

ormiston 
venture academy

OPTIONS BOOKLET

2024



The right person to contact for options queries:

- **Questions regarding careers:**
croper@ormistonventuracademy.co.uk
- **Questions regarding the course you want to take:** Email the teacher who is running the course (found in the “who should I ask for more information” section)
- **Questions regarding the options process:**
jscotney@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk



CHOOSING A PATH FOR YOUR FUTURE

Dear Parent/Carer,

At Ormiston Venture Academy we offer every student the personalised opportunity to achieve success and gain a range of valuable skills and qualifications for their future. To deliver this we have an innovative and exciting curriculum that provides your child this opportunity. We offer a core curriculum that has a broad and balanced base of qualifications for their future.

Over the next few weeks you will have the opportunity to decide, with your child, on the option subjects they would like to study in key stage 4.

This booklet outlines what you need to know in helping your child make an informed decision throughout this process. You have the opportunity to consider each course before making a decision on the curriculum you wish to pursue. It also provides information on the English Baccalaureate and how this qualification set might influence your choice of subjects.

Selecting options is an important part of the process. It is your child's opportunity to explore their interests, prepare for their futures and begin further studies that might flourish into careers. It is important to consider carefully the option subjects they choose. Make the choice based on their interests, their passion and above all what they want their future to look like.

I encourage you to contact the Academy if you require any further information or to discuss the option choices of your child.

Yours sincerely,



Simon Gilbert-Barham
Principal



VENTURE CURRICULUM

At Ormiston Venture Academy all students study a broad and balanced range of core subjects. These core subjects provide a range of entry opportunities and ensure every student develops a base set of qualifications they can take with them to further education, employment or training.

The curriculum at Venture is enriched through Options courses. Students in Year 9 select 3 options that they will complete throughout key stage 4 (Years 10 and 11).

SUBJECT	HOURS PER WEEK
English	4
Mathematics	4
Science	4
Personalised Learning	1
Physical Education	3
EBacc Option	3
Option Block A	3
Option Block B	3

We currently offer a range of GCSE and Vocational subjects, providing a wide and balanced curriculum that meets the needs of every child. These courses are typically summarised below:

GCSE

GCSEs are the traditional qualification at KS4. The emphasis is normally on a mixture of controlled assessments or coursework and examinations. Reformed GCSEs have increased exam context and in many subjects are solely comprised of examinations.

TECHNICAL AWARDS

Vocational subjects are more practical than GCSEs. They are often split into project-based units that require you to keep a portfolio of evidence. All vocational subjects must now include an external assessment, though this is usually far less than in GCSE courses.



THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

In November 2010 the Department for Education launched the government's 'The Importance of Teaching – The Schools White Paper 2010'. This document set out the future strategic vision for education in this country and one key aspect of this vision was the introduction of a new certification for students at 16 years called the 'English Baccalaureate.' This is not a qualification, but recognition of students attaining the set of requirements.

The English Baccalaureate is designed to encourage schools to offer a broad set of academic subjects and will be awarded to any student who secures good GCSE passes in English, Mathematics, the Sciences, a modern or ancient foreign language and a Humanity such as history or geography.

More recently the Government has placed an additional emphasis on the study of subjects within the English Baccalaureate and the role this may play in the future of a child's education employment and training.

OUR VIEW ON THE ENGLISH BACCALAUREATE

Ormiston Venture Academy will ensure that the curriculum suits the needs of all students and offers a personalised curriculum enabling them to achieve success. We recognise that the English Baccalaureate is an important part of a student's progression to higher education and have ensured our curriculum provides the opportunity for all students to achieve this qualification set.

We have ensured a curriculum that delivers on the key message of the White Paper that 'Schools and Academies will retain the freedom to innovate and offer the GCSEs, iGCSEs and other qualifications which best meet the needs of their pupils. Pupils will of course be able to achieve high quality vocational qualifications alongside the English Baccalaureate. With the proper structures in place through the reform of the National Curriculum and the introduction of the English Baccalaureate schools will have the freedom and the incentives to provide a rigorous and broad academic education' (White Paper 2010).

We will continue to ensure our curriculum provides all students a relevant, engaging and valued set of qualifications. The Academy will monitor the national qualification landscape and ensure these are reflected through our offer.



