



GCSE

Core Subjects

ENGLISH

Course title and examination board:

AQA GCSE English Language and GCSE English Literature 9-1

What is GCSE English?

Across Years 10 and 11, you will study for two qualifications: English Language and English Literature. Literature requires you to analyse a wide variety of genres, texts from a range of authors and across different periods of time. In Language, although you will use similar skills, you will have the opportunity to write for different purposes and audiences. The courses will work to develop the vital skills needed in day-to-day communication through spoken language, reading and writing.

English Literature

Assessment: 100% Examination Assessment

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.

Paper 1: Shakespeare and the 19th-century novel (40% of GCSE)

Section A - Shakespeare: Macbeth. You will answer one question on the play studied in class. Write in detail about an extract from the play and then write about the play as a whole.

Section B - The 19th-century novel: The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde. You will answer one question on the novel studied in class. Write in detail about an extract from the novel and then write about the novel as a whole.

Paper 2: Modern texts and poetry (60% of GCSE)

Section A - Modern texts: An Inspector Calls. You will answer one essay question from a choice of two on the text studied in class.

Section B - Poetry: Power and Conflict. You will answer one comparative question on one named poem printed on the paper and one other poem from the anthology cluster studied in class.

Section C: Unseen poetry. You will answer one question on one unseen poem and one question comparing this poem with a second unseen poem.

English Language

Assessment: 100% Examination Assessment

All assessments are closed book: any stimulus materials required will be provided as part of the assessment.

Paper 1: (50% of GCSE)

Section A - Reading. 1 unseen literature fiction text.

Section B - Writing. Descriptive or narrative writing.

Total exam time: 1 hour and 45 minutes

Paper 2: (50% of GCSE)

Section A - Reading. 1 non-fiction and 1 literary non-fiction text.

Section B - Writing. Writing to present a viewpoint.

Total exam time: 1 hour and 45 minutes

What can I do after this course?

English Language GCSE is a required qualification for all further educational pathways. Success at GCSE English Language and English Literature will prepare you for all kinds of careers and courses. You can progress to study English Literature or Language at A-level. All Level 3 courses require a good level of English, usually a minimum of a grade 4 to be accepted on them.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Mr Shotton, the Head of English, at the following email address:
r.shotton@pahigh.co.uk

MATHEMATICS

Course title and examination board:

Pearson Edexcel Mathematics 9-1

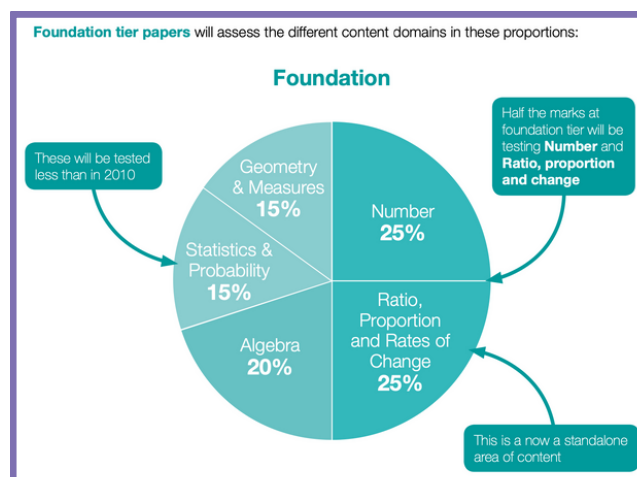
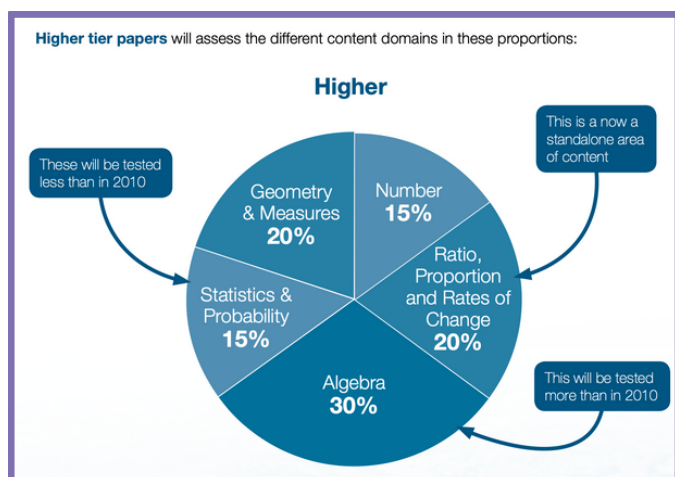
What is GCSE Mathematics?

