



Academy  
Oldbury

# Options Booklet



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# Selecting Your Options For 2015 Examination

You are about to make some important choices about the subjects you will study during Key Stage 4. We are offering pupils in Year 8 the opportunity to choose the subjects they wish to study at KS4 and begin their studies in Year 9.

All pupils will take a Core Curriculum which consists of

English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, PE, PHSCE, a Modern Foreign Language and potentially a Humanities subject.

Our aim is that pupils gain a qualification in at least Modern Foreign Languages during Year 9. Early entry qualifications will assist pupils in gaining a good basis for further achievement in Years 10 and 11.

All pupils will study three optional subjects.

We are advising all pupils to choose options in all three blocks.

- Read the information in the Options Booklet and ask the teachers for their help and advice.
- Make sure your choices give you the best possible chance of succeeding at Key Stage 4.
  - Make sure that you complete your choices on line by the due date!

You, and your parents/carers, will be invited to an interview with a Senior member of staff to discuss option choices.

Once all the forms have been completed, we will work very hard to try to make sure you get at least 2 out of your 3 first choice subjects.

Please note the information regarding courses on offer is subject to change at any time and whilst we endeavour to provide all courses this is not always possible.

# The Foundation Learning Tier

Foundation Learning provides flexible learning program for young people at Entry level and level 1. It is one of the four qualification suites for 14–19 year-old learners alongside GCSEs, Diplomas and Apprenticeships.

Foundation Learning programs combine subject or vocational learning with functional skills and personal and social development. They offer learners choice and the opportunity to specialize – and a clear path towards level 2 qualifications or other goals.

The design of a Foundation Learning Program will reflect the learner’s prior learning, achievement and qualifications, as well as their intended destination. Planning will be done to take account of how the learner can access the next stage in their learning or development and intended destinations taking into account local provision and opportunities

Our program will also include initial assessment and ongoing review – as well as continuing mentoring, and information, advice and guidance (IAG).

The Foundation Learning Program will use qualifications and units at Entry level and Level 1 in the Qualifications and Credit Framework (QCF). The QCF enables learners to build up their learning in units towards a qualification of one of three sizes: award, certificate or diploma. Because it is made up of units, the Foundation Learning Program can start at any point in the year and does not have to conform to a specific timescale.

The Overarching Objectives of Foundation Learning are to:

- Support improved engagement, participation, achievement and progression through entry level and level 1 towards level 2 or, where relevant and appropriate, towards other destinations such as supported employment.
- Bring planned to programs of study at entry level and level 1 to support progression for young people and adults, including supporting the full participation of all young people in learning.
- To ensure learners gain a minimum level and range of skills providing a sound foundation for further learning and employment.
- Support the delivery of quality learning programs that are personalised and appropriate to the learner’s needs which help to encourage raised aspirations and a culture of lifelong learning.

The learning program offer must encompass three distinct components:

- Subject or vocational knowledge, skills and understanding
- Functional Skills in English, Mathematics and ICT
- Personal and Social development learning.
- The learning program is supported by a 'wrap-around' of support; information, advice and guidance; effective initial assessment; comprehensive ongoing review and provider collaboration.

# Art

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## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

This course involves completion of two or three coursework projects covering a range of topics. Pupils will experiment with a range of different art media and will be offered the opportunity to work in two and three dimensions. It is an exciting course that enables students to work to their strengths in this subject area.

## What topics will I be covering?

Projects may include : Cubist art, Portraiture, Disturbing Image, Natural forms, Masks.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Level 4 or above.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

60% of the final mark is coursework.

40% of the final mark is a practical exam.

## How much work is required after school?

Pupils will definitely be required to complete at least an hours worth of homework each week.

## How is the course assessed and when?

Coursework is graded according to four assessment objectives at the end of every nine weeks. Individual feedback is given by the subject teacher most lessons. Final grades are assessed in the first week of May in year 11 for coursework.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

You need to have determination, commitment and a passion for the subject. A basic ability to draw is required, but the rest we can teach you.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Graphic designer, Fashion designer, Industrial designer, Photographer, Ceramic designer, Jewellery designer, Illustrator, Textile designer, Interior designer, Fine artist, Art teacher, Furniture designer, Product designer, Theatre designer, Animator and many more.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mrs Pittam.

# Business Studies GCSE

The students following the Accelerated Learning Pathway will study GCSE Business Studies.

## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

This course will facilitate students in learning about the dynamic business world that we live in, in the 21st Century. Students will examine how businesses operate and appreciate the many varied factors which impact upon business activity and the way businesses behave. Students will work towards gaining an understanding of the issues facing businesses in the UK in the 21st Century within a local, national and international context.

The areas covered are:

- Interests of different stakeholders in business
- Need for sustainability in business
- Effect of business activity on the environment
- Increasing importance of ethics in business decision making
- Globalisation of business activity.

## What career could my qualification in Business lead to?

Business studies is an extremely versatile subject and people that have studied this have gone onto work in investment banking, marketing, advertising, Customer service and management in a variety of different professional contexts.

## What level should I have achieved at KS3?

This is for the Accelerated pathway students only

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

3 units are covered over the two year course and there is a 60% exam and 40% coursework structure, as follows:

Marketing and Enterprise –coursework

Business and people – exam, Unseen

Production, Finance and the External Business Environment – Exam on pre-released materials

## How much work is required after school?

After school master classes will be provided to all students during the course and intense revision sessions will be available prior to exam and all students will be expected to attend.

## Who should I contact to find out more information?

Mrs G. Dingley-Jones

Gina.dingleyjones@oldburyacademy.org.uk

Head of Business and Enterprise

# Business Studies

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Students who follow the FLT pathway will study Level 1 BTEC, all other pathways (excluding accelerated) will study Level 2.

## Qualification

BTEC Extended Certificate in Business (equivalent to 1 GCSE)

## Course description

This is a course that will encourage personal development of knowledge and skills relevant to the business world through practical participation in a range of business activities that will:

- give learners a wider understanding and appreciation of the broad range of business specialisms through a selection of optional specialist units
- encourage learners to develop their people, communication, planning and team-working skills by having the opportunity to develop ideas in teams and individually
- provide education and training for employees in the business sector
- give opportunities for business employees to achieve a nationally recognised

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Level 3 or above in English and Maths.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

There are four units of study altogether.

Two core units: Enterprise in the Business World and Finance for Business and two optional units that are chosen from a list of options in discussion with the students. Making this a truly personalised learning pathway.

## How is the course assessed and when?

All but one unit; Finance for business, is assessed internally and will be graded at a pass, merit or distinction. Assessment takes place throughout the course and is a mixture of online tests, reports, essays and presentations.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Business studies is an extremely versatile subject and people that have studied this have gone onto work in investment banking, marketing, advertising, Customer service and management in a variety of different professional contexts.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mrs G Dingley-Jones

Gina.dingleyjones@oldburyacademy.org.uk

Head of Business and Enterprise

# Catering

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## Qualification

GCSE – you will achieve 2 GCSEs

## Course description

GCSE Catering offers an opportunity for pupils to develop their knowledge and extend their skills within catering in a vocational context.

It is a suitable qualification for those who want a broad background in this area and for those who wish to progress into the Catering Industry, this course will offer valuable preparation for those entering the world of work.

## What topics will I be covering?

- The industry – food and drink.
- Job roles, employment opportunities and relevant training.
- Health, safety and hygiene.
- Food preparation, cooking and presentation.
- Nutrition and menu planning.
- Costing and portion control.
- Specialist equipment.
- Communication and record keeping.
- Environmental considerations.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Level 5 in English and Maths.