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

How do you decide on which options to choose?

1. Research

- Read about all the courses that you could choose from in this booklet.
- Explore careers and what qualifications you will need.

You can start with <https://nationalcareersservice.direct.gov.uk/> where you can chat online to an impartial career advisor.

Think about:

- Which subjects particularly interest you?
- Where do your strengths and weaknesses lie?
- What study skills might you need for some subjects?
- Which subjects do your teachers recommend that you take?
- What ideas about your future career do you have at present?

2. Deciding

When you have gathered all your information and discussed your thoughts with your parents/carer, your Personal Learning Tutor and the appropriate staff, you are ready to make your decision.

Some tips:

Some subjects may have special requirements: e.g., Food Technology - you will need ingredients. Performing Arts - you may need to take part in rehearsals and performances outside of academy day.

Don't choose a subject just because you like the teacher: it may be that you will not have the same teacher next year. Choose the subject because it is the right subject for you.

Make your own choices; don't just follow a friend.

3. Preferences

We ask you to select preferences; we will use this information alongside your current grades and discussion with your teachers to place you in suitable subjects to help you achieve your best.



WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

4. Completing the form

You will be emailed a link to a Microsoft Form by Mr. Scotney. When you fill in the form you will be asked a few details about your interests.

You will then be asked to rank each subject in the option blocks (seen in the table below). Please pay particular attention to the top 3 choices in each option block, as we strive to give everyone one of their top 3 options in each block.

Please note that if you take the EBACC set of qualifications (i.e. a language and either Geography or History) you will be highly likely to be given your other first choice option.

These should be discussed with your parents/carers.

OPTION BLOCK A	OPTION BLOCK B	EBACC BLOCK
GCSE Computer Science	GCSE Art	GCSE Computer Science
GCSE French	Child Development and Care	GCSE French
GCSE History	GCSE Geography	GCSE Geography
Hospitality and Catering	iMedia	GCSE History
iMedia	GCSE Spanish	GCSE Spanish
Music	GCSE Statistics	
Performing Arts	GCSE Textiles	
GCSE Photography	Travel and Tourism	
Travel and Tourism		

The deadline for completing the form on the VEP is Friday 22nd March

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CORE – ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

Which course will I be following?

All students follow a GCSE (9-1) English Language course and a GCSE (9-1) English Literature course. You will be awarded a GCSE qualification for each of the two courses.

What will I be doing?

You will be building on the skills learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9, and learning how:

- Successful writers and speakers use language to communicate well
- To improve your own written and spoken communication skills
- To respond critically to a variety of texts and media - fiction/non-fiction, poetry, prose and drama
- To design your own texts for particular audiences and purposes

How will my work be assessed?

English Language: 100% examination

English Literature: 100% examination

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

No. You will be provided with all the texts required.

How will this qualification help in the future?

All jobs and college courses require you to have a reasonable standard of spoken and written English; many will require an English qualification of at least national standard.

Reasonable reading, writing and speaking skills are crucial for everyday situations: reading and understanding your mail, writing CVs and letters of application to potential employers, speaking clearly and fluently during college, university or job interviews.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs A Smith or Miss S Sweeney

CORE – MATHEMATICS

Which course will I be following?

You will be studying for Mathematics GCSE (9-1) building on the skills learnt in Years 7, 8 and 9, using these skills to solve a range of problems.

What will I be doing?

Students will cover:

- Problem solving and reasoning, using maths in real life situations and investigation techniques.
- Number skills, including calculations and percentages.
- Algebra skills, including using algebra to solve problems.
- Ratio, Proportion and rates of change skills.
- Geometry skills, including angles, areas and transformations.
- Statistical skills, including graphs, probability and data analysis

How will my work be assessed?

Mathematics GCSE is assessed in June of Year 11 with 3 90-minute exams. Paper 1 is a non-calculator paper, papers 2 and 3 allow a calculator.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

- A scientific calculator (Casio fx-85GTX)
- A Mathematics kit (ruler, protractor, compass/pencil, rubber)
- A positive mental attitude to 'give it a go' – all of you can be a mathematician!

How will this qualification help in the future?