The aims and objectives of this course are to enable you to: develop fluent knowledge, skills and understanding of mathematical methods and concepts. Acquire, select and apply mathematical techniques to solve problems. Reason mathematically, make deductions and inferences, and draw conclusions. Comprehend, interpret and communicate mathematical information in a variety of forms appropriate to the information and context. As you progress through KS4 your learning will become more personalised to your gaps in knowledge as highlighted through both assessments and online platforms. Both of which encourage you to become an independent learner who is responsible for their own progress.

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed throughout year 10 and 11 using various GCSE assessment material. Using this information, you will be entered for either the higher tier (grades 4 – 9), or the foundation tier (grades 1-5).

The GCSE itself consists of three written papers. Content from any part of the specification may be assessed on any of the papers. Paper 1 is non-calculator and Papers 2 and 3 allow a calculator to be used.



What can I do after this course?

Mathematics is a required qualification for all Level 3 qualifications at a minimum of a grade 4. A-Level Mathematics is offered in the sixth form. A good pass in Maths opens doors to many further education subjects and careers. Employers look favourably on a strong Maths grade as it shows your resilience and problem-solving skills.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Mrs Price, Miss Murphy, Mr Bohara or Mr Rigby

SCIENCE (COMBINED)

Course title and examination board:

AQA Combined Science: Trilogy

What is GCSE Trilogy Science?

Combined Trilogy Science is the equivalent to two GCSE's and consists of all three Science subjects. Grades are awarded based on the overall score for all papers.

During the course pupils will cover a range of topics including:

Biology

- Cell Biology; Cell Organisation; Infection and Response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis; Inheritance, Variation and Evolution and Ecology

Chemistry

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic table; Bonding, Structure and Properties of matter; Quantitative Chemistry; Chemical changes; Energy changes; Rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and Using resources

Physics

- Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure; Forces; Waves and Magnetism and Electromagnetism

How will I be assessed?

This qualification has six exams of 1 hour 15 minutes each. You can sit at either higher or foundation tier.

What can I do after this course?

This course provides an excellent platform for many Post-16 courses such as the A-levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. This science course forms a great basis for any career in science, healthcare, maths, technology, and engineering e.g. nursing, optician, chemical engineer, and laboratory work.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Mr Perry

TRIPLE SCIENCE (FOR SUITABLE STUDENTS ONLY)

Course title and examination board:

AQA GCSE Biology, AQA GCSE Chemistry, AQA GCSE Physics

Suitability for this course will be quality assured.

What is GCSE Separate Sciences?

Separate Science allows you to leave with a separate qualification in each of the following: Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

During the course pupils will cover a range of topics including:

Biology

- Cell Biology; Cell Organisation; Infection and Response; Bioenergetics; Homeostasis and response; Inheritance, Variation and Evolution; Ecology and Key ideas.

Chemistry

- Atomic Structure and the Periodic table; Bonding, Structure and Properties of matter; Quantitative Chemistry; Chemical changes; Energy changes; The rate and extent of chemical change; Organic chemistry; Chemical analysis; Chemistry of the atmosphere and Using resources

Physics

- Energy; Electricity; Particle model of matter; Atomic structure; Forces; Waves; Magnetism and Electromagnetism and Space physics

How will I be assessed?

Each qualification has two exams of 1 hour 45 minutes each. You can sit at either higher or foundation tier.

What can I do after this course?

This course provides an ideal and in-depth platform for many Post-16 courses such as A-Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The science course forms a great basis for any career in science, healthcare, mathematics, technology, engineering, computing, medicine, veterinary, teaching, scientific research and many others.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Mr Perry



GCSE Courses

ART AND DESIGN

Course title and examination board:

AQA - Art & Design – Fine Art

Exam Board Website Link: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/art-and-design/gcse>

What is GCSE Art & Design – Fine Art?