How much of the course is exam or coursework?

There are three coursework tasks including catering for an event.

## How much work is required after school?

There will be regular sessions held after school. There will be occasions when you will need to cater for events and functions which are held during the evening.

How is the course assessed and when?

Three pieces of coursework in year 10 and year 11. External exam in year 11.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mrs Moreton or Mrs. Musgrove

# Child Development

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## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

GCSE Child Development

## What topics will I be covering?

The development of a child from conception to the age of five, developing knowledge and understanding in all aspects of child development.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Level 5 in English and Maths.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

There are four coursework tasks including a child study, You will need to observe a child over a period of 6 months. You will need to have access to a child to study, aged 0-5.

## How much work is required after school?

There will be regular sessions held after school. You will have to observe your study child after school.

## How is the course assessed and when?

Three pieces of coursework in year 10 and the child study in year 11. External exam in year 11.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Attend all child development lessons, complete all tasks set, listen to advice and ensure all coursework is completed to a good standard.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Jobs associated with children, nursery nurse, teacher, child minder, nurse. The course will give you a good foundation for a career working with children.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mrs Moreton

# Level 2 Certificate for The Children and Young Peoples Workforce

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## Qualification

Level 2 certificate for the CACHE Children's and Young Peoples workforce.

## Course description

CACHE

## What topics will I be covering?

Children's development from conception to 16 years – conception, pregnancy, birth, different types of development, communication, how to observe children, Understand how to prepare and maintain a safe and secure environment for children, Know how to support the protection of children from abuse, understand how to maintain the safety of children on outings, Know how to deal with accidents, illness and emergencies , Understand the key features of effective interpersonal communication, Understand how to interact and communicate with children, Understand how to interact and communicate with adults, communication between adults and children.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Level 5 in English and Maths.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

You will be assessed in the place.

## How much work is required after school?

Work experience is an essential part of this course.

## How is the course assessed and when?

Each unit will be assessed through assignments.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Complete 200 hours of work experience, study a child and ensure that all assignments are completed.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Following completion of the successful candidates would be able to enter initial employment, at a junior level, in childcare.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mrs Moreton or Mrs Riley.

# Community Languages

## Who can do them?

Community Languages can be taken as an option by bi-lingual or multi-lingual pupils who are fluent in a language other than English (but may perhaps lack written/reading skills in that language).

## Why do them?

Pupils who are already fluent in a language other than English should have the opportunity to achieve an accredited qualification in that language. This recognises their knowledge, skills and aptitudes but also celebrates their mother-tongue, bi- or multi-lingual culture, heritage and up-bringing. If pupils already use the language at home, it's relatively easy to work towards and gain a qualification. This means an extra bonus for the pupil's CV.

## What's involved?

A GCSE or Asset Languages qualification which is usually divided into:

- Speaking (30%): 2 recorded tasks, 4-6 minutes each
- Listening (20%): Final listening test paper
- Reading (20%): Final reading test paper
- Writing (30%): 2 controlled assessments on chosen topics

We currently have pupils studying Panjabi, Urdu, Polish and Greek.

## Flexible Courses

GCSE courses are flexible, with an emphasis on the practical skills of speaking and writing. A full course GCSE would be suitable for pupils with all of the skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. There is also the option of starting with a short course GCSE, which is worth half a GCSE. These courses should be easily managed by pupils who have good speaking and listening skills but are perhaps only in the early stages of learning to read and write a language. Pupils are assessed by qualified native-speaking tutors who determine the pupils' entry level and guide them accordingly.

If you would like to know more, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Thomson at Oldbury Academy.

# Dance

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## Qualification

BTEC First Diploma in Performing Arts - Dance

## Course description

This course gives pupils the chance to learn different dance styles including Rock n Roll, Jazz, Street, Hip Hop and Ballet. Pupils also learn about the business side of the performing arts and are given a foundation to run their own business. Pupils are able to reach high grades by performing or through written evaluations, so they can pick a more practical or a coursework route, to suite their learning style. All pupils will take part in workshops on Stage Make up and Jazz dance. Pupils that take this subject from year 9 will also acquire dance leadership accreditation and learn vital teaching skills.

## What topics will I be covering?

Performing Dance, Performing Arts as a Business, Jazz Dance, Understanding Dance, Stage Make up For Performers, Performing Arts Production Process, Dance Leaders Award (Year 9 Pupils), Assistant Teacher Certificate (Year 9 Pupils)

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Pupil should have achieved an average level 5 or above in Key Stage 3.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

All exams are in the form of a performance or presentation. There is some coursework which is evaluations of work learn/developed.

## How much work is required after school?

Pupils will need to attend a minimum of 1 dance club a week.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course is continually assessed through out the year and time is given to improve any final grades.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Complete all 6 units. Attend all the workshops, help organise the yearly dance show.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Dancer/Performer, Dance Coach, Make up Artist, Project Manager/Events Manager, Teacher and Choreographer

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mrs S Connelly

# Design and Technology

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## Qualification

GCSE

Year 9 Learners will follow a preparatory course for one year before progressing on to GCSE. Accelerated Curriculum Pathway Learners will begin a two year GCSE course.

## Course description

These are new GCSE specifications that provide innovative and imaginative qualifications, rewarding flair and imagination and reflecting the contemporary use of materials.

Throughout Key Stage 3 you will have produced a wide range of exciting projects in Design and Technology, including work in Graphics, Food, Engineering and Resistant Materials. If you particularly enjoyed the creative design side of Design and Technology then you now have the opportunity to specialise in one of those subject areas and follow a full GCSE course.

## What topics can I choose from?

Food Technology  
Graphic Products  
Resistant Materials - Woodwork  
Resistant Materials - Metalwork

*Accelerated Curriculum Learners can select from;*  
Food Technology  
Graphic Products  
Resistant Materials - Technology  
Engineering

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

### **Coursework 60%**

Students demonstrate their Design and Making skills, knowledge and understanding through controlled assessment of creative design and make tasks, resulting in the production of high quality products.

### **Terminal Written Examination 40%**

Students apply their knowledge and understanding of their subject to structured questions, including opportunities for designing and analysing products.

Students that have enjoyed and been successful at GCSE Design and Technology often study a Design and Technology related subject at post-16 such as Product Design A'Level, Art and Design or BTEC National Diplomas. Employers, of course, value GCSE D&T qualifications as it develops, creative, technical and transferable skills.

# G.C.S.E. Drama and BTEC Performing Arts - Acting

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Explore the world of Drama and Performing Arts all in one year!

Across Year 9, you will sample, complete and be assessed on improvisation, scripted performance and other acting modules from the G.C.S.E. Drama course and various vocational modules from the BTEC Performing Arts - Acting course. In this way you will be fully informed on both courses and be able to specialise in either or both courses in Year 10, plus have actually completed modules which can be carried forward into KS4. In other words, you will be taking KS4 G.C.S.E. and BTEC courses automatically!

There will be opportunities to experience live theatre and specialist Drama workshops on the course for further interest and enjoyment plus to help fine-tune your skills.

If any students would like to explore the subject further and get involved in becoming apprentices to Drama specialists, then taking part in the Arts Award course is also on offer, a national award which encourages young people to explore their artistic abilities and leadership skills.

For further information, please contact Miss Cartwright, Mrs. Henderson or Mr. Castle.