Most employers and colleges ask for a specific grade in GCSE Maths – often at a Grade 5 or above. Almost all jobs require you to be numerate and to be able to use maths in the workplace; even if you choose a career that does not involve a specific grade at GCSE, the skills learnt will help you throughout adult life – budgeting, finance, cooking, shopping etc.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr. Madsen

COMBINED SCIENCE

Which course will I be following?

All students will follow a GCSE (9-1) course. Students will follow a course that will lead to two GCSE qualifications in Science.

What will I be doing?

You will continue to build on the skills learnt through years 7, 8 and 9. The course will cover aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and will involve practical work and theory.

How will my work be assessed?

The double award will be assessed by six 75 minute exams. Two each in Biology, Chemistry and Physics at the end of year 11.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

There are no specific requirements for the course but you will need good literacy and numeracy skills as well as all the scientific skills you have learned in years 7 and 8.

How will this qualification help in the future?

Many college courses and employers expect you to have a specific grade in GCSE Science.

A lot of what you learn will help you in later life anyway, e.g. when you study Forces & Gravity you will learn about braking/stopping distances for cars: this is part of what you need to learn to pass your driving test.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs. Smith or your Science Teacher

CORE – SPORT

Which course will I be following?

Sport (Development, Leadership or Fitness & Nutrition)

What will I be doing?

We consider sport as a very important subject at Venture, where students get the opportunity to understand the importance of healthy lifestyles whilst picking up useful skills, knowledge and qualifications that will support them in continuing in later life. All students will continue to receive core practical sports lessons and learn more about fitness testing, training and nutrition. Students will then be given the opportunity to select one of three pathways. Students have already been given a grounding in the Sports Development pathway, which is the only one students should opt for if they are considering studying sport in any way at college or university.

	Sports Development	Sports Leadership	Fitness & Nutrition
What will I learn?	You will learn how to plan sessions and reduce risk in sports & outdoor adventurous activities. You will learn how to complete a sports training plan. You will learn the challenges surrounding sports participation and how to increase this.	You will learn how to coach and officiate in a range of different sports. You will gain a greater understanding of how to organise and run sports activity sessions or competitions for your own age group and younger children.	You will learn how fitness & nutrition can impact health. You will learn how to plan and implement training plans and nutrition plans, whether this be for health reasons or to support athletes.
How will my work be assessed?	This is a formal OCR National Sports Studies Level 2 GCSE qualification. You will undertake 2 components of internally assessed coursework and then at the end of the course sit an external exam for the 3 rd component.	Students will have the opportunity to access the UK Sports Leader award. You will be required to complete work surrounding the qualities & skills of a sports leader. You will need to completed log books and practical assessments.	This is an informal course. Students would complete theoretical assignments on areas such as diet/training plans and anatomy and physiology. Practical gym elements may be used as a part of a suitable external assessment.
Are there any specific requirements for this pathway?	In all three pathways students will continue to receive the same core practical sport provision and must continue to show a willingness to engage fully as they have done throughout year 7, 8 and 9.		
	Students have already engaged in some elements of this pathway in year 9 (leadership and outdoor adventurous activities) so understanding that they will continue on with this work and learn a more theoretical side to sport is important.	Students will need to be willing to lead group sessions such as drills and whole activities. Confidence in developing further upon where they have done small amounts of this in year 9 is key.	Students will need to have an interest in the way nutrition and physical fitness combine. Students would be interested in the best way to stay healthy and be willing to carry out fitness work in the gym and other settings.
How will this qualification help in the future?	If you are interested in any career in sports where a Level 3 qualification or degree are needed then this is the most suitable pathway for you.	If you are interested in acting as a coach or referee (in the local area only) or supporting in these roles then this would be a suitable pathway for you.	If you are more interested in nutrition and physical fitness than sport as a whole then this pathway would be most suitable for you.

When will we find out more and select our pathway?

Over the coming half term the Sports Faculty at Venture will discuss the pathways with students so they have a thorough understanding of what option will suit them best depending on their interest within sports. We will also share this with parents through an information video after Easter before students get the opportunity to select the pathway they feel would suit them best. This is a separate process from the options process running in March.

OPTION – GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE (EBacc)

Which course will I be following?

GCSE Computer Science

What will I be doing?

Computer Science is fundamental for the world we live in. Studying the course continues the development from Key Stage 3 in preparing our students for an ever-evolving digital world. It is strongly encouraged that students who have an interest in STEM subjects and careers choose to study Computer Science, along with those who enjoy and have passion for the subject.

