performers. However, you must work hard and keep track of your coursework. Be prepared to present and perform.'

SPORTS STUDIES

Examination board, papers and tiers of entry: OCR Cambridge National in Sports Studies (Level 2 GCSE equivalent).

What will I study?

The course is largely non-examined meaning you will generate coursework evidence against set criteria as you progress through the two-year course. If you want to develop your sports performance, be a better sports leader, gain valuable knowledge about the sporting world such as world games, drugs in sport, national governing bodies and outdoor adventure activities, this is the course for you.

During the course you will be expected to participate fully in all practical activities, meet the required deadlines, keep up to date with your coursework and be prepared to plan and lead coaching sessions.



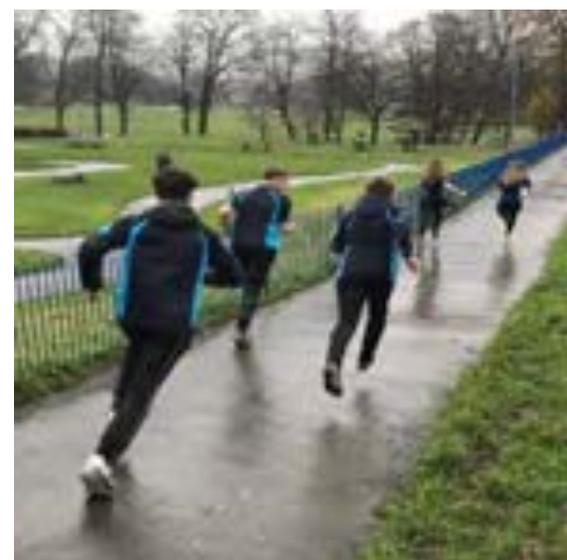
Why should I study Sports Studies?

You are interested, enthused and motivated by sport and outdoor activities.

You enjoy learning about the theoretical side of sport and outdoor activities.

You are interested in being a sports coach, PE teacher or sports leader, or you would like to work in the leisure/outdoor education industry.

This course will support your progression if you would like to go on to study PE & Sport post 16.



Important information

Only 25% of your Sports Studies lessons will be practical, this may vary throughout the course. The course is split into four units.

- Unit 1 – Examination unit: Contemporary studies - One 1 hour paper taken in Year 10 (25% of total marks).
- Unit 2 – Practical sport unit - 25% of total marks.
- Unit 3 – Sports leadership unit - 25% of total marks.
- Unit 4 – Outdoor adventurous activities - 25% of total marks.

Name of head of department and email address:

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

What do students think of this subject?

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

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