\*All our courses are related to P.S.H.C.E., plus the BTEC and Arts Award courses are vocational/ work-skills related.

Here are the outlines for each of the courses to be sampled in Year 9 for your information...

# Drama

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## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

Drama is an exciting, creative and challenging course for anyone who would like to act and perform.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

### Controlled Assessment - Practical Coursework

120 marks.

60% of overall course.

Of all the practical coursework covered, two are selected for Controlled Assessment. Each one will be worth 30% each. They will be internally assessed and externally moderated.

Assessment Objective 1: Research and Rehearsal - 15%.

Assessment Objective 2: Performance – 45%.

### Written Exam

2 questions from a choice of 3.

1 hour, 30 minutes.

80 marks.

40% of overall course.

### Section A

A compulsory question which is an analysis of an acting piece performed during the course.

### Section B

Study of a set text which you have performed an extract from during the course.

### Section C

Study of a live theatre production.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

For further information please contact Miss Cartwright, Mrs Henderson or Mr Castle.

# Performing Arts

## Qualification

BTEC

## Course description

A BTEC First Certificate is a practical work related course. You learn by completing the projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situation, activities and demands. The BTEC First is the equivalent of two GCSE's at grades A-C. The BTEC deals with all aspects of working in Performing Arts Industries from the skills needed to act and perform to creating work for performance right through to organizing a production yourselves. The course is all coursework either practical or written. In the case of practical work it might be for example performance based with supporting notes such as a diary or performers notebook detailing improvements over the course of that unit.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

60% of the final mark is coursework.

40% of the final mark is a practical exam.

## How much work is required after school?

Most of the after school work will be related to practical work e.g. acting and producing a show. If you are into acting and have already been involved in school productions it is no greater than the demands for these.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course is continuously assessed as each unit is completed. Final marks are sent off in May.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

More than anything commitment, a willingness to learn and be a team-player. You will have to work closely with everyone else in the group as being on the course is rather like being in a theatre company.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

With further training and study students can go into careers in the Performing Arts industry, such as:

Acting-Performing  
Stage Management  
Technical/Design  
Lighting-Sound Technician  
Theatre Administration

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mr Castle or Miss Cartwright.

# English Language

## Qualification

GCSE

## Course Description

Pupils will follow the course for either English or English Language. For pupils who are also taking Literature, they will follow the English Language course; all other pupils will follow the English course.

## The English language course contains 4 units:

### Unit 1 – Studying written language – written exam (20%)

This unit will test through structured questions the reading of two non-fiction texts. Non-fiction texts may include: fact-sheets, leaflets, letters, extracts from autobiographies, biographies, diaries, advertisements, reports and articles of various kinds from newspapers and magazines, and brochures. Visual material will always be included in the material used.

### Unit 2 – Using written language – written exam (20%)

This unit will test transactional and discursive writing through two equally weighted tasks (20 marks each). Across the two tasks candidates will be offered opportunities to write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and real-life context in, for example, letters, articles, leaflets, reviews etc.

### Unit 3 – Literary reading and creative writing – controlled assessment (coursework)

Studying written language: extended literary text (15%)

Candidates need to present one assignment which is a sustained response to an extended text. The text must either be a Shakespeare play or one chosen from the GCSE English Literature external assessment set text lists excluding poetry.

Using language: creative writing (15%)

Candidates will be required to complete ONE piece of descriptive writing and ONE piece of narrative/ expressive writing drawn from tasks supplied by WJEC.

### Unit 4 – Spoken language

Speaking and Listening: Communicating and adapting language; interacting and responding; creating and sustaining roles (20%) Candidates will be required to complete at least three Speaking and Listening tasks based on real life contexts through the exploration of ideas, texts and issues in scripted and improvised work.

The three tasks will cover the following areas:

- Communicating and adapting language
- Interacting and responding
- Creating and sustaining roles

Studying spoken language: Variations, choices, change in spoken language (10%)

Candidates will be required to study an aspect of spoken language. The assignment will be a sustained response to their own or others' uses of spoken language presented by recording, transcript or recollection.

# English

## Qualification

GCSE

### The English language course contains 4 units:

#### **Unit 1 – English in the daily world (reading) – written exam (20%)**

This unit will test through structured questions the reading of two non-fiction texts from the daily world. These may include: fact-sheets, leaflets, letters, extracts from autobiographies, biographies, diaries, advertisements, reports and articles of various kinds from newspapers and magazines, and brochures.

#### **Unit 2 – English in the daily world (writing) – written exam (20%)**

This unit will test transactional and discursive writing through two equally weighted tasks (20 marks each). Across the two tasks candidates will be offered opportunities to write for a range of audiences and purposes, adapting style to form and real-life context in, for example, letters, articles, leaflets, reviews etc.

#### **Unit 3 – English in the world of the imagination – controlled assessment (coursework)**

Reading: literary texts (20%): literary heritage poetry; Shakespeare; different cultures prose Candidates will be required to submit two assignments. The first will test the candidate's appreciation and understanding of a Shakespeare play linked to one of the poems studied from the WJEC GCSE poetry collection. The second will involve the study of a Different Cultures prose text.

Writing: open writing (20%): 1st and 3rd person narrative

Candidates will be required to complete ONE piece of 1st person and ONE piece of third person narrative writing drawn from tasks supplied by WJEC.

#### **Unit 4 – English in the daily world – controlled assessment (speaking and listening)**

Candidates will be required to complete at least three Speaking and Listening tasks based on real life contexts through the exploration of ideas, texts and issues in scripted and improvised work.

The three tasks will cover the following areas:

- Communicating and adapting language
- Interacting and responding
- Creating and sustaining roles

# Geography

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Geography is about the study of the world around us. It tackles the big issues that face us all; the environment, understanding societies, trade, industry and local-global decision-making. It helps to make sense of who we are and where we are all going. If science is to be believed then the next 50 years are likely to see more changes take place than ever before in human history. Geography explains why and helps to prepare you for those changes. Be part of it!

Geography is about the future, all our futures, and encourages flexible thinking. The skills that it gives you are highly sought after by employers. As a geographer you learn to develop skills such as being

- a strong communicator
- a successful team player
- a well rounded, flexible thinker and problem solver
- someone who can analyse and reach thoughtful decisions
- someone who is spatially, socially, economically and environmentally aware
- someone who can think creatively and independently.

Geography is an incredibly flexible subject. Students that have studied Geography at a higher level have a gone on to careers in management, finance, retail and the media amongst many others. Geography students are the most employable, partly because it combines a knowledge of science and an understanding of the arts.

We have introduced an exciting new foundation course in Geography. It's aim is to allow you to build on your knowledge and skills from year 7 and 8 and so prepare you for the full GCSE Geography course in years 10 and 11. We have designed a practical course with the emphasis on experiencing REAL Geography through fieldwork and enquiry. As such you can expect to be offered three fieldtrips; one per term which are designed to support and enhance your classroom studies. In addition there may be the option of attending a longer residential fieldtrip, although this will not be compulsory. There will also be an emphasis on use of ICT and cutting-edge technologies such as Global Positioning Systems (GPS) which will give you the edge in the modern business environment.

Learn real skills, think real thoughts...

Re-discover YOUR World through Geography!

# Health and Beauty

Those students following the Accelerated Curriculum Pathway will study NVQ Level Two Diploma in Beauty Therapy – General Route.