At GCSE you will follow the AQA Art and Design course. The course is made up of two components. Component 1: Portfolio and Component 2: Externally set assignment. In Component 1 and Component 2 you will be required to work in one or more area(s) of fine art, such as those listed below:

- Drawing
- Painting
- Sculpture
- Installation
- Lens/light-based media
- Photography and the moving image
- Printmaking
- Mixed media
- Land art

You will be introduced to a variety of advanced ways of working, which include a range of artists, techniques and processes. All work will be recorded in sketchbooks, journals and A2 display boards. You will be able to experiment with both traditional and new technologies. You will explore relevant images, artefacts and resources relating to a wide range of Art and Design themes. You are also required to reflect on your own work and the creative journey you will take throughout both components. Critical thinking, understanding and realising intentions in regards of written work will be underpinned throughout both components.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Portfolio - A portfolio that in total shows explicit coverage of the four assessment objectives. It must include a sustained project evidencing the journey from initial engagement to the realisation of intentions and a selection of further work undertaken during the student's course of study.

- No time limit.
- 96 marks
- 60% of GCSE

Component 2: Externally set assignment – Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title, evidencing coverage of all four assessment objectives.

- Preparatory period followed by 10 hours of supervised time.
- 96 marks
- 40% of GCSE

Both components are non-exam assessment (NEA) set and marked by the school/college and moderated by AQA during a visit. Moderation will normally take place in June.

What can I do after this course?

Success at GCSE Art & Design – Fine Art is a recognised qualification within higher education. It can also lead to a wide range of career opportunities in the fields of art, design, technology, fashion and photography as well as in broader careers that require both creativity and visual skills awareness.

How can I find out more?

Speak to Mrs Frances, S.frances@pahigh.co.uk

COMPUTER SCIENCE

Course title and examination board:

OCR GCSE Computer Science (J277)

What is GCSE Computer Science?

Computers are changing every part of our lives at an ever-increasing rate – why not drive the future? In Computer Science, you study the science of how computers work. This GCSE will equip you with a range of transferable practical and theoretical skills:

- Programming skills in a text-based language
- An understanding of how computers and networks function
- Knowledge of cyber-security and social engineering
- Experience programming in a text-based language
- Look at how data is represented and handled by applications.
- Develop computational and algorithmic thinking skills.
- Solve logical problems.
- Look at the impacts of digital technology on society.

How will I be assessed?

The GCSE is assessed through two external exams both are written papers that are 1 hour and 30 minutes in duration. One component is called Computer Systems and the other Computational Thinking, Algorithms and Programming. Both components are worth 50% of the total GCSE.

There will be ample opportunity to program during the course, for example, you will be given a programming task to complete, but the marks won't count which takes the pressure off you as you code.

What can I do after this course?

After the course you can continue using the skills from this course and study A Level Computer

Science or BTEC Level 3 IT. Companies currently have a huge demand for people with Computer Science skills, especially in programming and cyber-security. The top 4 in the top 10 list for most in-demand skills are all Computer Science based. (Source [LinkedIn](#) 18th December 2023)

There are fantastic opportunities for those who wish to study and excel in Computer Science. Everyone today is a consumer of CS and IT products. Only some of those people have the joy of producing those products.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Mr Singh

FOOD PREPARATION AND NUTRITION

Course title and examination board:

AQA GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition 1-9

What is Food Preparation and Nutrition?

- GCSE Food Preparation and Nutrition is an exciting and creative course which focuses on practical cooking skills to ensure students develop a thorough understanding of nutrition, food provenance and the working characteristics of food materials. At its heart, this qualification focuses on nurturing students' practical cookery skills to give them a strong understanding of nutrition.

How will I be assessed?

There are two parts to the assessment; a written exam and a non-exam assessment (NEA). The written exam is a 100 mark exam of 1 hour 45 minutes in duration. This makes up 50% of the qualification.