The course is broken into two sections: Computer Systems (01) and Computational Thinking, Algorithms and programming (02). Through Computer Systems, students will learn the fundamentals of computing. Data representation underpins all topics in the specification. Having a core understanding of different number bases, conversions and calculations not only supports all of the topics we cover, but also other subjects such as Maths. We study the internal hardware which allows our computers to perform complex tasks. This often leads to students building their own computers; something we will do virtually. We will cover networking and develop an understanding of how the internet functions to connect people all around the world. Students will gain an understanding of the role of different pieces of software and how they enable us to make the most of computers. Finally, we discuss the wider impacts of Computer Science and technology in terms of ethics, culture, legislation and environment. Through Computational Thinking, Algorithms and programming students will develop problem solving skills transferable to real life problems as well as computational ones. Students will develop their coding skills using Python, a language which is directly transferable to the pseudocode used in the exams. This also provides an excellent starting point for students moving into A-level where the choice of coding languages expands and becomes more individual. We complete plenty of practical tasks and visit the Computer Science Museum year 10.

How will my work be assessed?

There are two final exams for Computer Science each worth 80 marks and 50% of the grade.

- Component 1 - Computer Systems (01)
- Component 2 - Computational Thinking, Algorithms and programming (02)

Students are also required to complete practical programming tasks to support component 2 and meet the requirements of the course.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

Resilience and perseverance to solve problems and develop programming skills to complete practical tasks and support component 2. Complete extending learning activities to support and retain knowledge. The course has lots of Mathematical elements and requires good computational and calculation skills to be successful. This course is centered more around how computers work rather than using them. If this and programming are core interests, it is the course for you!

How will this qualification help in the future?

This course will give you the knowledge and skills to problem solve abstractly, which is core skills in mathematics, Science, and engineering. In addition, a good result in the qualification will equip you for post 16 studies in computer science, physics and mathematics.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr. Riches and the Computer Science team.

OPTION – GCSE FRENCH (EBacc)

Which course will I be following?

GCSE French

We recommend that students who have studied some French before or have an interest in studying French should choose it at GCSE

What will I be doing?

Learning how to express yourself in French and understand French within 5 topic areas:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

How will my work be assessed?

Building on the language skills you have seen throughout KS3.

100% exam based:

- 25% reading and translation into English
- 25% listening
- 25% speaking assessment
- 25% writing and translation into French

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

An enjoyment of KS2 or KS3 French is key to succeeding in French at KS4. A lot of the vocabulary seen at KS3 is revisited and built upon in KS4. An interest in France or Francophone countries is necessary. It is important that you are prepared to learn vocabulary and be open to speaking in French from the very beginning.

How will this qualification help in the future?

French will count towards the EBacc. Languages are becoming more and more important in today's work market and increasingly more post-16 courses require at least one modern language. It will help if you are interested in a career in the travel and tourism industries and will help you to live and work abroad. There is no doubt that people who can speak more than one language are inquisitive and well respected in all sectors of work.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs. Waring or Miss Pellegrino

OPTION – GCSE GEOGRAPHY (EBacc)

Which course will I be following?

GCSE Geography

What will I be doing?

GCSE Geography is about:

- Learning more about the world we live in
- Developing skills that will help you in other areas, such as IT and research
- Completing some of your own practical work away from the classroom
- Working in a team with other students
- Learning through investigating and doing, as well as listening and reading

You will cover a variety of topics including the changing UK landscape, weather hazards and climate change, ecosystems and biodiversity, changing cities, global development and resource management. You will also complete several geographical investigations.

How will my work be assessed?

There are 3 units of study. Unit 1 - The Physical Environment and Unit 2 - The Human Environment are each assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute exam. Each is worth 37.5% of the final grade and will be sat in the June examination period. Unit 3 - Geographical Investigations is assessed through a 1 hour 30 minute exam worth 25%. We go out and collect data from two contrasting field work destinations.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

An interest in the world we live in, how and why it changes. There is a requirement for good literacy and numeracy skills as the course requires the use of specialist language, graphical and statistical skills.

How will this qualification help in the future?