## Qualification

NVQ Level Two Diploma in Beauty Therapy – General Route

## Course description

This course gives the pupil an introduction into working within the beauty industry. The pupil will research, experience and perform a range of practical skills and treatments.

## Course requirements

The pupil will need to ensure regular attendance and punctuality. You will be required to work on colleagues and have treatments performed on yourself. You will be required to purchase a tunic and items of equipment to enable you to practise your skills at home. You will need to organise clients for your practical assessments and attend an evening assessment session.

## What topics will I be covering?

- G20 Ensure responsibilities for actions to reduce risks in health and safety.
- G18 Promote additional products and services
- G8 Develop and maintain your effectiveness at work
- B4 Provide facial skin care treatments
- B5 Enhance the appearance of eyebrows and lashes
- B6 Carry out waxing services
- B8 Provide make-up services
- N2 Provide manicure services
- N3 Provide pedicure services
- G4 Fulfil reception duties

## Additional courses

You will be given the opportunity to attend a variety of external courses and visits related to beauty.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course is continually assessed by practical performance of treatments, oral questioning and written tests.

## What do I need to achieve to get a good grade?

You will need to be practising your skills at home and research the information at home

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Mobile beauty therapy employment and progression to level three beauty therapy courses..

## Additional information

You will be required to purchase a tunic to wear in the sessions. This will cost approximately £20. You may also be required to purchase a kit of equipment to enable you to practise your skills. For more information speak to Ms N. Atkins or Ms S. Lucchesi.

# Health and Beauty

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All other pathways will study Introduction to Hair and Beauty Entry 3 Award.

## Qualification

Introduction to the Hair and Beauty Entry 3 Award

## Course description

This is an introductory course to working in the world of beauty. Pupils will begin to explore the requirements for personal presentation within this employment sector. The pupils will look at the different employment opportunities within the industry sector and what the qualification requirements are. The pupils will explore and perform different types of face painting using water based paints on face and arms.

## What topics will I be covering

- 001 Introduction to the hair and beauty sector
- 002 Presenting a professional image in the salon
- 107 Themed face painting

## Additional courses

You may wish to progress to nail and facial treatments

## How is the course assessed and when

The course is continually assessed by practical performance of painting, assignments and written tests.

## What do I need to achieve to get a good grade

You will need to be practising your skills at home and research the information at home

## What career opportunities lead from this subject

Face painting at fetes.

## Additional information

You will be required to purchase a tunic to wear in the sessions. This will cost approximately £20

## Who should I contact to find more about this course.

Ms N. Atkins. Ms S Lucchesi

# Health and Social Care

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## Qualification

BTEC Extended Certificate in Health & Social Care (2 GCSEs)

## Course description

Providing opportunities for learners to gain a nationally recognised vocationally specific qualification to enter employment as a health or social care worker, or progress to other vocational qualifications such as the BTEC National Diploma in Health Studies, Care or Early Years, or the GCE in Health and Social Care. Developing the knowledge, understanding and skills of learners to meet the needs of the health and social care sectors and the role of the health or social care worker, their relationship with patients/service users and their responsibilities towards patients/service users and the wider health and social care sectors.

## What topics will I be covering?

### Core units

Unit 1: Communication (Organising the OAP Christmas Party, & visiting the residents of Barlow homes).

Unit 2: Individual Needs within Health and Social Care (working with local crèche facilities, OAPs, NHS services, Physiotherapy, people with disabilities, GP referrals and the Gym)

### Optional units

Unit 5: Vocational Experience in a Health setting (exploring different ways of applying for a job researching job opportunities, and experiencing life working in a Health Care setting).

Unit 11: The impact of Diet on Health (Researching the requirements of diet during different life stages, including pregnancy). Opportunities to take First Aid certificates and Heart Start awards and Basic Food Hygiene Certificates.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

In order to study for this qualification, pupils must have a good level of English and be competent in using ICT. Pupils must have a genuine interest in the health & care of others and have the confidence to interact with people.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

All work is assignment based and is graded pass, merit, distinction and distinction\*.

## How much work is required after school?

After school classes are provided for pupils to improve their grades from pass to merit/distinction.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course is assessed both internally and externally. Assessment takes place throughout the course. It is a practical hands on course where learners are expected to work and learn independently to meet specific criteria. Guidelines to assessment and deadlines are provided on each assignment.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Be prepared to work hard in all lessons and meet your deadlines. Attend after school sessions to focus on higher grades.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Miss Atkins or Mrs Fisher.

# History

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Students following the Accelerated Curriculum Pathway will study;

## Year 10:

### **International Relations 1919-1955:**

- The efforts of the Great Powers to make peace after World War 1.
- The problems the world faced as we tried to keep the peace in the 1930s.
- The role of Hitler, Britain and others as we approached World War 2.
- The Superpower rivalry in the 1940 & 50s, between the USA and USSR.

### **Germany 1929-1939:**

- The rise to power of Hitler in Germany in 1933
- What life like in Germany in the 1930s for those people who supported and those who opposed Hitler, and how he controlled Germany.

## Year 11:

### **Controlled assessment – Britain and War**

- Researching, and making notes on aspects of the two World Wars.
- Writing up the work based on sources and research.

### **America 1919-1941**

- Why many Americans did well so well in the 1920s
- Why and how it all went wrong and the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- The New Deal and how the Americans solved the problems.

Students following all other pathways will study;

History is one of the **English Baccalaureate** subjects put forward by the government to show that pupils have a broad and rounded academic qualification. Increasing numbers of colleges and universities will be looking for history as one of the key measures of pupils' abilities. This qualification is already used to measure schools' performance – and History is one of the key subjects.

History is an interesting GCSE and this course is a great introduction to the 20th Century. We cover some of the key events and turning points of the 20th Century, and we study a range of topics that are both recent and relevant to the world we live in today. Pupils that choose history really enjoy it, and a lot go on to study A Level History, either here or at college. We cover a range of skills that are necessary for many aspects of life, as well as academic study in the future, and we remain one of the most popular academic option subjects.

GCSE history will help in the world of work, as well as education, as it is well respected subject and a mark of someone who can research ideas critically, put together an argument, discuss their point of view, and deal with complex issues. The range of jobs that history students go into is very broad, due to the specific knowledge or skills; or the range of transferrable skills that pupils learn.

We are a successful department with excellent grades and a great reputation. It's rewarding and interesting and helps you to understand the world we live in, and how we got here. Choose History and not only gain a good and useful qualification, but broaden your horizons and experience.

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## Year 9:

### **In year 9 we study a foundation unit covering various aspects of the 20th Century:**

- An overview of the Empire and slavery, to understand the tensions of the 20th Century.
- A study of the First World War; its causes, events and results.
- A study of the conflict of the Second World War, and life in Britain during the war.
- The Holocaust

## Year 10:

### **International Relations 1919-1955:**

- The efforts of the Great Powers to make peace after World War 1.
- The problems the world faced as we tried to keep the peace in the 1930s.
- The role of Hitler, Britain and others as we approached World War 2.
- The Superpower rivalry in the 1940 & 50s, between the USA and USSR.

### **Germany 1929-1939:**

- The rise to power of Hitler in Germany in 1933
- What life like in Germany in the 1930s for those people who supported and those who opposed Hitler, and how he controlled Germany.