The non-exam assessment (NEA) is made up of the following two tasks:

Task 1: Food investigation (30 marks)

Students' understanding of the working characteristics, functional and chemical properties of ingredients. **Practical investigations are a compulsory element of this NEA task.**

Task 2: Food preparation assessment (70 marks)

Students' knowledge, skills and understanding in relation to the planning, preparation, cooking, presentation of food and application of nutrition related to the chosen task.

Students will prepare, cook and present a final menu of three dishes within a single period of no more than three hours, planning in advance how this will be achieved.

What can I do after this course?

Upon completion of this course, students will be qualified to go on to further study or embark on an apprenticeship or full-time career in the catering or food industries.

How can I find out more?

Speak to Mrs Mainn

GEOGRAPHY

Course title and examination board:

AQA GCSE Geography 9-1

What is GCSE Geography?

Geography offers you an awareness and understanding of the relationship between people and the environment in the world in which we live.

The key themes studied include:

- 'Living with the physical environment' which includes the challenge of natural hazards, the living world, physical landscapes in the UK
- 'Living with the human environment' which includes urban issues and challenges, the changing economic world and the challenges of resource management
- 'Geographical applications' which includes issue evaluation and fieldwork

How will I be assessed?

Three written examinations - 100% assessment

Paper 1 – Living with the physical environment

Paper 2 – Living with the human environment

Paper 3 – Issue evaluation, skills and fieldwork

What can I do after this course?

Success at GCSE Geography will provide you with a range of skills which can be used in a variety of careers in the future; this includes town planning, conservation officer, research scientist, outdoor instructor, policy-maker and government adviser. GCSE Geography can also lead to progression studying A-level Geography and university in the future.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Miss Howes.

HISTORY

Course title and examination board:

Pearson Edexcel GCSE History 9-1

What is GCSE History?

This course will help you to develop analytical, research and communication skills that will be invaluable to any profession you choose in the future as well as creating a strong base for future study of History at Post 16. If you decide to take GCSE History you will study the following:

- Migration in Britain, c800- present (including the historic environment study – Notting Hill c1947-c1970)
- Early Elizabethan England, 1558-1588
- Spain and the 'New World' c1490-c1555
- Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-1939

You will also learn and develop skills such as how to interpret and evaluate pieces of information; how to communicate and apply your knowledge in a written format; how to describe and analyse the key features of the period studied as well as critical thinking, problem solving, and source analysis.

How will I be assessed?

There are three written exams, which make up 100% of the final grade. These examine skills such as source analysis, judgement, narrative accounts, and judging historical interpretations.

What can I do after this course?

Studying History at GCSE opens many doors to you for future professions. Those that directly link to History include: law, journalism, archaeology, research, teaching and politics. History skills also apply more widely to other subjects in any other post 16 opportunities.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Miss Griffiths, Ms Dhesi or Mr More.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Course title and examination board:

AQA A GCSE in Religious Studies 9-1

What is GCSE Religious Education?

This GCSE course will help you to deal with complex and challenging issues that are being discussed daily in the news. It is excellent preparation as a 21st Century learner in our ever-changing diverse world.

It helps to:

- Develop enquiring and critical thinking skills by raising your own questions and investigating in depth.
- Focuses on learning and understanding the reasons people have for their beliefs and practices through a study, whether religious or non-religious
- Develops your ability to debate/argue and challenge your critical thinking skills related to the different attitudes people have about contemporary issues as well as develop your own informed opinion about conflict, medicine, expression and authority and laws.
- Become aware of the relevance of religious beliefs, practices, values, and traditions Discuss central questions and issues e.g. Is life sacred? Should euthanasia be legalised?
- Develop an interest and enthusiasm about contemporary issues locally, nationally and in the wider global world.

How will I be assessed?

Two written examinations

Paper 1- The study of religions- 1 hour 45 minutes

Paper 2- Thematic Studies- 1 hour 45 minutes

What can I do after this course?

Success in religious education will prepare you for various kinds of careers and courses which demand complex thinking and in-depth knowledge, an understanding of contemporary and controversial issues, an ability to develop problem solving skills by using research, investigation,

reflection and evaluation, and an ability to communicate and work effectively with different people. You can progress to study a range of A-Level and level 3 qualifications.

How can I find out more?