Many college courses expect you to have 5 GCSEs including a humanities subject. Employers and universities value the broad range of transferable skills that geography delivers. Geography fits neatly with science, arts and humanities, and geographers also tend to have very good IT skills. The skills you develop can lead you to employment opportunities in journalism, media, engineering, IT, travel and tourism, environmental management, marketing, business management, teaching and local government. Geographers are everywhere!

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr. Sutton or Mrs. Winney

OPTION – GCSE HISTORY (EBacc)

Which course will I be following?

GCSE History

What will I be doing?

You will be learning about:

The American West 1840-1895 - A study of the Plain Indians and the destruction of their life as a result of supposed white American superiority.

Medicine Through Time - cause, treatment and prevention of disease from 1250-modern day, with a case study of WWI Medicine.

Anglo-Saxon and Norman England: A study of life before 1066, with events leading up to the Battle of Hastings and the impact of William the Conqueror's reign on Britain.

The USA 1954-75: Conflict at Home and Abroad – including Civil Rights in America and the Vietnam war.

You will develop skills in:

- Critically analysing sources
- Evaluating other people's interpretations of events
- Explaining why events have unfolded in that manor and as a result, the consequence of events
- Forming your own opinion and supporting it with evidence

How will my work be assessed?

Three external examinations.

Paper 1: Medicine Through Time – 1h 15 (30% of your grade)

Paper 2: American West & Anglo-Saxon and Normal England – 1h 45 (40% of your grade)

Paper 3: USA – 1h 20 (30% of your grade)

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

History is an English based subject, therefore you should have good written communication skills to be able to articulate your viewpoints accurately. You should have an inquisitive mind, a positive attitude and the want to understand how past events have shaped our future.

How will this qualification help in the future?

Many college courses expect you to have 5 GCSEs including a Humanities subject. History is very useful in any career that requires analytical and evaluative skills, including journalism, politics, law and the police force. History is important in the 21st century as it helps us to understand the world in which we live, enabling us to have informed debates about current topical issues.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs. Harriss, Mrs. Bergin or Mr. Doggett

OPTION – GCSE SPANISH (EBacc)

Which course will I be following?

GCSE Spanish

We recommend that students who have done some Spanish before and enjoyed it and/or are interested in studying Spanish opt for Spanish at GCSE, even if they have been studying French more recently in KS3.

What will I be doing?

Learning how to express yourself in Spanish and understand Spanish within 5 topic areas:

- Identity and culture
- Local area, holiday and travel
- School
- Future aspirations, study and work
- International and global dimension

How will my work be assessed?

Building on the language skills you have seen throughout KS3.

100% exam based

- 25% reading and translation
- 25% listening
- 25% speaking assessment
- 25% writing and translation

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

An enjoyment of Languages at KS3 is key to enjoying and succeeding in Spanish at KS4. Many of the topics we look at are similar. An interest in Spain or Spanish-speaking countries is necessary. It is important that you are prepared to learn the vocabulary set throughout the course and you must be prepared to speak in Spanish from the very beginning.

How will this qualification help in the future?

Spanish will count towards the EBacc. Languages are becoming more and more important in today's work market and increasingly more post-16 courses require at least one modern language. It will help if you are interested in a career in the travel and tourism industries and will help you to live and work abroad. There is no doubt that people who can speak more than one language have a real asset for life.

This qualification is also focusing on practical Spanish you could use if you go on holiday to Spain or a Spanish speaking country.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Miss Pellegrino or Mrs. Waring

OPTION – GCSE ART

Which course will I be following?

GCSE Art and Design

What will I be doing?

- Generating ideas through research and observation of the world around you
- Gaining confidence and the ability to work independently
- Painting, drawing and printmaking
- Experimenting with ideas and concepts
- Exploring various processes, techniques and methods.

How will my work be assessed?

60% through coursework completed throughout the year
40% final examination at the end of the year.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

To succeed in this subject you need to be:

- Patient – with an enquiring mind, capable of developing an idea and following a train of thought right through to completion
- Committed to homework and prepared to spend time on research and preparation for art projects
- Good at drawing – or a willingness to improve your drawing skills
- Have a genuine interest in art generally

How will this qualification help in the future?

If you are interested in a career in the art and design industries, such as photography, advertising, textiles, animation and illustration. It would also help if you intend working with children e.g. playgroups, childcare or teaching in a primary school. It will prepare you for enjoying art as a hobby in adult life.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs. Mallory

OPTION – CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE

Which course will I be following?

