



**WEST KIRBY  
SCHOOL &  
COLLEGE**

*Changing Children's Lives*

***Post 16 Options  
Information 2025***





## **Welcome**

### ***to our Post 16 Options Information 2025***

This booklet gives you some information about Options which are on offer in Post 16.

Post 16 Options are courses that offer you further opportunities to choose different subjects to study, and help you to obtain an even wider variety of qualifications.

It is important that you consider your choices carefully and choose subjects that you are interested in, you may be studying them for two years.

You can talk to, or email, the staff member about the subject you would like to study for more information.

#### ***How to make your choices?***

- You will be able to choose two options
- Pick **one** from each group

We look forward to seeing what path you choose.

Kind regards,

Mr Hulme

Head of Post 16



## Post 16

### Options information 2025

Option Group	Subject	Staff
One	Art and Design - GCSE	Mrs Davies
	Digital Information Technology - GCSE	Mr Macdonald
	History - A Level	Mr Dowds
	Sport - BTEC	Mr Musgrave
	Three Dimensional Design - GCSE/NCFE	Mr Saunders
Two	Animal Care - SEG Level 1 Award	Mrs Booth
	History - GCSE	Mr Hulme
	Horticulture - ASDAN Short Course	Mr Jones/Ms Harris
	Introduction to Hospitality	Miss Meegan
	Music - GCSE/Arts Award	Mrs Dooley
	Photography (Art & Design) - GCSE	Mr Smith

## Option Group 1

# Art and Design GCSE

Subject Lead - Mrs Davies  
[rdavies@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:rdavies@wkrs.co.uk)



Art and Design pupils work towards gaining an Arts Award qualification or a GCSE with the Eduqas exam board. The qualification allows pupils to explore a range of media and techniques to find out where their strengths lie.

Pupils are able to choose their own theme or one set by the teacher such as manga, portraiture, superheroes, anime and even tattoo design. Pupils research a theme, experiment with different media and then produce a final piece or pieces. To help address all the assessment objectives pupils will have the opportunity to visit galleries and also have the opportunity to work with a practising artist.

### Assessment

The GCSE comprises 60% coursework and 40% exam. The coursework is produced over two years and the exam over a ten week period, researching, experimenting, reviewing and refining ideas and then producing a final piece.

### Where can this take you?

A GCSE in Art can lead to careers in fine arts, graphic design, animation, illustration and fashion design. You could also pursue a degree in art history, architecture or interior design or explore creative roles in advertising and media. Employment and apprenticeships in art-related fields include opportunities in graphic design, illustration, printmaking, animation and digital art. You may also find apprenticeships in interior design, exhibition design or working with fashion houses as a junior designer or stylist.



## Option Group 1

# Digital Information Technology GCSE

Subject Lead - Mr Macdonald  
[gmacdonald@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:gmacdonald@wkrs.co.uk)

The Digital Information Technology course takes a learner through the drives behind technology and its practical uses in the workplace. The course combines critical understanding of decision making and collaborative work with the digital skill set to support these tasks.

### Assessment:

There are three components in the course:

**Component 1** - Exploring user interface design principles and project planning techniques

- Learners will develop their understanding of what makes an effective user interface and how to effectively manage a project.
- They will use this understanding to plan, design and create a user interface.

**Component 2** - Collecting, presenting and interpreting data

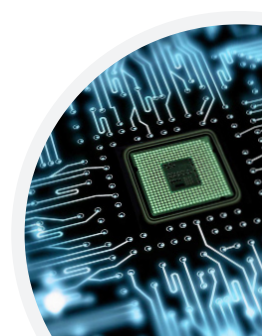
- Learners will understand the characteristics of data and information and how they help organisations in decision making.
- They will use data manipulation methods to create a dashboard to present and draw conclusions from information.

**Component 3** - Effective digital working practices

- An externally set and marked exam sat in formal conditions. Pupils would be entered for this in the second year of their course.
- Learners will explore how organisations use digital systems and the wider implications associated with their use.

### Where can this take you?

This qualification opens doors to careers in IT support, network administration, cybersecurity, web development and digital marketing. You could also explore further education with a degree in Computer Science, Software Engineering or Information Technology. An apprenticeship or careers in Digital Information Technology can lead to roles such as IT support technician, systems administrator, cybersecurity specialist and web developer. You could also explore apprenticeships in software development, network management, and digital marketing.



## Option Group 1

# History A Level

Subject Lead - Mr Dowds  
[ddowds@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:ddowds@wkrs.co.uk)

A Level History follows on from the study of GCSE History and is a course devised to assist students to further understand the importance of History and the events, the roles that people have played and the complexities of how History changes over time. Studying at this level will provide you with a richer understanding of the past of many different societies through cultural, economic and social perspectives.