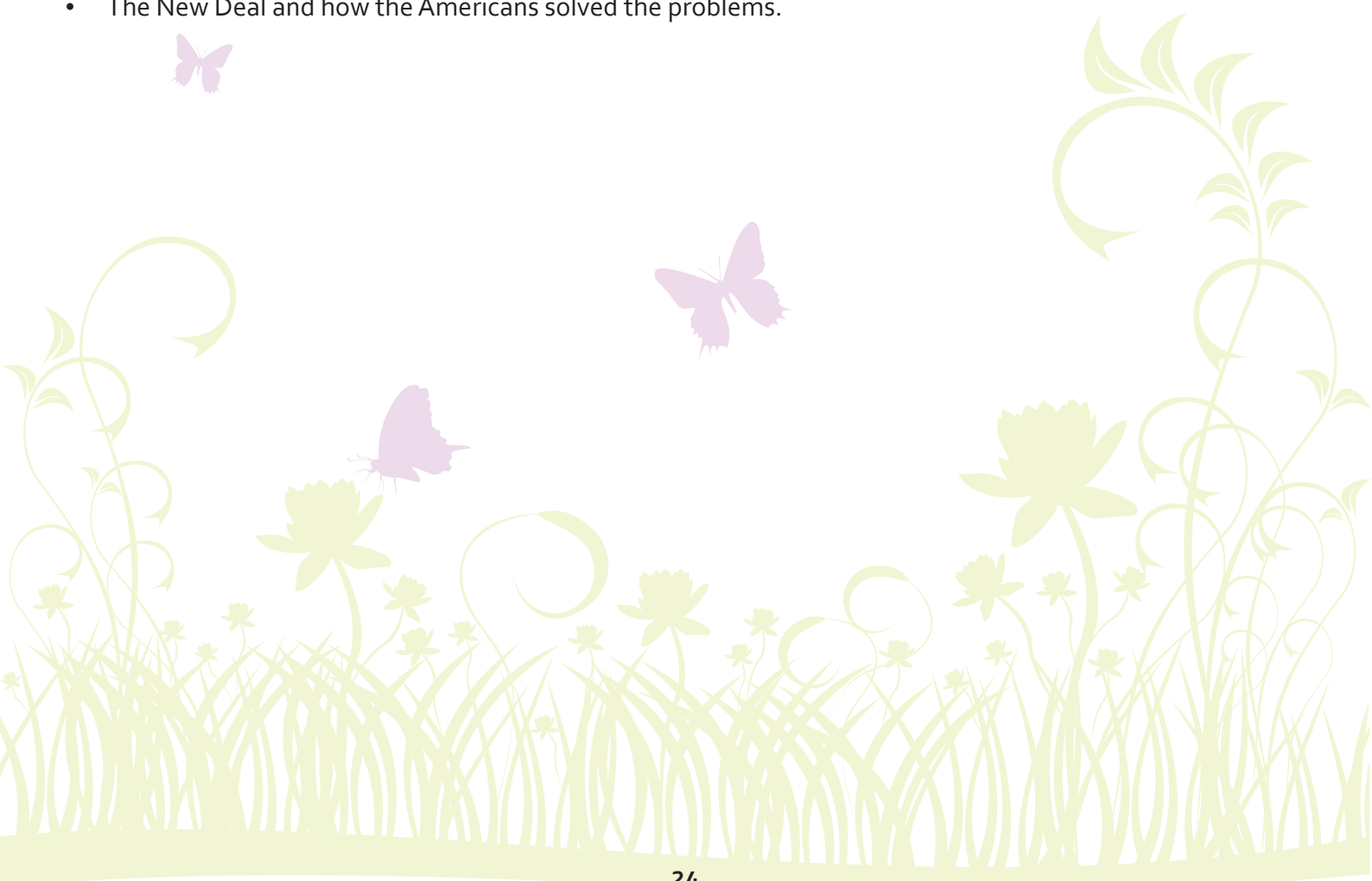
## Year 11:

### **Controlled assessment – Britain and War**

- Researching, and making notes on aspects of the two World Wars.
- Writing up the work based on sources and research.

### **America 1919-1941**

- Why many Americans did well so well in the 1920s
- Why and how it all went wrong and the Great Depression of the 1930s.
- The New Deal and how the Americans solved the problems.



# Horticulture

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## Qualification

Level 1 City and Guilds Horticulture. **Please note that this course is only available to students on the Foundation Learning Tier Pathway.**

## Course description

The course allows pupils to gain a valuable insight and understanding of all things “green”. Pupils will develop their knowledge and practical skills concerning growing their own fruit and vegetables and flowers. Pupils will also learn aspects of golf course management and woodland conservation. Pupils will also get the opportunity to design and create their own garden landscapes to be exhibited at the national Gardener’s World event at the NEC.

## What topics will I be covering?

Pupils will learn a wide variety of practical skills in Horticulture, from digging manures and mulches into soils to growing their own produce from seed on our own school allotment. Pupils will also get the opportunity to learn basic forestry skills and golf course maintenance skills, courtesy of our link with Warley Woods Community Trust.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Not applicable (this course is heavily practical based)

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

Virtually all work is practical based, requiring minimal written evidence.

## How much work is required after school?

None

## How is the course assessed and when?

There are 8 units in total that need to be achieved to gain a Level 1 qualification. All units are assessed through the student’s ability to physically partake and demonstrate practical skills.

Virtually all of the assessed work is done through photographic evidence of pupils doing practical work. Only a very small part of the course requires and written evidence.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Students need to be willing to get their hands dirty and take part in practical activities on the allotment and at Warley Woods Community Park. Students must be willing to work effectively in a team and have a healthy respect for health and safety issues when working with tools.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Students who successfully complete Level 1 can then move onto Level 2 Horticulture the following academic year. Employment in this area is varied, from working for the National Trust to managing sports pitches. This qualification is the first step on the road to a huge range of careers in the “green” industry.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mr. Reece

# Hospitality

## Qualification

BTEC Certificate (1 GCSE)

BTEC Extended Certificate in Hospitality (2 GCSE's)

BTEC Diploma (4 GCSE's)

**Please note that this course is only available to students on the Foundation Learning Tier Pathway.**

## Course description

The BTEC Hospitality qualification is designed for full time learners who are interested in a career in the hospitality industry. As part of the course, learners will develop skills in food and drink service and preparation and will have the opportunity to plan and participate in running an event. The course is very hands on and will involve a variety of practical activities and visits to offsite facilities offering catering and hospitality services. Learners may have the opportunity to complete work experience in a relevant off-site scenario and meet with external speakers from local businesses.

## What topics will I be covering?

### Core Units:

- Investigate the Catering and Hospitality Industry & Products and Services in the Hospitality Industry
- Principles of Customer Service in Hospitality, Leisure, Travel and Tourism
- Providing Customer Service in Hospitality

### Additional units might include:

- Principles of Customer Service in Hospitality, Leisure, Travel and Tourism
- Providing Customer Service in Hospitality
- Planning and Running a Hospitality Event
- Healthier Food and Special Diets
- Applying Workplace Skills
- Prepare, Cook and Finish Food
- Contemporary World Food
- Alcoholic Drinks
- Service of Food at Table
- Service of Alcoholic and Non-Alcoholic Drinks
- Accommodation Services in Hospitality
- Hospitality Front Office Operations
- Bookkeeping for Business
- Consumer Rights
- The UK Travel and Tourism Sector
- Hospitality Operations in Travel and Tourism

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course is assessed both internally and externally. Assessment takes place throughout the course and throughout a variety of activities both on and off the school site. Guidelines to assessment are provided on each assignment.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Be prepared to work hard and complete all assignments to a high standard. Additional work will be required out of school time and possibly off site.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Working in the hospitality industry in catering, customer service, behind a bar or in food preparation and food service.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Miss Hammersley, Miss Atkins or Mrs Fisher

# Humanities

## Qualification

WJEC Entry Level Humanities. **Please note that this course is only available to students on the Foundation Learning Tier Pathway.**

## Course description

Entry level Humanities is a course that combines topic areas and skills from Geography History and Religious studies. This specification is designed to motivate pupils in Humanities, drawing on their experiences to strive towards and attain their full potential. It is a subject where **All** pupils can achieve!