NCFE CACHE Level 2 Child Development and Care

What will I be doing?

This qualification provides the opportunity to gain a vocational qualification that gives a basic introduction to the sector. It includes the knowledge and understanding of child development and well-being necessary for working with children in a variety of settings. It is aimed at a range of learners who wish to be introduced to childcare and development for children aged 0-5 years. It also gives learners an insight into their preferred learning styles and assists in developing their ability to study.

How will my work be assessed?

This qualification consists of 2 units:

The Non Exam Assessment is a project worth 50% of the final grade, applying knowledge of Child Development and Care to a scenario / brief.

The one hour and 30 minute exam is sat in June and is also worth 50% of the final grade.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

To have an interest in child development and care and a desire to work with young children in the future.

How will this qualification help in the future?

This qualification will help you access Level 3 qualifications in childcare and can lead to opportunities working with young children in a variety of settings after you have left the academy.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr Webb / Mr McNally

OPTION – HOSPITALITY AND CATERING

Which course will I be following?

Level 2 Hospitality and Catering

What will I be doing?

This qualification is designed for learners with an interest in food and cookery. It will provide learners with experience of using different cooking techniques and methods to enable them to use these within further education or apprenticeships. It will give them a basic understanding of the skills required for a career in food and the ability to plan, prepare and present food.

How will my work be assessed?

Learners will undertake 2 units of study, Unit 1 is the externally assessed written examination covering the hospitality and catering industry. This focuses on learning about different types of providers, legislation, food safety and the roles and responsibilities within the sector. Unit 2 is an internally assessed research task and includes the practical examination. This develops learners' practical skills for planning, preparing, cooking and presenting nutritional dishes meeting client's needs.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

You will be required to bring into school the ingredients for a number of weekly practical lessons. You should discuss this with your parents before selecting this option. You will need to attend weekly catch-up sessions if you fall behind with your coursework.

How will this qualification help in the future?

Progression to post 16 courses or a career in food related areas, vocational and academic. e.g WJEC Level 3 Diploma, Hospitality and Catering Professional Course, Hospitality and Tourism management.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr. Stevenson

OPTION – MUSIC

Which course will I be following?

BTEC Technical Award in Music

What will I be doing?

This is an exciting course which allows you to acquire technical knowledge and skills by exploring musical skills and techniques and learn about the music industry.

Component 1: Exploring Music Products

This component allows you to explore the techniques used in the creation of different musical products and investigate the key features of different musical styles and genres.

Component 2: Music Skills Development

This component gives you the opportunity to develop two musical disciplines through engagement in practical tasks, while documenting your progress and planning for further improvement.

Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Music Brief

This component will give you the opportunity to develop and present music in response to a given commercial music brief. This component also builds on knowledge, understanding and skills acquired and developed in Components 1 and 2.

How will my work be assessed?

- Component 1: Exploring Musical Products (internally assessed) 36 hours
- Component 2: Music Skills Development (internally assessed) 36 hours
- Component 3: Responding to a Commercial Brief (externally assessed) 48 hours

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

It will help to already play an instrument/sing but it is not essential. You will be given a weekly lesson on your instrument/voice with a specialist teacher and must be committed to this additional tuition. You need to be willing to work both independently and as part of a group. You must be willing to perform in front of an audience and complete practice on your instrument outside of lessons as well as weekly extended learning tasks.

How will this qualification help in the future?

This course encourages creativity, independence and group work along with improving confidence and self-esteem.

The course will also allow progression onto Level 3 Music, Music Technology or Performing Arts courses and progression into a career in the music, media and arts industry.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs. Behm

OPTION – PERFORMING ARTS

Which course will I be following?

BTEC Tech Award in Performing Arts

What will I be doing?

This is an exciting course that gives you freedom and creativity to develop your practical and written skills within performing arts.

Component 1: Exploring the Performing Arts

This component allows you to examine professional practitioners' performance works and develop skills through workshops. You will also develop transferable skills such as research and communication through the written assignment.

Component 2: Developing Skills and Techniques in the Performing Arts

You will develop your performing arts skills and techniques through the reproduction of singing, acting, dance and/or musical theatre and apply them in rehearsal and performance. You will create a portfolio to review your own development and performance.

