

ormiston   
venture academy

# OPTIONS BOOKLET

## 2026



## CHOOSING A PATH FOR YOUR FUTURE

### The right person to contact for options queries:

- **Questions regarding careers:** Mrs. Roper-Cornwell  
[croper@ormistonventuracademy.co.uk](mailto: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:** Mr. Scotney  
[jscotney@ormistonventureacademy.co.uk](mailto: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 about courses that will support future pathways and ensure you have every opportunity to succeed at the highest of levels.

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 and to 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
CASH	1
Physical Education	3
<b>Option Block A</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Option Block B</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Option Block C</b>	<b>3</b>

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.



# VENTURE CURRICULUM

Ormiston Venture Academy is committed to providing a curriculum that meets the needs of all students and offers a personalised programme that enables every learner to achieve success. We recognise the importance of a broad academic foundation in supporting progression to further study, training and employment. Our curriculum has therefore been designed to give all students the opportunity to pursue a strong range of academic qualifications.

A well-balanced curriculum includes both strong academic subjects and high-quality vocational options. Academic subjects help students develop essential skills such as critical thinking, communication, problem solving and language acquisition—skills that are highly valued by colleges, universities and employers. At the same time, vocational qualifications offer practical, applied learning that can be particularly valuable for students with clear interests or career ambitions in specific fields, while also developing wider skills such as research and report writing. Together, these pathways equip students with the confidence and flexibility needed to thrive in a rapidly changing world. When choosing their subjects, it is important that students consider their personal goals, strengths and future aspirations so they can build a programme of study that keeps options open while supporting their individual journey.

If students already have a career path in mind, it may be beneficial to study subjects that support this ambition. If students are less certain but know they would like to go on to study A Levels and possibly attend university, it is often helpful to maintain a broad range of subjects that demonstrate different skills and strengths. For example, continuing to study a language can help keep opportunities open to study or work abroad. It can also support applications to programmes such as the International Baccalaureate, where language study is a key component.

We will continue to ensure that our curriculum provides all students with a relevant, engaging and valued set of qualifications. The Academy regularly reviews the national qualifications landscape to ensure that our offer reflects the most up-to-date expectations and opportunities for young people. From the range of subjects available, students should choose those they will engage with, enjoy and work hard in, so they can achieve their full potential and prepare themselves for successful futures.



# 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 the 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 for 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.

**These should be discussed with your parents/carers.**

<b>OPTION BLOCK A</b>	<b>OPTION BLOCK B</b>	<b>OPTION BLOCK C</b>
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 RE	GCSE Spanish
Music	GCSE Spanish	
Performing Arts	GCSE Statistics	
GCSE Photography	GCSE Textile Design	
Travel and Tourism	Travel and Tourism	

**The deadline for completing the form on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March**

## CORE

7. ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE
8. MATHEMATICS
9. SCIENCE
10. SPORT

## OPTIONS

11. GCSE COMPUTER SCIENCE
12. GCSE FRENCH
13. GCSE GEOGRAPHY
14. GCSE HISTORY
15. GCSE RE
16. GCSE SPANISH
17. GCSE ART
18. CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND CARE
19. HOSPITALITY AND CATERING
20. MUSIC
21. PERFORMING ARTS
22. GCSE PHOTOGRAPHY
23. GCSE TEXTILE DESIGN
24. TRAVEL & TOURISM
25. iMEDIA
26. GCSE STATISTICS

# CORE - GCSE 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?

Miss S Sweeney

# CORE - GCSE 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

## CORE - GCSE 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 (Studies, Leadership or Health & Physical Activity)

### 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, each one will contain the same level of expectation relating to the quality and amount of work needed to pass the course with high grades. Students have already been given a grounding in the Sports Studies pathway, which is the only one students should opt for if they are considering studying sport in any way at college or university.

	<b>OCR Sports Studies Level 2 (GCSE course)</b>	<b>Sports Leadership Level 1</b>	<b>Health &amp; Physical Activity Level 1</b>
<b>What will I learn?</b>	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.
<b>How will my work be assessed?</b>	This is a formal OCR National Sports Studies Level 2 <b>GCSE</b> 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 <sup>rd</sup> 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 complete log books and practical assessments.	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.
<b>Are there any specific requirements for this pathway?</b>	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.
<b>How will this qualification help in the future?</b>	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 before parents evening 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

### 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 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 Silverstone museum in year 10. Programming covers around 50% and students who are most successful either want to learn programming, enjoy programming or are strong at programming.