## What topics will I be covering?

The course content consists of three areas:

- Three core subject units. The History module investigates the events of the Holocaust. The geography Module asks us to think about changing weather patterns and Religious Education element assesses knowledge of Christianity. All 3 areas are assessed in the classroom.
- One contemporary issues unit –There is opportunity to analyse the work of role of the Welfare state, the work of the Salvation Army and the issue of Homelessness.
- One local studies unit-This is the major project that will be sent away for external moderation. The project centres on an investigation into the Cadburys family and the area of Bournville. The project combines the skills from ALL of the humanities subject areas, It also includes a visit to Cadburys World.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Pupils that have gained any level previously in any of the Humanities subjects should consider this option.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

This course is 60% project work which centres on the trip to Cadburys World and investigation to the Cadburys family and the affects they had in Bournville.

## How much work is required after school?

Homework and extended learning tasks will be a regular feature of this course.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course has internal assessments. Some of these assessments are written, some are verbal and some require visual displays and presentations. A final assessed project will also have to be submitted before the May deadline.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

To achieve the top entry level, good attendance and enthusiasm is essential. You must want a challenge and be able to meet deadlines. You must make the most of the time in class and use independent study time to revise for the assessments and complete project work.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Entry Level certificates are designed to support progression to Level 1 qualifications (e.g. GCSE) or support preparation for employment. The skills you will learn can be used when you move to college or seek employment for example, the skills will be useful in any job where you may be working with people or may have to work independently.

# ICT

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Students have to complete an ICT qualification as part of their core studies at Oldbury Academy. The course is assessed through external assessment and coursework

From personal computers to smartphones, from apps to websites, all of our lives, every day, are enhanced through the use of ICT. The new OCR Nationals in ICT reflect this and provide students with a solid foundation in understanding and applying this subject in their continuing study or future working lives. The qualification also provides students with opportunities to develop their creativity, project management and problem-solving skills.

The qualifications have been created to enable students to increase their knowledge in a progressive way. One unit leads to others so the experience and skills gained in one unit will support learning in the next. Units 1 and 2 are mandatory (to achieve the Award) with two optional units to (achieve the Certificate)

Units that can be covered are:

- Unit 1 Understanding computer systems
- Unit 2 Using ICT skills to create a business solution
- Unit 3 Handling data using spreadsheets
- Unit 4 Handling data using databases
- Unit 5 Creating an interactive product using multimedia components
- Unit 6 Creating digital images
- Unit 7 Creating dynamic products using sound and vision
- Unit 8 Introduction to computer programming
- Unit 9 Exploring computer hardware and networks
- Unit 10 Developing control systems
- Unit 11 Understanding technology – a project approach

You can gain further information from your ICT Teacher

# Latin

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Certificate in Latin Language & Roman Civilisation (Latin is an EBACC subject)

At Oldbury Academy we understand the value of giving pupils the broadest range of choices possible. This is why we are pleased to be able to offer Latin during the school day for the first time.

This qualification is equivalent to a GCSE and offers the same grades. It comprises of two exams;

Language exam: 1 hour 15 minutes, worth 67%. Pupils will be expected to answer comprehension questions and translate short passages from Latin to English. Candidates will need to learn approximately 400 words to pass this exam.

Roman Civilisation exam: 1 hour, worth 33%. Pupils are required to answer questions and respond to sources on one topic of Roman civilisation, chosen from a choice of four topics.

The four topics are:

- Daily Life in Roman Society;
- Roman Britain;
- The Roman Army;
- Entertainment and Leisure.

Each topic will contain several short questions based on one or more stimulus pictures, inscriptions or short passages from Roman authors in translation.

## Qualification

Please note that this course is only available to students on the Accelerated Curriculum Pathway.

## Prior Learning:

There are no specific requirements for prior learning with this specification. It builds upon the knowledge, understanding and skills acquired at Key Stages 1-3 in a wide range of subjects, such as English, Modern Foreign Languages and History and as such would complement these subjects as well as being useful for those wishing to study Law or Medicine.

## Why choose Latin?

Latin is the root of many English words and as such will improve students' understanding of English and English grammar. If you're considering the EBACC but aren't sure about French or German, why not consider Latin?

# Law

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## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

We've designed the course to be both informative and interesting, and pupils who study Law have said they find it 'challenging and enjoyable'. Pupils may find the most appealing topics include: procedures in the criminal courts, the work of lawyers and barristers, the offences of murder, manslaughter, theft, and concepts such as justice and morality. There's some juicy stuff in this course!

## What topics will I be covering?

- Introduction to Law
- Courts and Processes
- People in the Law
- Sources of English Law
- The Law of Tort
- Criminal Law
- Family Law
- Rights and Responsibilities

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

You need to achieve at least a level 5 in English at Key Stage 3.

## How much work is required after school?

You will be required to do at least two hours of independent study after school.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course will be assessed through two examinations.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

You must keep up to date on all the assignments and homework set. If you are absent then you will be required to do extra work in order to catch up.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

A GCSE in Law will enhance your chances of being accepted into college or university, either to study law, social science, business, or any other course of study. So whether you want a career in the law, or in other areas, GCSE Law can really open doors for you.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Miss Payne or Miss Yeomans.

# Maths

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## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

Mathematics is an interesting, challenging and enjoyable subject which can prove fascinating in the wide range of investigative studies that it offers. Mathematics is also vital in solving problems in everyday situations; from checking the correct change is given to working out the sale price of an iPod!

Mathematics is one of the core subjects in the National Curriculum at Key Stage 4. Hence all pupils will have to study it! It follows on from and adds onto all the skills picked up in Years 7 and 8.

We will be offering two examination tiers within the Edexcel Mathematics A (1MA0) GCSE course.

## What topics will I be covering?

In a GCSE Maths course, all aspects of Number and Algebra, Geometry and Measure and Statistics will be covered within the specified target grades of:

A\* - D at Higher Level and C – G at Foundation Level.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

A Level 5+ is preferred but all students at any level will study a course in Mathematics.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

There is no coursework.

## How much work is required after school?

Homework will be set at regular intervals, depending upon the ability of the group, and whether they study Higher or Foundation Course. At the end of each unit of work, students will complete a homework that reviews that unit's work.

## How is the course assessed and when?

Each of the two tiers will be assessed through two written examinations (calculator and non-calculator) with each counting for 50% of the final grade. There will be three sittings of the exam – in the June of Year 10, the November of Year 11 and the June of Year 11.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Complete all homework & class work with regular attendance.