Component 3: Performing to a Brief

In this component you will be given the opportunity to work as part of a group to create a workshop performance in response to a given brief and a stimulus, this is the practical element of the external assessment. For the written element, you will complete 3 written activities in relation to your devised piece under exam conditions.

How will my work be assessed?

Component 1: Practical Exploration & Written Assignment (internally assessed, 36 hours, 30%)

Component 2: Performance and Portfolio (internally assessed, 36 hours, 30%)

Component 3: Group Devised Performance & 3 Written Exams (externally assessed, 48 hours 40%)

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

You will be expected to wear your Performing Arts kit for all practical lessons (t-shirt available to buy from the academy). Outdoor trainers will not be permitted in the drama studio; clean trainers/jazz shoes/bare feet only. You will be required to attend portfolio club/rehearsals every Tuesday or Thursday after school 2.35pm-3.30pm; this enables you to keep on top of your work and gives you additional time to rehearse when needed as a company. Extra rehearsals will take place when required, usually arranged and agreed with the student and teacher.

How will this qualification help in the future?

This course encourages creativity which improves self-esteem, recovers motivation and encourages critical thinking. These are qualities that can be applied to any choice of career. Students will work on learning about the industry, performance skills and devising as part of a group. It is a great foundation course for those interested in a performing arts career.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Miss Gedge

OPTION – GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Which course will I be following?

GCSE Photography

What will I be doing?

On this course you will be:

- Working to a brief to create a series of photographs
- Generating ideas through research and observation
- Learning new and complex photography skills
- Using Photoshop to refine and develop your own photographs

How will my work be assessed?

Most of the work is practical and you need to keep sketchbooks of evidence.

60% coursework - sketchbook showing the 4 elements that make up the work: notes, photography skills, image work, design links and final pieces all worked on in each project, including the exam project.

40% final practical exam session, lasting 10 hours – over 2 days, with unlimited preparation time from January in year 11.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

Because of the amount of time spent at a PC, students must not have IT related medical problems. The same applies to strobe/flash lighting. All students will attend a minimum of 1 hour homework session after school every week in the photo room. All students will also need to commit to taking photographs in their own time, outside of the academy.

How will this qualification help in the future?

Progression on to visual arts subjects at post 16.

Useful if you are interested in a career in the art and design industries – photographer, advertiser, animation or illustration.

Prepare you well for enjoying photography as a hobby in adult life.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs. Mallory

OPTION – GCSE TEXTILES

Which course will I be following?

GCSE Art and Design: Textile Design (exam board: Eduqas)

What will I be doing?

Building on the skills you have learned at Key Stage 3, such as:

- Cutting, hand stitching and using sewing machines
- Learning about different fabrics, how they are made and what they can be used for
- Learning how to design and make products from fabrics
- Making, adapting and using paper patterns
- Learning about textile artists and fashion designers, and using their work as inspiration

How will my work be assessed?

60% of your marks will come from a portfolio of coursework.

40% of your marks will come from an exam project, including a final practical 10-hour exam.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

- You need to be well organised and prepared to provide specific fabrics and other materials you choose to use for your practical work.
- Be prepared to put plenty of effort into your extended learning, and to attend after school sessions if necessary and if you do not have the facilities to complete work at home.

How will this qualification help in the future?

A good result will help you if you wish to follow a post 16 course or a career in fashion or textiles, or other creative industries.

You will develop the skills and confidence to design, make and repair your own textile products.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Miss Palmer

OPTION – TRAVEL AND TOURISM

Which course will I be following?

BTEC Tech Award in Travel and Tourism

What will I be doing?

Component 1: Travel and Tourism Organisations and Destinations

During Component 1 you will learn about the travel and tourism sector and tourist destinations, the importance of travel and tourism to the UK, the type and purpose of different travel and tourism organisations, different types of holidays and reasons for travel

Component 2: Customer Needs in Travel and Tourism

During Component 2 you will investigate how travel and tourism organisations use research to identify customer needs, explore the range of products offered by travel and tourism organisations, consider how organisations respond to market trends to meet customer needs and plan a holiday to meet customer needs and preferences

Component 3: Influences on Global Travel and Tourism

During Component 3 you will learn about factors influencing the travel and tourism industry, sustainability and destination management, the impact of global tourism on local communities, the economy and the environment, tourism development

How will my work be assessed?