### 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

### 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, Miss Mills and/or Miss Greeves

## OPTION – GCSE GEOGRAPHY

### 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 or Miss Proctor

## OPTION – GCSE HISTORY

### 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 20 mins (30% of your grade)

Paper 2: American West & Anglo-Saxon and Normal England – 1h 50 mins (40% of your grade)

Paper 3: USA – 1h 30 mins (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 21<sup>st</sup> 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 RE

### Which course will I be following?

GCSE RE

### What will I be doing?

GCSE RE involves debating some of life's biggest issues, it will challenge your thinking and help you to understand the world around you. This course plays a vital role in not only developing your cultural capital but also developing real life skills: empathy, tolerance and respect.

The first half of the GCSE course dives into the beliefs and practices of two major world religions: Christianity and Islam. The second half of the course considers the study of religious, philosophical and ethical issues facing the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which includes debating questions such as:

- Is abortion justified?
- Should the death penalty be used?
- Should euthanasia be legalised?
- Is war ever justified?

### How will my work be assessed?

Two external examinations.

**Paper 1** – Study of Religions – 1hr 45 mins (50%)

**Paper 2** – Thematic Studies – 1hr 45 mins (50%)

### Are there any specific requirements for this course?

RE is an English based subject, therefore you should have good written communication skills to be able to articulate your points of views accurately. You should have an interest in developing your cultural capital and want to understand different faiths and opinions on topical issues.

### How will this qualification help in the future?

Whilst not only developing your cultural capital of the world and people around you, you will also increase your critical thinking and debate skills. These skills will help you be successful if you are particularly looking at careers within law, politics, teaching and medicine.

### Who should I ask if I need more information?

Mrs. Harriss

# OPTION – GCSE SPANISH

## 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?

Mrs. Waring, Miss Mills or Miss Greeves

## 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?

**WJEC Level 1/2 Vocational Award in Performing Arts - Technical Award**

### What will I be doing?

In Performing Arts learners will cover 3 Units.

In Unit 1- learners will gain holistic knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to reproduce an existing pieces of professional/published work.

This unit can be completed through any one of the following disciplines: Drama • Music • Music Technology • Musical Theatre.

In Unit 2 learners will gain, develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques needed to create and refine original work in the performing arts.

This unit can be completed through any one of the following disciplines from either performance or production: Performance disciplines • Devised drama • Choreography • Composition • Composition using technology.

Unit 3 introduces learners to areas of the performing arts that need to be considered when responding to an industry commission.

### How will my work be assessed?

Unit 1: Performing Controlled assessment: 10 hours 30% of qualification.

Unit 2: Creating Controlled assessment: 10 hours 30% of qualification.

Unit 3: Performing Arts in Practice External controlled assessment: 20 hours 40% of qualification

### Are there any specific requirements for this course?

You will be expected to perform in front of others, on your own or in a group.

Only clean trainers/jazz shoes/bare feet only. You will be required to attend portfolio academic tutoring after school 3.00pm-4pm, Wednesday and Fridays. 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?

## OPTION – GCSE TEXTILES

### Which course will I be following?

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

### What will I be doing?

Studying an art subject, building on the skills you have learned at Key Stage 3, such as:

- Learning about artists and designers, and using their work as inspiration
- Using primary and secondary images within your projects, including producing your own photographs and drawings
- Cutting and stitching (by hand and on the sewing machine)
- Using different decorative techniques
- Learning how to design and make textile products / items of clothing
- Making, adapting and using paper patterns

**One of the things GCSE students love about this subject is the number of trips we go on to gather research and inspiration.** In previous years, we have visited places in London such as the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, London Zoo, Sea Life London Aquarium, the Natural History Museum, and the Victoria and Albert Museum. This has been alongside participating in practical workshops run by local colleges and exploring exhibits at galleries and museums closer to home, such as the Time and Tide Museum in Great Yarmouth.

### How will my work be assessed?

60% of your marks will come from a coursework project, including a final textile piece.

40% of your marks will come from an exam project, including a final textile piece created during a ten-hour practical exam (usually completed during Periods 1 to 5 over two consecutive days).

**This is an art subject, so there is no written exam.**

### Are there any specific requirements for this course?

- As with any subject, to achieve your best possible grade you need to be prepared to put plenty of effort into your extended learning and to attend after-school sessions.
- The academy will provide all necessary materials, but you may need to source specific fabrics etc. that you choose to use for your practical work that are not within our budget.

### 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, art, or other creative subjects / 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 and love 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 a 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