Achieve a high score on each of the two examination papers.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Being mathematically able is very important. It helps students develop logical reasoning and has a large role in everyday life. Those students without a good grasp of Maths will find it difficult to judge whether they are receiving a fair interest rate on a loan, or whether their wage is correct in future life, for example. There is evidence that shows that people with good basic Maths skills tend to earn more. The Skills for Life Survey found that on average, those students with a good GCSE Maths grade earned an additional £4,000 per year. Studies have found that better Maths skills decrease the likelihood of being unemployed. And of course, a good GCSE grade in Maths opens doors into apprenticeships, employment and college/university.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mr G Evans

# MFL

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## Qualification

FCSE French or German (Foundation Certificate of Secondary Education)

**Please note that this course is only available to students on the Accelerated Learning Pathway.**

## Course Description

At OCoS we believe that the study of a foreign language is an essential part of your education as it brings so many skills with it; communication skills, presentation skills, confidence, an insight into other cultures etc...

We have found an exciting way to help you decide if you want to do a full course GCSE in either French or German in the shape of the FCSE.

## What is it?

The FCSE is the equivalent of achieving levels 4, 5 and 6 in French or German at the end of year 9, but instead of just getting a level at the end of the year, the FCSE is worth up to a Grade D at GCSE. Therefore, it is ideal for those of you who aren't yet sure whether you want to continue with French or German after year 9 but you would like something to show for having studied what is widely regarded as a difficult and well-respected subject!

## How does it work?

The FCSE offers:

- Accreditation in all four skills; Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing
- Awards of Pass, Merit and Distinction (Distinction is worth a grade D at GCSE)
- Assignments which can be retaken if necessary
- Speaking and Writing tasks are set by your teacher
- Listening and Reading tasks are set by the examiners
- Coverage of many topics that you will have already studied (so you will be familiar with them) such as holidays, hobbies, food and drink, healthy lifestyle etc...

## Studying this course will enable you to....

develop the ability to understand and use the French or German effectively for purposes of practical communication;

gain insights into the culture and civilisation of countries and communities where the French or German is spoken;

- develop an awareness of the nature of language, including grammar, and language learning;
- develop positive attitudes to foreign language learning and to speakers of foreign languages and develop a positive approach to other cultures and civilisations;
- develop understanding of yourself and your own culture;
- develop skills which have a wider application such as memorising and communication skills.

# Music

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## Music at Key Stage 4 – Year 9

The Music Department several options for Key Stage 4, including OCR GCSE Music. Some students may also be able to achieve a BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Music (Performing). In addition, ABRSM theory qualifications will be available for students who would find them useful.

**Qualification: GCSE**

**Examination Board: OCR**

The Course: is mainly practical. You will learn about a wide variety of music from 1500 to the present day and of all kinds of style from dance music to samba and orchestral music to rock music.

### What you have to do:

Learn about four topics

Do a mixture of controlled assessments (composing/performing) 60%

A listening test 25%

A creative task 15%

It helps if: you play a musical instrument or are prepared to learn quickly; you can sing rather than play an instrument if you wish.

The course is hard work, but rewarding and at the end of it you will have a CD of your work. You will have grown in confidence. GCSE Music is respected as a practical and an academic subject and it can lead to a variety of different courses at college.

### Qualification: BTEC Level 2 Certificate

The Course: involves learning about aspects of music and putting that knowledge to use in practical work.

What you have to do:

Complete a specialist unit (10 credits)

Complete an optional unit (5 credits)

### Qualification: ABRSM Theory Grades 1 to 5.

These graded tests are helpful for all practical musicians, especially those who want to pass higher practical grade examinations.

# PE

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## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

GCSE PE enables pupils to participate in physical activity in a number of activities and roles. It allows pupils to develop their knowledge of the anatomy, physiology, and psychology of physical activity pupils will learn the importance of being physically active as part of a balanced healthy lifestyle.

Each week it is anticipated that one lesson will be spent in a classroom where homework will be set and the other will be a practical lesson.

## What topics will I be covering?

- Key concepts and processes in physical education.
- Opportunities, pathways and participation in physical education.
- Developing skills, techniques and motivation.
- Developing physical and mental capacity.
- Informed decisions making using the principles of training and safe exercise.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

PE: you should be a Level 6 and have regularly attended or represented the school in at least 1 sport.  
English & Science: Level 6.

## How is the course assessed?

50% practical (4 Sports)  
10% controlled assessment  
40% 2 written exams

## How much work is required after school?

Attendance at after school clubs to raise practical grades. Any practical sport undertaken outside of school at external clubs can be assessed with video evidence. Theory work will require homework and attendance at revision classes when necessary.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Work hard; bring your PE kit take a full and active part in all practical lessons. Use theory time to develop an understanding of physical activity and a healthy, active lifestyle.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Miss Boden.

# Performing Arts

## Qualification

BTEC

## Course description

A BTEC First Certificate is a practical work related course. You learn by completing the projects and assignments that are based on realistic workplace situation, activities and demands. The BTEC First is the equivalent of two GCSE's at grades A-C. The BTEC deals with all aspects of working in Performing Arts Industries from the skills needed to act and perform to creating work for performance right through to organizing a production yourselves. The course is all coursework either practical or written. In the case of practical work it might be for example performance based with supporting notes such as a diary or performers notebook detailing improvements over the course of that unit.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

60% of the final mark is coursework.

40% of the final mark is a practical exam.

## How much work is required after school?

Most of the after school work will be related to practical work e.g. acting and producing a show. If you are into acting and have already been involved in school productions it is no greater than the demands for these.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course is continuously assessed as each unit is completed. Final marks are sent off in May.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

More than anything commitment, a willingness to learn and be a team-player. You will have to work closely with everyone else in the group as being on the course is rather like being in a theatre company.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

With further training and study students can go into careers in the Performing Arts industry, such as:

Acting-Performing  
Stage Management  
Technical/Design  
Lighting-Sound Technician  
Theatre Administration

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mr Castle or Miss Cartwright.

# Public Services

## Qualification

BTEC in Public Services

BTEC Level 2 in Extended Certificate in Public Services.

BTEC Level 2 Diploma in Public Services.

## Course description

This course is designed to equip learners with the knowledge, skills and understanding required for success when moving towards a career in the uniformed services such as the Police, Army, Fire Services, Prison Services, Security and Emergency services. Pupils will discover the level of fitness required for each of the uniformed services and the importance of effective teamwork. Practical activities form the basis of this course as learners take part in a range of team building activities, recreational activities and a variety of fitness testing in order to appreciate the requirements and demands on the public services.

## What topics will I be covering?

Pupil must complete the following 3 units of work:

### Core units:

**Unit 1** Public service skills (team building skills at Malthouse stables/climbing wall, water sports) Fire service 'Day in the life of a fire-fighter' RAF- High ropes activity.

**Unit 3** Uniformed public service fitness (fitness programmes followed at Sam's Gym, fitness testing through RAF, Army)  
Optional units

**Unit 6** Adventurous Activities and teamwork for the public services (opportunities to attend residential Outdoor adventure centre)

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

A good level of English is required. A good level of sporting ability would be desirable as many of the public services require a basic level of fitness.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

All work is assignment based and is graded Pass, Merit, Distinction and Distinction\*.

## How much work is required after school?

After school classes are provided for pupils to improve their grades from Pass to Merit/Distinction. Work experience placements may be available at Oldbury Fire Station for pupils on this course.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course is assessed both internally and externally. Assessment takes place throughout the course and throughout activities. Guidelines to assessment and deadlines are provided on each assignment.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Be prepared to work hard in all lessons and meet your deadlines. Attend after school sessions to focus on higher grades. Full participation in activities.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Miss Atkins or Miss Parker.