Currently the course is split into 40% exam and 60% internally assessed units. Components 1 and 2 are assessed internally and component 3 is assessed by an external exam. Component 3 is designed to build upon the knowledge acquired in components 1 and 2 and the exam is the last element of the course you complete. We would look to complete component 1 (Oct – Dec) and component 2 in year 10 (Feb – April) and component 3 in Year 11.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

There are no specific requirements for this course but having a good knowledge of the world and taking the time to understand more about the location of countries, current news and affairs, being interested in travel and learning more about this business will help you be successful in this course.

How will this qualification help in the future?

After completing this Travel and Tourism course you can progress into many different areas of study as:

- Level 3 Award in Travel and Tourism
- Diploma in Travel and Tourism
- Qualifications in the Hospitality sector

It can help prepare you for a whole range of jobs in the travel, leisure and hospitality sector ranging from being an air steward to hotel management. East Coast College and City College Norwich both offer interesting further study opportunities in Travel and Tourism. .

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr. Richards

OPTION – iMEDIA

Which course will I be following?

OCR iMedia J834 (Cambridge Nationals)

What will I be doing?

Creative iMedia will inspire and equip students with the confidence to use skills that are relevant to the digital media sector and more widely. They'll design, plan, create and review digital media products to meet client and target audience demands.

This is a great alternative subject, if Computer Science and programming is not for you, but you still want to gain a computing-based qualification. This, however, is not an either-or option. Students can select to study both courses if they wish, and it does not conflict with other option choices.

It is a more practical subject that focuses on learning how to use software, create digital products and developing understanding of how digital technology is used in the creative media sector.

You will

- Develop key skills that prove your aptitude in digital information technology
- Learn the process that underpins effective ways of working in digital information technology.
- Make informed decisions and judgments based on briefs

How will my work be assessed?

RO93 – Written Exam: Creative iMedia in the media industry 1hr30 40%

RO94 – Mandatory assessment: Visual identity and digital graphics 10-12 hours 25%

RO99 – Option Assessment: Digital Games 12-15 hours 35%

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

There are no specific requirements for studying iMedia, but an interest in using computers and good digital literacy is key.

Strong independence – much of the assessed work is without any form of teacher assistance/input.

Students with a strong understanding of Computer Science will be encouraged to pursue Computer Science further. This is a great alternative course for those with less confidence around Computer Science and the likes of programming, but still want to develop their skills surrounding IT ready for opportunities beyond KS4.

Students will also have the possibility to study **both** Computing and Computer Science if it does not conflict with other option choices. Those looking into careers focused on Computers will be encouraged to consider both options.

How will this qualification help in the future?

Students who generally achieve at Level 2 across their Key Stage 4 learning might consider progression to:

- A Levels as preparation for entry to higher education in a range of subjects
- study of a vocational qualification at Level 3, such as a BTEC National in IT, which prepares learners to enter employment or apprenticeships, or to move on to higher education by studying a degree in the digital sector.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr. Riches and the Computer Science Team

OPTION – GCSE STATISTICS

Which course will I be following?

GCSE Statistics (9-1)

What will I be doing?

The GCSE Statistics qualification incorporates numerous examples of real-life data and contexts, which build skills that students will use in other subjects, such as science and geography. Based on the principles of the statistical enquiry cycle, students gain a rounded understanding of how to interpret and apply data to a number of scenarios, both across subjects and in the real world

How will my work be assessed?

GCSE Statistics is assessed with 2 exams at the end of Year 11. A calculator is allowed in both exams.

Are there any specific requirements for this course?

GCSE Statistics will be taught for the higher tier. It is open to all pupils; however, it is recommended that you are likely to follow the higher tier Maths GCSE course in years 10 and 11. Please speak to your Maths teacher if you are unsure about this.

How will this qualification help in the future?

Statistics is about making decisions when there is uncertainty. Perhaps one of the most versatile areas of maths, it gives students the skills to collect, analyse, interpret and present data. It complements subjects such as GCSE Biology, Psychology, Geography, Business and Economics, and opens the door to a variety of careers – from weather forecasting to the biological sciences.

Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mr. Madsen