Ms Wright or Miss Howes

SPANISH

Course title and examination board:

AQA Spanish 9-1

What is GCSE Spanish?

During the course you are expected to:

- Extend your skills in listening and reading
- Further develop literary skills within these areas
- Understand and respond to different types of spoken and written language
- Write for extended purposes over a variety of topics and interests
- Communicate effectively in writing
- Express your likes and dislikes and justify them
- Speak with confidence within in a range of scenarios and settings for as variety of purposes
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of Spanish grammar and apply it

The course covers:

- **Identity and culture:**
 - Me, my family and friends, marriage and partnership
 - Technology in everyday life, social media and mobile technology
 - Free-time activities, music, cinema and tv, food and eating out, sports
 - Customs and festivals in Spanish-speaking countries and communities
- **Local, national, international and global areas of interest:**
 - Home, town, neighbourhood and region
 - Social issues: charity/voluntary work, healthy/unhealthy lifestyles
 - Global issues: the environment, poverty/homelessness
 - Travel and tourism
- **Current and future study and employment:**
 - My studies
 - Life at school/college
 - Education post-16
 - Jobs, career choices and ambitions

How will I be assessed?

You will be assessed on the four skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing). At the end of year 11, you will take 4 different exams, one for each skill. They are each worth 25% of your grade. Your speaking exam will be conducted by your teacher.

What can I do after this course?

Success at GCSE Spanish will prepare you for many careers and courses including engineering, journalism, teaching, travel and tourism, business, economics and hospitality. You also have the opportunity to further your studies of Spanish by going on to A-Level or even transfer your linguistic skills and learn a new language. Furthermore, there are many opportunities to work or study abroad.

What can I do after this course?

Success at GCSE Spanish will prepare you for many careers and courses including engineering, journalism, teaching, travel and tourism, business, economics and hospitality. You also have the opportunity to further your studies of Spanish by going on to A-Level or even transfer your linguistic skills and learn a new language. Furthermore, there are many opportunities to work or study abroad.

How can I find out more?

Speak with Mrs Jaswal

Or

Visit the [AQA website](#) to view the Specification and sample assessment materials.



THREE-DIMENSIONAL DESIGN

Course title and examination board:

AQA GCSE Three-dimensional design 1-9

What is Three-Dimensional Design?

- GCSE Three-Dimensional Design (specialising in Product Design and Architectural Design) will prepare students to participate confidently and successfully in an increasingly technological world. Students will gain practical design skills, learning about materials, processes, designers, and presentation methods.
- Students will get the opportunity to work creatively designing and making a variety of products for specific purposes.

How will I be assessed?

40% is assessed through an externally assessed assignment

Students respond to their chosen starting point from an externally set assignment paper relating to their subject title.

AQA will provide a separate externally set assignment for each title, each with seven different starting points. Students must select and respond to **one** starting point from their chosen title.

60% is assessed through a Non-Examined Assessment (NEA)

1. **A sustained project** developed in response to a brief evidencing the journey through the design process. This will give students the opportunity to demonstrate, their ability to draw together different areas of knowledge, skills and/or understanding from across their course of study.
2. **A selection of further work** resulting from activities such as trials and experiments. Including sketchbooks, diaries, journals, models, and prototypes.

What can I do after this course?

The successful completion of this qualification could provide the learner with opportunities to access a range of Level 3 qualifications including A levels, apprenticeships and vocationally related qualifications. These include A level Three-Dimensional Design, A level in Design & Technology; Level 3 in Engineering; apprenticeships in Design and Technology and Engineering.

How can I find out more?

Speak to Mr Greenway



BTEC and Vocational Courses

BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

Course title and examination board:

Pearson Edexcel BTEC Tech Award in Business Enterprise

What is Business Enterprise?

The qualification enables you to develop your technical skills, such as market research skills, planning, promotional and financial skills using realistic work scenarios, and personal skills.

The focus is on the knowledge, understanding and skills required to research, plan, pitch and review an enterprise idea that includes:

- Development of key skills that prove aptitude in planning an enterprise activity, including market research, planning, carrying out financial transactions, communication and problem solving
- Knowledge that underpins effective use of skills, such as the features and characteristics of enterprises and entrepreneurs, and the internal and external factors that can affect the performance of an enterprise

How will I be assessed?