# RE

## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

Throughout year 9 students have followed the Religion and Life syllabus. During this students have the opportunity to analyse a number of life issues and moral dilemmas from a Christian perspective. These issues consist of matters of life and death, marriage and the family, social harmony, wealth and poverty. Students have also had the opportunity to consider some the big life questions, such as where did the world come from? Why does evil and suffering exist in this world?

At the end of year 9 students will sit a 1.5 hour exam on all the topics covered and this will gain them a short course or half GCSE. Those who opt to continue with RE in year 10 will study Religion and Society from a Christian perspective and one other religion (likely to be Sikhism).

The issues will consist of:

- Social responsibility, including situation ethics, conscience and our government system.
- The environment, including damage to the environment, conservation and animal rights.
- Peace and conflict, including weapons of mass destruction, world peace, bullying and reconciliations.
- Crime and punishment, including law and justice, judgement and forgiveness.

Students will then take a second short course exam at the end of year 10 and will be issued with a full GCSE certificate.

- This will give students the opportunity to re-sit and improve either or both of the exams in year 11 or those that achieve a high GCSE grade at the end of year 10 may move on and study for an AS level in Critical thinking.
- This course is 100% exam and there is no course work.
- No after school work is required to complete this course but regular homework must be complete and after school revision session will be available prior to the exams.
- This is a literacy based subject, therefore a minimum of level 5 English is recommended.
- RE is recognised as an academic subject and is accepted by all colleges and universities throughout the country. It is a valued qualification for any job where you will have to deal with people from different cultural background such as nursing, the police or the army. RE teaches to appreciate the views of others which improves negotiation skill, a valued quality for any business.

If you wish to know more about this subject please contact Miss Falconer or any of the RE staff.

# Science - BTEC

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## Qualification

BTEC - First Certificate

## Course description

On this vocational-based programme, you will study aspects of physics, chemistry and biology. It has a work-related content that builds your problem-solving skills, making you attractive to employers.

## What topics will I be covering?

Physics, chemistry, biology.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

You should have at least a level 3.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

100% coursework.

## How much work is required after school?

Assignments should all be completed in your own time.

## How is the course assessed and when?

There are deadlines for each assignment throughout the year. These are assessed by your class teacher.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Attend all lessons and complete all assignments set.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Further study in other science-related subjects is an option, as is employment at a junior level in the science industry.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mr Coggins.

# Science - GCSE

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## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

Two GCSEs over two years covering all aspects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## What topics will I be covering?

Genetics, the environment, chemical bonding, forces, electricity, chemical products and human biology, amongst others.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

At least a level 5b/a Distinction in BTEC Certificate.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

75% Examination, 25% Practical Assessment

## How much work is required after school?

At least two hours study a week.

## How is the course assessed and when?

Core GCSE is examined in November, March and June. Additional exams take place in January and June of the following year.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Work hard during lessons to progress towards targets and also take advantage of the wide range of support that is available outside of lesson time.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Further study at A level and beyond in any area of Science. Some examples include forensics, medicine, marine biology, research, food and drink industry, the list is endless!

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mrs Martin-Smith or any member of the Science department

# Sport

## Qualification

BTEC

## Course description

BTEC Sport has been developed to focus on education and training for those working in or wishing to work in the sport sector. It provides opportunities for learners to develop a range of skills and techniques, personal qualities and attitudes essential for successful performance in working life.

## What topics will I be covering?

Pupil must complete from the following two units:

Fitness testing and training  
Practical sport

and a further five units from a combination of:

Anatomy and physiology in Sport, Injury in Sport, Planning and Leading Sports Activities  
Nutrition for sports performers  
Development of personal fitness  
Effects of exercise on the body systems

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Good Literacy and ICT skills are required. Pupils should have achieved Level 5 in English and ICT.

## Am I eligible for BTEC Sport?

If you have achieved a Level 5 in English and ICT you will be eligible for a practical selection process for the course; This will involve a performance in an individual and a team sport, you will need to show that you have a good participation level, kit record and a good standard effort in lesson.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

This subject is 100% coursework based.

## How much work is required after school?

Pupils will be required to complete assignments set for each unit. Facilities are available after to school to allow access to resources and additional help. A weekly after school session with a member of staff is also offered. Attendance at an extra curricular club is compulsory for the practical units.

## How is the course assessed and when?

All work is assignment based and is graded pass, merit, distinction and distinction\*. A grade is given at the end of the each unit.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

Complete all assignments by the due date to at least a pass grade. Have an excellent attendance record.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

This course can lead to career opportunities in the Sports sector.

# Textiles

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## Qualification

GCSE

## Course description

This course involves completion of two or three coursework projects covering a range of topics. Pupils will make personal responses to their experiences, environment and culture and involves practical activities including appliqué, beadwork, tie and die, stencil printing and hand/machine stitching.

## What topics will I be covering?

Projects make reference or connections to artists or craft designers, using their methods or style in your own work.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

Level 4 or above.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

60% of the final mark is coursework.

40% of the final mark is a practical exam.

## How much work is required after school?

Pupils will definitely be required to complete at least an hours worth of homework each week.

## How is the course assessed and when?

Coursework is graded according to four assessment objectives at the end of every nine weeks. Individual feedback is given by the subject teacher most lessons. Final grades are assessed in the first week of May in year 11 for coursework.

## What do I need to do to achieve a good grade?

You need to have determination, commitment and a passion for the subject. A basic ability to draw is required, but the rest we can teach you.

## What career opportunities lead from this subject?

Graphic designer, Fashion designer, Industrial designer, Photographer, Ceramic designer, Jewellery designer, Illustrator, Textile designer, Interior designer, Fine artist, Art teacher, Furniture designer, Product designer, Theatre designer, Animator and many more.

## Who should I contact to find out more about this course?

Mrs Pittam, Miss Norman, Miss Young.

**Please note you cannot take GCSE Art and Design and GCSE Textiles option for both!**

# Travel & Tourism

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## Qualification

BTEC Certificate (1 GCSE)

BTEC Extended Certificate (2 GCSE)

BTEC Diploma (4 GCSE)

## Course description

This course is designed for pupils who are interested in the Travel & Tourism industry and enjoy applying their learning to real & simulated experiences. Applied learning is when pupils have a hands approach to what they learn; this is achieved by a variety of teaching and learning methods and through practical application enhanced by external visits to the industry. Pupils who want to pursue an apprenticeship or a career in travel will benefit from this course. The course also provides pathways for pupils who wish to continue their education in sixth form progressing to the BTEC Diploma and BTEC National Award and the "New Diploma" opportunities to visit the industry where applicable to units of work.

## What topics will I be covering?

Pupils will study the following units of work:-

- The UK Travel and Tourism Sector
- Understanding customer service
- Nature and Effects of World travel
- Developing customer service
- UK Tourism destinations
- Europe holiday destinations
- Worldwide holiday destinations
- Holiday planning
- Exploring marketing
- Preparing for employment
- Developing employability skills
- Holiday planning
- Organising a travel/tourism visit.

## What level should I have achieved at Key Stage 3?

In order to study for this qualification, pupils must have a good level of English and be competent in using ICT. Some background in geography would be an advantage. Alternatively pupils must have a genuine interest in the travel and tourism industry and want to pursue a career in travel.

## How much of the course is exam or coursework?

All work is assignment based and is graded pass, merit, distinction and distinction\*.

## How much work is required after school?

After school classes are provided for pupils to improve their grades from pass to merit/distinction.

## How is the course assessed and when?

The course is assessed both internally and externally. Assessment takes place throughout the course. Guidelines to assessment and deadlines are provided on each assignment.