### Assessment

80% external examination – two papers

20% Non-Exam Assessment – An independent research project

### Where can this take you?

History can lead to careers in teaching, heritage management, archival work, politics, journalism and research. University degrees in history, teaching, law, archaeology or museum studies can further enhance career prospects. Apprenticeships or careers related to History can include roles in museum and archive management, heritage conservation, or as a researcher for historical sites or institutions. You might also look into roles such as tour guide, heritage site assistant or in publishing for historical content.



## Option Group 1

# Sport BTEC

Subject Lead - Mr Musgrave  
[rmusgrave@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:rmusgrave@wkrs.co.uk)

This is aimed at individuals who like sport and want to learn more about the sector, focusing on basic principles including fitness, teamwork, and health. It will provide you with the essential skills, knowledge, and understanding needed to progress in the field. The knowledge gained combines theoretical concepts with practical, hands-on activities.

Core units include:

- Personal Progression Plan and goal setting for the future
- Understanding the role of physical activity in health and well-being.
- Developing teamwork and communication skills through sport.
- Introduction to fitness and training techniques.

### Assessment

Coursework-based, with no formal exams. Learners complete assignments, practical tasks, and projects.

### Where can this take you?

A BTEC in Sport can lead to careers in coaching, sports management, fitness training, sports psychology and physiotherapy. You may also consider pursuing a degree in sports science, kinesiology or sports therapy. Sport apprenticeships and career pathways can lead to roles as fitness instructors, sports coaches, personal trainers or sports development assistants. There are also opportunities in sports management, sports marketing and sports therapy, as well as in facilities management for sports venues.



## Option Group 1

# Three Dimensional Design (Art & Design) GCSE

Subject Lead - Mr Saunders

[csaunders@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:csaunders@wkrs.co.uk)

This Three Dimensional Design course provides opportunities for designing and creating prototypes, models or making functional and aesthetic products, objects and environments. You will build on your communication, technical and creative skills while developing logical thinking, organization, and the ability to think outside the box.

### Assessment

Assessment comprises of two components:

**Component 1:** The portfolio unit, and is worth 60% of the overall GCSE grade

**Component 2:** The externally set assignment where students respond to their chosen starting point from given titles. This is worth 40% of the overall grade.

### Where can this take you?

Three Dimensional Design can lead to further studies in product design, architecture, or engineering, offering opportunities to specialize in areas like CAD or 3D modeling. In employment, you could pursue careers as a product designer, architect, or 3D artist, with growing demand in tech and creative industries. Apprenticeships in areas such as carpentry, metalworking, or product prototyping provide practical experience while earning.



## Option Group 2

# Animal Care SEG Level 1 Award

Subject Lead - Mrs Booth  
[jbooth@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:jbooth@wkrs.co.uk)



This is an option for you if you love animals and you would like to work with or study animals when you leave West Kirby School and College.

Within this vocational course you will take part in a variety of exercises and activities to explore the Animal Care industry such as:

- Gaining background information on the care of animals
- Understanding the appropriate care of small animals in order to ensure their health and wellbeing
- Visits to animal shelters, farms and a zoo to see how animals are cared for in different environments.

The SEG award is equivalent to a GCSE, but is mostly practical based, giving you the opportunity to develop experience and skills that are relevant to the industry.

### Assessment

Coursework. Pupils are awarded credits which are achieved through completion of study units and meeting learning outcomes.

### Where can this take you?

You could consider further & higher education options including veterinary science, animal biology, conservation studies, animal care roles, veterinary assistance, animal welfare and zoology. Animal care apprenticeships and employment include animal care assistant, veterinary care assistant, animal rehabilitation worker and wildlife conservationist. You may also explore apprenticeships and employment options in zoos, aquariums and animal shelters, as well as with veterinary practices.



## Option Group 2

# History GCSE

Subject Lead - Mr Hulme  
[shulme@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:shulme@wkrs.co.uk)

GCSE History can support you in learning more about the history of Britain and that of the wider world. The study of History at GCSE will inspire you to deepen your understanding of the people, periods and events of the past, whilst enabling you to think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, make informed decisions, and develop perspective and judgement. History is a fantastic subject to learn at West Kirby School and College and with the right commitment and work ethic, you will reach your full potential. You will also have the opportunity to take part in a residential trip to explore a Norman Historic environment site.

### Assessment

100% external examination - two papers, 2 hours each.

