

## Rationale

This document contains information about the GCSE and BTEC subjects that we offer to our year 10 students over the course of Key Stage 4.

The West Coast of Cumbria will see significant investment in the coming decades, with up to 80,000 new jobs being created as our region becomes synonymous with the production of energy and all things related to engineering and construction. There has never been a better time to focus on engineering as a career and the Energy Coast UTC is perfectly placed to help young men and women to take full advantage of the opportunities that will be available to them when they choose to leave education.

## What's changed with GCSEs?

There's been a move away from modules towards exam assessment at the end of the two years for most subjects and less emphasis on coursework.

- Fewer subjects will be split into 'foundation' and 'higher' tiers.
- Almost all subjects will be awarded grades 9-1 rather than grades A\*-G.
- Within exams, there will be an increase in longer form questions and essays, rather than those requiring short answers.

Compulsory subjects: Some subjects are compulsory at GCSE level. These are:

- Engineering (BTEC)
- Construction (BTEC)
- English Language and English Literature
- Maths
- Science (Biology, Chemistry and Physics)

Optional subjects: The following subjects are optional but one from this list must be chosen:

- Computer Science
- Geography
- History
- BTEC Sport

N/B We did also offer French, Performing Arts and Religious Studies (Philosophy & Ethics) but uptake for each of these subjects was extremely low and they did not, therefore, form part of our final KS4 curriculum.

Core Curriculum (Compulsory)	Engineer Your Future (Compulsory)	Options (Choose one subject from the list below)
English Literature	Mechanical Engineering	BTEC Sport
English Language	Construction	French
Maths	Enrichment	Geography
Physics		Computer Science
Chemistry		Religious Studies
Biology		History
		Performing Arts

## **How many GCSEs will students leave the Energy Coast UTC with?**

Every student will leave us with at least 8 GCSE or GCSE equivalent qualifications (9 if they take separate sciences). In the recent past, some schools were pressing students to take many more GCSEs. However, according to Glynis Kozma, a former teacher turned journalist and author of the book *Secondary School: A Parent's Guide*, "It's better to take fewer GCSE subjects and be assured of good grades 9-5 than take more and get a grade 4 or lower. Many universities and colleges look for high GCSE grades so focus on that and lay the foundations for A levels, when grades are vitally important." This is also true for those students wishing to secure an apprenticeship at the end of their time with us.

## **Enrichment**

Enrichment activities are timetabled for all students every week and are designed to extend students' academic programmes to ensure they have a CV/ personal statement second to none. They also give our students a chance to get involved in a variety of opportunities that they may not have experienced before, such as Mandarin Chinese lessons and the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

## **PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education) & CEIAG (Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance)**

Student welfare and developing appropriate social skills for the workplace is central to our mission at the Energy Coast UTC. Personal development is as important as academic achievement. We treat our students as individuals and support students to maximise their potential. To help them explore their own personal development, we have a series of 'drop-down' afternoons throughout the year which deliver various aspects of the PSHE programme such as relationships education, careers advice and health and safety in the work place. Students are also expected to attend a one-week Work Experience placement during the course of year 10.

## **PE**

Physical Education is compulsory for all students in years 10 and 11. Our aim is to make PE as enjoyable as possible while encouraging participation in sport and general fitness as a lifestyle choice. We have a Multi-Use Games Area on the UTC site. When we aren't using this facility, PE will be delivered from Lakes College. WE also have several teams which take part in local schools' competitions.