There are three units; two are internally assessed components where you will produce written coursework and the other unit is a 2 hour externally assessed component. You will be awarded a Pass, Merit or Distinction at either Level 1 or Level 2.

What can I do after this course?

Success at Level 2 at Key Stage 4 can lead to A Levels as preparation for entry into higher education in a range of subjects or study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in Enterprise and Entrepreneurship. These will prepare you to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the business sector.

MUSIC

Course title and examination board:

Pearson Edexcel BTEC Tech Award in Music Level 1/2

What is BTEC Music?

In Music you will learn about the various music products, develop valuable skills and techniques in music creation, performance and technical roles, and explore potential careers in the industry.

You will also take part in practical workshops in order to build upon an instrument of your choice and compose your own music. You will have the opportunity to study different performers and create your own performances in their style and present to an audience either as part of a group or solo.

You will learn about different genres of music to support your written exam work and develop your listening skills to support your analysis of music.

How will I be assessed?

The course will be both internally and externally assessed. This means that your class teacher will mark the majority of your work and grade it either on a Pass, Merit or Distinction at a Level 1 or 2. Some of your work will be exam based and assessed by an external moderator who will look at it and determine whether it is a Pass, Merit or Distinction at Level 1 or 2.

What can I do after this course?

The practical, creative and independent approach required for Music will prepare you for all kinds of careers and courses. Most notably, you could progress BTEC Level 3 courses in Music Performance, as well as higher education music courses. A BTEC Level 1 and 2 in music could lead onto a job as a performer; teacher, songwriter, recording engineer, manager, promotor and also within other areas too, such as, digital marketing, music therapy, legal jobs, technology and media.

SPORT

Course title and examination board:

Pearson BTEC Tech Award in Sport Level 1/2

What is BTEC Sport?

The Pearson BTEC Level 1/Level 2 Tech Award in Sport is ideal for you if you are a student who would like to find out more about the sport industry. This course allows you to develop knowledge and associated practical skills that can be used when working in the sport industry.

Year on year, the sport industry shows continued growth in employment and forecasts suggest this trend will continue. This comes from increased knowledge and understanding of the benefits of regular participation in sport and physical activity. Sport England provides well documented research of these benefits including improvements in physical and mental wellbeing, economic development, individual development and social and community development (2020). These contribute significantly to the quality of a person's life and, as such, there is a need to ensure there are sufficient people working in the industry to meet this demand and encourage regular participation in sport and physical activity. There has never been a better time to study sport.

The BTEC Tech Award in Sport gives you the opportunity to explore the different types and providers of sport and physical activity and the equipment and technology available for participation as part of your Key Stage 4 learning.

How will I be assessed?

There is a balance of both practical work and academic study.

Component 1 (Coursework, 30%) Preparing participants to take part in physical activity. Learners will explore the different types and provision of sport and physical activity available for different types of participants, barriers to participation and ways to overcome these barriers to increase participation in sport and physical activity. They will also research equipment and technological advances in a chosen sport or physical activity and how to prepare our bodies for participation in sport and physical activity.

Component 2 (Coursework, 30%) Taking part and improving other participants sporting performance.

Learners will investigate the components of fitness and their effect on performance, take part in practical sport, explore the role of officials in sport and learn to apply methods and sporting drills to improve other participants' sporting performance.

For each coursework component you will need to complete a series of assessment tasks.

Component 3 (External examination, 40%) Developing fitness to improve other participants performance in sport and physical activity.

Learners will be introduced to and develop an understanding of the importance of fitness and the different types of fitness for performance in sport and physical activity. They will also develop an understanding of the body and fitness testing.

What can I do after this course?

This course is useful for anybody wanting a career in the sports industry. It can lead onto an A level course or progression onto a related vocational qualification such as BTEC Level 3 courses in Sport.

The course does develop transferable skills and key skills that employers are looking for and can lead to a wide variety of employment opportunities such as recreational management, leisure activities, coaching, officiating, the fitness industry as well as the armed forces and the Civil Service.

How can I find out more?

Speak to Mr Tatton