**Paper 1** - Understanding the Modern World (50%) - Germany 1890-1945 Democracy & Dictatorship and Conflict and Tension - The Inter War Years 1918-1939.

**Paper 2** - Shaping the Nation (50%) - Britain, Power and the People c1170 - present day, and Norman England, c1066-c1100.

### Where can this take you?

History can lead to careers in teaching, heritage management, archival work, politics, journalism and research. University degrees in history, teaching, law, archaeology or museum studies can further enhance career prospects. Apprenticeships or careers related to History can include roles in museum and archive management, heritage conservation, or as a researcher for historical sites or institutions. You might also look into roles such as tour guide, heritage site assistant or in publishing for historical content.



## Option Group 2

# Horticulture ASDAN Short Course

Subject Lead - Mr Jones/Ms Harris  
[mjones@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:mjones@wkrs.co.uk)/[jharris@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:jharris@wkrs.co.uk)

Horticulture offers students the opportunity to learn and demonstrate the skills and techniques used in gardening. Pupils work towards the ASDAN Short Course in Gardening. The flexibility of ASDAN's Short Courses means that they can be carried out in a variety of settings, over a time period to suit the individual or co-ordinating centre.

This includes choices of:

- Planting in the garden
- Growing food on an allotment
- Working undercover
- Wildlife in the garden
- Construction in the garden

Gardening promotes a healthier lifestyle and can have a positive impact on your mental health and wellbeing. Horticulture provides opportunities to develop fine and gross motor skills whilst also developing a new set of skills. It could become a new hobby, which can improve self-esteem and confidence. Being outdoors and doing something you enjoy can help with self-regulation.

### Assessment

- Certification is available for 10–60 hours of work
- Portfolio-based

### Where can this take you?

A career in Horticulture offers diverse opportunities in plant science, landscaping and environmental management. Further study options include degrees in horticulture, landscape architecture or environmental science. Apprenticeships and employment in gardening, landscaping or garden design provide hands-on experience. Employment pathways include roles like horticulturist, landscape gardener, groundskeeper or nursery manager. With a growing focus on sustainability, careers in urban greening, conservation and sustainable farming are also on the rise.



## Option Group 2

# Introduction to Hospitality City and Guilds

Subject Lead - Miss Meegan  
[rmeegan@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:rmeegan@wkrs.co.uk)

The City and Guilds qualifications will help you learn about many aspects of the industry and gain valuable practical and teamwork skills. It covers various routes, including cookery, food service and customer service. These qualifications are for anyone who is interested in a career in the hospitality sector.

You will spend six hours a week working in the school bakery getting involved in all aspects of the bakery from preparation of food and drinks to serving members of the public when the bakery is open

### Assessment

100% coursework with the work that you do in the café providing the evidence to help you gain the qualification

### Where can this take you?

The qualification can help you move on to further studies in related areas and can help you find a job in a wide range of roles in the hospitality industry.



## Option Group 2

# Music Arts Award

Subject Lead - Mrs Dooley  
[jdooley@wkrs.co.uk](mailto:jdooley@wkrs.co.uk)

If you love to listen to music and play a musical instrument or sing, then this is the course for you!

### Arts Award Music

This course will suit you if you prefer to complete coursework rather than having to take an exam. You will explore musical styles, be an audience member and perform different styles of music. You can also access Music Technology. Students who complete Bronze will be given the opportunity to move on to the Silver Level 2 Award.

### Where can this take you?

A Music qualification can lead to careers as a musician, composer, music teacher, sound engineer or music therapist. Further study in music performance, production or music technology is also an option. Music apprenticeships and career pathway include roles such as music technician, sound engineer, event coordinator for live music or studio assistant. You could also look into jobs in music production, performance, teaching or as a music retail assistant.



## Option Group 2

# Photography (Art & Design) GCSE Subject Lead - Mr Smith

In Art and Design Photography, you will work towards a GCSE. Coursework is produced over two years on a very broad theme, which is chosen based on the student's interests.

Photography involves a range of activities and develops skills using different equipment. The course will help you to foster your creative and imaginative abilities. Students will examine the work of photographers to help you to grow your own skills.

### Assessment

The GCSE comprises 60% coursework and 40% exam. The coursework is produced over two years and the exam over a ten week period, researching, experimenting, reviewing and refining ideas and then producing a final piece.

### Where can this take you?

A GCSE in Photography can lead to careers in media, photography for merchandise, websites, fashion, portraits or television and film, promotions, advertising, documentary, filmmaker, cinematographer or photojournalist. You could also pursue a degree in media, art and design. You may also find apprenticeships in interior design, exhibition design or working with fashion houses as a junior designer or stylist.



# Notes

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